



**The
Transplantation
Society**



Dear Members of The Transplantation Society and its Sections,

As many of you have now heard, there has been a tragic airplane crash on June 3, 2007, in which two transplant surgeons, two donor specialists, and two pilots were killed. They were from the University of Michigan and had flown to Milwaukee to collect lungs for transplantation. The plane went down shortly after takeoff on the return trip.

The individuals were:

Surgeons:

David Ashburn MD, training in pediatric cardiothoracic surgery

Martin Spoor MD, a cardiac surgeon on the University of Michigan staff

Donor specialists:

Richard Chenault II, a part of the University of Michigan transplant program

Richard Lapensee, a part of the University of Michigan transplant program

Pilots of Marlin Air, flying for the University of Michigan transplant team

Dennis Hoyes

William Serra

Robert Merion, a principle of the University of Michigan program, was attending a TTS Key Opinion leader Meeting in Geneva when the news came in. He called for a long moment of silence.

All of us in the transplant community throughout the world are shocked and saddened by this news. On behalf of The Transplantation Society, I would like to express my personal condolences to family and friends of the dead, as well as their colleagues at the University of Michigan. They died on a mission of mercy.

Notes can be sent to Robert Merion MD (merionb@umich.edu) and Jeffrey Punch MD (jpunch@umich.edu).

In sorrow,

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