Professor Winslade was quoted in a report posted to the KHOU-TV 11 News website about a proposal to change procedures for the receipt of kidney donations. Prof. Winslade remarks that the proposal would disfavor older recipients. The video for this report is available at http://www.khou.com/video?id=117771444&sec=548352.

The following report was posted to the KHOU-TV 11 News website on Thursday, March 10, 2011:

**Age, health priorities proposed for kidney transplant recipients**
by Leigh Frillici / 11 News khou.com

HOUSTON – Right now, kidneys go to people who have been on the wait list the longest, but, a new proposal would instead match kidneys to patients by looking at age and health factors.

The proposal being circulated by the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) could change the way kidneys are donated to recipients.

For example, the majority of the highest quality kidneys would go first to patients who are within 15 years of the age of the donor.

The proposal notes “the current donor population is younger than the age distribution of the candidate population.” It means younger people would be matched to younger kidneys. In general, those kidneys are healthier and would be expected to last longer.

The proposal is not without controversy.

“This proposal would disfavor older recipients who might be able to benefit just as much from a kidney donation, if they were say 55 and lived for 20 years with a kidney, than a 20 year old who gets a kidney and gets in a car accident,” said Bill Winslade, the Health and Law Policy Director at the University of Houston.

Experts say there's a need for change. Kidneys are the most sought after organs for transplants and about 88,000 people are on the waiting list nationally. But each year, only about 17,000 people get a kidney and more than 4,000 people die annually without receiving one.

“There is just not just enough supply and demand,” said Elvia Valdez, a spokesperson for LifeGift. “So it’s important to sign up for organ donation because it's a huge public crisis.”

At Beechnut Dialysis Center, patients supported the proposal.

“I think it would be a good change for us to be younger and get it quicker,” said 24-year-old Shantel Williams.

Dave Jagish, a 57 year old dialysis patient, agreed.

“Young to young is better,” he said. He said he thinks the proposal is fair, even though it could mean that he waits even longer for a kidney.

UNOS sent this statement regarding the proposal:

“To be clear, there has been no change in existing national kidney allocation policy. Furthermore, no change is imminent…The document out for public comment offers concepts and rationale that have been recommended by various experts with a professional or personal involvement in kidney transplantation. Only if these concepts receive considerable public support, will they be forwarded to the next level of scrutiny and consideration.”

If you would like to be an organ donor LifeGift in Houston has information here: www.lifegift.org