

# **BIOMEDICAL POLITICS**

# **Ethics of Access**

**1. Organ Transplants**

**2. Hepatitis C**

## Organ Wait List

<b>All Organs</b>	<b>134,430</b>
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<b>Kidney</b>	<b>101,161</b>
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## Number of Transplants

<b>All Organs</b>	<b>28,954</b>
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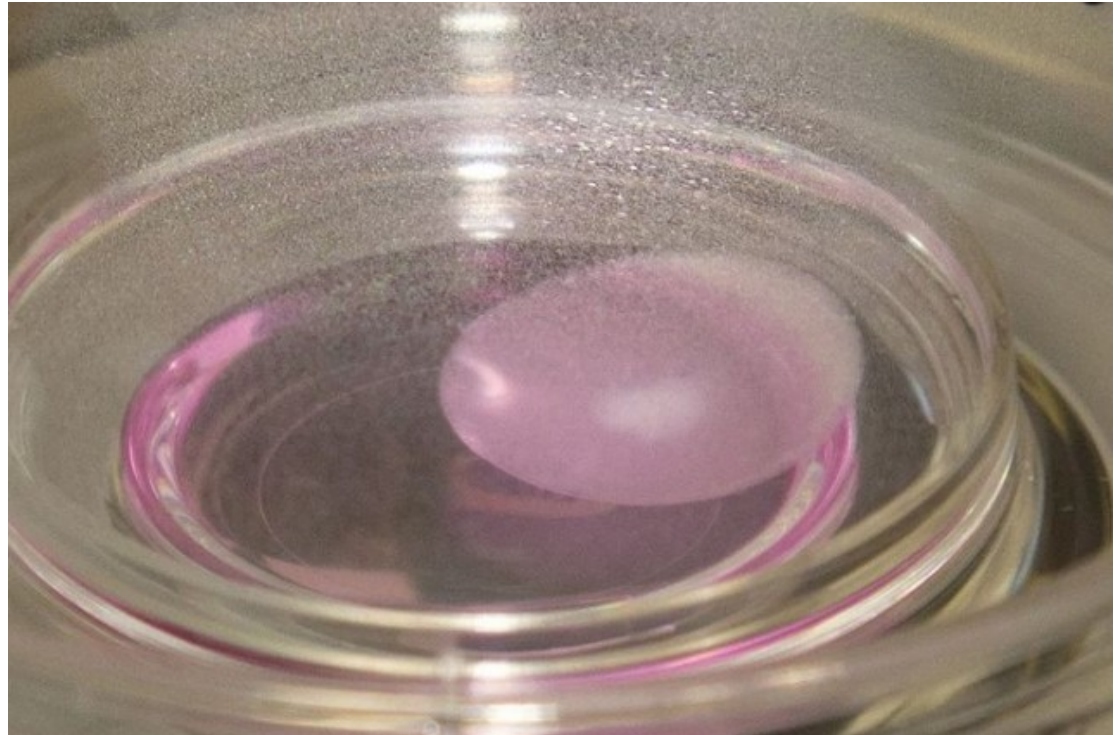
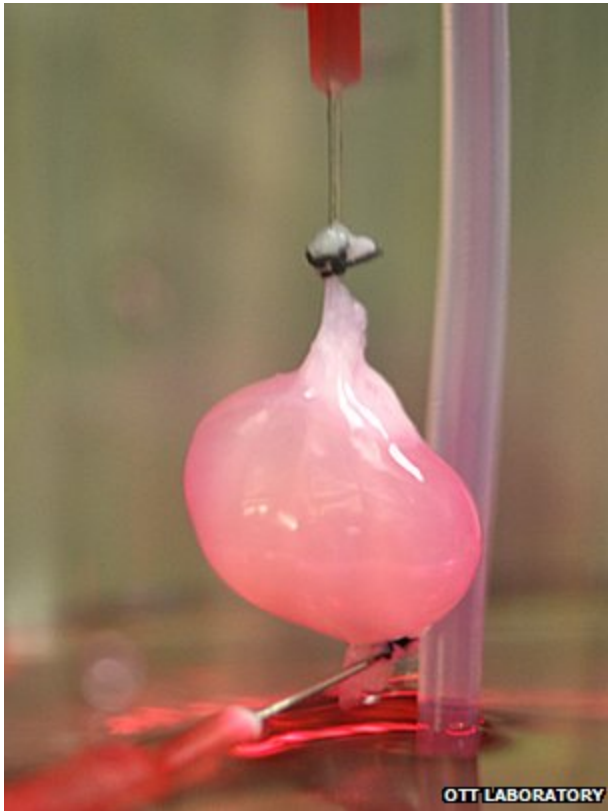
<b>Kidney</b>	<b>14,029</b>
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## Social Responsibility, Altruism, & Philanthropy



Liang Yaoyi, age 11, had a dying wish to donate his organs so others could live. He lost his battle with brain cancer on Friday. As his body was wheeled from the surgery room to harvest his organs, the medical team bowed to honor him and the lives he saved.

## Innovation & Entrepreneurship



H. Ott, 2013, Nature Medicine

M. Little, 2013, Nature Biology

## **Desperation & Cultural Prohibition**

- **Should people be allowed to see their organs?**
- **What about cultural/religious prohibitions?**

# Hepatitis C & Sovaldi

- An infection caused by a virus that attacks the liver and leads to inflammation. Most people infected with the hepatitis C virus (HCV) have no symptoms.
- In 20% of cases, liver cancer develops and is fatal
- 170,000,000 people
- December, 2013: FDA approves **Sovaldi**, once-daily oral nucleotide analog polymerase inhibitor

# Gilead Sciences

- **Sales: \$3.5 billion in Q2 2014**
- **Cost of Treatment: \$84,000/patient**

## Ethical Issues

- **Who pays?**
- **Is the price justified?**
- **Relative cost?**