



... and its Sections

- | Cell Transplant Society | International Pancreas and Islet Transplant Association | International Society for Organ Donation & Procurement |
- | Intestinal Transplant Association | International Xenotransplantation Association | Transplant Infectious Disease |

December 2009 • Volume VI • Issue III

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE TRANSPLANTATION SOCIETY

New Website... New Horizons

As of November 2009 Members of TTS and its Sections will benefit from an extensive website overhaul. Among the significant enhancements are a new look and feel, enhanced member directory, and greater multimedia content.

- The enhanced **membership directory** is now available including advanced search filters for locating fellow members by geographic location and principal area of interest.
- The **Transplant World News** section features the latest headline news pulled from news feeds from around the world.
- **Commenting feature** allowing members to subscribe to specific articles and keep up-to-date when additional comments are posted.
- **Screen recordings** from:
 - Current 2009 nKOL meetings (Brazil, USA and Sweden)
 - ISBTS 2009 Bologna Symposium
 - ISODP 2009 Berlin Congress
 - Joint IPITA-IXA 2009 Venice Congress
 - First 2 Official TTS Webinars
- A minimum of **one webinar per month** with the recording posted on the site.
- **Online CME credits** for past events (ISODP 2009, November Webinar, and more to follow).
- Future issues of TTS newsletters will feature **extended articles** on the website
- There are seven separate protected areas to allow the six sections to have protected content only their members can view. The integration is seamless to visitors as your access is automatically set when you login.

We encourage all to visit www.tts.org for the full article on the website redesign and video overview of all the new features and content material.



Visit our new website today!

www.tts.org

THE FIFTH DECADE OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, INNOVATION, GROWTH AND PROGRESS

IN THIS ISSUE

TTS 2010 Congress Update ... **4**

Legislative News from Egypt & Japan ... **6**

NEW TTS Conference on Transplantomics ... **7**



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Jeremy R. Chapman



Dear Members,

The holiday season is nearly upon us again and the year seems hardly to have started. Those of us in the southern hemisphere are just about to settle down for a long summer break - sun (with sun block and hats) and school holidays. Late November is the best argument for fleeing to south.

The last few months have seen meetings of most of the sections of TTS. Italy seems to have been the flavour of 2009 - ITA in Bologna, IXA in Venice and IPITA also in Venice. Spectacular meetings - well attended, great scientific programs and Italian hospitality. Some from the IXA meeting even managed to see the great seat of learning in Padua - complete with Galileo's lecture podium and the famous anatomical theatre. What will stand the test of time in our practice? Have we contributed so much to the advancement of science that people will crowd around in a thousand years' time to understand how we taught the principles of transplantation? Perhaps we are on the cusp of great change - if some of the hopes of the tolerance protocols are realised. Perhaps this period in the early 21st century will be looked back on as significant in the development of medicine, perhaps you will be a part of that?

Another section meeting was in Berlin - the ISODP was complemented by a truly amazing World Organ Donation day at the Brandenburg Gate organised by Günter Kirste. A rock concert with tens of thousands listening - one had to be miles away to avoid listening - to the sounds of the 21st century in association with the stories of donation and transplantation. Many important presentations and discussions were held there in pursuit of a global increase in organ transplantation - deceased donation, donation after cardiac death and the contributions of the living donor. **Next year, the World Donation Day will be held in India.** The WHO continues to work to enhance transplantation therapy in all corners of the globe and TTS continues to work hand in hand with the WHO and Spain's

Spanish National Transplant Organisation (ONT) to seek change. In this newsletter you will find a statement from the Egyptian Health Minister extolling a vision for change. You will also find an update of the progress of the Declaration of Istanbul.

2010 will usher in an exciting development for TTS - Transplantomics Feb 25-26 - a meeting in San Francisco, CA in which the expertise from across a number of disciplines will be brought together for the first time to focus on how the bioinformatics and technology of genomics, proteomics and metabolomics interface with the clinical world of transplantation. See the www.tts.org for details.

