



Society News

The Amsterdam Forum

'Groundbreaking' meeting focuses on donor welfare



40 countries were represented at the April, 2004 meeting on the ethical treatment of live kidney donors, convened in Amsterdam by the Ethics Committee of The Transplantation Society.

Photo: Dr. Francis Delmonico

The ethical treatment of live kidney donors was the focus of a groundbreaking international forum in Amsterdam April 1-4, convened by the Ethics Committee of The Transplantation Society.

"Live kidney donation has made more transplants possible," said Dr. Frank Delmonico, Professor of Surgery at Harvard Medical School, Medical Director of the New England Organ Bank, and Chair of the Society's Ethics Committee. "The challenge is to do so with an international review that brings the proper care of the donor to attention, not as a source of an organ, but as a patient who undergoes a life-giving procedure."

The 100 kidney transplant physicians and surgeons who attended the forum came from 40 countries, and Dr. Delmonico said a key objective was for participants to become emissaries for live kidney donation standards in their own countries and regions.

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XX International Congress and Vienna Beckon

Having reviewed all the submitted abstracts and with both oral and poster selections notified, the Vienna local organizing committee is poised to welcome an anticipated 4,000 participants from around the world to the XX International Congress of The Transplantation Society, September 5-10, 2004. The Congress promises to be an exciting meeting of the best scientific minds in the world in transplantation. If you haven't registered yet, time is running out: Standard registration ended June 1, so latecomers should register as soon as possible.

The robust scientific programme for the Congress features six plenary sessions, 30 state of the art symposia, 483 oral presentations, and more than 1,250 posters. Dr. Ferdinand

Mühlbacher, Co-Chairman of the Local Organising Committee, identified adult stem cell transplantation, xenotransplantation, and gene therapy as some of the cutting-edge topics to be addressed.

Congress highlights will include

- Discussion of the ethics of live donations for liver and renal transplantation, including ongoing concerns over organ trafficking and donor coercion
- Results of recent efforts to transplant pig organs to primates

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From the President

On the frontier of medical science in Vienna

The field of transplantation has been an exciting, never-ending frontier; full of surprises and stunning advancement from its inception. The Transplantation Society, founded nearly 40 years ago, has captured this excitement in each of its previous 19 meetings. The Vienna Congress will do so as well.

The scientific programme for the XX International Congress of The Transplantation Society is now complete. It covers the full gamut of transplantation basic science and clinical application, not only in the abstracts

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you have all submitted, but in the invited lectures by the most dynamic leaders in the field.

If you have not registered yet, I urge you to do so immediately by visiting the Congress website at www.transplantation2004.at. The Congress will be a marvellous opportunity to reunite with your colleagues from around the world in one of the most beautiful and international of the world's great cities.

The Vienna Congress will also herald a new era of globalization for the Society. Major amendments to our bylaws have been drafted, and the results of your vote on these changes will be announced at the meeting. If adopted, the revisions will make the Council more representative of our membership world-wide. I encourage you to return your ballot by the deadline.

The Society is also laying the groundwork for a partnership with the World Health Organization and other international bodies to promote the universal application of best practices in transplantation. The strategies we have developed will be reviewed with the membership in the months ahead.

This newsletter also reflects our efforts in support of a meeting on the medical issues and care of living organ donors. The meeting was held in Amsterdam in April, and brought together representatives from around the world. Future meetings will address the vexing ethical issues that have arisen from a continuing shortage of organs of all types, resulting mainly from our success in application. We need your comments and contributions on these issues.

Finally, we are pleased that the number of societies joining as Sections of The Transplantation Society continues to expand. Many of these societies will highlight their accomplishments at the Vienna Congress, and we welcome them as partners in the great venture of transplantation science and clinical application.

