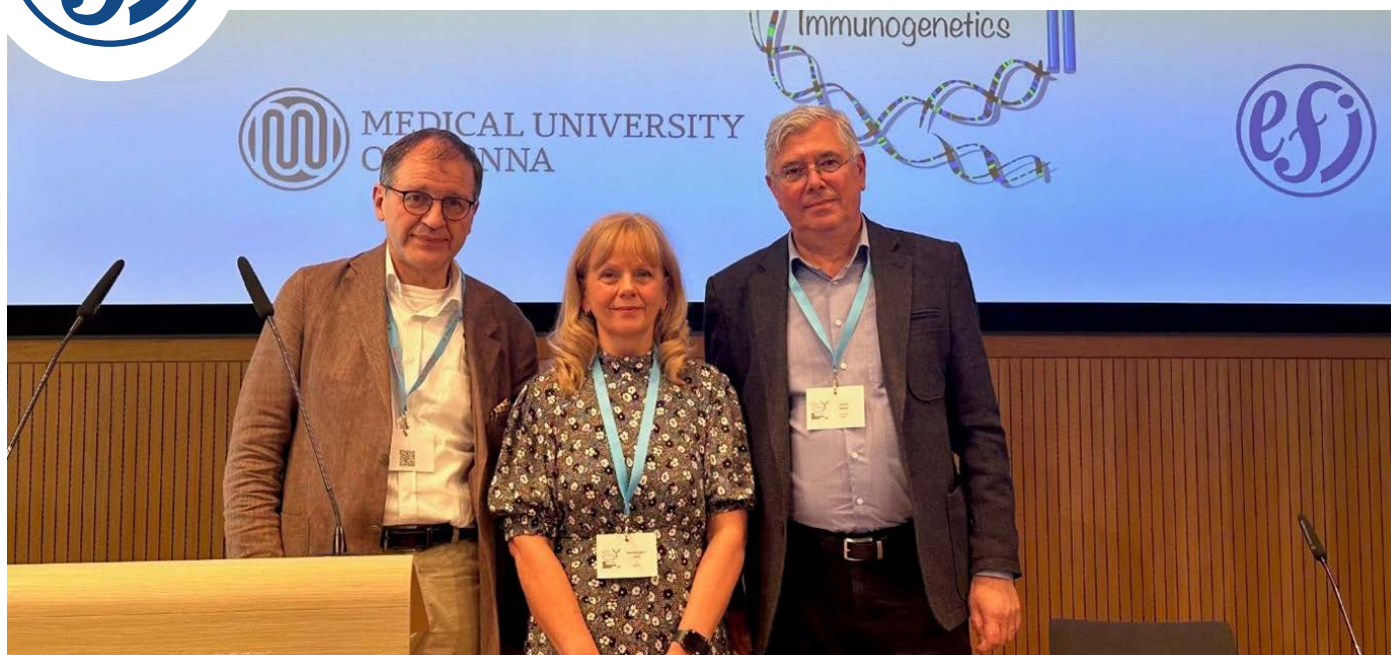




# Newsletter



## 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 37<sup>th</sup> EFI annual meeting

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

**In this 103<sup>rd</sup> EFI Newsletter you can find the results of the last election, as well as the excellent programme of the 37<sup>th</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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*

