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### Organ Procurement and Renal Transplantation in Louisiana

- It is the purpose of this article to review the history of renal transplantation in Louisiana; to point out the urgent need for cadaver kidneys for transplantation to patients in renal failure; and to seek the active participation of the profession in providing this service to our citizenry.

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**F**EW surgical endeavors have moved as rapidly from the first clinical experiments to full acceptance as an established form of treatment. Tulane University, Charity Hospital of Louisiana, Ochsner Foundation Hospital, and many Louisianians within the profession have played honorable and respected roles in this short saga. The Department of Surgery at Tulane has been and continues to be productive in experimental and clinical research designed to bring transplantation to reality. More recently it has served to aid in providing the service to all who need it.

The foundation stone which made clinical experimentation in renal transplantation possible was the perfection of an artificial kidney which would support patients with renal failure in a reasonable state of health. After a means of permanent access to the circulation was developed, it became possible to treat patients with chronic renal failure as well as acute renal failure.

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The first successful human renal transplant was performed between identical twins in Boston, on December 23, 1954. In these identical twins, immunosuppressive therapy was not critical due to genetic identity between donor and recipient. By 1958, there had been ten renal transplants performed in the world between identical twins of which three had failed for technical reasons. On November 16, 1959, the first identical twin renal transplant performed in Louisiana was done at Charity Hospital of Louisiana at New Orleans. The recipient was a patient of Dr. John Menville. The operating team was led by the late Dr. Oscar Creech then chairman of the Department of Surgery at Tulane. Other principal members of the operative teams were Drs. John Menville, Miles Pratt and Robert Schramel. Both donor and recipient are alive and well almost 15 years later and are residing in Louisiana.

The first successful renal transplant from a non-related donor in which the immune response was successfully suppressed with drug therapy was performed in April of 1962. The first such renal