

ORGAN TRANSPLANTATION IN SRI LANKA

13th February 2020

8.30 am to 10.00 am

Celebrating Three Decades of Renal Transplant Surgery in Sri Lanka

Vidya Jyothi Professor Rezvi Sheriff

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Consultant Physician and Nephrologist

Prior to Oct 1985, Sri Lankan patients in advanced kidney failure were referred for dialysis and transplantation. Christian Medical College, Vellore. The author was trained in Southampton University in dialysis and transplantation and on his return formed a team locally in the private sector to perform live donor-related kidney transplantation in Sri Lanka. The University of Colombo, Faculty of Medicine, joined private sector dialysis unit to form the core team in 1985 and the first live donor transplant was done in Sri Lanka in the Private Sector on 5 Oct 1985. From 1985 to date, the specialty has steadily grown with many dialyses centers and now we have about 5 machines / million population (20 million people). In 1995, the author set up a Nephrology post-graduate Specialty program and Professor AH Sheriffdeen, Professor of Surgery developed a Transplant surgeon training program. We can be proud that nearly 25 Nephrology Consultants and 20 transplant surgeons do live

It is estimated that 3000 – 4000 transplants were done from 1985 and 100 – 200 cadaveric kidney transplants since 1987. In 2013 the first few liver transplants were done successfully in the state sector. We have also done one lung transplant and two heart transplants. The growth of transplantation has been greatly facilitated by funding, the enthusiasm with the private health sector as the engine of growth.