A meeting was convened as a follow up to the Istanbul Summit, to address issues regarding ongoing monitoring and implementation of the Declaration.

The Steering Committee of the Declaration of Istanbul was created through a joint effort between The Transplantation Society and International Society of Nephrology to guide the development of the Declaration as well as its publication. These tasks have since been accomplished and it is now important to refocus the structure of the Steering Committee to meet the critical longer-term goals of implementation and monitoring. An “Istanbul Declaration Custodian” organization has been formed with an Executive Group to be chaired by Doctors Jeremy Chapman and Mohamed Sayegh. This type of organization is necessary to ensure that the Declaration will be sustained as more than a one-time document. The Executive Group includes Istanbul leadership, with the Executive participation of Dr. Faisal Shaheen and Annika Tibell, and is empowered to coordinate activities related to the implementation and monitoring of the Declaration, and to draw to attention violations of the Declaration to the World Health Organization as well as to national governments and societies.

We wish to express our appreciation to Mehmet Haberal for his generous and gracious hospitality in his support of the Steering group convened in Istanbul from November 15 to 16, 2008.

The organization will seek to enforce compliance to the Declaration of Istanbul through the following activities:

- to have a disclosure statement submitted to Professional Organizations (just as financial and other types of conflict of interest disclosure statements are now regularly required) to assure that speakers at scientific or educational meetings express their position about the Declaration or their compliance to it;
- to have funding agencies and pharmaceutical companies refuse to fund hospital or other organization clinical studies that do not implement the provisions of the Istanbul Declaration;
- to have a disclosure statement submitted to medical journals to attest to the report of clinical trials conducted in compliance with Istanbul Declaration.
Dear Members,

The Transplantation Society activities continue to develop all across the world at a great pace.

The 2009 meetings program includes:

- **Cell Transplant Society Meeting**
  Okayama, Japan, April 20-21

- **XIth International Small Bowel Transplant Symposium**
  – Bologna, Italy, Sept. 9-12

- **2009 Organ Donation Congress (10th ISODP Meeting)**
  – Berlin, Germany, October 4-7

- **IPITA – IXa Joint Congress 2009**
  – Venice, Italy, October 12-16

I am delighted to announce that TTS, with the support of Astellas, will be providing Transplantation Society Bursaries for Young Investigators to attend each of these meetings. The best scored abstracts from young investigators will be notified by the organisers of the meetings to the TTS HQ and we will arrange for cheques to be presented at each of the conferences.

The new Key Opinion Leaders meetings continue to be exciting opportunities for the meeting of young and old as well as a meeting of disciplines and interests. There will be four taking place in the different regions of the world this year, thanks to continuing support from Wyeth, Roche and Panacea Biotech.

2009 new KOL Meetings:

- April • Agra, India
- May • Salvador, Brazil
- July • Jackson Hole, Wyoming
- August • Gothenburg, Sweden

2009

2012 and 2104

We will be in Berlin in 2012 and the news will have already reached you by email, that we are meeting together with ASTS and AST in 2014 in another “World Transplant Congress”. The congress will be held in San Francisco and will be under the leadership of a group convened by Kathryn Wood and including Mo Sayegh and Ben Cosimi, who will have to repeat the success of the Boston 2006 WTC.

2016

We have also just called for bids to hold the congress in 2016. This may be held in any TTS region except North America given the location of the 2014 congress. Please look to the TTS web site for details of the application and notify me by email if you plan to put in a bid. Please read the details carefully, especially since we have changed a few things about how it must be run.

Your Ideas

Our communication with you is through our newsletter, the web site and the occasional emails. We try to keep the number of emails that you receive down to the bare minimum since there is nothing more irritating than email clutter. The Index pages of Transplantation are sent regularly and we try to keep the diverse global membership abreast of the key issues. However I would really appreciate your views on what we should be doing to communicate with you. Please send me an email with your ideas and comments.

With Sincerest Regards,

Jeremy R. Chapman
President, The Transplantation Society
president@transplantation-soc.org
The International Transplant Congress returns to Canada

On February 12, Vancouver celebrated the one-year countdown to the Opening Ceremonies of the XXI Olympic Winter Games, being hosted in BC’s Lower Mainland in early 2010. This was an exciting reminder to our team that, just 6 months later, our city plays host to another significant event - the XXIII International Congress of The Transplantation Society, being held August 15-19, 2010.