As we enter 2010 we will also be entertained to the sights and sounds of Vancouver as the city hosts the Winter Olympics. It will remind us that the warm summer nights of 2010 in Vancouver will be the venue for The XXIII International Congress of The Transplantation Society. You will find details elsewhere in the newsletter - abstract closing is still ahead of us in early March, but you can expect to get an email or two reminding you of that deadline.

Your council has recently spent a couple of days thinking about what TTS needs to concentrate on in the years ahead. A draft strategic plan will be available on our fantastic new website www.tts.org - so please go to it and have your say. While you are there have a wander around the website and familiarise yourself with it. We have designed it to be the way to get to whatever you want to find quickly and efficiently. "[tts.org](http://www.tts.org)" is pretty easy to remember so we expect it to be the easiest way for you to find an answer to a question in transplantation.

My best wishes for the holiday season to you, your family, and your patients.

Jeremy R. Chapman
President, The Transplantation Society
president@tts.org

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Global effort to combat organ trafficking

TTS Director of Medical Affairs, Dr. Francis Delmonico and Dr. Luc Noël of the World Health Organization participated in the launch of a global effort to combat organ trafficking at a special session convened at the United Nations on October 13, 2009. This session was organized by the Council of Europe and the United Nations and cosponsored by the permanent missions of Slovenia and Spain to the United Nations. A comprehensive document was presented to delegates and followed by an international press conference and media interviews. Dr. Delmonico presented the work of the Declaration of Istanbul in concert with the Guiding Principles of the World Health Organization presented by Dr. Noël. These Guiding Principles were approved by the Executive Board of the WHO in January 2009 and will be submitted to the World Health Assembly in May 2010.



Delegation from the People's Republic of China including Vice Minister of Health Huang Jiefu and Dr. Haibo Wang with TTS Director of Medical Affairs, Francis Delmonico

Dr. Delmonico subsequently met with Minister Jiefu Huang as he visited Boston in November, 2009, to share these developments regarding Istanbul, the WHO Guidelines and the Council of Europe/United Nations report. A substantial report regarding China will be presented in the next TTS newsletter.

Göteborg, Sweden • August 20-23, 2009



Participants of the nKOL Meeting in Göteborg, Sweden

The late Swedish summer by the end of August in Göteborg proved to be an excellent environment for the 14th nKOL Meeting arranged by The Transplantation Society.

Young scientists and clinicians, together with their peers, members of TTS, had the great opportunity to meet, interact and make friends with colleagues in the field of transplantation, basically from the Nordic countries, but many also from other parts of the world such as Egypt, Japan, Chile, China, USA and Pakistan.

In conference, short presentations were given by the elder and comprehensive talks by the new KOLs, and importantly, plenty of time was devoted for in-depth discussions. Topics were covered such as cell transplantation, tailoring immunosuppression, ABO and HLA antibody barriers, and composite allografts.

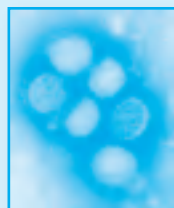
The pioneers in transplantation, Erna Möller, David Sachs and Jean-Michel Dubernard contributed to a great extent, both scientifically and socially.

TTS would like to thank Michael Olausson and Gerhard Opelz for designing the program, and we are grateful to Erik Fromm and his team from Hoffman-La Roche for supporting the meeting with an unrestricted educational grant.

NOVEL INFLUENZA A/H1N1

Guidance Document available at www.tts.org

You will know of the intense interest that there has been in H1N1 influenza. There is concern that this new recombinant of influenza will cause much disease in the transplant populations around the northern hemisphere as winter comes upon us.



A statement from those with the most expertise and experience in this field is now available on the TTS web site.

Please go to www.tts.org to access the guidance document.

Visit www.tts.org to view the narrated presentations from 2009 Brazil, USA and Sweden nKOL Meetings.

XXIII CONGRESS UPDATE

Outstanding Scientific Program Will Showcase World-Class Speakers

The end of Summer 2009 marked the one-year countdown to the XXIII International Congress of The Transplantation Society, scheduled for August 15-19, 2010 in Vancouver, Canada. As the pace of Congress planning intensifies, the Organizing Committee is pleased to share with you some of the exciting details.

