I would like to welcome all of you at the 21st European Immunogenetics and Histocompatibility Conference, our annual EFI meeting held this year in Barcelona.

The architecture of Immunogenetics, the chosen title for the meeting matches well the vibrating harmony of the city landscape. We are grateful to the local organizing committee chaired by Jordi Vives and Antonio Nunez-Roldan for their great hospitality.

This 21st Annual Meeting confirms that EFI has entered the 21st Century full speed. The scientific program eloquently reflects the evolution of our field. Immunogenetics focus not only on HLA and MHC, KIR, FC Receptors, Cytokines, drug metabolizing enzymes genetic systems are joining the band and the cross talk between Immunogenetics and immune reconstitution has medical impact in clinical transplantation.

Therapeutic interventions do not rely only on immunosuppressive drugs anymore. Innovative cell therapies, vaccines and translational research are rapidly developing. Also the new horizon of our society is illustrated by "Immunogenetics in China" being a special feature of the meeting.

On behalf of the EFI board, I would like to invite all of you to attend the General Assembly of our society on Monday May 7th at 17.00.

I look forward to discussing the future of EFI with you and in the meantime I wish you an excellent time in Barcelona.

Dominique Charron
EFI President
LABScreen® Singles — A perfect tool for pre- and post-transplant monitoring

When you need to identify antibody against donor antigens, LABScreen® Singles gets the job done. We now offer a comprehensive menu of single antigens. Each Class I or Class II antigen is available in convenient 10-test packaging. Now you can select the specific antigens required for your patient’s antibody monitoring regimen.

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➢ Targeted — choose only the single antigens you need
➢ Convenient — no waste package

And, as always, you get the quality and reliability you expect from One Lambda.

For more information on LABScreen® Singles or other Single Antigen products, contact your One Lambda representative or visit www.onelambda.com
....FROM THE EDITOR’S DESK

The main topic in this Newsletter is the upcoming EFI meeting in Barcelona. Considering the program of the plenary sessions and the number of abstracts (a new all time record), it promises to be an exciting meeting. Of course, the beautiful city of Barcelona is a second good reason to attend the EFI meeting and, for some people, it might even be the main reason. In this Newsletter the local organizers, Jordi Vives and Antonio Nunez-Rodan, give you an update and the latest news on their meeting.

For those of you, who did not submit their votes yet for new councilors, the essential information is given once more in this Newsletter, although for several of you the deadline may have passed before you read the Newsletter. In that case you might have missed the e-mails on this topic, which have been sent to all members by Sonja Mesander. When you did not receive these e-mails, please inform Sonja on your correct e-mail address.

If you are attending the meeting, I would suggest that you keep some spare time in between your visits to the Gaudi buildings and the Picasso- or Miro museum in order to be able to attend the General Assembly meeting, of which the program is announced in this Newsletter. It is the opportunity for you as an EFI member to raise your voice and to agree (or disagree?) with the decisions of the Board.

Finally, a first announcement of the Summer school in Pecs is published. Although not all details on the program are known, the concept of the previous years implying an intensive interaction between students and tutors from the 3 immunogenetic societies EFI, ASHI and ASEATTA, is almost a guarantee for a very successful meeting. More information can be obtained via summerschool2007@csvdonor.hu

Hopefully, this Newsletter is informative for you and I am looking forward to your contributions to the next one.

Frans Claas

Copy date for EFI Newsletter no 54 is August 27, 2007. Please send your contributions to Frans Claas, Leiden, the Netherlands, preferentially by e-mail: fhjclaas@lumc.nl

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT TO EFI MEMBERS

For security reasons we need to change the username password for the EFI website on a regular basis. Changes to the password will be announced in the EFI Newsletter and will apply from the publication date of the Newsletter in which the change is announced.

The new username and password are:

Username: efiuser
Password: Barcelona
URL: http://www.efiweb.org/members/

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Report on a working visit to the research group of Prof. Dr. Katherina Fleischhauer 30
ESH Meeting 31
The general assembly was held on Saturday June 10, 2006 Oslo, Norway; during the 20th European Immunogenetics and Histocompatibility Conference. The president, Federico Garrido chaired the meeting.

1.- Opening
Federico Garrido opens the meeting at 16:20 pm and welcomes all EFI members present.

2.- Minutes of the General Assembly
April 25, 2005, Istanbul, Turkey.
The minutes published in the EFI newsletter Issue 47, June 2005 were approved.

3.- Report of the Secretary
Steven Marsh explained the procedure for the coming elections and time schedule.

4.- Report of the EFI executive Committee meetings
a. The EFI membership cards are well appreciated. It has been decided not to provide every year the members a new card to make it cost effective. It is examined how a timeless card can be of additional value for the EFI members.
b. Tissue Antigens has become the official journal for EFI. The EC thanks Jim McCluskey (Editor) and Martin Vinding (Blackwells). Ten new editorial board members have been assigned by the board and the editor.
c. A joint effort and exchange of experiences between EFI and ASHI is initiated. Interaction at the presidential level, exchange of information on accreditation, EPT etc has been established.
d. The next summer-school in Thailand 17-20 November 2006 has been organized by ASEATTA. The 2007 summer-school will be held in Budapest, Hungary and be organized by Katalin Raczy. The scientific programme will be established in collaboration with the EFI education committee.
e. The Poseidon project has been resubmitted by Anne Cambon-Thompson and upon approval by the EU a close collaboration with EFI committees will take place.
f. EFI was represented by D. Charron, E. Thorsby, F. Claas and F. Garrido at the EFIS meeting in Paris with a Symposium on “Immunogenetics in Clinical Medicine”. The special session of EDI at the 1st Joint Meeting of European National Societies of Immunogenetics under the auspices of EFIS (September 6-9, 2006) was well attended.
g. Attention was drawn by the EC to the possibility of requesting bursaries for the EFI meeting, educational bur-saries and also nominations for the Julia Bodmer Award. EFI members are encouraged to apply. Details are on the EFI website.
h. Board members are assigned as liaison officers for improved communication and information exchange between the board and important ongoing activities. Ralf Wassmuth will act as meeting liaison officer to the EFI meeting local organising committee (LOC), companies and will help to address meeting organizing issues. Mats Bengston will be the liaison officer for contacts of the accreditation committee and JACIE. Ilias Doxiadis is the liaison officer for EU grant POSEIDON.
i. The central office in Leiden is involved in many EFI secretarial activities. The EC likes to thank Sonja Mesander for her involvement, dedication and support to the EFI board. Moreover Sonja managing the membership secretary. Sonja received flowers as recognition of her dedication to the Central Office.

