

# Tribune

... and its Sections

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OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE TRANSPLANTATION SOCIETY

# **EXPANSION OF INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS**

fter a year in the making and many busy months of meticulous planning, The Transplantation Society's International
Headquarters moved to a bigger office on December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2010. Now located on the sixth floor of 1255 University Street in Montreal, the new workspace is twice as big as the old one and has improved its computer software by upgrading to the latest technology.

The decision to move was made as early as 2008 when TTS envisioned its own Professional Congress Organizer (PCO) to build upon the organization's brand. In a recent interview with AMI magazine, Immediate Past President Jeremy Chapman claimed: "We have moved from being a virtual organization run from an outsourced PCO office to an in-house organization which we run ourselves with our staff." TTS office is staffed by a core group of people who have years of

experience organizing meetings and congresses around the world.

Since the initial decision was made, the Society has also been through some growth in personnel, another reason for the move. Besides the original team of five employees, Lucy Brunetti has been hired as Operations Manager, Roman Beliaevski as Graphics/Web Designer and Alexandra Murphy as Receptionist/Administrative Assistant

Over the holiday period Vice-President Ron Shapiro and North American Councilor Marcelo Cantarovich were invited to the new office. In early February, the staff also had the pleasure of hosting a visit from their new Director of Medical Affairs Henrik Ekberg. The DMA travelled to Montreal to meet the staff one on one, get detailed information on their responsibilities and further explore the complexities of the International Headquarters. The staff welcomes



From left to right: TTS North American Councilor Marcelo Cantarovich, Director of Society Operations Filomena Picciano, Vice-President Ron Shapiro

all officers, councilors and members visiting Montreal to stop by the office in order to get better acquainted.



International Headquarters in Montreal. From left to right:
Robert Colarusso, Alexandra Murphy, Frank Lindo Verissimo, Filomena Picciano, DMA Henrik Ekberg, Lucy Brunetti, Mariko Nakanishi, Roman Beliaevski, Catherin Parker

THE FIFTH DECADE OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, INNOVATION, GROWTH AND PROGRESS

IN THIS ISSUE

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Prince of Asturias Ceremony ...

4Ds Programs Around The World ith each new year comes a new set of challenges and opportunities and TTS is no exception. The elected officers and councilors are making every effort to keep the Society on a steady course and all indications show that we are headed for another successful year.

There are many TTS events planned for 2011 and among those are the sponsored conference activities. We already got off to a great start in February with a nKOL meeting in Goa followed in March with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Transplantomics meeting in Barcelona. In May 2011 TTS, in collaboration with the Canadian Society of Transplantation, will be holding in Montreal its 1<sup>st</sup> Global Forum on Education in Schools on Organ Donation and Transplantation. This is an international program directed towards the education of school children on matters related to organ donation.

In addition to the conferences mentioned above, the official Sections' meetings will also take place this year. Visit www.tts.org for a full list of dates and details. A newly added feature is that TTS International Headquarters' PCO department is now assisting with the organization of the Section meetings at considerable cost savings. To further help promote attendance, TTS will continue to offer travel grants to assist young investigators with their expenses.

TTS will also be represented at various WHO functions throughout the year to support the important initiatives aimed at increasing organ donation from deceased donors, especially in countries with currently low donation rates. Our efforts directed at eliminating organ trafficking

and all forms of illegal transplantation practices are ongoing and firmly based on the Declaration of Istanbul, the WHO Guiding Principles and the Madrid Resolution.

TTS educational activities this year include the regular and increasingly popular webinars, which address issues of clinical relevance to transplant physicians and



**Gerhard Opelz** 

surgeons. For a full list of webinar dates and topics visit the TTS website.

Last but not least, planning for the TTS Congress 2012 in Berlin is well underway. Leading scientists have already been contacted to support Professor Neuhaus and his organizing committee in the development of a first rate scientific program as well as an exciting social program.

I am confident that 2011 will be another successful year for TTS. I would like to thank each one of you for your active support through your membership, which provides the mandate for the leading role of TTS in the world of transplantation.

