



Newsletter



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General Assembly

All EFI members are invited to attend the General Assembly during the 36th EFI meeting in Nantes where, amongst others, changes to the EFI constitution are discussed.

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Young EFI

Young EFI is open to all members new to EFI or immunogenetics in general and are looking for new members.

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Summer School

The 16th International Summer School was held in Sharm Elsheikh, 2-5 December 2022.

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36th EFI Conference Program

This is the 100th anniversary edition of the EFI Newsletter in a fresh new layout and special anniversary content. We hope you enjoy reading!



Dear EFI friends

A belated happy new year. It is springtime here in the northern hemisphere and I am enjoying the longer days with the emergence of spring bulbs in the gardens and parks. I am also looking forward to our next EFI conference taking place in the beautiful city of Nantes, France. I hope to see many of you there. Pierre Antoine Gourraud and Sonia Bourguiba-Hachemi together with the rest of the local organising team and our professional conference organiser, Guarant, have been very busy putting together a stimulating scientific and enjoyable social programme. This year I am delighted to inform you that the Ceppellini Lecture award will be given to Professor Ronald Bontrop, Director of the Biomedical Primate Research Centre, the Netherlands. Professor Bontrop is a very familiar face to us at EFI, he attends and contributes to our conferences

and served for many years as the Chair of the Scientific Committee. Professor Bontrop's scientific career has focused on the analyses of the genetics of immune recognition genes in nonhuman primate species. His scientific achievements have contributed to a clearer understanding of how these immune system genes are responding to the pathogenic challenges that drive their evolution. Congratulations to Professor Bontrop for this award and we look forward to his presentation. The EFI Executive Committee is, as always, active. Since meeting in the autumn, we have had one full committee video meeting and several additional video meetings to follow up on our activities. As reported previously one of our actions was to complete amendments to our

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HistoTrac Software

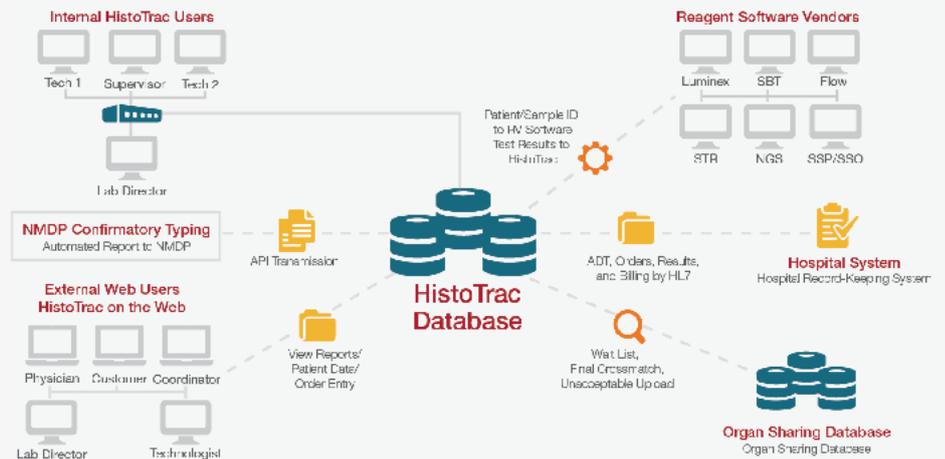
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- Workflow Management
- Reporting



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ISSN 0962-9521

www.efi-web.org

From the editor's desk

I am very proud to write a word of welcome to the 100th edition of the EFI Newsletter.

The first Newsletter was published in 1991, edited by the first Editor-In-Chief Peter Klauda. In his first 'From the editor's desk', he mentioned that "the EFI Newsletter will publish contributions which are of general interest to tissue typers such as brief descriptions of new technical developments or improvements in existing techniques, assessment and comment on new equipment and calls for collaborative studies throughout Europe." Since then, the Newsletter has gradually become more of a communication tool for the several EFI committees and reports of various meetings and laboratory visits abroad. The second Editor-In-Chief of the Newsletter was Frans Claas, who took over the role from Peter Klauda from the 35rd edition onwards in 2002. Frans was editor until edition 80, making him the editor for a whopping 46 editions! Finally, I took over editorship of the Newsletter in 2016 for EFI Newsletter #81, and now have the honor of editing edition 100.

The editor pages of all three first Newsletters of the editors so far are published in this Newsletter, which nicely illustrates the different times in which these were written. Furthermore, this edition of the Newsletter contains a number of pieces written by past presidents of our society. Marie-Marthe Tongio, Frans Claas, Federico Garrido, Steven Marsh, Ilias Doxiadis, and Elissaveta Naumova all agreed on sharing their relationship with EFI and their memories of EFI as a society. Additionally, Ieke Schreuder was kind enough to write a piece on the founding of our society in the early 1980's.

Furthermore, the current Newsletter contains the program of the 36th EFI annual conference held in Nantes, 26-29 April, with the conference motto "Big Data In Immunogenetics at the Crossroad of Care, Tools, and Research". Preparations are well underway and the scientific and social program both look extremely promising for a great meeting.

This will be the last EFI Newsletter for which I am officially the Editor-In-Chief. Currently, decision are being made on the future of the newsletter, based also on the questionnaire sent out to the EFI community. In whatever format, I am sure the EFI Newsletter will continue to be an important source of information for the EFI community.

I wish you all the very best and look forward to meeting you in Nantes,
Sebastiaan Heidt

Deadline for contributions to EFI Newsletter 101 is September 4, 2023

Please send your contributions by e-mail to: efioffice@lumc.nl

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LABScreen Single Antigen Bead

A Revolution in Transplant Diagnostics

20th Anniversary of the One Lambda LABScreen Single Antigen Bead

Twenty years ago, the One Lambda™ LABScreen™ Single Antigen Bead assay was introduced and quickly became the standard for antibody screening and monitoring. Since then, our collaboration with the Transplant Community has resulted in the introduction of new practices that've helped improve patient transplantation.

The Single Antigen Bead Technology has enabled groundbreaking work in transplantation and has been critical to the understanding of *de novo* DSA post-transplant. This year is not just about celebrating a 20th Anniversary, it's about celebrating our global collaborations and the impact we've all had in improving the quality of life for transplant patients worldwide.

Learn more at go.1lambda.com/LABScreen-20

Dr. Paul Terasaki
Transplant Pioneer

From the EFI President (continued)

constitution. The proposed changes have been made and are published in this newsletter. The changes are mostly corrections to the text and we will vote to accept or reject these during our General Assembly meeting in Nantes.

We also, for the first time have sent out a questionnaire to our members. I hope that everyone was able to complete this questionnaire. The responses to our questionnaire will help the Executive Committee focus the strategic actions to be taken in the future.

Another activity was to develop an “equality, diversity and inclusivity” policy for EFI. This has been undertaken with help from the consultant, Ben Summerskill, who worked with EBMT to deliver their policy. The policy will be available on our website following (hopefully) approval by the Executive Committee during our meeting in Nantes. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will read about the successful International Summerschool that

was held in Egypt (albeit not in the summer) and hosted by ARSHI. Thank you to Dave Turner and Luca Vago for representing EFI at this event. Next year the International Summerschool will be hosted by APHIA and again will take place in our winter. We look forward to sharing details of this with you, once the arrangements are finalised.

In November, I had the pleasure of attending and presenting at the Region 8 Balkan EPT Meeting hosted by Dr Aleksandar Petlichkovski and colleagues at the University of Skopje, Republic of North Macedonia. The talks were very informative and it was most enjoyable to meet the other attendees and to make new EFI friends.

So, this newsletter is the 100th. Congratulations to Sebastiaan Heidt, our Editor-In-Chief for putting together this souvenir issue of our newsletter. This is a very timely edition for Sebastiaan, who has been doing a fantastic job delivering our EFI news since 2016 and has now decided to



pass on this responsibility to a new Editor. Together, with Sebastiaan, the Executive Committee are assessing the succession plan and we hope to update you during the General Assembly. Fortunately Sebastiaan is happy to stick around for a wee while longer to ensure continuity with the production of our newsletter. In closing this letter, I wish all of you travelling to Nantes safe travels and I look forward to seeing you there.

Ann-Margaret Little

Report of the EFI Region 8 EPT meeting held in Skopje, Republic of North Macedonia

On November 25-26, 2022 the Annual meeting of the Committee for external proficiency testing (EPT) of the EFI Region 8 was held in Skopje, Republic of North Macedonia, organized by the Macedonian Society for Immunogenetics. This was the first time for the Republic of North Macedonia to host an annual meeting of this kind.

A total of 70 participants were registered for the meeting, of which

56 were from foreign countries belonging to Region 8, like Serbia, Greece, Bulgaria, Turkey, Romania, Armenia and Israel. Carefully selected speakers, among which the current President of EFI (Ann-Margaret Little) and two former EFI presidents (Elissaveta Naumova and Joannis Mytilineos), kept the attention of the participants for one long day and initiated very fruitful discussions. The topics covered current standards

and practices in HLA laboratories from the region, algorithms for selection of best available donors for organ and hematopoietic stem cell transplantation, and inevitably COVID-19 and immunogenetics. The scientific program of the meeting was approved by the EFI Education Committee for EFI Educational Credits (EECs), with 1 EEC awarded per hour of attendance at the event.

The social activities were not neglected either, so eventually it was a shared conclusion from all the participants that after two years of COVID restrictions, this in-person meeting was a successful and pleasant refreshment.

*Aleksandar Petlichkovski
Macedonian Society for Immunogenetics*



Does Your DNA Purification Method for NGS Really Matter?

Learn about purification methods with Maureen, an NGS Technical Training Specialist



Maureen Montgomery
Sr. Technical Training Specialist
Thermo Fisher Scientific

“ it’s imperative to consider all the downstream applications when incorporating a new extraction method ”



[Read more online](#)

Tell us a bit about your job and journey in the field of HLA?

I am the Sr. Technical Training Specialist for our One Lambda branded NGS products. Before joining Thermo Fisher’s Transplant Diagnostics business, I spent 20 years working in the HLA Clinical Laboratories at the University of North Carolina and LabCorp using a variety of One Lambda products. I worked mainly on the molecular side with the validation of NGS assays and some R&D work as well. [Read more online...](#)

Why is DNA Purification so important?

The quality of your DNA is critical to the results of your assay. If you have genomic DNA that is not intact (has small fragment sizes), it will greatly limit the quality of results and how successful they are. Ensuring a quality starting material is key to obtaining the best results possible. [Read more online...](#)

Are all DNA extraction methods the same?

No - all DNA extraction methods are not the same. There are several ways to extract DNA, such as magnetic beads, spin columns and filter plates, among several others. It is crucial to the success of molecular assays that the DNA does not contain PCR inhibitors. [Read more online...](#)

Visit our website to read the rest of Maureen’s thoughts on DNA Purification for NGS.

Read the rest of the article at go.1lambda.com/MaureenNGS

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Membership update

Since the last issue of the EFI Newsletter we received a lot of applications forms from new members. Hereby we would like to welcome the following new EFI members:

- | | |
|---|--|
| K. Annette – Woodgate, London, United Kingdom | K. Liney, Edinburgh, United Kingdom |
| E. De Mendonca, London, United Kingdom | M. Apithy, Strasbourg, France |
| M. Illiaquer, Fort de France, France | M.Y. Köker, Kayseri, Turkey |
| I.C. Ivanov, Iasi, Romania | J. Carbone, Madrid, Spain |
| L. Blandin , Clermont Ferrand, France | T. de Hoop, Utrecht, the Netherlands |
| M. Quirno Costa, Buenos Aires, Argentina | H. Rimac, Vinkovci, Croatia |
| A. Azaryan, Yerevan, Armenia | B. Rodríguez Bayona, Sevilla, Spain |
| C. Rousseau, Decines, France | F. Moghnieh, London, United Kingdom |
| G. Paes, Botucatu, Brazil | A. Lombardi, Maastricht, the Netherlands |
| F. Mohamed, Durban, South Africa | J.F. Villena Ossa, Freiburg, Germany |
| A. Söderström, Stockholm, Sweden | E. Jakovac, Osijek, Croatia |
| A. Stavridou, Berlin, Germany | X. Tian, Leiden, the Netherlands |
| V. Olivier, Geneva, Switzerland | G. Le, Rijswijk, the Netherlands |
| A. Franco, San Cristobal de La Laguna, Spain | J. Siemaszko, Wroclaw, Poland |
| S. Uluer Biceroglu, Izmir, Turkey | L. Mas, Cordoba, Argentina |
| F. Francois, Saint-Etienne, France | M. Agapiou, London, United Kingdom |
| R. Díaz-Peña, Santiago de Compostela, Spain | R.D. Stradoni, Lanusei, Italy |
| S.A. Biały, Wrocław, Poland | R. Cope, Cambridge, United Kingdom |
| M. Blois, Nice, France | R. Fernando, London, United Kingdom |
| A. Schumacher, Maastricht, the Netherlands | J. Boquett, San Francisco, United States |
| R. Carroll, Torrrens Park, Australia | T. Chervenkov, Varna, Bulgaria |
| P. Fournier, La Tronche, France | J. Bingulac-Popovic, Zagreb, Croatia |
| G. Thomson, Edinburgh, United Kingdom | |

General Assembly

To all EFI members

On behalf of the EFI Executive Committee I invite you to attend the General Assembly. It represents your opportunity, as an EFI member, to actively participate in discussing the activities of the Executive Committee and other EFI committees. Your ideas and opinions are most welcome.

The EFI General Assembly will take place on Friday 28th April 2023, 18:00 – 19:30 pm in the Great Auditorium, La Cité des Congrès de Nantes, and I strongly encourage you to attend.