5.- Report of the EFI treasurer (Colette Raffoux)
More than 100 members paid their fee cash at the meeting. The EFI booth was considered useful and will be continued in the next EFI meetings. The presented budgets were approved (see tables).

6.- Report of the EFI committees
a. Standards and Quality Assurance (chairman Jean-Marie Tiercy)
Version 5.5 has been approved by the board upon final modifications in Oslo (June 2006). Thanks to M. Bengtsson, C. Carcassi, C. Dunne, K. Fleischhauer, T. Gervais, Harmer, D. Masson, J. Mytilineos, F. Poli, K. Poulton, and D. Crowe from ASHI
The major changes include: Qualification of Director/Co-Director (B2.000)
QA: test evaluation and monitoring (C4.220); Definition of high resolution typing (D1.320); New subsection on Haplotype assignment (D2.000), replacing the one on Family studies. Crossmatching subsection (F6.000) merged to section F, aimed to allow accreditation for crossmatching in laboratories not involved in organ transplantation, and to set up precise regulations for omitting a pre-transplant crossmatch for non immunized patients (section G). Rules for confirmatory typing (related/unrelated donor) in HSCT New subsection on bead array techniques (M4.000).
b. External Proficiency Testing (chairman Ciaran Dunne)
The EFI EPT Committee met in Oslo. Deborah Crowe (ASHI) joined the meeting.
1. A directory of EPT Organisers for EFI affiliated laboratories is now available.
2. A letter was sent to all EPT Organisers in April 2006 requesting that they provide an annual Certificate of EPT performance to all EFI affiliated laboratories.
3. Copenhagen began organising EPT for serology and 2 digit typing in November 2005. Sofia to introduce HLA antibody identification and HLA-B27 typing schemes this summer for Region 8 (Balkans and Israel) laboratories.
4. EPT Regional Coordinators (from Oslo 2006)
Region 1 – Scandinavia – John Vaage
Region 2 – Benelux – Ilias Doxiadis
Region 3 – UK + Ireland - Susan Corbin
Region 4 – Germany – Christian Seidl
Region 5 – Central Europe – Martin Petrek
Region 6 + 11 – France + Switzerland – Chantal Gautreau
Region 7 – Italy – Francesca Quintieri
Region 8 – Balkans + Israel – Elisaveta Naumova
Region 9 + 10 – Iberia – Guadalupe Ercilla
Region 99 – South Africa – Ciaran Dunne
5. For communication purposes it

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**MINUTES OF THE EFI GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

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was agreed to encourage all EPT Schemes to adopt abbreviated titles such as ET, NEQAS, CET, Balkan EPT etc.

6. Rules for EPT Organisers and participating laboratories were updated from version 2 (Newsletter 46) to version 3. The implementation date for version 3 being 1st January 2007.

c. Accreditation
(Chairman: Antonio Nunez-Roldan)

Currently 184 laboratories have been accredited through May 2006. The priorities include the collaboration between EFI and ASHI; the quality assurance (in close collaboration with the standard committee and the inspectors’ continuing education.

There are 11 new inspectors and in total 72 inspectors are active. Upon approval by the board a third commissioner was installed in Germany.

The most frequent deficient findings in 56 inspections performed during 2005 are summarized in Table 1. Deficiencies on Quality Assurance and Nucleic Acid Analysis account for 71.3% of the total number of findings.

Collaboration of EFI and E.C. (public health), EA, WMDA, JACIE, ASHI and China is ongoing. The main conclusions from the EA/EFI meeting in Frankfurt (29 May 2006) are:
- EFI and EA will elaborate a common procedure for ISO/EFI joint inspections based on the MoU.
- EFI is responsible for the technical standards.
- The inspectors are appointed by EFI and are trained on a regular basis from EFI.
- EFI Commissioners decide on the EFI accreditation outcome.

In 2005 three bursaries for Exchange Program were granted. Reports can be found in the newsletter. There are possibilities open to apply. See for application the WEBSITE and newsletter announcements.

d. Education
(chairman Paulo Santos)

Ongoing activities:
- Update Inventory of Educational Activities in Europe
- Organization of teaching sessions, Oslo 2006
- Establish Education Standards

In 2005 three bursaries for Exchange Program were granted. Reports can be found in the newsletter. There are possibilities open to apply. See for application the WEBSITE and newsletter announcements.

e. Web (Chairman Steven Marsh)

The work on the EFI website has concentrated on providing regular updates to the site for which James Robinson is acknowledged.

The Laboratory Directory, which has been replaced by a searchable listing of EFI Accredited Laboratories. This information has also been made publicly available rather than been restricted to EFI members only. The laboratory directory was last updated March 2006.

The Accreditation section of the website continues to be the most frequently updated section of the site, and the updates from the Accreditation office to streamline this Sonja Mesander now only sends a single weekly update rather than several updates per week.

Email aliases have been set up for both the webmaster and Marcel Tilanus (EFI Secretary) webmaster@efiweb.org and efisecretary@efiweb.org, as appropriate. The membershipsecretary@efiweb.org alias is now redirected to Sonja Mesander.

The biggest addition to the site this year has been the collaboration with Blackwells and the Tissue Antigens journal. Through implementation of their Trusted Proxy Server (TPS) facility, EFI members are able to download or view the full PDF of any HLA nomenclature report.

We have established a good relationship with our contacts at Blackwells which allows that all new updates are available to members upon publication.

The Blackwells/Tissue Antigens logos have been added to parts of the members directory and the relevant pages, we will also add the logos to the main page as Tissue Antigens is now the official journal.

The EFI website usage remains stable and similar compared to earlier years with the highest visit to the homepage, followed by meetings, laboratory searches, members page accreditation, standards and others.

Steven handed the chairmanship of the web committee over to Ralf Wassmuth; new members of the WEB committee are Wolfgang Helmberg, Erik Roze- muller and Derek Middleton.

f. Scientific Affairs
(Chairman Dominique Charron)

The scientific committee proposed the Ceppellini lecturer and selected the Julia Bodmer awardee and provided an excellent program enjoyed by many during this meeting.

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Why do patients negative for classical HLA antibodies sometimes experience graft rejection?

Recent research has evaluated HLA Class I-MICA as a contributing factor in solid organ transplant rejection. One Lambda now provides assays for MICA antibody detection and identification.
7.- Report of the EFI President
Presidents issues are included in point 4.

