



Society News

Vancouver Forum 2005



discussion of intestinal transplantation. For the discussion of liver donors the moderators were Dr. Jacques Belghiti of France and Dr. Federico Villamil from Argentina. Dr. Mark Barr, USA, President of the International Society for Heart and Lung Transplantation moderated the discussion about live lung donors. Drs. Rainer Gruessner and David E. Sutherland, both of the USA, were moderators for the pancreas-specific discussion. Dr. Alexander Capron attended for the World Health Organization (WHO) and Dr. Kathryn Wood, Dr. Delmonico, Dr. Paul A. Keown, and Fil Picciano attended for The Transplantation Society.

Comments on the four issues outlined above were received from all participants before the Forum and formed the basis of the discussion in Vancouver.

Participants discussed both the data and clinical opinion on when it is justifiable to use a live donor; the responsibilities of the transplant team for both the recipient and the live donor; issues of informed consent and disclosure to ensure donor autonomy in the decision making, donor specific procedural safeguards, and then ultimately donor selection.



From left to right, Prof. S. Adibul Hasan Rizvi (Pakistan), Dr. Frank Delmonico (USA), and Dr. Abdulmajeed Alabdulkareem (Saudi Arabia) at the September Forum in Vancouver

Continued on page 8

Transplantation from living donors has many issues that are common around the world. The focus of the **Vancouver Forum** held September 15–16, 2005 was to establish the best research-directed international guidelines and standards of practice for the care of the live donor in liver, lung, pancreas, and intestinal transplantation. These will join the guidelines completed in Amsterdam in 2004 for the care of the live kidney donor.

One hundred participants from some 25 countries around the world attended this Forum for discussions specific to each of the four organs and to the overarching issue of ethics and live donations. Principal Moderator for the event was Dr. Frank Delmonico, TTS Ethics Committee Chair. The meeting was held to bring an international review to key issues relevant to live donors including medical evaluation, criteria of donor suitability, known and unknown aspects of complications for each organ, and duration of follow-up. The resulting report is expected to be a reference document of practice guidelines specific to each organ around the issues of live organ donation.



Each discussion had its own moderators. Moderating the ethics discussion were Dr. Timothy L. Pruett of the USA and Dr. Annika Tibell of Sweden. Dr. Alan N. Langnas, USA, moderated the

HELP MAKE HISTORY
Contribute to the TTS 40th Anniversary Bulletin –
see Page 5

From the President

Membership benefits expanding—TTS leading the way

Prof. Kathryn Wood



TTS's Alternate Year Programme has seen a series of successful meetings, organised by the Sections and Committees of TTS. Focused on a specific area in the field, these meetings enable in-depth discussion amongst clinicians and scientists actively working in the area. The meetings form an important and integral part of the ongoing TTS programme of activities. I would like to thank everyone involved in making TTS's Alternate Year Programme in 2005 such a success.

The **Vancouver Forum** of TTS was held in September to develop guidelines, applicable

internationally, for the Medical Care of Living Liver, Lung, Pancreas, and Intestinal Donors. Participants from around the world attended the Forum to contribute to the discussion. Frank Delmonico, Chair of TTS Ethics Committee, together with the leaders of each of the working groups—Jacques Belghiti and Frederic Villamil (Liver), Mark Barr (Lung), David Sutherland and Rainer Gruessner (Pancreas), Alan Langnas (Intestine), and Tim Pruett and Annika Tibell (Ethics)—are to be congratulated for their excellent leadership of this important initiative. On behalf of TTS, I would like to thank Astellas for supporting the Vancouver Forum.

Education continues to be an important focus of TTS activity. Each month since July, slide presentations on high-profile topics have been uploaded onto the Society's website—www.transplantation-soc.org—as part of **TTS's Education Programme**. We have been receiving very positive feedback from members and are delighted that this material is stimulating and useful; we will continue to add material to the site. If any member of TTS would like to contribute slides reviewing a hot topic, please get in touch with either me or Nick Tilney.

Plans for **WTC 2006** are progressing rapidly. The three societies—TTS, AST, and ASTS—are working together closely to make the meeting an outstanding event. In particular, the deadline for abstract submission has been set to enable everyone to submit their latest and most exciting data—it is March 3, 2006.

I would like to send everyone my warmest wishes for the New Year and I look forward to welcoming you to Boston next July.

