



Sydney heading for great success

The XXII International Congress of The Transplantation Society is indeed shaping up very well. The abstracts are closed – though there is still the chance for submitting a late breaking abstract right up to June.



Abstracts are being reviewed and scored by 500 people in 50 different panels so that we can organize the 70 oral sessions, 32 mini-oral sessions and the poster sessions. Sydney abstracts exceed the number submitted to the Vienna Congress. Over 2,500 abstracts were received. Large attendance is anticipated for the Congress in August.

The Postgraduate weekend (August 9 and 10) will contain something for everyone. There are courses for clinicians, for clinical trainees, for scientists and Transplant Nurses and for Transplant Coordinators and those involved in Organ Donation. Tissue Typers will be holding a full-day workshop on Saturday, August 9 under the auspices of ASEATTA. Sunday, August 10 contains half-day workshops for Transplant Surgeons, Transplant Infectious Disease specialists, Pediatricians, The Cochrane collaboration and for those who work in the Donation and Transplant Registries.

The Program Highlights of the week include Plenary sessions from some of our most thoughtful and insightful contributors to transplantation. They will tackle subjects such as: What are the challenges for the next five years? Will Stem cell transplantation overtake organ transplants as we know them today? Where will the 'omics – Genomics, Proteomics, Pharmacogenomics – take us? The

main State-of-the-Art program will review all the major areas of interest across the fields of Immunosuppression, Renal, Liver, Heart, Lung, Pancreas, Islet, Intestine, Bone Marrow, Stem Cell and Cornea. Xenotransplantation, Infectious diseases, Pediatrics, Donation, Ethics... there is more than enough to fill your week and ensure that you return home enthused and invigorated by the clinical practice and science of transplantation.

The Social Program will allow us to show you a little of our Aussie hospitality. A traditional welcome to the country by those who have lived here for 50,000 years will start the proceedings. Opera, Dance, Music or a chance to see our wilder side (the fauna) will entice you on our cultural evening. Recreating the memorable 1992 Congress night at Montmartre, we will have a gala evening to suit everyone's taste, as we spend a night in the Rocks area of Sydney.

If you have the desire to see just a little of our country there are Satellite meetings for the scientists in Brisbane (Dendritic cells) and the clinicians in Cairns (CAN and ABO incompatible transplantation). You could simply travel the country – it can take a day, a week, a month or a year – depending on how much time you have...

We all look forward to seeing you there. ☺



Sydney abstracts exceed the number submitted to the Vienna Congress. Large attendance is anticipated for the Congress in August.

FOUR DECADES OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, INNOVATION, GROWTH AND PROGRESS

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For all of us who live in Northern latitudes, this winter has seemed interminable with endless grey days, snow, sleet, and cold. Yet those of us who have heard the intermittent presentations and ongoing reports by the Local Organizing Committee for the XXII TTS Congress in Sydney in August, can easily visualize a wonderful meeting in a spectacular location. It will be winter in the Antipodes, yet the sun will be warm and the days exceedingly pleasant. The organizers have amassed important speakers, a program of broad interest, e-posters, and an excellent social program. Not only that, we will see parts of the Beijing Olympics on television screens scattered here and there. The last time the Congress was held in Sydney, it was a resounding success. This one promises to be fantastic!

As I will discuss in more detail below, we held a very successful Retreat for the Officers, members of Council, and the Section Presidents near San Francisco in early February. Several important subjects are in continuing discussions, including solidifying and embellishing our relationship with our Sections, and affiliating with regional and national societies. Ethical considerations about ongoing and accelerating commerce in organs and tissues in many areas of the world have been given much emphasis. Please read the Report of the DMA carefully. Much effort has been expended in discourse with concerned professionals, Ministers of Health, and others

in the Governments of a variety of regions to bring rational solutions to exploitation of the poor.

Based on important discussions initiated recently in Dubai, Francis Delmonico, Luc Noël, President-Elect Jeremy Chapman and others, who include the leadership of the International Society of Nephrology, will convene a very important meeting of about 160 invited participants in April, The Istanbul Summit on Organ Trafficking and Transplant Tourism. These individuals, from all over the world will address this global problem and formulate strategies, guidelines of behavior, and advice for national Ministers of Health, governmental authorities and practitioners alike. TTS has been a consistent force behind this critical initiative.