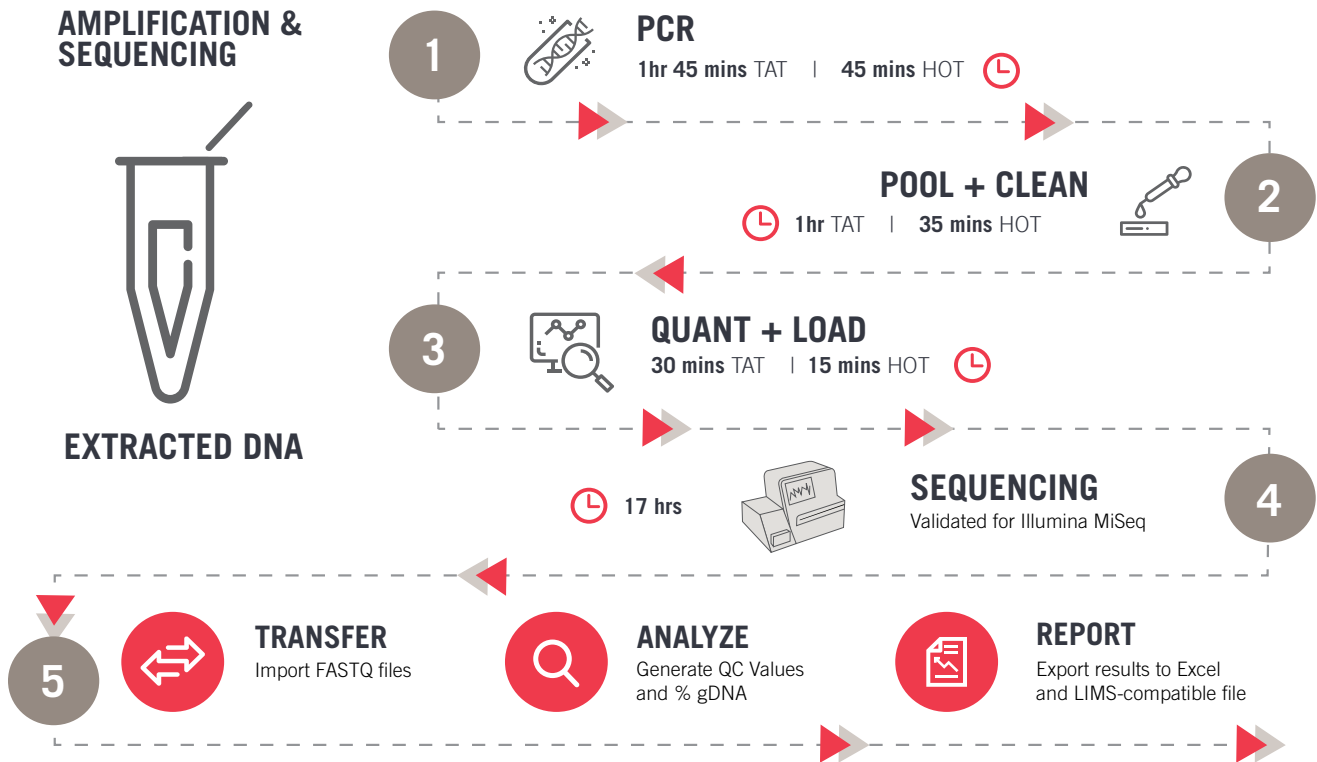
# AlloSeq HCT

## Revolutionizing Chimerism Monitoring

STREAMLINED WORKFLOW | AUTOMATED ANALYSIS | COMPREHENSIVE SOFTWARE QUALITY METRICS

**Jen R.,**  
Stem Cell and Double Lung  
Transplant Recipient

- 1-step single reaction multiplexed PCR
- 1 assay for genotyping and monitoring
- Targets 202 bi-allelic SNPs across 22 autosomes
- Test up to 48 samples/run
- 0.22% Limit of Detection
- gDNA Sample to Report in Less than 24 hours



\*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

For more information visit [www.caredx.com/alloseq-hct](http://www.caredx.com/alloseq-hct) or contact your CareDx representative.

AlloSeq HCT is available as CE/IVD in the EU and as Research Use Only. For local regulatory status of AlloSeq products, please contact CareDx. Research Use Only products are not to be used for diagnostic procedures. AlloSeq is a trademark or registered trademark of CareDx Inc. or its subsidiaries in the US or other countries. AlloSeq is a registered trademark with the US Patent and Trademark Office. © 2022 CareDx, Inc. All service marks or trademarks are owned or licensed by CareDx, Inc. or its affiliates. All rights reserved.