8.- Future EFI conferences
- Toulouse, April 2 – 5, 2008 organized by Mogens Thomson

9.- Other Topics
The first EFI medal was awarded to Aad van Leeuwen. Antonio Nunez-Roldan acknowledged Aad for her contribution and dedication to EFI with the following speech:

Let me tell you something about a general principle in nature: we have a small plant; then, if we want this plant to become a flourishing tree, we need somebody to look after, to care; someone with knowledge, someone with love. I have been asked by the EFI board to present Aad van Leeuwen as recipient of an EFI medal as homage for her outstanding contribution to the EFI accreditation program. I’m most pleased and honoured to do it from two positions: one, on behalf of the EFI board and, second, as a Chairman of the Accreditation Committee. During 8 years I have received from Aad a continuous support. She has been the pillar of the Accreditation Committee. She has been the person who took a small plant and transformed it into a flourishing tree: now the number of EFI accredited laboratories is 186.

All institutions need people entirely devoted to achieve their aims. In the EFI accreditation program, Aad has been such a person. Accuracy, resolution, and generosity are needed to carry out successfully any kind of task. Very few people are endowed with such qualities. Aad, you are one of them. With your serenity, composure and dedication you also helped to solve the problems we got. Aad, you have been the soul of the EFI accreditation program. Dear Aad, on behalf of all EFI members, on behalf of this family, I want to express you our most sincere and deepest gratitude.

10.- Installation of new officers and Councillors
Katalin Rajczy finished her term as EFI councillor and was thanked for her contribution. The one vacancy for councillor was filled by Elissaveta Naumova who was elected among the three excellent candidates with the highest number of votes.

Prof. Dominique Charron was welcomed by Federico as the new president of EFI. Dominique thanks Federico for all his efforts and closes the meeting.

11.- Closure
Marcel G.J. Tilanus (EFI secretary)
March 2007

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**PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT**

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Welcome to the 21st EFI Meeting and to Barcelona

The 21st EFI Meeting has been entitled “Architecture of Immunogenetics in Barcelona” and it will be held in the CCIB, a vanguardistic, emblematic building of great architectonical value. Following the opening ceremony at the CCIB, participants will be transferred for the welcome party to the “Casa Batlló” located in the city center and considered as one of the masterworks of the modernist architect Antoni Gaudí. The Conference will begin in two out of the most emblematic buildings of Barcelona. We are very pleased to welcome you to the Conference and to Barcelona!

Casa Batlló was built more than a century ago (1906) and the singular CCIB, where the meeting will be held, is only three years old. The time when the building of immunogenetics will be finished and how it will look like are questions still to be answered. As much as it is sure that in this Conference we will not have the answers to these questions, it is certain that substantial advances will be presented that will help us to further unravel the complex and refined architecture of immunogenetics. The developments that will be presented in the genetics of immunity, transplantation, immunopathology and infectious diseases will help us to accomplish this aim.

For the first time in the EFI Conferences, two special sessions will be held. In one of them, clinicians, immunogeneticists and those responsible for Bone Marrow Donor Registries will meet together to find a consensus to improve several aspects of HSCT. In the other special session, Chinese immunogeneticists will bring us the latest news of this science in their country. Both sessions are planned to get together scientists from different fields or countries to foster their collaboration. And that is precisely one of the most prominent features of Barcelona, the city that will host the conference.

Barcelona is and has been a meeting point for people from different cultures and origins, becoming a tolerant, open-minded city where the friendliness and hospitality of its population matches the beauty of its buildings. Barcelona is an open-air museum and whatever are your interests, we are sure you will find in this city something to make your visit a lively, stimulating and memorable experience.

You are most welcome to Barcelona!

Jordi Vives     Antonio Nuñez-Roldán
Co-chairman    Co-chairman

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WELCOME TO THE 21st EFI MEETING AND TO BARCELONA

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You are most welcome to Barcelona!

Jordi Vives 
Co-chairman

Antonio Nuñez-Roldán 
Co-chairman
OPENING SESSION

Ceppellini Lecture
Decision theory for NK cells: an immunogenetic approach
Klas Karre, Stockholm

PLENARY SESSIONS

Plenary session 1
Genetics of innate immunity
Chairperson: Francisco Lozano, Barcelona

Fc receptors, autoimmunity and infection
Kenneth Smith, Cambridge
NK cell receptors and human cytomegalovirus infection
Miguel López-Botet, Barcelona
The genetics of MBL
Peter Garred, Copenhagen

Plenary session 2
Genetics of immunopathology and infectious diseases
Chairpersons: Peter Stastny, Dallas; Jordi Yagüe, Barcelona

Autoinflammatory diseases
Daniel Kasner, Bethesda
Rheumatoid arthritis: a model of complex genetic autoimmune diseases
Javier Martin, Granada
Immunogenetics of tropical infectious diseases
Adrian V.S.Hill, Oxford

Plenary session 3
The relevance of genetic polymorphisms on HSC transplantation
Chairpersons: Els Goulmy, Leiden; Jaume Martorell, Barcelona

Non-HLA immunogenetics in HSC transplantation
Ann Marie Dickinson, Newcastle-upon-Tyne
Umbilical cord blood transplantation
Guillermo F. Sanz, Valencia
Immune reconstitution after allogeneic hematopoietic stem cell transplantation from immunomonitoring to immunotherapy
Antoine Toubert, Paris

Plenary session 4
Immunology of solid organ transplantation
Chairpersons: Frans Claas, Leiden; Marcello Fernández-Viña, Houston

Regulatory T cells in transplantation
Herman Waldmann, Oxford
Chronic rejection
Jean-Paul Souilillou, Nantes
New evidence for antibodies as cause of chronic transplant rejection
Paul I. Terasaki

Plenary session 5
Present and future of cell therapy
Chairpersons: Federico Garrido, Granada; James McCluskey, Melbourne

Reconstitution of human immune system
Markus G. Manz, Bellinzona
Stem cells and cardiac regeneration
Ana Sánchez, Valladolid
Embryonic stem cells and organogenesis
Stephen Minger, London
ORAL SESSIONS

Best Abstracts
Chairpersons: Erik Thorsby, Oslo; Antonio Amoroso, Torino

Oral session 1
MHC: genetics, structure and function
Chairpersons: Ronald Bontrop, Rijswijk; Christien Voorter, Maastricht

Oral session 2
Genetics of innate and adaptive immunity
Chairpersons: Helena Alves, Porto; Andrzej Lange, Wroclaw

