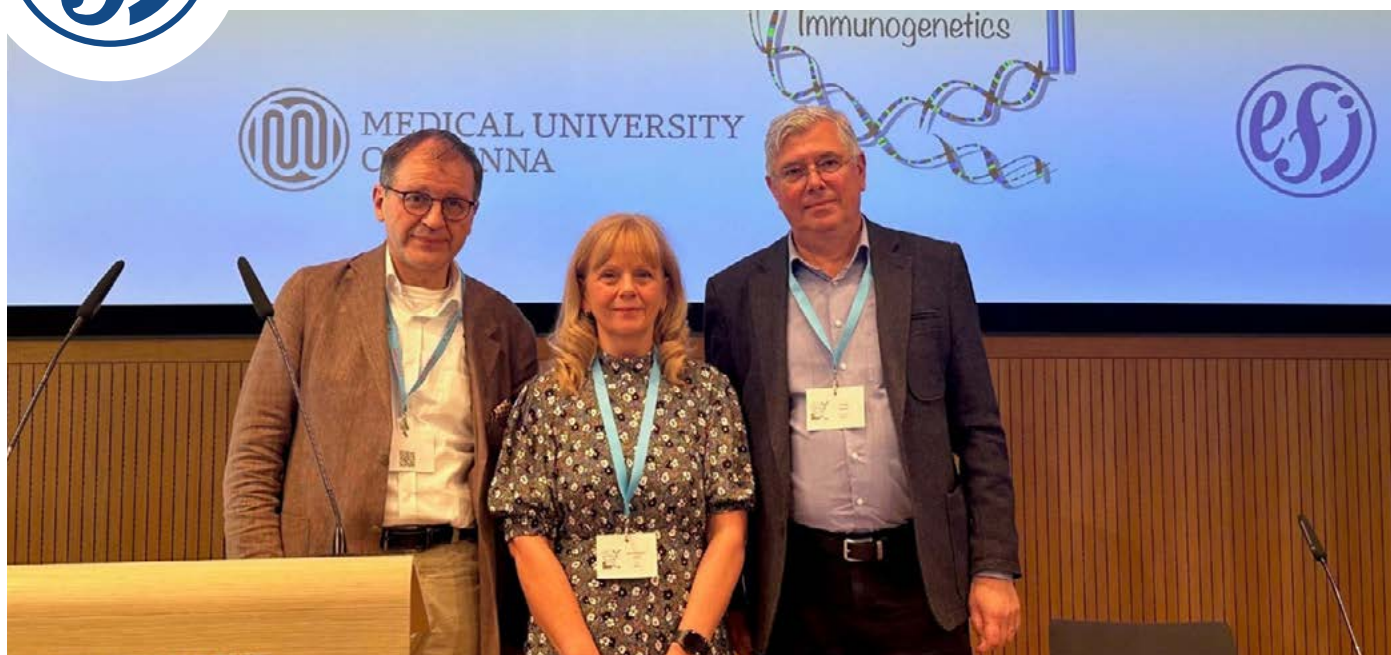




Newsletter



Godfried Fischer, Ann-Margaret Little and Tony Slavcev at the EWIC meeting

1

From the EFI President

This Newsletter contains the last Presidential contribution from our current President Ann-Margaret Little

11

CME/CPD Launch Meeting

During the upcoming EFI annual meeting there will be a session on the CPDMe platform

15

Programme 37th EFI annual meeting

The scientific programme of the upcoming EFI annual meeting in Geneva, Switzerland is published in this Newsletter

In this 103rd EFI Newsletter you can find the results of the last election, as well as the excellent programme of the 37th EFI annual meeting. Enjoy the read!



Dear EFI friends

Happy springtime to everyone in the northern hemisphere.

The photograph that accompanies this letter was taken last month when I attended the 16th East West Immunogenetics Conference, held in Vienna and organised by Professor Gottfried Fischer and Professor Tony Slavcev. I have attended several of these meetings and as usual the organisation was excellent and the quality and diversity of the scientific presentations first-rate. Congratulations to Gottfried and Tony and their organising team for another successful event.

We are fast approaching the major EFI event of the year, our conference. I know that Jean Villard and the other members of the organising committee have been very busy arranging the sessions to ensure that the science presented will be stimulating and that we will also have enjoyable social interactions. The programme for this conference is published in this newsletter, so those members that are attending can start planning which sessions they wish to attend.