Gerhard Opelz, President

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TS is pleased to announce its new Director of Medical Affairs: Henrik Ekberg. Dr. Ekberg is no stranger to TTS: he currently serves as Treasurer for TTS's Executive Council and has been the Editor-in-Chief of our newsletter *Tribune* for several years. He also occupied the role of TTS Councilor for Europe from 2004 until 2008. These past experiences have certainly given him important insights into how the Society works and will further aid him in his task of managing headquarters' operations and developing new programs.

His professional career in transplantation is extensive and will also facilitate his role in fostering relationships with international, national and regional organizations. He is the Senior Transplant Surgeon at the University Hospital in Malmö, Sweden since 1988 and Professor of Transplant Surgery at Lund University since 2001. His main research interest concerns immunosuppression in renal transplantation. He has had an active role in a large number of multicenter clinical trials, for example the

CAESAR and the Symphony studies. He has also participated in the work groups for the KDIGO Guidelines published in November 2009 in the American Journal of Transplantation where he is one of the Associate Editors. He also sits on the editorial board of the medical journals Transplantation,



Henrik Ekberg

Clinical Transplantation and Transplant International.

Moreover, he is a member of the Scientific Advisory

Committee of the Roche Organ Transplantation Research

Foundation and has been Vice-President for the European

Society of Organ Transplantation (ESOT).

We are confident that Dr. Ekberg will bring tremendous experience and energy to the DMA role for the next few years and we are pleased to welcome him to the team.

# TTS AND ONT ARE PRAISED BY THE ASTURIAS FOUNDATION FOR THEIR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

eremy Chapman and Francis Delmonico represented TTS to receive the Asturias Foundation Award for International Cooperation with Rafael Matesanz, Director of ONT. It was a powerful recognition of the joint efforts of TTS and ONT for the past 6 to 8 years working in close association with the WHO. The effort has been to bring professionals and governments together to enhance the prospects for transplantation and to reduce the unethical and illegal practices that our work suffers from.

The Awards ceremony was organised with great precision, from the moment of arrival to the moment of departure from Oveido, Asturias. The Crown Prince of Spain has, by tradition, been "HRH The Prince of Asturias" with Oveido in Northern Spain as the provincial capital city from which every King of Spain establishes his crown. Prince Felipe de Bourbon presided over the receptions and ceremony, accompanied by his wife the Princess with his mother Queen Sofia in attendance. The ceremony is a major event for the population of the city who crowd the streets each year to see the procession of awardees. We felt like football stars - which was because the cars behind us carried the winners of the sports award - the Spanish Football squad!

The ceremony was, in the words of novelist Amin Malouf awarded for letters, "a wonderful combination of humanity, warmth and formality". The records of the event are on our website and that of the Foundation **www.fpa.es** if you are interested. The following morning in a coffee



The 2010 Prince of Asturias Award Recipients with Princess Letizia, Prince Felipe de Bourbon and Queen Sofia (front row center)

shop in the city I was asked to sign a visitors book – not because we were associated to football stars and we had been on the TV the night before – but as the owner of the coffee shop explained: "My friend has had a kidney transplant and I think the work that you all do is so special and important to us". Now that stopped me in my tracks!

The TTS IHQ office now has a large Miro statue in the front entrance. More importantly we will use the 25,000 Euro prize money to create an award for an individual or individuals working in the field of transplantation who have most contributed to international cooperation. We hope to be able to both echo this award and recognize the importance of internationalism and cooperation in transplantation into the future.



Jeremy Chapman accepts award for International Cooperation on behalf of TTS

# **WOMEN IN TRANSPLANTATION**

## ... PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

omen in Transplantation – Past,
Present and Future was created to
provide support and guidance to
women working in the field of transplantation.
Since its inception in April 2009, this initiative
has been developing projects that help women
transplant professionals reach their full potential.

With this goal in mind, Monica Dolton, acting on behalf of TTS and the current program leader Kathryn Wood, compiled a report based on the findings of 375 questionnaires from women working in 43 different countries. The women who took part were at various stages of their profession, ranging from clinical residents/fellows to medical students to assistant professors. The findings of this survey revealed certain factors that hinder career development, issues like

family obligations, absence of role models/mentors, male dominated workplaces, lack of assertiveness, to name a few examples.

By far the most pressing issue for women was striking a balance between work and family/home obligations: over a third (36%) of the respondents raised this concern.

