



# Society News

Vienna 2004

## Congress attendees discuss scientific, clinical advances

From the science of immunosuppression and tolerance to the policy dimensions of organ availability, the XX International Congress of The Transplantation Society offered a wealth of new knowledge and information that brought together the best minds in the field.

### Basic science

Dr. Fritz Bach of Harvard Medical School listed several key points of interest from the basic science track. "A key issue concerned T-regulatory cells (T-regs) that act to suppress the alloaggressive T-cells," he said. There is now evidence that the T-regs function to suppress rejection overall and participate in certain forms of tolerance. Relating to the existence of mechanisms that suppress the T-lymphocyte mediated rejection response was new information about the role of antigen presenting cells, especially dendritic cells. Dendritic cells can assume different phenotypes that differentially activate T-lymphocytes involved in rejection, as opposed to those that suppress the rejection response.

"Studies of gene expression that help predict rejection and differentiate between rejection and other disorders were encouraging," said Dr. Bach, "putting the new technology of gene screens to the forefront of transplantation research."

Experimental results in organ xenotransplantation from pig to primate were generally modest, except for the finding that several genes of interest could be introduced simultaneously into a pig by sperm-mediated gene transfer.

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## The results are in

The Transplantation Society's new slate of officers and councillors for 2004-2006 consists of:

Nicholas L. Tilney (President-Elect – Western)  
David H. Sachs (Vice-President – Western)  
Jeremy Chapman (Vice-President – Eastern)  
Hans Sollinger (Secretary – Western)  
Richard D.M. Allen (Treasurer – Eastern)  
Maggie Dallman (Councillor)  
Barry D. Kahan (Councillor)  
Ron Shapiro (Councillor)  
Koichi Tanaka (Councillor)

The election of new officers and councillors also means that someone else is departing. The Society wishes to especially recognize the following officers and councillors who have stepped down after many years of dedicated service to The Society: Carl C. Groth, Past President; Ben Cosimi, Vice-President – Western; Josep Lloveras, Vice-President – Eastern; Jeremy Chapman, Treasurer – Eastern; Luis Toledo-Pereyra, Secretary – Western; and the following councillors: Ian V. Hutchinson, David H. Sachs; Hans Sollinger, and Hiroshi Takagi.



**A picture of excellence:** During the XX International Congress of The Transplantation Society in Vienna, attendees paused during the week of state-of-the-art scientific presentations to honor three of the world's leaders in transplantation research and clinical practice. Shown here accepting a standing ovation from those attending the Medawar Award presentation along with Dr. Carl G. Groth, Immediate Past-President and Chairman, Medawar Prize Committee (second from left) are this year's winners: Dr. Paul S. Russell, Dr. John S. Najarian, and Dr. Richard L. Simmons. See page 3 for full coverage of the Medawar Award ceremony.

From the President

Prof. Kathryn Wood

## Embracing a bold new future

The XX International Congress of The Transplantation Society was an enormous success on so many levels.

First and foremost, Vienna was an unqualified scientific success, with many of our professional colleagues demonstrating major advances in the field and setting the scene for even greater things to come. The high quality of the plenary sessions was matched only by the excitement of seeing basic science carried through to clinical reality. This translational approach to transplantation research has been gaining

ground in recent years, and we can look forward to similar results in the future. Many fascinating topics were discussed including the use of stem cells as a source of tissue for transplantation; strategies for minimizing immunosuppression over the long term and facilitating the development of tolerance in the future – each of which stimulated active discussion and debate.

More than ever before, the Society is positioned as a truly global authority on transplantation science and practice. Our new bylaws mandate Council representation from all six regions of the world. Our partnership with the World Health Organization (WHO) to launch the Global Alliance for Transplantation underscores our commitment to ensuring access to transplantation for all patients in need.

These and other new initiatives ensured that the mood in sessions and hallways during the XX International Congress was positively buoyant. The momentum that members carried with them from Vienna will extend to every aspect of the Society's work—from scientific advances, to ethical issues, to the evolving administrative structures that will enable us to maximize our impact as an organization around the world.

