

# Transplant *World*

2017 | Issue 2

Journal of the



World Transplant Games Federation  
Powered by the gift of life

**Snapshots from Málaga 2017**

**Introducing our Hall of Fame**

**Back to a Winter Wonderland in 2018**

**Fit for Life!:  
One  
Small  
Step...**



# CONTENTS

**Guest Editorial**

George Franklin, USA.....Page 3

**Message from the President**

.....Page 4

**WTGF Future Events**

NewcastleGateshead 2019.....Page 5  
Anzère-Arbaz 2018.....Page 9

**Fit for Life! Update**

Billion Steps Challenge, Ambassador Program, Passports, Cycle Tour.....Page 6, 7, 8

**Photos from Málaga 2017**

.....Page 10, 11

**WTGF Awards 2017**

.....Page 12, 13

**Hall of Fame**

.....Page 14

**Dineal Wolf, Brazil**..... Page 15

**Wendy Daniels, USA**..... Page 16

**Games Survey, Málaga 2017**..... Page 17

**Member Country News**  
Kazakhstan, Canada & USA..... Page 18

**General Assembly 2017 Update**..... Page 19

**Board of Trustees**..... Page 19

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Night Memories on Sand, Eucla, The Nullabor, South Australia, October, 2014

## Billion Steps Challenge Fit for Life!: One Small Step....



Team 'The Girls', Canada - Billion Steps 'group walk'



Team Brazil



'#YoSalvé55vidas' Colombia

'We are one!' Korea

Fit for Life! Ambassador, Martin Wong and WTGF Medical Chair, Dr Ka-foon Chau, Hong Kong

Please turn to the Fit for Life! Update on page 6 for information on the Challenge and more wonderful 'photos from the teams.

## GUEST EDITORIAL • GUEST EDITORIAL • GUEST EDITORIAL • GUEST EDITORIAL

2018 will be the 40th anniversary of the very first World Transplant Games which was held in Southsea, UK. WTGF President Chris Thomas was delighted to hear from **George Franklin** with his wonderful memories of attending the event as a young man. The Federation would be very pleased to hear from all other 1978 participants during the 40th anniversary year. Many thanks George, for allowing us to share your memories.

# 1st World Transplant Games, 1978

Well, first, the short story is, they were the 'Games of MY Lifetime'! While I'll be attending my 10th US National Games in 2018, I've not been fortunate enough to attend any other international Games since 1980 when the World Games came to New York City, USA.

But now let me start telling you about those FIRST Games, in Southsea England, in 1978. I was one of just four Americans that were invited to attend those precious Games in Southsea, and I've never forgotten them. Being an "inner-city kid" from Washington DC, just 24 years old, having my kidney transplant for just over two and a half years, holding my first passport and flying on my first widebody transatlantic jet with two ladies that had been on haemodialysis with me - this was truly the experience of a lifetime. And, since we three were also all transplanted at George Washington University Hospital and knew each other very well, we were going to be great travelling buddies.

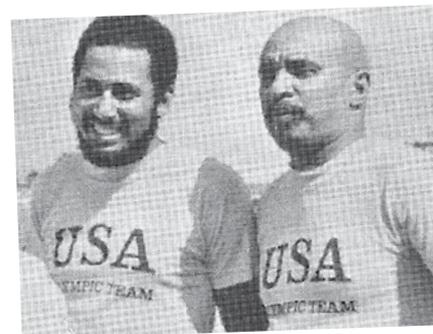
## The first event...

I suppose would have been on the airplane. I wasn't much of a "wine connoisseur", but I'd had a glass or two as a celebratory effort. Well, a few hours later, I had the entire plane staring out their windows looking for these majestic mountains that I was observing, out my window! Jerri Coleman, one of my traveling mates, looked out of her window and didn't see anything. I told her and others you could see the mountains fine from my window. She walked back to where I was, looked out the window, looked at me then out the window again, and said, "George, those mountains you are seeing are the engines on the wing of the plane!". So...no more wine. I was told to go sit down and go to sleep, which indeed I did. Of course, no one had thought that there weren't any mountains in the middle of the Atlantic.

## The second event...

Embarrassingly came as we were landing at Heathrow. When the trailing edges of the wings jumped up, I guess to aid in the slowing of the plane, I screamed! LOUDLY! I thought the wing was about to fall off. Keep in mind, this was my first jet plane experience. I'm sure the Captain knew, since he met me at the disembark exit and asked when might I be returning to the United States.

The next few days, we toured England, taking pictures and having a wonderful time. I had my first slice of blueberry cheesecake there soaked in cream with blueberries on top, it was delicious. The Houses of Parliament...Big Ben... England was a joy.



George (left) at the '78 Games with USA team member James C. Watson

Then came the long train ride to Southsea. As we walked through the train cars, we were amazed that so many on the train had already heard about the impending Games. I had no wine on the train.

Upon arriving in Southsea, we all checked into our hotel and started to meet our international competition. After all these years, the person whose name I still remember is Maxie Scully. Although we've had no communication since 1978, I was so impressed with both him and his team from Ireland. I remember the marching in of the teams and the torch to light the Olympic flame. It was like magic.

I didn't win any medals during those Games although I should have since I'd been a pool manager and lifeguard for years and swam every day. But, sadly, my hotel didn't call to wake me up (yes, this was way before cell phones) so I missed all of the swimming events! I called back to the States, crying, wanting to come back home. NOW!

The Games folks talked me into staying and trying another sport, which I did. Track and Field. I didn't do too bad, lasting for a few heats, but I was eventually eliminated. However, I did feel I'd experienced the excitement of competition.

## The after parties...

We're off the HOOK! I remember we all stood up on tables at one of them and YES, there was wine! We all sang, or tried to sing, our country's national anthems.

I will never forget those 1st International Games. My congratulations to all of those that have continued to compete and explore the great countries that have since hosted the World Transplant Games.

And, above all, thank you, Dr Maurice Slapak, for having the vision to see what transplantation and Transplant Games would become!



