



## Warm welcome at the International Congress in Sydney

**A**ugust in Sydney saw the gathering of clans for The Transplantation Society biennial congress. The local team had put six years of thought and work into the six days of the Postgraduate courses and the Congress.

It was almost exactly 20 years to the day when the Sydney congress centre hosted the closing banquet of the 1988 Congress. The doors opened for the Postgraduate course and people started to stream through. We had registered a thousand people before the day was out and six concurrent workshops had extracted every ounce of concentration from both the speakers and the delegates. Eight concurrent sessions, including the Postgraduate courses, the International Cochrane Workshop, and groups of the International Paediatric Transplant Association and Transplant Surgeons in huddles—the weather crisp, sparkling and bright—what more could we ask? The first of the sponsored symposia got off to a cracking start in the afternoon with great attendance, superb educational program and lots of questions.

**Sunday** witnessed the opening ceremony. We had most people kitted out with badge and bag before the doors opened. A full hall and a quiet audience were awakened by a formal ‘welcome to country’ by a local indigenous elder, digeridoo, dancers and song. Presidents Nicholas Tilney (TTS) and Josette Eris (TSANZ) expressed words of welcome. The Australian Government Senator, Jan McLucas made it apparent that Donation and

Transplantation were high on the government agenda and the Australian Prime Minister welcomed us, on video link, with a clear statement about how his government was committing resources to increasing transplantation therapy. Closing off the ceremony, the Australian Girls Choir sang their way into the hearts of all and gave Australians a lump in their throat to carry to the welcome reception.

**Monday** early morning workshops were notable by the high levels of attendance. The program started for the next four days. About 4,400 registrants from more countries than perform transplants, had joined us for the Congress. The different program formats were a feature that we all worked hard on—the didactic postgraduate course, the interactive surgical sessions complete with videos, panel discussions, oral presentations and state-of-the-art lectures complementing the set piece plenary sessions.

**Posters** were presented in revised formats—the very best were presented as mini-oral sessions—three slides, quick fire presentations and focussed discussions, the Chairs keeping the discussion moving. The electronic and traditional poster board presentations complemented the mini-orals and both saw good patronage. We are looking for feedback

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The scientific program surpassed potential competitors in its breadth and depth, the social program provided a great introduction to Sydney and to each other...



Huang Jiefu, Vice-Minister of Health, People's Republic of China was presented the President's 2008 International Award for his impact in the development of modern organ donation and transplantation practices in China over recent years, by TTS President, Nicholas L. Tilney.

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

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The end of the year beckons. While those who live in the northern hemisphere look forward to long nights, fireside comforts and the Christmas holiday season with the family, those in the southern hemisphere face summer sun, the beach and long summer holidays, while for those in the tropics wet replaces dry or vice versa. The membership of TTS extends across the globe and we simultaneously face a variety of problems, just as we face a variety of seasons. The common opportunities and problems that unite us however have no season.

TTS has three major fields of endeavour—development of the clinical science of transplantation, encouragement of basic transplantation sciences and global public donation and transplantation policy. Each of these fields presents unique challenges and each has equal importance.

2008 has seen the Sydney Congress hailed as a great success in all three areas. The clinical and basic sciences programs were applauded for their breadth and the diversity of subject and format that both stimulated thought. This is what you get when 500 people from all over the world put their thoughts to the program development. The Australian Prime Minister welcomed us and gave us a clear view that he understood and was committed to the benefits that transplantation can bring. The President's Plenary session provided a

platform for the World Health Organisation and the Chinese Government to put their positions to us. The webcast of much of the program is available via the Member area of the [www.transplantation-soc.org](http://www.transplantation-soc.org).

In 2009 there will be many valuable meetings. While we must wait until 2010 for the next TTS congress in Vancouver, we have many meetings of the sections and special interest meetings coming in 2009. Watch for the conference and workshop on Genomics and Biomarkers, head for Venice for IXA and IPITA, Bologna for ITA, Osaka for Cell, Hungary for TID and Berlin for ISODP.



