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Session : Concurrent Symposium 5 (Liver)

Date & Time, Place : November 18 (Fri), 15:40-17:10, Room 5F-1

Session Title : How to Start and Establish New LDLT Program in Asian Countries

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## Oversea LDLT Program - How to Organize and Support

**Chao Long Chen**

*Kaohsiung Chang Gung Memorial Hospital, Taiwan*

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As one of the premier living donor liver transplantation (LDLT) centers, Kaohsiung Chang Gung Memorial Hospital (KCGMH) has many distinctions to its credit. Overcoming the initial challenges in transplantation, the first successful liver transplantation in Asia was performed in 1984. Since then there is no looking back and 2200 liver transplants was accomplished in 2022 at KCGMH. It is credited with many other milestones including the first LDLT in Taiwan, and the first split liver transplant in Asia. Our center is the most active center, among the 26 liver transplant programs approved by the Taiwan Ministry of Health and Welfare, and having the highest survival rate, with 91 % at 3 years. The data are placed in the public domain under the auspices of Taiwan National Health Insurance towards maintaining transparency and quality standards. Trust gained from patients and positive feedback due to excellent outcomes gave the necessary momentum and helped us achieve a stupendous growth in the last decades. LDLT has gained worldwide acceptance and we took several proactive skill transfer initiatives in expediting the techniques of LDLT internationally. We have a long tradition of sharing our skills and experience in order to improve life of humanity. Our international outreach in liver transplantation took us to the Philippines, Vietnam and leading university hospitals in China. We actively mentor the younger generation of liver transplant specialists to pass on the baton. We have trained more than 400 international fellows and observers to-date. Our international outreach programs have also trained surgeons, physicians and nurses from several Central and South American countries and helped us forge a strong medical tie. As medical diplomacy, we have helped them to establish liver transplant programs in Central and South America. Regular sharing of data in international conferences and publication of outcome series in peer review journals ensures in sustaining our standards by creating checks and balances. We have evolved as a global player with an important contribution to the field of LDLT over the last 3 decades. I believe that medicine is about saving lives, and has no place for egoism. Where medical service in Taiwan is today is because our physicians were fortunate in the past to receive training in the US, Europe or Japan. It is now upon us to impart our know-how to the international medical community without reservation.