

Society News

Global Alliance for Transplantation (GAT)

There are many new and interesting activities afoot at The Transplantation Society (TTS), but one of the most exciting developments is the Global Alliance for Transplantation (GAT). Begun by Carl Groth during his tenure as TTS President, this innovative endeavour will extend and enhance work by TTS to build international consensus in transplantation education, guidelines, and information reporting. TTS Executive Director Phil Dombrowski says "this is a major undertaking for The Transplantation Society, with the potential to have a significant effect on organ transplantation worldwide." TTS recognizes that the task of increasing and improving global access to transplantation therapy is greater than the capacity of any single government or organization. Therefore the GAT has been structured to involve and provide linkages for regional, international, and large national transplant societies, the World Health Organization (WHO), and other organizations or parties with a vested interest in organ transplantation.

Oxford and Seattle

The Oxford, England, planning meeting, co-chaired by Kathryn Wood and Jeremy Chapman, focused on developing an overall business plan for the GAT. It also created a presentation that is being used to present the GAT initiative to stakeholders in transplantation globally. Kathryn Wood says "The Oxford workshop was stimulating and productive. We had a great discussion that did not stop for two days. The goals for the GAT developed during the meeting really reflect the needs highlighted by each of the participating organizations." Representatives from TTS, the American Society of Transplant Surgeons, European Society of Organ Transplantation, International Society of Nephrology, Asian Transplant Society, and the WHO participated.

Members of this group met again in Seattle in May to follow up on the electronic discussions that had been ongoing since Oxford. Kathryn Wood "was delighted that Professors Rizvi and Couser were able to join us for this second meeting." Of the two meetings this spring, Jeremy Chapman said "The GAT gained further impetus with the workshop in Oxford and a follow-up meeting in Seattle. The GAT now has a clear mission statement and defined goals, projects, and timelines." The mission statement is "To advance the safe, effective, and ethical practice of transplantation for all patients in need."

Bob Merion comments that both meetings "were examples of the high level of productivity and collaboration that a committed group of professionals can accomplish."

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Congress Site Selected!

The beautiful Pacific-coast city of Vancouver, Canada, is the winning site for the XXIII International Congress of The Transplantation Society. Over 900 members voted and, with a margin of only six votes, Vancouver edged out Berlin for this honour. When attending this Congress you can expect to experience a groundbreaking translational program in molecular, clinical, and related sciences along with an engaging social program. All this in a place that brings together sophistication, culture, and stunning natural surroundings to offer you a truly exceptional experience. Satellite symposia are planned for Victoria, Whistler, and Seattle. Plan to be there!

From the President

Prof. Kathryn Wood

Expanding programmes—a new pace for TTS

It is a great pleasure to welcome Genzyme as a **new Corporate Sponsor** of The Transplantation Society (TTS). Genzyme has a global business in transplantation, and TTS welcomes the opportunity to collaborate on projects of mutual interest in the international arena.

The Global Alliance for Transplantation (GAT) Task Force met in March to develop the GAT Business Plan. I was delighted to welcome to Oxford the GAT Task Force and the President of each of the larger regional societies with an interest in transplantation, as well as Dr. Luc Noël from the WHO. The discussion was lively and very productive and cemented the GAT program for the next two years. Also, in May in Seattle, Bob Merion

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E-mail: info@transplantation-soc.org Telephone: +1-514-874-1717 Fax: +1-514-874-1716 www.transplantation-soc.org and Chris Rudge held the first meeting on the Data Registry component of the GAT. Further details of the meeting are in the article beginning on Page I of this newsletter.





members of TTS Executive Committee, myself, Nick Tilney (President Elect), David Sutherland (Past President), Paul Keown (Treasurer), Phil Dombrowski (Executive Director) and two or more representatives of each Corporate Sponsor. This is an important forum where TTS updates the Corporate Sponsors on Society initiatives around the world. This year, much of the discussion focused on the successful outcome of the XX International Congress of The Transplantation Society, the new website, TTS' New Directions Programme (outlined in the last newsletter), and The Global Alliance for Transplantation. TTS values the support of each Corporate Sponsor and looks forward to working with them on the new projects that are part of the Society's developing program of activities.

