Project Title: Risky organs: epidemiology of infection risk in organ transplant donors in NSW

Host School/Institute
Sydney School of Public Health

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Project Type: Clinical, Data Analysis

Project Category: Public Health, Hepatology/Gastroenterology, Nephrology/Urology, Transplantation

Project Keywords:
1. transplantation
2. biovigilance
3. organ donor
4. epidemiology
5. infectious diseases

Project Description:
Chronic disease is an important and increasing health burden in Australia. For some people with end stage organ failure, transplantation is an option. There is a chronic shortage of donor organs. A key consideration in transplantation is biovigilance: infectious disease transmission from donor to recipients is a serious adverse event. In recent years there have been concerted efforts to increase the organ donor pool, including increased consideration of potential donors who previously may not have met donation criteria. Recognising the risk of infection transmission from donor to potential recipients is an important part of assessment of medical suitability of potential organ donors. Data from overseas suggests that the proportion of high risk donors is increasing, which impacts of biovigilance strategies.

This summer project is to participate in the design and analysis of a cohort study of potential and actual organ donors in NSW. The aim is to describe the risk profile of donors using a risk assessment tool, and to identify changes over time.

The summer student will work with expert supervisors. You will learn many useful and transferrable research skills including information management, study design and administration, database management, data entry and cleaning, data synthesis and report drafting. The applicant will also develop skills in preparing a manuscript for publication in a peer-reviewed journal. The successful applicant who contributes well will be rewarded with co-authorship on any resulting publications. There may be opportunities to develop and extend this topic area into further projects suitable for honours or MPhil work.