**George E. Franklin, 3rd**

Deceased Donor Kidney Recipient  
November 4th, 1975  
George Washington University  
Medical Center  
Dr Glenn W. Geelhoed, Transplant  
Surgeon

Left: George in 2016 at the  
US National Games

# Message from the President

We certainly live in interesting times. Across the world, countries are once again struggling for identity as they battle nationalism versus globalism. No one is exempt.

These sentiments are being played out most publicly in the United States with the desire by some to put America first again and in the United Kingdom where legislators are still trying to work out how to implement Brexit.

In my own home country, Australia, a country which prides itself on its multiculturalism, the undertones have been evident for a decade, perhaps even longer.

Mid-last decade a series of riots occurred on one of the most iconic beaches south of Sydney where nationalism reared its ugly face where young white males fought with young men with a more olive complexion whose main trouble was that they hadn't been in this country as long as the others.

The symbol for their defence was, intriguingly, the Southern Cross - the star constellation which adorns our flag. Australians who arrived in Australia over the past 200 years have come to embrace the Southern Cross as an inspirational symbol which led people of all nations to our great shores.

However it has a meaning deeply rooted in the culture and beliefs of our first Australians and has gazed down at our Indigenous people for thousands of years. It represents the continuity of life.

Now if you see a Holden ute drive down the highway with the Southern Cross emblazoned on the back window, automatically and sadly the driver could be judged not for his love of our country but for his apparent desire to not allow anyone else to enjoy what it has to offer.

It should be noted that not all countries are looking inward. France and Germany recently in their elections bucked the trend.

It is with this backdrop of global affairs that I recently accepted an invitation to review the transplant games being staged by the Specific Patients and Transplant Sports Federation of Iran. Following that visit I moved on to Newcastle, England, to participate in the 30th anniversary celebrations of the first paediatric heart transplant. What a privilege to spend a few days with Kaylee Davidson Olley who, herself, has become a symbol of the success of transplantation in the United Kingdom.

And it was both in Iran and the United Kingdom that the enormity of what our Federation represents - the symbol of the gift of life - demonstrated what a privileged position we hold in today's global affairs. Even though we represent just a niche of society, there are still lessons to be learned.

The symbol of the gift of life transcends race, colour, creed and traditional country borders. In Europe, organs are shared between countries, with the greatest need the priority. Australia and New Zealand have a similar arrangement.

At the World Transplant Games, our countries lay down their differences and come together for a week of celebration of what unites us rather than what divides us.

As an Australian living in one of the most isolated areas of earth, I have to confess my knowledge of Iranian society and culture was somewhat limited. Perhaps this would be the case for the majority of us. In fact if at any time I had previously thought of Iran, it was more to do with Australia's denial of 'boat people' from that region a few years back.

However I emerged with a deeper and richer understanding of Persian culture, of their history, sophistication, pride and above all else their generosity. I set out to help build a more sustained relationship with our Iranian athletes so that they are more included and embraced in each of our games.

Their federation has embraced not just transplant patients but those suffering from other specific illnesses including diabetes and multiple sclerosis. The inspiration behind their federation is Dr Fatemeh Hashemi whose father was well respected by all Iranians. Sadly he passed away last year. Dr Hashemi continues his legacy today and is at the forefront of building several hospitals to cater for a range of illnesses.

In the United Kingdom I saw another type of passion. A passion for the children who have all undergone heart transplantation at the Freeman Hospital in Newcastle. The work of Lynne Holt



*WTGF President Chris Thomas at the Iranian National Transplant Games*

# NewcastleGateshead 2019

*World Transplant Games Federation visits UK as preparations continue for 2019*

A delegation from the World Transplant Games Federation, including President Chris Thomas (Australia), Executive Manager Kim Renyard (South Africa) and Colin White (Ireland) have recently returned from a visit to Newcastle, UK where they met with members of the Local Organising Committee for the World Transplant Games NewcastleGateshead 2019.



**Kim, Chris and Colin (centre) at Close House with LOC members and supporters**

The trip included site visits to some of the venues lined up to host sporting events during the World Transplant Games, including Close House which will play host to the golf in 2019.

Chris Thomas, President of the World Transplant Games Federation, said: "We received the warmest welcome from everyone involved in delivering the Games in Newcastle and Gateshead and we are confident that with plans well underway, the 2019 Games are set to be a huge success."

Mr Thomas added, "The North East of England is world renowned for expertise in transplantation and this was among the many reasons that the Federation decided NewcastleGateshead would be a fantastic location to host the World Transplant Games in 2019. Equally, thanks to Transplant Sport UK, the country has long been at the forefront of driving the profile and success of transplant sports globally. Hosting the World Transplant Games in 2019 is an ideal opportunity to showcase their expertise working with the Local

Organising Committee. It's brilliant to hear how the preparations are coming along and experience some of what will be on offer to our athletes in 2019."

The NewcastleGateshead Games will take place from 17-24 August 2019 and will be hosted at some of the top sports venues in Tyne and Wear, including Gateshead International Stadium, Sport Central at Northumbria University, Newcastle United FC and the Sunderland Aquatic Centre.

Sarah Stewart, chief executive at NewcastleGateshead Initiative, added: "It's great to be able to welcome members of the World Transplant Games Federation and update them on our preparations for 2019. We're expecting to welcome more than 3,000 participants, including athletes, from more than 50 countries to the North East.

"It's our ambition to ensure more people have the opportunity to engage with the World Transplant Games by staging

events in public spaces and in world-class sporting facilities across the destination. Raising awareness about the importance of organ donation is a key part of staging the Games, which is why we want to make the events, and the athletes, as visible as possible so they can inspire others to sign the organ donor register."

It was announced earlier this year that leading health and wellbeing specialist, Westfield Health, had come onboard as one of the major sponsors of the Games and representatives from the company were also involved in the visit.

Graham Wylie, Chair of the Local Organising Committee for World Transplant Games 2019, said: "To help us make the Games in 2019 an outstanding success, we are delighted that Westfield Health – a passionate supporter of transplant sport as long-term sponsors of the British Transplant Games since 2008 – are continuing their support as a major sponsor of the world Games and, in doing so, helping us to welcome transplant athletes from across the globe to the North East."