With the idea of creating a central repository of transplantation history to which future historians of our field could find pertinent material, I have amassed a collection of books by Past-Presidents, a spectrum of pictures relating to transplantation, occasional obituaries of seminal figures, letters, and other relevant memorabilia. This will be housed in our International Headquarters within a few months. It is a nice collection. All those interested in the rich background of this remarkable subject are invited to avail themselves of it. ☺



Nicholas L. Tilney

TTS Council Retreat votes to support WHO guidelines

A Council Retreat was held in early February near San Francisco. All Councilors attended, plus all Section Presidents. Luc Noël of WHO, and Annika Tibell, Chair of TTS Ethics Committee, were special guests.

One and a half full days provided time for us to discuss a variety of important subjects and strategies at length. The object of the Retreat was to formulate and discuss various topics of importance in the future of TTS. Jeremy Chapman designed a most comprehensive program, assigning knowledgeable individuals to lead breakout sessions that covered the individual subjects. Each facilitator summarized the group discussions and presented them to the entire Council for further debate and dissection. He or she then gave a report

and opened discussion by the entire group.

Dr. Luc Noël, the representative of the World Health Organization (WHO), was the honored guest. Thanks to the efforts of Past-President Kathryn Wood and our Director of Medical Affairs, Francis Delmonico, TTS has had an official relationship with WHO for several years. Since the beginning of this relationship, Francis has worked tirelessly with WHO in combating the pernicious practice of buying and selling of organs in many areas of the world. Their efforts have been effective. With the collaboration of the Chinese Minister of Health, the use of organs from executed prisoners in China has decreased substantially. Efforts in other countries are moving apace.

The full agenda of the Retreat included

Continued on page 3

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Distinguishing Medical Tourism from Transplant Tourism

It is well known that medical tourism now exists in a global market of medical care. If a patient can undergo a surgical procedure that is less costly in a foreign country that still provides excellent care, insurance companies are finding this opportunity very appealing for their patients. However, transplant tourism is different from medical tourism because it involves the use of another person in that surgical procedure as the donor source of an organ. The individual who provides a kidney for the transplant tourist is always a poor person who virtually has no alternative to provide resources for themselves or their family but to sell a kidney. The recent media stories regarding the illegal trafficking in India have made that evident once again.

It should be noted that transplant tourism does not necessarily involve recipients with dual citizenship that undergo transplantation in a country of citizenship that is not their residence. For example, a patient who resides in Canada with Canadian citizenship who returns to India (with a dual Indian citizenship) to undergo kidney transplantation from a sibling that resides in India. However, this circumstance is uncommon and the overwhelming majority of transplant tourists go to destinations (with no citizenship) that have

markets for organs. It is the readily available kidney to purchase from a vendor that has expanded tourist transplantation to now constitute approximately 10% of all organ kidney transplants performed worldwide.

The Transplantation Society is working closely with the World Health Organization to combat organ trafficking and transplant tourism. The World Health Assembly resolution of 2004 called upon member states “to take measures to protect the poorest and vulnerable groups from transplant tourism and the sale of tissues and organs, including attention to the wider problem of international trafficking in human tissues and organs”.

Organ transplantation performed in the realm of markets is also vulnerable to an inconsistent regulatory oversight of transplantation practice. Patients returning from foreign countries with organ transplants are at risk for unknowingly transmitting infectious disease such as Avian flu and hepatitis. This public health hazard should not be overlooked in proposals from those countries seeking to institute global markets for transplantation services. ©



Francis L. Delmonico

TTS COUNCIL RETREAT VOTES TO SUPPORT WHO GUIDELINES... *Continued from page 2*

GAT and Governance, Ethics and History, Membership and Awards, Sections and Meetings, and Communications and Operations. The deliberations of three of the sessions are summarized below.

- Much effort has been expended to standardize and streamline the relationship and responsibilities between the Sections and TTS. We made progress in carrying this out, agreeing on administrative matters and details of joint membership. The Sections are a very important part of TTS and we anticipate ever closer collaboration with them and their aims.

