CHARLOTTE BANKS: FIRST STEPS TOWARD BUILDING A CONVERGENCE BASED RESEARCH PROGRAM

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The Charlotte Banks initiative has brought together faculty from a range of colleges to integrate economics, technology, and policy in ways that enable us address logistical challenges in organ and tissue transport. Through workshops and symposia we have been building a regional community of investigators across the entire transplantation spectrum. This initiative began with a focus on converging new technologies to extend the shelf-life of organs with the aim of accelerating growth in transplantation, regenerative medicine, and advanced bio-manufacturing, but we are now expanding as we identify other aspects of the problem that we have the capacity to address. Our most recent Symposium “Conversations of the Heart”, hosted on National Donor Day, Feb. 14th, brought together regional donor families, recipients, organ procurement professionals, transplant surgeons, and investigators from a range of science, policy, and engineering disciplines to zero in on the hurdles that prevent equitable access to organs and explore opportunities at the interface of technology and social science.