



- Cell Transplant Society • International Pancreas and Islet Transplant Association • International Society for Organ Donation & Procurement
- International Xenotransplantation Association • Intestinal Transplant Association • Transplant Infectious Disease

DECEMBER 2007 Volume IV Issue III

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE TRANSPLANTATION SOCIETY

TTS commends the ethical transplantation goals of the People's Republic of China...

TS President-elect Jeremy Chapman, Director of Medical Affairs Francis Delmonico and TTS Membership Chair, John Fung met with People's Republic of China (PRC) Minister of Health Chen Zhu and Vice Minister Huang Jiefu on August 18, 2007 at the China Forum on Organ Transplantation sponsored by the PRC Ministry of Health and the 301 Hospital of the People's Liberation Army (PLA).

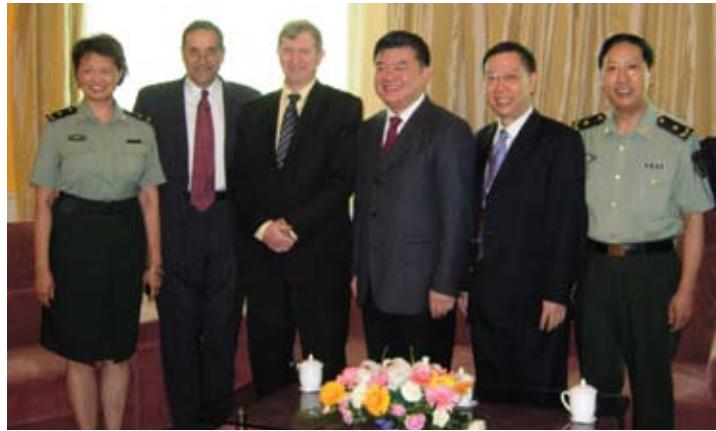
This Forum was convened to promulgate the recently adopted PRC Human Organ Transplantation Act. Dr. Chapman and Dr. Delmonico also met with the President of 301 PLA Military Hospital, General Wen De-Wong.

In Opening Ceremony remarks on behalf of TTS, Dr. Chapman commended the PRC for the changes that have been forthcoming as a result of the national legislation and the vision and leadership of Vice Minister Huang but acknowledged that there was still much to be accomplished. Dr. Chapman expressed the support of TTS for the following goals espoused by the Vice Minister, to be accomplished under the regulatory authority of the PRC National Organ Transplantation Committee (NOTC):

1. Evaluation of the qualifications of health care institutions and physicians performing transplantation in China;
2. Establishment of an organ transplant registry system to monitor all organ transplants carried out in China;
3. Allocation of deceased donor organs through a national and provincial network;
4. Enactment and promotion of the planned legislation that would permit the use of neurological criteria in the declaration of death;
5. Education and training by Chinese centers of excellence to enhance the knowledge and skills of Chinese transplant professionals with the cooperation of TTS.

Dr. Chapman expressed the intent of TTS to

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Left to right: Chen Xiaoling, Vice Superintendent 301 Military Hospital, F.L. Delmonico, J. Chapman, Minister of Health of the People's Republic of China Chen Zhu, Vice Minister Huang Jiefu, General Wen De-Wong, Political leader of 301 Hospital.

...but looks to China to sustain its combat of organ trafficking after the Beijing Olympics.

FOUR DECADES OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, INNOVATION, GROWTH AND PROGRESS

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As President, Past-President Kathryn Wood, DMA Francis Delmonico, DSO Filomena Picciano, and Membership Services Manager Frank Lindo journeyed to Sydney in July to meet President-Elect Jeremy Chapman and his Local Organizing Committee for the 2008 Congress. We spent a valuable morning with our Corporate Sponsors, and then toured the Convention Center and the entertainment venues. Planning for the Congress is far along and was a pleasure to hear about. The XXII International Congress of The Transplantation Society will be a spectacular event.

NEW KOL MEETINGS PROVING SUCCESSFUL

Jeremy then hosted our seventh new KOL meeting at Bondi Beach, a resort near Sydney. It was a wonderful venue, stimulating meeting, excellent papers by new KOLs, and long discussions led by the mentors and Chairpersons. Several countries were ably represented. Professor Ian McKenzie was a most enlightening and entertaining Pioneer.