Kathryn Wood

Society News is published three times per year by The Transplantation Society. Views expressed in news and feature articles are those of the individuals quoted.

The Transplantation Society gratefully acknowledges the corporate sponsors whose generous support makes the work of the Society possible:

Astellas Pharma Inc
F. Hoffman-La Roche Ltd.
Genzyme Corporation
Novartis Pharma AG
Wyeth Pharmaceuticals

Editor in Chief
Philip A. Dombrowski

Editorial, production, publication management
InfoLink: The Conference Publishers, Ottawa

Information and queries
The Transplantation Society
Central Business Office
Édifice Place du Quartier
1111 Saint-Urbain St., Suite 108
Montreal, QC H2Z 1Y6
CANADA

E-mail: info@transplantation-soc.org
Telephone: +1-514-874-1717
Fax: +1-514-874-1716
www.transplantation-soc.org



Since joining TTS as Executive Director two years ago, Philip Dombrowski has become well known to us all. Phil has made many valuable contributions to the development of the Society, and David Sutherland and I have certainly enjoyed working with him. Phil left TTS in September, and we all wish him well for the future. *Kathryn Wood*

The Young Investigator Award for 2004

The 11 recipients of the Young Investigator Award in 2004 submitted abstracts to the XX International Congress of The Transplantation Society and received the highest scores from an international panel of reviewers. The award has been made possible by the generous support of Astellas Pharma Inc. since 1994 (formerly Fujisawa). The Transplantation Society is pleased to profile two Young Investigator Award recipients in each issue of *Society News* for 2005.



Dr. Cecile Braudeau

Cecile Braudeau received the Young Investigator Award for her paper titled *Blood CD25+CD4+ T Cells Phenotype and Regulation Associated Molecules in "Operationally Tolerant" Versus Chronic Rejection Human Kidney Recipients*. Dr. Braudeau views immunology as a way of

understanding the mechanisms of life and says this work links research and clinical applications.

Improvements in immunosuppression and clinical management of transplant recipients have contributed to an increase in survival and limited the risks of rejection in kidney transplantation. Over the long term, however, immunosuppression may possibly have a negative effect leading to chronic transplant dysfunction, tumour growth, and a decrease in the recipient's immune response to pathogens.

Although immunosuppression withdrawal in humans usually leads to transplant rejection, Dr. Braudeau's research examines cases in which the patients maintain a stable graft despite the absence of such treatment. As these cases are rare, few studies have been done on such operationally tolerant graft recipients. Dr. Braudeau's team is analyzing, for the first time, the blood mononuclear cell phenotype in such patients. They hope to determine if a simple blood test could better characterize these patients' state of tolerance.

Dr. Braudeau has been working on this research at the Institut national de la santé et de la recherche médicale (INSERM) U643 at the University of Nantes since 2003; she has been working in research at INSERM U 643 since 1997. The rarity of patients suitable for the study makes for a lengthy research process. She has submitted a manuscript on part of her work and it is in revision for publication in *Transplantation*. Currently in the second year of her PhD, she hopes to stay in this laboratory because "it's a very dynamic laboratory and I'm working with very enthusiastic people."



Dr. Robert Öllinger

Robert Öllinger received the Young Investigator Award for his paper titled *Bilirubin Suppresses Neointima Formation by Interacting with the Retinoblastoma Tumor Suppressor Protein Pathway*. Currently at Innsbruck Medical University, Dr. Öllinger divides his time equally

between work as a clinician, including performing kidney transplants, and as a researcher. "It is important for my basic research that it is driven by things we see in our clinical work."

His research focuses on two areas: vascular proliferative diseases (chronic rejection, neointima formation) and signal transduction, and heme oxygenase-1 and its product bilirubin within the context of aberrant proliferation. Dr. Öllinger was intrigued by the idea that bile pigments—bilirubin and its precursor biliverdin—may have beneficial effects as natural antioxidants.

Dr. Öllinger is exploring the application of current antiproliferation drugs to the treatment of chronic rejection. He is also researching the protective effects of increased bilirubin levels in patients with Gilbert's Syndrome. These patients have a lower occurrence of arteriosclerosis, myocardial infarction, and even cancer.

Graduating with his M.D. from the Medical School of Innsbruck University in 2000, Dr. Öllinger went directly into his residency at the clinical Department of General and Transplant Surgery at the Innsbruck Medical School. In 2002 he attended Harvard Medical School's Immunobiology Research Center at the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center for a year and a half. Now back in Innsbruck, his ongoing research on chronic rejection following transplantation is a long-term project with many opportunities ahead. He says that while the medical community is "quite effective in limiting acute rejection and can manage these problems in the first months after transplantation, the bigger problem is only 50 per cent of transplants still work after 10 years."