*My best wishes to all of our diverse membership across the globe no matter what season you are looking forward to celebrating.*



Jeremy R. Chapman

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### NEW TTS EMPLOYEE AMANDA MAYER

## A welcome addition to TTS

The Transplantation Society welcomes Amanda Mayer to the position of Junior Accounting Clerk/TTS Sections' Representative. Amanda reports directly to the Director of Society Operations and is responsible for handling the day-to-day activities in the International Headquarters for Finance and the TTS Sections. Amanda has a background in Finance, having worked for a bank and a corporate law firm before joining TTS.



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## Russian Federation hosts New Key Opinion Leaders from Eastern Europe and Asia

The New Key Opinion Leader (nKOL) meeting, held in Saint Petersburg in June, illustrated both gratifying progress and unmet needs in the development of improved transplantation services in Russia, Eastern Europe and Central Asia. A high level of technical expertise, collegiality and mutual support in these regions gives us reason for optimism, Dr. Gabriel Danovitch, Director of Transplantation at the University of California in Los Angeles (UCLA) reported recently.

More than 100 transplantation leaders from 19 countries including the Russian Federation, Eastern Europe, Central Asia, South Korea and Vietnam gathered to discuss transplantation developments in the region. “Many of the presentations illustrated a high level of technological expertise while stressing the need for investment in creating a strong transplantation infrastructure throughout the region. There were also excellent research presentations by new KOLs,” Dr. Danovitch said.

The meeting, featuring presentations on Living Donor Transplantation, Organ Donation, Monitoring of Transplantation Patients, and Transplantation Outcomes.

“Throughout the four-day meeting, I was particularly struck by the spirit of support and exchange which existed between the hosts and representatives from other countries in Asia and Eastern Europe, particularly former Soviet Block Nations,” Dr. Danovitch said. “While there is obvious technical expertise, considerable progress is required in building an effective transplantation infrastructure in the region. Continued mutual co-operation and support can only expedite that process,” he said.

The meeting was made possible through an unrestricted educational grant from Wyeth Pharmaceuticals. ☺



TTS President Nicholas Tilney with Dr. Serguei Gautier, Director of the National Research Institute of Transplantology and Artificial Organs in Moscow, who was honoured at the opening ceremony as a ‘Pioneer in Transplantation’.



Delegates to the New Key Opinion Leader meeting in Saint Petersburg discussed transplantation developments in the region.

## Warm welcome in Sydney *Continued from page 1*

on how people felt the electronic posters went and if they are worth repeating next time, so please email the TTS office and tell us what you thought. [info@transplantation-soc.org](mailto:info@transplantation-soc.org)

**Wednesday brought the President’s Plenary session** and gave us a new format—a public policy platform on which the Chinese Vice-Minister of Health (Dr. J Huang) and the World Health Organization (Dr. L Noël) were both able to present their positions. Dr. J-M Dubernard gave us a beautiful and heart-rending exposition of the plight of those in need of composite grafts and demonstrated quite clearly why he was the recipient of the Medawar Prize. The other very worthy recipients of TTS awards are detailed elsewhere in this newsletter.

**Thursday and it is all over.** The years of planning and the months of detailed work are completed. So we are all left with memories, new and renewed friendships, new ideas and new collaborations.

**What had we learnt?** Stem cell transplantation—a reality, limited at present but potentially limitless, but only through long hard work. Improvements in medium and long-term graft survival—within our grasp, but substantial effort will be needed to get to results that would allow us to rest on our

laurels. Increased organ donation remains a major goal for all—also subject to change through long, hard work across the world. Science may help us recover organs that we could not use today, but the ever present interface between ethical practice and the care of our patients continues to tear at the fabric of our field. Xenotransplantation and allogeneic tolerance were stoutly defended as potentially practical therapies—but still in the future and then only through a major, careful and diligent effort. Immunosuppression—still restricted by the FDA’s role and adherence to the data that we have presented to them. We have almost all moved to therapies that have not been proven to be superior and yet there are few people who are unconvinced that we need new agents.