Following the next KOL in Cape Town in November hosted by Professor Del Kahn, a further new KOL meeting will be held in Costa Rica in January, spearheaded by Stuart Knechtle. The brainchild of Kathryn Wood, these have been uniformly successful and have gained the Society many new and enthusiastic members.

Indeed, membership is growing nicely. We have streamlined the process substantially, to everyone's relief!

FIRST JOINT SECTION MEETING A GREAT SUCCESS

The Joint Congress of IXA, IPITA, and Cell convened in September in Minneapolis, hosted by Bernhard Hering and his team. My congratulations go to Bernhard Hering, Megan Sykes and David Sutherland for organizing this very successful event.

STEMMING TRANSPLANT TOURISM

As you can see in the DMA's Report of his meeting in Beijing, much activity continues in stemming commercialism and transplant tourism. All of us in our profession owe Jeremy, Francis, and Annika Tibell, Chair of the Ethics Committee, a great debt for their remarkable efforts. TTS in collaboration with WHO, after all, is the sole professional voice decrying these activities.

HEADQUARTERS RUNNING SMOOTHLY

The International Headquarters continues to gel into a smoothly running whole. All of us should be extremely grateful to Filomena Picciano, Director of Society Operations and her team for their substantial efforts and support. We also now have a new webmaster, Hooman Akhavan from dDream Media, to orchestrate the Society website. His presence simplifies and streamlines many interactions and activities.

NOMINATIONS NOW BEING RECEIVED

The nomination forms for TTS Councillors and the Medawar prize have been mailed to all members. Please take the opportunity to nominate your colleagues for these prestigious positions. Deadline for nominations is January 27, 2008.



The entire Transplantation Society team and I would like to wish you all the very best for the Holidays and the New Year. May your happiness increase with your personal joys and professional satisfactions.

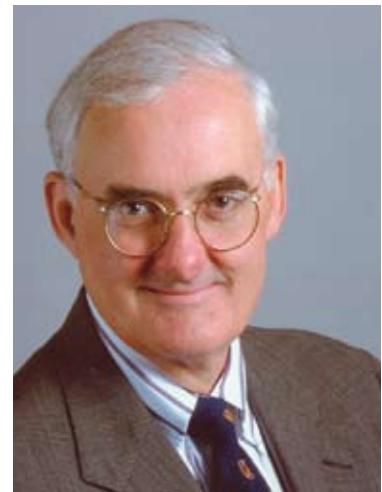


Pay membership dues online

2008 TTS and Section membership dues can now be paid online. If you have not yet paid your past dues, please do so immediately as you may lose access to all your benefits, including free online access to *Transplantation* after January 15, 2008.

To pay, visit www.transplantation-soc.org, and log in to your personal profile. Once logged in, you can pay your dues and purchase your journals. *Transplantation* and all Section journals are available through this service as well.

www.transplantation-soc.org



Nicholas L. Tilney

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TTS commends...

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engage Chinese transplant professionals as members of TTS and to foster the participation of Chinese transplant professionals in international meetings of TTS (for those who have signed and adhere to the membership statement of TTS). Dr. Chapman brought to attention the framework for this interaction, detailed by TTS Ethics Chair Annika Tibell in the August 18, 2007 Transplantation report (84:292-294) of TTS policy interactions with China.

In Opening Ceremony remarks on behalf of the World Health Organization, Dr. Delmonico expressed the support of the WHO for the Vice Minister and for the changes already accomplished in China. Dr. Delmonico noted that the WHO sees China as an influential and vital model to the rest of the world, especially when contrasted to the realities now experienced in other Asian countries such as the Philippines and Pakistan. Specifically noted from China's Transplantation Act was the following provision of Article 3: "no organization or individual may purchase or sell in any way human body organs, or engage in activities relevant to purchasing and selling human organs".

The organ transplantation rate and the rate of executions in China have both fallen substantially as the national government of China exerts its authority. The transplantation programs have slowed and the use of living donors has increased. Transplant tourists are now seeking other destinations and the Chinese transplantation community is facing the same issues as the rest of the world with respect to the mismatch between the number of organs available and the number of recipients that would benefit. It is now critical that the international community remain steadfast in their determination to promote and support real and lasting change in China. ☺



Sydney gears up for the 22nd International Congress of The Transplantation Society

The 22nd International Congress of The Transplantation Society will be a unique opportunity to hear the best from around the world in the field of transplantation in what will prove to be an exciting meeting in beautiful surroundings.

