Members Only section of website

Members Only secure webpage
Introducing the Members Only section of the new TTS website! This is a secure, password protected environment, designed exclusively to provide TTS members with online access to Society information and to their peers in the transplantation community worldwide. Once inside, members will find three main areas: My Account Information; Document Review; and the Online Forum. For now, the most important area is the My Account Information section.

My Account Information

Within the My Account Information area there are three sections.

My Account enables members to change or update contact information instantly, update e-mail addresses, change their passwords, and conveniently maintain their most current contact information in The Transplantation Society membership database. Here members will also create their own Society e-mail addresses. Members can choose to use this new e-mail address as their primary address, or they can connect this new address to their existing personal or professional e-mail address. In the latter case, each e-mail sent to their Society address will be automatically redirected to either their primary personal or professional e-mail address. The Society e-mail address will follow them wherever they go. This will be practical for both the seasoned members and for those either in training or just getting started on their transplant careers.

firstname.lastname@transplantation-soc.org

New awards and fellowships on the horizon

The Transplantation Society is enthusiastically instituting a number of new awards in 2005/2006. Through these new awards, The Transplantation Society will recognize individuals who have made significant contributions to the field of transplantation within the past five years.

"This is an exciting new initiative to recognize members who are defining new directions in transplantation research and clinical development," says TTS President Kathryn Wood.

Among the other initiatives TTS is considering under the theme "New Directions," are research fellowships and training scholarships. The research fellowships would be high profile two-year grants offered to either scientists or clinicians to enable members of TTS to acquire skills in research—a minimum of two fellowships per year would be offered in the first instance. The Society is investigating outside funding to assist with costs, and anticipates naming the awards after a major funder. As the program develops, TTS would hope to be able to offer a Research Fellowship to a member from each region of the Society every year. The Executive Committee is also working towards instituting international training scholarships to enable members to acquire new clinical or research skills. This program will be developed in collaboration with the Global Alliance for Transplantation and will be offered to TTS members from each of The Transplantation Society’s six regions.
From the President

Taking new directions

Prof. Kathryn Wood

Projects initiated by the Society are increasing exponentially. The New Directions Programme will enable TTS to recognise the contributions of the new leaders in the field of transplantation; provide research training opportunities for talented individuals from each global region of TTS; and identify the key opinion leaders of tomorrow. Watch for these three exciting projects, on the Society website soon.

The Central Business Office (CBO) has relocated to new dedicated premises in Montreal. Also, restructuring has brought TTS the full-time support of Filomena (Fil) Picciano and Frank Lindo. This means the Society is, unfortunately, no longer working with June Viau—thanks, June, for supporting TTS in Montreal since 1996. Through this transition, Lucy Felicissimo has, as always, worked to ensure the CBO meets the Society’s needs. I was impressed by the new office facilities but most of all by Fil and Frank’s dedication in running the Society.

I am working closely with Executive Director Phil Dombrowski, Fil, and Frank to move the agenda set by the Council and Executive Committee forward. TTS Executive Committee met for two days in December and holds regular conference calls. The new Committees are also hard at work and will report to you regularly. Two immediate highlights from the Committees are:

TTS Ethics Committee, under the leadership of Frank Delmonico, is organising a second Forum in the series to establish Guidelines for the Medical Care of Living Donors, to be held in Vancouver, September 2005. The Forum is a collaboration among TTS, IPITA, and ITA (Sections of TTS); the ILTS and the ISHLT.

TTS Education Committee, chaired by Nicholas L. Tilney, is developing slide sets from selected speakers at the successful Early Morning Courses at the Vienna Congress. Slides from Thomas Wekerle and Bruno Watschinger’s Basic Science course, and Rainer Grueßner and Enrico Benedetti’s New Technologies and Surgical Techniques course are available now on the Members Only section of the Society website. The Education Committee is also supporting the Society’s efforts to become an accredited provider of CME credit.

Phil Dombrowski has instituted a monthly update to keep all Councillors abreast of the Society’s activities. If you have any issues for Council or the Committees to consider at their next meeting, on May 20, 2005, please do not hesitate to contact Phil or any of the Society Officers, using the e-mail system available through the website.

