



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
DI MESSINA



5th International Conference

DONARTE 2026

Donation and Art: Nicholas And Rolly Testimonials

*Scientific Conference, Art exhibition and Awards for Science, poetry
music, dance, photo, painting and much more*

Sicily - Messina - Italy | Aula Magna Rettorato Università di Messina

4-6 OCTOBER
2026



We are pleased to invite you to the 5th International Annual Conference, DONARTE 2026, organized by the Departments of Anesthesia and Intensive Care at the University of Messina (Sicily, Italy) and the DONARTE Association for Organ Donation and Transplantation ETS. This conference aims to promote best practices in organ donation and transplantation.

DONARTE 2026 will take place from October 4-6, 2026, at Aula Magna Università di Messina. This year, leading experts in organ and tissue donation and transplantation from around the world will gather to deliberate and discuss challenges, as well as explore newer research options in the field.

The conference is named after two children, Nicholas Green and Rolly Prajapati, whose stories serve as powerful testimonials for organ donation. Nicholas Green, a seven-year-old American boy, was tragically shot on September 29, 1994, and died two days later in Messina. His organs and corneas were donated to seven critically ill Italians. Similarly, Rolly Prajapati, a six-year-old Indian girl, was shot on April 27, 2022, and her family consented to donate her organs after she was declared brain dead on April 30, 2022. Both countries saw a significant increase in organ donations following these events.

The essence of this innovative and unique event lies in the merging of science and art on a single scientific platform, reflecting the love for knowledge and the power of art. The conference will feature various hands-on workshops, simulations, art exhibitions, and sport events. The Theme of this year is a Transplant Renaissance: Ethics, Equity, and Evolution.

The third day is totally dedicated to the **University Students and Residents** to underline the **important role of University** to spread awareness on organ donation and transplantation, and the role of **Students and Residents as Ambassadors of Organ Donation**.

The DONARTE 2026 Organ Donation Awareness Program, combined with the Scientific Program, will focus on raising awareness about organ donation and encouraging informed decisions regarding post-mortem organ donation. The program will include various events, sport activities, an art exhibition, and involve school and university students, an artistic program, and social media campaigns. These initiatives are designed to educate the public and healthcare professionals about the importance of organ donation, the donation process, and the profound difference one donor can make.

On behalf of the Organizing Committee, we are pleased to welcome you to this Congress, held in the year marking the 800th anniversary of the death of Saint Francis of Assisi. His example of selfless generosity and care for others reflects the very essence of organ donation: a gift that transforms loss into hope and new life. We trust that these days of scientific exchange will strengthen our shared commitment to promoting a culture of donation and to honoring every donor and their family with the highest standards of care.

Anna Teresa Mazzeo

University of Messina, AOU Gaetano Martino, Messina, Italy

Deepak Gupta

All India Institute of Medical Sciences and Associated JPN Trauma Center, New Delhi, India



Honorary Presidents:**Reginald Green**

Nicholas Green Foundation,
USA

**Maggie Green**

Nicholas Green Foundation,
USA

Presidents:**Prof. Anna Teresa Mazzeo**

Director of Anesthesia Unit, AOU
Policlinico Gaetano Martino, Associate
Professor of Anesthesia and Intensive
Care, University of Messina, Messina, Italy

Co-President**Prof. Deepak Gupta**

Professor of Neurosurgery, All
India Institute of Medical Sciences
and Associated JPN Apex Trauma
Centre, New Delhi, India

Scientific Committee:

Anna Teresa Mazzeo, Deepak Gupta, Vincenzo Francesco Tripodi, Gaetano Burgio, Roberto Cacciola, Amit Sharma,
Iolanda Russo Menna, Azhar Rafiq, Thomas Alan Nakagawa, Takashi Araki, Samuel Kaba Akoriyea, Ernesto Duarte Buzon,
Francesco Puliatti, Enza La Monaca, Giuliana Mazzeo, Olivia Rosaria Rita Penna

Scientific Secretary:

Anna Teresa Mazzeo, Vincenzo Francesco Tripodi.