All the best,

Ann-Margaret, EFI President

Agenda:

1. Opening
2. Minutes of the General Assembly 19th May, 2022
Amsterdam (EFI Newsletter October 2022 Issue 98)
3. Report of the EFI President
4. Report of the EFI Secretary
5. Report of the EFI Treasurer
6. Report of the EFI Committees
 - a) Accreditation
 - b) Education
 - c) External Proficiency Testing
 - d) Scientific
 - e) Standards and Quality Assurance
 - f) IT & Bioinformatics Committee
7. Next EFI Conference – Jerusalem, Israel 2024
8. EFI Medal
9. Installation of new EC members



Proposed changes to the EFI Constitution

There will be a vote within the General Assembly in Nantes to accept or reject the following proposed changes. The full Constitution is available on the EFI website.

No	Constitution	Current	Proposed change
1.	Remove gender specific references	chairman himself he	chair themselves
2.	Article 2 (Seat) Correction of the seat.	E.T.S	E.F.S
3.	Article 3 (Aims) Removed the word 'young' as there should be no restriction on the age of the scientists that EFI supports.	To provide a forum for exchange of scientific information and to reinforce the skills and knowledge of young scientists and others working in the field	To provide a forum for exchange of scientific information and to reinforce the skills and knowledge of scientists and others working in the field
4.	Article 6 (Role) Removed the word 'periodic' as it is meaningless without a definition of frequency.	To examine and approve the Activity Report and Periodic Accounts prepared and submitted by the Executive Committee in accordance with Articles 8 and 21;	To examine and approve the Activity Report and Accounts prepared and submitted by the Executive Committee in accordance with Articles 8 and 21;
5.	Article 8 (Officers) (Executive Committee) Removed the word 'normally' as it is superfluous and added 'five' as there are five officers every 2 of 3 years and six officers every 1 of 3 years (due to presence of the President Elect). Deleted sentence 'One representative from the Council of Europe is also a member de jure of the Executive Committee, but has no vote.' as this does not reflect the current composition of the Executive Committee.	The Executive Committee normally consists of five or six officers and six councillors. One representative from the Council of Europe is also a member de jure of the Executive Committee, but has no vote. The Officers include a President, President-Elect, Treasurer, Deputy Treasurer, Secretary and Deputy Secretary, who are elected in accordance with Article 20, para 3 from among the members of the General Assembly.	The Executive Committee consists of five or six officers and six councillors. The Officers include a President, President-Elect, Treasurer, Deputy Treasurer, Secretary and Deputy Secretary, who are elected in accordance with Article 20, para 3 from among the members of the General Assembly.
6.	Article 9 (Actions) It is the Executive Committee as a whole, not just the officers, that are responsible for carrying out the actions agreed by the General Assembly.	The officers carry out the express instructions....	The Executive Committee (officers and councillors) carry out the express instructions...
7.	Article 17 (Procedural motions) The French to English translation has been amended (i.e. no change to the original French language constitution required)	Suspension of the sitting Adjournment of decision on the item in hand Postponement of a decision on the substance of a proposal specified date	Suspension of the session Adjournment of decision on the matter under discussion Postponement of a decision on the substance of a proposal until a specific date

No	Constitution	Current	Proposed change
8.	<p>Article 21 (Management and financial control)</p> <p>This point has been deleted as the description of the preparation of the annual accounts is described adequately in points 1 to 7 of Article 21. i.e. the accounts are prepared and reviewed by the EC (points 2 and 3 of Article 21) reviewed annually by an independent auditor (point 4 of Article 21) and are presented to the General Assembly (points 5, 6, 7 of Article 21).</p>	<p>8. In the event of a general legal obligation to draw up annual accounts based on the legal financial year, the officers of EFI shall ensure that the necessary documents are prepared, submitted to an independent auditor and made available if requested to all members of the General Assembly.</p>	Deleted

1. Suspension of the 'sitting' changed to Suspension of the 'session'
2. Adjournment of decision on the 'item in hand' changed to 'matter under discussion'
3. Postponement of a decision on the substance of a proposal 'specified date' changed to 'until a specific date'

Article 21 (Management and financial control)

This point has been deleted as the description of the preparation of the annual accounts is described adequately in points 1 to 7. i.e. the accounts are prepared and reviewed by the EC (points 2 and 3) reviewed annually by an independent auditor (point 4) and are presented to the General Assembly (point 5, 6, 7).

Update from the EFI External Proficiency Testing Committee

External Proficiency Testing (EPT) is a mandatory part of the EFI accreditation process for Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics (H&I) laboratories. The EFI EPT Committee (EPTC) was established in 2003 with its major goal to develop and harmonise External Proficiency Testing for H&I affiliated with EFI. In this update I will first introduce changes in the members of the EPTC in 2023 and secondly, I will present a short review of the mission, activities, and the composition in the EPTC.

Changes in 2023 in the EPTC:

On behalf of the EPTC I would like to express my gratitude and acknowledgement to **Anastasiya Mihaylova** from Bulgaria for fruitful and highly qualified work as a member in the EPTC for nine years. Anastasiya will be missed in the EPTC as a colleague as well as a dear friend. At the same time, I will introduce and give a warm welcome to Fatma Oguz from Turkey as our new representative for region 8. Fatma Oguz is the director of the Balkan EPT program for HLA typing and a very experienced EPT provider. The EPTC looks forward to our collaboration in the coming years.

Mission of the EPTC:

The EFI EPTC reflects activities covered by EFI Standards. The EPTC

1. Collects information on external proficiency testing schemes operational in H & I laboratories affiliated

to EFI and works to ensure their homogeneity and comparability

2. Is responsible for defining and revising EPT Standards for Laboratories
3. Makes recommendations concerning the organisation of EPT schemes and provides help and advice to new EPT schemes when requested.
4. Defines and revises the Standards for Providers of EPT schemes in concordance with national and international standards.
5. Identifies regions lacking EPT schemes and develops strategies to serve these areas.

Additionally, the vision of the EPTC is to strengthen the interaction with other parts of EFI including other EFI committees, commissioners, inspectors, and laboratories.



EPT Regional Coordinators:

The members of the EFI EPTC act as Regional EPT Coordinators. These Regional EPT Coordinators liaise with their respective Regional EFI Commissioners to ensure conformance with the EPT Standards. EPT Coordinators shall advise and support EFI accredited laboratories, those laboratories actively seeking EFI accreditation and EPT organisers to meet these standards.

The EPTC encourages everybody with interests in EPT to contact the regional coordinators in the EPTC. Names of regional coordinators are found on the EFI EPTC website (<https://efi-web.org/committees/ept-committee>).

Current projects:

The EPTC has a register of EPT programs with a list of EPT programs for EFI affiliated laboratories. The list is updated at regular time intervals on the EFI EPTC website.

The EFI Standards comprise a separate Section D (External Proficiency Testing) containing the EPT Standards for H&I laboratories. These Standards are reviewed at least annually by the EPTC for updates. In addition, the EPTC has formulated the Standards for EPT Providers which are also updated at regular time intervals and can also be found on EFI EPTC website.

The EPTC aids with assistance and education for developing EPT programs. A special focus lies on the regions lacking EPT schemes which are mandatory for EFI accreditation. In such exceptional cases labs may organize inter-laboratory exchanges of samples to check if they perform H&I diagnostics in a comparable manner.

The EPTC has created a Manual for inter-laboratory exchanges, which can be downloaded on the EFI EPTC website.

Composition of the EPTC:

The EPTC has been constituted with approximately one member from each EFI region, i.e. 9 members in total. We aspire to balance the number of providers and non-providers in the EPTC to maximize our experiences and fruitful collaboration.

Meetings of the EPTC:

The EPTC meets at least annually in conjunction with the EFI conference. Additionally, we have in the recent years had 2-3 virtual ad hoc meetings per year.

*On behalf of the EFI EPT Committee,
Helle Bruunsgaard
Chair EFI External Proficiency Testing Committee*



Update from the EFI Education Committee

The Education Committee welcomed a new member, Professor Katarzyna Bogunia-Kubik from Poland, who will be the representative for central Europe (Region 5) replacing Tony Slavcev. We are still looking for a representative for Germany, and in the meantime, Monika Lindemann is kindly staying on the committee.

European Specialisation in H&I (ESHI) Diploma

At the end of September, we held the first face to face ESHI Diploma examination for a number of years, in Leiden and one candidate applied and passed the modules they had applied for. Information on the application process for the ESHI examinations can be accessed via the Section of Surgery Transplant Immunology page of the UEMS website (at: <https://uemssurg.org/divisions/transplant-immunology/>). The next examinations are planned to take place in Nantes on 25th April 2023. Availability of online examinations has been beneficial for some candidates and allows for greater flexibility. We are therefore hoping that each year we will hold one round of examinations in person at the EFI Conference and the Autumn round of examinations will be online.

e-Learning

The 30 minutes presentations on different aspects of H&I including transplant immunology, HSCT, solid organ

transplantation, disease association and transfusion are still available to EFI members via the website. Log on to the EFI website and navigate to the e-learning section, then follow the instructions to register and create an account to access the talks. Links to other learning resources are also on the same page of the website. We hope to have other e-learning resource content (e.g. EFI Conference Teaching Sessions and Summer School talks) available via the website very soon.

European Technical H&I Qualification (ETHIQ)

The aim of this scheme was to create a qualification that gives a measure of both knowledge and technical competence in H&I. The scheme is for technical staff working in EFI accredited laboratories, with supervision given by senior staff in their own lab. The pilot allowed 4 colleagues working in France to successfully complete the logbook, associated work and undertake an online assessment involving a series of multiple-choice questions (MCQs). It is hoped another 2 candidates in the pilot will complete the their training very soon.

In November 2022, a questionnaire was sent to all EFI Laboratory directors to obtain some feedback about how the ETHIQ Diploma should work for laboratories. The main points from the questionnaire are summarised below:

- Feedback from questionnaire was positive

- Most laboratories would plan to register eligible candidates gradually
- A webinar for trainees and training supervisors would be welcomed
- Translation of the logbook would be welcome in some countries
- The cost of €200-250 would be prohibitive for some laboratories
- The need for candidates to be EFI members would be challenging for some laboratories

In response to this feedback the Education Committee and Executive Committee are currently discussing the issues of cost and EFI membership and these will be finalised in time for the Launch in April 2023.

The portfolio has now been developed for completion online and we are planning to launch the ETHIQ Diploma at the EFI Conference in Nantes. There will be a special lunchtime session on Thursday 27th April, 13:30 – 14:30 where interested candidates and supervisors can come along and hear about the training programme, the application process, how to participate from both a candidate and a training supervisor perspective. There is a separate article about the ETHIQ Diploma in this Newsletter and please look out for further information about the registration process and deadlines on the EFI website and via email.

EFI Continued Medical Education (CME) / Continued Professional Development (CPD)

We have developed an online system for EFI members to record CME/CPD activities (with input from colleagues on the Accreditation committee and the Executive Committee). The system is supported by a UK company called CPDMe

and will be available via a link on the EFI website. Activities can be recorded under 4 different categories (Educational, Clinical, Professional or Academic) and self-reflective notes and other supporting documentation can be linked to each activity. A visual summary allows at a glance oversight of your CME/CPD activities, and an annual statement can be produced when required. Final preparations for launching are underway, including development of a set of instructions for use and we hope to have this available for all EFI members later this year.

EFI/ASHI/APHIA/ARSHI Summer School

The joint EFI, ASHI, APHIA and ARSHI International Summer School (ISS) was hosted by ARSHI and held on 2nd – 5th December 2022 in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt. Sessions covered a broad array of H&I topics including HLA Genetics and Immunogenetics, Solid Organ Transplantation, Haematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation, HLA and Transfusion, Non-HLA systems in Transplantation and Future Directions for H&I. Thanks to Dave Turner and Luca Vago who were the EFI Faculty Members. The next ISS will be hosted by APHIA.

EFI Education and Scientific Bursaries

A reminder that applications for Education and Training Bursaries to promote training in the field of H&I by enabling visits to other laboratories, are now being received four times each year. Details of the closing dates, the process and the online application form are available on the EFI website bursaries page <http://www.efi-web.org/bursaries.html>.

Deborah Sage, Chair of EFI Education Committee

Young EFI

During the 35th EFI conference last year in Amsterdam, the EFI Young Professionals Working Party was initiated with the aim of getting “young” EFI members more involved and feeling more at home with EFI. The term “young” here is not relating to age, instead to those who are newer to EFI or the immunogenetics field in general (for example lab technicians, PhD students or postdoctoral researchers). We hope to form a platform for EFI young professionals and to participate in the organization of events that are suited to newer members in the field, for example education, training and social

networking. We can also provide input to the EFI committees and thereby represent the EFI young professionals.

Excitingly at the upcoming 36th EFI conference in Nantes, France in April we will hold an informal meet-up during the Welcome Reception for anybody interested in the EFI Young Professionals plus a Meet the Expert and Young EFI session on the Friday where we will host a discussion with experts in the field, getting their opinions on topics related to young EFI members. We hope to see many of you there!

We are currently looking for a few more members to join the working party to help with initial setup of the group. So if you are interested in hearing more or participation in the Young EFI Professionals Working Party: please contact us via a.brandasma@sanquin.nl and timo.olieslagers@mumc.nl or you can follow us on LinkedIn by searching for ‘EFI Young Professionals’ or using this address: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/12782220/>



The ETHIQ Diploma



Launch Meeting Thursday 27th April 13:30-14:30, EFI Conference, Nantes

The EFI Education Committee have developed an online, Moodle based training course for technologists working in EFI accredited labs, known as the European Technical H&I Qualification (ETHIQ).