TTS' website is going from strength to strength. As part of the Society's historical archive, video footage of some of the pioneers in the field discussing their recollections and perspectives has been made available on the Members Only section of the website. I am very grateful to Ron Guttmann and Pekka Häyry for their permission to use this unique material. We hope to persuade other senior members of TTS to contribute to this archive. I encourage you to take a look at this area of the website—www.transplantation-soc.org. If you do not have a password please contact Frank Lindo in the CBO (frank.lindo@transplantation-soc.org) and he will provide you with one by return e-mail.

The first set of educational presentations has also been uploaded to the Members Only section of the website. New slide sets will be uploaded each month. Please give us your feedback on this material. If you have a set of slides that you feel would be a valuable addition to this educational initiative, please let me know.

The TTS' Alternate Year Programme which includes the meetings of each of the Sections of TTS is in full swing. IPITA held a very successful meeting in Geneva in early May; in June, exciting and innovative presentations in basic and translational transplantation science were presented at the Basic Sciences Symposium in beautiful La Baule, France; while in early July, the Intestinal Transplant Association held its meeting on advances in this very specialized area of transplantation in Brussels, Belgium. I would like to thank the local organizers for their hard work on behalf of TTS and its Sections for making these smaller, more specialized meetings such a successful component of the TTS meetings calendar.

Kahyu Wood

The Young Investigator Award for 2004

The II recipients of the Young Investigator Award in 2004 submitted abstracts to the XX International Congress of The Transplantation Society and received the highest scores from an international panel of reviewers. The award has been made possible by the generous support of Astellas Pharma Inc. since 1994 (formerly Fujisawa). The Transplantation Society is pleased to profile two Young Investigator Award recipients in each issue of Society News for 2005/2006.



Dr. Tun Jie

Dr. Tun Jie received the Young Investigator Award for his paper titled Pancreatic Islet Xenotransplants Restore Normoglycemia and Insulin Independence in Immunosuppressed Non-Human Primates. He has completed one xenotransplantation

project and is in the preparation stage for another. His current research project concerns islet transplantation in non-human primates. For Dr. Jie, non-human primates are "an ideal experimental model for transplant immunology research because (they are) closely related to humans phylogenetically and immunologically."

"I believe that the main obstacles in solid organ transplantation are the complications from chronic immunosuppressive medications and the shortage of donor organs." Dr. Jie believes the solution may lie in establishing either transplant tolerance or the success of xenotransplantation.

Currently with the Department of Surgery at the University of Minnesota, Dr. Jie received his medical degree from the State University of New York School of Medicine (Downstate), Health Science Center at Brooklyn. He has been with the University of Minnesota since 1999, having completed his internship at the Department of Surgery there. After completing three years of the five-year general surgery residency training, Dr. Jie joined the research team at the Diabetes Institute for Immunology and Transplantation in 2002. He is currently pursuing a Master's degree in health informatics with funding received from the National Library of Medicine (National Library of Medicine

Fellow in Health Informatics) and will resume the remaining two years of general surgery training at the University of Minnesota this summer.



Dr. Hao Wang

Dr. Hao Wang received the Young Investigator Award for his paper titled 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. His current research focus is aimed at understanding the mechanisms of antibody-mediated rejection (ABMR) following transplantation. He has developed and presented at an international conference a presensitized mouse heart transplant model that allows researchers to identify an effective, safe, and inexpensive strategy to prevent ABMR. Dr. Wang's long-term goal is for his research to help increase the number of living donors for organ transplantation and improve immunological graft acceptance in highly sensitized patients. The development of new therapies may allow patients to have continuously well-functioning transplanted grafts, which will reduce the need for retransplantation and potentially the transplant waiting lists. His other research interests include the induction of transplant tolerance and the prevention of xenograft rejection.

In 1990 Dr. Wang graduated from Tianjin Medical University as a medical doctor. He completed an internship and worked as a general surgeon and transplant surgeon at Tianjin Medical University Hospital. He began work as a research fellow in London, Ontario, at the London Health Sciences Centre (LHSC) in 1996 and completed his postdoctoral fellowship training in the Multi-Organ Transplant Program there in 1998. He received his M.Sc. degree in Transplant Immunology from the University

of Western Ontario (UWO) in 2000. Dr. Wang is currently an Assistant Professor in the Department of Surgery at UWO and a Scientist at LHSC.