The report also exposed the need for information, advice and guidance in order for more junior women to move ahead in the ranks. The survey suggests numerous ways for young clinicians and scientists to improve their careers and personal lives. It stressed the importance of attending professional meetings with an impressive 94% of the respondents promoting these events. The survey respondents indicated that meetings, amongst other things, allow them

to expand their network, gain more knowledge, increase confidence and be considered as "major players".

The survey raises fundamental issues women face in the field of transplantation, with the lack of access to good mentors being the most often cited. WIT is starting a mentoring scheme which would enable women to access mentors in their region or country and possibly across the same discipline.

TTS wishes to thank Pfizer for its continuous contribution and support for this initiative and invites women working in transplantation to go to **www.tts.org/women** to fill out the questionnaire. A copy of the WIT report in its entirety is also available on the website.

## PROJECTS ON DEVELOPING DONATION FROM DECEASED DONORS

# TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO NATIONAL ORGAN UNIT

ith the goal of ending transplant tourism and developing donation programs, TTS and ISODP have provided a grant to the Trinidad and Tobago National Organ Transplant Unit (NOTU) to initiate the country's deceased donation program. In the spring of 2010, NOTU invited OneLegacy's Thomas Mone, Renee Hawthorne, and Maria Stadtler to assist in this effort; after months of research and conference calls, the team travelled to Trinidad for two weeks for an on-site assessment and initial training program.

The assessment identified an active living donation program with a dedicated group of transplant professionals that has been serving the island nation for twenty years. However, the assessment also discovered that while basic legislation empowers NOTU to recover deceased donor organs and while criteria for brain death and organ donation were adopted and reliable, current medical examiner/coroner laws inhibit donation because a coroner must release the body for donation (when the coroner has jurisdiction). However, the law does not allow a coroner to be assigned until after cardiac death. Furthermore, neither regulations nor incentives exist to prompt hospitals to refer potential organ donors to NOTU. In addition, when the referral is made there is not sufficient staff available from NOTU to respond to and follow all referrals.

In collaboration with TTS, Marti Manyalich and Paula Gomez of Transplant Procurement Management (TPM) are now working directly with the Ministry of Health in the development of NOTU. TPM and TTS will continue the work to assist Trinidad and Tobago in its commendable efforts to establish deceased organ donation.



From left to right: Renee Hawthorne, Thomas Mone, Leslie Roberts, Maria Stadtler

# WORLD ORGAN DONATION DAY, NEW DELHI INDIA



f you have seen the film Gandhi, you will recall that his funeral scene took place in Delhi with a million mourners along the enormous Rajpath that leads from the Presidential Palace to the Gate of India. The Health Department of India arranged for World Organ Donation Day to be held in the shadow of the Gate of India, with the officials of the city and federal authorities displaying their support for organ donation and transplantation in India. There is a new emphasis on donation from deceased organ donors and a determination to build the transplantation programs that the community in India needs to treat the enormous number of people otherwise reliant on dialysis or dying of liver failure.

There was also an impressive conference held in the government congress centre in New Delhi on November 28th and 29th, 2010 that brought a large number of both Indian specialists and international visitors to focus on the task of creating momentum in India for organ donation after death. TTS was well represented as always, as was the Fair

Transplant Foundation and the WHO. The task is of course gigantic – 1.3 billion people, many different languages and religions, two economies – urban and rural, a developing hospital capacity, but a continuing brain drain of skill from the country. How many expatriate Indian nephrologists, hepatologists and surgeons are working in your country? World Organ Donation Day provided a centrepiece for discussion of these issues.

Always unforgettable, always incredible India (to echo the advertising), the public events included a school children's art contest and the events at the Gate of India. Like previous World Organ Donation days such as those in Berlin and Osaka, the day provides an opportunity to connect the world to the issues of organ and tissue donation through the Internet, but it is clear that the largest impact of the event is in the home country. The next one is in Cape Town, South Africa and we all must look forward to seeing the added African texture and colour that certainly will be on show there.



