



**... and its Sections**

Cell Transplant Society | International Hand and Composite Tissue Allotransplantation Society | International Pancreas and Islet Transplant Association | International Society for Organ Donation & Procurement | International Xenotransplantation Association | Intestinal Transplant Association | Transplant Infectious Disease |

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE TRANSPLANTATION SOCIETY

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## ABSTRACT SUBMISSION NOW OPEN!

24<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF THE TRANSPLANTATION SOCIETY

JULY 15<sup>TH</sup>-19<sup>TH</sup>, 2012 | BERLIN, GERMANY

[www.transplantation2012.org](http://www.transplantation2012.org)

2012  
TRANSPLANTATION



### A WARM WELCOME TO BERLIN

We would like to welcome you to a city that has evolved into one of the most influential capitals in Europe. Just over twenty years after its reunification, Berlin has once again become the gateway to Eastern Europe. The city's vibrant cultural life recalls the era of the roaring 1920s, its centuries-old academic reputation continues to inspire students, and breathtaking modern architecture repopulates previously fallow grounds. The Wall truly has been torn down.

### THE 24<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS

Likewise, the 24<sup>th</sup> International Congress of The Transplantation Society (TTS) aims to overcome frontiers in transplantation and to provide a platform for scientific and educational exchange. We invite all physicians, surgeons, scientists, procurement personnel and nurses who are interested in clinical and research aspects of transplantation to make the congress a valuable event.

A comprehensive Postgraduate Weekend preceding the congress, a special session entitled "Education & Training in Transplantation" (hosted by the TTS

Educational Committee) and a Surgical Skills Lab during the congress emphasize the teaching mission of our program.

### SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

As an opener to the 24<sup>th</sup> International Congress, two German Collaborative Research Centers (SFB 633 and SFB 738) will present their research on T-cell immunology in a one-day conference. Free admission to all our registered delegates has been granted.

Furthermore, 20 International Program Committees chaired by representatives of The Transplantation Society and the Deutsche Transplantationsgesellschaft have developed an outstanding scientific program addressing the four main subjects of the congress:

#### • Immunosuppression

Long-term effects of immunosuppression are manifold, varying from direct toxicity to the increased risk of secondary disease. Strategies to deal with the shortcomings of current regimens and new discoveries will be addressed. Furthermore, approaches to as well as requirements for tailored therapies or operational tolerance will be discussed.

#### • Improving Standards in Transplantation

Although transplantation medicine is a well-established therapy today, surgical techniques are a focus of constant debate. Furthermore, demographic changes demand modified treatment protocols based on careful analysis of outcome measures.

#### • Organ Scarcity

Organ scarcity is a well-known obstacle to solid organ transplantation and marginal donor organs may compromise short and long term results. Therefore, new approaches to improve the donor organ quality will be discussed. Also, alternatives to conventional transplantation need to be considered: cell transplantation, artificial devices and regenerative medicine demonstrate exciting developments.

#### • Psychological and Ethical Challenges

Since the beginning of transplantation medicine, psychological, ethical and legal challenges have been present and have influenced public opinion. New techniques like living donation, composite tissue transplantation or donation after cardiac death have raised new questions that also need to be addressed.

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

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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## GERHARD OPELZ



Gerhard Opelz

The Transplantation Society's (TTS) executive team met with Prof. Neuhaus and his team in September for an update on the progress of the preparations for next year's TTS congress in Berlin, Germany, to be held July 14-19, 2012. A visit to the Berlin International Congress Center showed that the expected attendance of approximately 5,000 could be well accommodated. The scientific program committee is already busily at work and the preliminary program outline promises an outstanding event that will cover the most interesting aspects of modern transplantation medicine and science. If the rich program alone doesn't entice you to include the Congress on your 2012 schedule right away, then its setting surely will. Berlin, Germany's capital, is a city of cosmopolitan and international character that offers many cultural opportunities and a wide variety of recreational activities. Berlin is getting ready to welcome you!

At its annual retreat in September, TTS Council endorsed unanimously a partnership of TTS and the Collaborative Transplant Study (CTS) organ transplant registry, underscoring a need for global documentation and analysis of organ transplant activities. Because many countries are lacking national registries, transplant centers often do not have access to the necessary tools for documentation and analysis of their data. As a result of the partnership agreement, all members of TTS will have access, free of charge, to a CTS software package specifically developed for transplant documentation and analysis at individual transplant centers. The package has the advantages that it can function freestanding on its own, so that each center remains in possession and control of its own data, and that forwarding of data to the central registry will be voluntary and anonymous. It also offers the

possibility for use as a regional or national registry, thus eliminating the need for costly software development in countries that are in need of a registry platform. It is hoped that additional, already existing single-center databases and national registries will join this global initiative and contribute to the global transplantation database under the auspices of TTS. TTS will nominate a Scientific Advisory Board that will oversee and support future function of this joint activity. International standardization of the data dictionary, free-of-charge software updates, informal membership in a global community devoted to the science and improvement of transplantation medicine, and access to an extensive global resource of transplant outcome data are some of the advantages associated with joining the new activity. The registry functions will include those of the existing CTS registry, which can be viewed at: [www.ctstransplant.org](http://www.ctstransplant.org).

