

## **ABSTRACT**

### **The Altruistic Phenomenon of Living Kidney Donation**

This thesis considers experiences related to the altruistic phenomenon of living kidney donation. The aim is to describe and explain the motivations, attitudes and actions of those who have decided to donate one of their kidneys to a person with end-stage renal disease. The thesis is divided into two main sections: a theoretical part and research work carried out by the author.

The theoretical part provides a short history of living kidney donation and explains the clinical basis for living donor kidney transplants. In addition, this section briefly introduces the transplant centre of the Institute for Clinical and Experimental Medicine, including its strategy and interests. The theoretical part also outlines the risks to the donor of unilateral removal of a kidney, the ethical issues of living kidney donation, psycho-social aspects, and the legal conditions of procuring a kidney from a living donor.

The research component states the basic research question, giving rise to specific questions and interview questions. It introduces the research method chosen – the phenomenological approach – and describes the sample of respondents and their selection. An outline of the process of collecting and analysing the research data is also included in this section. It then explains in detail the nature of key experiences, with the aim of illustrating as authentically as possible the experience of living kidney donation. In conclusion, the thesis presents the research results, including an expert opinion that suggests means of improving the education process when preparing those considering donating live organs at the transplant centre of the Institute for Clinical and Experimental Medicine.

**Key words:** altruistic phenomenon, living kidney donation, kidney transplantation, phenomenology.