

# The CY Pal Educational Grant 2023

## **Series 1: Supporting Live Donor Liver Transplantation (LDLT) within a “public private partnership” model.**

### **Background:**

Liver transplantation (LT) is the only successful treatment for advanced end stage liver disease (ESLD). Unlike kidney disease, these patients will die without access to transplantation, a significant proportion of them being young adults or children. Worldwide some 30,000 LTs are performed annually, of which around 3500 are undertaken in India. The main challenges for LT in India relate to the high cost of transplantation and very low levels of deceased donation, making LT available to a select few Indians. Most of these transplants (90%) are performed in private hospitals from living donors (<20% of liver transplants in India are from deceased donors), with very few public teaching hospitals being able to provide this care. The work burden and economic constraints of patients in public hospitals contribute to the lack of development of LDLT in these institutions. The last decade has seen a large growth in LT centres in India. The estimated need in India is around 40,000 LTs annually, and some this shortfall can be addressed by providing transplantation to less privileged patients in public teaching hospitals.

The philanthropic **Transplant Help the Poor (THTP) Foundation** was established in 2017 (**Website: [transplantindia.org](http://transplantindia.org)**) by five Mumbai citizens led by the late Mr CY Pal, to financially support organ transplantation for less advantaged individuals across India, and to raise the awareness of organ transplantation as well as support education in this rapidly growing field of medicine. To date THTP foundation has supported some 445 patients to undergo kidney, liver or heart transplantation in 45 institutions across India with total disbursements of Rs 13.37 Crores. This Educational Grant named after our late founder aims to help bridge the education gap between established and developing transplant centres, with an emphasis on supporting development of transplantation at public institutions. The first award will focus on liver donor liver transplantation (LDLT).

### **Challenges establishing LDLT:**

Establishing a liver transplant service is a relatively complex and expensive process requiring financial and knowledge investment, high levels of skills, and team working across multiple specialties at the highest level. Successful LDLT centres are comprised of teams of surgeons, hepatologists, anaesthetists, intensivists, radiologists, pathologists, microbiologists, specialist nurses, co-ordinators, nutrition specialists, physiotherapists all working collaboratively within multi-disciplinary teams (MDTs). These have been developed at multiple institutions (mostly in the private sector) allowing many of them to deliver high volume LT activity, unlike most other places in the world where LT is largely delivered at teaching institutions/university based hospitals. Access for training and education in LDLT is available to many surgeons and physicians, but is more difficult for other MDT members, especially nurses.

The CYP Educational Grant is an effort by Transplants 'Help The Poor' Foundation (THTPF) to strengthen the ecosystem for organ transplantation in India. We intend to work closely with the public and Government hospitals. The latter have the maximum footfall of patients needing organ transplants and help build the "capability" factor for their medical, nursing and pre/post surgery support staff. With more trained nursing and support staff, Government and public hospitals will be confident to undertake more LTs themselves instead of referring them to private hospitals.

### **Grant Offer from Transplant – Help the Poor (THTP) Foundation:**

The CY Pal Educational Grant has been set up by the trustees of the **Transplant: Help the Poor** Foundation (THTP; **Website: [transplantindia.org](http://transplantindia.org)**) and was formally launched on Founders Day (March 6) celebrating the birth date of our late founder Mr CY Pal. The aim is to provide opportunities for public (municipal, state or central government run) institutions to develop the expertise and their own dedicated LT MDTs, to allow them to establish LDLT within their institutions.

### **Who should apply?**

Public hospitals with a historical track record of organ transplantation and organ donation (deceased donation included) wishing to set up live donor liver transplantation would need to apply in conjunction with an established LDLT centre, preferably located in some proximity to each other. The two centres would apply for the grant together.

**How will this work?**

The New Centre (NC) at the public institution would need to partner with an established LT centre (Mentoring Centre - MC). The MC would need to have an experience of having undertaken at least 150 LDLTs. The applications would need to be fully supported by both institutions at the highest level (CEO, Dean, CMO) with applications made jointly by the lead clinicians at the partner institutions.