*For more information on the World Transplant Games NewcastleGateshead 2019 visit <http://worldtransplantgames.org>.*

## Message from the President *Continued*

and the volunteerism of Kaylee's mum, Carol Olley, deserves recognition as does the professionalism of Professor Chris McGregor who performed Kaylee's transplant 30 years ago. It was wonderful he could join the celebrations.

The gift of life is indeed a symbol that unites us. It brings humanity together demonstrating our underlying need to survive, to persevere in the face of

adversity and to be compassionate and generous in all of our endeavours. It is a celebration of humanity's very essence.



**Chris Thomas**  
President



**Kaylee (centre) with her sister Rebecca and Professor Christopher McGregor who performed her transplant 30 years ago**

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# Fit for Life! Update

The Fit for Life! initiative, proudly supported by Astellas Pharma Inc, has the dual role of helping inspire all transplant recipients to lead active lives post-transplant and to demonstrate to the global public the importance of organ and tissue donation. 2017 has seen the Program receive high-profile attendance at Transplantation Congresses and has introduced some exciting new projects for the transplant community.



## Fit for Life! Billion Steps Challenge



This motivating new online challenge was launched on 18th September to run for 90 days and was designed specifically to embrace the entire transplant community including all friends and families. The Billion Steps Challenge aims to help us all to take the first step to a life of activity and movement. Regular walking is recognized by the World Health Organisation as a key ingredient to living a longer and healthier life.

Our transplant community has stepped up to the challenge and there are now a total of 236 teams of up to 10 people per team, all enthusiastically walking towards the goal. The team names and icon pictures have been a reminder of just creative and diverse this transplant community is!

The Billion Steps Challenge has really brought our transplant community together. At half way through the challenge, we had collectively walked just over four hundred million steps and powering our way towards that goal of 1 Billion Steps! Many teams are made up of a combination of recipients, family members, medical professionals and friends. The challenge has got many people increasing their normal steps and fitness levels, participating in fun runs and walks, or even just getting outdoors and walking again. We have seen great media coverage around the world and couldn't be happier with the support that this programme has received. With 236 teams and 26 different countries participating we can most certainly say that the Billion Steps Challenge has aided in getting our community "more active, more often!".

WTGF would like to show the world that those living with a transplant are serious about their health and the precious gift they have been given. What better way than to walk a collective billion steps!



**Stepping out with the Billion Steps Challenge team from Colombia**



**The 'Edinburgh Transplant Team' displaying their medals after building up their steps on the Glasgow Bridge Walk, Scotland**



**The Billion Steps Challenge launch in Hong Kong with Medical Committee Chair Dr Ka-foon Chau (centre) and our new Fit for Life! Ambassador from Hong Kong, Martin Wong (far right)**

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**Fit for Life! Ambassador Program**

The Fit for Life! Ambassador program continues to grow and four enthusiastic new Ambassadors have been appointed since the Games in Málaga. These exciting new appointments will be for a period of two years.



**Aris Jan van Ek**  
Netherlands  
Age: 56 – Kidney recipient

"I also had to learn that being able to do sports is not about running a marathon or beating personal records all the time, it is all about being able to do it. Take the opportunity, see the benefits. I can show you the way."



**Stephanie Keustermans**  
Belgium  
Age: 26 - Double lung recipient

"The World Transplant Games was the best experience of my life, every medal I ever won I dedicate to my organ donors. They gave me the gift of life."



**Hagit Siman-tov**  
Israel  
Age: 53 - Liver recipient

"I know I was given a very precious gift, one that many wish for but do not get. It is my second chance at life and I am the only one responsible to keep my gift safe."



**Martin Wong**  
Hong Kong  
Age: 50 years - Kidney recipient

"Being fit is important! As I did not know when I would receive the transplant, I did my best to remain fit so that my body would be ready to undergo the operation."

The full profiles for the WTGF Fit for Life! Ambassadors can be found at [wtgf.org/current-ambassadors](http://wtgf.org/current-ambassadors). If you are interested in becoming an Ambassador please see the World Transplant Games Federation website [wtgf.org/ambassadors](http://wtgf.org/ambassadors) or write to us on [fitforlife@wtgf.org](mailto:fitforlife@wtgf.org).

**Fit for Life! Passport Program**



The Fit for Life! Passport program was launched at the 2017 World Transplant Games in Malaga, Spain this year, where passports were issued free of charge to all attendees, to celebrate the 30-year anniversary of the foundation of the Federation in 1987.

The passport is designed to record and celebrate participants' attendance, both athletes and supporters, at Summer and Winter Games, as well as other official recognised worldwide transplant events.

Passports will soon become available for those who were

not able to attend the recent Summer Games. Please visit our website page at <http://wtgf.org/games-passport> for further updates.

If you wish to include the passport program in your local Transplant Games please contact [fitforlife@wtgf.org](mailto:fitforlife@wtgf.org).

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# The Fit For Life! Cycle Tour from Madrid to Málaga

## 594 km, 6 days, 17th to 22nd June



594 km under the Andalusian heat, ahead of the opening of the 2017 World Transplant Games, a group of six cyclists including four transplant recipients rode to promote organ and tissue donation and the importance of sport for transplanted patients.

Promoting physical activity for every transplant recipient is a key message for organ and tissue transplant specialists, for Fit for Life! and for the World Transplant Games Federation.