This is my last contribution to the EFI newsletter as President. It has truly

continue on page 5

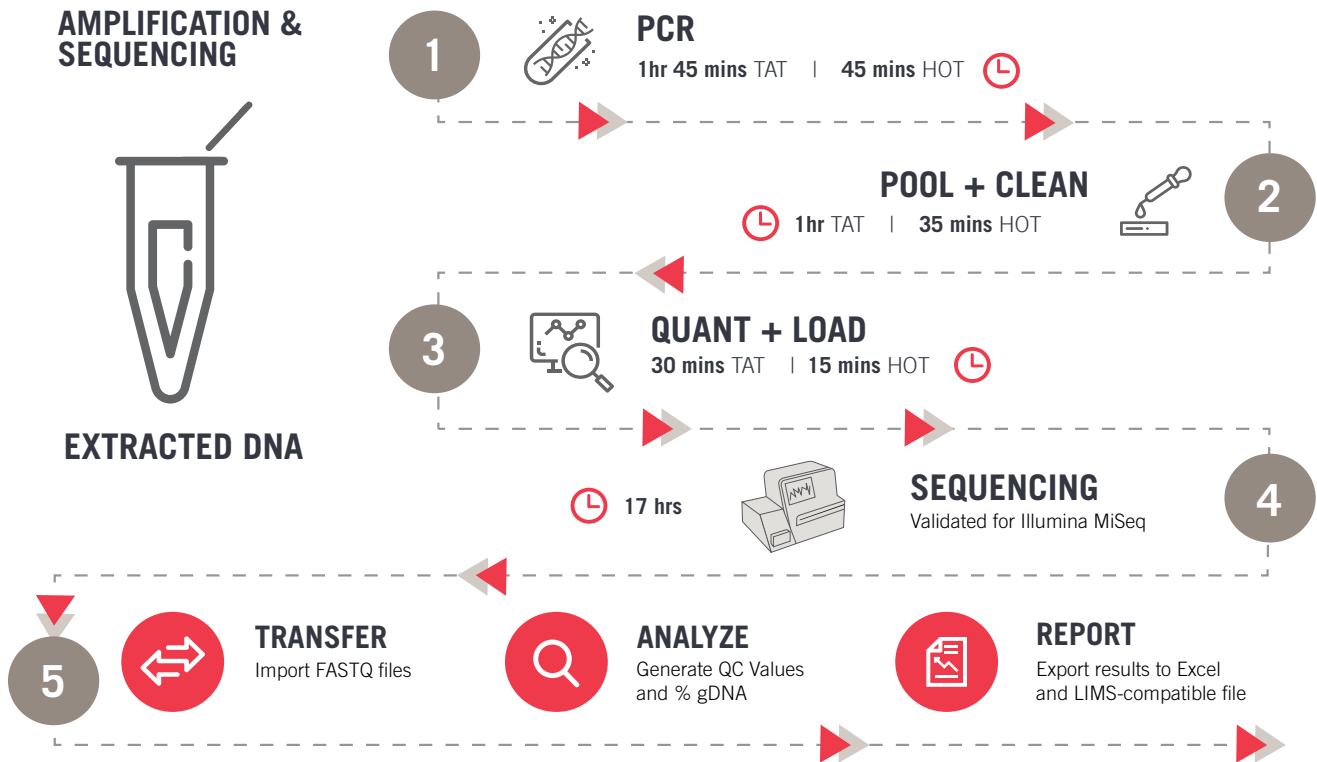
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*References for early rejection • Rashef et al BBMT 2014;20:1758-66 • Tang et al BBMT 2014;20:1139:1144
*HOT: Hand-on Time (based on 48 samples) *TAT: Turn around time

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From the editor's desk

Before you lies the 103rd edition of the EFI Newsletter. It is the time of year again where we all are getting quite excited to go to the EFI annual meeting again. We look forward to great science, seeing friends from all over the world, and if possible, do a little bit of sight-seeing.

In this edition of the Newsletter the programme of the 37th EFI annual meeting is published. Jean Villard and his team should be commended for their great effort to build such a beautiful programme. The theme of the meeting is 'Unveiling Diversity, Nurturing Transplant Bonds, Orchestrating immunity'. The programme surely is inspired by this theme, as many aspects come back in the different sessions.



I would like to take the opportunity to congratulate and welcome Sandra Tafulo, and welcome back Katerina Tarassi to the EFI Executive Committee as Councillors. They will be installed during the General Assembly of the EFI meeting in Geneva.












Finally, I would like to sincerely thank our President Ann-Margaret Little, who will be handing over the Presidency to Marco Andreani during the upcoming EFI annual meeting. Ann-Margaret has started her Presidency in an extremely challenging time for EFI, but she had done an excellent job until the very end, always putting the interest of our society at first place. She welcomed input from everyone and made sure that everyone felt at ease and valued during discussions. A great example of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion! On behalf of all EFI members, many thanks to Ann-Margaret and a warm welcome to Marco as new president of EFI.

As always, I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter, I hope to see you all in Geneva and I am looking forward to your contribution to the next edition.

Sebastiaan Heidt

Deadline for contributions to EFI Newsletter 104 is September 27, 2024.

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

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from the EFI President (continued)

been an honour to serve the society in this office. The most enjoyable part is the interactions I have with the members of the Executive Committee during our meetings. We have dealt with several challenges over the years and I feel that we have worked well as a team, to ensure the continued operation of our organisation for the benefit of our members. My thanks to all the Executive Committee members (past and present) for your support, and a special thanks to Dave Roelen who in addition to being the EFI Secretary, has the responsibility for managing the EFI office in Leiden.

I also welcome two new councillors to the Executive Committee; Katerina Tarassi from Greece and Sandra Tafulo from Portugal who will take up their positions as I step down during the General Assembly in Geneva. I wish you well in your roles supporting EFI.

The real EFI work is undertaken by the EFI committees: Accreditation, Education, External Proficiency Testing (EPT), IT & Bioinformatics, Scientific, and Standards. The chairs and members work tirelessly to achieve their goals to ensure we have the appropriate structures in place to support our members. The most definite highlights from the last few years include the progress made by the Education Committee with the introduction of the ETHIQ diploma. We should all be proud that our organisation has successfully delivered a training programme that targets junior members of our laboratories and I hope that this programme is able to develop and be used by members from many different countries that do not have their own training programme.