Oral session 3
NK cells and KIR in transplantation
Chairpersons: Stephen Marsh, London; Carlos Vilches, Madrid

Oral session 4
Mixed immunogenetics
Chairpersons: Cristina Navarrete, London; Chryssa Papasteriades, Athens

Oral session 5
Immunogenetics of autoimmune diseases
Chairpersons: Carlo Carcassi, Cagliari; Guadalupe Ercilla, Barcelona

Oral session 6
Histocompatibility and immune responses in transplantation
Chairpersons: Joannis Mytilineos, Ulm; Elisavetta Naumova, Sofia

Oral session 7
Histocompatibility and immune responses in transplantation
Chairpersons: Clara Gorodezky, Mexico DF; Francesca Poli, Milano

Oral session 8
Technical aspects of immunogenetics
Chairpersons: Rainer Blasczyk, Hannover; Anne Cambon-Thomsen, Toulouse

TEACHING SESSIONS

Teaching session 1
Analysis of chimerism in the monitoring of transplanted patients
Chairpersons: Don Kristt, Petah-Tikva; Antonio Martinho, Coimbra

Teaching session 2
Ambiguities, null alleles and other problems of SBT
Chairpersons: Rainer Blasczyk, Hannover; Agnès Moine, Grenoble

Teaching session 3
Antibody removal in solid organ transplantation
Chairpersons: David Briggs, Birmingham; Lennart Rydberg, Göteborg

Teaching session 4
Donor selection for HSCT: the importance of HLA, KIR and minor antigens
Chairpersons: Katharine Fleischhauer, Milan; Cristina Navarrete, London
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SPECIAL SESSIONS

Looking for a consensus between Donor Bone Marrow Registries and HLA laboratories
Chairpersons: Dominique Charron, Paris; Álvaro Urbano, Barcelona

Introduction
Álvaro Urbano, Barcelona

Population diversity boundaries: how many donors do we need?
Carlheinz Mueller, Ulm

What do we need to watch for in different hematopoietic stem cell transplant settings?
Enric Carreras, Barcelona

Quality of HLA in registries
Carolyn Hurley, Washington

How far do we go and what do we call it? Panel discussion
Chairpersons: Machteld Oudshoorn, Leiden; Jean-Marie Tiercy, Geneva
Panel members: Carolyn Hurley, Washington; Ann Margaret Little, London; Steven Marsh, London; Carlheinz Mueller, Ulm

Concluding remarks
Dominique Charron, Paris

Immunogenetics in China
Chairpersons: Lian Fan, Shanghai; Marcel Tilanus, Utrecht

Immunogenetic studies in China
Lian Fan, Shanghai

Anthropology studies in China
Anlong Xu, Guangzhou

HLA and bone marrow transplantation
Tong Wu, Beijing

HLA and cancer studies in China
Wei Xie, Nanking

EFI General Assembly
Monday May 7, 2007
17:00 – 18:30 pm
Plenary Room 113 and 114

To all EFI members

On behalf of the EFI Executive board I invite you to attend the General Assembly. It represents your opportunity, as an EFI member, to actively participate in discussing the different proposals presented and in deciding whether they should or should not be approved. Your ideas and opinions are most welcome.

The EFI General Assembly will take place Monday May 7, 2007 17:00 – 18:30 pm Plenary room 113 + 114, and I strongly encourage you to attend.

All the Best

Dominique Charron
EFI-President
Election of new members of the EFI
Executive Committee 2007

Nominations were sought for the functions of Secretary, Deputy Treasurer and three Councillors.

*Marcel Tilanus* was nominated as Secretary
*Agnès Moine* was nominated as Deputy Treasurer

No further nominations for these positions were received. If the General Assembly during the 21st European Immunogenetics and Histocompatibility Conference in Barcelona approves of these nominations, Marcel Tilanus and Agnes Moine will take office after the General Assembly

We have six nominations for the three positions of councillor:

*Rainer Blasczyk*
*Mahmut Carin*
*Anne Cesbron*
*Ann-Margaret Little*
*Cristina Navarrete*
*Micel Toungouz*

If you are paid-up EFI member you should use your right to vote. So please, fill in the ballot form, which is enclosed with this Newsletter, and send it to the EFI deputy secretary as soon as possible, following the instructions as indicated. To assist you with your decision, a short presentation of all candidates is included below.

*Dominique Charron*
President
Ballot form for EFI Councillor 2007

Candidates:

1. Rainer Blaszyk
2. Mahmut Carin
3. Anne Cesbron
4. Ann-Margaret Little
5. Cristina Navarrete
6. Michel Toungouz

How to Vote:

1. Select three candidates and give a mark beside their name.
2. Enclose the ballot sheet in a blank and anonymous envelope and seal.
3. Enclose this envelope into another envelope on which you should put your name, address and EFI membership number (if known). If you fail to do this your vote will not be counted!
4. Return this envelope before April 28, 2007 to:

   Dr. Steven Marsh
   Anthony Nolan Research Institute
   Royal Free Hospital
   Pond Street
   London NW3 2QG
   United Kingdom
Marcel Tilanus  nominated for Secretary

In 1981 I graduated at the University of Utrecht in biology with main topics biochemistry and anthropogenetics. From 1981 I was introduced in the HLA system and got my PhD degree in 1986 at the Department of Immunohaematology and Bloodbank. My thesis “DNA analysis of the HLA system” described the use of restriction fragment length polymorphism analysis for HLA-class II genes. Four subsequent years (1986-1990) I established as post-doc a molecular biology laboratory at the Agricultural University in Wageningen, the Netherlands. With an excellent group of colleagues we studied MHC and Marek’s disease in chicken by molecular, protein and serological approaches. When in 1990 a molecular facility at the University Medical Center in Utrecht (UMCU) was established with great possibilities for patient directed research, an easy decision was taken to move to Utrecht. In collaboration with the department of immunology and got almost directly involved in molecular HLA typing. Since we got only the “difficult” samples, cloning and sequencing were required to define the polymorphism of the alleles. Since than I decided to establish a sequencing based typing (SBT) approach for direct sequencing PCR products, without cloning and took the important decision to establish HLA specific software for the automated analysis of polymorphism. The collaboration with many other groups on molecular approaches and sequencing and the development of HLA analysis software enabled us to introduce SBT in the 12th international histocompatibility workshops. In 1996 I was nominated and installed as international councilor histocompatibility testing and involved in technology, stem cell transplantation, cancer and anthropology components of the 13th and 14th workshops. Genome Diagnostics was established in 2005 and we commercialized the HLA analysis software package and reagents. In 2003 I joined the EFI board as councilor and was requested to take the task of secretary. Last three years I worked with Sonja Mesander, the central office secretary, on many secretarial issues and ongoing processes. Next three years we hope to have the central office equipped with streamlined protocols and clear tasks, of course with the help of the board members, chairmen of the committees and all who care of EFI.

