Book Review


Weimar’s, Bos’s and Busschbach’s edited collection Organ Transplantation: Ethical, legal and Psychosocial Aspects—Towards a Common European Policy is divided into seven sections. In the first, the editors outline the European platform on ethical, legal and psychosocial aspects on organ transplantation. M. A. Bos then provides the European perspective on organ transplantation; this is followed by L. D. de Castro providing a Philippine perspective on organ transplantation and F. L. Delmonico providing an American perspective on transplant tourism and organ trafficking.

The second section addresses the issues of commercialization and trafficking of human organs. This includes two very well-argued articles that advocate a regulated system of compensation for kidney transplantation. Although A. J. Matas’s article here is essentially a repetition of his 2007 policy analysis for the Cato Institute (‘A Gift of Life Deserves Compensation’), the article by the editors (together with Frank de Charro and Mark Oppe) is an incisive one, noting that since kidney markets will occur, it is better to legalize and regulate than not. This section also contains two articles by J. Zargooshi discussing the kidney markets in Iran, noting that this has led to inequitable distribution of kidneys and a decline in deceased donation. The third section addresses current legal systems for organ donation and allocation, covering issues of equitable access to organs, kidney paired exchanges, presumed consent and living-donor list exchanges. It contains a short paper by H. Kreis, which addresses the fundamental question of ‘Whose organs are they, anyway?’.

Overall, this volume is an excellent snapshot of the ethical, legal and psychosocial aspects of contemporary transplantation and is highly recommended.