Transplant Games Committee:

Alessandra Bitto, Giovanni Ficarra, Salvatore Micalizzi, Roberto Galletta,
Gianluca Bagnato, Abdul Raouf Mastan, Nadia Stagni, M.C. Domenica Randazzo.

Committee and Jurors DONARTE AWARDS (Figurative and Literary Arts):

Giuseppe Giordano, Caterina Di Giacomo, Richard B. Woodward, Simone Calì, Maria Florinda Minniti,
Maria Francesca Tommasini, Nadia Stagni.

Committee for Gran Galà DONARTE 2026. Artistic Kermess for organ donation and transplantation.**Let's celebrate the Joy, Sound, and Colours of Restoring Life:**

Rachele Gerace, Luogotenente Fedele De Caro e La Banda della Brigata meccanizzata "Aosta"
Coro Scuola Paritaria Spirito Santo-Annibale Maria di Francia, con la Preside Prof.ssa Tommasa Basile
Nadey Hakim, Maria Liliana Nigro con le creazioni degli Studenti dell'Accademia delle Belle Arti di Catania
Sylvia Mazzeo, Sophia Sorrenti e Carlo Briguglio, Silvana Currò
Rosalia Campanella, Abdul Raouf Mastan.

Official Language:

English

CONGRESS VENUE

4 - 6 october 2026

Aula Magna Università di Messina

Duration of lectures is 12 minutes including discussion.

Sunday, October 4th

Preconference Students and Public Awareness event

- 09.00 - 12.00 **Canoe Transplant Games with Rowing Club Peloro at Ganzirri Lakes in Messina (Rowing and Running for organ donation awareness)**
The Director of Italian Transplant Center, Presidents of AIDO and Associations meet the UNIME Students
Giuseppe Feltrin (CNT Director), Giorgio Battaglia (CRT Director), Flavia Petrin (AIDO President), Salvatrice Feccia (AIDO Regional President), Associations, and Faculty present

Aula Magna Università di Messina

- 14.30 - 15.00 **Family, society, ethics and international collaboration**
Registration
- 15.00 **INAUGURAL CEREMONY**
- 15.00 - 15.05 **Welcome Message from Rettrice of University of Messina**
Giovanna Spatari, Rettrice Università di Messina
- 15.05 - 15.30 **Institutional Greetings**
Sindaco Messina, Arcivescovo Messina, Director AOU G Martino, Director CRT Sicilia, Medical Director ISMETT, AIDO National and Regional Presidents, Associations, other Authorities present
- 15.30 - 15.50 **Special Lectures**
Moderators: Giuseppe Navarra (Messina), Pasquale Aragona (Messina), Deepak Gupta (India), Anna Teresa Mazzeo (Italy)
- 15.30 - 15.50 Organ donation and transplantation: Landmarks reached and vision for the future.
Giuseppe Feltrin (Director CNT, Italy)