- There was much discussion about ethics and the influence of national and cultural differences on this subject. The Council voted to support the updated guiding principles of the WHO that affirm the resolution of the World Health Assembly to protect the poor and the vulnerable from organ trafficking and transplant tourism. These guiding principles also call for a ban on organ markets (“regulated” or not). Global discussions on ethical issues



Participants at the TTS Council Retreat take a break from their discussions.

continue unabated.

- TTS is working to affiliate with as many as 19 regional and national societies throughout the world. Such a relationship will have mutual benefits, with the affiliated societies receiving many educational and financial incentives of TTS, and TTS accruing more members. TTS and the Canadian Society of Transplantation have recently agreed to affiliate. Others are in progress. This initiative is very important to all of us in the field. ©





KEY OPINION LEADERS MEET IN SOUTH AFRICA AND COSTA RICA

As with prior nKOL meetings, the invitees were extremely enthusiastic and grateful for the efforts of TTS.

In the 40th anniversary year of the first heart transplant, The Transplantation Society collaborated with the South African Transplantation Society to organize a new Key Opinion Leader Meeting in Cape Town.

On the first evening of the meeting, TTS honored Professor John Terblanche and Professor Burt Mybergh as pioneers in the field of transplantation. Leaders from each of the six TTS global regions nominated their most promising young colleagues to attend the meeting and present their data.

For this 8th nKOL meeting organized by TTS, with the assistance of Professor Delawir Kahn, the program covered many of the clinical issues and scientific challenges that professionals working in the field of transplantation in Africa encounter every day in their clinical and laboratory practices. In-depth discussions of the increased risks of infection, including HIV/AIDS, organ allocation in resource-restricted environments, strategies for introducing novel immunosuppressive agents, and

The 9th new KOL meeting was held in San José, Costa Rica, in January. Filomena Picciano and her team from the TTS International Headquarters once again provided a flawless and highly organized venue. Josefina Alberu of Mexico, Stuart Knechtle of Wisconsin, and Maria Matamoros of Costa Rica, all distinguished clinicians and scientists, organized a most interesting program presented by polished speakers. The overall format was similar to the others: about half of the discussions involved basic and clinical science; the remainder was dedicated to regional considerations. The invited “foreign” speakers came from various centers in North America, Germany, Spain, Trinidad/Tobago and France. The Latin speakers travelled from Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Guatemala, Costa Rica,

Mexico, and Cuba. The new KOLs uniformly did an excellent job, providing informative and interesting talks.

The opening dinner was enlivened by the presence of several guests: Maria Avila, the Costa Rican Minister of Health; Dr. Rogelio Pardo, a distinguished physician and ex-Minister of Health; and Jaime Gongora, a leading urologist. Professor José Medina Pestana, who received the Pioneer Award, gave a most interesting after-dinner talk on his huge transplant program in São Paulo, Brazil. In addition, he described several strikingly original innovations in surgery and successful changes in the overall organization of his program.

It was humbling for many of us to hear the difficulties the transplant professionals face in some of the developing countries yet still manage to accrue superb results. As with all the prior nKOL meetings, the invitees were extremely enthusiastic and grateful for the efforts of TTS. These meetings have been uniformly successful and have provided our Society with many eager new and productive members – tomorrow’s leaders of our field. ©



Leaders from the six TTS global regions and their promising colleagues at the Cape Town meetings.

the challenges of using organs from marginal and non-heart beating donors were discussed during the three-day event.

A special session to discuss the challenges of establishing kidney transplantation programs enabled the participants to hear perspectives from centers in Nigeria, Senegal and Kenya. Each of the transplant programs represented explained how establishing relationships with transplant centers in South Africa, UK or USA had been invaluable as they initiated their own programs.

What they said...

nKOL COSTA RICA

“ A good opportunity to meet some of the best investigators and upcoming investigators in the field. In addition, it was a good opportunity to learn about some of the barriers that other countries face and how they rise above them.”

Dr. Darshama Dadhania, USA

“ TTS is promoting an efficient learning process, involving interactions among different cultures and levels of knowledge in the transplant field.”