A comprehensive scientific program has been developed which covers all the major transplant disciplines including an exciting program consisting of plenary sessions, state-of-the-art symposia, early morning workshops and free communication presentations. In addition, there is a two-day pre-congress CME program providing educational updates for clinicians, nurses, scientists and allied health staff.

There is an appropriate mix of over-the-horizon science and topics of direct clinical relevance. In addition, there are state-of-the-art presentations on important topics such as ethics, organ donation, stem cells and bone marrow transplantation. International experts will present their views (and data) on a wide range of subjects. These include topics such as: advances in organ procurement, maximizing long-term graft survival, ethical issues in donation and transplantation, manipulating regulatory pathways to control the immune response, new immunosuppressive drugs in development, and whether islets will be the first xenotransplant used clinically. More than 40 state-of-the-art topics will be run over 4 days in 10 conjoint sessions.

PROVOCATIVE PLENARY SESSIONS

In addition to the state-of-the-art symposia, there are six plenary sessions. These have been selected to highlight those features that are thought to be both at the cutting edge of transplantation whilst having a major impact

on future clinical practice. There will be provocative talks on strategies to improve long-term graft survival, the impact of genomics and proteomics on clinical transplantation and an assessment of new immunosuppressive paradigms. There will be a realistic evaluation of stem cells as a source of tissue replacement as well as a session on ethics and the role of emerging nations such as China.

An impressive list of speakers has agreed to participate: Peter Doherty, Sir Peter Morris, Shimon Efrat, Hugh Auchincloss, Maria Gracia Roncarolo, Flavio Vincenti, Philip Halloran, Peter Nickerson, Gerhard Opelz, Jack Lake, Mandeep Mehra, Luc Noël and Huang Jiefu.

"These are some of the highlights of the meeting. Our planning committee is happy with the progress we have made. We have endeavored to provide something for everyone from basic science, through clinical practice, to new techniques in transplant surgery, to therapies of the future such as stem cells and mesenchymal cell transplantation," said Philip O'Connell, Chair of the Program Committee, Director of Transplantation at Westmead Hospital.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The meeting runs from August 10 to 14, 2008. The CME course will commence on August 9.

Other important dates are:

March 7, 2008

Close of abstract submission

May 6, 2008

Notification of Acceptances

May 26, 2008

Early Registration cut-off date

June 9, 2008

Late breaking abstract submission date



NEW KEY OPINION LEADER MEETINGS

Registries discussed in Geneva



The WHO seeks to use a standard lexicon or data dictionary as it works to increase harmonization of data collection by national health authorities.

The Geneva new KOL meeting held in conjunction with the World Health Organization (WHO) was a one-of-a-kind opportunity for world transplant experts to discuss how to collaborate effectively on building accurate global transplant registries.

The WHO was represented by Mar Carmona and Beatriz Dominguez-Gil. The meeting was led by Global Alliance for Transplantation (GAT) data leaders Robert Merion, Christopher Rudge, Graeme Russ and Yves Vanrenterghem.

“The important thing is for us all to be talking exactly the same language. We have assumed that we mean what we say — but actually we often mean slightly different things. An example is simply the definition of donor — we use it all the time to compare countries and rates over time. Well a donor in one country means someone who has died and had consented to donate, in another they had to consent and be taken to the OR to donate, in another they actually had to undergo the operation and a donated organ actually had to be transplanted. All use the word “donor” to describe different “donors”. We used the meeting as an opportunity to assist the WHO in forming the basis for a standard data dictionary,” explained Jeremy Chapman who hosted the meeting.

The WHO seeks to use a standard lexicon

or data dictionary as it works to increase harmonization of data collection by national health authorities. There is also a need to facilitate transparency of global transplantation activity, avoiding the ambiguities that currently exist in much of our data and in its analysis. The outcome for all transplant professionals will be the use of data to foster the optimum care of patients.

“We are moving towards global harmonization of our data dictionary. It is not just the WHO, national health authorities and transplant registries that need a standard lexicon. Global clinical trials, the national regulators and investigators in every country need to simply reference a version of the global standard nomenclature and data definitions, rather than create their own,” explained Director of Medical Affairs, Francis L. Delmonico.