World Transplant Congress—2006



Hynes Convention Center

Boston, Massachusetts

July 22–27, 2006

The deadlines are approaching!

Early Bird Registration Deadline:
February 1, 2006

Abstract Deadline:
March 3, 2006

The full program is now available at the Congress website, www.wtc2006.org. Check the website regularly for updates!

Plan Now To Be In Boston!



Boston's Faneuil Hall will be the location for the Gala Evening at the 2006 World Transplantation Congress next July

Upcoming meetings and events

2005

8th Meeting of the International Society for Organ Donation and Procurement (ISODP) and of the International Transplant Coordinators Society (ITCS)

Chair: Valter Duro Garcia
Location: Gramado, RS, Brazil
Date: December 3–7, 2005
Info: www.isodp2005.com.br

2006

8th International Congress of the Cell Transplant Society

Chair: Antonio Secchi
Location: Milan, Italy
Date: May 18–20, 2006
Info: www.celltx.org/2006

World Transplant Congress 2006, under the auspices of The Transplantation Society, the American Society of Transplantation, and the American Society of Transplant Surgeons

Chair: A. Benedict Cosimi
Location: Boston, MA, USA
Date: July 22–27, 2006
Info: 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 M. Sykes
Location: Minneapolis, MN, USA
Date: September 15–20, 2007

2008

XXII International Congress of The Transplantation Society

Chair: Jeremy Chapman
Location: Sydney, Australia
Date: August 10–14, 2008
Info: www.transplantation2008.org

For a comprehensive list of all meetings occurring in the transplant field, please check out the Society's website—www.transplantation-soc.org—click on Meetings & Events on the homepage.

For the Record

Clinical Trial Registrations

Beginning January 1, 2006, all clinical trials must be registered at or before the onset of patient enrolment with a free and searchable public trials registry. Studies already underway or starting in 2005 have until April 2006 to register. The US National Library of Medicine has set up a registry list at www.clinicaltrials.gov. The editorial in the April 15, 2005 issue of *Transplantation* outlines the policy and lists other available registries.

Editors of major medical, kidney, and transplantation journals are united in support of this policy. It will be a requirement to be considered for publication in such journals as *Transplantation*, *The New England Journal of Medicine*, *The Lancet*, *Kidney International*, and *The American Journal of Transplantation*. The policy is intended to address the problem of selective publication that often leaves negative results unpublished.

TTS celebrates 40 years of service in 2006!

As The Transplantation Society prepares to enter its fifth decade, we would like your help in preparing an anniversary bulletin to reflect on our history. This request goes out particularly to past officers and longstanding members of TTS. If you have memorabilia from past TTS Congresses, such as posters, photos, programs, newsletters, articles, or anything concerning the significant medical breakthroughs of the formative years of the Society, you are kindly asked to consider placing them on loan with TTS Central Business Office (CBO). All material will be handled with the utmost care and returned to you promptly. In particular, photos will be copied and returned within two weeks. Your contribution will be prominently displayed on the Acknowledgement page of the anniversary bulletin. Contact Filomena Picciano at Fil.Picciano@transplantation-soc.org or send your items by post/mail to TTS Central Business Office.

Continued on page 7

News from the Sections

Basic Sciences

The Basic Sciences meeting in Nantes, France (June) was well attended by participants from around the world. The organization of both the scientific and social aspects of the meeting was outstanding thanks to Ignacio Anegon and his team.

There was a wide variety of invited presentations in areas ranging from basic mechanisms of cellular regulation in the immune system to cell transplantation, xenotransplantation, tolerance induction, and gene therapy—all high quality and informative, some of these will be available on the TTS education website in the near future.

The invited presentations were interspersed with oral presentations selected from the submitted abstracts. Again wide-ranging in subject area, these were of a very high standard. The sessions were rounded out at the end of each day by a posters and beer session which provided more great science alongside enjoyable socialization.

