

**Deconstructing Donation Conference
Lancaster Medical School, Lancaster University
15th December 2014**

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The influence of temporality on donation decision-making

There can be no doubt as to the importance of temporality and the challenges that it poses to the act of organ donation. Temporality also offers a means of understanding bereaved families' decision making when approached with a request for organ donation. Requests for organ donation are most likely to arise out of situations of sudden, unexpected and untimely deaths, which provoke a highly charged emotional environment. The potential donor, their relatives and involved health professionals are locked in an interactive, tripartite relationship that commences with the diagnosis of a critical injury or illness and continues throughout the extent of the end of life trajectory; a timeliness that can test families' predispositions to receipt of a donation request. The approach must be timely but can be impacted by a temporal framework of potential donors', relatives' and health professionals' beliefs and past and present experiences, they bring to that encounter. Relatives will also be affected by the way in which they visualise the future and their expectations of donation and transplantation. The dimensions of a temporal framework provide a deep-rooted, layered context to the donation request. Importantly all these temporal factors (experiences, beliefs, attitudes, knowledge etc.) are dynamic, interwoven, do not stand in isolation, and are experienced individually. This makes for an encounter where intermingling of experiences and ideas may conflict; people brought together through no choice of their own, into one of life's most demanding situations, possibly from diverse backgrounds, and where relatives are unlikely to have any role models for their behaviour. Using examples from Sque et al's (2013) study and an integrated literature review of research (Walker et al 2014), originating from eight Western countries, this presentation will illustrate the Global themes of Past, Present, and Future that capture the temporal dimensions of bereaved families' decision-making about organ donation.

References

Sque M. Walker W. Long-Sutehall T. Morgan M. Randhawa G. and Warrens A. *Bereaved families' experiences of organ and tissue donation, and perceived influences on their decision making*. University of Wolverhampton, UK. Final report of a study funded by the Department of Health, June, 2013.

Walker W. Broderick A. and Sque M. Factors influencing bereaved families' decisions about organ donation: An integrative review of the literature. *Western Journal of Nursing Research*, 2013, Online First. Doi.10.1177/0193913484987. 35: 10, November 2013,1339-1359.