So we have training for technical staff, and together with the UEMS we have an examination for staff at the laboratory director stage of their career. Our laboratories remain

accredited and the efforts made by the Accreditation Committee to streamline the processes involved will ensure that the programme remains effective. The Standards Committee ensures that the standards that those of us in clinical testing laboratories work with are kept updated and much work is going into the production of a completely new version to incorporate advances in the challenges we encounter with handling big data, an area of interest for our IT and Bioinformatics Committee.

The Scientific Committee has responsibilities including review of the abstracts for the annual conference and applications for the Julia Bodmer Award. They also nominate the recipient for EFI's prestigious award: The Ceppellini Lecture. This year the recipient of the award is Professor Jamie Rossjohn, from Monash University, Australia. Professor Rossjohn's research has focused on the use of structural methods to enable a greater understanding of how T-cells function in the generation of immune responses against different antigen types. Congratulations to Professor Rossjohn and I look forward to hearing his lecture in Geneva.

I wish to thank Helle Bruunsgaard for her time as chair of the EPT Committee, who has stepped down after three years. The EPT Committee plays an important role in providing standards for providers of EPT schemes ensuring that the proficiency testing undertaken by laboratories meets the standards required for clinical care and also EFI accreditation. Most recently the committee has been updating the process for inter-laboratory exchanges which can be utilised when no established EPT scheme exists for a particular test, for example testing for MICA antibodies. We do not know who the replacement for Helle will be, and in the meantime my thanks to Yvonne Zoet for taking over as interim chair.

I began my presidency with the fallout from the pandemic. A significant portion of EFI's income is derived from the benefits of our annual conference. As we did not have a conference in 2020, and 2021 was virtual, this income source was severely depleted. However due to the successful management of the EFI finances by the current and past Treasurer and the successes of the Amsterdam and Nantes conferences, and anticipated success in Geneva, we are back in a safe situation.

So I feel that I am handing the EFI mug to Professor Marco Andreani with an EFI organisation that is in a good situation. It has been a pleasure working with Marco during the last year in his role as President Elect. Marco has much experience of EFI matters due to having been a member of the Education committee, an EFI Commissioner and an Executive Committee Councillor. He is truly committed to the EFI cause. I am confident that EFI is in excellent hands for the future. I wish Marco and his Executive Committee all the very best for the next three years (and of course beyond).

Of course you are only reading this letter due to the work undertaken by Sebastiaan Heide our EFI newsletter editor. Thank you Sebastiaan for all the work you do for the newsletter which keeps our members up to date with all the EFI activities.

In closing, my thanks go to Sandra, Ingrid and Sonja in the EFI office. Without your support none of us would get any EFI work done. I wish you all well in the future.

I look forward to welcoming those of you attending the conference in Geneva.

with best wishes
Ann-Margaret Little, EFI President

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Membership update

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

J. Paris, Nantes, France	V. Scaglia, Piacenza, Italy
M. Punta, Milan, Italy	M.F. Jacome Hernandez, Bogota, Colombia
E. Ferron, Nantes, France	S. Petermann, Bad Kreuznach, Germany
L. Foster, Birmingham, UK	M. Ashfaq, Oranmore, Ireland
P. Salameh, Nantes, France	S. Ho, Itasca, USA
C. Gouvea, Fortaleza, Brasil	L. Johnson Cadwell, Lund, Sweden
A. Balog, Innsbruck, Austria	P. Mendonça, Lisbon, Portugal
B. Adams, Gateshead, UK	G.M. Togliatto, Turin, Italy
C. Murphey, Fair Oaks Ranch, USA	L. Van 't Hof, Leiden, the Netherlands
M. Rafique, Rhos, UK	L. Kordelas, Ratingen, Germany
S. Molenbroeck, Maastricht, the Netherlands	M. Pando, Dallas, USA
M. Rietscher, Lautau, Germany	N. Thal, London, UK
S. Ott, Delft, the Netherlands	M. Hoddinott, London, UK
B. Stanic, Split, Croatia	C. Hastie, Glasgow, UK
J.A. Galian Magias, Murcia, Spain	C. Walker, Glasgow, UK
B. Pieterse, Pretoria, South Africa	I. Benoy, Kontich, Belgium
C. de Felice, Foggia, Italy	R. Lamanna, Pisa, Italy
M. Dakkak, Bogota, Colombia	O. Moussa, Charleston, USA
K. Hacke, Phoenix, USA	A-L. Semmler, Frankfurt, Germany

Invitation to the General Assembly

To all EFI members

On behalf of the EFI Executive Committee I invite you to attend the General Assembly, which will be held during the 37th European Immunogenetics and Histocompatibility Conference.

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 General Assembly will be held on Wednesday 22nd May 2024, 18:00hrs in Hall B, Palexpo, Geneva, Switzerland and I strongly encourage you to attend..

Agenda:

1. Opening
2. Minutes of the General Assembly April 28, 2023 (EFI Newsletter November 2023 issue 101)
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 - Prague, Czech Republic
8. Installation of new EFI Officers and Councillors

Ann-Margaret Little, EFI President

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| • HLA-FluoGene ³⁸⁴ Match | Article no.: 002 085 020 | 20 tests/kit | 2 tests/plate |

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Results of the elections 2024



Sandra Tafulo



Katerina Tarassi

Hereby we can announce that Sandra Tafulo and Katerina Tarassi have been elected as Councillors.

Our warmest congratulations to the successful candidates but also to all candidates participating in the election.

This year we had 281 votes representing 53% of the number of eligible voters. No votes were found to be invalid.

