

Karl Kraebber

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Current Position and Company. Karl Kraebber is Director of the Xenotransplantation Operations at the University of Alabama Birmingham in Birmingham, AL.

Education History. Karl has an MS in Organizational Leadership, BS in General Health Science, and AS in Organizational Leadership. He completed all three of his degrees from Purdue University.

Healthcare Experience. Improvement has been a focus in Karl's past experience. He started as a Lean Facilitator at Franciscan St. Elizabeth in Lafayette, Indiana in 2008. In 2010, he moved into a Process Improvement Manager role at St. John's Hospital in Springfield, Illinois. Before his current role, he was a Deployment Leader at Indiana University Health. He has been active in healthcare for over 7 years.

Why Healthcare? Karl had always been interested in healthcare and started attending medical school for 2 ½ years before realizing that the lifestyle and profession were not congruent with his personal and professional goals. He has always been fascinated by the healthcare industry and felt his talents and interests were better suited for improving and leading healthcare organizations.

Daily Work. Karl manages a clinical research project, as well as, his team's pursuit of FDA approval for a clinical pilot trial for porcine kidney xenotransplantation. Karl manages the budget, operations and production of clinical research pigs. Daily, he uses Lean transformation methodology, project management tools, standard operating procedure development, facility design and layout, and the seven basic quality tools.

Society for Health Systems (SHS)

Involvement. Since 2007, Karl has been actively involved with the Society for Health Systems. He started by reviewing abstracts and moderating sessions at the annual



conference. He then moved into a conference track role before stepping up to chair the conference in 2014. He most recently was elected to serve on the Board of Directors and was acknowledged as a SHS Diplomat.

Why SHS? Karl finds value in SHS because of the networking, exposure in process improvement community, continuing education and volunteer leadership opportunities. One of his favorite SHS memories was after the excellent 2014 annual conference in Orlando, Florida, Karl arranged a poolside pizza party for the conference committee leadership team. It was excellent to spend time with the people who made the conference such a success. The opportunity to get to know people outside of a planning conference call made it more personal rather than just business.

Passion for Healthcare. Being a leader within a healthcare organization is an amazing privilege. Karl is truly honored to be supporting the professionals that care for people on a daily basis. He excited to be part of a revolutionary project that will transform organ transplantation and give people a chance that otherwise would not.

Future Direction. In two years, Karl plans to be the Chief Operating Officer (COO) of a start-up xenotransplantation pig production company. In ten years, Karl is intending to be a member of the board of directors of xenotransplantation pig production company and either Vice President for Transplant Service Line or COO of a hospital.

Other professional organizations. Karl also participates in the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE) and the American Society of Quality (ASQ).

Free Time Fun. When not at work, Karl can be found spending time with his wife and children. You might find him swinging his clubs on a golf course or at a Purdue University sporting event yelling "Boiler Up!" Karl fondness of Purdue stems from growing up in West Lafayette, Indiana. Karl is an avid sports and movie fanatic and in his spare time volunteers as a flag football coach.