

## Poland's Transplantation Day

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<http://gazeta-dla-lekarzy.com/index.php/nawosci/2-uncategorised/71-26-stycznia>

### **Summary of achievements**

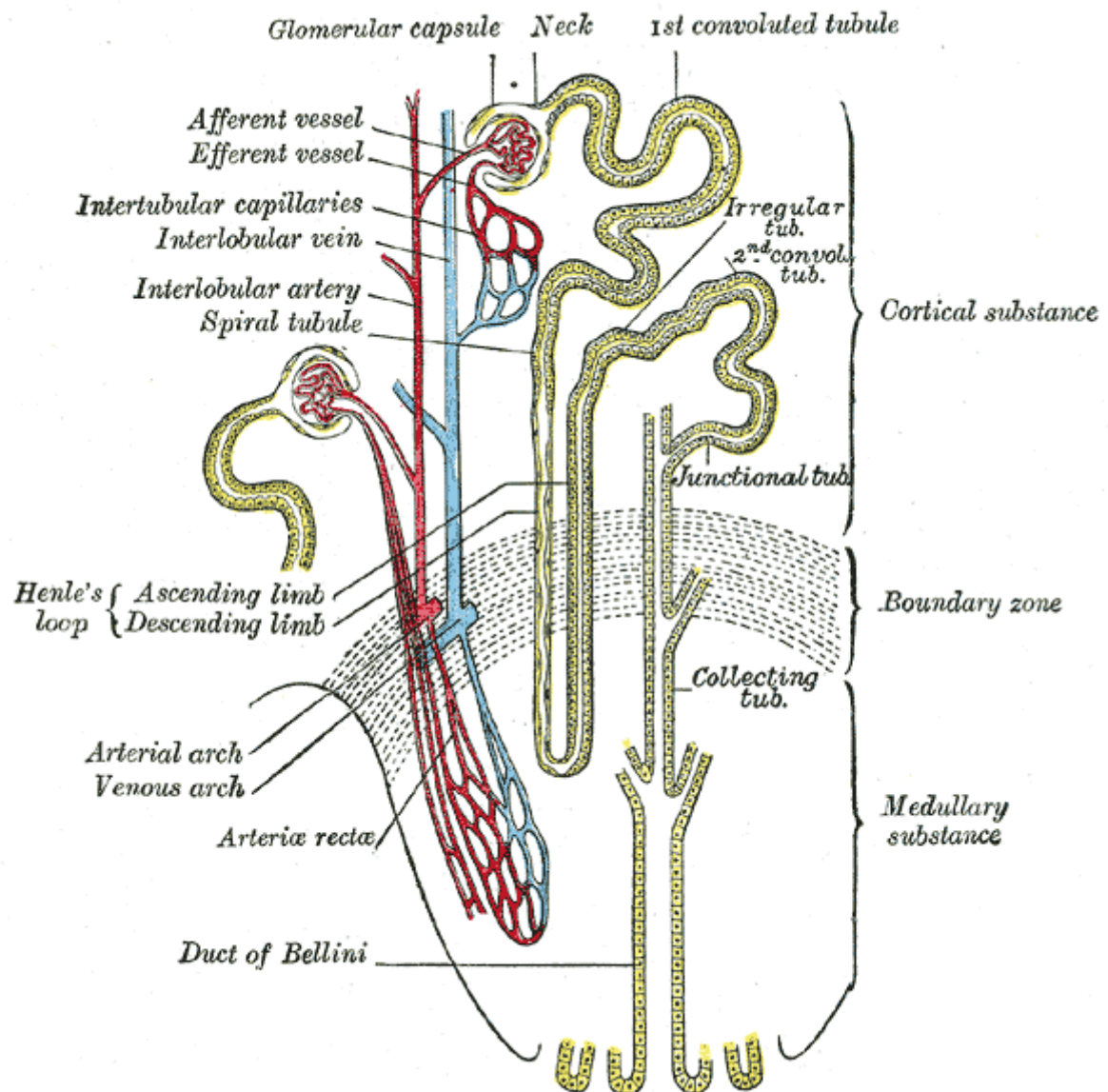
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**26 January is the date on which Poland marks Transplantation Day. That date was chosen in memory of the first successful kidney transplant operation in Poland, performed on 26 January 1966. It was the 621st operation of that kind in the world. The first time Transplantation Day was celebrated in Poland was in 2005.**

**Dr Danuta Stryjecka-Rowińska, who was one of the doctors involved in the work on the first kidney transplant in our country, recalls that a team of more than 20 specialists in surgery, renal diseases and immunology was preparing for this event for several years. They underwent intensive training in Poland and abroad in what was at that time still a very new specialisation, transplantology. On the day of that first kidney transplantation operation, she remembers, none of the doctors involved got any sleep for more than 24 hours.**



As an anniversary is a good time to take stock of things, let us take a look at the statistics for 2013. As can be seen from the Poltransplant website ([http://www.poltransplant.org.pl/statystyka\\_2013.html](http://www.poltransplant.org.pl/statystyka_2013.html)), last year a total of 1 536 organ transplants were carried out. The organ most frequently transplanted was the kidney, with 1 076 transplants performed. There were 37 operations involving simultaneous transplants of a kidney and a pancreas. Liver transplants were carried out on 318 patients. A heart transplant was performed on 86 people and 19 patients received a lung transplant. This compares with 1 546 organs transplanted from deceased donors in 2012 and 1 413 in 2011.

The number of organs transplanted from living donors has remained more or less stable. In 2013 there were 57 kidney transplant operations from living donors and 51 in 2012. In 2013, 18 operations were performed to transplant a portion of the liver from living donors, whereas there were 14 such transplants in 2012.

Furthermore, 659 transplant operations were performed on patients with haematological problems. Transplants of peripheral-blood haematopoietic stem cells were performed 530

times, bone-marrow transplants 100 times and treatment with donated lymphocytes 29 times.

In 2013 there were 1 478 people on the National Transplant Waiting List, compared with 2 369 people in 2012 and 1 939 in 2011.

All countries are facing the problem of an insufficient number of donors. This worldwide issue was discussed at the 12<sup>th</sup> Congress of the International Society for Organ Donation and Procurement in Sydney. When interviewed by "Gazeta dla Lekarzy", Professor Jeremy R. Chapman, who chaired the Congress, said: *In most countries the problem is that there are not enough organ donors. In some countries this is less of a problem, in others more so, but it is a problem affecting all societies.* <http://gazeta-dla-lekarzy.com/index.php/nawosci/8-artykuly-gdl/63-korespondencja-wlasna-z-australii>

At the Sydney Congress, Polish doctors presented the findings of a very important multicentre study entitled "Final report of the Polish multicentre study for evaluation of computed tomographic angiography in the diagnosis of brain death" ("Gazeta dla Lekarzy" published a detailed discussion of this study in [http://gazeta-dla-lekarzy.com/images/gdl\\_2013/GdL\\_11\\_2013.pdf](http://gazeta-dla-lekarzy.com/images/gdl_2013/GdL_11_2013.pdf), p. 6-7).

Three different tests were conducted to assess cerebral circulation: computed tomographic angiography (CTA) of the head, computed tomographic perfusion and conventional cerebral angiography. An accepted criterion for cerebral circulatory arrest is absence of opacification of M4 segments of the middle cerebral artery (M4MCA) and deep cerebral veins, according to the French Neuroradiology Society's criteria.

The study summarises the experiences of 7 Polish centres which carried out tests on 82 patients fulfilling the criteria for brain death.

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Illustration source: <http://www.bartleby.com/107/Images/large/image1128.gif>