We hope that many TTS members will take advantage of this attractive offer. Specific information on how to obtain this software can be obtained by writing to the Director of Headquarter Services at [dhs@tts.org](mailto:dhs@tts.org).

Gerhard Opelz, President

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## BERLIN 2012

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### FORUM FUTURUM

We are introducing a new and exciting feature: The Forum Futurum will provide a podium and additional display booths in a highly interactive setting. Companies and research groups are invited to share their highly innovative ideas on Medical Imaging, Tailored Pharmacotherapy and Regenerative Medicine.

### CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

The International Program Committee of the 24<sup>th</sup> International Congress of The Transplantation Society is pleased to invite the submission of scientific abstracts, commencing in October 2011. For detailed submission guidelines please visit the congress website ([www.transplantation2012.org](http://www.transplantation2012.org)) or send an email to: [program@transplantation2012.org](mailto:program@transplantation2012.org).

We cordially invite you and your colleagues together with your friends and family to Berlin. Your active participation will be fundamental for a memorable event in 2012.

Follow us on Twitter (@TTS2012 or #TTS2012) or join the mailing list at [www.transplantation2012.org](http://www.transplantation2012.org).

Prof. Dr. Peter Neuhaus, Chair  
 2012 Transplantation Congress



## HOLIDAY GREETINGS!

To all our members around the world, thank you so much for your participation and support this past year. The Transplantation Society's officers, councilors and staff wish you all the best for a joyful holiday season and a happy, healthy new year in 2012.



# DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AFFAIRS REPORT

HENRIK EKBERG



Henrik Ekberg

To better fulfill The Transplantation Society's (TTS) mission and serve its membership, which now numbers over 5,000 in 88 countries, we have reorganized and increased our staff in the International Headquarters (IHQ) in Montreal. With the growing volume and diversity of work at the IHQ, the workload of the Director of Society Operations, Filomena Picciano, had become overwhelming. Therefore, the TTS Executives decided to divide her responsibilities into two parts and recruit another senior member for the team.

**Jean-Pierre Mongeau** has joined TTS as Director of Headquarter Services (DHS; email: [dhs@tts.org](mailto:dhs@tts.org)). Having a background in management consulting, the key strengths that Jean-Pierre brings to this newly created role are a broad understanding of current management practices and processes, and the ability to manage teams to deliver multiple projects simultaneously in a timely fashion. Jean-Pierre will be responsible for issues such as Membership, Council support, Global Alliance in Transplantation, Declaration of Istanbul Custodian Group, Finances, Communication (Journal, Newsletter, TTS Website), IHQ IT, and Education.

As Director of Professional Services (DPS; email: [dps@tts.org](mailto:dps@tts.org)), **Filomena Picciano** will oversee the Professional Congress Organizers (PCO), enabling her to focus on issues concerning TTS and Sections Congresses and Meetings: Conferences, Meeting Finances, Corporate Sponsors, Continuing Medical Education (CME) compliance, Women in Transplantation and Sections' Websites.