- The purpose of the training is to enable technical staff working in H&I to demonstrate knowledge and competence within their workplace
- Training is aimed at all Technical Staff working in EFI accredited laboratories supporting clinical solid organ and/or haematopoietic stem cell transplantation. It is envisaged that the ETHIQ will be an appropriate training scheme for staff involved in bench work, but who may not have the responsibility for final reporting of results
- The training is undertaken within the trainee's laboratory and is delivered under the supervision of a local training supervisor over the course of 12-36 months
- Applicants must be EFI members

- The training supervisor must be an individual who is a Director or Co-Director of an EFI accredited lab, or is a holder of the ESHI Fellowship (honorary or by examination)
- At the end of the course there is a short multiple choice online assessment

There will be two dates for registration each year, initially with a maximum of 20 registrants at each intake.

**The first planned intake in 2023 will be:
Registration deadline 1st July**

Come and join us at the launch meeting to find out more about the training course. We are also planning future webinars for both trainees and supervisors if you cannot join in Nantes.

Report of the EFI Accreditation Committee



On behalf of the Accreditation Committee (AC) I would like to congratulate EFI Newsletter and their editors for 100 issues. We have been grateful for the opportunity to regularly inform our colleagues about news and activities of the Accreditation Programme in this way and to read what's going on in other Committees and in our community.

As usual the AC met in autumn 2022 in Leiden, this time on September

30. The day after this meeting the Commissioners prepared very successful educational workshop for new inspectors.

Good news which I would like to share with you is that in the scope of autumn meetings the Executive Committee approved the new format of the accreditation certificate initially prepared by Sabine Scherer. One of the obvious differences compared to the old certificate is that Clinical and

Technical Categories are listed in three separate columns.

News that doesn't sound as nice as new certificate is that we have had to increase the accreditation fee for participating laboratories which will be €1350 in 2023. Unfortunately, inflation, as well as higher prices of hotels and transport affected the whole world, including the EFI Accreditation program.

As far as our efforts to make steps towards accreditation of our program according to ISO 17065 standards (Conformity assessment - Requirements for bodies certifying products, processes and services) is concerned, we drafted a letter of intent to the 'Raad voor Accreditatie' (RvA; Dutch National Accreditation Body), since we plan to be accredited in the Netherlands. Furthermore, the EFI president and members of the EFI Accreditation Permanent Commission met virtually with RvA representatives in November 2022 but so far we haven't received a concrete answer how to proceed. Luckily, to our great pleasure it turned out that we can continue working independently and continue to use the name EFI Accreditation program.

We wish EFI Newsletter many more years. Unfortunately we had no champagne in our glasses, it was apple juice, but our wishes are sincere. Cheers!

Blanka Vidan Jeras
Chair EFI Accreditation Committee



European Federation for Immunogenetics Accreditation Programme

CERTIFIES THAT
Histocompatibility Laboratory
University Hospital Hillside
SOMEWHERE - EUROPE (00-XX-007.993)

WITH EFI DIRECTOR(S)

Dr. HLA Molecule
Dr. Technical Reagent
Dr. Wrong Report

HAS MET THE REQUIREMENTS SPECIFIED IN THE EFI STANDARDS
FOR HISTOCOMPATIBILITY & IMMUNOGENETICS TESTING VERSION 8.0.

This Certificate is valid from 02 June 2021 to 02 June 2022.

Clinical Categories:

**Renal and/or Pancreatic
Transplantation:**

Recipient Typing	Yes
Antibody Screening	Yes
Antibody Identification	Yes
Donor Typing	Yes
Cross-matching	Yes

Other Solid Organ

Transplantation:

Recipient Typing	Yes
Antibody Screening	Yes
Antibody Identification	Yes
Donor Typing	Yes
Cross-matching	Yes

Haematopoietic Stem Cell

Transplantation:

Donor Registry Typing	Yes
Related Transplantation	Yes
Unrelated Transplantation	Yes
Cord Blood Typing	--
Cross-matching	Yes
Chimaerism and Engraftment Monitoring	--

Disease Association Studies:	Yes
Transfusion:	Yes

Technical Categories:

HLA Class I Typing by:

CDC	Yes
Flow cytometry	--
DNA (low)	Yes
DNA (high)	Yes
PCR-SSP	Yes
PCR-SSO	--
SBT Sanger	--
SBT NGS	Yes

HLA Class II Typing by:

CDC	--
DNA (low)	Yes
DNA (high)	Yes
PCR-SSP	--
PCR-SSO	Yes
SBT Sanger	--
SBT NGS	Yes

HNA Typing: --

HPA Typing: --

MICA Typing: --

KIR Typing: Yes

Technical Categories:

**HLA Antibody
Detection by:**

CDC	Yes
Flow cytometry	--
ELISA	Yes
Bead array	Yes

**HLA Antibody
Identification by:**

CDC	Yes
Flow cytometry	--
ELISA	--
Bead array	Yes

HLA Crossmatching by:

CDC	Yes
Flow cytometry	--
ELISA	--
Bead array	--

HNA Antibodies: --

HPA Antibodies: Yes

MICA Antibodies

Subcontract for XYZ with XXXX
Remark XYZ

EFI Commissioner Approval Date: 31-05-2021

Ann-Margaret Little

Dr. Ann-Margaret Little
EFI President

Blanka Vidan-Jeras

Dr. Blanka Vidan-Jeras
EFI Accreditation Committee Chair

Report on the 16th International Summer School, 2-5 December 2022 Sharm Elsheikh, Egypt

The International Summer school for Immunogenetics is a collaborative effort between the American Society of histocompatibility and Immunogenetics (ASHI), the Arabian Society of Histocompatibility and Immunogenomics (ARSHI), the Asia-Pacific Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics Association (APHIA) and the European Federation for Immunogenetics(EFI)

Last year, ARSHI hosted the event For 3 days from 2-5 December in Sharm Elsheikh, Egypt. The event took place in Savoy Hotel and resort in the sunny city Sharm el-Sheikh. Faculty from all 4 societies contributed to the scientific program together with participants from worldwide, including Ilias Doxiadis and Rania Bakry (ARSHI), Annette Jackson, Medhat Askar and William Hidelbrand (ASHI), Dianne de Santis and Uma Kanga (APHIA), and David Turner and Luca Vago (EFI). The scientific program contained 15 Faculty lectures and 24 abstracts lectures. The Faculty presented several basic lectures including those on the HLA system, HLA typing techniques, HLA antibody detection methods and the significance of both HLA and non-HLA

antibodies in transplantation setting. Furthermore, stem cell and solid organ transplantations requirements, autoimmune related disorders, and finally prospective future endeavours in HLA and Immunogenetics field were topics presented. The students showed presentations on their remarkable work in the Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics field with great enthusiasm and were furtherly commented on and coached by all faculty in an intense dialogue that enriched both faculty and students.

The social program was also memorable. Two Dinners were sponsored by the organizing committee, one Gala dinner and another safari Dinner in the Desert. The first Day dinner was partially sponsored by faculty in a nearby Greek restaurant. There was also a safari trip where each participant and faculty shared a bike ride through the desert and into the mountains, a camel ride followed by a dinner and dancing event in a large tent.

Sally Elfishawi





Highlights from the HLA journal

By Luca Vago, Section Editor HLA Journal

A simple approach for detecting HLA-A*02 alleles in archival formalin-fixed paraffin-embedded tissue samples and an application example for studying cancer immunoediting.

Witt J, Haupt S, Ahadova A, Bohaumilitzky L, Fuchs V, Ballhausen A, Przybilla MJ, Jendrusch M, Seppälä TT, Fürst D, Walle T, Busch E, Haag GM, Hüneburg R, Nattermann J, von Knebel Doeberitz M, Heuveline V, Kloor M.

HLA. 2023 Jan;101(1):24-33. doi: 10.1111/tan.14846.

Information on the HLA typing of solid tumors is increasingly recognized as a key piece of data to model cancer immunotherapy and identify cases that may benefit from specific immunotherapies such as vaccines or genetically-redirected T cells. However, due to DNA fragmentation, it is technically difficult to obtain HLA typing from formalin-fixed paraffin-embedded tissue samples. In the present study, the Authors present a simple approach, based on a single short amplicon PCR followed by Sanger sequencing, to detect in a reliable manner all possible alleles of HLA-A*02, the most common HLA-A allele in Causasians, targeted by many HLA-restricted immunotherapies. After validating the method, the Authors test-drive it in the analysis of HLA-A in 73 patients with colorectal cancers, testing correlation between presence of HLA-A*02 and tumor immunogenicity. This simple, fast and effective approach is readily available to any Pathology lab and do not require specific expertise in tissue typing, allowing its wide implementation in the study of tumor immunobiology.

Expression of specific HLA class II alleles is associated with an increased risk for active tuberculosis and a distinct gene expression profile.

Chihab LY, Kuan R, Phillips EJ, Mallal SA, Rozot V, Davis MM, Scriba TJ, Sette A, Peters B, Lindestam Arlehamn CS; SATVI Study Group.

HLA. 2023 Feb;101(2):124-37. doi: 10.1111/tan.14880. *Epub* 2022 Nov 20.

Interindividual variability in the HLA asset is critically associated with differences in T cell-mediated responses to pathogens and, as a consequence, to the severity of clinical manifestations following infections. In this very interesting study, the Authors analyzed a series of 620 individuals from South Africa, measuring their responses against *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (*Mtb*) and sorting them for active clinical manifestation. Upon HLA typing of this population, they identified three HLA class II alleles significantly more frequent in individuals with active tuberculosis, and one protective against clinical manifestations. By ELISPOT assay, they confirmed that the three susceptibility alleles were associated with lower magnitude of responses against *Mtb*, and by RNA-seq showed that in individuals carrying these alleles pulsing of monuclear cells with specific peptides or

lysate of *Mtb* elicited a distinctive signature, enriched in genes related to antigen-presenting cells. This elegant work delivers a remarkable example on how to complement HLA association studies with functional validation experiments, and provide novel insights on the biological determinants of the interindividual variability in responses to *Mtb*.

Site-directed mutagenesis of HLA molecules reveals the functional epitope of a human HLA-A1/A36-specific monoclonal antibody.

Meng T, Bezstarosti S, Singh U, Yap M, Scott L, Petrosyan N, Quiroz F, Eps NV, Hui EK, Suh D, Zhu Q, Pei R, Kramer CSM, Claas FHJ, Lowe D, Heidt S.

HLA. 2023 Feb;101(2):138-142. doi: 10.1111/tan.14895.

Definition of HLA structural epitopes, or eplets, is key to understanding pathological immune responses in solid organ and hematopoietic stem cell transplantation. Eplets are defined based on the amino acid sequences of HLA alleles and on experimental antibody verification to confirm their actual interaction with anti-HLA antibodies. However, it is often difficult to understand the fine molecular determinants of eplets, and methods to define which residue is crucial for antibody-induction and binding are limited. In this elegant proof-of-concept report, the Authors employed site directed mutagenesis to probe in more detail the molecular specificity of antibody VDK1D12, known to bind to the 44K/150V/158V amino acid triad, always simultaneously present in common HLA alleles. The Authors narrowed down the antibody reactivity pattern to a single amino acid, defining 44K as the eplet of VDK1D12. This straightforward and powerful approach might be extended to study other ambiguous eplets, improving our understanding on the key residues involved in epitope mismatches.

Finally, we would like to suggest to the EFI newsletter readership two excellent reviews recently published in *HLA*: one in the January issue and regarding practices in terms of subpopulation labeling in biomedical research, and the other, published in the March issue and authored by the latest Julia Bodmer awardee Jesse Bruijnesteijn, summarizing his contributions on the use of new technologies to characterize human and primate MHC.