Officers and Councillors of The Transplantation Society, and Section Presidents at the May TTS Council meeting in Seattle.

News from the Sections

International Xenotransplantation Association (IXA)

The IXA2005 Congress, September I I–I4, 2005 in Göteborg, Sweden (see Upcoming Meetings and Events), will be preceded by a one-and-a-half-day satellite meeting, entitled The 2nd International Symposium on ABO Incompatibility in Transplantation. Designed to complement the main meeting, it will be held September 10–I1. The satellite will focus on the clinical aspects of ABO incompatible transplantation, a subject that has gained considerable attention the last few years, driven by the increasing global shortage of organs for transplantation. A number of well-recognized plenary speakers will lead the proceedings, but participation and submission of abstracts within this area of interest from the wider community is encouraged.

Submitted abstracts have been reviewed and the updated scientific program is found at www.IXA2005.com. We look forward in seeing you in Göteborg in September.

International Society for Organ Donation and Procurement (ISODP)

If you have not already done so, mark your calendars—December 3–7, 2005, for the 8th International Congress of the ISODP and the International Transplant Coordinators Society (ITCS) in Gramado, Brazil. Why not plan for an extended stay as a tourist?

The deadline for submission of abstracts has been extended to August 30. Notification of accepted papers will be sent by September 30. More information and a call for abstracts is available at www.isodp2005.com.br/noticias/noticias.asp.

Apart from presentations of papers and posters there will be interesting panel discussions with invited speakers, among them Nicholas Tilney, Francis Delmonico, and Stewart Youngner.

Join us as members and come to the Organ Donation congresses—our first visit to South America.

Cell Transplant Society

Gordon C. Weir MD, President of the Cell Transplant Society, participated in the Cell Therapy Liaison Meeting hosted by the International Society for Cellular Therapy on June 24, 2005. He made a presentation on current practices for isolating human islets. The meeting was attended by a variety of organizations concerned with cell therapy.

Preparations are under way for the 8th International Congress of the Cell Transplant Society in Milan, Italy, May 18–20, 2006. Meeting organizer Professor Antonio Secchi has almost completed development of the program.

The Cell Transplant Society is eager to increase its membership and add individuals from a wide variety of disciplines interested in cell transplantation—for example, conventional cell transplantation, tissue engineering regenerative medicine, and stem cell biology. Why not become a member today?

International Pancreas and Islet Transplantation Association (IPITA)

The I0th biennial meeting of IPITA in Geneva (May) was superbly organized by the local committee. Reports from registries and individual centres consolidated the success of vascularized pancreas transplantation worldwide, an achievement of which IPITA members can feel proud. Successful islet transplantation reports from around the world were tempered with newfound realism. This will certainly be a major focus of the research presented at the next biennial meeting of IPITA—a joint meeting between IPITA, the International Xenotransplantation Association, and the Cell Transplant Society, in Minneapolis (2007).

The quality of the submissions at the Geneva meeting highlights the talent of young investigators entering the field. Fifteen travel awards (jointly funded by TTS and IPITA) were made to support young investigators, and A.N.Balamurugan (Pittsburgh, USA) received the IPITA Young Investigator Award.

The death of Dr. Paul Lacy was marked by Dr. Camillo Ricordi's delivery of an emotion-evoking historical overview honouring his contribution. Subsequently the IPITA General Meeting voted to name the biennial award for best abstract/presentation after him. Accordingly, the winner of the 2005 Paul Lacy Award for best abstract and presentation was Dr. R. Gianarrelli from Pisa, Italy.

The 2005 meeting closed with the transfer of the presidency to James Shapiro. The 12^{th} biennial meeting of IPITA will be in Miami in 2009.

Intestinal Transplant Association (ITA)

The objectives of the Intestinal Transplant Association (ITA) are to promote intestinal transplantation, through the dissemination of information and ideas on the subject internationally, and to facilitate the exchange of knowledge through biennial meetings.