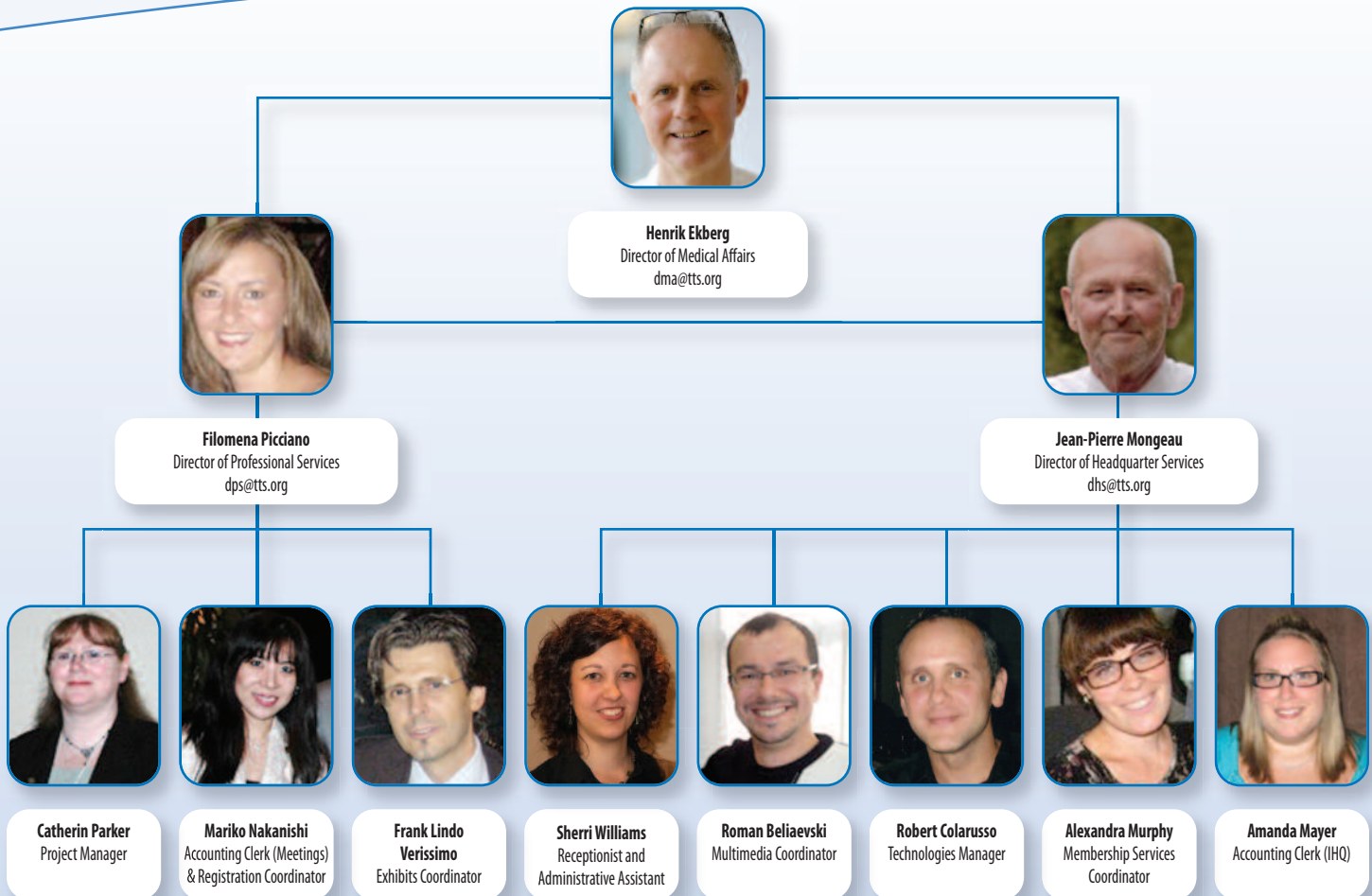
Other changes in the IHQ include the transferring of responsibility for membership issues from Frank Lindo Verissimo to Alexandra Murphy. Frank will now focus on exhibits for the meetings, working more closely with Filomena and Catherin Parker. Lastly, Sherri Williams has joined the IHQ staff as receptionist and administrative assistant.

This new structure will ensure that we maintain the best possible service to our membership on a daily basis in the IHQ while enhancing our PCO role to plan, organize and run congresses and meetings of the highest caliber, consistent with TTS' mission.

## TTS IHQ OFFICE READY TO SERVE YOU IN:

- English
- French
- Italian
- Japanese
- Portuguese
- Russian
- Spanish

## INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



# MACEDONIA MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



Participants of the collaborative meeting in Skopje, Macedonia in June 2011

The Transplantation Society (TTS) is collaborating with The European Society of Transplantation (ESOT), the International Society of Organ Donation and Procurement (ISODP) and the European Transplant Coordinators Organization (ETCO) to assist The Regional Health Development Center (RHDC) of Croatia in the development of deceased donation and ethically proper live donation throughout Southeastern Europe.

The countries participating in this project include: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Moldova, Serbia, Slovenia, and Romania. The objective has been to develop an action plan for each country that establishes a competent authority to oversee the practice of organ donation and transplantation in that country.

The initial meeting was held in Zagreb, Croatia in February 2011, but a subsequent conference was held

in Skopje, Macedonia in June. Dr. Henrik Ekberg, TTS Director of Medical Affairs and Dr. Francis Delmonico, TTS President-Elect, have been working diligently with Rutger Ploeg of ESOT, Günter Kirste of ISODP and Rui Maio of ETCO to support Dr. Mirela Basic of Croatia in leading this effort.

Dr. Ekberg created a booklet of the action plans derived from each of the countries that will be submitted to the Ministry of Health of each participating country. That action plan calls for a competent authority to utilize the critical pathway of deceased organ donation developed by the World Health Organization in identifying and referring potential organ donors. It calls upon the competent authority to conduct death audits to assure the appropriate referral of potential organ donors and to manage those donors medically prior to organ recovery. Each country should provide resources for professional training and education of physicians and transplant coordinators within

intensive care units and donor hospitals. Each country should also develop a central registry, which provides for an annual report of deceased organ donation detailing the distribution of organs to a waitlist of patients authorized by the competent authority. Finally, public education is needed to engage society in the support of deceased organ donation.

These efforts have been done in the background of the Declaration of Istanbul and the Resolution of the World Health Assembly of 2010 endorsing the guiding principles of the World Health Organization. Representatives from TTS plan to visit each of the Balkan countries over the course of the next 3 years to work with the national focal point person participating in this RHDC program in securing the attention and support of the countries' Ministries of Health. The next meeting is planned for Ljubljana, Slovenia in March 2012.

## TTS ELECTION YEAR

### 2012 will be an election year for The Transplantation Society (TTS)

In 2012, three Officer positions will be vacated and 6 of the 12 councilors-at-large representing the regions will be changing. The officer positions are: President-Elect, Treasurer and Secretary. The TTS Regions are North America, Latin America, Europe, Asia, Middle East / Africa, and Oceania. The elections will take place early in 2012 and those elected will assume their new roles following the 2012 Congress in Berlin.