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### Best posters named in Vienna

At the XX International Congress of The Transplantation Society in Vienna, one poster presentation was identified as the day's best for each of Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. The Society is pleased to congratulate the first authors:

**Monday:** C. Larsen, Emory University, *Co-stimulation blockade with LEA29Y in a calcineurin inhibitor free maintenance regimen in renal transplant: 6-month efficacy and safety*

**Tuesday:** R. Hattori, Nagoya University, *Direct visualization of cortical peritubular capillary of human transplant kidney with reperfusion injury using a magnifying endoscopy*

**Thursday:** M. Ruhnke, University Hospital, Schleswig-Holstein, *Comparison of human monocyte-derived neo-hepatocyte with human primary hepatocytes as a perspective for autologous cell therapy*

**Friday:** D. Skuk, Laval University Hospital Centre, *Immune parameters in three Duchenne muscular dystrophy patients following intramuscular transplantation of normal myogenic cells under FK506 immunosuppression.*

The winners were selected from among the more than 1,250 posters presented in Vienna.

# Medawar Prize recognizes the best in transplantation

Dr. John S. Najarian, Dr. Paul S. Russell, and Dr. Richard L. Simmons are this year's recipients of the Medawar Prize, the most prestigious global award in transplantation science. Funded by a generous endowment from Novartis Pharma, the prize honours Sir Peter Medawar, who has been called "the founding father of transplant immunology."

In his introduction at the XX International Congress of the Transplantation Society, Dr. A. Benjamin Cosimi pointed out that 50 years had passed since Dr. Russell joined Dr. Medawar's laboratory in London. Dr. Cosimi outlined Dr. Russell's contributions to the field of transplantation—in the laboratory, and in the founding of The Transplantation Society. "It is a privilege to have been mentored by him," said Dr. Cosimi.

Dr. Russell said it was immunological tolerance that drew him into the field and occupied much of his time in the ensuing years. "my year plus, with Dr. Medawar, was tremendously enlightening and stimulating," he said. "The name the prize bears makes it especially valuable to me."

Dr. Oscar Salvatierra outlined the impressive body of Dr. Najarian's work, which spanned four decades and had a wide impact on organ transplantation. "It constitutes an important contribution to multiple areas of transplantation, providing a legacy to the field and to patients—past, present, and future," he said. Dr. Najarian commented that "this prize has been awarded in the name of the personal, professional and most admired individual in my transplant life." Under Dr. Medawar, transplantation became not just a technique but a true science, making him a giant in the field, Dr. Najarian said.

Outlining some of Dr. Simmons' accomplishments, Dr. David Sutherland stressed that "academic and research facts do not capture the intellectual and humanistic spirit of the man. Rounds with Simmons was game theory at its best—an intellectual feast." Dr. Simmons said the Medawar Prize was an honour beyond his wildest dreams. He cautioned others not to assume that they were responsible for something momentous, even if they were there when it occurred. "I am grateful to the Society for selecting me to be the stand-in for the work of so many others," he said.

## Log on today! www.transplantation-soc.org

In October, The Transplantation Society unveiled a new website that will serve as a one-stop source on the issues, educational opportunities, and global alliances taking shape in the world of transplantation research and practice.

Highlights of the new site, located at [www.transplantation-soc.org](http://www.transplantation-soc.org), include

- A link to the journal *Transplantation* and a free highlight from the latest issue
- A Hot Topics area that currently features video highlights from the XX International Congress of The Transplantation Society and updates on the Global Alliance for Transplantation
- Links to each of the Society's six specialist Sections.

In the near future, a new password-protected section will allow any member to update his or her professional profile online and set up a personal e-mail address. Although all members will benefit, the Society e-mail address should be particularly useful for younger fellows and residents who need a permanent contact point while they move between jobs or academic institutions.



The members-only section will also offer online educational programs, live forums, and other benefits that will make membership in The Transplantation Society an even more valuable professional investment.

Log on today! Your gateway to the Internet awaits you at [www.transplantation-soc.org](http://www.transplantation-soc.org).





