

News Release

- POCsparc Funds Used to Create Prototype Organ Preservation Device

In 2006, 28,926 organs were transplanted in the United States. Of these, 22,200 were recovered from deceased donors and required some level of preservation prior to transplantation. Adequate preservation of human organs donated for transplantation continues to pose a significant challenge. Simple cold storage has essentially been the only clinically used method for donor organ storage during transport. This method can adequately preserve organs such as the heart and pancreas for no more than 4 to 6 hours.

A new approach to perfusing and oxygenating donor organs during transport has been developed at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, and a newly engineered prototype has been created with the use of POCsparc funds. Researchers Leonid Bunegin and Edward F Gelineau have reengineered this device, which has resulted in a dramatic reduction in both size and weight – lending true portability to organ preservation technology. This new prototype design will be used shortly for the experiments required for FDA approval.