**Editor-in-chief**

Sebastiaan Heidt

**Editorial address:**

EFI Newsletter  
LUMC, Dept. of Immunology  
Bldg. 1, E3-Q  
P.O. Box 9600  
2300 RC Leiden, the Netherlands

**EFI Executive Committee 2024****EFI President**

A-M. Little (UK)

**EFI President-elect**

M. Andreani (Italy)

**EFI Secretary**

D. Roelen (the Netherlands)

**Deputy Secretary**

K. Poulton (UK)

**EFI Treasurer**

J. Villard (Switzerland)

**Deputy Treasurer**

N. Vince (France)

**Membership Secretary**

S. Geelhoed (the Netherlands)

S. van Hensbergen (the Netherlands)

I. Abelman (the Netherlands)

**Councillors**

S. Heidt (the Netherlands)

F. Heinemann (Germany)

N. Mayor (UK)

D. Turner (UK)

A. Slavcev (Czech Republic)

L. Vago (Italy)

**Past Presidents**

J.J. van Rood, B.A. Bradley, E. Albert,  
J. Hors, M-M Tongio, J.G. Bodmer,  
F.H.J. Claas, S. Curtoni, E. Thorsby,  
F. Garrido, D. Charron, S.G.E. Marsh,  
I.I.N. Doxiadis, G. Fischer, E. Naumova,  
J. Mytilineos

The editor and the EFI officers do not accept responsibility for the contents of published articles. Opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the editorial board.

Please support the advertisers in this issue of EFI Newsletter.

ISSN 0962-9521

[www.efi-web.org](http://www.efi-web.org)

# From the editor's desk

Before you lies the 103<sup>rd</sup> 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 37<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:efioffice@lumc.nl)*

 Membership update .....	7
 Invitation to the General Assembly .....	7
 Results of the elections 2024 .....	9
 Update from the EFI Education Committee .....	9
 Update from EFI Young Professionals .....	10
 CME/CPD Launch Meeting .....	11
 Update from the EFI External Proficiency Testing Committee .....	13
 Update from the EFI Accreditation Committee .....	14
 Programme 37 <sup>th</sup> European I & H conference .....	15
 Membership fee 2024 .....	19
 Office Talk .....	19



COMING SOON

**GENDX**

A EUROBIO SCIENTIFIC COMPANY

# DISCOVER NGS-Pronto®

HIGH GENE  
COVERAGE

⌚ High-Resolution HLA Typing

Multiplex amplification 11 loci

Oxford Nanopore Sequencing



Only 15 min.  
sequencing/sample



Run up to 96 samples  
at a time



Full phasing  
No fragmentation



Dedicated software  
NGSengine®-Turbo



## Interested?

Contact us for more information at [support@gendx.com](mailto:support@gendx.com)  
GenDx | +1 (312) 815 5006 | [www.GenDx.com](http://www.GenDx.com)

## 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*

WE LIVE TO EXCITE





**BAGO**  
DIAGNOSTICS

# ENJOY THE SYMPHONY OF ANTIBODY DIAGNOSTICS

Be a maestro as you orchestrate your antibody identification, using HISTO SPOT® HLA AB. From diluted serum to results generation, all steps are performed in a **fully automated** instrument; always finely tuned. No need for extra calibration protocols, **saving time, money** and **reagents**. HISTO MATCH software delivers **simple analysis** and **highly specific results** in a virtuoso performance.

HISTO SPOT®  
HLA AB



-  HIGHLY REPRODUCIBLE
-  FLEXIBLE THROUGHPUT (1-96 SAMPLES)
-  OPTIMIZED SAMPLE BUFFER REDUCES UNSPECIFIC REACTIONS TO A MINIMUM
-  CLASS I AND CLASS II - ALL CLINICALLY RELEVANT SEROLOGICAL SPECIFICITIES COVERED



FIND OUT  
MORE NOW



# 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 37<sup>th</sup> 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 22<sup>nd</sup> 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*

# HLA-FluoGene<sup>384</sup> Match

*Real-time detection for the perfect match*

## HLA GENOTYPING OF 11 LOCI IN <60 MIN

### SIMPLE

Start your assay with just a few pipetting steps and less than three minutes hands-on-time. Protocols for different pipetting automations are available, too.