**The feedback** from those who visited TTS in Sydney: if you missed it, you missed one of the best large meetings. The scientific program surpassed potential competitors in its breadth and depth, the social program provided a great introduction to Sydney and to each other, and the organisation was where it is supposed to be—effective but invisible.

**And so to Vancouver...**

**August 15 to 19, 2010 ☺**



Luc Noël of the World Health Organization (WHO) was presented with the President’s 2008 International Award in recognition of the impact of his work with the WHO. Dr. Noël is the coordinator of the Clinical Procedures Team, which is charged inter alia with promoting the appropriate, effective and safe use of cell, tissue and organ transplantation, including surveillance of risks in allogeneic and xenogeneic transplantation.

# TTS Recognition Awards

The 2008 TTS Recognition Awards were presented at the International Congress of The Transplantation Society in August to investigators who have made outstanding contributions to transplantation.



Sheung-Tat Fan



Marti Manyalich



Rutger Ploeg

## TTS – Genzyme Award for Innovation in Surgery and Technology

**Sheung-Tat Fan** received this award for his contributions to liver transplantation. He performed the first adult-to-adult liver transplant from a live donor in 1996. He has modified and improved the initial surgical techniques and has achieved exceptional results. His studies have had a significant influence on liver transplantation worldwide. Dr. Fan trained at Queen Mary Hospital, Hong Kong and undertook postgraduate studies at The University of Hong Kong. He is currently the Chairman of Surgery at the University of Hong Kong.

## TTS – Genzyme Award for Education and Training in Transplantation

**Marti Manyalich** received the award for his work in organ procurement. He is the Director of the Transplant Procurement Management course that has trained more than 4500 worldwide. He has coordinated and led several European projects in organ donation, living donors and quality systems for organ, tissue and cell banking. He received his medical training, then a Ph.D. in Transplant Procurement Management from the University of Barcelona. He is currently an Associate Professor at the University of Barcelona, Founding Director of the Transplant Services Foundation and Head of the Transplant Coordination Unit at the university hospital clinic.

## TTS – Novartis Award for Outstanding Investigator Driven Clinical Trial

**Rutger Ploeg** received his award for research on organ preservation. He has focused on maintaining or enhancing organ viability following retrieval. His group has studied the mechanism of injury and repair during brain death, retrieval and preservation to improve early organ function after transplantation. Dr. Ploeg's medical training was at Leiden University and Cambridge, Toronto and Indonesia. During a clinical fellowship at the University of Wisconsin he undertook studies with UW solution and gained a Ph.D from Leiden. He was appointed

consultant, then Professor of Surgery, at University Medical Center Groningen and is Secretary of the European Society of Transplantation.

## TTS – Novartis Award for Outstanding Contribution to Evidence Base for Transplantation

**Herwig-Ulf Meier-Kriesche** was recognized for his research on outcomes in kidney transplantation. His research interests include designing clinical studies, the effect of immunosuppressive protocols on chronic allograft failure and the factors that affect organ and patient survival. His studies provided significant results about the use, metabolism and complications from using immunosuppressive drugs. Dr. Meier-Kriesche trained in medicine at the University of Perugia in Italy and undertook postgraduate studies at the University of Texas in Houston and the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. He is currently Professor of Medicine and Medical Director of the Renal and Pancreas Program at the University of Florida and The Endowed Chair at the Central Florida Kidney Center.

## TTS – Roche Award for Outstanding Achievement Transplantation Science (Basic)

**Jean Paul Soulillou's** award recognized his research on immunointervention in transplantation. His studies included pregraft priming with donor cells and antibodies to interleukin receptors. His group initiated trials of anti-IL2 receptor, anti-ILF1 and anti-CD4 in human recipients. He has analyzed T-cell receptor modifications and described blood markers for immunological risk in human transplantation. The role of antibodies in rejection, tolerance and disease relapse are his other interests. Dr. Soulillou trained in medicine at Nantes University and undertook postgraduate training at Harvard.