### The Six Cyclists:

- **Chris Thomas**, WTGF President, CEO of Transplant Australia, 54, Australia... the initiator of this cycling tour!
- **Liz Schick**, WTGF Honorary Secretary, liver recipient, 55, Switzerland
- **José Lopez Rivas**, "Pepe", notably President of the Transplant Sport Club Andalusia and Vice President of Sport and Transplant Spain, liver recipient, 56, Spain
- **Roger Anton Arnet**, notably Treasurer of the Swiss Blood Stem Cells Association, first aid volunteer, Bone Marrow recipient, 42, Switzerland
- **Francisca Silva Molina**, "Paki", notably Secretary of the Transplant Sport Club Andalusia, liver recipient, 38, Spain
- **Candide Font-Sala**, Physiologist, Head of Organ and Tissue Donation Department, Swisstransplant, 43, Switzerland

### All are grateful for:

- **594 km** of uphill and downhill through Madrid, Toledo, Ciudad Real, Fuencaliente, visiting the Hospital Reina Sofia in Cordoba, discussing with specialists, recipients and members of patients associations, honouring the Donors Monument, Antequera, and finally arriving in Málaga at the Carlos Haya Hospital.
- **594 km** with the amazing support of journalists, patient associations, transplanted patients, friends, family donors, organ and tissue donation and transplantation professionals.
- **594 km** of surpassing limits, never complaining, never showing fatigue, always in a cheerful mood. They all made it successfully!
- **594 km** of a great adventure.
- **594 km** of new friendships for life.

**Roger:** "I jumped in without knowing what was ahead simply because it was the opportunity to do sports with other transplanted patients. It was a lot of emotions, heat, muscle ache, kms, efforts... I overcame my physical limits and thanks to the team support, I never felt like I would not be able to succeed!"

**Paki:** "Participating in the Fit for Life! cycling tour has been a great gift: it made me overcome my physical and emotional limits. They were a few days of coexistence with transplanted people like me and those days were rich in emotion. I can say that it was one of the best experiences of my life and I met with new friends that I carry in my heart."



**Pepe, Candide, Chris, Liz, Roger and Paki**

**Pepe:** "Wonderful experience of being able to combine in this adventure both my passion for cycling and to express the immense joy that I feel in continuing to enjoy a beautiful life. Such a beautiful gift to be able to give thanks for enabling us to continue to live and to convey that donating organs saves lives and is worth doing. Authentic waves of sensations and emotions from departure to arrival. Memories of the first moments of our transplants and how the transplants enabled us little by little, to go from being weak to being strong and able to cope with the ups and downs of life, as in a bike route."

**Liz:** "The Fit for Life! Road to Málaga was all about solidarity. It was not about being the best or the fastest, it was about sticking together and helping each other. Even though we spoke different languages, we were one. Together we are strong."

"This cycle tour became true thanks to the support of Astellas Pharma. All cyclists wish to express their deep gratitude to the Fit for Life! program for this extraordinary opportunity; to Astellas Pharma for the financial support; to the journalists for their amazing relaying of information, quality of work and patience; to all the supporting cyclists who came with us during the first day and the final day; to the wonderful group of transplanted patients and members of patient associations who warmly welcomed us in Cordoba; to the amazing professionals in Cordoba and in the Málaga Hospitals; to our dedicated guide Nikki from Bike Spain; and to each and every one of you who supported this cycling tour."

Fit For Life!

**Candide Font-Sala**  
Switzerland



And Now for Something Completely Different...

# ...the 10th World Transplant Winter Games, a Family Affair



The first World Transplant Games I ever attended was in Haute-Nendaz in 2001. I had never participated in any competition before. The whole experience was mind blowing to say the least. I was caught off-guard by the hot, salty tears that rolled down my cheeks at the Opening Ceremony as I paraded with the Swiss flag, the flag of the birthplace of my anonymous organ donor and the country that adopted me in 1984. I met people who have since become firm friends, we laughed, we cried, we skied and I was hooked!



This was only three years into my transplant journey and since then I have never missed a Summer Games and only two Winter Games due to work commitments. For those of you who have never attended the Winter Games, I can only say you are missing out. They are tenth of the size of the Summer Games so every face is familiar by the end of the week. They are cosy.

I did not grow up skiing. I skied for the first time when I was 18. But the winter is not only about skiing. The mountains have so much more to offer. They are mighty, with breathtaking views, the air is totally clean - here is a peace and stillness that makes even a Jack Russell feel Zen and if the mountains do not achieve this, the Anzère Spa and Wellness definitely will.

Although we organised the Winter Games once before in Anzère in 2012, the 2018 Winter Games will be part of a new generation of Winter Games, hybrid Games with the WTGF taking

a hands on role with the website, registration and administration. We often talk of our 'transplant family', this will be the first time that we really will be a family in this cosy atmosphere where the only transport needed is for the curling. All events otherwise are walking distance.

The 2018 Games will be the first time that we have:

- A special donor family and living donor family day with three competitions for our special heroes
- All WTWG participants, family members, friends, carers and donors can be timed if they so desire in several of the competitions 'just for fun'



- Siblings can register to be part of the Nicholas Green camp and participate in the Nicholas Cup on the last day
- The Hansel & Gretel Club (guided snowshoe tours for different levels of fitness), a wonderful way to walk in the snow and take in the mountain air
- Fit for Life! workshops: nutrition advice and help with planning your best Fit for Life! regime for the future

The Games officially start on the Sunday 7th January until Friday 12th but for those in apartments we are offering two free extra nights - 6th and 12th January.

If you are reading this any time before then and have a crazy whim to be part of this family affair email us on [wintergames@wtgf.org](mailto:wintergames@wtgf.org).