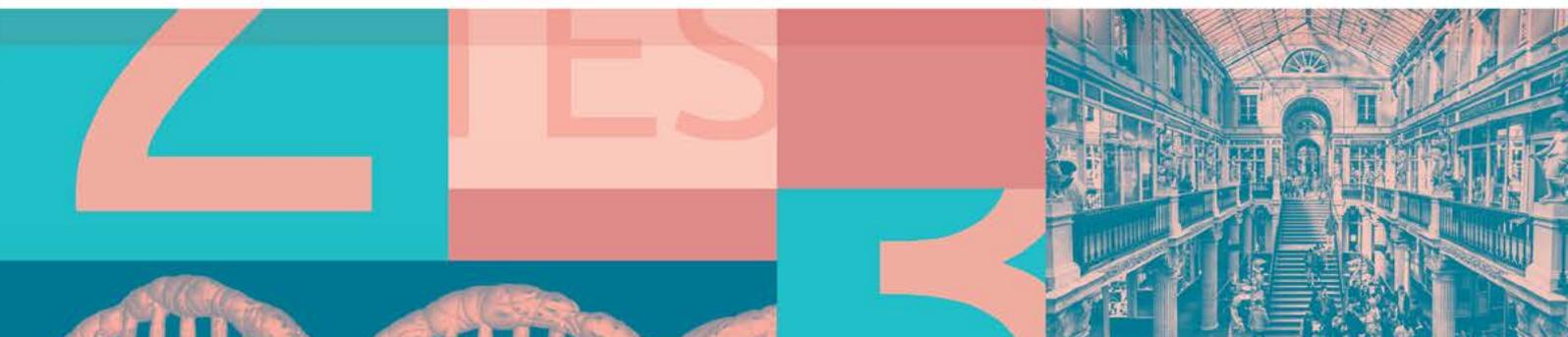


EFI 2023 

**36TH EUROPEAN IMMUNOGENETICS
AND HISTOCOMPATIBILITY CONFERENCE**

April 26–29, 2023, Nantes, France, www.efi-conference.org

PROGRAM





“Big Data in Immunogenetics At the Crossroads Of Care, Tools, And Research”

ASSOCIATED MEETINGS

TUESDAY 25 April 2023

Room 150 (Lower Foyer)

9:00 - 17:00 Accreditation Inspectors Workshop
Chairperson **Blanka Vidan-Jeras**

Rooms E & F (Lower Foyer)

8:30 - 17:30 ESHI Diploma Examination
Chairperson **David Turner**

WEDNESDAY 26 April 2023

Room D (Lower Foyer)

8:30 - 16:30 Executive Committee meeting
Chairperson **Ann-Margaret Little**

Room E (Lower Foyer)

8:30 - 16:30 External Proficiency Testing Committee meeting
Chairperson **Helle Bruunsgaard**

Room F (Lower Foyer)

9:00 - 12:00 IT & Bioinformatics Committee meeting
Chairperson **Eric Spierings**

Room H (Upper Foyer)

8:30 - 17:00 Accreditation Committee meeting
Chairperson **Blanka Vidan-Jeras**

Room M (Upper Foyer)

8:30 - 16:30 Standards Committee meeting
Chairperson **Katy Latham**

Room I (Upper Foyer)

13:30 - 17:00 Education Committee meeting
Chairperson **Deborah Sage**

Room J (Upper Foyer)

12:15 - 13:45 Open Meeting of the Population Genetics Working Group
Chairperson **Alicia Sanchez-Mazas**
14:00 - 17:00 Scientific Committee meeting
Chairperson **Luca Vago**

Room G (Upper Foyer)

14:30 - 16:30 Young EFI Working Group
Chairpersons **Timo Olieslagers, Arianne Brandsma**

Journée scientifique de la Société Francophone d'Histocompatibilité et d'Immunogénétique (SFHI)

13:30 - 16:30 Auditorium 450 (Upper Foyer)

Chairperson **Nicolas Guillaume**
13:30- 14:15 Quantification of allelic expression of HLA genes: methods, regulation, and implication in allograft
Jean Villard
14:15- 15:00 HLA and single-nucleotide polymorphisms: implication in diseases
Nicolas Vince
15:15- 16:00 B-lymphocytes function in chronic graft versus host disease
Jonathan Visentin
16:00 - 16:45 Role of the transcriptional regulator BOB1 in immune tolerance and transplantation
Nataliya Yeremenko

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY 26 April 2023

Great Auditorium

OPENING CEREMONY

17:30 - 18:00 Welcome Addresses
Pierre-Antoine Gourraud, Ann-Margaret Little
18:00 - 18:20 Julia Bodmer Award
Luca Vago
18:20 - 18:30 HLA Award
Steven Marsh
18:30 - 19:00 Ceppellini Lecture
Ann-Margaret Little

Great Auditorium Foyer

19:00 - 21:00 Welcome Reception

THURSDAY 27 April 2023**Great Auditorium****PLENARY SESSION I****Cell Therapies & Hematopoietic stem-cell transplantation***Chairpersons* Katharina Fleischhauer, Alexandre Walencik

- 8:30 - 9:00** How cell therapy has been implemented in Europe, evolution from classical to new therapies
Florent Malard
- 9:00 - 9:30** The graft-versus-host disease (GVHD): Novel developments in GVHD therapy
Robert Zeiser
- 9:30 - 10:00** Advancing T cell therapies (CAR T-cell immunotherapies)
Carole Guillonneau

PARALLEL SESSIONS**Great Auditorium****Special Joint EFI-ESOT Session****The use of AI to Assist Decision Making in Transplantation***Chairpersons* Gilles Blancho, Kay Poulton

- 10:30 - 11:00** The ESOT initiative to build pan-European registries in SOT: why? how? where are we standing?
Gabriel Oniscu
- 11:00 - 11:30** The use of genomic to assist decision-making in transplantation
Sophie Limou
- 11:30 - 12:00** Refining the diagnosis of rejection by artificial intelligence
Jasper Callemeyn

Room 300 (Lower Foyer)**Teaching Session 1****Innovation in Transplantation***Chairpersons* Martijn van den Hoogen, Begoña Aran, Paul-Olivier Rouzaire

- 10:30 - 11:00** Telemedicine in renal transplantation: Innovations for 2023 and beyond
Martijn van den Hoogen
- 11:00 - 11:30** Generation Of Human Induced Pluripotent Stem Cells From Haplo-Selected Cord Blood Samples (HAPLO-iPS)
Begoña Aran
- 11:30 - 12:00** Temporal regulation of transgene expression controlled by amino acid availability in human T cells
Paul-Olivier Rouzaire

Auditorium 450 (Upper Foyer)**10:30 - 12:00 Abstract Session 1: MHC Evolution, Population Genetics (O9-O16)***Chairpersons* Alicia Sanches-Mazas, Jean-Luc Taupin**Room 200 (Upper Foyer)****10:30 - 12:00 Abstract Session 2: New Technologies & New Approaches in Immunogenetics (O17-O24)***Chairpersons* Florent Delbos, Silvia Gregori**Room 300 (Lower Foyer)****12:10 - 13:10 Industry Symposium: CareDx****13:20 - 14:20 Industry Symposium: Immucor****Room G (Upper Foyer)****12:00 - 14:30 EFI Executive Committee and Coordinators meeting***Chairperson* Ann-Margaret Little**Room I (Upper Foyer)****13:30 - 14:30 ETHIQ Diploma meeting***Chairperson* Deborah Sage**Room J (Upper Foyer)****13:30 - 14:30 SHLARC Consortium meeting***Chairpersons* Nicolas Vince, Pierre-Antoine Gourraud**Great Auditorium****Special Joint EFI-NAT Session****Control of The Immune System in Transplantation***Chairpersons* Magali Giral, Jean Villard**14:30 - 15:00** Regulatory T cells, translation to the clinic
Alberto Sanchez Fueyo**15:00 - 15:30** Regulatory B cells, where are we?
Mübeccel Akdis**15:30 - 16:00** Regulatory B cells: A focus in Transplantation
Sophie Hillion**Room 300 (Lower Foyer)****Teaching Session 2****Anthropology & Population Genetics: Immunogenetic diversity of the HLA system***Chairpersons* Emmanuelle Génin, Erick Castelli**14:30 - 15:15** TBD
Emmanuelle Génin**15:15 - 16:00** HLA genetic diversity and the challenges for analyzing highly polymorphic and repetitive genes
Erick Castelli**Auditorium 450 (Upper Foyer)****14:30 - 16:00 Abstract Session 3: NK Cells & KIR (O25-O32)***Chairpersons* Danilo Augusto, Christelle Retière**Room 200 (Upper Foyer)****14:30 - 16:00 Abstract Session 4: Immunogenetics in Organ Transplantation (O33-O40)***Chairpersons* Matěj Röder, Carole Guillonneau



Great Auditorium

PLENARY SESSION II

HLA Immunogenetics, Population genetics & Evolution

Chairpersons **Lotte Wieten, Pierre-Antoine Gourraud**

- 16:30 - 17:00** HLA and individual response to infection and vaccination
Julian Knight
- 17:00 - 17:30** Gene, transcript and proteins to understand immune diseases
Patrick Sulem
- 17:30 - 18:00** Illuminating the dark corners of the immune system: novel approaches for characterizing haplotype diversity in the T cell receptor and immunoglobulin loci
Corey Watson

Mezzanine (Upper Foyer)

18:00 -20:00 Wine & Cheese Poster Viewing Session

- P1 – P21 Autoimmunity, Infection, Reproduction & Cancer
P22 – P43 Bioinformatics, Data Analysis in Immunogenetics
P44 – P67 Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation (HSCT)
P68 – P82 Immunogenetics in Organ Transplantation
P83 – P109 MHC Evolution, Population Genetics
P110 – P117 NK cells & KIR
P118 – P130 New Technologies & New Approaches in Immunogenetics

FRIDAY 28 April 2023

Great Auditorium

PLENARY SESSION III

HLA in Solid Organ Transplantation

Chairpersons **Sebastian Heidt, Gwendaline Guidicelli**

- 8:30 - 9:00** From HLA to MICA
Seiamak Barham
- 9:00 - 9:30** HLA molecular matching to improve transplant outcomes
Anat Tambur
- 9:30 - 10:00** Guiding pre-transplant desensitization and post-transplant DSA treatment
Olga Timofeeva

PARALLEL SESSIONS

Great Auditorium

Special Joint EFI-SIP Session

Showcasing the potential role of SIP in our community

Chairpersons **Martin Maiers, Steven Mack**

10:30 - 11:00 From Precision Microbial Genomics to Precision Medicine
Ami Bhatt

11:00 - 11:30 KIRs, T cell dynamics, control of chronic virus infection and autoimmunity
Becca Asquith

11:30 - 12:00 Immunogenetics of Hematopoietic Cell Transplantation
Effie Petersdorf

Room 300 (Lower Foyer)

Teaching Session 3

KIR immunogenetics & HLA epitopes: Mapping approaches & prediction methods

Chairpersons **Christelle Retière, Eric Spierings**

10:30 - 11:15 KIR immunogenetics and NK cell diversity
Christelle Retière

11:15 - 12:00 HLA epitopes and matching from a big data perspective
Eric Spierings

Auditorium 450 (Upper Foyer)

10:30 - 12:00 **Abstract Session 5: Bioinformatics, Data Analysis in Immunogenetics (O41-O48)**

Chairpersons **Neema Mayor, Raphael Carapito**

Room 200 (Upper Foyer)

10:30 - 12:00 **Abstract Session 6: Immunotherapy, Gene Therapy, Cellular Therapy (O49-O56)**

Chairpersons **Pietro Crivello, Katia Gagne**

Room 300 (Lower Foyer)

12:10 - 13:10 **Industry Symposium: GenDx**

Auditorium 450 (Upper Foyer)

13:20 - 14:20 **Industry Symposium: One Lambda Inc. A Thermo Fisher Scientific Brand**

Room J (Upper Foyer)

12:00 - 14:00 **SIP Board meeting**
Chairpersons **Martin Maiers, Steven Mack**

Room G (Upper Foyer)

13:30 - 14:30 **EBTI GA**
Chairperson **David Turner**

Auditorium 450 (Upper Foyer)

14:30 - 16:00 Abstract Session 7: Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation HSCT (O57-O64)

Chairpersons Valérie Dubois, Loren Gragert

Room 200 (Upper Foyer)

14:30 - 16:00 Abstract Session 8: Autoimmunity, Infection, Reproduction & Cancer (O64-O72)

Chairpersons Réjis Josien, Jill Hollenbach

Room 300 (Lower Foyer)**Teaching Session 4****Bioinformatics for Research Application: Haplotype and Population Structure Inference Using AI**

Chairpersons Yang Luo, Jean-Baptiste Woillard, Mathijs Groenewegen

14:30 - 15:15 Pinpointing HLA selection signal in admixed populations

Yang Luo

15:15 - 16:00 Application of machine learning to prediction of immunosuppressant exposure, the example of Tacrolimus

Jean-Baptiste Woillard

Great Auditorium

14:30 - 16:00 Meet the Experts & Young EFI Group

Chairpersons Steven Marsh, Timo Olieslagers, Arianne Brandsma

Room 150 (Lower Foyer)

14:30 - 15:30 Industry Symposium: Omixon

Great Auditorium**PLENARY SESSION IV****AI & Big data transforming medical research**

Chairpersons Sophie Limou, James Robinson

16:30 - 17:00 Fine-mapping complex loci for autoimmune diseases

Soumya Raychaudhuri

17:00 - 17:30 Using transcriptome data to stratify and predict treatment responses in lupus and other systemic autoimmune diseases

Marta Alarcón-Riquelme

17:30 - 18:00 Using tissue and cell type-specific gene regulatory networks to predict driver genes of common diseases

Patrick Deelen

Great Auditorium

18:00 - 19:30 EFI GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SATURDAY 29 April 2023**Great Auditorium**

8:30 - 10:00 Best Abstract Session (O1-O9)

Chairpersons Luca Vago, Ann-Margaret Little

PLENARY SESSION V**Autoimmune diseases & Infections**

Chairpersons Nicolas Vince, John Trowsdale

10:30 - 11:00 Infectious cause & Immunology of MS

Marco Salvetti

11:00 - 11:30 Repertoire profiling of adaptive immune responses against the human malaria parasite *Plasmodium falciparum*

Hedda Wardemann

11:30 - 12:00 Understanding immune diversity in health and disease

Darragh Duffy

CLOSING LECTURE

Chairpersons Pierre-Antoine Gourraud, Ann-Margaret Little

12:00 - 12:30 Towards systems immunology? A philosophical perspective on the challenges of integrating Big Data and modeling