Herwig-Ulf Meier-Kriesche



Jean Paul Soullillou



Brian Nankivell



### TTS–Roche Award for Outstanding Achievement in Transplantation Science (Clinical)

**Brian Nankivell** received the award for studies on kidney transplant failure. Data from sequential kidney biopsies was linked to clinical information to elucidate the mechanism of nephron loss. These results were related to acute rejection, ischemia re-perfusion injury, subclinical and chronic rejection, calcineurin nephrotoxicity and donor disease. Transplant damage was time-dependent, compartment specific, multifactorial and usually irreversible. Dr. Nankivell received his medical training at the University of Sydney, then studied the pathophysiology of chronic renal failure for a Ph.D. He also has a M.Sc. in experimental pharmacology from London. Dr. Nankivell is currently a transplant clinician at Westmead Hospital, Sydney.

### TTS–Roche Award for Excellence in Translational Science

**James Southard's** award recognizes his contribution to preserving organs for transplantation. He used animal models to develop a cold storage solution that was successful for preserving a kidney or pancreas for 3 days or a liver for 2 days. The UW solution (University of Wisconsin) can be used for either cold storage or machine perfusion of organs and it has been used successfully worldwide for more than 20 years. Dr. Southard received his PhD, Food Science/Biochemistry from the University of Massachusetts, followed by Postdoctoral Research Fellowship at the Institute for Enzyme Research of University of Wisconsin. He is currently Professor, Division of Transplantation at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

### TTS–Roche Award for Worldwide Impact in Transplantation

**Rafael Matesanz** was honoured for his project to improve cadaveric organ donation. Twenty years ago he established the Spanish National Organization for Transplantation (ONT), which implemented organizational measures with a network of trained and motivated physicians. Their responsibility to develop a proactive donor detection program has resulted in an increase in donor rate from 14 to about 35 pmp, the highest in the world. Application of the model in other countries is feasible and could save thousands of lives. Dr. Matesanz trained in medicine at the University of Madrid then specialized in nephrology at Fundación Jiménez Díaz (Madrid). He is currently the Director of The Spanish National Organization for Transplants.



James Southard



Rafael Matesanz

### TTS–Roche Award for Transplant Infectious Disease

**Jay Fishman** is a recognized expert on infectious diseases related to transplantation. His special interests in molecular diagnostics, transplant virology and mycology focus on the pathogenesis and prevention of infection in immunocompromised hosts. His laboratory is investigating the role of viral infections and infectious diseases in xenotransplantation. He is also interested in medical education and has trained many leaders in this field. Dr. Fishman trained in medicine at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and completed post-doctoral fellowship training in Molecular Biology and Genetics at Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School. He is currently Associate Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School, Director of Transplant Infectious Diseases and Compromised Host Program and Associate Director of Transplantation at Massachusetts General Hospital.



Jay Fishman



Jean-Michel Dubernard

## Medawar Prize

The Medawar Prize recognizes leaders in transplantation from around the world, who, during their careers, have made outstanding contributions of major significance to the development of the field.

The Medawar Prize is funded from a generous endowment provided by Novartis Pharma AG to The Transplantation Society (TTS). The prize honours Sir Peter Medawar, who has been called “the founding father of transplant immunology.”