First, the fabulous venue! The new Vancouver Convention Centre, the location for our XXIII International Congress, opened in April 2009 and has already been the host site for numerous international conferences and events. The facility is now being transformed into the Media Centre for the XXI Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, which open with a lavish ceremony on February 12, 2010 in the 60,000-seat BC Place Stadium.



Next, the outstanding plenary program! We begin on Monday, August 16 with "The Role of New Technologies", and are delighted to announce that **Dr. Leroy Hood** (picture left) will be opening the first Plenary session of the Congress. Dr. Hood is recognized as one of the world's leading

scientists in molecular biotechnology and genomics. He has been elected to numerous scientific academies around the world; is the recipient of 17 honorary degrees from Institutions such as Johns Hopkins and Yale; and has received numerous awards, including the Heinz Award in Technology in 2006 for his extraordinary breakthroughs in biomedical science at the genetic level. He was also elected in 2007 to the Inventors Hall of Fame for development of the automated DNA sequencer. We look forward to his seminal presentation on "The Vision and Future of Systems Biology". Dr. Hood will be followed by presentations on the "Horizons of Imaging for Injury and Inflammation" and a closing talk by **Dr. Alberto Sanchez-Fueyo** from Barcelona, Spain addressing the "Genomics and Molecular Mechanisms of Tolerance."

The Tuesday, August 17 plenary session pursues the theme of "Mechanism of Tolerance", and opens with **Dr. Philippa Marrack** (picture right), Professor at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center, Denver, and her presentation entitled "Why Is The Alloresponse So Strong?" **Dr. Christian Larsen**, Professor and Chair of the Department of Surgery at Emory University School of Medicine in Atlanta, will continue the morning with "Inducing Transplantation Tolerance", and the symposium will conclude with **Dr. David H. Sachs** of the Transplantation Biology Research Center at Harvard University in Boston, USA, and his address "Tolerance in clinical transplantation."



The Plenary Symposium on Wednesday, August 18 will explore advances in "Regenerative Medicine". **Dr. Hans R. Schöler**,



XXIII International Congress
of The Transplantation Society

AUGUST 15 - 19, 2010 | VANCOUVER, CANADA

Director of the Max-Planck-Institut für molekulare Biomedizin in Muenster, Germany will open the symposium, speaking on the subject "Generation, Programming and Applications of Induced Pluripotent Stem Cells." **Dr. Doris Taylor** of the Minneapolis Heart Institute at Abbott Northwestern Hospital in Minnesota, USA will continue the theme exploring "Advances in Regenerative Biology and Organ Biogenesis", while **Dr. Shaf Keshavjee** (picture right), Chair of the Division of Thoracic Surgery at the University of Toronto, Canada, will conclude the Wednesday program with an address on "Lung Repair, Regeneration and Transplantation."



The final Plenary Symposium on Thursday, August 19 will address "Innovations in Immune Suppression". **Dr. Jeff Bluestone** (picture left), Director of UCSF Diabetes Center in San Francisco, California, will open the symposium with a presentation on "miRNA in Immunity and Transplantation". **Dr. Petra Reinke**, Associate

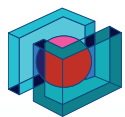
Professor at the Universität Konstanz in Konstanz, Germany will continue the morning with a presentation entitled "Guidance of Immunosuppression By Biomarkers." We conclude the scientific program with **Dr. Roslyn Mannon** from the University of Alabama in Birmingham speaking on "Current Advances in Clinical Immunosuppression."

The outstanding Scientific Program planned for the Congress is designed to encompass all major areas of transplantation immunobiology and practice, with Plenary Symposia, State-of-the-Art Symposia, Early Morning Courses, and an exceptional investigator program. The Congress will also include a stimulating Postgraduate Weekend of varied plenary and topical courses on Saturday August 14 and Sunday August 15, at the Convention Centre leading into the formal meeting. Abstract submissions are now being accepted online, and you can find information on the guidelines and submission procedure, as well as all other details of the XXIII International Congress, by visiting the website.