Nominations are being sought for these positions. In addition to the paper nomination form that was sent out with the invoice for the 2012 membership dues, this year we have instituted an online nomination process. Either the paper form or

the online form can be used. Since each nominee must have his or her form signed by two other supporting members, the online process allows for more efficient and rapid circulation. Members can access the online nominating form at [www.tts.org/nominations](http://www.tts.org/nominations).

Please note: Only full members who have paid their dues may vote.

For more information on elections, visit the TTS website ([www.tts.org](http://www.tts.org)) and consult the by-laws in the "About" section.



**TTS is now iPad-friendly!** Check out our new Tablet/iPad versions of presentations in our Education section on [www.tts.org](http://www.tts.org).

*Latest postings include: Montreal Education Forum, IHCTAS 2011, BSS 2011, ISBTS 2011 and CTS-IXA 2011.*

# IMPROVEMENTS IN DECEASED ORGAN DONATION IN INDIA

The Transplantation Society's (TTS) President-Elect Francis L. Delmonico visited Hyderabad and Chennai, India on June 26-29, 2011 to meet with government officials and NGOs to further advance deceased organ donation programs in India.



Members of the Mohan Foundation meet in Hyderabad with the goal of furthering deceased organ donation programs in India

On June 27<sup>th</sup> in Hyderabad, the Multi Organ Harvesting Aid Network (MOHAN) Foundation, under the auspices of Lalitha Raghuram, convened an outstanding ceremony that was attended by Minister of Health D.L. Ravindra Reddy and Dr. Sudheer Gupta, CMO, Central Government Health Services. The ceremony was the background for the unfolding of the Jeevandaan Program. The word "jeevandaan" means "gift of life"—the deceased organ donation program was developed with this idea in mind

by Dr. Ravi Raju Tatapudi, who is the Director of Medical Education for the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

Dr. Delmonico's next stop was Chennai, where there is an exemplary program of deceased donation underway for Tamil Nadu, a state whose organ donor rate is 1.2 per million population which is 15 times the national average and with a great potential to grow. On June 28<sup>th</sup>, he had the occasion to meet the Chief Minister Jayalalitha Jayaram who has assigned her staff to take the necessary next steps in accomplishing an expanded deceased donation in the region.

As a representative of TTS, Dr. Delmonico was encouraged to witness the success of Tamil Nadu in bringing such accomplishment to the attention of the global transplantation community. "Once again the MOHAN Foundation has been instrumental with much congratulations to Sunil Shroff, Managing Trustee of the Mohan Foundation," said Dr. Delmonico. He and Dr. Shroff met with P.W.C. Davidar, the Principal Secretary for the Government of Tamil Nadu, and together they set forth incremental steps to achieve a successful deceased donor program melding the mission of the private and public sectors. Mr. Davidar will address hospital administrators to permit certified transplant coordinators to visit the intensive care units and develop relationships with the professional staff, an important step that will help increase organ donation. The current reality is that organs

obtained from private hospitals are distributed to public sector patients by a common waiting list that now exceeds more than 1,000 candidates for kidney transplantation. Approximately 6 donors a month are being realized, but those numbers can and will be much increased now that there is support from the government.

Dr. Delmonico credited Immediate Past President Jeremy R. Chapman for his key role in paving the way in India and recognizing the country's importance for transplantation globally. He said: "None of what is proceeding now could have occurred without Dr. Chapman's many years of interaction with nephrology and transplantation in India."



Dr. Ravi Raju Tatapudi and Dr. Francis L. Delmonico celebrate the unfolding of the Jeevandaan Program

TTS will continue to support the initiatives taken in India and will foster its relationships with Biocon and Panacea to maintain its presence in India with the overall goal of enhancing deceased organ donation.



## XII TTS BASIC SCIENCE SYMPOSIUM II ESOT BASIC SCIENCE MEETING



[www.bss2011.org](http://www.bss2011.org)

An almost perfect meeting: The XII Basic Science Symposium (BSS) of The Transplantation Society (TTS)/II ESOT Basic Science Meeting was held from June 11-14, 2011, co-jointly organized with the European Society of Organ Transplantation (ESOT). In keeping with tradition, the spectacular location of the Ocean Edge Resort in Brewster, Massachusetts was chosen. The meeting received a record number of abstract submissions and was attended by close to 200 participants from five continents. The line-up of invited experts in the fields of transplantation and neighboring research areas was outstanding. Two of the many highlights were the keynote lecture by Mauro Ferrari on "Recent developments in Nanomedicine and their Relevance and Application in Organ Transplantation," and a Women in Transplantation event with Anita Chong as the invited speaker.