The 2008 Medawar Prize was awarded to **Jean-Michel Dubernard**, who is recognized as a pioneer in the development of composite tissue transplantation. After completing his surgery training in Lyon, Professor Dubernard spent two years at the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital in Boston as a research fellow. Returning to Lyon in 1978, he became Chief of Urology and Transplantation at Hôpital Édouard-Herriot. En route to his achievements in composite tissue allograft-

ing, Professor Dubernard made numerous contributions to the development of lithotripsy for the treatment of urinary stones and duct occlusion techniques in pancreas transplantation. In 1998, his team performed the first single-hand allograft, followed two years later by the first double-hand allograft. Remarkably, rejection of the skin was much easier to reverse than had been expected and sensory and motor cortex remodelling ensured the transplanted hands were functional. To ensure progress in the field, Prof. Dubernard has developed productive international collaborations throughout his career, notably with teams in Sydney, London and Milan for the first hand transplant and in 2005 with colleagues in Amiens and Brussels to accomplish the first face transplant.



## 2008 TTS Awards



Iain McGill, Wyeth Pharma and Kathryn Wood present the TTS–Wyeth Awards for Best Abstract from a New Key Opinion Leader to Lihua Ying, Stacey Walters and Maarten Naesens.

### New Key Opinion Leader Awards

The TTS - Wyeth Awards for Best Abstract from a New Key Opinion Leader were presented to **Maarten Naesens**, Belgium, **Stacey Walters**, Australia, **Lihua Ying**, USA.

The New Key Opinion Leader Awards are supported through an unrestricted educational grant from Wyeth Pharmaceuticals.



### TTS–Astellas Young Investigator Awards

TTS— Astellas Pharma Young Investigator Awards were awarded during the Sydney Transplant Congress to:

- Thomas Becker**, Germany
- Trevor Brown**, USA
- Hooi Sian Eng**, Australia
- Matthew Everly**, USA
- Jenna Iwasenko**, Australia
- Adnan Khan**, United Kingdom
- Kate Markey**, Australia
- Marie Parker**, United Kingdom
- Rutger Van Ree**, The Netherlands
- Thet Su Win**, United Kingdom

The Transplantation Society will profile these Young Investigator recipients in upcoming issues of TTS *Tribune*.

The recipients of the Young Investigator Awards submitted abstracts to the Sydney Transplant Congress and received the highest scores from an international panel of reviewers.

The Young Investigator Awards are supported through an unrestricted educational grant from ASTELLAS.



TTS President Nicholas Tilney presents Young Investigator Awards at the Sydney Congress.

The Transplantation Society (TTS) has Sections to recognize specialist areas in transplantation and enhance venues where scientists and clinicians may meet, discuss, and present specific topics. These gatherings will encourage cohesion in areas of common interest and alignment of views on major global policy and ethical issues that concern the entire field. Sections provide a specific and specialized governance structure of each area of interest, while allowing retention

of a central role in the Society.

It is possible that other international transplant organizations might see advantages in becoming sections of the Society or that group within TTS may see advantages to creating a new section. Crucial to further development of the Sections is to provide increased membership, effective, low-cost services to the Sections, financial support and retention of independent governance of each section by their council. ☺

### SECTIONS OF TTS:

Cell Transplant Society

International Pancreas and Islet Transplant Association

International Society for Organ Donation & Procurement

International Xenotransplantation Association

Intestinal Transplant Association

Transplant Infectious Disease



TTS held their annual Council of Section Presidents' meeting during the Sydney 2008 Congress to allow the opportunity for discussion and agreement about all of the issues that are of particular importance to the Sections and TTS.

## Brain Death Legislation in Israel coincides with young women undergoing multivisceral transplantation

Brain death legislation adopted by the Knesset in Israel this past spring may have been the impetus for a teenage boy to consider donating his organs. As he told his mother about two months before his tragic death, he wanted his organs to save other people's lives in case something happened to him.

The first multivisceral abdominal transplant surgery in Israel was performed recently by a team of surgeons and physicians led by TTS Councilor Andy Tzakis who was on holiday in nearby Greece when the call came from transplant surgeons Eytan Mor and Ran Steinberg at the Schneider and Beilinson hospitals in Petah Tikva, Israel. The liver, pancreas and intestines were recovered from this young boy, who died tragically when a mound of sand collapsed on him. The recipient was a 16-year-old girl, Nitzan Lehem, whose condition had deteriorated following

10 years of intravenous nutrition under the care of paediatric hepatologist, Yaron Avitzur.

