



Team USA 2017 World Transplant Games Malaga, Spain June 25th-July 2nd

Team USA is again representing the United States in the 21st World Transplant Games in Malaga, Spain from June 25 to July 2, 2017.

The World Transplant Games is an eight-day and seven-night athletic competition held every two years under the auspices of the World Transplant Games Federation (WTGF). For over 35 years the WTGF has been staging international sporting events for transplant athletes in order to demonstrate the physical success of transplant surgery and to raise awareness of the need to increase organ donation. Competition is open to anyone who has received a lifesaving solid organ transplant--heart, intestine, liver, kidney, lung, pancreas, or allogenic bone marrow recipients. This year for the first time, living donors and donor families will be competing in certain events.

Each athlete's participation in the World Transplant Games helps dispel the myths surrounding organ transplantation and demonstrates the success of this life-saving therapy. It also calls attention to the critical need for more donors—there are more than 100,000 people waiting for an organ transplant in the U.S. and an average of 18 people die **each day** waiting for a transplant.

The 21st World Transplant Games will take place from June 25th-July 2nd in Malaga, Spain. The WTGF anticipates more than 1200 athletes representing some 65 countries will compete in a wide range of athletic events and meet with other transplant recipients in an atmosphere of fun and friendship. Team USA has been participating in the World Transplant Games since their inception in 1978 in England. Information on the 2017 World Transplant Games can be found at: www.worldtransplantgames.org.

Any transplant recipient who wishes to participate in the World Transplant Games and resides in the United States is eligible to be a part of Team USA. Periodic e-newsletters are developed to keep the Team USA athletes informed. They contain tips to help the athletes train for their events, prepare for their travel, and build excitement for the event. Team USA organizers also handle the design and distribution of Team USA uniforms, apparel, and all marketing and promotional materials related to the team.

Team USA and its athletes are seeking support from corporations and the transplant community to join in supporting Team USA. Team USA is managed by the American Association of Kidney Patients, a nonprofit organization which has supported transplantation for more than 45 years. We hope you will consider supporting these talented athletes as they show the U.S. and the world the life-restoring therapy of organ transplantation and the miracle of the greatest gift of all—life. For additional information, please contact Gary Green at teamusa.worldgames@gmail.com or by calling 800-749-2257.