World Organ Donation Day in New Delhi, India



## TTS AND THAI SOCIETIES LAUNCH A MODEL OF COLLABORATION

n October 11th 2010, Henrik Ekberg, now the new TTS Director of Medical Affairs, made an official visit to Bangkok. TTS councilor for Asia Vasant Sumethkul hosted his visit in conjunction with the organizations Thai Transplantation Society, Asian Society of Transplantation and The Ministry of Public Health of Thailand. The objective for the workshop with Dr. Ekberg was to launch "The 4Ds project" (Strategic planning for Developing Donation from Deceased Donors) to Thailand and Asia. This effort was operated by organizing a round table discussion with participation of administrators of all stakeholders involved in the process of organ donation and transplantation in Thailand.

With a population of 65 million, Thailand is a country that provides all important health services to its own inhabitants, including all types of solid organ and bone marrow transplantation. Organizations for organ donation and transplantation are well established.

The prevalence of end stage renal disease in Thailand is 496 per million population. The cost of kidney transplantation is covered by the government's health benefit schemes since 2007. A total of 4,449 kidney transplantations have been performed in Thailand since 1972. However, organ shortage is still a great barrier to transplantation and the rate of kidney transplantation varies between 300-370 patients per year. During the workshop, the opportunities for expansion of organ donation were identified and discussed.



4Ds workshop in Bangkok 2010. Henrik Ekberg and Vasant Sumethkul (center). The Deputy Permanent Secretary of Thailand's Ministry of Public Health Tanongsan Sutatam (fourth from the left corner)

There are approximately 36,000 yearly casualties in traffic accidents in Thailand. A majority of these are head injuries. With proactive task forces, a greater proportion of brain death donors could be utilized. Important identifiable approaches to increase organ donation included:

- Strong commitment from the Ministry of Public Health to create a supporting system for the workload of neurosurgeons, ICU physicians and nurses after the diagnosis of brain death.
- Identification of a number of target regional hospitals to act as centers of excellence in organ donation.
- Intensive training in the process of organ donation and donor management at the specified donor hospitals organized by Thai Red Cross Organ Donation Center and Thai Transplantation Society.

4. Planning the strategy to set up a Donor Caring System, supported by the Ministry of Public Health

This meeting demonstrated the importance of collaboration between the organizations for organ donation and organ transplantation and the Ministry of Public Health of the individual country. The next action will be to create an effective collaboration between the involved stakeholders and individual professionals. This step was identified to be the key factor that will lead to true expansion of the deceased donor program in Thailand. TTS has an important role as initiator in launching national 4Ds programs.

# BALKAN INITIATIVE IN DECEASED DONATION MEETING, SKOPJE, MACEDONIA

TS and the European Society of Organ Transplantation (ESOT) in collaboration with the International Society of Organ Donation and Procurement (ISODP) and the European Transplant Coordinators Organization (ETCO) will convene a meeting of stakeholders from the Southeast Region of Europe on May 27<sup>th</sup> to May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2011, in Skopje, Macedonia to address the organ donation and transplantation needs of each country within that geographical region. Representatives from each of the following countries or jurisdictions are invited: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia,

Greece, Kosovo, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, and Slovenia.

The objective is to bring together representatives from the Ministries of Health and Professional Organizations for an exchange of information and experience amongst these countries of the Southeast Europe Region. The hope is to foster a new vision for deceased organ donation and transplantation, translated into shared national objectives.

The project is supported by the collaboration of the WHO with Organización Nacional de Trasplantes (ONT), and the consultation of the Council of Europe through the European
Directorate for the Quality of Medicines and
Health care (EDQM), the European Commission
and the South-eastern Europe Health Network
(SEEHN). This project is intended to be
contributory to initiatives that are already
underway for example through SEEHN and the
Council of Europe. The collaboration with the
SEEHN Network is being done under the
auspices of the Regional Health Development
Center of Croatia and the leadership of Dr.
Mirela Busic. An initial meeting of Ministry
representatives took place in Zagreb in February.

# SPECIAL PROFILE 2010 TTS-ASTELLAS YOUNG INVESTIGATOR AWARDS

Ten TTS-Astellas Young Investigator Awards were presented to TTS members with the highest scoring abstracts during the Vancouver Congress. TTS will be profiling the award winners throughout the year in *Tribune*.