Dave Roelen, EFI Secretary

Update from the EFI Education Committee

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

We are launching EFI CPDMe at the EFI Conference with a session planned on Tuesday 21st May 13:30-14:30 (see more information of the launch meeting in this Newsletter). 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 direct oversight of your CME/CPD activities, and an annual statement (suitable for EFI Accreditation applications) can be produced when required.

The system will be easy to access - available via a link on the EFI website.

European Specialisation in H&I (ESHI) Diploma

The next examinations will take place on the 19th May 2024 in Geneva, with an application deadline of 7th April 2024. The ESHI exams, aimed at EFI Directors/Co-Directors and

those working towards this level, are offered at two time points each year; in Spring as an in person oral exam at the EFI annual conference, and in Autumn as an online oral exam. Information regarding of the expected level of training and experience, the application process and details of the next round of exams can be found at the UEMS website: Transplant Immunology – UEMS Section of Surgery (uemssurg.org)

The first ESHI Diploma examinations took place 10 years ago and since the start of the ESHI exam in 2014 we have had 49 applicants. In 2024, the 10-year Anniversary of the exam, we will pass the 50 applications milestone!

European Technical H&I Qualification (ETHIQ)

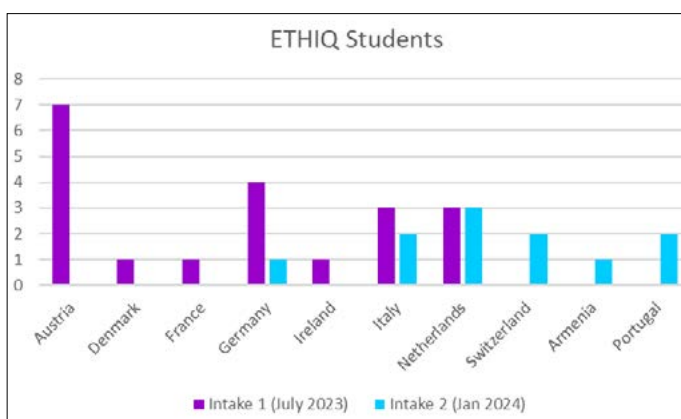
This training programme provides a qualification that gives a measure of both knowledge and technical competence in H&I. The scheme is for technical staff working in EFI accredited laboratories, with supervision given by senior staff in their own lab. Information about the training

Organiser	Development Description	Date	Duration (hours/days)	CPD hours

programme, registration process and deadlines can be accessed on the EFI website: <https://efi-web.org/e-learning/ethiq-for-technical-staff>.

There will be 2 intakes each year and the registration deadlines will be 1st January and 1st July. The portfolio is completed on-line, and the content of logbook is in English, although trainees can complete evidence in their own language. The final multiple-choice assessment is currently in English, however we have translated into French and work is progressing to complete translations in German, Italian and Spanish. These translations will then be uploaded to the Moodle platform so students will have an option to take the final assessment in a language other than English.

20 students were registered for the training programme in July 2023 from 7 different countries across Europe. A further 11 students registered for the training program in January 2024 giving a total of 31 students from 10 countries across Europe.



EFI/ASHI/APHIA/ARSHI International Summer School

The next International Summer School hosted by ASHI was scheduled to be held on April 14 - 17, 2024 in Merida, Mexico. Unfortunately, the organisers have had to postpone the 2024 ISS to 2025. The location will remain the same - Fiesta Americana Merida Hotel, Merida, Mexico and the dates are likely to be April 2025. This means the ISS due to be hosted by EFI in 2025 will now take place in 2026. Applications are being reviewed currently to assess the impact of this change.

EFI Education and Scientific Bursaries

Applications for Education and Training Bursaries up to a maximum of €1500 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>.

e-Learning

A reminder that the ten 30-minute presentations on different aspects of H&I in solid organ transplantation, HSCT, disease association and transfusion created as part of the expected preparation for the ESHI examination are now available to EFI members directly via the EFI website. Log on to the EFI website and follow the links to e-learning. These online presentations are useful resources for any EFI members undertaking training in H&I.

*Deborah Sage,
Chair of the EFI Education Committee*

Update from EFI Young Professionals

We are delighted to announce that, just like last year, we are involved in organizing an engaging session during the upcoming EFI conference. In our field, artificial intelligence (AI) and bioinformatics are becoming increasingly important, exerting a growing influence on our careers.

Are you curious to learn more about AI and big data in health care? And in addition learn how to leverage these developments for your career? Then come to our interactive session on Wednesday May 22nd from 14:30-16:00. During this session experts in the field prof. dr. Christian Lovis, dr. Nicolas Vince and dr. Sandra Tafulo will share their insights. But here will also be an AI assistant that will be actively involved during the session. Join our session, to ask questions and share ideas!

The EFI Young Professionals are currently represented by: Jonathan Lucas, Vincent Mauduit, Gorjan Milanovski, Luisa Betke, Timo Olieslagers and Arianne Brandsma. We are still looking for 1-2 more young professionals to join our working party. If you are interested in joining, please email Timo (timo.olieslagers@mumc.nl) or Arianne (a.brandsma@sanquin.nl). In addition, we have been busy engaging with several of the EFI Committees. We will provide a more extensive update about this after the EFI conference in Geneva.

We look forward to welcoming you during the conference: let's learn and grow together in our field.