Society News is published three times per year by The Transplantation Society. Views expressed in news and feature articles are those of the individuals quoted.

The Transplantation Society gratefully acknowledges the corporate sponsors whose generous support makes the work of the Society possible:

Fujisawa Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd.
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The Transplantation Society

The Young Investigator Award for 2004

The 11 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 Fujisawa since 1994. The Transplantation Society is pleased to profile two Young Investigator Award recipients in each issue of Society News for 2005.

Dr. Mona Doshi

Dr. Mona Doshi received the Young Investigator Award for her paper titled Short and long term outcome of liver transplants from donors deceased after cardiac death (dcd). This research, part of her transplant nephrology and clinical research fellowship at the University of Iowa, showed an equivalence between livers donated following cardiac death and those donated following brain death. This research may serve to expand the viable donor pool for kidney and liver transplants. Dr. Doshi is also studying the impact of current screening and treatments for cardiovascular disease among dialysis patients. Dr. Doshi says receiving this award from TTS "provided me an opportunity to present my work at the international meeting and get invaluable feedback from colleagues. As a result … I have been able to make contact with people doing similar work and exchange ideas."

A graduate of G.S. Medical College in Bombay, Dr. Doshi completed her residency training at Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan, and nephrology fellowship at the University of Chicago before beginning her current transplant nephrology and clinical research fellowship at the University of Iowa. Captivated by the intellectual challenge of nephrology, Dr. Doshi plans to explore the impact of pancreas transplant on other diabetic complications after completing this fellowship in the fall of 2005. She looks forward to bringing the results of her research to the development of health policies that may improve patient survival for people on dialysis.

Dr. Angela Webster

Dr. Angela Webster received the Young Investigator Award for her paper titled Incidence, risk and predictors of cancer after renal transplantation; an analysis of ANZDATA, the Australia and New Zealand dialysis and transplant registry. The research focuses on the impact of immunosuppression in patients with end stage renal failure, the risk and predictors of cancers after transplantation, and exactly how different combinations of immunosuppressive agents might modify these risks. "I felt that both patients and clinicians would benefit from a clearer estimation of risk, tailored to their individual situations." Dr. Webster also hopes her work might lead to better treatment choices and also offer insights into cancer in general.

Currently working on her Ph.D. studies into immunosuppression and malignancy in end stage renal failure (due to be completed in 2006), Dr. Webster received her initial physician training in England and Scotland. She became a member of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh in 1998. Interested in how other health care systems functioned, particularly in respect to renal medicine, Dr. Webster approached Westmead, the largest teaching hospital in Australia, and was offered a clinical post for one year in 2001. Four years later, Dr. Webster is still at Westmead’s Centre for Kidney Research in Sydney, enjoying the benefits of being part of a large and active research unit.

Recipients of the Young Investigator Award for 2004

March 2005
The Transplantation Society - Society News
International Pancreas and Islet Transplantation Association (IPITA)

Of interest at IPITA is the 10th Congress in Geneva (see Upcoming Meetings and Events). We hope to welcome you to this important event designed for scientists, physicians, laboratory technicians, and graduate students seeking the most up-to-date developments and procedures in the field of islet isolation.

Immediately preceding this meeting will be the International Islet Isolation Workshop of the Network of Islet Centers in Europe (NICE—see Upcoming Meetings and Events). Because of the involvement of and high-quality lectures by the leaders of the islet isolation and transplantation labs in Europe and North America, this has become an important annual event.

Registration will soon be available at www.ipita2005.org. Please note that the NICE workshop is independent from the IPITA meeting, and that registration to the IPITA meeting does not include the fees for the NICE workshop.

Intestinal Transplantation Association (ITA)

ITA would like to draw readers’ attention to its upcoming meeting June 30—July 2, 2005 in Brussels (see Upcoming Meetings and Events). Participation is expected from a wide variety of specialties including gastroenterology, nutrition, anesthesia, and surgery from all over the world.

Progress in intestinal transplantation will be presented as well as a summary from the world registry. Much lively discussion is expected, as has been the tradition in previous meetings. This meeting will also elect the first president and officers of the association.