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Requests for nominations were sent out to all members of the Association in preparation for the election of the first Council of the Intestinal Transplant Association, which took place during the first General Assembly of the Association on July 1, 2005, in Brussels. At this meeting the first officers and councilors were elected, and the members voted on the by-laws that were created for this new Association. The outcome of the elections will be reported in the next *Society News*. If you are involved in or have an interest in intestinal transplantation please become a member of our growing Association today.

Basic Sciences

TTS has had a long-standing and strong commitment to the basic sciences and has held the Basic Sciences Symposia in years alternating with the full TTS Congress. These Symposia have been organized under the guidance of Kathryn Wood and Charley Orosz together with local members of TTS, and they have continued to provide an excellent forum for discussion of the basic sciences relevant to transplantation. The 9th Basic Sciences Symposium was held in France in June and Dr. Ignacio Anegon and the local organizing team put on an outstanding program. Further information and highlights of the meeting will be presented in the next *Society News*.



Jim Mulligan, Publisher of Transplantation, and Barry Kahan, Editor-in-Chief of Transplantation Proceedings, with Jeremy Chapman and Kathryn Wood, respectively, in Seattle in May, presenting cheques to TTS from the proceeds of the Vienna Congress published proceedings to support the establishment of new Research Support Grants—for details see Volume II Issue I of Society News

For the record

New Corporate Sponsor



Welcome to Genzyme—the fifth corporate sponsor for TTS. Frank Delmonico took the lead in arranging the initial meeting between TTS and Genzyme. Kathryn Wood, Frank Delmonico, and Phil Dombrowski attended the meeting, and Kathryn gave an excellent presentation regarding both the Corporate Sponsor program and the GAT. The meeting was a success and the agreement was signed in March. Genzyme's sponsorship makes a significant statement of strong support for the leaders and initiatives of TTS. What an exciting time to be an active member within The Transplantation Society!

New Council Member

The Society welcomes Henrik Ekberg as a new Councillor taking the place of Hugh Auchincloss, who is stepping down in order to become the President-Elect of the AST. The Transplantation Society would like to thank Dr. Auchincloss for his dedicated service to the Society and wholeheartedly welcomes Dr. Ekberg to the Council.

Our Newest Affiliates

The International Paediatric Transplant Association and the Irish Transplantation Society have become the two newest members of The Transplantation Society's list of affiliated societies. Their applications were unanimously approved by TTS Council at its meeting in Seattle (May). Affiliated societies agree to look for opportunities to work collaboratively and each is listed on the TTS website as an Affiliated Society (www.transplantation-soc.org/affiliates.php).

Global Alliance for Transplantation (GAT)

Continued from page I

After Oxford, TTS presented the priorities and budget proposal from the business plan to its corporate sponsors— Astellas, Genzyme, Novartis, Roche, and Wyeth-at the Corporate Sponsor Liaison meeting in Philadelphia in April. Attending from TTS were President Kathryn Wood and Past President David Sutherland, President Elect Nicholas L. Tilney, and Senior Treasurer Paul Keown as well as Executive Director Phil Dombrowski. The proposal was well received. The corporate sponsors are now reviewing their budget plans for 2006 and will meet individually with Kathryn Wood and Phil Dombrowski to discuss their level of interest and potential funding support.

Guidelines

The GAT is an idea being brought to reality through major activities across all fronts including the Oxford and Seattle meetings, the Amsterdam Forum in April 2004, and an upcoming meeting in Vancouver, Canada. The goals for the GAT Guidelines Workgroup include promoting open discussion of standards of ethical transplantation practice and improving global communication in clinical transplantation. A project list has been prioritized, and development has begun and will continue through 2006 once funding is secured. The Amsterdam Forum was the first initiative of the Guidelines group in the GAT. TTS will hold a Vancouver Forum in September 2005, also chaired by Frank Delmonico, to prepare guidelines for the management of the live donor in liver, lung, pancreas, and intestinal transplantation.