### FAST

Take just one hour DNA-to-result for one or two samples parallel in one real-time PCR. Exclusively available by inno-train.

### RELIABLE

Get your software assisted typing result with a single antigen bead resolution and consistent quality. The kits are CE IVD certified and our customer support is happy to assist you at every step.



## HLA-FluoGene<sup>384</sup> Match – Ordering information

- |                                     |                          |              |               |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| • HLA-FluoGene <sup>384</sup> Match | Article no.: 002 085 010 | 10 tests/kit | 1 test/plate  |
| • HLA-FluoGene <sup>384</sup> Match | Article no.: 002 085 020 | 20 tests/kit | 2 tests/plate |

**NEW**

*Watch out for our high resolution typing based on Illumina (HLA-SuBiTo NGStype®) and with Oxford Nanopore (coming soon) on [www.inno-train.com](http://www.inno-train.com)*



## 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> May 2024 in Geneva, with an application deadline of 7<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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)

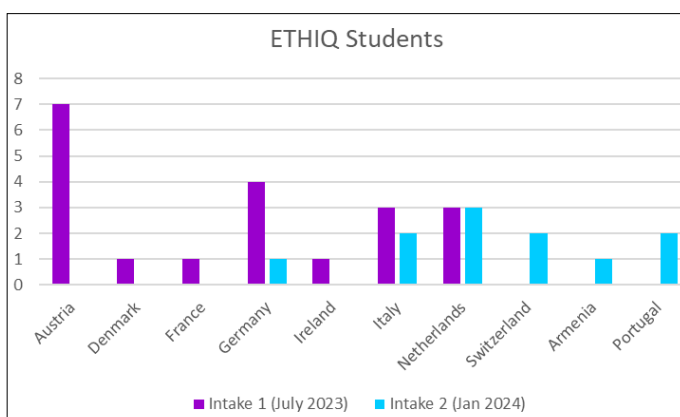
This training programme provides a qualification that gives a measure of both knowledge and technical competence in H&I. The scheme is for technical staff working in EFI accredited laboratories, with supervision given by senior staff in their own lab. Information about the training

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 1<sup>st</sup> January and 1<sup>st</sup> 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 22<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:timo.olieslagers@mumc.nl)) or Arianne ([a.brandsma@sanquin.nl](mailto: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*



## 37<sup>TH</sup> EUROPEAN IMMUNOGENETICS & HISTOCOMPATIBILITY CONFERENCE

20–23 MAY, 2024  
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND



[www.efi-conference.org](http://www.efi-conference.org)



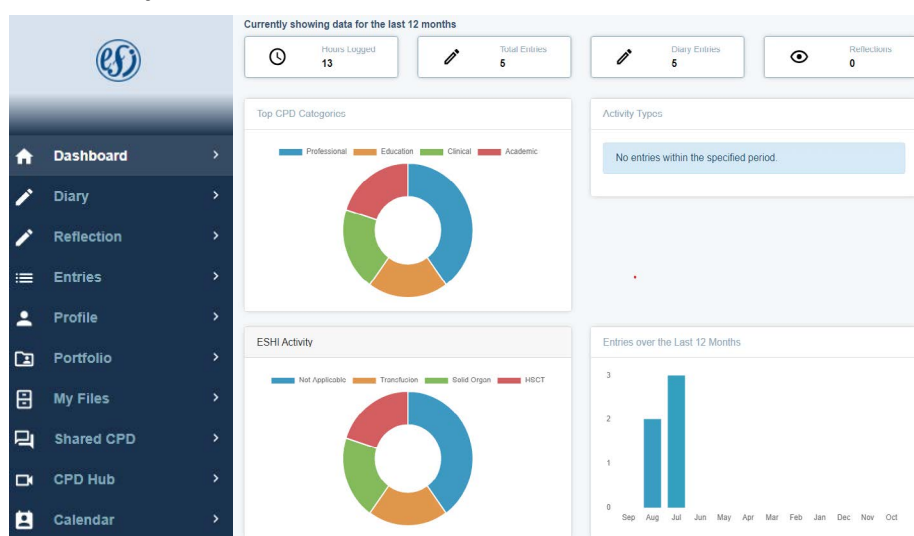
## CME/CPD Launch Meeting

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 21<sup>st</sup> of May 13.30 – 14.30. We look forward to seeing you there.