The Basic Science Committee of TTS has been very active in supporting young researchers, particularly in the past two years. Under the guidance of Anita Chong and Stefan G. Tullius, the committee has initiated mentor/mentee awards to foster the relationship between junior and senior scientists. TTS awarded a total of 14 mentor/mentee grants to attend the BSS, of which 11 were co-sponsored with the ESOT, the American Society of Transplantation, the British Transplantation Society, the Canadian Society of Transplantation, the Société Francophone de Transplantation, the Japan Society for Transplantation, and The Transplantation Society of Australia and New Zealand. Those awards, in addition to 11 travel grants, were presented during the gala dinner event at the BSS.

After four days of exciting science and networking, the symposium wrapped up with the rain ending and the sun coming through the clouds—a perfect ending to the 2011 BSS. The next Basic Science Symposium co-jointly organized with ESOT will take place in Europe—we are looking forward to seeing you again in 2013.

### Other Basic Science Activities to be on the look out for in 2012:

1. Up to 25 Mentor/Mentee grants will be awarded at the Berlin XXIV Congress. Be on the lookout for applications at the Congress Website ([www.transplantation2012.org](http://www.transplantation2012.org)) and also on the TTS website ([www.tts.org](http://www.tts.org))!
2. New TTS International Basic Science Research Exchange Fellowships—call for applications will be in January 2012.
3. New TTS International Basic Science Pre-doctoral Fellowships—call for applications will be in December 2012.



From left to right: Stefan G. Tullius (Meeting Chair, Co-Chair BSC of TTS), Mauro Ferrari (Keynote Speaker, BSS 2011), Carla C. Baan (President of ESOT and meeting Co-Chair), Anita Chong (Co-Chair, BSC of TTS)

# WOMEN IN TRANSPLANTATION

## The Way Forward with the Mentorship Program

When I was asked to be a mentor for the Women in Transplantation (WIT) mentorship program, the first thought I had was that I am not experienced or senior enough to be a mentor. But after thinking about it, I decided to do it in any case: I had a great avenue of senior colleagues I could ask for help if I needed it. I have had a lot of support in my life from other specialists in my field and this has made a huge difference to me, so I accepted the invitation and a few weeks later I was sent the names of my 2 mentees.

What to do next was a simple question—I decided to write a very personal letter to them, introducing myself with the hope of getting to know each other. This was the start of a great friendship, which is in progress but will hopefully develop in the near future into a very special relationship.

I was privileged and excited when I heard one of my mentees, Mitra, was coming to Glasgow to attend the ESOT congress in September 2011. We arranged to meet and Mitra gave me a wonderful jewelry box from Iran, which reminds me of our special friendship every day. I am hoping that we can work together to firstly give her the chance to participate in a webinar from The



From left to right: Mitra Mahdavi-Mazdeh and her mentor Elmi Muller meet for the first time at the ESOT Congress in Glasgow

Transplantation Society and then also to present a combined poster or mini-oral for the Berlin 2012 World Congress addressing some of the issues we both share as professionals working in developing countries.

The future is bright if we have friendships across international borders and we can address our issues as friends rather than on a formal level. The WIT group will be vital in this and I hope to have the opportunity to meet my other mentee, Eija, in the near future as well.

Elmi Muller

## WIT – Networking in Asia

The first networking event in Asia hosted by Women in Transplantation (WIT) was held during the 12<sup>th</sup> Congress of the Asian Society of Transplantation (CAST) in Seoul, Korea in September 2011. More than 50 women from 9 Asian countries as well as Italy, Brazil and USA attended from all of the field's professional disciplines. As well as getting to know one another, the women attending the event were inspired by the presentation from Dr. Curie Ahn. Dr. Ahn, a physician scientist, spoke about her career path, including the challenges she had faced and overcome as the first female professor in the Department of Medicine at Seoul National University. She described her philosophy for success, particularly the things that motivate and guide her in her quest for clinical and research excellence.



Curie Ahn and Kathryn J. Wood at the CAST networking event in Seoul, Korea, September 2011

Dr. Ahn is also a mentor in the WIT international mentoring programme ([www.tts-wit.org](http://www.tts-wit.org)). During her presentation, she encouraged her colleagues in Asia, both junior and senior, to take part in the programme, since in her experience having good mentors is an essential part of establishing a successful career as a transplant professional.



Sponsored by Pfizer

**Congratulations to Elmi Muller who was recently elected as President of the Southern African Transplantation Society!**

## SPECIAL PROFILE

### 2010 TTS-ASTELLAS YOUNG INVESTIGATOR AWARDS



Ten TTS-Astellas Young Investigator Awards were presented to TTS members with the highest scoring abstracts during the Vancouver Congress. TTS has been profiling the award winners throughout the year in *Tribune*.



#### FAISAL KHAN CANADA

Faisal Khan is an Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Calgary. Dr. Khan's research is focussed on the areas of

transplantation immunology, histocompatibility and immunogenetics. He has published more than 40 research articles and reviews in reputed scientific journals including *Blood*, *Transplantation*, and *Bone Marrow Transplantation*.