Best regards,
EFI Young Professionals



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20–23 MAY, 2024
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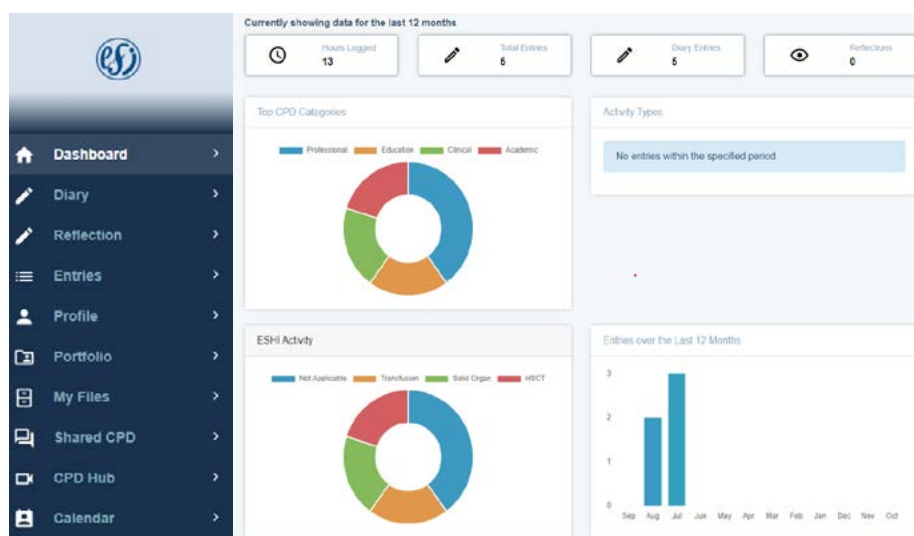
CME/CPD Launch Meeting

The EFI Continuing Medical Education/ Continuing Professional Development (CPDMe) is a platform for EFI members to easily capture Continuing Medical Education and Continuing Professional Development (CME/CPD) activities you have undertaken, save evidence and create reflective notes.

It's easy to use, log in via 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. You can also create a portfolio report / annual statement to summarise your activity (suitable for EFI accreditation submissions).

We hope this will be a valuable addition to your EFI Continuing Professional Development. Come and find out for yourself at the launch

meeting during the EFI Conference in Geneva on Tuesday 21st of May 13.30 – 14.30. We look forward to seeing you there.





Join us at our pre-conference workshop

Monday, 20th May 1.30 – 4 pm

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We look forward to seeing you at EFI and hope you can join us at our pre-conference workshop where we'll be showcasing our assays, protocols and software as our advancements continue to reshape the landscape of HLA genotyping and antibody detection technologies.

Pre-EFI Workshop

Monday, 20th May | 1.30 – 4 pm | Palexpo Geneve - Room E

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Luncheon Symposium

Wednesday, 22nd May | 12.10 – 12.50 pm | Hall A

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Consultant Physician, Director Transplant Immunology

University Hospital Zurich

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Update from the EFI External Proficiency Testing Committee

Meetings: The last External Proficiency Testing Committee (EPTC) meeting took place in October 2023. A meeting is planned during the EFI Conference in May 2024.

Focus: It was decided during the last meeting that the EPTC will have to address and develop strategies for current EFI accreditation categories without established EPT schemes and new upcoming analyses such as donor derived cell-free-DNA.

Presentation of new members of the EPTC: The EPTC welcomes two new members of the EPTC who are stepping up for vacant positions. Maria Chiara de Stefano, Rome, Manager of the Italian National External Proficiency Testing for Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics laboratories and coordinator of the Italian National EPT Steering Committee in Immunogenetics is the new representative for Region 7 (Italy). María José Herrero Mata, director of HLA laboratory, Banc de Sang i Teixits, Barcelona, Spain is the new representative for Region 9+10 (Spain and Portugal). The EPTC looks forward to a fruitful collaboration.

Vacant positions in the EPTC: This will be my last newsletter as a chairperson for the EPTC. I would like to express my deep gratitude for the opportunity to serve as a member and later as the chairperson of the EPTC. It has been an enriching experience, and I am sincerely thankful to all the EPTC members who have been like an EFI family to me. I would also like to express my gratitude for the collaboration with the EFI office, chairpersons from the other EFI committees, the Executive Committee, and the whole EFI society. Yvonne Zoet from Region 2 (the Netherlands) has accepted to step up as the interim chairperson for the EPTC for now while the vacancy is advertised. Additionally, there is a vacant position for Region 1 (Scandinavia and Baltic countries) that will be announced soon.