International Xenotransplantation Association (IXA)

The IXA2005 Congress, September 11—14, 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 and 11. 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.

International Society for Organ Donation & Procurement (ISODP)

Mark your calendars—December 3—7, 2005. The final preparations are being made for the 8th Congress of the ISODP in Gramado, Brazil. It will be a joint congress with the ITCS—the International Transplant Coordinators Society. Among the keynote speakers are Stewart Youngner, Nicholas Tilney, and Francis Delmonico. More information and call for abstracts are available at www.isodp2005.com.br/noticias/noticias.asp

At the Council meeting of the ISODP in Vienna, September 2004, new bylaws were accepted. The full texts of the minutes and the bylaws are available at the TTS website (www.transplantation-soc.org/sections.php?s=05). Another meeting is scheduled for May 19 or 20 in Seattle.

We invite all professionals engaged in the procurement of organs and tissues for transplantation and other purposes to join the ISODP. A membership application form is available on The Transplantation Society website noted above.

Cell Transplant Society

Thanks to the support of industry (17 companies) and registrants, the Cell Transplant Society Congress in Boston last November was a great success. The 350 Congress delegates came from 25 countries to hear 61 invited speakers. The Congress is pleased to remit a donation of $25,000 US to the Cell Transplant Society. The next Congress of the Cell Transplant Society is planned for Milan, Italy, in 2006.

At the Congress, the society elected Gordon C. Weir as its President. For the complete list of new officers, go to the society website at http://www.celltx.org.

The Cell Transplant Society exists to promote research and collaboration in cellular transplantation. The research interests of members include pancreatic islets, bone marrow, endothelial, epidermal, myoblast, neural and stem cells.

Investigators of cell and tissue transplantation share problems and research targets on topics such as separation techniques, culture methods, cryopreservation and banking, pretransplant immuno-modulation, micro-and macro-encapsulation, bioartificiality, tolerance, xenografts, quality control, implantation sites and techniques, experimental and clinical transplantation, and gene therapy.
Committee chairs for 2005/2006

Society President Kathryn Wood is pleased to announce the 2005/2006 TTS committee chairs. Dr. Wood will chair the Executive Committee, and the other committee chairs will be as follows:

Finance Committee: Paul Keown
Awards and Fellowships Subcommittee: Hans Sollinger
Membership Committee: John J. Fung
Congress Organizing Committee: Camillo Ricordi
By-Laws Committee: Oscar Salvatierra
Communications/Journal Committee: Jeremy Chapman
Education Committee: Nicholas L. Tilney
Medawar Prize Committee: David E.R. Sutherland

New awards and fellowships on the horizon

Continued from page 1

The Executive Committee has also recommended initiating two Research Support Grants—the Transplantation Research Support Grant and the Transplantation Proceedings Research Support Grant—named for two of the Society’s official publications and financed up to $10,000 by contributions TTS has received from each of these publications.

A new “Emerging Stars Award,” also proposed by the Executive Committee, would address the difficulty in identifying future key opinion leaders—researchers who may be finishing training and whom their mentors regard as having the potential to make a significant contribution to the field in the future. A series of small regional meetings would identify researchers at mid-level experience. Up to 25 nominees would attend the meetings along with a senior staff person from their organization to present their research jointly. The first regional meeting is expected to be held in late 2005.

The TTS Awards Committee, chaired by Hans Sollinger, has the responsibility for defining these awards and for recommending specific eligibility criteria.
The Transplantation Society's new logos

Last year, The Transplantation Society introduced both an expansion of its current logo and a new abbreviated logo. It hopes that the new logos will increase the recognition and visual presence of the Society.

The expanded logo has added the words "The Transplantation Society" next to the circle enclosing the clasped hands. This logo also features the word "Transplantation" more prominently to focus attention on the core of the Society's nature. The logo continues to demonstrate the cooperative nature of this international society through the depiction of the clasped hands.