Registries and Information Reporting

In February, the GAT Information Workgroup invited nearly 100 transplant registries to complete an online questionnaire as part of its first project to identify all worldwide transplant activity. A number of registries have completed the questionnaire. Bob Merion and Chris Rudge are heading this initiative and reviewing the completed questionnaires. At the follow-up meeting in Seattle in May, discussion focused on developing strategies for the global accounting of solid organ transplant activity and common definitions in registry reporting. Chris Rudge says the questionnaire and follow-up meeting started a process for developing "a registry of registries" and "the process will also give real help and support to the newer, developing registries."

Additionally, TTS has submitted documents to the WHO for consideration to become a "Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) in official relations with the WHO." The WHO is currently reviewing the past few years of TTS activities to decide on conferring this status to TTS and its GAT. The Director General of the WHO is charged with many responsibilities, one of which deals with organ donation and transplantation through a 2004 World Health Assembly (WHA) resolution. The way the GAT is framed, it could provide a vehicle for the WHO's relationships with transplantation societies and professional organizations. Observers from the WHO have been invited to participate in all GAT meetings.

TTS Vice President (East) Jeremy Chapman says "This will allow for a closer and more formal channel of communication between TTS and the WHO" in their work to respond to the challenges in the WHA resolution. Bob Merion calls the WHO "an important partner in the GAT effort. In particular, the WHO facilitates access to the ministries of health of the nations of the world." This would assist in conveying to governments critical messages concerning donor advocacy and effective and responsible transplantation practice.



GAT Planning Group

Back row from left to right

Chris Rudge (UK Transplant) Marc Lorber (ASTS representative)

Luc Noel (WHO)

Bob Merion (Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients)

Zaki Morad (Asian Society of Transplantation, President) Frank Delmonico (Chair, TTS Ethics Committee)

Phil Dombrowski (TTS Executive Director)

Front row left to right

Carl Groth (Past President, TTS)

Kathryn Wood (President, TTS)

|an Lerut (ESOT representative)

Jeremy Chapman (Vice President, TTS)



Website Update

Members Only: Education on the website

The Basic Science and Clinical workshops held at the Vienna meetings were well attended and received high scores for their superior quality and value. As a TTS member you can reap the benefits even if you weren't in Vienna. The content of these workshops is posted on the Members Only section of the TTS website. Sixteen lectures will be posted over four months, grouped under four themes with one lecture in each theme posted each month from July through October 2005. Other new courses are posted as they become available to the Society.

Basic Sciences Committee: Arrangements for the Basic Sciences Committee are progressing well. Kathryn Wood is working in her role as TTS President to further formalize them and Maggie Dallman is at the helm as Chair for the committee (visit www.transplantation-soc.org for the full committee membership list). The committee's terms of reference now include educational programs in basic sciences. In support of this, soon there will be two new areas in the Education section of the website.

The first is a series of "How I Do It" features which so far includes quantitative gene analysis, functional aspects of dendritic cells and regulatory T cells. These features are designed to provide both the theoretical and practical aspects of work in these fields. Contributions to this series are most welcome! Contact Maggie Dallman if you would like to be involved.

The second new area will provide members with access to slide presentations on emerging areas of interest. These will be captured from talks given at TTS symposia, including the 9th Basic Sciences Symposium.

MIT comes to you through TTS: Here's another benefit of membership! TTS is working with Dr. Robert Rubin (Harvard) and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) to bring you access to its online education courses in transplant infectious diseases. Logging in through the TTS Members Only site will enable members to enter the MIT site seamlessly, without having to re-enter their identifying information. The courses are available now through the Members Only part of TTS' website.

Medallions for New Directions

The Medallions have arrived. As mentioned in the last issue of Society News, under the theme of "New Directions Programme," TTS will honour people who have made outstanding contributions to the Society, to basic science, and to clinical transplantation within the last five years. There will be two awards in each category and each recipient will receive one of these medallions, a pin, and a commemorative certificate.

For the record (continued)

ISHLT Update

TTS President, Kathryn Wood, was invited to the ISHLT Board Meeting in April to discuss the Global Alliance for Transplantation (GAT). Mark Barr and Marshall Hertz from ISHLT have already contributed to the development of two ongoing GAT initiatives: the Vancouver Forum to develop Guidelines for the Medical Care of Living Liver, Lung, Pancreas, and Intestine Donors; and the Global Registries meeting in Seattle. TTS looks forward to working with ISHLT and the other international and regional transplantation societies as part of the GAT.

