

Connie Frank Kidney Transplant Center Provides Skilled, Convenient Care



Close collaboration with referring physicians

The Connie Frank Kidney Transplant Center provides the most cutting-edge, personalized care for its patients and is a permanent resource for the referring nephrologist, says Gabriel Danovitch, MD, medical director of the UCLA Kidney and Pancreas Transplant Program.

“The staff are completely attuned to the needs of the patients,” he says. “I think patients feel this is a place just for them.”

Collaboration among clinicians, including communication with the patient’s referring nephrologist, leads to the most successful outcomes, Dr. Danovitch says. The center provides 24/7 access to care.

“We pride ourselves in the time and energy we spend communicating with referring physicians,” he says. “We are a resource for all potential and actual transplant candidates and recipients in the region. We are the leading referral center in the region, and now we have a facility that equals our role.”

Kidney transplants are the most common type of organ transplantation with more than 17,000 operations performed each year in the United States. Kidney transplantation surgery is highly successful, and approximately 150,000 people in the United States are living with a donated kidney. However, the demand for donor organs exceeds supply. More than 100,000 Americans with renal disease are candidates for a kidney transplant, with a national median wait time until transplantation of 3.6 years.

Providing care for transplant candidates, recipients and donors demands comprehensive programs and facilities along with thorough and compassionate care. Those needs are fulfilled at the Connie Frank Kidney Transplant Center at UCLA. Our state-of-the-art facility, which opened in early 2015, enhances UCLA’s Kidney Transplant Program, which is recognized as one of the most successful in the country. The program serves about 11,000 kidney recipients and donors each year and performs approximately 300 transplants.

New center is three times larger than former facility

Housed in the Peter Morton Medical Building at UCLA Medical Plaza, the Connie Frank Kidney Transplant Center is designed to provide superior care in a setting that is comforting and conducive to healing.

At almost 10,000 square feet, the center is three times larger than the former clinic and contains 14 exam rooms, four infusion rooms and a dedicated conference room.

The center is designed to be a hub for all of the kidney transplant-related needs of candidates, donors, recipients and family members. Patients can receive many routine ancillary services, such as lab services, without the need to visit other facilities. The on-site infusion center reduces visits to the emergency room for patients in urgent need of antibiotics or immunosuppressant medications.

The center's layout and design reflect the most contemporary view of healthcare as a partnership between clinicians and patients. Exam rooms are configured to provide easy face-to-face interaction between individuals. Doctors and patients can sit together and view information on computer terminals to facilitate discussions.

Among the features of the Connie Frank Kidney Transplant Center are:

- A patient-centered design promoting optimal flow of doctors, nurses, case managers and other staff
- A healing environment using as much natural light as possible
- Easily accessible professional staff to address patient questions and concerns
- On-site blood-draw station
- Designated work area for clinicians to collaborate and consult
- Remote consultation with other UCLA clinical and diagnostic services such as radiology and cardiology
- Conference room for academic advancement and patient conferences

Among the best survival rates

The Kidney Transplant Program at UCLA is locally and nationally recognized as consistently being among the most successful programs in the country based on independently audited three-year patient and graft survival rates. Physicians and surgeons have been at the forefront of several significant trends that have helped boost transplant rates, such as living kidney donation, a kidney exchange program and blood group incompatibility kidney transplantation. These resources contribute to the program's success in finding suitable matches for patients. UCLA is the premier center for kidney transplantation in Southern California.

The program's interdisciplinary approach to kidney transplantation integrates surgical, medical and clinical specialists as well as dietitians and social workers to engage in the continuous care and management of the patient through every stage of a successful kidney transplant. Clinical research to further improve outcomes is an ongoing priority. Active research projects center on improved diagnostic techniques and potential new anti-rejection medications.

Participating Physicians

Gabriel Danovitch, MD

Distinguished Professor of Medicine
Medical Director of the UCLA Kidney and Pancreas Transplant Program

H. Albin Gritsch, MD

Associate Professor of Urology
Surgical Director, Kidney Transplant Program

Jeffrey Veale, MD

Associate Clinical Professor of Urology
Director, UCLA Kidney Exchange Program

Suphamai (Mike) Bunnapradist, MD

Professor of Medicine

Jeremy Blumberg, MD

Assistant Clinical Professor of Urology

Edmund Huang, MD

Associate Clinical Professor of Medicine

Gerald S. Lipshutz, MD, MS

Professor in Residence
Department of Surgery, Medicine, and Urology

Phuong-Thu Pham, MD

Clinical Professor of Medicine

Erik Lum, MD

Assistant Professor of Medicine

Theodore Sievers, PharmD

Kidney Transplant Pharmacist Specialist

Contact Information

Connie Frank Kidney
Transplant Center
200 UCLA Medical Plaza
Fifth Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90095

(310) 825-6836 Appointments

transplants.ucla.edu/kidney