“It is a task that will take years and will become increasingly complex, but will grow in usefulness as well. In the future we need many focused efforts, specific topic workshops and annual discussions to progress,” he continued.

Other topics discussed at the new KOL meeting included sessions on waiting lists and donors, transplant survival data, immunosuppression, cardiovascular and malignancy complications and innovations in transplant registries. ☉



The new KOL meeting in Geneva was held in conjunction with the WHO to discuss building accurate global transplant registries.



Turkey hosted 30 key opinion leaders and new KOLs from the Middle East region at a meeting held in Ankara in July.

Key Opinion Leaders gather in Turkey

TS Councillor Mehmet Haberal, DMA Francis Delmonico, and President Elect Jeremy Chapman led a group of about 30 key opinion leaders and new KOL's from the Middle East region at a meeting held in Ankara in July.

The meeting's host, Mehmet Haberal, convened a group of highly regarded experts in transplantation from the Middle East region to discuss issues of global relevance. Science of Tregs, TRAIL, pharmacokinetics and innate immunity-shared the program with clinical topics from liver transplantation for malignant disease, pediatric transplantation in resource poor

environments, viral and bacterial infection, through to pregnancy after transplantation.

Ethical and practical aspects of deceased and living donation stirred much discussion particularly opportunities for non heart beating donation in the Middle East.

"We were reminded of Bernard Shaw's view that progress in the world comes only from the 'unreasonable man'— not prepared to accept the world as it is, but seeking always to change the world. A conclusion from the meeting would perhaps be 'long live the unreasonable man' without them our field would not advance," said Chapman. ☺



Mehmet Haberal

"We were reminded of Bernard Shaw's view that progress in the world comes only from the 'unreasonable man'..."

Australian research strengths highlighted

Sydney hosted 50 invited KOLs from Australia, Japan, South Korea, UK and USA in August at the Bondi surf beach exactly one year from the 2008 International Congress of TTS.

One local attendee did however bring his surfboard on the second day for a lunch-time surf. The meeting canvassed some of the strengths of Australian transplant research, particularly in areas of graft monitoring, Tregs, xenotransplantation, innate immunity, and cancer registry reporting.

"Input from the visitors challenged us in areas of strength and helped us with some of our shortcomings in areas such as organ donor rates and using expanded criteria donors," commented TTS Treasurer Richard Allen who like many attended a new KOL meeting for the first time in Sydney.

"Apart from the cutting edge science provided by the young presenters, the highlight for me was the opportunity to get others not in your area of transplantation expertise excited about yours, and visa versa. It was an unparalleled opportunity for cross-fertilization of ideas, often started by a naive but very intelligent question from left field. If given a chance to attend a new KOL meeting, make the most of it," continued Allen. ☺



Sydney hosted 50 invited KOLs from Australia, Japan, South Korea, UK and USA in August at the Bondi surf beach.

Young Investigator Awards

2006 RECIPIENTS

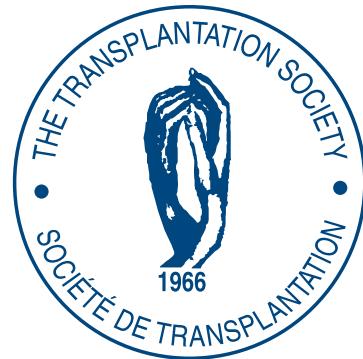
Recipients of the Young Investigator Award in 2006 submitted abstracts to the 1st World Transplant Congress in Boston and received the highest scores by an international review panel. A full list of award winners can be found at www.transplantation-soc.org.

IRIS LEE

Survival of Mismatched Cardiac Allografts

Iris Lee's paper was entitled, "Retrovirally Transduced FoxP3 + T Cells Promote Permanent Survival of Fully MHC-Mismatched Cardiac Allografts in Immunocompetent Hosts". Transduction of CD4 + CD25- T cells was established with murine Foxp3 retroviral vectors; Foxp3 + T cell function was studied in mismatched immunocompetent cardiac transplant recipients. Transduced T cells were anergic and

suppressive *in vitro*. Cardiac allograft recipients showed Foxp3 expression in CD4 + spleen and lymph nodes for weeks. Control T cells proliferated more than Foxp3.Rt + cells. Transduced cells gave a 6x increase in Foxp3 expression and a 2x cardiac allograft survival. Rapamycin reduced proliferation of control T cells and cytokine production but had no effect on transduced cells.