Agnès Moine  nominated for Deputy Treasurer

I graduated as a PhD in Molecular and Cellular Biology at Lyon University in 1982. Following this I spent three years as a post doc at the Medical University of Lubbock Texas, studying the regulation of gene expression under hormonal control in the Anthearea polyphemus model. I entered the field of Histocompatibility in 1987, and had been offered by Professor Bensa in Grenoble, France, the opportunity to implement the RFLP (Restriction Fragment Length Polymorphism) technique in his laboratory, following a six months period in Professor Jean Dausset’s laboratory. From this time, I was responsible for the Molecular Biology part of the laboratory, I developed adapted strategies (SBT HLA typing, Chimerism, Minor antigens SSP typing) to fulfil the requirements of the Bone Marrow Transplantation field. Since 1991, I am an active participant of International Histocompatibility Workshops and a EFI member since 1993. Co-director of EFI accreditation, I am also involved, on a regular basis,
in the Molecular Biology teaching sessions during the French EFI Educational Days. Because EFI has proved to be a very effective structure to promote developments in Immunogenetics, I feel very enthusiastic about contributing to the organization by dedicating some of my time to the position of Deputy Treasurer.

Nominations for EFI Councillor

Rainer Blasczyk

I am Full Professor of Transfusion Medicine and Head of the Institute of Transfusion Medicine at Hannover Medical School, Germany, since 1998. I was born in Bochum in 1962 and graduated in Medicine at the University of Essen in 1987. I began my clinical education as a junior clinician in Abdominal Surgery at the University of Marburg, where I had my first contact with organ transplantation and where my strong interest in immunology evolved. As a result, I moved to the Institute of Immunogenetics at the University of Essen in 1988, where I was introduced to HLA under the supervision of Prof. Hans Grosse-Wilde. Here my interest in HSCT was born, so that from 1991 to 1993 I continued my clinical education in Haematology and Oncology at the University of Düsseldorf. Following these clinical years I returned to the irresistible exciting field of immunogenetics in 1993 at the Institute of Transfusion Medicine, Humboldt-University of Berlin, where I started to work on molecular immunogenetics. In 1998 I was appointed to my current position where I have continued to be actively involved in research, teaching, and clinical application of immunogenetics in the fields of organ and stem cell transplantation.

My scientific interest is focused on MHC molecules and their relevance in adaptive immune responses and allogenetics. This includes comprehensive DNA sequencing, comparative analysis of peptide motifs, identifying minor-antigen selective T cells, MHC silencing by genetic engineering of primary and stem cells as well as Computational Immunology.

I have over 105 publications in the HLA field and was awarded multiple EFI best abstract awards as well as ASHI international scholar awards. I serve on the editorial board of Tissue Antigens and Transfusion Medicine and Hemotherapy. I am Chair of the German Society for Immunogenetics since 2005 and have finally managed to become an EFI inspector in 2007.

During my career I have been fortunate to have the opportunity to cooperate with colleagues from Europe and many other parts of the world. I feel that the experiences I have gained both personally and professionally could be used to contribute to the aims of our society.
Mahmut Carin

I was born in 1945 in Istanbul. I am a graduate of Istanbul University and completed my doctoral thesis at Istanbul Medical Faculty. I worked in Biophysics and Physiology departments before I established the Medical Biology Department at the same faculty. I then moved to work at several centres around the world gaining experience in immunogenetics and histocompatibility; Department of Immunohematology and Blood Bank, LUMC, Leiden, The Netherlands; Department Transplantation Immunology, New Addenbrooke’s Hosp. Cambridge, UK; Department Immunology Rigshospitalet, Copenhagen, Denmark to name a few. I obtained my professorship at the Medical Biology Department, Istanbul Medical Faculty in 1988, and was appointed as a director in 1992. I am now chairing the same department with some 30 staff in my team and working mainly on histocompatibility for solid organ, stem cell transplantations and immunogenetic analysis for chromosomal aberrations, immunosuppressive drug level measurements. I am also chair of The Bone Marrow Registry at the same Faculty. Apart from holding EFI accreditation since 1999 and being an EFI inspector since 2002, my department serves as a reference and education laboratory in Turkey and Middle Eastern Countries. I am one of the pioneers in Transplantation Immunology in Turkey and have served as chair of the Immunology Council and member of National Transplantation Coordinators Council at the Ministry of Health between 2003-2007. Together with my team I have been organizing Balkan and national EPT exercises since 2004. I was the local organiser and chair of the 19th EFI Conference in Istanbul 2005. My aspiration is to promote histocompatibility and immunogenetics in Turkey and in nearby countries.

Anne Cesbron

I began my work in the field of Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics in 1987 when I joined the HLA Laboratory located in the Blood Bank in Nantes, France and under the direction of Jean Denis BIGNON. Before this period, I became a Pharmacist in 1980 and then I spent four years in the hospital to training to become a medical biologist. After my arrival in HLA field, I was awarded by a PhD in 1992. The title of my thesis was : ”Functional aspects of HLA polymorphism. Application to Bone Marrow Transplantation”. Since 1988, I have participated regularly in the American Society of Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics (ASHI ) and European Federation of Immunogenetics (EFI) meetings. I have been an EFI member since 1992.

As Deputy Director, my job is mostly concerned by clinical transplantation (HSCT as well as kidney, pancreas, heart and lung transplantation). In HSCT, our clinical centre started with unrelated donors at the very beginning (1987) and I am always very much involved in the choice of the best unrelated HSC donor for our patients. Moreover, in the Blood Bank, I am the Regional Reference for the Bone Marrow Donors Registry (Pays de la Loire). So, I work regularly with the Agence of Biomedecine (Registry France Greffe de Moelle) and I belong to the WMDA Accreditation French group since 2002. In organ transplantation, I am interested in the humoral HLA and non-HLA response during rejection and in developing in our lab new techniques of antibodies identification and Cross Matching. We have been using Flow Cytometry Cross Match for 15 years and are aware of the new Cross Match techniques to introduce (ELISA , Luminex).
Since 1998, I am an Inspector for the EFI accreditation and since 2006 I am a Commissioner of the region 6 (France and Switzerland). So, I am very much concerned by Quality Assurance in European HLA laboratories. As an EFI Councillor, I would like to serve the HLA community by participating to the structure which allows the European laboratories to work together and encourages scientific collaborations. By exchanging experience, we learn a lot from each other in order to assure the best quality of results for the patients all over Europe.

