

## EDITORIALS

### LETTERS

#### Organ Donations

**T**hank you for your well-balanced article on the conflict in Orthodox circles about brain death ("New Front In Fight Over Organ Donation," May 14).

I am the president of the New York Organ Donor Network, which is charged by the federal government with coordinating all aspects of organ donation in our region, including public education and awareness. As such, Rabbi J. David Bleich's position causes me great concern. Although he calls brain death a "halachic hallucination," we do not see his position on donation after cardiac death. We also did not read about how the rabbi reconciles his position with other compelling halachic issues, such as justice and *pikuach nefesh*, saving lives.

Most important, I would like to hear Rabbi Bleich's position on whether Jews should avail themselves of the miracle of transplantation when other Jews or non-Jews have given the gifts of life in the most altruistic and loving way. From my experience, Jews (and, yes, very Orthodox Jews, at that) have no compunction about going on the waiting list for organs and benefiting in the most profound way from this so-called "halachic hallucination."

***Elaine Berg***

*President and CEO  
New York Organ Donor Network  
New York, N.Y.*