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## TRANSPLANTATION

### Introduction

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Transplantation has become an everyday occurrence, and yet it is a procedure which still gives problems at an ethical level. Even though we may not have indulged in the excesses associated with the sale of organs, or even the kidnapping of potential donors for the purpose of stealing organs for transplantation, we still, in Malta are faced with a number of ethical problems which the Committee has tried to resolve.

Unlike the issue we discussed previously, this is not one which should provide widely varying points of view. We have concluded a draft document, a copy of which has been circulated.

In this document we deal with various issues, including the issue of informed consent, including transplantation from those who are not in a position to give consent, the rights of the donor and recipient, the role of confidentiality and so on. We are of course always happy to receive any comments relating to this document.

In the panel today we have speakers who will talk on various aspects of this topic, philosophical and ethical issues as seen from the points of view of the various actors in this play. This includes the views of the lay person, which, as usual, should be given due importance. I must admit that I was taken aback at a recent lecture to the University of the Third Age when I asked whether the views of the person carrying a donor card should over-ride those of the family when it comes to donation of cadaver organs. All were in favour of this logical procedure. However, in our document we were too squeamish to make it categorical that this should be the case. You may want to give your views on this matter also.