The venue for this Congress is the new Vancouver Convention and Exhibition Centre (VCEC), which holds its Grand Opening in early April 2009. This beautiful building will serve as the Olympic Broadcast Centre, quadrupling the size of one of North America’s most striking Congress venues to nearly 1/2 million sq. ft., with a capacity of nearly 15,000 delegates. We were very pleased to learn in August 2008 that the VCEC had been awarded the highly-coveted Apex Award as the “World’s Best Convention Centre” for the 2nd time – the only facility in the world to ever do so. A large selection of Congress hotel rooms have already been contracted, providing our delegates with thousands of economical to 5-diamond options, all within walking distance of the Congress venue.

2010 will have several overarching themes, encompassing innovations in genomics and proteomic analyses of human disease, immunosuppressive drug therapy and technical advances in robotic surgery, and many other topics at the cutting edge of transplant science and medicine. The National Executive Committee includes the current and four former Presidents of the Canadian Society of Transplantation and representatives of The Transplantation Society, who will welcome members coast-to-coast to provide their expertise as speakers, committee members and program chairs in all areas.

We believe that the scientific and clinical credibility of the Canadian Society of Transplantation, coupled with the organizational resources of The Transplantation Society, will ensure that the 2010 Congress will be one of the most outstanding in memory. We invite you to stay for a few days before or after the Congress as well, and explore our world famous West Coast cuisine, shopping, arts and culture, and all the scenic wonders of this part of the world.

– Dr. Paul Keown, Chair
2010 Transplant Congress
www.transplantation2010.org

COUNTDOWN IN VANCOUVER BEGINS

REPORT FROM THE WHO EXECUTIVE BOARD

President Jeremy Chapman, afforded by the special status of TTS, spoke at the formal 124th session of the Executive Board of the World Health Organization (WHO) in Geneva Switzerland on January 24, 2009, conveying support of the revised Guiding Principles of the WHO. The Executive Board of the WHO was convened to address a resolution made by the WHO Secretariat to have these Guiding Principles adopted by the World Health Assembly. This is one step in a long journey from the 57th World Health Assembly in 2004. The WHO Secretariat under the leadership of Dr. Luc Noël has consulted extensively at national, regional levels to develop the revised Guiding Principles which focus more attention on the deceased donor and strengthen protection of the living donor. The result is an important guidance which is in concert with the Istanbul Declaration and will provide overall guidance for the development of transplantation over the next 10 to 20 years.

Dr. Chapman emphasized the importance of deceased organ donation not only for those in need of a kidney but also of the other organs and tissues. He concluded: “The Transplantation Society strongly supports approval of the Revised Guiding Principles by the Executive Board. The transplantation community needs the WHO and Member States strong resolve and support for transplantation therapies throughout the world.”

VATICAN ORGAN DONATION MEETING

The Italian National Transplant Centre (CNT) in collaboration with the Pontifical Academy for Life (PAV), and the World Federation of Catholic Medical Associations (FIAMC) convened a meeting of organ donation professionals from five continents at the Auditorium della Conciliazione, in Rome from November 6th – 8th, 2008. Dr. Francis Delmonico represented The Transplantation Society.

Papers were presented pertaining to scientific and medical, as well as to organizational, legal and ethical, aspects of organ donation. The first day of the Congress was dedicated to the historical evolution of transplantation sciences and of organ donation. It analyzed the need for organs world-wide, the problem of trafficking in organs, and the importance of spreading the culture of organ donation. On the second day of the meeting, ethical and anthropological dimensions of organ donation were discussed, extending to theoretical, ethical and legal aspects of ‘living wills’ in relation to the donation of organs. The last day was devoted to the role of the mass media in respect of the culture of donating organs. An audience with Pope Benedict XVI, was arranged for Congress participants.
CONSENSUS MEETING
ON THERAPEUTIC DRUG MONITORING (TDM)
OF MYCOPHENOLATES

A two-day consensus meeting on therapeutic drug monitoring (TDM) of mycophenolates was commissioned by the TTS and held in November 2008 in Rome, Italy. In total 46 experts in clinical transplantation (renal, liver, heart, lung), pediatric transplantation, clinical pharmacology and laboratory medicine participated in different working groups responsible for evaluating the clinical impact of TDM in the different types of adult and pediatric solid organ transplantation, for assessing the pharmacological aspects of TDM and for addressing the analytical methods for adequate measurement of mycophenolate concentrations. The aim of this two-day meeting was to provide an objective and balanced clinical interpretation of the currently available scientific evidence on TDM of mycophenolates. The basis for a first draft of a consensus report was prepared in Rome to offer clinical practice guidelines on the use of TDM of mycophenolates for practitioners working within every level of clinical resources.