- 15.50 - 16.10 The surgeon's gaze is one that sees more than skin. Sculpting a head.
*Nadey Hakim (London, UK), President TTS **Nicholas Special Lecture***
- 16.10 - 16.30 Early post liver transplantation changes in immunometabolic profile.
*Didier Payen, Emeritus Professor Université Paris Cité Sorbonne (Paris) **Rolly Special Lecture***
- 16.30 - 16.45 The DCD Best Practices Today.
*Marti Manyalich (Spain, President DTI) **Iacopo Special Lecture (remote)***
- 16.45 - 17.00 Art and Healing.
Richard Woodward (Director at Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond, USA)
All Donors Special Lecture (remote)
- 17.00 -17.30 **Testimonials**
Moderators: Elvira Amata (Dir Gen AOU G Martino), Maria Felicita Crupi (Dir Amm IRCCS Bonino Pulejo), Catena Di Blasi (Dir Gen AOU Papardo), Massimo Cardillo (Dir NITP, Milano), Giorgio Battaglia (Dir CRT, Catania)
- (5 min each) Testimonial from the Mom of a Donor: "La Stanza di Iacopo" project.
Fausta Tocchio, Donating Mom
- Testimonial from the "Recipient of an Emergency Gift", two weeks after becoming Mom.
Miriam La Spada, Recipient Mom
- Testimonial from the girl who became Grandmother, Thirty years after receiving the "Gift".
Maria Pia Pedalà The recipient girl who became Grandmother
- 17.30 -17.45 **Coffee Break**
- 17.45 -19.45 **International Collaboration among Transplant Centres: From Goodwill to Measurable Outcomes**
Harjinder Singh Bhatoe (India), Iolanda Russo Menna (VCU), Mathew Joseph (India), Giovanni Raimondo (Messina)

(12 min each,
including
discussion)

From Knowledge to Impact: How DTI strengthens donation systems, connects communities and expands opportunity.
Sergi Padilla (Spain)

From death to donation: the physiology of organ donation.
Alberto Zanella (Milano)

Access to Kidney Transplantation. Is it Fair?
Roberto Cacciola (Messina)

Ethical principles of human organ allocation and equity of access.
Lucia Craxì (Palermo)

New programs to improve transplantation odds for high sensitized kidney recipients.
Massimo Cardillo (Milano)

Liver Transplantation: Evolution and outcomes from a Mediterranean center.
Salvatore Gruttadauria (ISMETT, Palermo)

Integrating Artificial Intelligence and Liquid Biopsy for Enhanced Post-Transplant Monitoring.
Natalia Malara (Catanzaro)

DARte: Museum Educational project to increase awareness on organ donation. Preliminary results.
Ernesto Duarte Buzon (Mexico)

Health Diplomacy and Organ Donation: Building Bridges Across Cultures to Save Lives.
Bassam Darwish (UAE)

20.00 - 21.00

Faculty Walking Welcome Buffet at Conference venue

21.00 - 23.00

**Gran Galà DONARTE 2026 Public Awareness Event:
Artistic Kermesse for organs donation and transplantation.**

Monday, October 5th

Aula Cannizzaro Rettorato Università di Messina

08.30 - 09.30

End of life care In presence of Sicilian Anesthesia and Intensive care Directors.
Moderators: Gaetano Burgio (ISMETT, Palermo), Antonino Scafidi (CRT, Palermo)

(12 min each,
including
discussion)

End of life care.
Lucia Craxì (Palermo)

Will AI ever be ready to make end-of-life care decisions for us?
Francesco Alessandri (Rome)

Life, death and grief in Neurosurgery.
Alfredo Conti (Bologna, Italy)

Brain death certification. A trip back to History & Literature.
Harjinder Singh Bhatoe (India)

Sex inequalities in solid organ transplantation.
Jordi Rello (Spain)

9.45 - 10.00

Special Lecture: Liver cancer-liver transplantation: the perception of an academic patient!
Didier Payen (Paris)

10.00 - 11.00

The Lung: still the most difficult organ to retrieve
Giorgio Battaglia (CRT Sicily), Cristina Lucanto (Messina), Francesca Pacini (Roma)

(12 min each,
including
discussion)

Lung donor management: challenges and opportunities.
Alberto Zanella (Milano)

Lung transplantation: can we improve outcome?
Alessandro Bertani (ISMETT, Palermo)

Beyond Infectious risk: Rethinking lung transplant candidacy in patients colonized with difficult pathogens:
The French Experience about mycobacterium abscessus.

Adrien Tissot (France)

Perioperative ECLS.

Andrea Costamagna (Torino, Italy)

Open Coffee Break

11.00 - 12.00

Pediatric organ donation and Transplantation.

