

Michael Abecassis, MD, MBA

<http://fsmweb.northwestern.edu/faculty/facultyProfile.cfm?xid=10161>



Dr. Abecassis began his clinical career as Assistant Professor of Surgery at the University of Iowa as Director of Liver Transplantation and Hepatobiliary Surgery. He was recruited to Northwestern University in 1993 as Director of Liver Transplantation and was charged with initiating the liver transplant program. In 2004, he was named Chief of the Division of Transplantation at Feinberg and took over the directorship of the kidney transplant program. He was named Founding Director of the Comprehensive Transplant Center at Northwestern University in 2009. Dr. Abecassis was appointed Dean for Clinical Affairs at the Feinberg School of Medicine in 2008, serving until 2011. He remains clinically active in kidney and liver transplantation, particularly live donor transplantation, as well as in complex hepato-biliary surgery.

In addition to his clinical and administrative activities, Dr. Abecassis has received continuous funding from the National Institutes of Health for the past 15 years, and is the principal investigator in research studies that span from studies of the molecular mechanisms of Cytomegalovirus latency and reactivation, to translational and clinical studies, including the A2ALL (Adult to adult living liver) study of health services and outcomes research in live liver donor transplantation and CTOT (Clinical Trials in Organ Transplantation) pursuing a proteogenomic biomarker strategy for both kidney and liver transplant recipients. He is also the PI of the clinical core of a U19 in transplant genomics. Dr. Abecassis is the principal investigator of a training grant in transplantation research and has trained a large number of both clinical and research fellows.

Dr. Abecassis is a member of many national and international professional societies, including the Society of University Surgeons and the American Surgical Association. He has served and continues to serve on the Editorial Boards of the major relevant journals (Hepatology, Surgery, Transplantation, and Liver Transplantation), is a reviewer for all major journals related to surgery and transplantation, and has been a member of NIH study sections and special emphasis panels relating to both transplantation and virology and is a permanent member of the NIAID study section for T and K awards. He served as President of the American Society of Transplant Surgeons 2010-2011. He was course director for the inaugural American Society of Transplant Surgeons Leadership Development Program in 2010 and has served co-director of this annual program since. He was also course director for the Advanced Leader Development Program in 2013, both courses held at the Kellogg School of Management in conjunction with Kellogg faculty. He served two consecutive terms as a voting member of the Medicare Coverage Advisory Committee and served on the United HealthCare Group Physician Advisory Board on Healthcare Performance and Quality from its inception. He has been a member of various local, regional, and

national regulatory committees and is a thought leader in, and has published seminal papers on both the regulatory and financial aspects of transplantation, including various aspects of Healthcare Reform and the Affordable Care Act.

Dr. Abecassis is an elected member of the Innovator Committee for Physician Payment and Delivery Reform, as part of a recent leadership initiative by the American Medical Association, as well as being a member of the General Surgery Coding and Reimbursement Committee for the American College of Surgeons. He is a RUC Advisor and has participated in all RUC presentations for transplantation in the past decade. He is also a member of the bundled payments task force for the American College of Surgeons. He is a current member of the Federal Agencies Liaison Committee of the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases and co-chair of the Alliance for Regenerative Medicine's Tissue Engineering and Biomaterials Committee. More recently, Dr. Abecassis co-founded a company in the biomarker space, Transplant Genomics Inc.