**Liz Schick**  
WTWG2018 Local Organising Committee





The living donors and donor families marching into the arena at the Opening Ceremony to huge cheers and tears of thanks from the crowd



# World Transplant Games, Málaga, Spain 2017

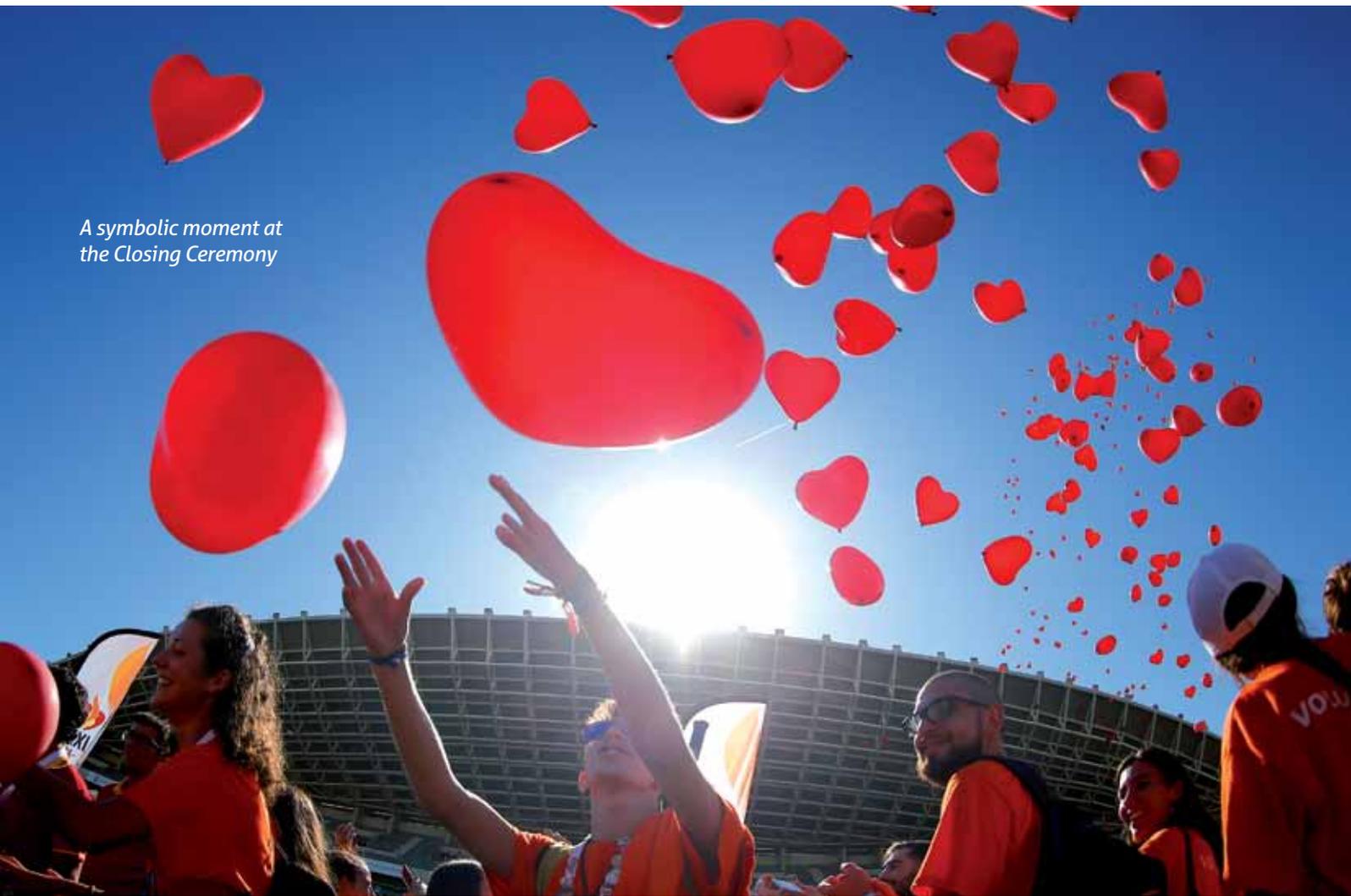


Mrs Marisol Casado, the International Olympic Committee representative speaking at the Opening Ceremony



Action from the Exhibition Football Match held just before the Games

A symbolic moment at the Closing Ceremony



The handover of the WTGF flag to the 2019 LOC at the Closing Ceremony - on the left 2017 and on the right 2019 (Photo by Luke Schudde)

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# World Transplant Games Federation Awards

## Málaga 2017

The World Transplant Games Federation Awards were presented at the Gala Dinner in Málaga, Spain.

These included the Outstanding Team Award for the team whose athletes won the most medals relative to the team size. Teams with 20 athletes or more were eligible.

The WTGF Outstanding Athlete Award was presented as usual to a man and a woman nominated by their Team Manager and selected by the Judiciary Committee using the following criteria:

- Performance (number of medals won)
- Quality (strength of competition)
- Diversity (achievements in multiple sports)
- Sportsmanship

**Outstanding Athletes:** Matthew Burrows (centre) from Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Lisa du Plessis, South Africa, receiving their Awards.

Also the WTGF Outstanding Junior Athlete Awards were presented using the same criteria as the adults.

**The Outstanding Junior Athlete for Boys** was awarded to Rhys Bonnell from Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the **Girls Award** went to Kristen Henry from South Africa.



*Team Great Britain and Northern Ireland – winners of the Outstanding Team Award 2017 receiving the Award on behalf of the team. From left to right: WTGF Sports Chair, Andre Lassoij; Mayor of Málaga, Francisco de la Torre; on behalf of Team Great Britain and Northern Ireland: Lynne Holt, Daley Cross, Lisa Beaumont and Barrie Laverick; WTGF President, Chris Thomas and WTGF Treasurer, Colin White.*



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Following the sad death of founding WTGF member **Orien Young** in 2016, a new **Orien Young Award** was presented to the gold medal winners of the Men's 4 x 100m Relay on the track. The Mayor of Málaga and the WTGF President presented the Awards to (left to right) Matthew Salkeld, Edwin Yamoah, Matt Cave and James Colbeck, men's Track & Field Captain, receiving the Award on behalf of Steve Jarvis.



The **Peter Griffin Award** for the Men's Swimming Relay was presented to the Great Britain and Northern Ireland team – (centre left to right) Declan Bennett, Matthew Burrows, Liam Barnett and Rhys Bonnell, pictured here with silver and bronze medal winners.



The **Maurice Slapak Award** for the 5km Road Race was won this year by the team from Great Britain and Northern Ireland – Matthew Salkeld, John Moore and Phillip Cairnduff.



All the 2017 Team Managers were presented with a special certificate on stage, expressing gratitude from the Federation for all their hard work both before and during the Games.