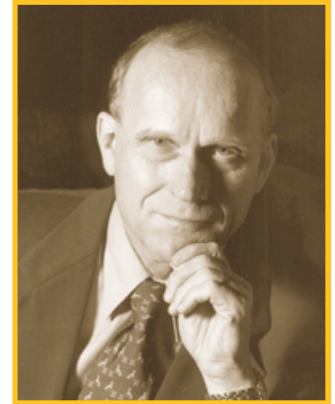
David Sutherland

Publications policy for 2004 Congress in Vienna

The Transplantation Society has introduced a new publications policy for the XX International Congress in Vienna.

Following the 2002 Congress in Miami, abstracts were published in a supplement to *Transplantation*, and the authors of the 200 highest-scoring abstracts were invited to publish their work as a regular article in a special issue of the same journal. These articles provided a highly visible representation of the quality of the science presented at the Congress.

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Congress celebrates Young Investigators

Presentation of 11 Young Investigators Awards will be a highlight of the XX International Congress of The Transplantation Society in September. The awards celebrate some of the best and brightest young minds in the transplantation community, with the winning abstracts chosen from more than 2,000 submissions. This year's winners:

Koji Yazawa (United States) – Neither terminal complement inhibition nor depletion of natural antibody is required to avoid hyperacute or accelerated acute rejection following GalT-KO pig-to-baboon renal transplantation

Tun Jie (United States) – Pancreatic islet xenotransplants restore normoglycemia and insulin independence in immunosuppressed non-human primates

Svetlan Boskovic (United States) – Long Term (>5 years) observations in renal allograft recipients treated with chimerism-inducing nonmyeloablative regimens with CD154 blockade

Michelle Solomon (United States) – Constitutive expression of suppressor of cytokine signaling-1 (SOCS-1) in pancreatic islets delays islet allograft rejection

Mona Doshi (United States) – Short and long term outcome of liver transplants from donors deceased after cardiac death (DCD)

Angela Webster (Australia) – Incidence, risk and predictors of cancer after renal transplantation; an analysis of ANZDATA, the

Australia and New Zealand Dialysis and Transplant Registry
Maren Ruhnke (Germany) – Normalization of blood glucose by human monocyte-derived pancreatic islet-like cells in streptozotocin diabetic mice – perspectives for autologous cell therapy

Hao Wang (Canada) – Inhibition of terminal complement with a functionally blocking anti-C5 monoclonal antibody prevents acute humoral rejection and accelerated humoral rejection in a mouse cardiac allograft transplantation model

Constantino Fondevila (United States) – Cyclic RGD peptides with high affinity for $\alpha 5 \beta 1$ integrin inhibit macrophage recruitment in steatotic liver ischemia/reperfusion injury

Robert Öllinger (Austria) – Bilirubin suppresses neointima formation by interacting with the retinoblastoma tumor suppressor protein pathway

Cecile Braudeau (France) – Blood CD25⁺CD4⁺ T cells phenotype and regulation associated molecules in "operationally tolerant" versus chronic rejection human kidney recipients

The Congress award ceremony will take place on Wednesday, September 8, 2004 from 10 a.m. to noon, and will begin with the Young Investigators Awards. The Young Investigators Award is made possible through the generosity of Fujisawa Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd.

Global Alliance takes shape

The Transplantation Society is leading an international effort to make safe organ transplantation available world-wide.

Led by Drs. Carl Groth and Jeremy Chapman, the Society has been working with the World Health Organization (WHO) and other prospective partners to lay the groundwork for the Global Alliance in Transplantation.

The Alliance grew out of the recognition that while access to transplantation is a universal need, there are significant global inequities in the ability to provide that access. To that end, the stated goal of the Alliance is "to provide access to transplantation for all patients in need." The Society is developing the Global Alliance to allow a variety of potential partners—including professional societies and organizations, the pharmaceutical industry, and governments—to interact with the WHO and achieve the goal of improving access

to and safety in transplantation. The Alliance's initial strategic programs will aim to

- Foster the collection and analysis of world-wide data on organ and cell donation and transplantation
- Develop and share expertise in transplantation around the world through fellowships and sister institutions, and
- Establish and maintain global professional standards in the provision and management of transplantation.