# LI LI, USA

Li Li was granted a Young Investigator Award for her research paper: A highly specific novel 3 gene-set can non-invasively predict operational renal allograft tolerance. This gene-set specific to operational tolerance in peripheral blood has been identified using the high-

throughput microarray and can be further validated by Q-PCR across multiple patients groups and transplant centers with high sensitivity, specificity and accuracy. It can be used as a non-invasive monitoring tool for screening patients with stable operational tolerance after kidney transplantation. Serial measurement of expression for this gene-set in

peripheral blood opens the door for deliberate immunosuppression minimization after transplantation, and should be further tested for its utility in also monitoring patients on tolerance induction protocols in kidney transplantation.

The young research scientist Li got her MD on clinical medicine from China and MS on bioinformatics from Boston University. Currently, she works at Stanford University. Her research interests are: biomarkers identification for diagnosis/prognosis of specific phenotypes for solid organ transplantation using integrated bioinformatics approach and clinical outcomes analysis on prospective and retrospective clinical trials. She received the Distinguished Research Fellow Award and Young Investigator Award in the past from the American Society of Transplantation.



# KAZUAKI TOKODAI, JAPAN

Kazuaki Tokodai was granted a Young Investigator Award for his paper called Interruption of a cross-talk between the complement and coagulation cascades improves early outcomes after intraportal islet transplantation. He is a general surgeon specialized in solid organ

transplantation at Tohoku University Hospital in Japan. He has been involved in the research of islet transplantation, especially the instant blood-mediated inflammatory reaction (IBMIR). IBMIR, characterized by activation of both the coagulation and complement cascades, is one of the major obstacles to successful islet engraftment. He has an active interest in the

cross-talk between the complement and coagulation cascades in the IBMIR.

In the complement system, complement 5a factor (C5a) is well known to elicit a broad range of pro-inflammatory reactions. In islet transplantation, the regulation of C5a might contribute to the suppression of the IBMIR.

In recent years, many researchers have reported a potential interplay between complement and coagulation cascades. Dr. Tokodai's team has shown through their research that C5a inhibitory peptide attenuates the cross-talk between the complement and coagulation cascades through suppressing the up-regulation of tissue factor expression on leukocytes in recipient livers and thereby improves early outcomes after intraportal islet transplantation.



# LAURA WOZNIAK, USA

Laura Wozniak received a Young Investigator Award for her work on the Validation of a Transcriptional Profile of Tolerance in Pediatric Liver Transplant Recipients. In collaboration with Dr. Sarwal's lab at Stanford University, peripheral blood gene expression patterns from a cohort of

18 UCLA pediatric liver transplant recipients were compared to a unique 13gene set identified from previous tolerance studies. The gene set correctly predicted tolerance with 100% sensitivity and 83% specificity. Prospective studies are needed to determine whether this 13-gene set can identify patients who can be withdrawn from immunosuppression.

Dr. Wozniak received her M.D. from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the Bronx, New York. She then completed her Pediatric residency at UCLA. She is now a fellow in Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology, and Nutrition at UCLA. In addition, she is completing a Clinical Pharmacology fellowship and an M.S. in Health Services Research. Clinically, she is interested in caring for liver and small bowel transplant patients. Under Dr. McDiarmid's mentorship, Dr. Wozniak's research is aimed at identifying biomarkers of tolerance after liver transplantation, with the ultimate goal of enabling clinicians to individualize immunosuppression.



# ISODP 2011 CONGRESS

Members of ISODP and the community of experts working in the field of organ donation are very much looking forward to ISODP Congress that will take place in Buenos Aires, Argentina from November 27th to 30th, 2011 under the chairmanship of Dr. Carlos Soratti. Many countries in South America have moved forward enormously in numbers of organ donation per million population in the last year. To host the Congress might be a further stimulus for people being involved in the work. Of course this event is an excellent opportunity for further discussion on how to improve the situation all over the world. Further details are available on the Congress website, www.isodp2011.org.ar.

The main aim of the ISODP is to increase organ donation, to meet the needs in every specific country. Currently the Society is engaged in educational activities in different countries: ISODP is working with TTS, ESOT and ETCO on an initiative dedicated towards South East European countries with the aim to establish a system of organ donation in every single country of that region. The overall goals are to learn by further cooperation and to increase the supply of organs towards self-sufficiency. (For more on this topic read the Meeting in Skopje, Macedonia article on page 5.)