Moderators: *Carmelo Romeo (Messina), Eloisa Gitto (Messina), Deepak Gupta (India)*

(12 min each,
including
discussion)

Declaration of brain death in children.

Mathew Joseph (India)

Missed Opportunities in the Pediatric Organ Donation Process: A Multicenter Experience from Argentina.

Mariana Cyunel (Argentina)

Challenges with pediatric organ donation and pediatric donor management.

Gabriella Bottari (Roma)

Barriers to Pediatric Organ Donation in Southeast Europe: System, Communication, and the Albanian Experience.

Ilirjana Bakalli (Albania)

12.00 - 13.30

Public engagement, artificial intelligence, and community trust

Moderators: *Vincenzo Mazzaresse (Palermo), Antonio Scafidi (Palermo)*

(12 min each,
including
discussion)

Beyond Awareness: The Role of Health Communication and Storytelling in Transforming Organ Donation Culture.

Bassam Darwish MD (UAE)

Beyond Prediction: Operationalizing AI with Physician across the Transplant pathway.

Iolanda Russo Menna (Richmond, USA)

Challenges and Opportunities of Artificial Intelligence in Medicine. The Italian legal framework
Marco Mazzeo (Rome)

Innovative strategies for organ donation advocacy: moving beyond traditional awareness

Chiara De Panfilis (Rome)

Turning trust into Awareness: The role of Ambassadors in Organ Donation

Raouf Mastan (India)

Human trafficking for Organ removal and illicit transplantation

Iolanda Russo Menna (Richmond, USA)

Organ trafficking and transplant tourism – the dark side of transplantation

Thomas Muller (Switzerland)

The whole body: grief education, emotional and educational aspects that influence the willingness to donate

Melania Mento (Messina)

Cornea Donation and Transplantation in Switzerland: Closing the Gap Between Supply and Demand

Nicola Franscini (Switzerland)

13.30 - 14.00

Light lunch

Aula Magna Università di Messina

14.00 - 15.50

DCD, normothermic regional perfusion and machine perfusion

Moderators: *Francesco Patane' (Messina), Ettore Panascia (Catania), Alberto Noto (Messina)*

(12 min each,
including
discussion)

DCD as a Strategy to Expand the Donor Pool: Experience and Perspectives in a Region with Donor Shortage

Gaetano Burgio (ISMETT Palermo)

Surgical Approach to advanced heart failure

Sergio Sciacca (ISMETT, Palermo)

Left Ventricular assist devices as a bridge to transplant.

Antonio Micari (Messina)

Near-Zero Ischemia DCD Heart transplantation.

Massimo Boffini (Torino, Italy)

Dialogue between Referring Center and ECMO Team: Candidate Selection and Cannulation.

Giovanna Panarello (ISMETT, Palermo)

Normothermic machine perfusion in liver transplant.

Zachary Rollins (USA)

Controlled Donation after Circulatory Death in Latin America: Current Experience and Future Directions.

Mariana Cyunel (Argentina)

Pediatric DCD in Italy: Ethical and Organizational Implications and Current Status.

Gabriella Bottari (Roma)

Cardiac arrest: the new guidance and implications related to gender.

Francesca Rubulotta (London, UK)

15.50 - 16.25

Update on Kidney transplantation.

Moderators: Roberto Cacciola (Messina), Domenico Santoro (Messina)

(12 min each,
including
discussion)

Kidney transplantation.

Duilio Pagano (ISMETT, Palermo)

Kidney graft preservation beyond cold ischemia: from organ storage to dynamic organ assessment.

Luca Toti (Rome)

Listing before dialysis: how soon, and for whom?

Guido Gembillo, Domenico Santoro (Messina)

16.30 - 18.20

(12 min each,
including
discussion)

The global care of the recipient: Quality, safety, sustainability, workforce resilience and patient-reported outcomes.

Moderators: Francesco Puliatti (Messina), Vincenzo Fodale (Messina)

Defining and profiling secondary insults in severe acute neurological injury.