# Join us at our pre-conference workshop

Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> May 1.30 – 4 pm



One Lambda | A Thermo Fisher Scientific Brand

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, 20<sup>th</sup> May | 1.30 – 4 pm | Palexpo Geneve - Room E

One Lambda Devyser™ Accept™ cfDNA, LABScreen™ Single Antigen ExPlex, and One Lambda™ MagSort™

#### Luncheon Symposium

Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> May | 12.10 – 12.50 pm | Hall A

#### Post-transplant monitoring in the era of dd-cfDNA and single antigen bead analysis

Jakob Nilsson M.D., Ph.D.

Consultant Physician, Director Transplant Immunology

University Hospital Zurich

 Learn more at [thermofisher.com/transplant](https://thermofisher.com/transplant)

# 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 37<sup>th</sup> 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





# 37<sup>TH</sup> EUROPEAN IMMUNOGENETICS & HISTOCOMPATIBILITY CONFERENCE

MAY 20–23, 2024  
GENEVA  
SWITZERLAND

Unveiling Diversity, Nurturing Transplant Bonds,  
Orchestrating immunity



# Program



## 37<sup>TH</sup> 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**

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

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

<b>Room TBA</b>	
<b>12:00 – 13:00</b>	<b>EC + ECC meeting</b>

<b>Hall A</b>	
<b>12:10 – 12:50</b>	<b>Industry symposium: Werfen</b>

<b>Hall B</b>	
<b>13:10 – 13:50</b>	<b>Industry symposium: CareDx</b>

## PARALLEL SESSIONS

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

<b>14:00 – 14:30</b>	The neutrophil and macrophage networks <b>Mikaël Pittet</b>
<b>14:30 – 15:00</b>	The ILC network <b>Camilla Jandus</b>
<b>15:00 – 15:30</b>	The T/TCR network <b>David Gfeller</b>

<b>Room L</b>	
<b>Teaching session 2</b>	
<b>HLA and disease</b>	
<i>Chairpersons</i>	<b>Gwendaline Guidicelli, Deborah Pritchard</b>

<b>14:00 – 14:30</b>	Best practices for HLA and Genetic Testing in H&I laboratories: SFHI Guidelines <b>Gwendaline Guidicelli</b>
<b>14:30 – 15:00</b>	Current position of disease associations with the HLA system in clinical diagnostics <b>Frantisek Mrazek</b>
<b>15:00 – 15 :30</b>	HLA genetics and Coeliac disease <b>Deborah Pritchard</b>

<b>Hall A</b>	
<b>14:00 – 15:30</b>	<b>Abstract session 3: New technologies in Immunogenetics</b>
<i>Chairpersons</i>	<b>Eric Spierings, Jakob Nilsson</b>

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

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

<b>16:00 – 16:30</b>	HSCT <b>Jakob Passweg</b>
<b>16:30 – 17:00</b>	B-specific antibody therapy <b>Catherine Thieblemont</b>
<b>17:00 – 17:30</b>	CAR-T cells <b>Federico Simonetta</b>

<b>Hall B</b>	
<b>17:30 – 18:00</b>	<b>Serological nomenclature: update</b>
<i>Chairperson</i>	<b>Marcelo Fernández-Viña</b>

<b>Hall C</b>	
<b>17:30 – 18:10</b>	<b>Industry symposium: Hansa Biopharma</b>

<b>Hall A</b>	
<b>17:30 – 18:10</b>	<b>Industry symposium: Omixon</b>

<b>Poster Hall</b>	
<b>18:10 – 20:00</b>	<b>Wine &amp; cheese poster viewing session</b>

## WEDNESDAY 22 MAY 2024

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

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

## PARALLEL SESSIONS

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

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



**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** 19<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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 21<sup>st</sup> May and Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> May and Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto: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.



[werfen.com](https://www.werfen.com)