Ann-Margaret Little

My experience within the Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics field began 21 years ago when I embarked on my PhD training in Manchester with Dr. Phil Dyer. This was followed by post-doctoral studies at Stanford, USA with Professor Peter Parham. My interests have predominantly been to understand the structure and function of HLA molecules, particularly their role in clinical medicine. My experience in research and diagnostics has lead to my current position as Operations Director of the Anthony Nolan Trust in London. Our laboratories provide a service not only to the Anthony Nolan Trust volunteer haematopoietic stem cell donor register but also to many transplant units within the UK. We also support the renal and liver transplant programmes within our hospital and perform a range of research activities covering various aspects of health and disease. Over the years, I have also been actively involved in various committees of the British Society for Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics. I have been a member of EFI for 11 years, and an accreditation inspector for the past five. I have enjoyed the opportunities to meet and interact with fellow EFI inspectors and laboratory staff, and from this I have gained much knowledge that has had a positive impact on the way in which our laboratory operates.

I look forward to the challenge of serving EFI as a councillor, as this will give me the opportunity to interact with scientists from the various countries represented by EFI. I believe the strengths of EFI come from the diversity of its members, where laboratories have evolved from varying backgrounds of economics, education and clinical practice. I would embrace the opportunity to be in a role where good practice can be improved through shared experiences and improved research goals. In particular I believe EFI can play a central role in enhancing our understanding of the application of non-MHC Immunogenetics in the field of transplantation and other aspects of medicine.

Cristina Navarrete

I began my career in the field of Histocompatibility & Immunogenetics (H&I) in 1978 in the Department of Transplantation Immunology at the London Hospital Medical College under the supervision of the late Professor Hilliard Festenstein. In 1987 I spent 18 months in New York working under Professor Robert Winchester, and returned to The London Hospital in 1989. In 1993, I moved to the North London Blood Transfusion Centre and in 2000 I became National Head of H&I Services for the National Blood Service.

Throughout my career I have been actively involved in both the research and clinical application of H&I in the fields of transplantation, immunogenetics and blood transfusion and in the training aspects of this specialty.
In 1999-2000 I was Chair of the British Society for Histocompatibility & Immunogenetics and during 1999-2004, I was Chair of the Panel of Examiners in H&I for the Royal College of Pathologists. I also hold an academic appointment in the Department of Immunology & Molecular Pathology at University College London. During this time I have been able to establish strong collaborations with colleagues not only from Europe, but from all over the world. I feel that the experience I have gained both personally and professionally would allow me to contribute to the aims of the Society.

Michel Toungouz

I am the Director of the HLA laboratory of the Erasme Hospital (Université Libre de Bruxelles). I started my HLA career in 1987 under the supervision of Prof Etienne Dupont with whom I undertook my PhD thesis studying the HLA control of cytokine production during alloreactivity. After my thesis, I completed my training by obtaining the transfusion degree “DUTS” from the Université Paris VI. I am also Head of Hemobiology and Director of the Cell Therapy Unit at the ULB. I am the President of the “Blood products” working party of the High Health Council of Belgium and secretary of the Belgian Hematological Society. On the teaching side, I am the president of the master in transfusion medicine of the ULB; invited professor of cell therapy and histocompatibility at the Facultés Universitaires Notre Dame de la Paix (Namur, Belgium) and at the Universidad de Rosario (Argentina). On the research side, I have authored 38 publications in international journals. For my work, I was awarded the European Cytokine Student Prize of the European Cytokine Society and the F. De Waele Prize of the Fonds National de la Recherche Scientifique. I am an INSERM (France) expert and member of the Cancer Research Commission of the Fonds Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek – Vlaanderen.
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WELCOME TO THE 4TH INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL ON IMMUNOGENETICS

Dear Colleagues, Dear Friends,

EFI, together with the other international societies for histocompatibility and immunogenetics ASHI and ASEATTA, would like cordially invite You to participate at the 4th International Summer School on Immunogenetics, to be held between September 6-9, 2007 in the beautiful city of Pécs (Hungary), Europe’s future Capital of Culture in 2010.

Aim of the summer school is to promote the field by an intensive interaction between participants and faculty. Introductory lectures will be followed by discussions on recent developments and presentation of own research.

It will be an excellent forum for exchanging exciting current ideas, and a great opportunity to generate thought-provoking discussions and to initiate collaborations.

We look forward to seeing You in Pécs in September!

Yours sincerely,
Rajczy, Katalin
Chair of the local Organising Committee

Format of the Program, EFI Summer School 2007, September 6-9, 2007, Pécs, Hungary

Sponsored by:
EFI – The European Federation for Immunogenetics
ASHI – The American Society for Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics
ASEATTA – The Australasian and South East Asian Tissue Typing Association
HBMDR – Hungarian Bone Marrow Donor Registry

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

September 5, Wednesday
14.00 – 17.30  Travel from Budapest to Pécs by Summer School bus
19.00 –  Welcome reception

September 6, Thursday
9.00-12.30  Introductory lecture, discussions and presentations by participants
12.30-13.30  Buffet lunch
13.30-16.00  Introductory lecture, discussions and presentations by the participants
16.05 –  Free time
19.00 –  Dinner with the speakers

September 7, Friday
9.00-12.30  Introductory lecture, discussions and presentations by participants
12.30-13.30  Buffet lunch
13.30-16.00  Introductory lecture, discussions and presentations by the participants
16.05 –  Free time
19.00 –  Dinner with the speakers

September 8, Saturday
9.00-12.30  Introductory lecture, discussions and presentations by participants
12.30-13.30  Buffet lunch
13.30-16.00  Introductory lecture, discussions and presentations by the participants
16.05 –  Social program

September 9, Sunday
9.00-12.30  Introductory lecture, discussions and presentations by participants
12.30-13.30  Buffet lunch
13.30-15.45  Introductory lecture, discussions and presentations by the participants
15.45 – 16.45  Evaluation and closing ceremony of the Summer School
19.00 –  Farewell reception

September 10, Monday
9.00 – 12.30  Travel to Budapest, Ferihegy Airport by Summer School bus
4 BETTER RESULTS

- BETTER INSIGHT
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The Fourth International Summer School on Immunogenetics 2007

ASHI, EFI and ASEATTA, the international societies devoted to histocompatibility and immunogenetics would like to invite applicants to join the 2007 international summer school on immunogenetics in Pécs, Hungary.