Dr. Khan received a Young Investigator Award for his abstract entitled *Genomic Instability after Allogeneic Hematopoietic Cell Transplantation (HCT) is Frequent in Oral Mucosa, Particularly in Patients with a History of Chronic Graft-vs-Host Disease (GVHD), and Rare in Nasal Mucosa*. In this study, his research group has shown that genomic instability after HCT occurs exclusively in allogeneic HCT recipients and it occurs frequently in oral but rarely in nasal epithelia. Further, the study showed that occurrence of genomic instability is significantly associated with the history of chronic GVHD. This may explain why carcinoma after HCT frequently involves some (especially those involved with cGVHD e.g., oral) but not other (e.g., nasal) epithelia. Dr. Khan received this award while working as a Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics Fellow at the University of Calgary.



#### KATE MARKEY AUSTRALIA

Kate Markey was granted a Young Investigator Award for her paper introducing *GVHD-associated immune suppression is the result of an intrinsic*

*defect in MHC class II antigen presentation within donor DC*. Her work aimed to define the mechanism underlying this immunosuppression by using mouse models of experimental GVHD.

Her data confirm that GVHD-induced immune suppression is a consequence of an intrinsic acquired defect in MHC class II antigen presentation within cDC. This represents a paradigm shift in the understanding of the infective complications of transplantation and suggests that alloreactivity per se is the major factor responsible for pathogen associated morbidity and mortality.

Dr. Markey completed the MBBS/PhD program at the University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia in 2010. Her PhD was conducted in the Bone Marrow Transplantation Laboratory at the Queensland Institute of Medical Research (under the supervision of Prof. Geoff Hill and Dr. Kelli MacDonald). This resulted in a number of publications, as both a first author and co-author in journals including *Nature Medicine*, *Blood*, and *The Journal of Immunology*. At this stage, she intends to continue her clinical training and pursue her research interests, with the overall goal of developing a career as a clinician-researcher.



#### SUSUMU SHIBASKI JAPAN

Susumu Shibasaki was granted a Young Investigator Award for his abstract entitled *A Single Infusion of the Ex-vivo Generated Immuno-*

*Regulatory Dendritic Cells under a Novel Agent, NK026680 Markedly Prolongs Cardiac Allograft Survival*. NK026680 treated dendritic cells (NK-DCs) acquired immuno-regulatory properties that suppress allo-immune responses, and this modulation on NK-DCs was associated with inhibition of p38-MAPK phosphorylation but upregulation of IDO expression. Further, a single in vivo infusion of NK-DCs significantly increased the proportion of regulatory T cells such as Tr1 cells and CD4+ CD25+ FoxP3+ T-cells, and markedly prolonged cardiac allograft survival. Thus, he believes that infusion therapy with DCs modulated by ex vivo NK026680 conditioning has great potential as a treatment modality for the prevention of allograft rejection by enhancing immunoregulatory function.

Dr. Shibasaki was born in Japan, graduated from the School of Medicine at Hokkaido University, and is a general surgical registrar at Hokkaido University Hospital. In 2008, he began his PhD studies in the transplantation research group of Prof. Todo. Currently, his research focuses on the immunoregulatory effects of ex-vivo generated dendritic cells.



## CTS 1991-2011

On this 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Cell Transplant Society (CTS), it is time to reflect on how we started, where we are now and where we are going. The CTS began with a membership primarily focused on pancreas and islet research, in the image of CTS creator Camillo Ricordi. Soon, however, members expanded to two lines of study—both pancreas and liver. It must be remembered that the first clinical hepatocyte transplants were not conducted until after the society was established, so initially hepatocyte work was a minor component of the membership's research. Over the intervening years, the interests of membership began to diversify, with dominant roles in the society leadership and meeting activity remaining centered around liver and pancreas/islet research, but with significantly more input from members with interests that included cardiovascular, muscle, bone and cartilage, neuroscience, and stem cell—ranging from bone marrow to pluripotent stem cells. This year, during our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the diversity of society interests were prominently displayed by poster and oral presentations at the joint CTS-IXA meeting in Miami on October 23-26, 2011. There is strength in this diversity, and the opportunity for cross-fertilization of ideas and technology from vastly different directions has never been greater. Mark your calendars -- CTS 2013 will be held in Milan, Italy.

## IXA Update

The second WHO-IXA Global Consultation on Regulatory Requirements for Xenotransplantation Clinical Trials took place in Geneva in October 2011 in the presence of representatives from health authorities from more than 15 countries. Safety and infectious disease transmission risk mitigation were central to the discussions that took place at this second consultation and the key recommendations of this meeting are summarized on the IXA website: [www.tts.org/ixa](http://www.tts.org/ixa).

The 2011 CTS/IXA Joint Congress held in Miami last month brought together world leaders in xenotransplantation and in cellular therapies, tissue engineering, biomaterials, nanotechnologies, stem cells and regenerative medicine to catalyze an unprecedented level of scientific and translational exchange in these complementary fields of science and technology. The Joint Congress was a great success and represented also an opportunity to bring together first class scientists and business leaders to catalyze unprecedented collaborative efforts, from basic science to applied research and delivery of novel therapeutic solutions to humankind. Please take note that the 2013 IXA meeting will be held in Osaka, Japan.

Finally, the results of the recent IXA Council election were announced at the IXA Business Meeting during the CTS/IXA 2011 Joint International Congress in Miami. The structure of the new Council can now be found on the IXA website at: [www.tts.org/ixa](http://www.tts.org/ixa).