During the upcoming XX International Congress of The Transplantation Society in Vienna, Global Alliance organizers intend to meet with a variety of individuals who might wish to contribute to or benefit from the Alliance's programs. Organizers also hope to identify new and existing initiatives that address the Alliance's strategic objectives.

'Groundbreaking' meeting

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Results of the Forum, which was administered by the U.S. National Kidney Foundation, will be reported in more detail at the XX International Congress of The Transplantation Society in Vienna this fall.

Dr. Delmonico said the broader objectives of the Forum were to

- develop an international standard of care for live kidney donors
- develop a position statement on the responsibility of the transplant community for the live kidney donor; and
- forge an alliance with the World Health Organization (WHO) to implement the new standards.

Forum participants agreed that live kidney donors must receive a complete medical and psychosocial evaluation prior to donation, Dr. Delmonico said. They must give appropriate informed consent, and must be capable of understanding the information with which they are presented in order to make a voluntary decision.

More broadly, participants discussed the evaluation of various medical issues in the potential donor, including hypertension, body mass index, dyslipidemia, renal function, malignancy, and any history or current presence of infectious diseases such as tuberculosis or hepatitis. Discussion touched on the current worldwide gender imbalance among kidney donors, the majority of whom are female, and the use of living unrelated donors. And the group addressed the important role of a donor advocate in protecting and promoting the interests and well-being of the donor.



The Forum was sponsored by Novartis Transplantation & Immunology, Fujisawa Healthcare Inc., Roche Pharmaceuticals, Genzyme Corporation, Wyeth Pharmaceuticals, the International Society of Nephrology, the National Kidney Foundation of Singapore, and The Transplantation Society.

In the months ahead, The Transplantation Society will join with the WHO in a global effort to track the welfare and outcomes of live donors.

Countries represented at the Amsterdam Forum

Argentina	Lebanon
Austria	Mexico
Australia	New Zealand
Belgium	Norway
Brazil	Oman
Canada	Pakistan
China	Peru
Colombia	Philippines
Egypt	Puerto Rico
Finland	Saudi Arabia
France	South Africa
Germany	Spain
India	Sweden
Iran	Switzerland
Ireland	The Netherlands
Israel	Tunisia
Italy	Turkey
Japan	United Kingdom
Korea	United States
Latvia	Venezuela

Amsterdam participants were asked to become 'emissaries' for live kidney donation standards in their own regions.

Photo: Jim Warren

Upcoming Meetings

Mark your calendar now...

2004

XX International Congress of The Transplantation Society
Chair: Dr. Raimund Margreiter
Location: Vienna, Austria
Dates: September 5-10, 2004
Info: www.transplantation2004.at

3rd International Islet Isolation Workshop

Chairs: Dr. Antonio Secchi,
Dr. Federico Bertuzzi
Location: Milan, Italy
Dates: October 11-13, 2004
Info: www.sanraffaele.org/JumpCh.asp?idLang=En&idUser=0&idChannel=1482

7th International Congress of the Cell Transplant Society

Chair: Dr. Gordon Weir
Location: Boston, MA, USA
Dates: November 17-20, 2004
Info: www.celltx.org

2005

10th Meeting of the International Pancreas and Islet Transplant Association (IPITA)

Chair: Dr. Thierry Berney
Location: Geneva, Switzerland
Dates: May 4-7, 2005
Info: www.ipita.org

9th Basic Sciences Symposium of The Transplantation Society

Title: Basic Research for Better Transplantation
Chair: Ignacio Anegon
Location: La Baule, France
Dates: June 19-22, 2005
Info: www.nantes.inserm.fr/u437

VIII Congress of the International Xenotransplantation Association (IXA)

Chair: Dr. Michael Breimer
Location: Göteborg, Sweden
Dates: September 10-14, 2005
Info: www.sahlgrenska.gu.se/ixa2005

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

Location: Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil
Date: December 4-7, 2005
Info: www.vjs.com.br

2006

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

2007

Joint Meeting with International Xenotransplantation Association (IXA), the International Pancreas and Islet Transplant Association (IPITA), and Cell Transplant Society (CTS)