The faculty for the summer school consists of Professor András Falus from Hungary and different tutors from EFI, ASHI and ASEATTA.

The topics to be discussed are amongst others: Immunogenetics and population genetics, MHC and the immune response, hematopoietic stem cell transplantation, solid organ transplantation, NK cells and KIR genes, disease predisposing genes and their possible mechanism of action.

The format will be the same as the previous international summer schools and includes introductory lectures covering a broad range of related topics in immunology and genetics. Discussion sections and student presentations of their own research will be an important part of the informal but intensive interaction between participants and faculty.

25-30 graduate students and postdoctoral fellows who have received their graduate degrees within the past 5 years will be accepted.

Applicants must include CV, statement of motivation for attending, a letter of recommendation and a summary of current research project. A committee consisting of ASHI, EFI, and ASEATTA delegates will review the applications and select the candidates.

Registration fee: 100 euro including lodging and meals.

External Proficiency Testing Exercises of an Organ Exchange Organisation, Reflections of an Organizer

Ilias I.N. Doxiadis, Eurotransplant Reference Laboratory, Leiden the Netherlands, doxiadis@lumc.nl

External Proficiency Testing (EPT) is an integral step of the EFI accreditation. There is probably no EFI member disagreeing with this sentence. However, there are ways to organize such EPT schemes. The schemes should meet the requirements of the national legislative and / or the national or international exchange organization of which the participating laboratory is a member. The schemes should qualify whether a laboratory is reporting data in a reliable way to the organization it is participating in.

EPT’s for histocompatibility testing started internationally to ensure the integrity of the data entered and analyzed in the context of the different International Histocompatibility Workshops. In parallel, cell exchanges as the “famous” Terasaki cell exchange, a milestone in the history of histocompatibility, were established. Their aim was to send around cells from individuals with peculiar HLA antigens and to analyze whether these were reliably typed by the different participants. In a similar way EPT’s were organized nationally in several European countries, e.g., German Cell exchange, the Italian Cell Exchanges, the French Exchange by J. Hors, or NEQAS in the UK. A more precise report on the European EPT schemes was already presented before by the current Chairman of the Committee C. Dunne. Most of these EPT’s aimed in selecting and sending particular cells or blood of individuals with rare HLA antigens or difficult combinations of HLA antigens. The general idea was to provide the participants with material which they would usually not receive in their laboratories due to the population they serve.

The aim of organ exchange organizations with respect to EPT’s has been and is different. These exercises aim to increase the reliability of tissue typing for those participants cooperating in frames and areas where organs are exchanged. Usual as well as rare combinations have to be provided, but the exercises are mainly performed to show (prove) the reliability of the participant for the actions needed in an organ exchange, i.e. HLA class I and class II typing, crossmatching, and screening for HLA specific antibodies. In some instances these organizers may also introduce a “research” EPT to promote techniques not yet established and not yet commercially available. For example, almost fifteen years ago as the first organ-exchange organization Eurotransplant (ET) introduced an EPT for DNA typing via the Eurotransplant Reference Laboratory (ETRL). The laboratories at that time experimented with different “home made” techniques for molecular typing for MHC class II specificities. Most of these techniques are not used anymore for HLA typing i.e. nested PCR, PCR SSO or SSP (ARMS) or PCR-FRLP. Later this EPT became a must when...
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the methods were readily introduced in the different laboratories and especially when kits were produced commercially (under standard conditions), and validated by the different laboratories, mostly under the expertise of many of the EFI tissue typing laboratories as beta testing sites.

Under the current conditions of heavy restrictions in financial support to the laboratories, the philosophy of an EPT organizer should be first to provide evidence of reliability of the laboratory exercises of the participant, secondly to cover the needs for the EFI accreditation and finally to keep the costs acceptable. The items covered by the EPT should mimic the situation of the daily work, which is for organ transplantation: typing, crossmatching, and screening. The methods applied should preferentially be the ones requested by the organization itself. These methods are part of the manual of the respective organizations. Additional methods can always be used when the participant would like to use the material as a validation step for new techniques not yet established in the laboratory.

Within our region one of the currently most discussed items is the discontinuation of the EPT on DNA typing, as was decided by our Tissue Typing Advisory Committee. Most if not all participants use DNA typing for the HLA typing of patients and organ donors and several already discontinued serological typing. The EPT organizer can never assure that the provided results are not a mix of both techniques. But this is just a remark and not even valid since the correct typing is the one which is needed for a reliable allocation of an organ. In a similar way of thinking, techniques as solid phase assays (SPA from the different providers) and cytotoxicity should be look at. For an allocation point of view it is important to know whether the patient has anti-donor HLA specific antibodies or not. The method by which these antibodies have been defined is not important, unless it becomes clear that the antibodies found only in SPA have no predictive value for the outcome of the transplantation, which makes them irrelevant. Asking for a specific EPT for every individual new method is running in front of the time. The only way would be to perform a research type of EPT (as for the DNA typing long time ago), compare the different techniques and then decide whether an additional costly EPT is indeed needed. Within our region this has been done, however, the reply rate until now is not as good as expected.

In summary, it is now time to reconsider some of the requirements asked by our Federation. It is important as EPT organizer to provide evidence that the results provided by the participating laboratory are reliable. The method itself is not part of an allocation system. The EPT organizer should not be in front of the new techniques and only check whether the data, that are provided, meet the requirements, which are essential for the allocation process. Validations should be done locally but on the basis of a new EPT scheme for every single new technique, which becomes available.

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**NATIONAL REGISTRY OF DUTCH TRANSPLANTATION IMMUNOLOGISTS**

We are pleased to announce that in the Netherlands we now have 14 Transplantation Immunologists, officially recognized and registered by the Dutch Society for Immunology. Certification is largely based on the requirements for Histocompatibility Laboratory Director as issued by the ASHI (http://www.med.rug.nl/nvvi/docs/Voorlopleiding-sriteria_Tx_Imm.pdf). All currently registered Transplantation Immunologists are (co) director of a Dutch tissue-typing laboratory.