A very productive and intense two days of work and discussions in a friendly atmosphere was made possible by the professional support of the TTS and rendered an enormous source of updated information on mycophenolates TDM, critically appraised and presented by experts in the field from around the globe: Japan, Australia, US, Canada, Germany, France, UK, Belgium, the Netherlands, Italy, Austria and Brazil. Novel and future developments in TDM of mycophenolates like the use of biomarkers, metabolite concentrations, pharmacogenetics, new analytical assays and immune monitoring, were put into clinical perspective. The consensus meeting participants agreed to concentrate the carefully weighted and formulated guidelines on TDM of mycophenolates into a clinically useful report aimed at transplant practitioners around the world.

ON CYTOMEGALOVIRUS (CMV)

The Transplant Infectious Diseases Section of TTS held a Consensus Meeting on Cytomegalovirus (CMV) at the Château Mont Royal, La Chapelle en Serval, France, December 4-6, 2008. Over forty invited international experts met to discuss optimal management of various aspects of CMV in the solid organ transplant setting, including prevention, treatment, diagnosis, immunology, drug resistance, and pediatric issues. These experts in various fields in transplant medicine came from over fifteen different countries and represented a range of transplant settings. Each group came well prepared to discuss their individual topics. After meeting in small groups, discussion on each area was opened up to the entire group. Consensus was achieved in all areas, based on both available data as well as expert opinion. The groups continue to work towards a manuscript encompassing the recommendations. Consensus guidelines from this meeting should be published later in 2009.

The Transplant Infectious Diseases Section plans to hold a meeting on “Transplant Infectious Disease in Resource Poor Areas” in conjunction with the XXIII International Congress of The Transplantation Society, in Vancouver, August 2010. Interested parties should email Camille Kotton, President of the Transplant Infectious Diseases Section of TTS, at infectiousdisease@transplantation-soc.org for more information.

Transplant clinicians interested in participating in the International Transplant Infectious Disease Forum may enter question for discussions via a link on the TID TTS website.

– Howard M. Nathan, President ISODP

TID UPDATE • CONSENSUS MEETING

ON CYTOMEGALOVIRUS (CMV)

The ISODP was represented by Howard Nathan and Dr. Gunter Kriste at the World Health Organization-TTS-Organizacion Nacional de Trasplantes Technical Workshop on Assessing The Potential Supply from Deceased Donors in Geneva on March 5-6.

The goal was to develop a global agreement on procedures for estimating deceased donor potential and the identification of those potential donors.

The call for abstracts for ISODP 2009 in Berlin on October 4-7 has gone out and are due June 30, 2009. The preliminary program with speakers is to be mailed in the next month.

Dr. Gunter Kriste is proud to announce that World Organ Donor Day will occur on October 4th with a massive celebration at the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin, as part of the first day of the ISODP meeting. It is not to be missed! The meeting has been organized this year in conjunction with ETCO. Make your plans to attend. Also please make sure that you renew your ISODP membership in conjunction with TTS membership for a significant discount on both! We look forward to seeing you in Berlin.

– Howard M. Nathan, President ISODP
Clinical Islet Trial Receives Conditional Approval in New Zealand

NZ has provisionally approved a trial of xeno islet transplantation, in response to an application from LCT, Ltd. Although the preclinical evidence that this approach is reasonably likely to offer benefit to trial participants does not meet IXA recommended criteria, IXA supports the process by which this decision was reached. The publicly available elements of the NZ review reflect full engagement of the NZ regulatory agency and the public in a relatively transparent, evidence-based assessment of a candidate xeno-based therapeutic approach.

WHO Evaluates International Regulations for Xenotransplantation

WHO and IXA jointly sponsored a conference in Changsha, China in November, 2008. The resulting “Changsha Communiqué”, which will soon be released for public comment, was developed to provide internationally applicable guidance to national regulatory authorities with respect to evaluation and regulation of clinical xenotransplantation trials.

