A Message of Condolence from the Association for Multicultural Affairs in Transplantation in response to UNOS’ statement:

On behalf of The Association for Multicultural Affairs in Transplantation (AMAT), we would like to offer our deepest sympathy to the staff at Mayo Clinic Florida as well as the extended community of transplant professionals. Our hearts were saddened to learn that cardiac transplant surgeon Dr. Luis Bonilla, David Hines, an organ procurement technician, and E. Hoke Smith, a pilot with SK Jets, lost their lives while en route to retrieve a donated organ for transplantation.

All professionals in the organ and tissue donation and transplantation field are beyond dedicated to the great work that we do. Our passion drives us to work at an exceptional pace because we know that not a minute can be spared in the mission of saving lives. Today, we encourage you to take a minute to remember those who lost their lives. Also take a moment to fully appreciate the amazing colleagues around you and continue to provide unconditional support to each other as we strive to continue the mission that Dr. Luis Bonilla, David Hines, and E. Hoke Smith embodied.

To the families of those who lost their lives, we salute your loved ones and honor all of the great work that they did each and every day to bring light and life to so many.