From September 5-10, 2004, more than 4,000 attendees came together in Vienna for the XX International Congress of The Transplantation Society. Scientific papers covered the latest medical and clinical advances in the field of transplantation, but the depth and intensity of the formal sessions was matched by the superb opportunities that the Congress presented for informal networking among old friends and new colleagues.

*Photos: Michael Ratz,  
Foto Sulzer.*







## Congress attendees discuss scientific, clinical advances

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Experiments using "protective genes" such as heme oxygenase-1 (HO-1) emphasized the importance of manipulating the donor organ as well as providing a possible treatment for chronic rejection.

### **Clinical practice**

Dr. Paul Keown of the University of British Columbia divided the clinical highlights presented during the Congress into six broad topic areas: the growing organ gap, low-dose immunosuppression and tolerance, the expanding role of laboratory surveillance, opportunities in cellular transplantation, Chronic Transplantation Disorder, and transplantation and society.

With only three developed countries—Finland, Sweden, and Norway—now maintaining more than 50% of their populations with renal failure with functioning transplants, Dr. Keown stressed the urgency of the organ gap. He cited several Congress papers that dealt with improvements in cadaver organ retrieval and live donor retrieval through laparoscopic and robotic surgery.

Studies also point to the potential of Minimal Immunosuppressive Therapy (MIST) techniques, using induction therapy to deplete T-cells followed by daily, alternate day, or weekly low-dose immunosuppression. Dr. Keown also cited the success of concurrent donor marrow and organ transplantation in the development of tolerance.

Researchers are making use of increased laboratory surveillance to understand the post-transplantation course "in exquisite detail," he said. Other study teams are documenting and categorizing the gene expression associated with rejection, exploring the use of non-myeloablative conditioning for bone marrow transplantation, assembling data on more than 400 successful islet transplants in 33 institutions world-wide, and developing a better understanding of co-morbidities that accompany transplantation, from anemia to malignancies.

The ultimate challenge, Dr. Keown said, is to meet the growing need for organs for human transplantation. Given profound concern about organ trafficking in developing countries, he said the two remaining options are successful xenotransplantation and the development of stem cell technologies.



## Vienna meetings launch Global Alliance

With the simple but eloquent goal of providing access to transplantation for all patients in need, the Global Alliance for Transplantation (GAT) was formally launched at a series of meetings during the XX International Congress of The Transplantation Society in Vienna.

"All members of The Transplantation Society are acutely aware of the enormous benefits that transplantation of living organs, cells and tissues can bring to patients," said Prof. Jeremy Chapman. "We are equally aware that access to these procedures by patients in need of transplantation varies widely across the globe."

He said factors that determine access range from the level of economic development in different countries, to the availability of donors, to the provision of specialist health services.

Although the scope of the Alliance's potential activities "is seemingly limitless," Prof. Chapman said organizers have identified three strategic programs, all of which are now under way:

- A number of initiatives are in place to collect and analyse data on the donation and transplantation of organs and cells (see accompanying article on data and statistics). Bone marrow donor registries are already collaborating to present data on 8.5 million donors of unrelated haematopoietic stem cells around the world.
- Professional education is seen as the key to the development and sharing of transplantation expertise world-wide. Meetings in Vienna focused on the need for a global capacity to train and educate specialist surgeons, physicians, pathologists, nurses, donor and transplant coordinators, and allied health professionals.
- First steps toward a set of global professional standards for transplantation practice were developed at a groundbreaking international forum in Amsterdam April 1-4, convened by the Ethics Committee of The Transplantation Society (*Society News, Summer 2004 edition*). The meeting focused on the assessment, surgery, and follow-up of live kidney donors, but Prof. Chapman stressed the need for equivalent standards in many other areas of clinical practice.

The Transplantation Society has been a lead partner in the development of the Global Alliance for Transplantation, and will continue to play a central role in the initiative. Members should watch *Society News* or visit the Society's website, [www.transplantation-soc.org](http://www.transplantation-soc.org), for regular updates.