## 5<sup>th</sup> International TID Meeting

On September 3, 2011, the Transplant Infectious Disease (TID) section had a very exciting 5<sup>th</sup> International Transplant Infectious Disease meeting in Glasgow, Scotland. The meeting was held just before the European Society of Organ Transplantation meeting. Seventeen speakers discussed cutting-edge topics, ranging from donor-derived infections, immunologic assays, and optimal fungal diagnostics, to antibiotic resistance in transplant patients. Multiple speakers discussed prevention of infection, including CMV. Additional topics included hepatitis E, HIV and organ transplant, CMV resistance, and novel vaccination strategies in transplant patients. Over one hundred attendees from all over the world helped provide interesting discussion. The meeting finished with presentations of complicated cases in transplant infectious disease, which helped summarize and highlight many of the interesting talks from earlier in the day. A lively networking dinner was held afterwards at The Corinthian Club. TID hopes to hold another meeting in the near future, and welcomes suggestions on future topics and speakers from all members of The Transplantation Society.



## ISODP 2011 Congress

On November 26-29, 2011, the International Society for Organ Donation and Procurement (ISODP) held its 11<sup>th</sup> Congress in Buenos Aires, Argentina. There were a number of highly qualified presentations with state-of-the-art lectures and of course, much opportunity for discussion among conference participants. The highlights of the conference were aspects of safety in organ donation concerning infectious diseases and malignancies. There were also a number of presentations about the issue of donor detection in DCDs and DB, and new aspects of living donation were also discussed. Additionally, an overview of the current situation of organ donation, especially in South America and other countries, was the benchmark discussion among participants and experts.

The ISODP has gone through a process of revising and finalizing its bylaws, including a new voting procedure that will be explained to its members. The current board is very much looking forward to the nomination of people working in the field who are willing to engage themselves in the ISODP.

The ISODP is pleased to announce the 2011 Transplant Coordinator Scholarship Program, a joint project of The Transplantation Society and the ISODP, made possible once again by the generous support of Astellas Pharmaceuticals. The program is open to all who are working in the field of organ donation outside of North America, and provides funds for a quality education in an experienced country. Details of the application can be found on our website: [www.isodp.org](http://www.isodp.org). The scholarship program was a great success two years ago, and has led to numerous activities in the recipients' home countries. Our board is looking forward to receiving this next round of applications. I hope to see you all in Buenos Aires.

## IHTAS Update

The IHTAS has been privileged to benefit from the work of professionals dedicated to the advancement of vascularized composite allotransplantation (VCA) (a.k.a. composite tissue allotransplantation or CTA) through their service as Board or Council Members. It is that time again to pass the torch. We are grateful to the services of Past-President Maria Siemionow, Secretary Frederic Schuind, and Council Member Warren Breidenbach for what they accomplished. We welcome President Pedro Cavadas, Vice-President Palmira Petruzzo, Secretary Linda Cendales, Treasurer Jean-Michel Dubernard, Council Members Jerzy Jablecki, Stefan Schneeberger, Christina Kauffman, and Bohdan Pomahac, and International Registry on Hand and Composite Tissue Transplantation (IRHCTT) Delegate Marco Lanzetta.

The field continues in its growth period. Currently, 96 patients worldwide who have received a vascularized composite allograft have been reported to the IRHCTT ([www.handregistry.com](http://www.handregistry.com)). Among them, 30 received a unilateral hand, 21 received bilateral hands, 2 received single digits, 6 received knees, 3 received femoral diaphysis, 1 received a uterus, 1 received a lower limb, 16 received larynx, 9 received simultaneous intestine and abdominal walls, and 7 received faces.

In other news, over the next year we will be working on enlarging the Society's membership and re-designing the IHTAS website. We look forward to expanding the visibility of the Society internationally, to better serve the scientific growth of VCA.

## IPITA Congress 2011

The 13<sup>th</sup> Congress of the International Pancreas and Islet Transplant Association (IPITA) was held in Prague, capital of the Czech Republic, on June 1-4, 2011. The Congress was an outstanding success. It was attended by 421 registered participants from 35 countries, and provided an excellent opportunity for the exchange of information on novel achievements and emerging challenges on the road to a cure for type 1 diabetes using beta cell replacement.

The Scientific Programme included 60 lectures by top experts invited from all over the world, 151 oral and mini-oral presentations and 166 posters. The presentations provided a "state of the art" review of key aspects of the fields of whole pancreas transplantation and islet transplantation, as well as transplantation of insulin-producing tissue from alternative sources. In addition, there were 6 parallel early morning workshops covering some of the practical aspects of pancreas and islet transplantation: assessment of the islet preparation, assessment of the pancreas donor, long-term islet survival, pancreas transplantation techniques, pancreas preservation and islet immunosolation. Two half-day pre-meeting symposia covered the topics of "Immunosuppression in Pancreas Transplantation" and "Ongoing Challenges of Human Islet Isolation."