Cell Transplant Society

Much activity is now focused on organizing future meetings of the Cell Transplant Society. The next meeting of the CTS will be held in Milan, Italy, May 18–20, 2006. The program, which is being organized by Dr. Antonio Secchi, is nearly finalized and can be seen on the CTS Congress website (www.celltx.org/2006). Planning has also started for the joint meeting of CTS, IPITA, and IXA, which will be held in Minneapolis, September 15–20, 2007. The Chair of the Program Committee is Dr. Megan Sykes. Fruitful discussions are underway to accommodate the areas of

overlap, as well as the separate disciplines of the three societies. Members of CTS are encouraged to contact officers of CTS or Dr. Sykes with suggestions about this program.

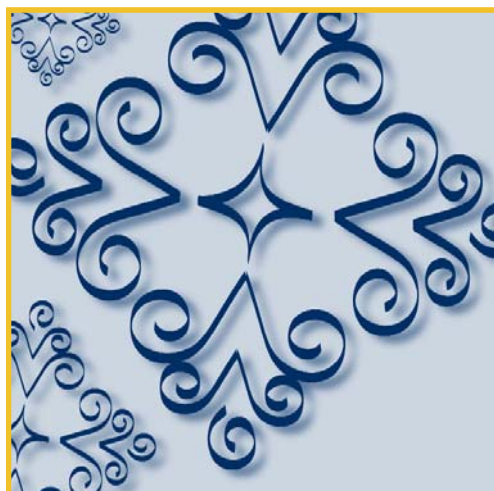
Dr. Gordon Weir represented CTS at the Cell Therapy Liaison Meeting in June 2005, hosted by the International Society for Cellular Transplantation. This meeting was devoted to the development of regulation for clinical cellular transplantation.

Intestinal Transplant Association

The biannual meeting of the Intestinal Transplant Association took place in Brussels (July) with approximately 200 members in attendance. The founding governing board was elected and the by-laws approved with a few minor revisions.

More centers are performing intestinal transplants around the world and the results have improved. They are now similar to those of other complex organ transplants. Induction of immunosuppression with antilymphocyte globulins seems to have simplified the postoperative course by reducing the incidence and severity of rejections. New trends in techniques include the more frequent use of multi-visceral transplantations and live donor transplants. Monitoring with frequent endoscopies is the established gold standard and markers such as serum citrulline and stool kalprotectin are promising to increase the margin of safety of these patients.

It was again pointed out that the best results occur when the patients are not hospital-bound when they undergo the transplant. Earlier referral of these patients was encouraged.



Holiday Greetings

The Officers and Councillors of The Transplantation Society and the Central Business Office staff wish each of you a happy, peace-filled, and safe holiday season. We appreciate your participation and support throughout 2005 and look forward to continuing to work with you in 2006 as TTS celebrates its 40th anniversary.

WEBSITE UPDATE

Education now available on TTS Members Only site!

The education programs are now running and new ones are being added each month on the Members Only section of the TTS website. Available now are selected lectures from the very highly rated "Early Morning Courses" that were offered in Vienna during the XX International Congress of The Transplantation Society.

As a member of TTS you have full access to presentations grouped under three themes:

- Advances in Clinical Transplantation
- New Technologies, Tools, and Strategies for Predicting Outcomes
- Science to Clinical Practice

A link to courses offered through the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) site provides another dimension to the learning that is available to TTS members.

To access the new Education site, please follow the instructions detailed in the FAQ article on page 8 of this newsletter.

Pioneers in Transplantation

The Transplantation Society is very pleased to offer in digitized format the lecture highlights and interviews of many of the early dedicated pioneering scientists and clinicians working in transplantation. These highlights come from a special symposium at the XVII International Congress of The Transplantation Society in Montreal (1998). In this *Half Century Retrospective of Transplantation*, produced by Dr. Ronald Guttman and Prof. Pekka Häyry, is a veritable Who's Who of transplantation, and it is available only to TTS members. The addition of more interviews with other pioneers is planned. The Society sees this as a great way new scientists and clinicians can "meet" some of the early contributors to the field and even for more established members to go back and reacquaint themselves with some of their mentors.

For the Record

Continued from page 5

TTS Council election

Nomination forms for officers and councillors for the 2006-2008 TTS Council have been mailed. If you have not received yours, please inform the Central Business Office. To nominate someone or to be nominated, you must be a full member in good standing of TTS. In accordance with new TTS regulations, the new Council must now have representation from all six world regions—Asia, Europe, Latin America, Middle East and Africa, North America, and Oceania.