While our delegates will be drawn to Vancouver by the strength of the scientific program, we know that many will want to come ahead of time, or will stay after the Congress, to enjoy the breathtaking scenic wonders, famed West Coast cuisine, wonderful shopping and exciting attractions that the city and the spectacular Pacific Northwest have to offer. We welcome you all and look forward to a truly outstanding occasion.

– Dr. Paul Keown, Chair
2010 Transplantation Society Congress

www.transplantation2010.org



**International Society
For Organ Donation
and Procurement**

The 10th ISODP Congress was held from October 4 to 7, 2009 in conjunction with the 16th Conference of the ETCO. More than 750 people convened in Berlin and enjoyed high level scientific presentations and discussions specifically dedicated toward problems in organ donation and how to overcome scarcity of organs. During the Congress different aspects from discussions about the European initiatives on the organ directive were discussed as well as legal aspects and others. A broad part was dedicated to the field of ethical and religious aspects as well as family care after organ donation. One of the highlights of the meeting certainly was the session on organ donation and the media. This session focused on the discussion how to deal with the media and in particular with bad news in media and why transplantation still is one of the top issues of public interest. The Congress of the ISODP was held in conjunction with the celebration of the European Day and World Day of Organ Donation. Both were celebrated in front of the Brandenburg Gate with a great event and very well-known music bands from Germany, statements from politicians as well as VIPs from around the world. Patients talked about their specific situation as relatives of an organ donor or as recipients. More than 250 000 donor cards were distributed. This was certainly the biggest public event dedicated to increase organ donation so far ever around the world.



ISODP 2009 TTS-Astellas Travel Grant recipients

During the ISODP Congress, Günter Kirste, MD, Director of the German Procurement Organization DSO was elected as President of the ISODP for the upcoming two years and Anwar Naqvi, MD, from Pakistan as the Vice President of the Society. The Society is in the process of a strategic planning of their activities for the upcoming years in close collaboration with Jeremy Chapman (TTS President) and Francis Delmonico (TTS Director Medical Affairs).

Jackson Hole, Wyoming • July 16-19, 2009



Participants of the nKOL Meeting in Jackson Hole, Wyoming

An nKOL meeting, sponsored through an unrestricted educational grant from Wyeth, was held in Jackson Hole, Wyoming July 16th-19th. The program was organized by Gabriel Danovitch and Megan Sykes. David Sachs opened the meeting with an outstanding "Pioneer in Transplantation" lecture describing the pathway he has taken to clinical tolerance studies. Sessions included a mixture of basic and clinical topics that led to many lively discussions. Topics included B cells and antibodies in transplantation, mechanisms of rejection and immunotherapy, assessing and improving organ quality, mechanisms of tolerance, xenotransplantation, living donor exchange, and organ allocation and distribution.

Outstanding presentations were given by new KOLs Patrick Dean, Mylvaganam Jeyakanthan, Gerry Lipshutz, Roger Sciammas, Mike Bunnapradist, Sang-Mo Kang, Megan Levings, Ashley Vo, Xupeng Ge, Sunil Kurian, Leo Otterbein, Darren Malinoski, Josef Kurtz, Agata Bartczak, Madeleine Gentle, Denis Dufrane, Kazuhiko Yamada, Chava Rosen, Dorry Segev, Jeffrey Veale, Michael Rees, Heather Marshall, Silas Norman, Albin Gritsch, Jodi Smith and Miran Epstein.

KDIGO GUIDELINES

After three years, a work group of 15 investigators and a five-member evidence review team have produced the definitive evidence base for our clinical practice of care of the kidney transplant recipient.



More than 2,000 articles have been reviewed and the weight of evidence considered to bring you this guideline.

If you would like to download these KDIGO guidelines for your use then go to www.tts.org.

You will be able to download the whole guideline or simply access the component you are interested in.

