

W22 Maize Family Scholarship

Introduction of the Winning Essay



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Donation of Organs and the Media

Organ shortage is the biggest obstacle to more provision of transplants to more patients. The United States government reports through the Organ Donor website that 17 people die every day waiting for an organ transplant (2021). Matesanz (2003) states that this shortage is not primarily the result of a lack of suitable donors but rather the result of failure to identify donors, obtain consent, and procure the organs.

Throughout the years, different strategies have been created to promote the donation of organs, and the media have been key in framing the public's view. Given social media's ability to spread information and connect people, it can be useful or harmful in promoting organ donation and finding donors. Patients, their families, and transplant hospitals are leaning on social media to find more potential donors. It is hard for people to talk about organ donation, especially when health is absent, but sharing or talking through social media can make such conversations easier. According to [...]