Chairs: D Sutherland, B Herring and J Leventhal
Location: Minneapolis, MN, USA
Date: September 15-20, 2007



Senior officials with The Transplantation Society visited the Central Business Office (CBO) in Montreal, Canada, in June 2004. The CBO provides essential administrative support to the Society, and stands ready to assist members with any needs related to their Society membership. From left to right: June Viau (Project Manager), Philip Dombrowski (Executive Director), Lucy Felicissimo (President, Felicissimo & Associates Inc.), Jeremy Chapman (Senior Treasurer), Denise Charbonneau (Accounting Director), Frank Lindo (Membership Services), Filomena Picciano (Accounting Manager)

Vienna 2004

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- New data on tolerance induction by chimerism and co-stimulation blockade
- Reports on sparing regimes that support a gradual shift to long-term medication that is less toxic, and on regulatory cell function in the immune process.

Dr. Mühlbacher added that a special section of the Congress will be devoted to health care regulatory issues, including lessons that regulators from the World Health Organization, the European Union, and the United States can learn from one another.

Key Congress presentations will include: the Medawar Prize, the world's most prestigious award for outstanding contributions in the field of transplantation, supported by a generous gift from Novartis; and the Young Investigators Award supported by a generous gift from Fujisawa. The Congress has been planned in accordance with the Essential Areas and Policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education, and participants can earn Category I CME credits.

Publications policy for 2004 Congress

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The same policy will apply to the abstract book and to the 200 highest-scoring abstracts at the Vienna Congress. As well, consistent with the policy that was in place before 2002, the authors of all other abstracts accepted for presentation at the Congress will be invited to submit manuscripts for publication in a special issue of *Transplantation Proceedings*. This decision reflects a widespread wish among the membership to have all accepted abstracts published in article form.

Detailed instructions regarding the preparation and submission of manuscripts has been sent to the first authors.

News from the Sections

The specialty Sections of The Transplantation Society are a cornerstone of the organization's commitment to professional interaction and networking. The following updates were received from four of the six Sections.

The International Society for Organ Donation and Procurement (ISODP) was founded in 1991 as the International Society for Organ Sharing (ISOS). Its mission is to foster, promote, and develop all aspects of organ and tissue donation and procurement. Its ultimate aim is to increase the supply of high-quality organs and tissue to match increasing demand. The Society solicits membership from professionals in transplantation, intensive care, and related professions, as well as in ethics and legislation.

Proceedings of the ISODP's December, 2003 Congress in Warsaw will soon be available in *Annals of Transplantation* (lisik@txsurg.edu.pl), and the Society will hold its 8th Congress, December 4-7, 2005 in Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil. The ISODP invites members and non-members alike to participate in making the 8th Congress a success.

The Intestinal Transplantation Society (ITS) held its inaugural meeting at the VIII International Small Bowel Transplant Symposium, in Bal Harbor, Florida in September 2003. Nearly 300 participants representing an array of medical specialties gathered to create the Society, approve its bylaws, and enthusiastically welcome the establishment of the ITS as a Section of The Transplantation Society. The ITS will hold its next meeting in Brussels in 2005.

The International Xenotransplantation Association (IXA) will hold its VIII Congress, September 10-14, 2005 in Göteborg, Sweden. Committee Chair Dr. Michael Breimer promises an exciting scientific programme that will rival the scientifically strong VII Congress, which took place last year in Glasgow, Scotland. September is a beautiful time to visit Sweden, and the Association enthusiastically welcomes all interested scientists and clinicians to attend this exceptional biennial meeting on xenotransplantation.

The International Pancreas and Islet Transplant Association (IPITA) will hold its 10th Meeting, May 4-7, 2005 in Geneva, Switzerland (www.ipita.org), and notes the upcoming 3rd International Islet Isolation Workshop in Milan, Italy from October 11-13, 2004. The many advantages of IPITA membership include cultural exchange and interaction with professionals in the field of islet-pancreas transplantation, along with practical benefits such as travel grants and reduced fees for IPITA meetings.