Fridolin Gross

12:30 - 13:00 IHIWS +365 Report

Chairpersons Sebastiaan Heidt, Eric Spierings

13:00 - 13:15 Jon Van Rood Award & Best Abstract Awards

Committee Chair Joannis Mytilineos

13:15 - 13:30 Best Poster Awards

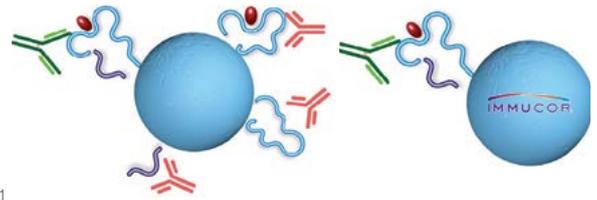
Committee Chair TBD

CLOSING REMARKS



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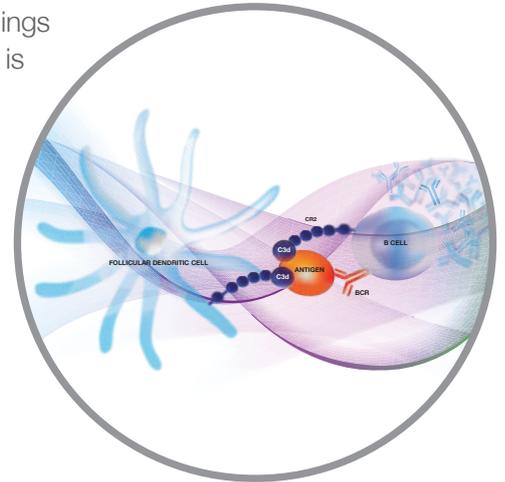
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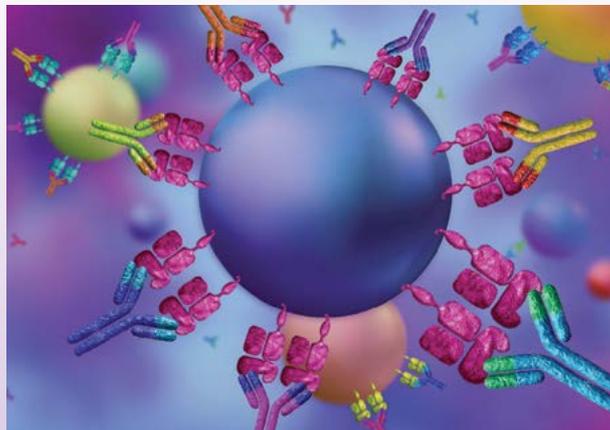
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¹ Ravindranath M.H., et al. Monitoring native HLA-I trimer specific antibodies in Luminex multiplex single antigen bead assay: Evaluation of beadsets from different manufacturers, J. Immunol Methods (2017) 450:73-80.

² Sicard, A. et al. Detection of C3d binding Donor Specific Anti-HLA Ab at diagnosis of Humoral Rejection Predicts Renal Graft Loss. JASN (2014) October, Vol 26.

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All contributions to Editor-in-Chief, Dr P.T. Klouda, *Efi Newsletter*, PO Box 59, Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol BS10 5NP, England, or to the regional editors

Copy date for *Efi Newsletter* No 2 is 7 October 1991.

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Designed and produced by
AJH Print Services, Oak Cottage,
Syston Hill, Warmley,
Bristol BS15 5LT
Telephone Bristol: (0272) 562839

ISSN 0962-9521

.... from the editor's desk

The four EFI Conferences held in Strasbourg have highlighted the importance of regular contact between tissue typers and immunologists from histocompatibility laboratories throughout Europe. The need for a more frequent exchange of information was recognised by the EFI Council by initiating a regular publication of an *Efi Newsletter*.

The *Efi Newsletter* will be published three times a year and it will be supplied free of charge to all members of EFI. The *Efi Newsletter* will publish contributions which are of general interest to tissue typers such as brief descriptions of new technical developments or improvements in existing techniques, assessment and comment on new equipment and calls for collaborative studies throughout Europe. Personal comments and correspondence on all aspects of tissue typing are always welcome. Advertisements for job vacancies as well as searches for employment by EFI members will be carried in the appropriate section of the Newsletter.

The *Efi Newsletter* will keep you informed of regional activities in the field of histocompatibility and carry announcements of forthcoming meetings as well as summaries of meetings organised by national or regional organisations. A section on administration matters will allow EFI Councilors to keep in touch with you and to inform the membership of new developments on all matters regarding EFI.

The Editorial Board will ensure that you as a member of EFI are informed of important developments in the field of histocompatibility. One of these is the proposed accreditation scheme of tissue typing laboratories. Such a scheme is an important step forward in ensuring common standards of technical competence in tissue typing laboratories throughout Europe.

The Editorial Board of the *Efi Newsletter* welcomes your contributions. By having a lively exchange of views on the pages of the *Efi Newsletter* we can keep in touch with each other on a regular basis.

Please send your contributions to the Editor-in-Chief or your regional editor. Contributions received before 7 October will be included in the November issue of the *Efi Newsletter*. We, the Editorial Board, look forward to hearing from you.

Peter Klouda

Dr Peter T. Klouda

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....FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Dear EFI member,

This issue of the Newsletter will reach you just before the 16th EFI Conference in Strasbourg. It is the first Newsletter after the editor's desk has been moved from Bristol to Leiden. Since 1991 Peter Klouda has been the editor of our total 34 issues. On behalf of the EFI Community, I would like to thank Peter for his enormous contribution to the federation and wish him all the best for the future. We hope that the coming issues of the Newsletter reach the same level as the ones edited by Peter. However, this is only possible if you all actively participate by submitting news, views, reports, plans, questions, suggestions and other contributions on the extending field of immunogenetics and EFI in particular. The current issue contains an overview of the program of the coming meeting in Strasbourg and a broad range of manuscripts from all over Europe. Hopefully, you will enjoy reading them. See you in Strasbourg!

Frans Claas
EFI Newsletter Editor

Copy date for *Efi Newsletter* no. 36 is April 30, 2002.
Please send your contribution to Frans Claas, Leiden, the Netherlands, preferentially by e-mail: fyclaas@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 from March 2001 are:

Username: efi.member
Password: europa
URL: <http://www.efiweb.org/members/>

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ISSN 0962-9521

....FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

First of all, a happy new year to all EFI members! Hopefully, 2017 will be a great year with lots of new challenges and opportunities. In front of you lies the first *Efi Newsletter* that has been compiled by your new editor. I would hereby like to thank Frans Claas for his excellent work as an editor of the *Efi Newsletter* for the last 15 years, and thank the EFI board for their trust. In this issue you will find an overview of the topics that will be discussed in the upcoming EFI meeting in Mannheim/Heidelberg coming May. This year will be a joint meeting with the German Society for Immunogenetics (DSG). There are many topics of great diversity, so there should be something of interest for everyone! Also this year, the Summer School will be organised in Europe. This joint effort of EFI, ASHI and APHA will be held in the city of Dublin and is a great opportunity to receive high quality education on histocompatibility and immunogenetics, as well as expanding your network. The candidates for this year's elections are also presented in this Newsletter. There are two candidates for president/elect and six candidates for three vacancies for EFI councillor. I hereby urge all EFI members to vote for their favourite candidates.

Also in this edition of the Newsletter, the second chapter on epitope matching by Rene Duquesnoy can be found. As the date of the 17th International Workshop is slowly coming closer, this makes great reading material to get an insight into serological epitopes and their relevance to transplantation. A third and final chapter will be published in the next issue of the Newsletter. I hope you will enjoy reading this Newsletter and I very much look forward to your contributions for the next edition.

Sebastian Heidt

Deadline for contributions to *Efi Newsletter* 82 is April 10, 2017.
Please send your contributions by email to s.heidt@lumc.nl



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ISSN 0962-9521



EFI, how it started

A rather long time ago, it was 1973, I started as young scientist in the HLA typing laboratory of Jon van Rood in Leiden.

It was the time where HLA was HL-A with two loci: LA and Four. Specificities had weird names, like Orlina, LND, Maki, AJ, TY etc. Names were often based on the reactivity of certain antisera. Those were the days that Jon would enter the laboratory, in his hands a package of blood samples and would say *"Here are the test samples for the Council of Europe cell exchange. Type them"*. Somehow, he had forgotten to inform us about the existence of this exchange, and, more seriously, that the next week it was our turn to distribute 5 blood samples to 10 European reference laboratories. So we bled 5 people from our laboratory, including myself, and distributed these. After a few months Jon gave me the typing results from the other labs to analyse. To my great

pleasure Jean Dausset's laboratory in Paris had typed my blood as LA19.6 which was later to be named Aw33, and solved my problem of me being difficult to type for the A locus. These cell exchanges were an initiative of the Select Committee of Experts on Histocompatibility Testing of the Council of Europe (CoE), being a subcommittee to the CoE Committee on Blood Transfusion. They were organised each year, and I helped greatly to standardise typing results.

The Subcommittee of Experts was formed by representatives of national reference laboratories involved in histocompatibility testing. The reference laboratories had been assigned by the national Ministries of Health, so some politics were



involved as well. Madame Christine Thyer represented the CoE and Paul Engelfriet the Blood Transfusion Committee. One person was assigned as *rapporteur*. This person was to report on the activities of the Subcommittee including the results of cell exchanges between the laboratories. Of course in my time Jon van Rood was *rapporteur*. This explained why I had to analyse the typing results of the 10 laboratories and why Jon decided that I should accompany him to these meetings. I felt rather out of place, but it was fun to visit the different countries



and meet interesting people such as Michel Jeannet, Wolfgang Mayr, Ekkehard Albert, Sergio Curtoni, Jacques Hors and Flemming Kissmeyer-Nielsen. Sometimes Jon decided not to go and just did send me off to those meetings. In later years the committee also organised CoE histocompatibility training courses. They were held every second year and in different countries.

In the meantime, the US had started a national histocompatibility organisation: AACTH (I forgot what the letters stood for) but it was the predecessor of the American Society for Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics (ASHI). This was what Jon had wanted, an organisation for the European laboratories for education, training, and standardisation. And he hoped that the Council of Europe would help with this. Of course, we already had the International Histocompatibility Workshops and also knew which laboratories were active in histocompatibility testing apart from the reference labs.

Anyway, it must have been around 1982, Jon organised a meeting in Leiden with Walter and Julia Bodmer, Arne Svejgaard, Cathy Stravropoulos, Jacques Hors, Ekkehard Albert, Wolfgang Mayr, Michel Jeannet, Ben Bradley and several others who I cannot remember. In the middle of the table Jon placed a Dictaphone. At the end of the meeting he handed it over to me saying *"Write a report of this meeting"*. It was an awful job, I gave him the report and I am sure he never looked at it. But the result of that meeting was the conception of the European Foundation for Immunogenetics.

The Bodmers would work on a constitution, Jacques Hors would help with a translation in French, and also with the financial organisation. It was decided that a conference should be organised in Strasbourg. Madame Thyer should help to make the Palais de l'Europe available as venue for the meeting. Marie Marthe Tongio from the Strasbourg lab offered to take



on the logistics for the organisation. This first meeting in Strasbourg was held in 1983. A scientific program was set up by Jon and others. I don't remember much of this meeting, but most interesting were the translations, which were given simultaneously. As French speakers were obliged to speak French the available translators had the problem of translating scientific terminology, even though they were given lists with immunological words, their English translations were quite interesting to listen to! During that conference the organising committee worked hard on a final version of the constitution. It was decided that it would be deposited in Strasbourg. However, the name had to be changed from Foundation into Federation. Julia Bodmer designed the logo, that is still in use today. At the second conference in 1985 the constitutions were finally accepted. At that meeting EFI was officially born. In the years to follow the activities gradually extended. The directors of existing histocompatibility laboratories were offered membership to EFI. A group of over 100 members formed the basis. Application forms for EFI membership were distributed and EFI was growing steadily. Working committees were installed to start

education, standardisation, proficiency testing, scientific work etc. It was fantastic how many members took on functions in the new working groups.

Peter Klouda acted as the first editor for the EFI Newsletter. He also started the membership administration which I took over later on. I should also mention my dear colleague and friend Aad van Leeuwen who was essential in setting up the EFI accreditation program. The first four conferences were all held in Strasbourg and organised by Marie Marthe Tongio. But this venue offered great stress to her because it could happen that the European Parliament would suddenly decide to meet in Strasbourg on the dates that we were supposed to have the EFI conference. This happened once and our Conference had to be postponed.

It was great fun and an honour to take part in the birth of EFI and to be part of the ever-growing EFI family.

Congratulations to EFI for its 100th Newsletter.

Ieke Schreuder



How EFI Committees were set up between 1994 and 1996

Dear EFI members,

My presidency started on March 8th 1994 and I was the fifth EFI President after J. van Rood, B. Bradley, E. Albert and J. Hors. Eight European Histocompatibility Conferences had already taken place, six in Strasbourg (five in the premises of the Council of Europe and one in the Palais des Congrès), one in Leiden and one in Stresa.

At the end of 1993, besides the organization of EFI Conferences, the main purpose of the EFI Executive Committee was to set up accreditation of histocompatibility laboratories. For this purpose, EFI contacted the American Society for Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics (ASHI) who agreed to help by organizing a two-day training session of the first EFI inspectors.

This session took place on March 9-10th 1994, the day following the 8th European Histocompatibility Conference in Strasbourg where I was named president. The session was organized by J. Hors with the assistance of four ASHI representatives: Kamala Balakrishnan, Elaine Reed, Dod Steward and Robert Bray. It was attended by 17 European EFI volunteers. These were: E. Albert (Germany), H. Bétuel (France), J.D. Bignon (France), E. Dupont (Belgium), J. Hors (France), M. Jeannet (Switzerland), W.R. Mayr (Austria), D. Middleton (Northern Ireland), B.K. Moller (Denmark), R. Pan (Spain), F. Poli (Italy), P. Reekers (The Netherlands), M.R. Sancho (Portugal), G.M.T. Schreuder (the Netherlands), C. Stavropoulos-Giokas (Greece), J.M. Tiercy (Switzerland) and A. van Leeuwen (the Netherlands).