*Bertram Kasiske, Martin Zaier and Jeremy Chapman
on behalf of the KDIGO and The Transplantation Society*



STATEMENT OF THE MINISTER OF HEALTH OF EGYPT

The Declaration of Istanbul has provided an impetus for change in many environments. The following statement from the Minister of Health and Population in Egypt is an important perspective on the need for legislation in the advanced and advancing economies of the world. Egypt has remained one of the few advanced economies with transplantation but without legislation. As a consequence commercial trafficking in humans for the purpose of organ transplantation has flourished, to the detriment of both the patients in need of transplantation and those impoverished people from whom the organs are extracted. The Minister declared:

It is a true pleasure to share Egypt's milestones on a highly important yet complex and multi-faceted matter, namely: the ethics of organ transplantation.

This issue does not merely have medical aspects, but also social, legal, and psychological dimensions. Despite its value and usefulness as a life-saving and transforming procedure, organ transplantation is sometimes abused and thus raises many ethical concerns. Largely, this is attributed to incidents of malpractices in the medical profession, illegal organ trafficking, commercial trade of organs and transplant tourism.

These condemned malpractices not only violate the principles of equity, justice and respect for human dignity, but also cause a general sentiment of fear and distrust in the whole conduct of organ transplantation.

In Egypt, as well as in many other countries, many would fear being declared dead prematurely or having their death hastened and their organs transferred without their consent. There is lack of awareness about laws and regulations governing the medical practices related to organ transplantation. The public needs to know the demarcation and defining lines between what is ethically and legitimately acceptable and what constitutes organ trafficking. The Egyptian Ministry of Health and Population has undertaken a number of initiatives putting into effect legal instruments governing organ transplantation.

Egypt has been working to terminate illegal practices associated with organ transplantation. Inspection measures have been strengthened and tough penalties against health facilities involved in organ trafficking imposed. Organ transplantation should be made available to all citizens regardless of gender, ethnicity, religion, or social and financial status, all forms of organ trafficking are to be explicitly criminalized and severely punished.

I am pleased to inform you that draft legislation on organ transplant has been prepared and discussed with various stakeholders. The draft law clearly and unequivocally bans all types of advertising or brokerage for the purpose of transplant commercialism or tourism. The proposed legislation seeks also to toughen penalties against all forms of malpractice by any member of the medical profession. In order to minimize the negative consequences of malpractice associated with organ transplant, Egypt endorsed a bill to control living as well as cadaveric transplantation.

At the institutional level, the Egyptian Ministry of Health and Population plans to establish a national transplant committee to supervise all national transplantation activities, to hold the national registry, and to ensure the adoption of high ethical and scientific principles in the field of organ transplantation. In this regard, we shall be guided by the conclusions of the Istanbul Declaration and the World Health Organization Guiding Principles on Human Cell, Tissue and Organ Transplantation. The determination of the medical and psychosocial suitability of the living donor should be guided by the recommendations of the Amsterdam and Vancouver Forums.

It is crucial that mechanisms for informed consent should incorporate provisions for evaluating the donor's understanding of the donation procedures, including assessment of the psychological impact of the process, and to ensure that the donor is fully informed of the consequences of his or her decisions. Moreover, all organ donors should undergo psychosocial assessment by mental health professionals during screening tests.

I stress two major points.

- Firstly, organ trafficking and commercial organ transplantation do not happen in vacuum. Economic, social and poverty factors contributing to the unethical phenomena must be identified and addressed. In other words, fighting organ trafficking requires an integrated approach and concerted efforts by all relevant stakeholders.
- Secondly, the Egyptian Ministry of Health and Population takes seriously its responsibility to protect and preserve the life and health of every Egyptian citizen. This will be our mandate and guiding principle throughout all our organ transplantation-related activities.

In conclusion, our vision is clear, our resolve is strong and our momentum is unstoppable. With partnership and support, I am confident that our joint efforts will be successful and yield its intended results.

– His Excellency, Dr. Hatem El-Gabaly, Minister of Health, Egypt



JAPANESE PARLIAMENT APPROVED A NEW BRAIN-DEATH LAW

It was more than 10 years ago when the brain-death law was first accepted in Japan after several decades of confusion and discussion on brain-death and organ donation. The old brain-death law defines the brain-death only for those who are more than 15 years old and have signed their will to donate on donor cards before actual death occurs. The law is so strict that there are only 81 deceased donor donations until present. Besides, many of sick patients, particularly children who could be saved only by organ transplantation, kept seeking ways to receive treatments abroad. A new brain-death law, approved on July, 13th at the Japanese Parliament, defines that the brain-death is the death of human being and that organ donation from deceased donors is allowed at any age groups whenever the

family members approve. The act becomes effective from next July, and surely promotes organ transplantations in Japan.