Ian Piper (Edinburgh, Scotland)

Artificial intelligence methods for ICU secondary insults analysis and brain death: from data management to predictions.

Andrea Io Sasso (Sassari)

Balancing under- and over-immunosuppression in modern transplant follow-up.

Luca Toti (Rome)

Donor Derived Infection: mitigation risk systems.

Andrea Cona (ISMETT, Palermo)

The anatomo-pathologist and the transplant.

Maria Lentini (Messina)

Shifting the Focus: why the future of organ allocation starts with the Donor.

The missing link in organ eligibility.

Vincenzo Francesco Tripodi (Messina)

Postoperative analgesia in the recipient.

Paolo Capuano (ISMETT, Palermo)

The pupil as a neurological biomarker: quantitative pupillometry from acute brain injury to organ donation.

Laura Pistidda (Sassari)

Management of the recipient from admission to transplant. The importance of multidisciplinary collaboration.
Giuseppe Arena (ISMETT, Palermo)

Challenges and experience on setting up a DCD program.

Enza la Monaca, Antonello Neri, Pasquale Capua (Messina)

Transplantation of organs from deceased donors with brain malignancies.

Anna Teresa Mazzeo (Messina)

18.20 - 19.00 Development of the: **Messina Declaration for Organ Donor Management 2026.**

All Faculty (coordinated by Jordi Rello, Deepak Gupta, Anna Teresa Mazzeo)

19.00 - 19.10 Incentives to donors and/or their families to impact organ shortage.

Thomas Muller (Switzerland)

19.10 - 19.20 Financial Neutrality in Organ donation. Results of Indian survey.

Deepak Gupta (India)

19.20 - 19.40 **Best Abstract DONARTE 2026 AWARD**

Three presentations (5 min each)

Moderators: Vincenzo Tripodi (Messina), Luigi Cardia (Messina)



Tuesday, October 6th

Aula Magna Università di Messina

08.00 - 13.00 **The University as educator, research engine and community partner.**

Educational event dedicated to Students and Residents.

Moderators: Irene Cacciola, Daniela Caccamo, Giusy Rizzo (Messina),

Maria De Pasquale (Messina), Vincenzo Fodale (Messina)

08.00 - 08.30 **Registration**

08.30 - 09.00 DAT (Disposizioni anticipate di trattamento). Advance Healthcare Directive.

Rosa Torre (Notaio in Messina)

09.00 - 09.30 Il Dolore dà la misura dell'Amore.

Giacomo Scalzo (Dirigente Generale - Dipartimento per le Attività Sanitarie e Osservatorio Epidemiologico, Regione Siciliana)

09.30 - 13.30 **Workshops**
(60 min each)

Coordinators: Vincenzo Tripodi (Messina), Salvatore Micalizzi (Messina),

Silvana Currò (Messina), Raouf Mastan (India)

Room 1 (Aula Magna) - Airway management.

Massimiliano Sorbello (Ragusa), Gianluigi Morello (Militello VdC), Francesco Monaco (Messina),

Dario Familiari (Messina), Francesco Oliveri (Siracusa), Luca Sinardi (Messina),

Ernesto Trimarchi (Messina), Sophia Sorrenti (Messina)

Room 2 (Aula Cannizzaro) - Doctors and Nurses for Donor Optimization. Aggressive organ donor management. Hemodynamic monitoring. Protective mechanical ventilation. Ultrasonography. Temperature management. Arterial Blood gases, Osmometry.

Ilenia Bonanno (Catania), Giuseppe Umana (Catania), Alessandro Conti (Catania), Olivia Penna (Messina), Pasquale Vazzana (Messina), Vincenzo Marando (Messina), Karin D'Angelo (Messina), Tiziana De Salvo (Messina), Ivan Alonge (Messina)

Room 3 (Aula Accademia Pericolanti) - Brain Death Determination in adults and pediatrics.

