Tribune

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

Tribune

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

Nicholas L. Tilney

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
TTS commends…
Continued from page 1

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
Registries discussed in Geneva

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 WHO seeks to use a standard lexicon or data dictionary as it works to increase harmonization of data collection by national health authorities.
TS Councillor Mehmet Haberal, DMA, Francis Delmonico, and President Elect Jeremy Chapman led a group of about 30 key opinion leaders and new KOLs 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.

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 lunchtime 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.
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. Naive 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.

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.

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.
**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
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  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 international 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 Kotten.

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.

**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. Elwin Steyn, President of SATS, presents an honorary membership to Nicholas L. Tilney.
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 name 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.

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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