

Press Release

2004 Transplant Games

Fifty years ago, when doctors astounded the world with a kidney transplant between identical twins, no one could have imagined that this medical technology would eventually save over 200,000 lives and make it possible for more than 3,000 transplant recipients to celebrate their second chance in an Olympic style sports competition, at the U.S. Transplant Games. The 2004 U.S. Transplant Games, to be presented by the National Kidney Foundation, sponsored by Novartis, from July 27-August 1 at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, are the largest sports event in the world for people with life-saving organ transplants.

In addition to the sports competition, special events commemorating the 50th anniversary of transplantation will be held at the 2004 Games. Dr. Joseph Murray, who headed the Boston team that performed the first successful kidney transplant will be honored. Murray who is 84 and won a 1990 Nobel Prize for Medicine for his pioneering work in organ transplantation, is planning to personally attend the 2004 U.S. Transplant Games. Murray says he is grateful that the "National Kidney Foundation has chosen to recognize the fifty years of progress that have followed our early efforts. I know this event will send a powerful organ donor message to the American people."

Some highlights of the 2004 U.S. Transplant Games include:
50th Anniversary awards banquet and Minnesota Symphony benefit concert;
Educational conference for transplant allied health professionals;
Recognition events to honor living and non-living donors; 5K Race for Organ & Tissue Donation Awareness; Donor-Recipient Golf Outing; Coffee House; Fashion Show . . .and more!

The Games offer something for everyone! They are a celebration of better lives, a tribute to selfless gifts, and a testament of diligent care givers. The Games celebrate YOU!

For more information on participating in the Games as an athlete, volunteer, sponsor or other participant & supporter, check out our web site at: www.transplantgames.org or call 1-800-622-9010.