

March 2008

KIDNEY PROGRAM MAKES HISTORY

*Kidney Team at Methodist Specialty and Transplant Hospital
performs a Transplant "First" in Texas!
Couples from Temple and Ingleside, Texas, Exchange Kidney Donors*

Doctors from Texas Transplant Institute and the kidney transplant program team at Methodist Specialty and Transplant Hospital performed the first paired kidney exchange transplant simultaneously in the same facility. Four operating rooms and a team of more than 30 medical staff members were involved in this "First in Texas Surgery."

The donor exchange program is a new and innovative way to obtain donor organs, and it has the potential to revolutionize kidney transplantation. The program matches living donors who wish to donate their kidney to a loved one but cannot because of blood or tissue incompatibility. Two incompatible pairs are matched, and the donors are exchanged, providing two kidney patients a living donation rather than wait for a deceased donor from the national wait list. The exchange program greatly broadens the pool of organs available from living donors.

At a news conference held on March 24, 2008, Drs. Adam Bingaman and Frances Wright, Jr., Texas Transplant Institute surgeons that lead the team, discussed the importance of the paired kidney transplant exchange program in making more organs available to people who need them. The two couples, transplant recipients and donors, met for the first time prior to the news conference and were also in attendance to share their stories.

The Kidney Transplant Program at Methodist Healthcare is the largest program in Texas and ranks among the nation's top 20 for patient volumes and patient survival outcomes. Since 1984 over 2,800 kidney transplants have been performed, to include over 1,100 living donor transplants.