Consensus Recommendations for Xeno Islet Transplantation

IXA has completed substantial work on Consensus Recommendations for Islet Xenotransplantation Trials, under the guidance of a multidisciplinary group headed by Bernhard Hering. Recommendation of this group will be available for public comment in the spring of 2009. During the next 18 months IXA will convene similar expert panels to develop Consensus Recommendations for other emerging xeno-based cell and organ transplant therapies.

IPITA – IXA Joint Congress 2009

Don’t forget to join us at the joint IXA / International Pancreas and Islet Transplant Association (IPITA) Congress to be held in Venice, Italy at the Venice Lido Congress Center from October 12 to 16, 2009. The Congress Chair, (Emanuele Cozzi) along with the committees, have prepared a dynamic program for participants in a locale which is just a short ferry ride from the world-famous St. Mark’s Square. For more information please visit the Congress website: www.ipita-ixa2009.org

The Council is well aware that many of you have been wondering where the 2014 meeting, the 25th International Congress will be held.

...The waiting is over.

TTS is delighted to announce that the venue for the 2014 meeting will be San Francisco.
IN MEMORIAM

Hans Brynger

When Professor Lars-Erik Gelin died in 1980, Hans became the Head of the Transplant Unit. At that point Sahlgrenska University Hospital had one of the largest and most experienced transplant units in Europe and in the world, performing some 150 kidney transplantations, 15 pancreas transplantations, and 20-30 liver transplantations a year.

In 1981 the first Lars-Erik Gelin memorial symposium on clinical kidney transplantation took place in Gothenburg. During and after that meeting Hans Brynger, Raimund Margreiter (Innsbruck), Georg Uhlschmid (Zürich), Walter Land (Munich) and Gerhard Opelz (Heidelberg) discussed the idea of a European Society of Organ Transplantation. They all became co-founders of ESOT, and in 1987 Hans hosted the third ESOT Congress in Gothenburg. Professor Brynger served on the editorial board of several international journals, like Transplantation Proceedings, Nephrology, Dialysis and Transplantation, Clinical Transplantation and Transplant International. He also was invited as lecturer in countries all over the world.

Hans encouraged many young medical students to start a career in the field of transplantation and was the main scientific tutor of several Ph.D. students. He always had a good way of encouraging young students when they needed it most. All the way through his career he also followed the tradition of Lars-Erik Gelin, characterized by enthusiasm and humor within the department.

Professor Brynger ended his professional career as a transplant surgeon in 1990 when he took on another career being responsible for “foreign affairs” regarding patients, post graduate training and projects in health care planning and management within the fields of medicine and odontology. Parallel with this activity he still maintained contact with many of his international colleagues and was frequently invited as a lecturer.

Hans will be missed and remembered by all his colleagues at the Transplant Institute at Sahlgrenska University Hospital as well as by all of his international colleagues in the field of organ transplantation.
Rutger van Ree was granted a Young Investigator Award for his paper introducing Circulating Markers of Endothelial Dysfunction Interact with Proteinuria in Predicting Mortality in Renal Transplant Recipients. Proteinuria is associated with increased mortality in renal transplant recipients (RTR). This association is considered the consequence of proteinuria reflecting generalized endothelial dysfunction (ED). In RTR, however, proteinuria is frequently a reflection of renal involvement. Both, soluble intercellular adhesion molecule type 1 (sICAM-1) and soluble vascular cellular adhesion molecule type 1 (sVCAM-1) are markers of ED. The study investigated whether markers of ED can help to recognize whether proteinuria is associated with vascular involvement in RTR. Outpatient RTR, who had a functioning graft ≥1 year, were invited to participate between 2001-2003. The results of the study suggest that assessment of circulating cell adhesion molecules can help to identify RTR in which proteinuria is associated with vascular involvement.

Rutger van Ree was born on 21th of March 1977 in Vollenhove, The Netherlands. After he finished pre-university education (VWO) at the Emelwerda College in Emmeloord, he started studying Pharmacy because he was eliminated by lottery for studying Medicine. In 2003 he received the bachelor in Pharmacy with a major in Pharmacochemistry and Molecular Pharmacology. In 2003 he finally started to study Medicine. In the same year he started doing research at the department of Internal Medicine. He was accepted by the Junior Scientific Masterclass to start a MD/PhD track in September 2005. The main aim of the thesis was to explore the relation of chronic low-grade inflammation with chronic transplant dysfunction and mortality after renal transplantation. That same month he became a Pharmacist. In April 2008 Rutger graduated in Medicine to become a Medical Doctor. Until December 2008 Rutger was doing full-time research, which results in a defense of his thesis in June 2009. From January 2009 Rutger is working as a Medical Doctor in the Wilhelmina Children’s Hospital in Utrecht.