This case illustrates the importance of national resolve to make deceased organ donation an accepted act of solidarity within a community. The Israeli Transplant Society has worked effectively to enhance opportunities of organ donation for Israeli patients to undergo transplantation in Israel. ☺



Above: Multivisceral transplant recipient Nitzan Lehem with Drs. Andreas Tzakis and Yaron Avitzur.

Left: Nitzan Lehem celebrates her transplant with Drs. Eytan Mor and Ran Steinberg in Beit Harif, Israel.



President Chapman, President Teraoka, Director-General Ueda

## WORLD DONATION DAY, JAPAN

### Gaining acceptance of brain death concept in Japan

The 4th World Day for Organ Donation and Transplantation (WDOOT) was held on September 20, 2008 in Osaka, Japan. The Transplantation Society was represented by President Jeremy Chapman, seen in this picture with Hirozou Ueda, M.D., Director General of the Japanese Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare. Also shown in this picture is Satoshi Teraoka, M.D., President of the Japan Society for Transplantation.

The previous WDOOT events were held in Geneva, Buenos Aires, and Kuwait City. The objective of the World Donation Day is to enhance organ donation in every country. This event was initiated by Philippe Morel, in collaboration with Dr. Luc Noël of the WHO. The goal of the Osaka World Donation Day was to bring the concept of brain death to the attention of the Japanese people in an accepting way. There are 200,000 Japanese patients on dialysis. Shiro Takahara, Atushi Aikawa, Tomonori Hasegawa, and Naoshi Shinozaki were important leaders also representing the Japanese Society for Transplantation and organizers of the WDOOT Osaka.

### XI TTS Basic Science Symposium / I ESOT Basic Science Meeting Brussels, Belgium

March 12–15, 2009

Chair: Dr. Michel Braun  
Info: [www.esot.org](http://www.esot.org)  
[www.transplantation-soc.org](http://www.transplantation-soc.org)

### Transplant Infectious Disease in Resource Poor Areas

(on invitation only)

Budapest, Hungary  
March 29–30, 2009

Chair: Dr. Camille Kotton  
Info: [ckotton@partners.org](mailto:ckotton@partners.org)

### Cell Transplant Society Meeting Okayama, Japan April 20–22, 2009

Chair: Dr. Naoya Kobayashi  
Info: [immortal@md.okayama-u.ac.jp](mailto:immortal@md.okayama-u.ac.jp)

### XIth International Small Bowel Transplant Symposium Bologna, Italy September 9–12, 2009

Royal Hotel Carlton  
Chair: Dr. Antonio Pinna  
Info: [tonyirc@yahoo.com](mailto:tonyirc@yahoo.com)

### 2009 Organ Donation Congress (10th ISODP Meeting) Berlin, Germany October 4–7, 2009

Berlin Congress Center  
Chair: Dr. Günter Kirste  
Info: [www.isodp2009.com](http://www.isodp2009.com)

### IPITA – IXA Joint Congress 2009

Venice, Italy

October 12–16, 2009

Venice Lido Congress Center  
Chair: Dr. Emanuele Cozzi  
Info: [www.ipita-ixa2009.org](http://www.ipita-ixa2009.org)

### XXIII International Congress of The Transplantation Society



Vancouver, Canada  
August 15–19, 2010

Vancouver Convention Centre  
Chair: Dr. Paul Keown  
Info: [www.transplantation2010.org](http://www.transplantation2010.org)

#### KEY DATES:

**JUNE 2009** Abstract submission opens

**NOVEMBER 2009** Online Registration Opens

**MARCH 5, 2010** Abstract Submission Deadline

**JUNE 4, 2010** Early Registration Deadline

**AUGUST 15-19, 2010** Congress

## THE TRANSPLANTATION SOCIETY OFFICERS 2008–2010

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

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