

Mission

To provide superior health care in a compassionate manner, ever mindful of each patient's dignity and individuality. To accomplish our mission, we call upon the skills and expertise of all who work together to advance medical innovation, serve the health needs of the community, and further the knowledge of those dedicated to caring.

Vision

On a foundation of mutual respect, we will work together to build the University of Chicago Hospitals into one of the finest organizations in the country — as measured by the quality of patient care, the satisfaction of patients and their families, and the level of pride among everyone who works here.



**THE
UNIVERSITY
OF CHICAGO
HOSPITALS**

VALUES IN ACTION

The Chance for Life

In a small Texas town, 15-year-old Alyssa Smith is learning to drive. She has been dancing since she was four, plays bass clarinet in the high school band, ranks 29th out of 600 in her class, and had her first ballet recital on pointe last spring.

Although her life seems like a typical American girl's, it was not always so: Alyssa was born with biliary atresia, a fatal liver disease. As a nine-month-old baby, she was put on a transplant list; a new liver was her only chance for life.

Historically, there has been a shortage of donor livers for children, due mainly to the lack of size-matched cadaver organs. But as Alyssa waited for a cadaver liver in August 1988, her parents Teri and John Smith were told of a bold new procedure being developed by University of Chicago Hospital surgeons in which a piece of a living person's liver would be transplanted into a child recipient.

An innovation that changes the face of medicine may seem to come out of nowhere; but behind the scenes, there are many precursors. In this case, the precursor included a procedure in early 1988 in

which transplant surgeons here split an adult cadaver liver and successfully transplanted the pieces into two different children. In January 1989, the transplant team began to develop a living donor procedure protocol that would address both medical and ethical implications for donors and recipients.

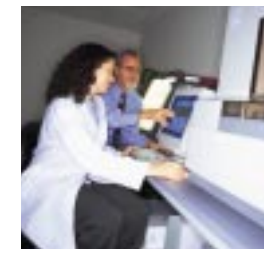
Alyssa's mother, Teri, was eager to donate a piece of her liver but she had to go through rigorous evaluation

and the segment transplanted into 21-month-old Alyssa grew with her.

"When the operations were over and deemed successful, there was jubilation throughout the department," says Jane Shapiro, the executive administrator of the department of surgery. A pioneering effort in 1989, now living related donor transplant is offered in transplant centers all over the world.

Alyssa, the first transplant patient ever to receive a partial liver from a living, related donor, made the nightly news for days on end. Although she doesn't remember any of this, her mother says it helped to mold her. Alyssa visits children needing transplants and intends to study medical social work. Her recovery and progress were so good that as she got older she outgrew the need for immunosuppressive drugs; recently, she stopped taking them altogether.

"It was such a positive experience," her mother says. "From admissions to the surgical staff — the way they dealt with all of us — I can't begin to think of what they could have done better. We live a relatively ordinary life. That is the ultimate compliment to the University of Chicago."



AT THE FOREFRONT OF MEDICINE®

Values

In our work each day, we are guided by the following five **PRIDE** values:

Participation: A spirit of teamwork and sharing

Respect: A consideration and appreciation for others

Integrity: Honesty in our words and actions

Diversity: Honoring the power of different backgrounds and perspectives

Excellence: A commitment to always do our best