CME Accreditation

TTS Education Committee has submitted the pre-application to the US Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) to begin the CME Accreditation process. If this pre-application is accepted, TTS will then prepare the full application. Success in this application will allow TTS to be accredited and to provide Category I CME credits for all Society and Section education programs and Congresses.

Update: 2007 Joint Meeting

The 2007 Joint Meeting will mark the first time ever that the International Xenotransplantation Association (IXA), the International Pancreas and Islet Transplantation Association (IPITA), and the Cell Transplant Society (CTS) will come together to meet under the auspices of The Transplantation Society (TTS). Representatives from all four groups met in Seattle in May. Out of this came a confirmed date for the Joint Meeting (September 15-20, 2007) and a signed Memorandum of Understanding among Societies/Associations. Dr. Megan Sykes will chair the planning committee and TTS Executive Director Phil Dombrowski will chair the finance committee. Watch for updates on this event in future issues of Society News.

FAQs at the CBO

QUESTION: When I go to The Transplantation Society website, why do I have difficulty connecting to my Member Login?

ANSWER: There could be several reasons for this.

First, you may not have paid your 2005 dues and therefore your password has not been activated. If you are certain you have paid your 2005 dues, please contact the Central Business Office (CBO). If you have misplaced your 2005 Membership Due invoice, also please contact the CBO and they will send you another copy of the invoice. As soon as the CBO receives your 2005 membership payment, your Member Login will be activated.

Second, you may be using an e-mail address that does not match the e-mail address the Society has on record for you. Please make sure you use the e-mail address that you submitted to the CBO when you sent in your application form and which the CBO has on file for you. If your e-mail address differs, your password will not work. If you are not sure of which e-mail address you submitted to the CBO or if you would like to submit a new e-mail address, please contact Frank Lindo at the CBO and he will update your profile accordingly. You can reach him at Frank.Lindo@transplantation-soc.org

Third, you may not be a member of The Transplantation Society (TTS). The Member Login is a special feature dedicated only to TTS members in good standing. If you are a member of our distinguished Sections only, you will not have access to the Member Login. To take advantage of the new benefits along with all the many existing benefits, please consider becoming a member of The Transplantation Society now. You may download an application form by visiting our website at www.transplantationsoc.org/member_area.php.

Upcoming meetings and events

2005

2nd International Symposium on ABO Incompatibility in Transplantation

Chair: Michael Breimer Location: Göteborg, Sweden Date: September 10–11, 2005 Info: www.ixa2005.com

8th International Xenotransplantation Congress

Chair: Michael Breimer Location: Göteborg, Sweden Date: September 1 I–14, 2005 Info: www.ixa2005.com

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

Chair: Valter Duro Garcia Location: Gramado, RS, Brazil Date: December 3–7, 2005 Info: www.isodp2005.com.br

Vancouver Forum on the care of the live liver, lung, pancreas, and intestine donor

Chair: Francis L. Delmonico Location: Vancouver, Canada Date: September 14–16, 2005

2006

8th International Congress of the Cell Transplant Society

Chair: Antonio Secchi Location: Milan, Italy Date: May 18–20, 2006 Info: www.celltx.org/2006

World Transplant Congress

2006, under the auspices of The Transplantation Society, the American Society of Transplantation, and the American Society of Transplant Surgeons

Chair: A. Benedict Cosimi Location: Boston, MA, USA Date: July 21–28, 2006 Info: www.wtc2006.org

2007

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

Chairs: D. Sutherland, B. Herring, and M. Sykes

Location: Minneapolis, MN, USA **Date:** September 15–20, 2007

2008

XXII International Congress of The Transplantation Society

Chair: Jeremy Chapman Location: Sydney, Australia Date: August 9–15, 2008

For a comprehensive list of all meetings occurring in the transplant field, please check out the Society's website—www.transplantationsoc.org—click on Meetings & Events on the homepage.

Mark your calendar today!

World Transplant Congress

Hynes Convention Center Boston, Massachusetts July 22–27, 2006 Early Bird Registration Deadline: February 1, 2006 Abstract Deadline: March 10, 2006