As an acknowledgement of their outstanding contributions to the fields of pancreas and islet cell transplantation, David Sutherland from Minneapolis received the Richard Lillehei Award, and Daniel Pipeleers from Brussels received the Paul Lacy Award. An excellent Gala Dinner held at the splendid Zofii Palace complemented the scientific part of the meeting. The IPITA Council would like to express their sincere gratitude to the Local Organising Committee chaired by Frantisek Saudek for organising such a memorable meeting, and to Thierry Berney for all his hard work as Chair of the Programme Committee.



# IN MEMORIAM • 1935-2011

## FRITZ BACH – TRANSPLANT PIONEER

by Anthony P. Monaco, M.D.

**F**ritz Heinz Bach, a pioneer transplant immunologist and the Lewis Thomas Distinguished Professor of Immunology (Surgery) at Harvard Medical School died suddenly on Sunday, August 14, 2011 at his home at Manchester-by-the-Sea, Massachusetts after a long illness. He was 77 years old.

He was generally regarded as one of the early giants of transplant immunology, a visionary whose contributions changed transplant immunology as we know it. His early observations on cell transformations which occur in in vitro cultures of peripheral blood lymphocytes (PBL) from unrelated individuals, his studies on the relation of these changes to the alloimmune response and histocompatibility antigens, and his early application of the mixed lymphocyte lymphocyte culture (MLC) assay to the selection of compatible tissue and organ donors unleashed a veritable perfect storm of related progress in experimental and clinical transplantation that persists to this day.

Bach was born in Vienna, Austria in 1935. After the infamous Kristallnacht pogrom in November 1938, he and his older brother were sent to safety in England in 1939 via the legendary Kinder Transport organized by the British to rescue over 10,000

predominantly Jewish children that were cared for by British families. After being joined by their parents in England, the Bach family immigrated to Burlington, Vermont in 1949 where Bach attended Burlington Public High School before enrolling in Harvard College as a scholarship student and obtaining a Bachelor's degree in 1955. He went on to Harvard Medical School where he became interested in immunology and genetics and graduated in 1960.

Bach undertook internal residency training at New York University where he came under the influence of Lewis Thomas, whom he always credited as being the inspiration for his scientific career. In 1964, Bach and Hirschorn described experiments involving the culture of peripheral blood lymphocytes from two unrelated individuals in vitro for 7-8 days in which some of the cells underwent large cell transformation and division. They estimated the percent of blast cell transformation and mitosis by microscopic examination of fixed smears. They noted that PBL cultures of individuals in whom the probability of sharing HLA antigens had been determined by skin grafting had the lowest number of large cells and mitoses. Bach and Hirschorn suggested that it might be possible to develop mixed lymphocyte cell cultures (MLC) as a typing test for potential recipients and donors of kidney allografts that could identify the most compatible pairs. Later work by Bach

and others showed that lymphocytes generated in MLC cultures were cytotoxic to stimulator cells, thereby connecting in vitro alloreactivity with in vivo graft rejection, i.e. the MLC reflected activation of the immune response and the derivative CML reaction (cell mediated lymphotoxicity) represented its effector arm.

Bach worked at the University of Wisconsin from 1965 through 1979. In 1967, he used the MLC assay to select non-reactive, compatible donors for the first successful matched bone marrow transplants performed for immunodeficiency diseases first by Robert Good in Minnesota and then by Bach in Wisconsin, with both cases subsequently reported together as twin papers in The Lancet. This was a milestone in clinical bone marrow transplantation (BMT) which presaged the widespread successful application of BMT in the treatment of diseases. Bach and his group performed extensive studies utilizing the MLC and the derivative CML reaction to study multiple aspects of allograft effector mechanisms and histocompatibility antigens which eventually led to his being among the first to conceptualize that there were two kinds of HLA antigens—those defined by serological methods and those defined by MLC techniques (later called Class I and Class II respectively).

Full article is available at [www.tts.org](http://www.tts.org).

## UPCOMING TTS MEETINGS • 2011-2012

FOR A LIST OF ALL TRANSPLANTATION MEETINGS PLEASE VISIT [WWW.TTS.ORG](http://WWW.TTS.ORG)



[www.tts-transplantomics.org](http://www.tts-transplantomics.org)  The Transplantation Society  
**3<sup>rd</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON TRANSPLANTOMICS and BIOMARKERS**  
 in ORGAN TRANSPLANTATION  
 La Jolla, CA, USA | March 8-10, 2012

**3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on Transplantomics and Biomarkers in Organ Transplantation**  
**La Jolla (San Diego), CA, USA**  
 March 8-12, 2012  
[www.tts-transplantomics.org](http://www.tts-transplantomics.org)  
 (Abstract submission now open)



 **24TH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF THE TRANSPLANTATION SOCIETY**  
 JULY 15 – 19, 2012  
 BERLIN 

**XXIV International Congress of The Transplantation Society**  
**Berlin, Germany • July 15-19, 2012**  
 Chair: Peter Neuhaus  
[www.transplantation2012.org](http://www.transplantation2012.org)  
 (Abstract submission now open)

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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; Middle East/Africa; Oceania; and Asia.

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