Presentation to the South African Transplant Society

Dr. Frank Delmonico, chair of the Ethics Committee of TTS, attended the Congress of the South African Transplant Society in early September on behalf of TTS. He gave two formal presentations, "A Report of the Amsterdam Forum" and "Ethical Controversies in Organ Transplantation," which touched on the topics of live organ donors and organ sales (see articles cited below). Dr. Delmonico reiterated that TTS Ethics Committee has reviewed this issue on several occasions and TTS had reaffirmed its opposition to organ sales in 2004 at the Vienna Congress.

At the request of Professor Del Kahn, the organizer of the South African Transplant Society meeting, Dr. Delmonico specifically discussed current news from South Africa of warrants and arrests of doctors and others allegedly involved in illegal live-donor organ trafficking and transplantation. Professor Kahn intends to do a study of the vendors who have traveled to Durban, South Africa, from Brazil.

Links:

September 3, 2005

British Medical Journal article:

South African doctors arrested in kidney sale scandal <http://bmj.bmjournals.com/cgi/content/extract/331/7515/473>

August 21, 2005

articles from the Sun Times in

South Africa:

Body-parts dealer hunted by SA police

<http://www.suntimes.co.za/Articles/TarkArticle.aspx?ID=1574679>

Buying a chance to live

<http://www.suntimes.co.za/Articles/TarkArticle.aspx?ID=1574591>

Vancouver Forum 2005

Continued from page 1

FAQs at the CBO

QUESTION: How do I access the journal *Transplantation* via the TTS website?

ANSWER: If you are a member of The Transplantation Society and your dues are paid, you can automatically get direct online access to the website of the journal *Transplantation* with the following procedures:

- Go to the Society's website: www.transplantation-soc.org
- Click on "Member Login"
- Enter your user ID (this is the email address that you provided to the Central Business Office when you became a member) and your password (this is the one either sent to you by the Central Business Office OR, if you changed it, the personal password you created).
- Once you have entered the "Members" page, on the left-hand sidebar, click on "*Transplantation* Online Access." You will then leave The Transplantation Society's website and be taken automatically to the journal's website

QUESTION: How do I access the Educational Programs or Retrospective Videos (Pioneers in Transplantation) on the TTS website?

ANSWER: New this year are the Educational Programs offered free to all fully paid members—another great advantage of membership in The Transplantation Society! Also new is the Pioneers in Transplantation page. To view either page on the TTS website, please follow the same procedures as above to log in. Once you have entered the "Members" page, on the left-hand sidebar click on "Educational Programs," or "Pioneers in Transplantation."

If you have any further queries or require assistance, please do not hesitate to contact the Central Business Office staff. It will be a pleasure to assist you.

Countries represented at the Vancouver forum

Argentina	Germany	People's Republic of China
Australia	India	Saudi Arabia
Austria	Iran	Spain
Belgium	Italy	Sweden
Brazil	Japan	Switzerland
Canada	Mexico	United Kingdom
Egypt	New Zealand	USA
Finland	Pakistan	
France		

Emphasis was also placed on the role of medical judgement in deciding donor suitability which should always include a psychosocial evaluation. "Everyone came and actively engaged in discussion," remarked Frank Delmonico; "it was an excellent meeting."

"Frank Delmonico and the chairmen did a marvellous job, gathering data and listening to the perspectives of transplant physicians, surgeons, and ethicists from around the world to develop consensus guidelines for The Transplantation Society," commented Kathryn Wood.

TTS Elections—Nominations for Council and Officers now open

At the General Business Meeting of the Society in Vienna (2004), TTS accepted new by-laws written to ensure that the global reach of the Society is represented in the composition of the Council. Six global regions were created (Asia, Europe, Latin America, Middle East and Africa, North America, and Oceania). Nominations for the 2006–08 Council are now open, and will close on January 27, 2006. The following openings are available for the election of four (4) Councillors for the 2006–08 Council: one from each of Europe, Latin America, Middle East and Africa, and Oceania (see table). In addition, nominations from any TTS region are sought for the positions of President-Elect, Vice President, and Junior Treasurer. Nomination forms were recently mailed to all members and are also available on the TTS website.

2006 ELECTIONS COUNCILLORS							
	TOTAL	Asia	Europe	Latin America	Middle East/Africa	North America	Oceania
Current Councillors	12	1	4	0	0	7	0
Councillors Remaining on Council	8	1	2	0	0	5	0
Open Councillor Positions	4	0	1	1	1	0	1