The ISODP as an international society in the field of organ donation wants to further increase their membership. Ensure that you become a member as soon as possible. Go to **www.isodp.org** to join. Encourage your colleagues to do so and take part in the scientific discussion.

# TTS/ISODP SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM TURNS OUT TO BE A BIG SUCCESS

During the ISODP Conference in Berlin 2009, a Scholarship Program for transplant coordinators was introduced and it turned out to be a big success. A number of participants were sent to institutions with great experience in the field. Some of them participated in the TPM Course in Barcelona followed by practical training in big donor hospitals in Spain. The combination of theoretical education and practical training proved to be an excellent way to provide both information and education. Participants evaluated the training to be excellent. Hopefully they will be key leaders for the upcoming years in their environment to continuously improve organ donation in their home country. TTS, ISODP and TPM course leaders are very grateful for the contribution from Astellas Pharma and hope to continue with the program next year.



From left to right: Edison Duque (Colombia), Melania Istrate (Romania), Gloria Páez (Spain), Günter Kirste (President of ISODP), Arzu Kader Harmanci (Turkey), Marti Manyalich (Spain), Bianca Topp (Australia), Francis Delmonico (TTS President-Elect)

# INTERNATIONAL XENOTRANSPLANTATION ASSOCIATION NEWS

The next meeting of the International Xenotransplantation Association (IXA) will be organized in conjunction with the meeting of the Cell Transplant Society (CTS) and will be held in Miami, USA, on October 23<sup>rd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Camillo Ricordi will act as Chairman of the joint Congress and Philip O'Connell is the Chairman of the Scientific Program Committee. Dr. O'Connell and his team are putting together an exciting scientific program. Many timely topics will be addressed, that span from biomaterials, stem cell research, nanotechnology and immunology of transplantation, to regulatory issues that impact clinical translation of promising discoveries. Leaders in the fields are scheduled to participate and share the most recent findings with the audience. In the joint Plenary Sessions and in the State of the Art Symposia, invited keynote speakers will share the podium with authors of the highest quality abstracts. We are all looking forward to a highly interactive meeting that will help set the stage for the new breakthroughs in both fields.

Drs. Ricordi, O'Connell and all members of the organizing committees are looking forward to welcoming attendees in sunny Miami!

The Congress will represent a unique opportunity for both clinicians and scientists to gather and get an update on advances in these exciting fields.

Abstract submission is now open. Submit your abstract today **www.cts-ixa2011.org**.



# TRANSPLANT INFECTIOUS DISEASE UPDATE

After the successful 4<sup>th</sup> TID Conference that was held during the TTS Congress in Vancouver, the Transplant Infectious Disease society is now pleased to announce that they will be holding the 5<sup>th</sup> International Transplant Infectious Disease Conference on Saturday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2011 in Glasgow, Scotland, the day before the ESOT Congress. Further information on the conference will be posted on the meeting website shortly: www.tid2011.org. Save the date!

# **UPCOMING TTS MEETINGS**

#### WHAT'S ONLINE?



#### www.tts.org

- Access to past webinars on the TTS website.
   Some recent topics include:
  - o Utilizing HIV positive donors for HIV positive recipients Dr. Elmi Muller
  - o Cardiovascular risk factors Dr. Steve Chadban
  - o Tricky screening and expanding the organ pool Dr. Michael Ison
- Access to many of the presentations from the TTS 2010 Vancouver Congress with over 100 CME study credit hours. Just visit the media library on the TTS website.
- Dr. Jeremy Chapman's presidential address at the 2010 Vancouver Congress.



### www.declarationofistanbul.org

 The Declaration of Istanbul webpage has been updated. Go to the website to see these important updates including news articles, policy documents and much more!

## FOR A LIST OF ALL TRANSPLANTATION MEETINGS PLEASE VISIT WWW.TTS.ORG

















# **XXIV International Congress of The Transplantation Society**

Berlin, Germany • July 15-19, 2012

Chair: Peter Neuhaus

www.transplantation2012.org

# The Transplantation Society Officers 2010–2012

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.

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