On behalf of the Japanese Society of Transplantation and Dr. Satoshi Teraoka, President of the Society, I would like to express cordial gratitude to all of the members and the Council of The Transplantation Society, especially to Prof. Jeremy Chapman, Dr. Francis Delmonico and Dr. Luc Noël, for strong support and encouragement given to us to reach to this end.

Without the Declaration of Istanbul, transplantation activity in Japan would have remained in chaos as before. Now, Japan is ready to start and accelerate!

- Satoru Todo, TTS Councilor (Asia)

Leslie Baruch Brent

2009, Bank House Books (New Romney TN)

He began life as Lothar Baruch, living in a comfortable household in a German market town. With Hitler's dangers looming, Jewish children were sent to Britain, leaving their families behind. Lothar was in the first group of Kindertransports in 1938, joining a school for refugees in Kent. This was to be "home" throughout much of his youth, even during his three years in the British Army. Unable to trace his parents and sister at the end of the war, he did not fully comprehend that the Nazis had murdered his entire family until he visited Auschwitz years later.



Leslie Brent, as he became, studied zoology at Birmingham University, eventually moving with his professor, Peter Medawar, to London as a postdoctoral student. Working with Medawar and Rupert Billingham (a team the Americans later described as the Holy Trinity), they completed a series of epochal experiments on the phenomenon of immunologic tolerance, a subject of continuing biological fascination. A

distinguished career in immunology followed, including a description of GVHD, and the initial concept of suppressor cells.

Each of one of this remarkable team contributed substantially to the growing field of immunology. Each eventually became President of The Transplantation Society. Medawar went on to win the Nobel Prize, giving full credit to his colleagues.

In his most interesting memoirs, Brent, later Leslie Baruch Brent, takes us on a poignant journey through his bittersweet life. His discussions range from the terror of the Nazis, to his years in science, his friendships with an astonishing array of interesting people, and the disasters of anti-Semitism and recent irresponsible political decisions. All in transplantation should seek lessons from this empathetic man. The Transplantation Society in particular should be extremely proud.

... PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

As you may already be aware, this exciting TTS initiative is currently underway, led by Professor Kathryn Wood. The aim is to encourage and support young women to reach their full potential in the field of transplantation and we are pleased to report that the number of women adding their name to our mailing list continues to grow. Please tell your colleagues about the opportunity to sign up on the website - everyone in any area of the field is welcome. We are also seeking your views as a woman transplant professional and invite you to complete the questionnaire which is also available on the website.

At the ESOT meeting in Paris in early September, we held a successful Networking event for women attending the meeting. This event was greatly appreciated by the women that attended judging by the feedback we have received. One important suggestion that was made during the event was to change the name of the initiative to Women in Transplantation Past, Present, Future to ensure that young women in the field feel that they can join even though they may not consider themselves as leaders quite yet.

Nancy Ascher, Professor and Chair of the Department of Surgery at the University of California in San Francisco, gave a lecture on Confessions of a Transplantaholic. It was a fantastic talk and very inspiring.

TTS expects to organize other networking events during future meetings and we will keep you updated on forthcoming events.