The second logo is bolder and more compact, using the abbreviation "TTS" for The Transplantation Society, while continuing to utilize the familiar circle and the clasped hands. This logo will work well in situations where TTS places its logo alongside other logos. In these cases, the bold "TTS" will be more noticeable and afford better on-going recognition for the Society.

The "1966" shown within the circle in both logos states the year TTS began and is a reminder of both the longevity and sustainability of this organization. It also serves as a reminder that, in 2006, TTS and its members worldwide will celebrate our 40th anniversary.

Dr. Paul Lacy

With great sadness and deep emotion we learned of Dr. Paul E. Lacy’s death, at 81, on February 15. Paul Lacy will be rightfully remembered as the father of islet transplantation, thanks to his pioneering work since the 1960s in this then novel approach to curing type 1 diabetes.

Paul Lacy performed the first successful islet transplant in a diabetic animal in 1972, and the first human islet transplant that enabled a patient with type 1 diabetes to stop using insulin injections in 1989. He was also instrumental in creating the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, now the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, in 1970.

For 23 years Dr. Lacy was a Professor and the Chairman of the Department of Pathology and Immunology at Washington University in St. Louis. After his retirement in 1984, he continued to consult with researchers working in the field of islet cell transplantation.

He will be missed and remembered as a gentleman and a pioneer in times when islet transplantation was a scientific frontier.

Many delegates to the 10th World Congress of IPITA in Geneva this Spring undoubtedly owe much to the extraordinary lifetime achievement of Paul Lacy. Therefore the Scientific Organizing Committee and the Council of IPITA have renamed it the "Paul E. Lacy Memorial Congress" in tribute to this giant in the field of islet transplantation. The Congress will include a "Paul Lacy Memorial Lecture." (see Upcoming Meetings and Events, page 7)

Paul E. Lacy, 1924–2005
Upcoming meetings and events

2005
4th International Islet Isolation Workshop of the NICE
Chair: Dr. Thierry Berney
Location: Geneva, Switzerland
Date: May 2–4, 2005
Info: www.ipita2005.org

American Society of Transplantation Pediatric Committee and The Transplantation Society Joint Meeting
Title: Transition to Adult Care for Adolescent Transplant Recipients
Location: Chicago, USA
Tentative Date: June 13–14, 2005

9th Basic Sciences Symposium of The Transplantation Society
Title: Basic Research for Better Transplantation
Chair: Ignacio Anegon
Location: La Baule, France
Date: June 19–22, 2005
Info: www.nantes.inserm.fr/u437

The Intestinal Transplantation Association (ITA)
Title: IX International Small Bowel Transplantation Symposium
Chair: Prof. J. de Ville de Goyet
Location: Brussels, Belgium
Date: June 30–July 2, 2005
Info: www.md.ucl.ac.be/ITA-brussels2005

2nd International Symposium on ABO Incompatibility in Transplantation
Chair: Dr. Michael Breimer
Location: Göteborg, Sweden
Date: September 10–11, 2005
Info: www.ipita2005.org

8th International Xenotransplantation Congress
Chair: Dr. Michael Breimer
Location: Göteborg, Sweden
Date: September 11–14, 2005
Info: www.ipita2005.org

8th Meeting of the International Society for Organ Donation and Procurement (ISODP) and of the International Transplant Coordinators Society (ITCS)
Chair: Dr. Michael Breimer
Location: Gramado, RS, Brazil
Date: December 3–7, 2005
Info: www.isodp2005.com.br

2006
World Transplant Congress 2006, under the auspices of The Transplantation Society, the American Society of Transplantation, and the American Society of Transplant Surgeons
Chair: Valter Duro Garcia
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 J. Leventhal
Location: Minneapolis, MN, USA
Date: September 15–20, 2007

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

For the record (continued)

Invitations to join TTS
TTS is sending letters to first authors of papers published in key journals, inviting them to join The Transplantation Society. Over 600 letters have been sent since this program was initiated early in 2004. As new members of TTS, they will join the largest network of global contacts in transplantation representing more than 65 countries.

