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## **OneLegacy Hosts Nation’s Largest Donation and Transplantation Symposium**

### *Nearly 1,100 Healthcare Professionals Gather in Pomona to Explore Best Practices and Look for Ways to Increase Donor Awareness and Participation*

(LOS ANGELES – October 27, 2016) — The nation’s largest organ donation and transplantation symposium was held in Pomona this week when professionals gathered to share best practices and learn how to enhance the donor management process. In all, nearly 1,100 physicians, nurses, transplant center staff, pastoral care professionals, palliative care professionals and social workers took part in this landmark event.

“In California alone more than 22,000 residents are waiting to receive lifesaving hearts, livers, lungs, kidneys and other organs; but there are simply not enough donors to meet the growing need,” says Kathy Vasilopoulos, vice president of organ operations for OneLegacy, which sponsored the event. “This symposium helps call attention to this seminal issue and was designed expressly to provide attendees the tools and encouragement they need to positively impact the donation process at their own hospitals and in their own communities.”

Keynote speakers at the symposium were Lydia Lam, M.D., assistant professor of clinical surgery and emergency medicine at Los Angeles County-USC Medical Center, and Christina Woodward Strong, Esq., from the law offices of Christina Woodward Strong. In addition, a number of concurrent breakout sessions explored such timely topics as the impact of research donation, effective donor management, cornea transplants, donor family aftercare services, and other important issues.

“Tragically 21 people die every day in the United States waiting for an organ transplant, but it need not be so,” says Vasilopoulos. “Organ and tissue donations are an incredible gift, and our nation’s hospitals play a critical role in facilitating a respectful dialogue on this topic. Attendees left the symposium with new ideas on how to improve the donation process and renewed enthusiasm regarding the lifesaving roles that each and every one of us can play.”

*(More)*

## **OneLegacy/Post-Symposium**

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As the largest organ, eye and tissue recovery organization in the world, OneLegacy serves more than 200 hospitals, 11 transplant centers, and a diverse population of nearly 20 million people throughout seven counties in Southern California. More information on OneLegacy or on becoming a donor is available at [www.onelegacy.org](http://www.onelegacy.org).

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