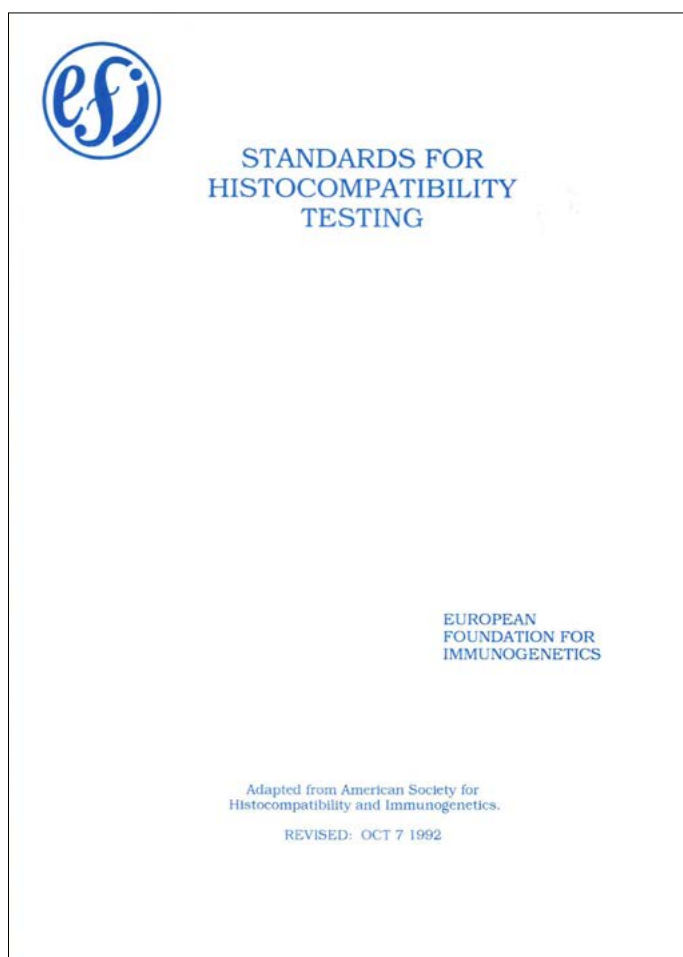
On behalf of the EFI EPT Committee,
Helle Bruunsgaard, outgoing chairperson of the EPTC and Yvonne Zoet, interim chairperson of the EPTC





Update from the EFI Accreditation Committee

The Accreditation Committee and its Permanent Commission are intensively preparing for Annual Inspectors' Workshop which will take place in Geneva the day before the opening of the 37th EFI Conference. Attendance at the Annual Workshops, which are the cornerstone of continuing education, is requested at least every second year for each active inspector. This year, we are very happy to host Sam Ho, American Society for Histocompatibility & Immunogenetics Accreditation Review Board Program Director, and learn more about the processes in our sister organization. When trying to understand better long-term tight bonds between ASHI and EFI I came across our standards from 1992. Since there is no version of the document mentioned, I assume it is the original – first EFI Standards with clear statement that they were adopted from ASHI, showing the importance of collaboration between the sister organisations.



transplant patients. Recently, FACT sent us the Guidelines for Histocompatibility Standards and Accreditation Programs Evaluation for agencies that wish to be approved by FACT for this service. We prepared the requested extensive document to the best of our knowledge and strive to get prolonged approval for the EFI Accreditation Programme by FACT.

The very interesting and successful East-West Immunogenetics Conference (EWIC) took place at the Medical University of Vienna from February 25 to 27, 2024. The motto of the conference was "Back to the Future of Immunogenetics". Ingrid Fae and Zorana Grubic, commissioners for EFI region 5 (Central and East Europe), and myself attended the conference. In the scope of EFI matters Ingrid and Zorana presented state of the art of the laboratories in their region, and I gave an update of the EFI Accreditation Programme. We were happy to see many participants still present at this last conference session and answer questions that revealed interest in our business.

Obviously, the Accreditation Programme has been built in close collaboration with the EFI Standards and External Proficiency Testing Committees. Less evident, although very important, we exchange knowledge with the EFI Education Committee, learning and getting inspired by the excellent scientists in our field. The EWIC in Vienna offered an opportunity to hear some of them. Let me take the liberty of mentioning an outstanding lecture by professor Ronald Bontrop (Biomedical Primate Research Centre, Rijswijk) talking about Evolution of the KIR region in primates – a great pleasure and motivation.

Best wishes
Blanka Vidan Jeras,
 Chair EFI Accreditation Committee



Foundation for the Accreditation of Cellular Therapy (FACT) accredited Clinical Programs and Cord Blood Banks are required to use the services of HLA typing laboratories that are accredited by ASHI, EFI, or another FACT-approved accrediting organization providing histocompatibility services appropriate for hematopoietic cellular therapy



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Orchestrating immunity**



Program



37TH EUROPEAN IMMUNOGENETICS & HISTOCOMPATIBILITY CONFERENCE

20–23 MAY, 2024
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND



ASSOCIATED MEETINGS

SUNDAY 19 May 2024

Room TBA

9:00 – 17:00 Inspectors workshop
Chairperson **Blanka Vidan-Jeras, Christien Voorter,
Sabine Scherer**

Room TBA

9:00 – 17:00 ESHI diploma examination

MONDAY 20 May 2024

Rooms TBA

8:30 – 16:30 Executive committee meeting
External proficiency testing committee meeting
IT & bioinformatics committee meeting
Accreditation committee meeting
Standards committee meeting
Education committee meeting
Scientific committee meeting

Chairpersons **Chairs of each committee**

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

MONDAY 20 May 2024

Room - TBA

12:30 – 14:00 Population genetics working group
Chairperson **A. Sanchez-Mazas**

Hall B

OPENING CEREMONY

17:30 – 18:00 **Welcome addresses**
EFI President, Dean of the Faculty,
Health Minister

18:00 – 18:15 **HLA award**
Steven Marsh

18:15 – 18:45 **Julia Bodmer award**
Luca Vago

18:45 – 19:15 **Cepellini lecture**
Ann-Margaret Little

Exhibition Hall and Villa Sarasin

19:15 – 21:30 Welcome reception

TUESDAY 21 MAY 2024

Hall B

PLENARY SESSION I

Solid Organ Transplantation (How to transplant highly sensitized patients)

Chairpersons **Valérie Dubois, Sebastiaan Heidt**

8:30 – 9:00 New approach to ABO – Incompatible transplantation
Lori West

9:00 – 9:30 Is Imlifidase the new magic bullet for highly sensitized recipients?
Mats Bengtsson