During the first day, in the premises of the Council of Europe, the ASHI representatives explained the organization and structure of the ASHI accreditation program, the need to establish EFI standards, the need to form regions with their own commissioners, the need of quality control and education. The second day was devoted to inspection training in the histocompatibility laboratory in Strasbourg. Under the guidance of the ASHI representatives, the future EFI inspectors performed a mock inspection of the Strasbourg serological and DNA laboratories.

The decisions taken were the following:

- 1) Creation of the Quality Assurance and Standards Committee; volunteers for this committee were M. Jeannet (Switzerland) and S. Curtoni (Italy) with the help of co-opted experts.
- 2) Organization of the Accreditation Committee consisting of the chairman J. Hors, elected for two years, and 11 regional commissioners representing the various countries.

The Quality Assurance and Standards Committee was given the task to write the EFI Standards on the basis of the ASHI Standards with amendments if necessary. A first draft of the EFI standards was expected for May 1st 1994 followed by yearly revisions. Before becoming effective the standards had to be approved by the EFI general assembly.

The Accreditation committee with its 11 regional commissioners started to contact the laboratories seeking accreditation. Nevertheless, EFI inspections could not be performed until the standards were approved.

In the meantime, and in order to be instantly functional once the standards were approved, the Executive Committee decided to form the two other committees essential for accreditation:

- 1) The External Proficiency Testing Committee because active participation in a recognized external quality assessment scheme is a prerequisite for obtaining EFI accreditation.
- 2) The Education Committee since adequate training of personnel is required for the accreditation process. Both committees were established by the EFI Executive Committee in September 1994.

The External Proficiency Testing Committee was chaired by G. M. Th Schreuder (The Netherlands).

It was given the following tasks:

- to propose guidelines for external quality control / proficiency testing schemes in Europe which would meet with EFI requirements.
- to ensure that laboratories seeking EFI accreditations could participate in such schemes.
- to ensure homogeneity in the analysis and evaluation of the different schemes.

The Education Committee was chaired by G. Mueller-Eckhardt (Germany).

This committee was set up to coordinate education in the field of histocompatibility and immunogenetics. Seven regions mainly based on the language spoken in the region or on existing collaborations were formed. Each region was represented in the committee by a regional education

commissioner and each country within each region was represented by a national representative. To begin, the committee collected the scientific and educational events in the field of immunogenetics, histocompatibility and transplantation in each region. If the event was acknowledged by EFI, a certificate of participation was given. Later the committee planned to organize specific EFI educational events in each region.

The EFI general assembly took place during the EFI/BSHI Conference in Brighton in March 1995. It was decided that approval of the EFI standards should be made by a secret postal vote and in May 1995 the standards were approved by 93.9% of the voting members.

The accreditation process could then be launched. It was decided that:

- 1) The EFI Accreditation Office would be housed in Leiden under the management of Dr. Aad van Leeuwen (the Netherlands).
 - 2) The first EFI inspectors would be those instructed by ASHI during the two-day training session as well as the Heads of the 10 laboratories who already had an ASHI accreditation.
 - 3) Two inspectors would be appointed for an accreditation visit: one from the same region as the laboratory, the second one from another region.
- As early as 1995, 3 laboratories were EFI accredited (Brussels, Nantes, Lyon); 26 others applied.

Finally the Clinical and Scientific Affairs Committee was created in autumn 1995. Headed by F. Claas (the Netherlands) its initial objectives were to:

- 1) Define the projects that need European collaboration and to implement that collaboration.
- 2) Organize scientific exchanges with Central and Eastern European countries.



I really enjoyed that slice of my life where work was definitely intense but where collaboration with so many motivated colleagues was so fruitful. We tried to build a solid European structure in order to harmonize laboratory practices while respecting the European multilingual diversity. The fact that this structure is still working today proves that we have succeeded. Thank you very much.

Marie-Marthe Tongio

A few recollections on the history of EFI

First, I would like to congratulate EFI on the appearance of the 100th issue of the EFI Newsletter. The Newsletter has always been an important tool to keep the membership up to date on the activities of EFI and the important events taking place within the EFI community. The content of all these issues clearly reflects the gradual professionalization of EFI. When EFI was founded in 1985, this was an initiative a few experts in the field of immunogenetics in Europe, who wanted to formalize their existing rather informal interactions. From the very beginning the field of HLA and immunogenetics has been very different from other fields of research: a lot of collaboration instead of competition between scientists. The exchange of crucial reagents and techniques, the organization of

international workshops and a lot of personal interaction were reasons why the complex field of histocompatibility has developed so well. The foundation of EFI by a limited number of histocompatibility experts under the supervision of EFI's first president Jon van Rood has been a trigger for many laboratories in Europe to join the effort to optimize histocompatibility testing and immunogenetic studies. The first EFI meetings took place in Strasbourg in the headquarter of the Council of Europe, the palais de l'Europe, and the local organizer was Marie-Marthe Tongio together with her group, representing the tissue typing laboratory of Strasbourg. The room in which the meetings took place was impressive but even more impressive was the fact that simultaneous translation was

provided. The reason for that was not very clear but it was told to us that, at meetings in France, French scientists were not allowed to give their talks in English. Whether that was indeed the case or whether their English was not suitable to provide a clear message remains a mystery. Anyhow, professional interpreters were continuously translating English lectures into French and French talks into English.

Already from the very beginning the parties during the EFI meetings were one of the highlights stimulating a lot of informal interactions. The first EFI conference outside Strasbourg was organized in 1991 in Noordwijkerhout, the Netherlands, by Ieke Schreuder, Marius Giphart and me. We asked permission to do so because of the retirement Jon van Rood from his



position at the University Hospital in Leiden. This meeting outside Strasbourg was also a success and the EFI board decided then to alternate the location of the meetings: a meeting in Strasbourg and the next year a meeting elsewhere in Europe. This was indeed the case for a few years but in later years the location became dependent on which local organizers took the initiative to approach the EFI board.

Although EFI was considered to be a professional organization, individual initiatives have been instrumental for the extension of the activities within EFI. A clear example was the introduction of the Ceppellini lecture in 1988. In that year Ruggero Ceppellini, an excellent human geneticist, who introduced the term haplotype, passed away. A few months later Jon van Rood introduced and was given the first Ceppellini lecture during the EFI meeting in Strasbourg to honour the enormous contributions of Ruggero to the field of immunogenetics. A similar personal initiative was the introduction of the EFI Newsletter by Peter Klouda from Bristol, who was the editor of the first 34 issues. The Newsletter, originally a very simple version in black and white, became a very important communication tool for the EFI community. During all these years there were only 3 editors responsible for the publication of the 100 issues of the Newsletter. After Peter's retirement as an editor, I had the honour to take over the responsibility, followed by Sebastiaan Heide. The main difference with the first issues was the fact that the Newsletter became more colourful, which was possible thanks to the advertisements of the companies involved in histocompatibility and immunogenetics. The most difficult part of the job as an editor was to obtain the contribution of the president of EFI in proper time. Some presidents were allergic to deadlines or were non-responders. However, the threat to publish a Newsletter with an empty front page mentioning only

"here we were supposed to publish the contribution of the president" was always very effective. Although I had the honour to serve EFI both as a president and as the chairman of the scientific committee, the best memories are associated with the organization of the first international summer schools. Although the EFI meetings were excellent to transfer knowledge to the community, the interaction between the faculty and young people was limited. During a drink in 2003, my good friend Chaim Brautbar from Jerusalem, and I discussed the possibilities to stimulate such interactions and he came up with the suggestion to organize an international summer school for this purpose. I liked the idea very much and informed the EFI board that I would like to organize such an international summer school on Immunogenetics. They reacted

Garrido, Steve Mack, Charley Orosz, Frank Christiansen, and Jim McCluskey were the first faculty joining me. We obtained many applications from over the whole world and the first summer school took place in September 2004. It was a great success both scientifically and socially. Antonio arranged even tickets for a concert of the famous guitar player Paco de Lucía, which was very exciting. For several years the summer schools were organized by Ingrid and me from Leiden, including even the ones in Mexico and Thailand, until the educational committee of EFI took over the job. The interaction between the young scientists and the faculty was always pleasant and informal, which was stimulating for both sides. Former students Lloyd D'Orsogna and Moshe Israeli even came to our laboratory in Leiden as a PhD student and postdoc, respectively, while several other former students are now



very positive and were willing to support a few teachers. Also the boards of ASHI and APHIA (at that time still ASEATTA) liked the idea. Antonio Nunez-Roldan was eager to organize this event in Sevilla and my secretary Ingrid Claproth was willing to support the administrative side of the organization. A group of very motivated teachers was easily found thanks to the excellent personal relationships in the HLA world. Erik Thorsby, Ronald Bontrop, Federico

leading histocompatibility laboratories all over the world. For me it is clear that excellent personal interactions have significantly contributed to the progress in the field of histocompatibility and immunogenetics. The 100 issues of the EFI Newsletter have certainly contributed to the family-like atmosphere which is crucial for a good collaboration.

Frans Claas

Dear EFI members, dear colleagues, dear friends, our President Anne-Margaret Little asked me to write an article to commemorate the 100 issue of the EFI newsletter. As EFI President during the period 2004/2006 I do it with pleasure. First of all, I must say that I am “retired” from my University and Hospital positions since September 2021 but not “tired” of HLA, as Frans Claas wrote after the retirement of JJ van Rood. I am Prof Emeritus in my department of the Medical School of the University of Granada and continue to be in contact with colleagues and friends working in HLA. My research interest is the same as it has been for decades namely the study of “HLA expression and Cancer immune escape”. As you know, there has been a significant progress in immunotherapy of different types of cancers with profound impact on patient survival. T lymphocytes and HLA are the main “players in this game” that I have summarized in recent publications.

The EFI newsletter started with Peter T. Klouda (Bristol) as first editor and the first issue was published in 1991 with a total of 34 under his editorship till November 2001. In February of 2002 Frans Claas (Leiden) took over and published the newsletter from number 35 to 80. Since December of 2016 (newsletter 81), the acting editor is Sebastiaan Heidt from Leiden and we are celebrating now the 100th issue.

The newsletter has been publishing the reports on EFI annual Congresses and covering a large variety of different activities of our Society. It was most welcome on our working desks in hospitals, universities and/or immunogenetic research centres in Europe. The EFI newsletter is being published every four months with three editions every year. 100 issues means that the EFI newsletter have been with us for 32 years. It was a nice way to keep in contact with EFI members in between our annual congresses. No doubt the EFI newsletters are precious documents to follow the history of our Society showing locations, people, pictures, etc, illustrating the progress and evolution of Immunogenetics in Europe and all over the world.

I contributed to the newsletters during my presidency from issue number 44 in august 2004 till number 50 in May 2006. I was handed over the “Presidential Mug” by Erik Thorsby in the general Assembly in the Sofia Congress in May 2004 and passed it to Dominique Charron during the Oslo Congress. My good friend Marcel Tilanus was in charge of the EFI secretary. At that time, among other activities, we had the first International Summer School on Immunogenetics in Seville organized by Antonio Nuñez-Roldan (Newsletter 45), the Istanbul Congress (Newsletter 47), the HLA International Histocompatibility workshop in Melbourne (Newsletter 49) and the Oslo EFI Congress in June 2006 (Newsletter 51).

Through the years, I asked a panel of leading immunologists to describe their discoveries in the Newsletter. For instance, Hans-George Rammensee wrote “How the MHC peptide motifs were discovered”, Lorenzo Moretta on “How Natural Killer cells and their receptors



were discovered”, Rolf Kiessling about “the Discovery of NK cells”, Shella David that wrote about “The Discovery of Ia antigens: The MHC class II” and Hans-Gustaf Ljungren and Klass Karre about the “NK cells and the missing self-recognition”. JJ van Rood was very kind to present a beautiful history about the “Birth of EFI” (Newsletter 50). The scientific journal Tissue Antigens, at that time edited by Jim McCluskey, became “HLA: Immune Response Genetics” the official EFI house Journal of the Society today edited by Steven Marsh. The EFI Medal was created to honour distinguished EFI members first of which Aad van Leeuwen received the first (EFI newsletter 51).

I include this picture that was taken eighteen years ago and published in the issue 46 of the EFI Newsletter. My dog “Cuca” and I were ready to travel in my MGB car to attend the XIX EFI annual congress in Istanbul in April 2005. There is a long tradition of EFI presidents being “fans” of classic cars such as was for Erik Thorsby and is for Dominique Charron.

I include a new picture taken few days ago in the same location, my country house near Granada, with the same MGB car and my dog “Lucio” ready to travel to the next EFI congress in Nantes this year.

As time goes by, EFI, as a scientific society, should look for new insights in HLA immunogenetics and its application in clinical practice. Finally, I want to thank and present Editors of the EFI newsletter for keeping the “spirit” of EFI in our society members during all these years.

*Federico Garrido
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EFI Conferences through the years

I have had a long association with EFI, attending 32 of the 35 conferences. It might be 33 but I honestly can't remember if I attended in 1998! If anyone has a photo of me from that meeting, please do share it with me.

My first EFI conference was in 1988 in Strasbourg, at what we now consider to be the 3rd EFI meeting, before the meeting became an annual event. (Photo 1). In 1990 I attended the 4th EFI conference, also in Strasbourg, and give my first presentation in the Best Abstract Session in the main hall of the European Parliament building. (Photo 2).

Sadly, I have very few photos taken at these early meetings so cannot share any from the 5th, 6th and 7th conferences. I have a single photo taken at the 8th EFI Conference dinner in Strasbourg of me together with Marie Lau from Paul Terasaki's laboratory at UCLA. Marie was known for organizing the cell exchange for many years (Photo 3).