The grant will help support education, travel, personnel and nurse visits between the partner MC and NC institutions, with an aim to deliver mentored LT (from live donor and deceased donors) within a 12-18 month period. The grant will not support capital, equipment or infrastructure purchases, or salaries.

Examples of activities supported by the grant include:

- 1) Visits and training exchanges between the centres
- 2) Provision of educational materials for the NC
- 3) Establishment of programs within the NC (e.g. deceased donation transplant, management protocols, pathology, immunosuppression)
- 4) Local symposia, training courses, workshops run jointly by the NC and MC
- 5) Community-orientation activities at the NC (donor awareness, organ donation sensitisation)
- 6) Webinars, online conferences and weekly MDT meetings at NC
- 7) Provisioning of educational materials (videos, documents and publications ), translated in local languages
- 8) Relay of knowledge through regional and national meetings and publications
- 9) Longer term follow up to 5 years and co-operation to ensure quality outcomes post establishment of transplantation at the NC with annual outcome updates

**Level of Award:**

The initial offer in March 2023 is of two grants of up to Rs 10,00,000 (Rs Ten Lakhs) each awarded to successful pairs (NC and MC) of applicants, supported by the Deans/CEO/Medical Directors of both institutions. Both partners would need to be based in India. The initial award would run for 12-18 months with the measures of success being the delivery of the first LDLTs by the partner institutions

at the NC. Additional financial contributions and support from public or private institutions to develop LDLT within the NC would be seen as being advantageous.

The partners (NC and MC) would need to outline a clear short and medium term plan to help establish LDLT in the NC institution. It is expected that the vast majority of the grant amount awarded would be made to the NC. The budget proposed would need the approval of the lead clinicians and senior management of both institutions. The initial award would be of 35% at grant award, 35% at 9 months and the final (30%) award at the end of the 12-18 month grant period on completion of the first LDLTs. The second and third allocations would be made after provision of a report from both the NC and the MC outlining goals and milestones achieved at 9 months and on completion of the first LDLT procedures.

**Application Process:**

The grant application will be in the form of a written application submitted by email and addressed to the CEO of the THTP Foundation ([Bala@Transplantindia.org](mailto:Bala@Transplantindia.org)). The grant application would be reviewed by a review board comprising senior professionals within the Indian Transplant Diaspora along with one of the THTP Foundation Trustees. Their recommendations would be put to the THTP Foundation board for final approval.

The 4 page application would include the following:

1) Details of Applicants:

**New Centre (NC):**

Name Lead Clinician New Centre (NC)

Name CEO/Dean/Medical Director (NC)

Number of beds at NC

Names of key members of MDT Team

Is Transplantation already initiated at NC? Yes/No

Numbers of transplants performed (if any):

This application is supported by CEO/Dean/Medical Director: Yes / No

**Mentoring Centre (MC):**

Name Lead Clinician (MC)

Name CEO/Deapathways n/Medical Director (MC)

Number of beds at MC

Names of key members of MDT Team (MC)

Number of LDLT performed at MC

This application is supported by CEO/Dean/Medical Director: Yes/No

- 2) Outline of how the grant would be utilised including details of personnel, goals, processes, timelines and key milestones including time to first transplantation (max 300 words)
- 3) 12-18 Month Budget outline for grant spend up to Rs 10 lakh (Max one A4 sheet).
- 4) Summary of grant application and sign off by both lead clinicians and institutional leads (CEO/Medical Director/Dean) (Max 100 words).

**Timelines:**

- 1) Advertisement and launch of Grant – Founders Day THTP Foundation - March 6, 2023
- 2) Last date for Applications: May 31, 2023
- 3) Results of Peer Review and Trustee Decision: June 30, 2023
- 4) Grant Award period 12-18 months from August 1, 2023
- 5) Award disbursement at start (35%), 9 months (35%) and on completion of first transplants (30% at 12-18 months).

**Questions?**

Any queries related to the grant details and method of application to be made by email or telephone to Mr Bala (CEO, THTP Foundation; [bala@transplantindia.org](mailto:bala@transplantindia.org)) and Prof Darius F Mirza (Trustee: THTP Foundation; [Darius.Mirza@gmail.com](mailto:Darius.Mirza@gmail.com))

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