9:30 – 10:00 10 years of the ScandiTransplant acceptable mismatch program
Pernille Bundgaard Koefoed-Nielsen

PARALLEL SESSIONS

Hall B

Special joint SFHI session

Tolerance

Chairpersons **Paul Rouzairé, Alice Aarnink**

10:30 – 11:00 Mixed chimerism for induction of renal allograft tolerance
Thomas Fehr

11:00 – 11:30 Development and assessment of T cell therapies for transplantation
Fadi Issa

11:30 – 12:00 Genetic engineering to empower Treg therapy
Tifanie Blein

Room L

Teaching session 1

HLA and transfusion

Chairpersons **Deborah Sage, Agnès Basire**

10:30 – 11:00 Human platelet antigens - Definition and laboratory investigation
Anthony Poles

11:00 – 11:30 Fetal and neonatal alloimmune thrombocytopenia: practical cases of diagnosis and management
Agnès Basire

11:30 – 12:00 Platelet refractoriness: laboratory diagnosis and patient management
Deborah Sage

Hall A	
10:30 – 12:00	Abstract session 1: Immunotherapy, gene therapy & NK cells
<i>Chairpersons</i>	Britta Eiz-Vesper, Roberto Crocchiolo

Hall C	
10:30 – 12:00	Abstract session 2: Bioinformatics, data analysis in immunogenetics
<i>Chairpersons</i>	Martin Maiers, James Robinson

Room TBA	
12:00 – 13:00	EC + ECC meeting

Hall A	
12:10 – 12:50	Industry symposium: Werfen

Hall B	
13:10 – 13:50	Industry symposium: CareDx

PARALLEL SESSIONS

Hall B	
Special joint session with the Geneva University	
The network of immune cells in health and disease	
<i>Chairpersons</i>	Nicole Mifsud, Frans Claas

14:00 – 14:30	The neutrophil and macrophage networks Mikaël Pittet
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14:30 – 15:00	The ILC network Camilla Jandus
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15:00 – 15:30	The T/TCR network David Gfeller
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Room L	
Teaching session 2	
HLA and disease	
<i>Chairpersons</i>	Gwendaline Guidicelli, Deborah Pritchard

14:00 – 14:30	Best practices for HLA and Genetic Testing in H&I laboratories: SFHI Guidelines Gwendaline Guidicelli
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14:30 – 15:00	Current position of disease associations with the HLA system in clinical diagnostics Frantisek Mrazek
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15:00 – 15 :30	HLA genetics and Coeliac disease Deborah Pritchard
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Hall A	
14:00 – 15:30	Abstract session 3: New technologies in Immunogenetics
<i>Chairpersons</i>	Eric Spierings, Jakob Nilsson

Hall C	
14:00 – 15:30	Abstract session 4: Immunogenetics in organ transplantation 1
<i>Chairpersons</i>	Caroline Wehmeier, Claudia Lehmann

Hall B	
PLENARY SESSION II	
Hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (New therapies for acute leukemia: HSCT, CAR-T, Bispec-Ab)	
<i>Chairpersons</i>	Kay Poulton, Pietro Crivello

16:00 – 16:30	HSCT Jakob Passweg
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16:30 – 17:00	B-specific antibody therapy Catherine Thieblemont
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17:00 – 17:30	CAR-T cells Federico Simonetta
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Hall B	
17:30 – 18:00	Serological nomenclature: update
<i>Chairperson</i>	Marcelo Fernández-Viña

Hall C	
17:30 – 18:10	Industry symposium: Hansa Biopharma

Hall A	
17:30 – 18:10	Industry symposium: Omixon

Poster Hall	
18:10 – 20:00	Wine & cheese poster viewing session

WEDNESDAY 22 MAY 2024

Hall B	
PLENARY SESSION III	
HLA immunogenetics and population genetics a combined SIP-EFI session	
<i>Chairpersons</i>	Neema Mayor, Alicia Sanchez-Mazas

8:30 – 9:00	Using genomic data to understand the nature and timescale of selection on HLA genes Diogo Meyer
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9:00 – 9:30	Archaic introgression enhanced recognition of HLA-A by first nations Oceanian Natural Killer cells Paul Norman
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9:30 – 10:00	Unveiling HLA population diversity: evolutionary meanings and clinical implications Alicia Sanchez-Mazas
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PARALLEL SESSIONS

Hall B	
Special session	
HLA-DP models and beyond	
<i>Chairpersons</i>	Jill Hollenbach, Pierre-Antoine Gourraud

10:30 – 11:00	The importance of Immunopeptidomics data to analyze the immune response Julien Racle
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11:00 – 11:30	The immunopeptidome in HCT – lessons learned from HLA-DP Katharina Fleischhauer
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11:30 – 12:00	MHC class II haplotypes Effie Petersdorf
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**Hall A**

10:30 – 12:00 Abstract session 5: Immunogenetics in organ transplantation 2

Chairpersons Valérie Olivier, Jean-Luc Taupin

Hall C

10:30 – 12:00 Abstract session 6: MHC evolution, population genetics

Chairpersons Natasja de Groot, Steven Mack

Hall A

12:10 – 12:50 Industry symposium: One Lambda / Thermo Fisher

13:10 – 13:50 Industry symposium: GenDx

PARALLEL SESSIONS

Hall B

Young EFI professional special session

AI and big data in immunogenetics

Chairpersons Timo Olieslagers, Arianne Brandsma

14:00 – 14:30 AI and Big data: friend or foe?
Christian Lovis

14:30 – 15:00 Endeavour in HLA research, an exciting winding path
Nicolas Vince

15:00 – 15:30 Scientific career path; inspiration, collaboration and commitment
Sandra Tafulo