2010 Congress update
Ballots were mailed to all Full Members of TTS to select the location for the Society’s 2010 Congress. The two cities in consideration for this event are Berlin, Germany, and Vancouver, Canada. If you are a fully-paid-up member of TTS and have not voted yet, mail your ballot and express your preference today! The winning location will be announced at The Transplantation Society Council meeting in Seattle in May, 2005.

Registries and Statistical Reporting group of the GAT meets in Seattle
The Registries and Statistical Reporting group of the GAT will meet in Seattle, May 25 and 26, 2005, immediately following the American Transplant Congress (ATC). Areas of focus for this meeting include a report on worldwide transplant activity from the questionnaire and discussion of transplant standards for a global registry in order to set consistent analytic conventions. This meeting will be co-chaired by Robert M. Merion, M.D. and Chris Rudge, M.D. For more information on this group and its activities or to contact the co-chairs, visit the TTS website http://www.transplantation-soc.org.

Joint Pediatric Program
The Transplantation Society and the American Society of Transplantation (AST) Pediatric Committee are co-sponsoring a conference, tentatively scheduled for June 13-14, 2005 in Chicago, to address "Transition to Adult Care for Adolescent Transplant Recipients." The goals for the conference include developing a position statement, practical guidelines, and research priorities for adolescent transplant recipients in transition to adult care.
FAQs at the CBO

We hope you enjoy this new regular feature of Society News for 2005. It highlights the most frequently asked questions (FAQ) that come into The Transplantation Society's Central Business Office (CBO). We feel that communicating the answers to these common questions through Society News will help all our members, as well as improving our service to them.

QUESTION: I cannot connect to the journal Transplantation online

ANSWER: There may be two reasons for this. First, you may not have paid your dues and therefore the publisher has not yet been authorized to release a new access code. As soon as the CBO receives your membership payment, we will send notification to Transplantation within 48 hours. Second, your dues are paid and the publisher has sent you a letter acknowledging this, but you still cannot gain online access to Transplantation.

QUESTION: I’m no longer receiving my journals

ANSWER: The simplest answer is that you may have forgotten to purchase or re-subscribe to the journals for the new year. However, if you have paid for your 2005 subscriptions, the journals ask for your patience as it may take the publisher six to eight weeks to send you your first issue.

QUESTION: If I purchase the journals any time after the first of the year, will I receive back issues?

ANSWER: Yes. The Central Business Office sends a special letter to the publisher with your payment asking that all back issues be sent to you as soon as possible. Again, the publisher asks for your patience as it may take six to eight weeks to send you the back issues.

If you don’t see an answer to a question you have, please forward it and any other questions to the Executive Director/Editor of Society News—care of the Central Business Office in Montreal—info@transplantation-soc.org

My Orders will provide members with the opportunity to make secure purchases or payments for everything from journal subscriptions to membership fees. The site will maintain a confidential history of these transactions for members to access at any time (their own transactions only). No more looking for lost receipts for business expenses—just log in and print a new copy. All amounts displayed on the TTS website are shown in US dollars.

The E-mail notifications page will allow members to subscribe or unsubscribe to all the newsletters and updates available from TTS. Members can also view a list of their current subscriptions to verify their selections.

Document Review

A new feature just added to the Members Only section of the website, this section will enable authors to invite selected members to review and comment on documents. Using this database-driven function, an author will upload a document to the site. The author then selects the members he/she wishes to ask to review the document and crafts a message that is sent to those members along with a link to the page where they will find the document. Each reviewer can then log in, download the document for review, and see the comments of any previous reviewers. Once complete, the reviewer simply uploads the document again, with his/her comments.

This is a sequential process. When one member downloads the document, the database puts a lock on the file so it cannot be accessed until that reviewer has either completed the review and uploaded the document again or simply returns the document to active review without making any comments. The database will show who has the file at each stage as well as the date and time of the download. The author can, at any time, see the status of the document and download the completed reviews. To begin with, this will ease the review of papers, documents, policies, etc., by the Council, the Executive Committee, and the various Committees that are active within TTS.

Online Forum

This is a new bulletin board area where members can ask questions, read posts, or search for information provided by other members on the forum. All posts will remain accessible to other members. We encourage our members to make full use of this new feature of the Society website.