I joined EFI as soon as membership became a possibility, and my membership number is within the first 120. Having attended most of the EFI meetings, I stood for election in 1999 and was elected as a Councilor. I remained on the EFI Executive Committee for over 10 years, as Councilor, Deputy Secretary, President Elect, and then President. A thoroughly enjoyable experience, and one I would encourage you all to consider. From the hundreds of photographs of the more recent EFI conferences, I have tried to select one from each to share with you in this 100th EFI newsletter and I hope you will recognize some of the many faces with whom I have had the pleasure of enjoying these meetings.

Professor Steven GE Marsh

1	Strasbourg – 1988: Julia Bodmer, Walter Bodmer, Judy Heyes, Josefina Olivera, Steven Marsh, Susan Tonks
2	Strasbourg – 1990: Steven Marsh, Arne Svejgaard
3	Strasbourg – 1994: Steven Marsh, Marie Lau
4	Brighton – 1995 : Helen Bodmer, Jonathan Moses, Ann-Margaret Little
5	Paris – 1996: Julia Bodmer, Steven Marsh, Renee Fauchet, Ieke Schreuder
6	Budapest -1997 : Derek Middleton waiting for a train!
7	Crete -1999 : Olle Olerup, Marie Schaffer, Steven Marsh
8	Montpellier 2000 : Steven Marsh, Ieke Schreuder, Christien Voorter, Aad van Leeuwen, Dave Roelen, Peter vd Elsen plus others
9	Granada 2001 – Sergio Curtoni, Ieke Schreuder, Frans Claas, Federico Garrido
10	Strasbourg 2002 - Marie-Marthe Tongio Frans Claas, Jon van Rood.
11	Baden Baden 2003 – Carlos Vilches, Libby Guethlein, Frances Brodsky, Peter Parham, Marcus Urhberg
12	Sofia 2004 – various including Benedicte Lie, Anne Cambon Thomson, Mogens Thomson, Erik Thorsby
13	Istanbul 2005 - Erik Thorsby, Mary Carrington, Marcel Tilanus
14	Oslo 2006 – Effie Petersdorf
15	Barcelona 2007 - Maria-Elisa Moraes, Maria Gerbase de Lima, James McCluskey, Frank Christensen
16	Toulouse 2008
17	Ulm 2009 – Tulip Run
18	Florence 2010 - Various
19	Prague 2011 – Ronald Bontrop and his crew
20	Liverpool 2012
21	Maastricht 2013 – Steven Marsh, Jon van Rood, Gottfried Fischer
22	Stockholm 2014 - Dianne De Santis, Steven Marsh, Neema Mayor
23	Geneva 2015 – James Robinson, Jill Hollenbach
24	Kos 2016 – Winners of the first HLA journal award
25	Mannheim 2017 –Juha Peräsaari and Sebastiaan Heidt
26	Venice 2018 - Christien Voorter, Dianne De Santis, Timo Olieslagers, Steven Marsh, Marcel Tilanus
27	Lisbon 2019 - various
28	Glasgow Remote 2021
29	Amsterdam 2022

Dear friends,

As a member of the European Federation for Immunogenetics, I feel proud to be a part of this great, very special and constantly evolving society that has achieved remarkable successes. I would like to share with you, that my term as President was on the one hand a huge challenge and a responsibility, but on the other a great honor to work for the EFI with a team of highly motivated and positive colleagues. To be honest, it took much more time and energy than I really thought. But if I have succeeded to contribute just a little bit to the development of EFI and the promotion of its achievements internationally it means it was worth it. The EFI Newsletter plays an important role in reflecting both the life inside the EFI and the development and



achievements of its members and the society as a whole. I would like to acknowledge the great contribution of the editors Peter Klouda, Frans Claas and more recently Sebastiaan Heidt.

Best wishes and hope to see you all in Nantes.

Elissaveta Naumova
Past EFI President



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Official Carrier

Jill

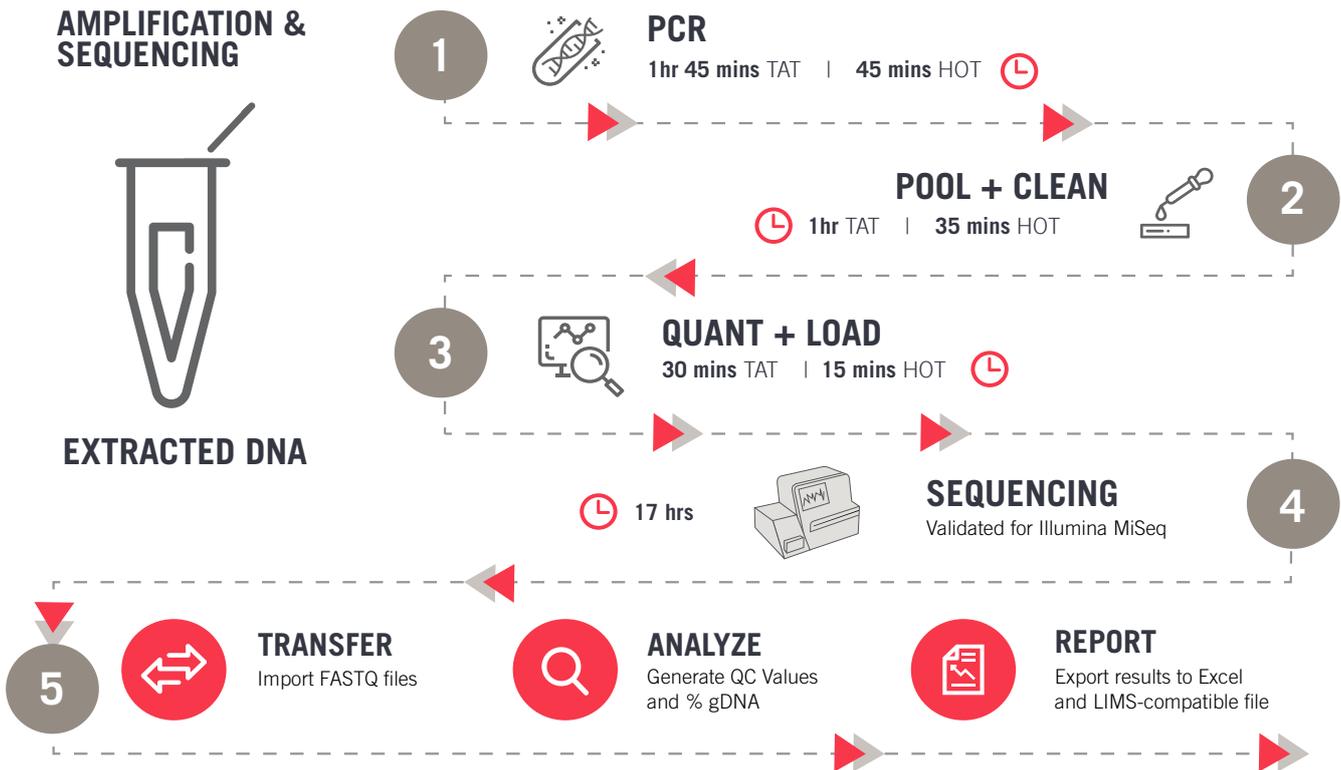
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Transplant Recipient

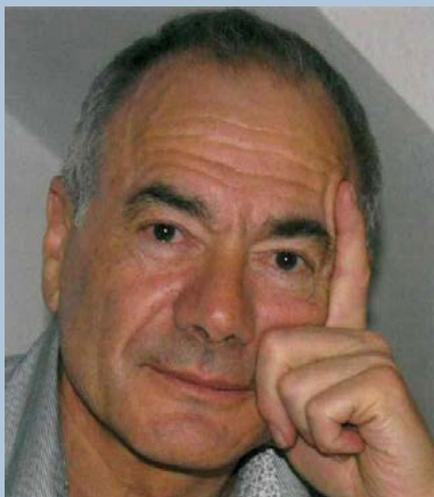
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- Targets 202 bi-allelic SNPs across 22 autosomes
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- 0.22% Limit of Detection
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*References for early rejection • Rashef et al BBMT 2014;20:1758-66 • Tang et al BBMT 2014;20:1139:1144
*HOT: Hand-on Time (based on 48 samples) *TAT: Turn around time

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One of the most important periods in my HLA life was the Presidency of EFI, our society, in which I am member since long time (membership Nr.58). Looking back there have been a lot of new introductions regarding methods and especially ideas. EG. together with G.B. Ferrara we started an external proficiency testing on DNA typing. Committees for Accreditation, Standards, EPT, and

Science started to grow up. They became a very important part of our Society. Some anecdotal episodes come into my mind. Having an Executive Committee consisting of individuals from many countries and having so different characters it is sometimes quite impossible to serve everybody.

A saying in English formulated from a nonnative speaker is a totally different thing and can be wrongly understood by others. So, it happens, and it took indeed quite of a time to get the Committee on the good track and finish our meeting. Even participation in two different EFI committees at the same time trying to solve crucial problems happens. Running from one room to the other and transferring decisions is part of the story. Sometimes, and I must apologize for that, to calmly ask colleagues to take over and accept decisions. The most important,

however, is the Society and its membership. Without its members EFI would have disappeared by now. The President and all the Committee members are there to serve the EFI members. Therefore, bursaries, travel helps and especially the Newsletter are the offers the President and its Committees are doing for the members. Three Editors, Peter Klouda, Frans Claas, and Sebastiaan Heidt made and make a tremendous job, and now we reached the 100 issues of the Newsletter. Besides the information I presented during my presidency I recall one Viewpoint formulated with Frans Claas on soluble HLA, where we tried to explain this phenomenon and its implication. For now, I would like to thank EFI for offering me the wonderful time I have as member, EPT Committee Head President and Past-President.

Ilias Doxiadis

The EFI Scientific Committee

In this celebration issue of the EFI newsletter, we would like to revisit the activities of the Scientific Committee (SC) and their impact on the growth of our scientific society in the past two decades.

The committee counts up to ten members, eight regular (elected upon spontaneous candidature through majority voting of the current SC members, in agreement with the EC) and a maximum of two advisory members (eminent past regular SC members invited to continue contributing to the Committee activities for three-year mandates). We would like to acknowledge the eminent contributions of the prominent scientists that have served in the SC over the last two decades: Jean Marie Tiercy, Frits Koning, Ronald Bontrop, Antonio Amoroso, Marco Colonna, Dominique Charron, Rainer Blasczyk, and Ludvig Sollid.

The traditional main tasks of the SC are supporting the local organizing committees in the choice and invitation of speakers for the EFI conference program, and advising the EC in the selection of the Ceppellini lecturer and the Julia Bodmer awardee. These prestigious prizes recognize, respectively, outstanding scientists who have made a substantial contribution to the field of Immunogenetics, and young ones that hold promise to do the same in the future. The two lectures honoring them open each year the EFI Conference, and represent one of the most meaningful, touching, and scientifically compelling

moments of assembly of our society. We are proud to have selected scientists of exceptional standing, who have made milestone contributions to the field of histocompatibility and immunogenetics, to deliver the Ceppellini lecture, including the Nobel Laureates Rolf Zinkernagel (2006) and Peter Doherty (2022).

The last decade has also seen new emerging activities from the SC, including the creation of the Population Genetics Working Group, coordinated by Alicia Sanchez-Mazas, with participation of experts from a variety of countries. This concerted effort led to the compilation of the catalogue of common and well-documented (CWD) HLA alleles over Europe and within European sub-regions, a fundamental tool for research in immunogenetics and routine tissue typing practice.

Finally, over the years, our SC has built on the memorandum of understandings stipulated by the EC with other scientific societies, including the European Federation of Immunological Sciences (EFIS) and the European Society for Blood and Marrow Transplantation (EBMT), to implement joint scientific session at the meetings of each of the society, further tightening the links and promoting interdisciplinary networking.

Luca Vago (on behalf of the EFI SC)



100th Edition of the EFI Newsletter – A Celebration from the EFI Education Committee

This issue of the EFI Newsletter will be the 100th in our EFI series. It is also the time when Sebastiaan will step down from his role for more than six years, as Editor of the Newsletter. To celebrate this milestone, I wanted to include a summary of some of the major activities the EFI Education Committee has been involved in over the years.

EFI Education Committee Membership

The EFI Education Committee's remit is to promote education and training for technical, scientific and medically qualified staff in the field of transplantation, immunology, histocompatibility and immunogenetics throughout Europe and beyond. To help EFI achieve this important goal, there have been 40 different members of the Committee from countries throughout Europe, working with six different Chairpersons.

Members of the Committee represent a region of Europe (according to the different EFI Regions) and have responsibility for promoting the views and educational needs of H&I laboratories and EFI members from the EFI regions they represent. The previous and current members of the EFI education Committee are shown in the table below:

Members of the EFI Education Committee	
G. Mueller-Eckhardt (Germany), Chair	
F. Claas (NL)	P Horn (Germany)
D. Middleton (UK)	M Ivanova (Bulgaria)
G. Petranyi (Hungary)	J Lardy (NL)
C. Raffoux (France)	A Matinho (Portugal)
P. Richiardi (Italy)	M Schaffer (Sweden)
M. Thomsen (France)	D Turner (UK)
E van den Berg - Loonen (NL)	P Jindra (Czech Rep)
G Fischer (Austria) Chairman	E Palou (Spain)
E Ivaskova (Czech Rep)	T Slavcev (Czech Rep)
J Martorell (Spain)	JF Eliaou (France)
J Mytilineos (Germany)	V Dubois (France)
P Santos (Portugal)	David Turner (UK), Chair
E van den Berg-Loonen (Netherlands)	
Monika Lindemann (Germany)	Benedetta Mazzi (Italy)
B Vidan-Jeras (Slovenia)	Michael Eikmans (NL)
R Zunec (Croatia)	Deborah Sage
AM Little (UK)	Manuel Muro
M Drouet (France)	Maria Spryropoulou-Vlachou
C Navarrete (UK), Chairman	Marte Viken (Norway)
J Mytilineos (Germany), Chair	Deborah Sage (Chair)
M Andreani (Italy)	Katarzyna Bogunia-Kubik (Poland)



EFI Education Committee in Amsterdam 2022 (from left to right: Manual Munro, Marte Viken, Valerie Dubois, Michael Eikmans, Deborah Sage, Benedetta Mazzi, Dave Turner, Maria Spyropoulou-Vlachou and Tony Slavcev)

At the last EFI Conference in 2022 Dave Turner, who had been chair of the Committee since 2016, stood down from this role and Deborah Sage took over as Chairperson.