Dr. José O. Medina Pestana, Brazil

nKOL SOUTH AFRICA

“ It permitted African Nephrologists to talk about their specific problems and to meet leading nephrologists and establish links with them.”

Dr. Boucar Diouf, Senegal

“ It far surpassed my expectations. I was very impressed by how friendly and outgoing everyone was to me. The quality of the presentations was first rate and I learned a great deal from them. I have never had the opportunity to interact with physicians and scientists from such a broad background involving transplantation. My interactions with the delegates from Africa were eye-opening.”

Dr. Jeffrey Campsen, USA

“ It was very well organized, on time and very interesting. Next to the scientific programme there were good discussions which will definitely lead to improvement of practice for some participants and to new research collaborations for others.”

Dr. Ernest van Heurn, The Netherlands



Dr. N. Tilney and Dr. J. Medina Pestana, Pioneer at the nKOL Costa Rica meeting.



Leaders, distinguished guests and younger colleagues at the Costa Rica meeting.



John Terblanche, Pioneer at nKOL Meeting in South Africa, his wife and Delawir Kahn, Chair of the meeting.

First CTS-IPITA-IXA Joint Conference a resounding success



The Gala Dinner included a special program entitled 'Esteemed Experts Exchange Epiphanies, Eureka's, and Euphorias Experienced in an Exuberant Era of Experimentation'...

The first Joint Conference of the Cell Transplant Society (CTS), International Pancreas and Islet Transplant Association (IPITA), and International Xenotransplantation Association (IXA), all sections of TTS, took place in Minneapolis, MN from September 15 to 20, 2007.

Attended by 844 delegates from 33 countries, this Joint Conference was TTS's major event in 2007 and the premier event in the areas of pancreas, islet, cell, and xenotransplantation in a 2-year time span.

Program highlights included the Dr. Paul Lacy Memorial Lecture given by Dr. Clyde Barker; the Keynote Lecture by Dr. Mark Ellinger on 'Patent Protection for Cellular Therapeutics in an Evolving Scientific and Legal Environment'; Presidential Addresses by Drs. Jacques Tremblay, James Shapiro, and Megan Sykes; and the Closing Ceremony Lecture on 'The Road Ahead' by Dr. Carl-Gustav Groth. Also well received were superb plenary lectures by Drs. David Sachs, Irving Weissman, Anthony Atala, and Robert Lanza on 'Overcoming Organ Shortage'; by Drs. Peter Heeger, Peter Cowan, Joerg Seebach, and Daniel Goldstein on 'Innate Immunity and Inflammation'; by Drs. Megan Sykes, Bruce Blazar, Katarina LeBlanc, and Terry Strom on 'Tolerance'; and by Drs. Alan Colman, Magdalena Kucia, Derek van der Kooy, and Amy Wagers on 'Stem Cells and Plasticity'.

The interdisciplinary symposia addressed topics pertinent to all three participating societies: ethics; heart replacement and bridging; coagulation and thrombosis; trends in immunosuppression; endothelial activation, angiogenesis, revascularization; neural tissue replacement; liver replacement and bridging; animal engineering and tissue engineering; islet replacement; antibody-mediated rejection and tolerance; stem cell-derived hepatocytes; donor sources for islet transplantation; disease transmission/zoonosis; and polyclonal T-cell antibodies in pancreas and islet transplantation.

The CTS symposia included presentations on myoblast transplantation, tissue engineering, gene therapy, and bone and cartilage. The IPITA symposia centered on long-term islet transplantation function, current issues in whole pancreas

transplantation, control of autoimmunity in pancreas and islet transplantation, and optimal immunosuppression in pancreas transplantation. The IXA symposia provided updates on transplantation in the crossmatch-positive recipient, accommodation and antibodies, xenotolerance, and cellular mechanisms of xenograft rejection.

'Early Bird' workshops covered cell processing; novel targets in immunosuppression; cell delivery, regeneration and growth factors; tailored immunosuppression; enzymes for human islet isolation; posttransplant monitoring; potential immunogenicity of non-hematopoietic stem cell products/therapy; pancreas utilization, donation, allocation and preservation; and regulations, standards, and the accreditation process of the islet cell laboratory.

