



renowned
for a higher level of care

A World Leader in Living Donor Organ Transplantation is Overcoming Obstacles to Save More Lives

While kidney, liver and other organ transplants have saved millions of lives, thousands die every year waiting for a donor organ to become available. While living-donor transplantation has greatly expanded the supply of organs and reduced waiting times, its success has been limited by an old problem: ABO (blood-type) incompatibility.

Until now.

A world leader in living-donor transplantation, the University of Illinois Medical Center uses non-steroid immuno-suppression drugs to overcome blood-type incompatibility. These drugs don't cause the typical side effects in donor recipients.

"We've had a high degree of success with these drugs," says Dr. Enrico Benedetti, Medical Director of the Abdominal Organ Transplantation Program at the University of Illinois Medical Center.

The University of Illinois Medical Center is one of only two centers in the world performing living-donor transplantation of all abdominal organs, and the first to perform robot-assisted donor nephrectomy, a minimally invasive technique to remove a kidney from a living donor.

For the most rare afflictions, there's only one place to go.

The University of Illinois Medical Center at Chicago is the global leader in living-donor small bowel transplantation and has performed the world's *only* four combined living-donor bowel-and-liver transplantations. It's a lifesaving procedure in which mothers have donated to their sons, under the age of five, who suffer from both liver and intestinal failure. Our doctors pioneer lifesaving procedures. Our patients get a *higher level of care*.



Medical professionals around the world know us for our partnership with the nation's largest medical school, and the fact that we boast Chicago's largest group of physicians in one location. Many of these doctors have a far more personal connection. They know us as the place to send their most critical patients for the specialized expertise and advanced technology that can make a life-saving difference. Shouldn't you know us too?

Step by Step: Young Kidney Transplant Patient Walks a Mile a Day

Samantha Howard of Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, has endured more medical procedures at age 15 than many people do in a lifetime. Born with a rare metabolic disorder, she underwent her second kidney transplant in 2005. Her donor was her mother, Joanne, who has an incompatible blood type.

"We treated Samantha with a special procedure to reduce the level of antibodies attacking her mother's blood type," says Dr. Benedetti, who performed the surgery at the University of Illinois Medical Center. "We also removed her spleen via a minimally invasive procedure."

Eight months after her operation, Samantha is back in school and says, "I feel good, I'm able to

play with my friends."

Joanne adds, "Samantha walks a mile every day."

"If we can get ABO-incompatible recipients like Samantha over the hurdle of potential rejection," says Dr. Benedetti, "the long-term outcomes are as good as with any other kidney transplant."

As for Joanne, she says the hardest part of her own minimally invasive surgery was having to take it easy afterward. "But being able to do something to make my daughter well again—I didn't give it a second thought."