Chris Thomas presented a plaque from the Federation to the Mayor of Málaga, Mr Francisco de la Torre, expressing thanks and appreciation to the 2017 Local Organising Committee and the City of Málaga.



Finally, WTGF Honorary Secretary, Liz Schick, a liver recipient, delivered a heartfelt speech of thanks to all the donors and donor families present at the Games, which was received with warmth and enthusiasm by everyone at the Gala Dinner.

HALL OF FAME • HALL OF FAME • HALL OF FAME • HALL OF FAME • HALL OF FAME

# WORLD TRANSPLANT GAMES FEDERATION HALL OF FAME

In 2017, the World Transplant Games Federation celebrated the 30-year anniversary of the official formation of the Federation. This anniversary was marked by the commencement of a Hall of Fame to honour both the competitors who have attended 15 or more Summer World Transplant Games, as well as key individuals who played an integral part of the leadership of the WTGF.

## SPIRIT OF COMPETITION

- Athanasia Botsa, Greece - 17 World Transplant Games
- Heather Edgell, Australia - 16 World Transplant Games
- Kathleen Gerlach, United States of America - 16 World Transplant Games
- Erika Kokol, Austria - 16 World Transplant Games

## SPIRIT OF LEADERSHIP

- Dr Maurice Slapak, United Kindom - Founding President
- Peter Griffin, United Kingdom – Founding Executive Member  
*Awarded posthumously*
- Karl Handschuch, Germany – Founding Executive Member
- Olivier Coustere, France – Former President

WTGF President Chris Thomas was proud to present the Hall of Fame Awards on the occasion of the Games Opening Ceremony in Málaga, Spain.

The stories and achievements of these inspiring people can be found at [www.wtgf.org/hall-of-fame](http://www.wtgf.org/hall-of-fame)



*The Spirit of Competition athletes receiving their Awards*



*Olivier Coustere and Maurice Slapak with their Hall of Fame Awards following presentation by Chris Thomas at the Opening Ceremony*



Photo: Luuk Schudde

*Karl Handschuch (left) awarding a medal at the Road Race in Málaga*

Lynne Holt, Country Representative and Team Manager for GB&NI, was honoured to receive a posthumous Hall of Fame Award on behalf of Peter Griffin's family.

**Peter Griffin 19th July 1946  
- 31st May 2009**



WTGF COUNTRY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

# A 'Thank You' from Country Development Program Athlete, Dineal Wolf, Brazil

Today is the last day of WTG Málaga, here is a brief thank you for helping me to participate in the WTG Málaga. I will never forget everything I experienced in these Games. Thank you!

My name is Dinael Wolf, I am Brazilian, kidney transplanted for 11 years. I am having the opportunity to celebrate life thanks to the love and awareness of a donor.

Those who have participated in the World Transplant Games know how much we like this environment, the positive energy and the various stories of overcoming, no story bigger than the other, but all successful because here we are.

When I heard that the 2017 Games would be in Spain in the homeland of my maternal grandparents, I thought it would be a pride for my mother and my grandfathers to know that I have the opportunity to celebrate life in their native land. Through the commitment of the Team Manager of Brazil, Haroldo Costa, and the President of the WTGF, Chris Thomas, I have taken this opportunity to participate in this event. I just have to thank you for everything you have done for me, and continue to do for people transplanted worldwide and for people waiting for a donor, so they can all celebrate life with us.

What can I say about WTG Málaga, with more than 2000 participants, that can express this great celebration through life? I celebrated for every second in the events that I participated in; I conversed with as many people as possible with their victorious stories; I met many examples of overcoming; I will never forget everything I experienced at WTG Málaga. I am taking in my heart to Brazil the feeling of continuing to work on awareness of the importance of organ donation, so that more people can celebrate life - the second chance to live with us.

I would like to present some words that define a transplanted athlete: Determined, Fighter, Example, a person who never gives up, a person who thinks positively and a multiplier of the importance of organ donation. Of all these actions I believe that multiplier is the one that we have to practice the most, because nobody is better than us to spread awareness in the communities we live in. Never forget to multiply hope, positive thoughts, examples and love, because through this action we will save more lives.

This is what a young Spaniard did, one who I could not fail to mention - even though I lived far from Spain I knew of his attitudes. Through a young man (an angel) who lived here in Spain and today lives eternally in our hearts and practiced these actions very well. I would like to thank Pablo Ruez Martinez and his family; this angel that God decided had already completed his mission on Earth and took him to rest at his side. He fought



for life until the last second and made many people aware of the importance of organ donation and certainly saved a lot of lives. I would like his family to know that his message was heard in Brazil and is an example for us to continue fighting for life. We will certainly take his message forever. One of the phrases I have always heard of this fighter is that we have to always receive things with a smile as hard as they are, never give up and always be strong, appreciate small things and be grateful for being well, alive and healthy.

I thank everyone who made these Games possible.

Thank you very much

**Dinael Wolf**  
Brazil



**17th European Heart & Lung Transplant Championships**  
11th to 16th June 2018  
Lignano Sabbiadoro, Italy  
[www.lignano2018-ehltc.org](http://www.lignano2018-ehltc.org)

**WTG2017 Blog**

# Darcy Daniels, USA

## “Mom of Wendy, age 13 years”

It used to be that people would identify themselves solely by the place where they were born, and while that is still true, people also identify themselves by who they are and what they've done, and they look for like-minded people who share their experiences. But what happens when you have a rather rare experience, like getting a solid organ transplant at a young age? Wendy knows very few kids who have shared her experience, and she sometimes feels like a party of one. It's been important to Michael and me to help her find her community.

The World Transplant Games are a great way for her to meet people from around the world who are just like her.

She competed in swim and track events. During those events, she met girls her age who also had organ transplants, but who were from Italy, Britain, Hungary, or Australia. She and they would introduce themselves and gather before competitions, and then when it was time to compete, they would. Then they would gather back together and giggle and exchange addresses. All these girls, who were once gravely ill, who take medications multiple times a day, from all over the world, sharing this experience at the age of thirteen.