RAN TAO

Control the Suppressive Function of Tregs

Ran Tao's paper was entitled, "Ligation of BTLA Effector T Cells by HVEM Expressed by Regulatory T Cells (Tregs) Controls the Suppressive Functions of Tregs In Vitro and In Vivo". It reported a new role for the HVEM-BTLA pathway in controlling Treg suppressive function. Naïve T cells have minimal BTLA expression but TCR ligation

upregulated it in Tregs and CD4 + CD25- cells. BTLA-/- Tregs were as suppressive as wild type Tregs and BTLA-/- Teff cells proliferated similar to normals upon TCR stimulation. BTLA expression by Teff cells is essential for suppression by Tregs. Resting Tregs and non Tregs showed comparable HVEM expression.

Research Fellowships 2007-2009

TTS Research Fellowships are offered for a period of two years and are designed to provide research training for new, young clinical or scientific investigators with the potential of making a significant contribution to the field of transplantation. The fellows featured below will present a summary of their work at the International Congress of The Transplantation Society in 2010.

NICHOLAS DEGAUQUE, FRANCE

The Role of TH17 T-Cells in Chronic Rejection

Loss of graft due to chronic rejection is the major risk for transplanted patients. Experimental models show tolerance is achievable but chronic rejection has not been investigated. Dr Degauque proposes to study the role of TH17 T-cells in chronic rejection. The appearance of TH17 T-cells and their regulation by cytokines will be studied

in a model of chronic rejection with heart allografts. Transfer experiments will be used to confirm the role of these cells. Therapeutic strategies to prevent chronic rejection will use adenoviruses coding for IL-17 receptors. Human biological materials will be used to validate the findings in model systems.



Nicholas Degauque, France

SIMON URSCHEL, GERMANY

Tolerance to Incompatible Transplants in Young Children

Simon Urschel will investigate the immune tolerance developed in children less than two years old after ABO-incompatible heart transplantation. He will study the correlation between the expression and function of CD21, serum levels of C3 and the presence of blood-group antibodies, the development of tolerance and the clinical course in these children before and after

ABO-incompatible heart transplantation. Mechanisms in the different states of maturity will be analyzed by *in vitro* assays of B-cells, measuring CD81 expression and the inducibility of second messengers in the CD21-receptor cascade. Specimens will be analyzed for relation to age, age at transplantation, specific antibodies and B-cells, the clinical course and development of tolerance.



Simon Urschel, Germany

TTS Sections

NEWS & UPDATES

New Cell Transplant Society (CTS) Council

(as of September 2007)

President	Ole Isacson, USA
Past-President	Jacques Tremblay, Canada
President-Elect	Naoya Kobayashi, Japan
Secretary	Anil Dhawan, UK
Treasurer	Clark K. Colton, USA
Executive Director	Camillo Ricordi, USA
Councilors	Thierry Berney, Switzerland Jonathan R.T. Lakey, Canada Antonio Secchi, Italy Stephen Strom, USA Terry B. Strom, USA Bernie Tuch, Australia Catherine Verfaillie, USA

New International Xenotransplantation Association (IXA) Council

(as of September 2007)

President	Richard N. Pierson, III, USA
Past-President	Megan Sykes, USA
President-Elect	Emanuele Cozzi, Italy
Secretary/Treasurer	Joseph Leventhal, USA
Councilors	Peter Cowan, Australia Anthony Dorling, UK Pierre Gianello, Belgium Takaaki Kobayashi, Japan David Sachs, USA Annika Tibell, Sweden

New Intestinal Transplant Association (ITA) Council

(as of September 2007)

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 Jean de Ville de Goyet Jorge Reyes

Transplant Infectious Diseases

The Transplant Infectious Diseases (TID) Section had a very successful 3rd International Transplant Infectious Disease Conference on Sept. 29-30 in Prague in collaboration with The Transplantation Society (TTS) and the European Society for Organ Transplantation (ESOT). Over a hundred and twenty interna-

tional transplant clinicians attended the meeting. Emerging topics such as donor-derived infections, transplant infectious diseases in resource-limited settings, pandemic influenza, infection risk with newer immunosuppressive agents, antibiotic-resistant bacteria, and new antifungal agents were discussed; in addition, state-of-the-art mini-symposia on BK virus and CMV management were also held. The webcasts can be found on the TTS website: www.transplantation-soc.org.