Room L

Teaching session 3

KIR in solid organ and hematopoietic stem cell transplantation

Chairpersons Paul Norman, Stéphane Buhler

14:00 – 14:30 The KIR system
Paul Norman

14:30 – 15:00 KIRs in solid organ transplantation
Alice Koenig

15:00 – 15:30 KIRs in hematopoietic stem cell transplantation
Stéphane Buhler

Hall A

14:00 – 15:30 Abstract session 7: Hematopoietic stem-cell transplantation (HSCT)

Chairpersons Nina Svetlitzky, Katarzyna Bogunia-Kubik

Hall C

14:00 – 15:30 Abstract session 8: Autoimmunity, Infection, Reproduction & Cancer

Chairpersons Danillo Augusto, Fatma Oğuz

Hall B

PLENARY SESSION IV

Giving life- bone marrow / solid organ donors

Chairpersons Joannis Mytilineos, TBA

16:00 – 16:30 The DKMS studies
Johannes Schetelig

16:30 – 17:00 One organ for every recipient
Constanca Figueiredo

17:00 – 17:30 The view and strategy of WHO
Efstratios (Stratos) Chatzixiros

Hall B

17:30 – 18:00 EFI medals ceremony

Chairperson Ann-Margaret Little

Hall B

18:00 – 19:00 EFI GENERAL ASSEMBLY

THURSDAY 23 MAY 2024

Hall B

8:30 – 10:00 Best abstract session

Chairpersons Marco Andreani, Luca Vago

PLENARY SESSION V

Antigen presentation and neoantigens

Chairpersons Lotte Wieten, Esteban Arrieta-Bolaños

10:30 – 11:00 Deciphering the properties of antitumor T cells in solid cancers
Giacomo Oliveira

11:00 – 11:30 Lymphatic vessels as immunomodulators in cancer
Stéphanie Hugues

11:30 – 12:00 Antigen discovery for the development of personalized cancer immunotherapy
Michal Bassani-Sternberg

CLOSING CEREMONY

Chairpersons Marco Andreani, Sylvie Ferrari-Lacraz

12:00 – 12:15 19th IHIW presentation

12:15 – 12:30 Jon Van Rood award & best abstracts award

Committee chair Steven Marsh

Best poster awards

Committee chair Stefan Schaub

LECTURE

12:30 – 13:00 The world of exoplanets
Monika Lendl

REMARKS

Welcome to Prague and final conclusions

Membership fee 2024

Renew your 2024 EFI membership today! Your membership fee allows us to provide programs, professional awards and educational opportunities to support the exchange of scientific information and to reinforce the skills and knowledge of young scientists and others working in the field of immunogenetics and histocompatibility.

The annual membership fee is 50 Euro (for new members it is 20 euro per year for the first two years). After you login to the membership part of our website, click 'pay fee' and select the year and the payment method in order to renew your EFI membership.

EFI Membership

If you are not yet an EFI Member and you want to become one, we are of course happy to welcome you to our society. Benefits for EFI Members are receiving the EFI Newsletter, eligibility for a reduced EFI annual conference fee, the possibility to apply for bursaries, have a vote, access to

the membership section online, and free access to the HLA journal. To become an EFI member please fill in the membership application form on our website www.efi-web.org

EFI Booth

At the upcoming conference the Membership Secretary will be available at the EFI Booth to assist you with renewing your EFI membership, completing the EFI Membership application form and to answer all your questions regarding the EFI Membership. Please note the EFI Booth is situated in the Exhibition Hall. Sonja and Ingrid will be available in the EFI Booth on Tuesday 21st May and Wednesday 22nd May 2024

We are looking forward to meeting you in Geneva!

Sonja Geelhoed & Ingrid Abelman

Office Talk

Spring is in the air! This means that the sun is out and the flowers and trees are blossoming. When we look out the window from the EFI office we can enjoy the view of this beautiful tree. If this doesn't give you the feeling of spring what does?

And of course in the Netherlands we can enjoy the colourful bulbfields. From Leiden this is only a short bikeride away.

Spring also means EFI conference. Sonja and I are busy with the preparations for the conference in Geneva. There will be a very interesting scientific program for you so register yourself if you didn't do this yet. And like every year Sonja and I would like to welcome you at the EFI booth to pay your membership fee or just to say hello. In case you would like to pay in cash, for your information we only accept euros and not Swiss Francs. We are present in the EFI booth on Tuesday 21st May and Wednesday 22nd May located in the exhibition hall.

To conclude I have a notice from the Accreditation Office. From now we have a joint email address for all your accreditation related questions/issues. This email address is: efiaccreditation@lumc.nl.

For everyone who is coming to Geneva, I wish you a pleasant journey and see you in Geneva.



Ingrid Abelman



ADAPT.

Are you ready to make a change?

Change can be intimidating, but without change there is limited growth. Differences in MFI values between vendors can be challenging to explain, but they should not be seen as a deterrent. There are many ways to help overcome MFI differences between vendors and with the right partner and tools you can overcome this barrier. As Darwin said, "It is not the strongest that survive, nor the most intelligent, but the ones that are most adaptable to change."

SCAN to find out what your peers experienced by adapting to change.



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