The main conference was preceded by two well-attended interactive satellite symposia: 'Source Pigs for Xenotransplant Trials' organized and chaired by Dr. Henk-Jan Schuurman; 'Critical Issues in Human Islet Isolation and Transplantation' co-chaired by Drs. Camillo

Ricordi, James Shapiro, and Bernhard Hering representing the 'Human Islet Isolation and Transplantation Training (HIITT)' workshop series and by Drs. Mathias Brendel, Paul Johnson, and Olle Korsgren representing the Network of Islet Centers in Europe (NICE).

The Gala Dinner included a special program

entitled 'Esteemed Experts Exchange Epiphanies, Eureka's, and Euphorias Experienced in an Exuberant Era of Experimentation' — at once educational, enlightening, and entertaining.

It was the objective of this conference to facilitate cross-fertilization among clinicians and scientists active in pancreas, islet, cell, and xenograft transplantation and to foster the exchange of new and diverse perspectives in three rapidly emerging and overlapping fields. As organizers, we are hopeful that the collaborative spirit at the 2007 Joint Conference will translate into improved results and increased utilization of allogeneic and xenogeneic cell and organ transplantation for the treatment of a variety of diseases. ©



Drs. Megan Sykes and Bernhard Hering at Joint Conference in Minneapolis.

ISODP

MEETING IN PHILADELPHIA – A HUGE SUCCESS

The 9th International Society for Organ Donation and Procurement and the 6th International Transplant Coordinators Society gathered in Philadelphia, PA, November 11-14 to participate in the 2007 Organ and Tissue Donation Congress hosted by the Gift of Life Institute. The Congress brought together 559 preeminent international donation and transplant professionals from 26 countries around the world.

More than 75 invited speakers discussed a variety of best practices, scientific and ethical issues in organ donation that ranged from donor consent, organ preservation, donor registries and transplant tourism, among many other topics. In addition, 173 oral abstracts and poster research were presented. Transplantation Proceedings will publish submitted articles in early summer. The meeting brought in over 100 new members, which brings ISODP membership to nearly 200. We also wish to thank all of our sponsors and exhibitors for their support.

The next Organ and Tissue Donation Congress will be held **October 4-7, 2009** in Berlin, Germany. Deutsche Stiftung Organtransplantation (DSO) will host the meeting. Gunter Kirste, MD, DSO executive director will chair the 2009 Congress. You can get more information on the meeting at www.isodp2009.org

The newly-elected 2007-2009 ISODP officers include:

President	Howard M. Nathan (USA)
President-Elect	Gunter Kirste, MD (Germany)
Treasurer	Bernard Cohen, MBA, PhD (The Netherlands)
Immediate Past President	Valter Duro-Garcia, MD (Brazil)
Secretary	Kim Young (Canada)

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ISODP Officers Standing left to right: Frank Lindo (CAN), Frank Delmonico (USA), Filomena Picciano (CAN), Jeremy Chapman (AUS), Gunter Kirste (GER), S.A. Anwar Naqvi (PAK) Seated left to right: Haken Gabel (SWE), Howard Nathan (USA), Valter Duro-Garcia (BRA), Bernard Cohen (NET)

ITA

INTESTINAL TRANSPLANT ASSOCIATION

Dr. Douglas Farmer organized an excellent Xth International Small Bowel Transplant Symposium held in Los Angeles, California from September 5-8, 2007. This two and one-half day symposium, held every other year, attracted approximately 300 physicians, surgeons, scientists, and inter-disciplinary health care professionals working in the field of pediatric and adult intestinal transplantation, intestinal failure, and intestinal rehabilitation.

Topics of discussion included wait-list dynamics, clinical outcomes, long-term outcomes, transplant immunology, immunosuppression, surgical techniques and challenges, abdominal wall management, critical care, infectious disease complications, ischemia-reperfusion injury, novel diagnostic and monitoring tools, basic science of rejection, nutrition, and health-related quality of life. Single center reports and registry data demonstrated an ongoing improvement in the outcomes of intestine transplantation with one-year graft and patient survival rates now exceeding 80%. Antonio Pinna was elected to host the next XIth Symposium in 2009 in Bologna, Italy.