TID wishes to welcome their new President Camille Kottner.

TTS members wishing to join the Transplant Infectious Diseases Section are welcome.

Basic Science

The 2007 Basic Sciences Symposium held in Halifax, Canada was a great success thanks to all the efforts of Ken West, his local organizing committee, the program organizers and of course all the great speakers and participants.

The program included a broad range of basic biology from innate immunity, allograft injury and tissue remodeling to tolerance, optical imaging in immunity, B cells and antibodies. This was firmly grounded in presentations relating the basic science to the clinic. The invited speakers all gave presentations of exceptional quality and it was much appreciated where the importance and relevance of new approaches for the field of transplantation were highlighted. The abstracts selected for oral presentation were all high quality and very professionally delivered.

Thanks to the efforts of the local organizing committee, the generosity of sponsors and the generosity of TTS and the Canadian Society of Transplantation, a total of 45 travel awards were given to trainees, together with eight poster awards and two awards for the best oral presentations.

A highlight for me was the historical perspectives given by Professors Leslie Brent and Av Mitchison at dinner on the first evening. Their contributions to discussions throughout the meeting were impressive and much appreciated.

The next meeting will be held in or near Brussels (March 11-14, 2009). This will be a joint meeting with the basic sciences group of ESOT with the organization being led by Michel Braun. ☺

IN BRIEF

TTS President visits South Africa

Nicholas L. Tilney was invited to give the keynote address at the Southern African Transplantation Society (SATS) in Durban in September. He also spoke at the Nelson Mandela School of Medicine at an "indaba" (Zulu word for gathering) on the subject of organ donation, a substantial problem there.

The Minister of Health of South Africa promised support for the transplantation effort, a new initiative as the government puts the majority of their funds into AIDS. Leaders of several religions endorsed deceased donation although the traditional healer stressed lingering antipathy toward the concept by members of his community.

"The SATS conference was well attended and of excellent quality. Despite many roadblocks including lack of government and administrative support, a high incidence of infectious diseases such as tuberculosis, and lack of a central body for organ distribution and data gathering, the results of organ transplantation are excellent. Those involved are enthusiastic, dedicated, and competent. It was a pleasure to attend," said Tilney.



Dr. Elinn Steyn, President of SATS, presents an honorary membership to Nicholas L. Tilney.

WEBSITE UPDATE

Visit our website at
www.transplantation-soc.org

Simplified online membership application

Previously, new members could only complete their application by securing two sponsors' letters from current TTS members. Now, this process will be done through email with the following sponsorship selections available on the application website:

SPONSOR 1

Applicants must choose from a list of TTS Officers as a first sponsor. New applicants can also enter the name of any TTS member, but the applicant must provide the member's full name, country and email address.

SPONSOR 2

Applicants can select a TTS Country Liaison Representative or propose another TTS member as a sponsor as described for Sponsor 1.

Once the application is submitted, an automatic email will be sent to the Sponsors stating the new applicant's name along with a short summary of the applicant. Sponsors will reply by email to the Membership Services Manager, Frank Lindo-Verissimo, indicating if they do or do not accept the proposed candidate for membership. Sponsor 1 and 2 must concur for the applicant to be awarded membership.

Pay membership dues online

See page 2 for details.

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:

APRIL 1, 2007

Abstract submissions open

MARCH 7, 2008

Deadline for submissions

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

Basic Science Symposium

Brussels, Belgium

March 11-14, 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

10th International Society for Organ Donation and Procurement (ISODP)

Berlin, Germany

October 4-7, 2009

Berlin Congress Center

Chair: Dr. Günter Kirste

Info: www.isodp2009.com

International Xenotransplantation Association Congress

Venice, Italy

October 15-17, 2009

Venice Lido Congress Center

Chair: Dr. Emanuele Cozzi

Info: www.ixa2009venice.it

THE TRANSPLANTATION SOCIETY OFFICERS

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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