Candidate Transplantation Immunologists must have a PhD in an appropriate area, and submit a training schedule, including at least 2 years training at an EFI/ASHI accredited laboratory, to the Registration Committee. Registration will follow upon successful completion of the program and final examination. Obviously this training period is not sufficient to comply with the required level for becoming a full EFI/ASHI Laboratory Director, but it can serve as an initial step in the process. Currently there is one candidate in training at the University Medical Centre in Nijmegen, and soon a second candidate will start in Groningen.

In the near future, there will be a close cooperation with the Dutch Medical Immunologists. The Medical Immunologist (also certified by the Dutch Society for Immunology) is the supervisor of a diagnostic clinical immunology laboratory. To better comply with (inter)national developments, it is anticipated that the training of the Medical Immunologist and the Transplantation Immunologist will be combined into a 3 year training period, and a combined examination / registration.

We would like to encourage the EFI community to work in unison towards an official European registration of not only Lab Directors, but also of other specialists of the Histocompatibility Laboratories.

**Dr. Irma Joosten**
(I.Joosten@abt.umcn.nl)

**Dr. Bouke Hepkema**
(B.G.Hepkema@lc.umcg.nl)
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In the context of my PhD project “Functional analysis of NK and NKT cells and their influence on the allograft outcome following solid organ transplantation” I received an EFI bursary to learn heterotopic abdominal heart transplantation in mice at the Brigham and Women’s Hospital (BWH, Teaching affiliate of Harvard Medical School) in the Department of Transplant Surgery Research Laboratory in Boston.

The main goal of my workgroup “Molecular Transplantation Immunology” (Dr. Katja Kotsch) at the Institute of Medical Immunology, Universitätsmedizin Charité in Berlin, Germany is to analyze molecular mechanisms for graft rejection. Heterotopic abdominal heart transplantation is therefore an approved model to study the rejection of solid organs. Due to the fact that only few laboratories worldwide possess the facilities and knowledge of performing heart transplantation in mice the EFI committee kindly supported my research stay overseas.

The Laboratory of Transplant Surgery focuses on studying the interactions of innate and adaptive immunity in relation to non-specific and specific injuries associated with organ transplantation. The current labmembers (1 Postdoc from Germany, 1 Postdoc from Netherlands, 1 Turkish microsurgeon) are working on the following topics:

- Impact of Donor and Recipient Age on the Adaptive Immune Response in a Mouse Heart Transplant Model
- Effects of Donor/Recipient Age on Migratory and Proliferative Behaviour of Aged Allospecific T-cells
- Role of T-cell Subpopulations in an Age-dependent Immune Response utilizing CD 4-/- and CD 8-/- KO models
- Advanced Donor Age Adversely Affects Tolerance Induction
- Impact of systemic effects following induction of BD and DCD in adoptive transfer experiments

I was instructed by a Postdoc (MD in surgery) how to perform the heterotopic abdominal heart transplantation. Briefly, donor mice were anesthetized with an mixture of ketamine, xylazine and heparin. A midline abdominal incision was performed, and the infrarenal aorta was catheterized. The chest was opened, and the two superior venae cavae and arterial brachiocephalic trunk were dissected and ligated. Next, the left atrium was incised and the pulmonary artery transected at its bifurcation. The aortic arch was tied on the catheter, which was used to infuse cold saline. The ascending aorta and main pulmonary artery were transected, the pulmonary veins ligated en masse, and the heart isolated and stored in 4°C cold saline. The recipient mice were anesthetized in the same manner as the donors, but didn’t receive heparin. A midline abdominal incision was performed, and the abdominal aorta and inferior vena cava were exposed. Then, the donor aorta and pulmonary artery were anastomosed end-to-side to the abdominal aorta and inferior vena cava of the recipient mouse, respectively.

Besides gaining the skills for performing such sophisticated surgery technique which is an important basis for the research in my PhD project I had the possibility to exchange experiences with scientists from different countries who work on the same filed like me. I could also build up some scientific connections with research fellows from Mr. Mohamed Sayegh’s laboratory (director of Transplantation Research centre at BWH). Furthermore, I got the opportunity to meet local people and got interesting insights about the American culture and Boston history.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the EFI educational committee for awarding me with the EFI bursary, it is greatly appreciated. I also like to thank Prof. Tullius and all staff at the Transplantation Surgery Laboratory for their professional and personal support and finally my supervisor Dr. Katja Kotsch who offered me the possibility for that amazing experience.
Goal of the visit was to learn the use of the “COLD TARGET INHIBITION” method for cellular assays. The main reason to use this test is that in our laboratory in Leiden cell lines have been established expressing a single MHC class I antigen on the cell surface. These cells, named single antigen lines (SALs), have been mainly used for humoral tests (1,2). The reason to use these SAL’s as humoral and cellular targets is because of their expression of a single HLA antigen instead of the 3-6 on the usual peripheral blood lymphocytes. The use of a SAL as target makes the results of the tests more specific. Cellular tests are hampered because the maternal cell line K562 is a good target for NK cells. Our aim is to use the SAL’s also as targets for T cells. Therefore, it is essential that the disturbing NK activity is inhibited by the addition of unlabelled K562 cells. The laboratory in Milan has long experience with such tests and transfected cells (3). The question was raised whether the test can be transferred to Leiden after a learning period in Milan. Therefore a visit was planned and EFI was asked for financial support, which was granted by the Chairman of the Committee.

The test used in Milan was as follows:

Effector-cells from a normal mixed lymphocytes reaction MLR were used and as a control PHA blasts from the same stimulator. Ratio effector: target 30:1 and then 3* dilutions (10:1, 3:1, 1:1, 0.3:1)

Ratio cold target: target: 30:1

The tested target SAL-A2 (cells used directly out of the usual culture, culture medium: IMDM, 10%FCS, 200 µg/ml G418) was used in the same way as the PHA blasts.

Incubation with cold target: 40 minutes at 37°C (spin down the cells gently before incubation) while incubation with labeled target: 4 hours at 37°C (spin down the cells gently before incubation).

The tests done in Milan gave the expected results leading to the inhibition of the NK cell activity while the specific T cell activity was unchanged as depicted in table 1.

With the introduction of such a test in our laboratory we hope that in the near future we can elucidate the T cell response of patients awaiting a transplant preventing possible graft rejection. On the other side we could monitor patients post transplantation predicting the outcome of immunosuppressive therapy tapering. The latest news from the lab in Leiden is that the results could be reproduced.

References:

Table 1: Inhibition of NK cell activity by addition of cold targets

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