The new executive and council elected at this meeting are as follows:

President	David Grant, Canada
President-Elect	Thomas Fishbein, USA
Past President	Andreas Tzakis, USA
Secretary/Treasurer	Antonio Pinna, Italy
Councilors	Douglas Farmer, USA
	Olivier Goulet, France
	Alan Langnas, USA
	Susan Beath, UK
	Jorge Reyes, USA
	Jean de Ville de Goyet, Italy

TID

TRANSPLANT INFECTIOUS DISEASES

You are invited to the Transplant Infectious Diseases Section Meeting and Symposium on the morning of **Sunday, August 10, 2008**, in Sydney, Australia, to be held in conjunction with the XXII International Congress of The Transplantation Society. Topics that will be covered include management of CMV infections, tuberculosis, travel medicine, and novel diagnostics. For more information, visit <http://www.transplantation2008.org/home.php>, or the Transplant Infectious Diseases Section website at <http://www.transplantation-soc.org/sections.php?s=02>, or contact the Section president Camille Kotton at InfectiousDisease@transplantation-soc.org. TTS members wishing to join the Transplant Infectious Diseases Section are welcome.

Basic Science

XI TTS BASIC SCIENCE SYMPOSIUM

It is with great pleasure that The Transplantation Society (TTS), the European Society for Organ Transplantation (ESOT) and the Belgian Transplantation Society invite you to Brussels, Belgium to attend the XI TTS Basic Science Symposium and the I ESOT Basic Science Meeting.

This congress aims at promoting basic research in the field of transplantation and brings together scientists from academia and research institutions from Europe and around the world. The scientific program for this four-day event includes invited lectures by 25 internationally acknowledged scientists, as well as contributed oral communications and poster sessions. Lectures highlight important areas of transplantation immunology and are part of a series of symposia focusing on the latest developments in a wide variety of topics, such as innate recognition of pathogens and new mechanisms of immune regulation.

Poster sessions form an important part of the congress and are given ample time and space. Young scientists, in particular graduate students and post-doctoral fellows, are very much encouraged to participate. The event provides a unique opportunity to exchange views on the most recent developments in experimental transplantation.

We look forward to welcoming you to Brussels from **March 12-15, 2009**.

WEBSITE UPDATE

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www.transplantation-soc.org

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In order to avoid any delays for your online access to the *Transplantation* journal, please ensure that your membership dues are paid and your account is active. To pay, visit www.transplantation-soc.org, and log in to your member login.

Members of our distinguished Sections, pay and save!

If you are an active TTS member as well as a member of our distinguished Sections,

- Cell Transplant Society
- International Pancreas & Islet Transplant Association
- Int'l Society for Organ Donation & Procurement
- International Xenotransplantation Association
- Intestinal Transplant Association
- Transplant Infectious Disease

you can now pay your membership dues jointly online at www.transplantation-soc.org and save 50% off your TTS membership dues.

UPCOMING TTS MEETINGS

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



XXII International Congress of The Transplantation Society Sydney, Australia August 10 to 14, 2008

Sydney Convention Centre
www.transplantation2008.org

KEY DATES:

MAY 6, 2008
Abstract acceptance advised

MAY 26, 2008
Early registration incentive closes

JUNE 9, 2008
Late breaking abstract submission date

AUGUST 10 to 14, 2008
Congress

XI TTS Basic Science Symposium / I ESOT Basic Science Meeting

Brussels, Belgium

March 12-15, 2009

Chair: Dr. Michel Braun
Info: mbraun@ulb.ac.be

XIth International Small Bowel Transplant Symposium

Bologna, Italy

September 9-12, 2009

Royal Hotel Carlton
Chair: Dr. Antonio Pinna
Info: tonyirc@yahoo.com

2009 Organ Donation Congress

Berlin, Germany

October 4-7, 2009

Berlin Congress Center
Chair: Dr. Günter Kirste
Info: www.isodp2009.com

IPITA – IXA Congress 2009

Venice, Italy

October 11-16, 2009

Venice Lido Congress Center
Chair: Dr. Emanuele Cozzi
Info: www.ixa2009venice.it

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

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