I don't know what you were doing at the age of thirteen, but I was wondering if my mom could bring me to the Mall to meet my friends. I was not hanging out with kids from around the world who had organ transplants, and then competing my heart out when it was time.

Across the board, this group of girls broke world records in swim and track. They are determined, they are fast. Most of all, although defined by their transplants, they transcend the commonly held belief that they are “sick kids”. They are not

They are warriors.

Then there is the group of men and women that Wendy met through Team USA. We had over 150 competitors from all over the country. They ranged in age from just younger than Wendy to members in their seventies. They help to show her that yes, life has its ups and downs, but that you keep going. I think (as a mom) that it's super important for kids to get positive messages from adults who aren't me, because at some point our kids turn our voices off. So when Wendy was a part of the 4 x 100 relay race with women who were kidney,



*Darcy and Wendy in Málaga, Spain*



lung, and heart transplant patients, who taught her how to receive the baton, who showed her where to line up, and who were her loudest cheering section while she ran, well those other women were real role models for her, and I am forever grateful to them. They probably didn't even know they had done anything.

I'm super proud of Wendy, and of her journey. This is a community worth celebrating, people who truly are living their best lives since they've been given a second chance. Competitors who radiate gratitude at the ability to feel good and come together to compete.

A community that supports each other, celebrates each other, claps for the person who comes in dead last as much (if not more) as the person who wins. Because, and I say this without hyperbole, they have all won just by being there.

Wendy is lucky to be a part of this amazing community.

I am grateful to witness it.

Read Darcy's full blog here: [bravefragilewarriors.wordpress.com/2017/07/10/world-transplant-games-community/](http://bravefragilewarriors.wordpress.com/2017/07/10/world-transplant-games-community/)



### 10th European Transplant and Dialysis Sports Championships

Cagliari, Sardinia, Italy 17-24th June 2018

Registration open end of December 2017

More information : [www.cagliarietdsc2018.it](http://www.cagliarietdsc2018.it)

Come and enjoy the gift of life competition with all the European countries together!

# MÁLAGA 2017: SURVEY RESULTS



The World Transplant Games are the signature event of the World Transplant Games Federation, and as such, the WTGF conducts an intense and thorough evaluation of each one of the Games. In addition to a detailed analysis conducted by the WTGF leadership and staff, one of the most helpful tools in this process is the survey that all Games participants are asked to complete.

The survey for the 2017 Málaga Games was answered by 564 participants, which represent approximately 25% of the 2,201 registrants. This percentage is similar to the number of respondents from previous surveys in 2013 and 2015. 74% were athletes, 18% were supporters. At least one response was received from 50 countries. 60% of the respondents had attended at least two World Transplant Games (including Málaga). Most importantly, more than 75% of the respondents ranked the Málaga Games as enjoyable or outstanding, and less than 5% felt them poor or very poor. Clearly participants had a positive overall experience at the 2017 Málaga Games.

The results regarding the conduct and organization of the different sports of the Games is always interesting, and this year was no exception. The sports had similar highest rated and lowest rated scores as previous World Games. The best organized sports were badminton, the 5K road race, swimming, and volleyball. All of the sports that were rated the lowest - tennis, table tennis, petanque and tenpin bowling - were sports using venues that were smaller than World Games guidelines and apparently were too small for the number of participants. This is a key finding regarding the sports of the Summer Games, and a great deal of attention will be focused on strategies and possible changes to better match facilities and competition to the number of participants.

Medical services is another key issue for the WTGF, as it is essential that any

Federation event be conducted safely and with proper medical attention available. Participants were quite satisfied with medical services during the Games, with 78% of respondents stating that the first aid and medical staff at the sport venues were good or outstanding. Similar scores were reported for medical clinics and the hospital used for the Games.

Survey respondents were very happy with their accommodation - less than 1% felt the accommodation was poor or very poor, while 82% reported good or outstanding. Regarding food, likewise over 80% liked very much the dinners and breakfasts at their hotel - lunch packs not so much!

Transport is a huge part of events like the World Transplant Games. Reviews were mixed, with transfer to and from the airports seen favorably, and transport during the Games receiving more mixed reviews. The transportation issue is another important component of the Games to the WTGF, and almost always present challenges due to expense and availability. A great deal of thought is always given to the process of reviewing possible Games locations, in order to reduce the transport burden and the level of frustration among Games participants.

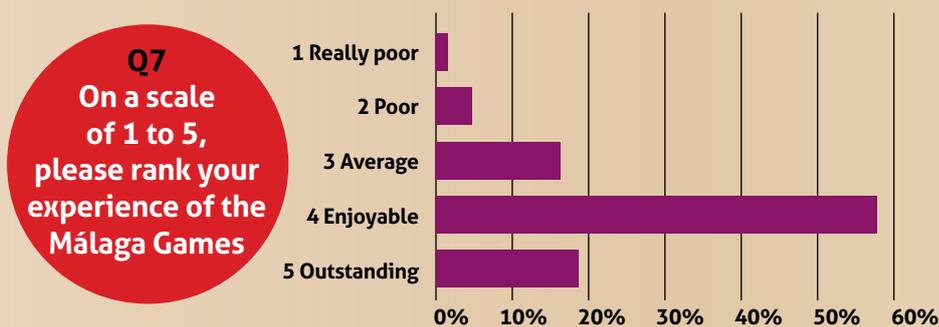
Participants were asked about the communications regarding the Games and the information available to them before and during the event. Email newsletters, the Games website, Facebook, and Twitter all received weighted scores between average and

good - less than 9% of these were rated poor or very poor. Regarding social media, an unexpected finding is that only Facebook was used by a significant portion of participants (70%), while very few used Twitter (17%) or YouTube (27%). It will be interesting to see if this changes with future Games.

A final note of interest - 73% of attendees stayed in Spain longer than the official Games days, and 25% stayed longer than 2 weeks. About 25% of those who answered indicated that they visited another country in addition to Spain - so it is clearly true that our participants make the World Transplant Games the centerpiece of a major and meaningful travel experience!