NEW MEETING ...FEATURING 30 INVITED EXPERTS IN THIS EMERGING FIELD

1ST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
TRANSPLANTOMICS and BIOMARKERS
in ORGAN TRANSPLANTATION

San Francisco, USA | February 25 to 26, 2010

www.tts-transplantomics.org

IMPORTANT DATES:

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION: DECEMBER 1, 2009

EARLY-BIRD REGISTRATION: JANUARY 15, 2010

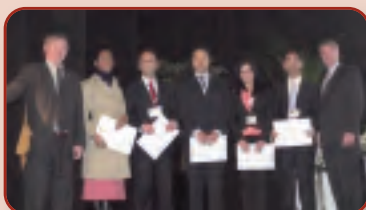
GENOMICS | PROTEOMICS | INFORMATICS | CLINICAL TRANSPLANTATION

Highlights of the IPITA-IXA Joint 2009 Congress, Venice, Italy

The Joint Meeting IPITA-IXA was held in Venice (Italy) on 12-18 October 2009. This conference has represented a unique opportunity for over 600 scientists and clinicians from all over the world to reconvene and share knowledge on advancements acquired in the last 2 years in these specific fields. In particular, as far as xenotransplantation is concerned, very promising data were presented, especially with regard to xenotransplantation of cells. In this context, long-term survival of diabetic primates with normoglycemia has now been obtained reproducibly in several laboratories around the world. This leads to the perception that successful clinical islet xenotransplantation may become a realistic therapeutic option in the not-too-distant future. To this end, under the expert guidance of Dr. Bernhard Hering, the IXA has assembled a Consensus Statement on "Conditions for undertaking clinical trials of porcine islet products in Type 1 diabetes" that was released in Venice.



Congratulations to Gina Rayat (Edmonton), Leo Buehler (Geneva) and Kaz Yamada (Boston) who have been elected as new IXA



IXA 2009 TTS-Astellas Travel Grant recipients

councilors, to Peter Cowan the new secretary /treasurer of IXA, and to Bernhard Hering, President-Elect.

Special congratulations also go to Dr. David Cooper who received the IXA Honorary Award for his outstanding contributions to the field of xenotransplantation.



Richard N. Pierson III, President of IXA, David Cooper, Emanuele Cozzi, President-Elect, Peter Cowan, Secretary/Treasurer

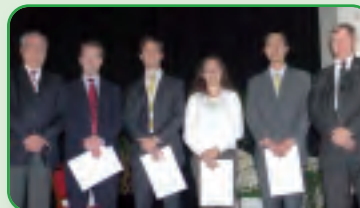
Finally, a special thanks from the IXA membership and

Council to our past-president, Robin Pierson, for his first-class commitment and excellent leadership demonstrated throughout his presidency.

The International Pancreas and Islet Transplant Association held its biennial meeting in Venice, Italy from October 11-16, 2009. The local organizing committee provided a flawless program and venue on the Lido beachfront of Venice, Italy overlooking the Adriatic Sea.



Highlights of the meeting were a wonderful Paul Lacy lecture by Ray Rajotte and the IPITA Presidential address by President Reinhard Bretzel. There were many outstanding scientific presentations. However, the first among equals was a

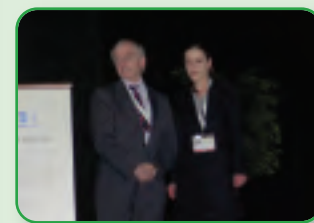


IPITA 2009 TTS-Astellas Travel Grant recipients

sensational presentation of the 50% five-year islet transplant alone (ITA) from the University of Minnesota in a cohort of patients receiving thymoglobulin induction and maintenance therapy with

mycophenolate mofetil and tacrolimus. These promising results were compared to the gold-standard "one pancreas therapy" for diabetes with pancreas transplant alone. A highly popular format for this meeting was debates on key controversies in the field such as beta cell regeneration, and consensus statements on key issues such as the infectious risks of xenotransplantation. In addition there were special sessions on islet isolation and management of the hyperimmunized patient to name a few.

The Derek Gray Fellowship was awarded to Barbara Ludwig from Dresden, Germany.



Derek Gray and Barbara Ludwig

The meeting had registration which surpassed expectations with attendees from every populated continent. Please look forward to an outstanding IPITA contribution to the TTS programme in Vancouver and the next IPITA meeting in Prague, June 1-4, 2011.

– Stephen T. Bartlett, President, IPITA

THE TRANSPLANTATION SOCIETY OFFICERS

To consolidate its position as the leading global organization, the Council has representation from all six regions of the world: North America; Latin America; Europe; Africa-Middle East; Oceania; and Asia.

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