

**CONSORTIUM ON LAW AND VALUES  
AWARD REPORT FOR THE 2015-2016 ACADEMIC SCHOOL YEAR**

**The Ethical, Medical and Legal Concerns of Uterine Transplantation  
in the United States' Artificial Reproductive Technology Market**

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**Brief Summary**

Through the support from the Consortium, I was able to conduct research during the 2015-2016 academic year on uterine transplantation. My research involved a comprehensive analysis of uterine transplantation, including its medical, legal and ethical ramifications. I had the opportunity to interview specialists who focus on specific areas regarding this practice, which resulted in a paper for publication that clearly identifies issues within each field.

There are several parts to my paper; Part I provides a background of what uterine transplantation is; Part II provides an update of the clinical trials underway as of May 2016; Part III analyzes the medical risks associated with the procedure; Part IV discusses the impact uterine transplantation may have on the National Organ Transplantation Act; Part V provides an in depth analysis of the ethical questions surrounding uterine transplantation concluding that the practice is ethically impermissible at this time and; Part VI addresses relevant counter-arguments.

**Financial Summary**

Type of Expense	Cost Incurred
Stipend	\$17.86 x 277 hours = \$4,947.22 (graduate student hourly rate)
Refreshments for Event	\$210 (budgeted \$50, covered the cost through other sources of funding and personal expense)
Travel expenses to conduct interviews and research in New York, Montreal, Cleveland and Houston.	\$2000 - Original funding was granted to cover transportation costs to Sweden to interview Mats Brannstrom; however, Dr. Brannstrom was unavailable and recommended interviewing Jacques Balayla and Andreas Tzakis. With approval, I interviewed them as well as reallocating unused funds to interview Rebecca Flyckt, Josephine Johnston, John Loike, and Margaret Somerville as well as attending the 2015 annual ASBH conference that had several presentations focusing on uterine transplants.

**Results**

The paper is complete and has been vetted by several readers, including doctors and lawyers. As the paper has a significant legal analysis, I was informed by editors of law journals to wait until issuance of my JD to submit the paper for publication in order to improve chances of acceptance. It will initially be sent to the Minnesota Journal of Law Science & Technology, the Stanford Journal of Law, Science & Policy and the Boston University Journal of Science & Technology. If not accepted, I will then reformat the citations and submit for publication at the American Journal of Bioethics and to the Hastings Center Report.

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Additionally, in the Spring of 2016 I hosted an event discussing my research that was open to the public. The event was advertised in several departments at the University of Minnesota including the law school, medical school and bioethics department. Several individuals attended and I facilitated a question and answer period after my presentation.

**Future Project Plans**

I will continue to research uterine transplantation and I will begin new research projects as to the feasibility of the use of synthetic uteri as well as cell grafting to donor uteri in order to reduce rejection episodes. Considering that as of July 2016 there has yet to be a successful uterine transplantation in the US, my research will continue to monitor the transplantation practices both in the US and abroad. I thank you for this opportunity.