Although the survey questions tell much about the experiences of our Games participants, equally useful are the many comments that survey responders leave to pass on observations and suggestions for how to improve the World Transplant Games. We are fortunate to receive comments on every question and almost every conceivable aspect of the World Transplant Games - these comments are grouped into the different areas of organization and each one is reviewed and evaluated by the appropriate committee of the Federation for possible changes to how the Games are planned and how they are operated. There were over 2,000 comments made on the survey, on individual questions and general comments at the end of the survey. For those who took the time to give the Federation their thoughts, please know that each one of your comments have been or are being reviewed in order to make future World Transplant Games the best they can be - thank you!

**Gary Green**  
WTGF Sports Manager



*The World Transplant Games Federation is proud to introduce a new member country. Kazakhstan sent a team to the World Transplant Games in Málaga this year and have since become a full country member of the Federation, also holding their own first national transplant games. The Federation is delighted that there will be a team from Kazakhstan at the World Transplant Winter Games in Switzerland in January and are impressed with the enthusiasm and commitment shown by our new member country.*

*A very warm welcome to Kazakhstan!*

## Report on 1st National Transplant Games in Kazakhstan

From 22nd to 24th September 2017, the Public Association of Transplanted Patients "Omir Tynysy" with the support of the regional state, conducted the "1st Open Sports Competition for Transplantation Recipients and Patients on Dialysis" in Aktau, Kazakhstan.

The purpose of this event was the promotion of physical culture and sports among transplantation recipients and patients on dialysis from the Republic of Kazakhstan and the formation of a national team for Kazakhstan to participate in the European Transplant Games in Italy in 2018 and the World Transplant Games in the UK in 2019. Athletes from Russia, Belarus and Azerbaijan were invited to attend the event. In total, 30 athletes took part in the competitions, including four Russians.

Competitions were held in darts, table tennis, 50m swimming, bowling and volleyball with medals and certificates awarded.

In August 2017 the Public Association of Transplanted Patients "Omyr Tynys" became a member of the World Transplant Games Federation and is actively engaged in promoting sports activities for transplant recipients in Kazakhstan. This first Games in Kazakhstan showed that there is great interest amongst recipients for sport and participation in international sporting events. Also "Omyr Tynys" in Kazakhstan is aiming to collaborate with other patient organisations from the Eurasian countries with members who wish to participate in sports after transplantation.

**Zhanibek Uspanov**  
Kazakhstan



Zhanibek Uspanov, WTGF Country Representative for Kazakhstan and main organiser of their 1st National Transplant Games



Games' participants

## Canada and USA Reacquainted Since 1980 World Transplant Games

as told by Niva Segatto, Canada



"Dennis Segatto, Canada and Kathleen Gerlach, USA - not knowing each other, or realizing it at past World Transplant Games, both were competitors from the New York Games in 1980.

In Argentina 2015, a member of the USA

*Kathleen Gerlach, WTGF Hall of Fame, with 1980 athlete Dennis Segatto in Málaga 2017*

team had pointed Kathleen out to me at the Gala Dinner as a long time participant since 1980, so I went to introduce myself to see if she remembered any of the Canadians. In Spain at the Gala, Dennis and Kathleen sought each other out for hugs and laughter; their journey of transplantation and participating at this great event.

Being married to Dennis for 34 years, the transplant community has always been in my heart. I just wanted to share this wonderful reunion. Dennis and Kathleen are friends for life."

**Niva Segatto**  
Canada

# UPDATE FROM THE WORLD TRANSPLANT GAMES GENERAL ASSEMBLY

29th June 2017, Málaga, Spain

One of the most important General Assemblies in the history of the World Transplant Games Federation was held in Málaga this year with the unanimous adoption of a new Constitution for the Federation.

Eighteen months in the making, the new Articles of Association have transformed the Council of the Federation to a Board of Trustees. The changes are part of the incorporation of the Federation under UK Law which provides protection for Trustees as the WTGF is now a company limited by liability. Previously the WTGF was operating as an unincorporated association which could have left it exposed to liability if there was some misadventure or problem at the World Transplant Games.

The changes were spear-headed by Governance Committee Chair, Willie Uys, supported by Olivier Coustere and Raymond Van Ryckel. Legal advice was provided by both Andy Eddy and Jane Whitfield.

The election of Trustees also saw Raymond Van Ryckel stand down and he was thanked by President Chris Thomas for

his work over the past four years. Paul Harden from the UK, Anders Billström from Sweden and Zachary Brooks from the USA were elected as new Trustees for a four year term.

Here Zachary outlines what he hopes to achieve as part of the new Board of Trustees.

*“As a new Trustee, I have already been asked to take the lead on the creation and launch of the Athletes Advisory Commission (AAC). As a transplant athlete, competing in the virtual triathlon, I have a sense of the dedication transplant athletes in many sports have for the Games. The formation of the Athletes Advisory Commission was important so that the athletes can help improve the organisation of each sport as the World Transplant Games continuously becomes more competitive. I am also interested in having more WTGF marketing materials in languages other than English. Though a person may speak English very well, that same person responds more directly when marketing materials are in his or her language. As the only Trustee in the Western Hemisphere, I am planning to place special emphasis on the particular needs of the countries in the Americas using my Spanish and Portuguese languages.”*

## WORLD TRANSPLANT GAMES FEDERATION OFFICERS AND COUNCILLORS

Executive:

Trustees:

Staff:



Chris Thomas  
President



Anders Billström  
New appointment 2017



Prof Won-Hyun Cho



Paul Harden  
New appointment 2017



Willie Uys



Kim Renyard  
Executive Manager



Liz Schick  
Honorary Secretary



Zachary Brooks  
New appointment 2017



Olivier Coustere



André Lassooij



Gary Green  
Sports Manager



Colin White  
Treasurer



Dr Ka-foon Chau



Vicente Granados  
-Cabezas



Gudrun Manuwald-  
Seemuller



Karen Cole  
Office Administrator



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