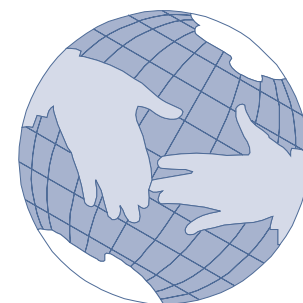
## Transplant registries stress solid data

Collection and analysis of data on organ and cell donations and transplantation world-wide is one of the three strategic programs undertaken this year by the Global Alliance for Transplantation (GAT), an initiative in which The Transplantation Society has been a lead partner.

At a meeting in Vienna during the Society's XX International Congress, representatives of various national and regional transplant registries reviewed many of the data collection initiatives that are already under way around the world:

- The world's bone marrow donor registries are collaborating to present data on 8.5 million potential donors of unrelated haematopoietic stem cells (HSC). The registry appears online at [www.bmdw.org](http://www.bmdw.org), while annual data on world-wide HSC transplants can be found at [www.worldmarrow.org](http://www.worldmarrow.org).
- The Council of Europe, working with the Spanish National Transplant Organization (ONT), produces an annual report on cadaver and living donation rates in Europe and beyond.
- The Heidelberg, Germany-based Collaborative Transplant Study collects data to address a variety of scientific questions in solid organ transplantation.
- A number of national registries, including the Australia and New Zealand Dialysis and Transplant Registry (ANZDATA) and the U.S. Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients (SRTR), analyse specific data sets.

The Task Force, under the leadership of Dr. Robert Merion and Mr. Chris Rudge, is in the process of identifying large national and regional registries to include in the global database. Discussion of data-gathering issues will continue at a conference of transplant registries, currently planned for the middle of 2005.



# Upcoming Meetings

Mark your calendar now...

## 2005

### 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the International Pancreas and Islet Transplant Association (IPITA)

**Chair:** Dr. Thierry Berney  
**Location:** Geneva, Switzerland  
**Dates:** May 4-7, 2005  
**Info:** [www.ipita.org](http://www.ipita.org)

### 9<sup>th</sup> Basic Sciences Symposium of The Transplantation Society

**Title:** Basic Research for Better Transplantation  
**Chair:** Ignacio Anegón  
**Location:** La Baule, France  
**Dates:** June 19-22, 2005  
**Info:** [www.nantes.inserm.fr/u437/BSS05/](http://www.nantes.inserm.fr/u437/BSS05/)

### The Intestinal Transplantation Association

**Title:** IX International Small Bowel Transplantation Symposium  
**Chair:** Prof. J. de Ville de Goyet  
**Location:** Brussels, Belgium  
**Dates:** June 30-July 2, 2005  
**Info:** [www.md.ucl.ac.be/ITA-brussels2005](http://www.md.ucl.ac.be/ITA-brussels2005)

### 8<sup>th</sup> International Xenotransplantation Congress

**2<sup>nd</sup> International Symposium on ABO Incompatibility in Transplantation**  
**Chair:** Dr. Michael Breimer  
**Location:** Göteborg, Sweden  
**Dates:** September 10-14, 2005  
**Info:** [www.ixatrans2005.com](http://www.ixatrans2005.com)

### 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the International Society for Organ Donation and Procurement (ISODP) and of the International Transplant Coordinators Society (ITCS)

**Location:** Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil  
**Date:** December 4-7, 2005

## 2006

**World Transplant Congress 2006**, under the auspices of The Transplantation Society, the American Society of Transplantation, and the American Society of Transplant Surgeons  
**Location:** Boston, MA, USA  
**Dates:** July 21-28, 2006  
**Info:** [www.WTC2006.org](http://www.WTC2006.org)

## 2007

**Joint Meeting of the International Xenotransplantation Association (IXA), the International Pancreas and Islet Transplant Association (IPITA), and the Cell Transplant Society (CTS)**  
**Chairs:** D Sutherland, B Herring and J Leventhal  
**Location:** Minneapolis, MN, USA  
**Date:** September 15-20, 2007

## Society reviews submissions for 2010

The race is on for the right to host the XXIII International Congress of the Transplantation Society in 2010.