Trevor S. Brown was granted a Young Investigator Award for his paper introducing Probabilistic (Bayesian) Modeling of Gene Expression in Transplant Glomerulopathy. This work involved the construction of a coordinated-dependence network between histologic identification of transplant glomerulopathy (TG) and gene expression in renal transplant biopsies. Quantitative real-time PCR using low-density arrays (87 genes related to immune function and fibrosis) of total RNA extracted from 20 TG-positive and 32 stable-function (SF) biopsies was used to establish a gene expression profile of each diagnosis. After distributing the data into three, equal-area levels, conditional relationships among the target gene expression and diagnosis were described using a machine-learned Bayesian network and an interactive graphical display. Interestingly, the resulting probabilistic model illustrated a critical relationship between CD86 and TG. TG was also predicted by upregulation of CCL2, CCL3, CCL5, CXCL9, IL-8, IL-10, and ICAM gene expression. Upon a ten-fold cross-validation, the model effectively predicted TG (area under the curve (AUC) of 0.92; 90% positive predictive value (PPV)) and SF (AUC of 0.866; 83% PPV). This study provides a compelling and clinically relevant example of the combination of quantitative gene expression with probabilistic Bayesian modeling to predict renal allograft pathology.

Brown received his PhD in Integrative Biosciences from the Life Sciences Consortium of The Pennsylvania State University under the guidance of Drs. Philip C. Bevilacqua and Juliette Lecomte. His work in transplantation began as a post-doctoral researcher in the Naval Medical Research Center’s Regenerative Medicine Department with Drs. Douglas K. Tadaki and Eric A. Elster where he continues to lead efforts related to biomarker development as a Staff Scientist. His research interests lie at the interface of biochemistry, immunology, and clinical applications with growing efforts in bioinformatics and translational research. It was with great pride that he accepted the Young Investigator Award on behalf of his talented research team and their diligent work.
To consolidate its position as the leading global organization, the Council has representation from all six regions of the world: North America; Latin America; Europe; Africa-Middle East; Oceania; and Asia.

**The Transplantation Society Officers**

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**UPCOMING TTS MEETINGS**
For a list of all transplantation meetings please visit www.transplantation-soc.org

**Cell Transplant Society Meeting**
Okayama, Japan
April 20-21, 2009
Chair: Dr. Naoya Kobayashi
www.immortal.jp/cell/

**XIth International Small Bowel Transplant Symposium**
Bologna, Italy
Royal Hotel Carlton
September 9-12, 2009
Chair: Dr. Antonio Pinna
www.isbts2009.com

**2009 Organ Donation Congress (10th ISODP Meeting)**
Berlin, Germany
Berlin Congress Center
October 4-7, 2009
Chair: Dr. Günter Kirste
www.isodp2009.com

**IPITA – IXA Joint Congress 2009**
Venice, Italy
Venice Lido Congress Center
October 12-16, 2009
Chair: Dr. Emanuele Cozzi
www.ipita-ixa2009.org

**XXIII International Congress of The Transplantation Society**
Vancouver, Canada
August 15-19, 2010
Chair: Dr. Paul Keown
www.transplantation2010.org

**CALL FOR BIDS FOR CONGRESS VENUES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TIMELINE</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 30, 2009</td>
<td>Deadline for electronic receipts of bids</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 8, 2009</td>
<td>Bids sent to Congress Organizing Committee for Review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 30, 2009</td>
<td>Top 5 bids are invited to do presentation (at ESOT 2009 meeting in Paris, France)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September, 2009</td>
<td>Initial review of bids by TTS Congress Organizing Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct/Nov 2009</td>
<td>Site Visits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 2009</td>
<td>Mailing of ballots to TTS membership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 12, 2010</td>
<td>Deadline for return of ballots</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August, 2010</td>
<td>Announcement of winner at the XXIII Congress 2010 in Vancouver, BC, Canada</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>