Tony Slavcev also left the committee and both Dave and Tony joined the Executive Committee as EFI Councillors.

Katarzyna Bogunia-Kubik replaced Tony as the new representative for Region 5 (Central Europe), replaced Anthony in in October 2022.

European Specialisation in H&I (ESHI) Diploma

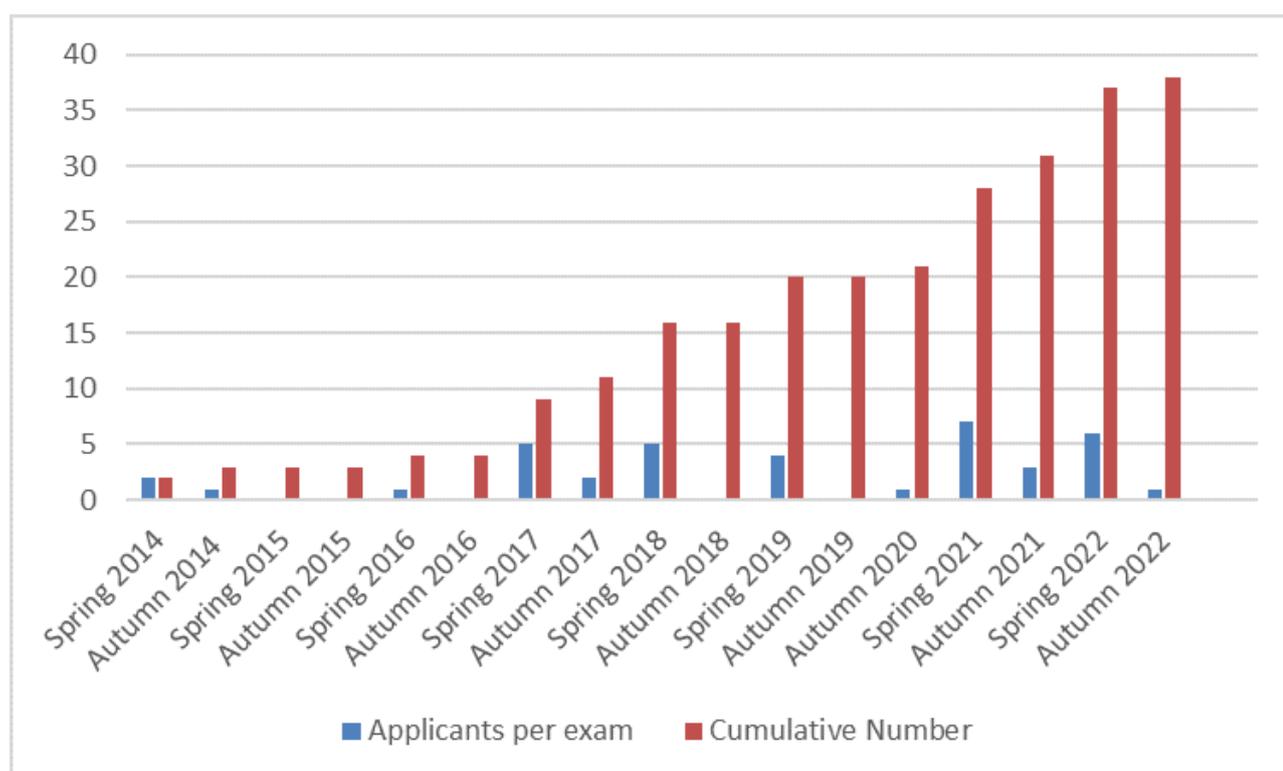
In 2015 a non-binding Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Union Europeenne des Medecins Specialistes (UEMS) and EFI to create a partnership to promote the quality of medical and scientific practice in the field of Transplantation Immunology. A structured high level training scheme and examination in Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics (the European Specialisation in H&I (ESHI) Diploma) was developed. The European Board of Transplant Immunology (EBTI) within the Division of Transplantation of the UEMS was created in 2012. The first exams for the ESHI Diploma took place in June 2014 at the EFI Conference in Stockholm. Since then, a total of 36 candidates have undertaken the oral examination with only 4 (9%) candidates failing all modules and 3 (8%) candidates failing some of the modules applied for. During the pandemic the in person oral examinations were successfully replaced by online exams so candidates could continue to complete their training.

International Summer school

A successful collaboration between H&I societies across the world has resulted in the development of the H&I International Summer school, of which the history is discussed by Frans Claas in this newsletter. Since 2004, this joint initiative involving EFI, ASHI, APHIA and ARSHI has organised a total of 17 summer schools, at exciting locations around the world, the first being Sevilla in Spain.

International Summer school Locations		
Year	Organising Society	Location
2004	EFI	Sevilla, Spain
2005	ASHI	Guanajuato, Mexico
2006	APHIA	Bangkok, Thailand
2007	EFI	Pecs, Hungary
2008	ASHI	Buzios, Brazil
2009	APHIA	New, Delhi, India
2010	EFI	Messolonghi, Greece
2011	ASHI	San Juan, Puerto Rico
2012	APHIA	Victor Harbor, SA, Australia
2013	EFI	Stintino, Italy
2014	ASHI	Boulder, USA
2015	APHIA	Ayutthaya, Thailand
2017	EFI	Dublin, Ireland
2019	ASHI	Quebec, Canada
2020	Cancelled	EFI
2021	EFI	Virtual (Prague)
2022	ARSHI	Egypt

ESHI Diploma candidate numbers (annual and cumulative)



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The summer school format is designed for small student numbers and provides a stimulating environment for faculty members from each Society to share knowledge and expertise with students on the course. The exchange of ideas with H&I colleagues from countries around the world provides a valuable learning experience for students and faculty members alike. The figure below shows some of the exciting locations the summer school has visited.



community. In order to contribute to the achievement of this aim, the EFI Education committee work with the organizers of the EFI Conference to advise and agree the topics for teaching sessions. Topics have focused on new developments in the H&I field and how these can be translated in scientific and clinical practice. We have moved from crossmatching and antibody screening to epitope matching and prediction of alloantibody production post



International Summer schools: Sevilla (2004), Bangkok (2006), Boulder, Colorado (2014), Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt (2002)

Regional Meeting Endorsements

Organisers of regional education meetings/workshops can apply for the official approval of their Educational/Scientific Activity by the EFI Education Committee. This official approval infers that EFI supports the educational content of the conference/workshop, and subsequently enables the organizers to use the EFI logo in all documents connected with their meeting.

The EFI Educational Committee will also approve CME/CPD EFI Educational Credits (EEC) for the meeting based on 1 EEC per hour of educational activity. Applications are assessed by the EFI Education Committee and in the last 6 years 29/30 applications have been approved!!!!

Teaching Sessions at Conference

The teaching sessions during the EFI Conference provide relevant scientific training events for physicians, biologists and technicians involved in the field of Immunogenetics. The opportunity to enlarge and share detailed knowledge on specific topics by competent speakers constitutes a unique opportunity of improvement for the entire EFI

solid organ transplant. We've discussed donor selection in Haematopoietic Stem Cell transplantation (HSCT) and the tools available to help us achieve successful HSCT and learnt about the new methods available to monitor chimerism post-transplant. Next Generation Sequencing, the value of bioinformatics, HLA and transfusion and non-HLA genes in pharmacogenetics to name but a few topics. It's clear that meeting organisers with support from the EFI Education Committee are providing a wonderful resource for EFI members.

Looking to the Future....

We have exciting developments for 2023 with the launch of the ETHIQ Diploma for laboratory technicians, and a system for recording CME/CPD activities for all EFI members

I would like to thank all the members of the EFI Education Committee over the years, for your contributions to the great work that has been achieved.

Deborah Sage, Chair of EFI Education Committee



A Brief History of our EFI Standards Committee

As renal transplantation became established across Europe, there was a recognition of the need to introduce recommendations for good practice in H&I labs. The initial concept behind setting laboratory-based standards to be followed was to ensure equivalent levels of care for patients in centres working with organ exchange programmes. The EFI Accreditation programme was set up at the same time, and both have always worked closely together to ensure that the Standards and the Accreditation programme kept up to date with developments in H&I.

In 1994, the first EFI Standards Committee was formed to modify the ASHI Standards to a more acceptable and appropriate format for use within Europe. The first chair was Michel Jeannet (1994-1995), and then Marie-Marthe Tongio (1995-2000). Jean-Marie Tiercy (Switzerland) took over this position later the same year, and the Standards were established under his dedicated leadership until 2008. Kay Poulton (UK) replaced Jean-Marie as chair upon his retirement. By this time, the additional requirement for laboratories to be accredited against the ISO 15189: 2012 Standard had been introduced, and the next chair, Juha Peräsaari (Finland) revised and re-formatted all the EFI Standards to identify which Standards overlapped with ISO, and which were unique to EFI. Juha retired as chair in 2020 and our current chair, Katy Latham (UK), took the lead.

EFI Standards Committee Chairs	
Michel Jeannet	1994 - 1996
Marie Marte Tongio	1996 - 2000
Jean-Marie Tiercy	2000 - 2008
Kay Poulton	2008 - 2014
Juha Peräsaari	2014 - 2020
Katy Latham	2020 - present
ARSHI	Egypt

There is a wonderful tendency for members of the Standards Committee to continue to work within other areas of EFI and the photo taken in Oslo in 2006 shows many committee members who later became Chairs of the Accreditation Committee, Scientific Committee, EFI Secretary and even EFI President. This is a vibrant committee where everybody's opinion is valued and where we strive to represent all EFI regions, with expertise covering the entire EFI remit. It underpins the work of the Accreditation Committee and EFI's impact on improving transplantation for everyone worldwide. We aim to work with all our fellow EFI committees, and we have a reciprocal seat on the ASHI Standards Committee to ensure we are

tuned in to potential changes in that region too. Thanks are due not only to the Committee Chairs mentioned, but to all our friends and colleagues who have served as members of the Standards Committee during the last 27 years, generously donating their time and energy to making sure that we can each use these Standards to run a safe H&I service.

Roll of Honour

(Standards Committee Members 1994- present):

Ekkehard Albert (Germany),
 Mats Bengtsson (Sweden),
 Ella van den Berg-Loonen (Netherlands),
 Jean-Denis Bignon (France),
 Pernille Bundgaard Kofoed-Nielson (Denmark),
 Carlo Carcassi (Italy),
 Sergio Curtoni (Italy),
 Ciaran Dunne (Ireland),
 Maria Edvige Fasano (Italy),
 Ingrid Faé (Austria),
 Katarina Fleischhauer (Germany/Italy),
 Catherine Freidel (France),
 Susan Fuggle (UK),
 Chantal Gautreau (France),
 Lucette Gebuhrer (France),
 Thibaut Gervais (Belgium),
 Andrea Harmer (UK),
 Moshe Israeli (Israel),
 Natasa Katalinic (Croatia),
 Junior Lardy (Netherlands),
 Aad van Leuween (Netherlands),
 Cornelius Lölinger (Germany),
 Tsvetelin Lukanov (Bulgaria),
 Susan Martin (UK),
 Dominique Masson (France),
 Sarah Maxfield (UK),
 Benedetta Mazzi (Italy),
 Joannis Mytilineos (Germany),
 Terry Ray (UK),
 Jennifer Schellekens (Netherlands),
 Chrysanthi Tsamadou (Germany),
 Christien Voorter (Netherlands),
 Alexandre Walencik (France),
 Sabine Wende (Austria),
 Urs Wirthmueller (Switzerland),
 Malte Ziemann (Germany)

Liaison Officers:

Ed Petershofen (Germany),
 Francesca Poli (Italy),
 Paul Reekers (Netherlands)



A Meeting of the EFI Standards Committee in Oslo at the 2006 Annual Conference. Jean-Marie Tiercy (front right) is Chair. Also present (Clockwise from the front left) were Andrea Harmer, Joannis Mytilineos, Dominique Masson, Thibaut Gervais, Francesca Poli, Carlo Carcassi, Katharina Fleishhauer, Mats Bengtsson and Ciaran Dunne.



The most recent in person committee meeting at the Golden Tulip, Leiden October 2022. Left-Right Moshe Israeli, Katy Latham, Pernille Bundgaard Kofoed-Nielson, Urs Wirthmueller, Chrysanthi Tsamadou, Sabine Wende, Sarah Maxfield, Natasa Katalinic and Tsvetelin Lukanov. This was our first time as a committee meeting in Leiden post-covid and in the spirit of remote working and virtual meetings we were joined online by Malte Zimmerman (not pictured).

Katy Latham (Current Chair) & Kay Poulton (Chair 2008-2014) with help from Mats Bengtsson and Christien Voorter.

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Transplant Pioneer