Mathew Joseph (India), Francesco Puliatti (Messina), Giuliana Mazzeo (Messina), Pasquale Capua (Messina), Sabrina Giusto (Messina), Alessandro Franze' (Messina), Giorgio Aprile (Messina), Luigi Fusto (Messina)

Room 4 (Aula Commissioni). Corneal damage prevention and tissue harvesting.
(reserved to 20 participant)

Organized by Alessandro Meduri and Antonio Salsa, UOC Ophthalmology. AOU G. Martino (Messina). Moderators; Nicola Frascini (Switzerland), Salvatore Leonardi, Lorenza Mazzeo (Messina), Antonio Amato (Messina)

Aula IV Piano Pad F. AOU G Martino Messina - The nurses during intraoperative retrieval phase (prepare operating room, assist the surgical team, manage and preserve organs).
(reserved to 25 participants)

Coordinated by Giancarlo Cappello (ISMETT), Richard Rotolo (ISMETT), and Annalisa Cotruzzolà (Messina). Moderator: Francesco Puliatti (Messina), Silvana Currò (Messina)

Walking Coffee Break during workshops at University Venue

5th International Conference

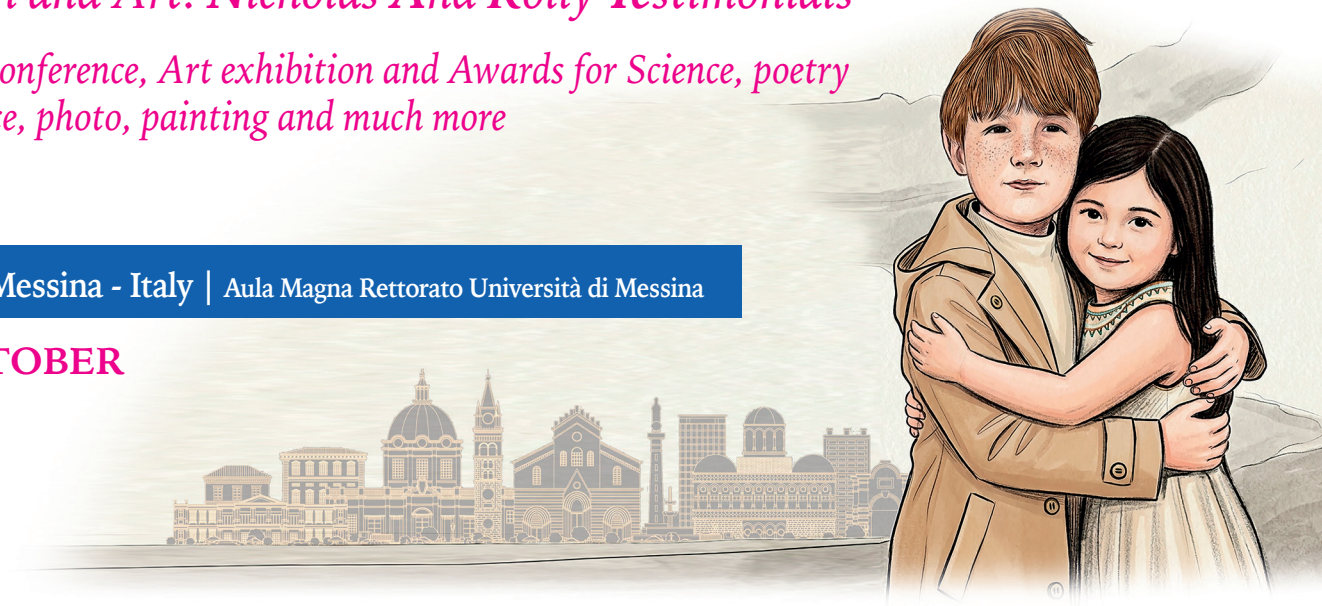
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Ministero della Salute





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