After distributing letters of invitation to all members, the Society received bids from the cities of Berlin, Geneva, Göteborg, Singapore, and Vancouver, and two bids from Istanbul. The 2010 Congress Bid Review Committee scored the submissions based on criteria outlined in the invitation letter and heard presentations from all the proponents during the Vienna Congress. Final submissions were reviewed and forwarded to the Executive Committee and Council in ranked order. Following visits to the top sites and another round of review by the Executive Committee and Council, a final recommendation will be put to a membership vote in early 2005.

## TTS Regions



Region I	US & Canada	Region IV	Asia
Region II	Europe	Region V	M.E. & Africa
Region III	Latin America	Region VI	Oceania

**Building a truly global organization:** With the adoption of new bylaws during its XX International Congress in Vienna, The Transplantation Society has taken a giant step to consolidate its position as the leading global organization in transplantation science and practice. Beginning with the 2006 elections, the Council must now have representation from all six regions—North America, Latin America, Europe, Africa and the Middle East, Oceania, and Asia—not just one, two, or three, as may have been the case in the past.



From the President

## Embracing a bold new future

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The Transplantation Society has established itself as the key focus of international activity in our field. Through the biennial Congress and the topic-focused Section meetings that take place in intervening years, the Society has become the leading forum for the scientific interaction and dialogue that enable us to conduct research and serve transplant patients and their families with the latest knowledge in hand.

At the conclusion of the Vienna Congress, the 2004-2006 Council of The Transplantation Society held its inaugural meeting. Discussion focused on key priorities for the first six to 12 months of the Council's two-year mandate, and the results suggest busy and productive times ahead.

- Council strongly endorsed the Society's leadership role in the Global Alliance for Transplantation (See articles p.6 in this issue).
- The Communications Committee, chaired by Jeremy Chapman, will be building the Society's new website ([www.transplantation-soc.org](http://www.transplantation-soc.org)) into an invaluable resource for sharing and disseminating information between Congresses, enabling members to communicate more effectively with Society leadership and among themselves.
- The Education Committee, chaired by our President-Elect, Nicholas L. Tilney, will pursue CME accreditation for the Society. The process will undoubtedly be long, but the preliminary application will be complete in early 2005.
- The Ethics Committee, chaired by Francis Delmonico, will collaborate with the WHO to disseminate the guidelines for the ethical treatment of live kidney donors, developed at a special forum in Amsterdam last April (*Society News Vol. 1, No. 2*). Building on the success of the Amsterdam Forum, the Ethics Committee hopes to convene a consensus meeting on living donors of extra-renal organs in 2005.

- Council has also begun work on a new awards program to recognize outstanding contributions in the field of transplantation.

The other major area of achievement has been the development of a streamlined administrative structure to help the Society conduct its day-to-day affairs. Particularly for an organization that is driven largely by volunteers, it is extremely important to have the right people and processes in place, to ensure that time and resources are optimized. With the appointment of Filomena Picciano and Frank Lindo as dedicated staff, our Central Business Office in Montréal has moved to a new level, thereby helping the Society as a whole to do the same.

In his first year as our Executive Director, Philip A. Dombrowski has brought stability and vision to the Society, helping to position us for the outstanding opportunities ahead.

This message would not be complete without sincere thanks to some of the individuals who have worked so hard for the success that is now apparent in every aspect of the Society's work.

As organizers and hosts of the Vienna Congress, Raimund Margreiter, Ferdinand Mühlbacher and their team created a graceful, dynamic experience that will be remembered for years to come.

During his two years as President of the Society, David Sutherland demonstrated able leadership and stunning commitment, for which he deserves our deepest gratitude.

And finally, it is my pleasure to congratulate the transplantation leaders and pioneers who received the Medawar Prize during the Vienna Congress. I have heard many comments on the magnificence of their moment onsite. In each case, the award was a well-deserved tribute for a lifetime of service.

*Kathy Wass.*

Photo: Michael Ratz, Foto Sulzer



Vienna 2004 attendees in front of Schönbrunn Palace, the former summer residence of the Habsburg royal family.