

# NOMINATIONS FOR THE EFI EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: VACANCIES AND THE ELECTRONIC ELECTION PROCESS

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This year we will have elections for the EFI Executive Committee. The elections will be electronic as we have had the last two times. All active members (i.e. have paid their membership fees for 2018) will receive notification by email regarding the election procedure. We urge members to check and ensure that the email address EFI holds is up to date. If you for some reason do not want to participate in the electronic election but would like to vote on paper, please contact

Sandra van Hensbergen at the EFI Central Office.

Nominations were sought for the positions of Secretary, Deputy Secretary, Treasurer and Deputy Treasurer as well as three positions as Councilors

The current Secretary, Mats Bengtsson and the current Deputy Secretary Dave Roelen were nominated to serve a second term. The current Treasurer, Gwendaline Guidicelli and the current Deputy Treasurer Katia Gagne were

nominated to serve a second term. No other nominations for these positions were received so there will not be a voting for those positions. The nominations are subject to approval by the EFI General Assembly at the 33<sup>rd</sup> European Immunogenetics and Histocompatibility Conference in Lisbon, Portugal.

For the three positions as Councilors five nominations were received and the candidates are presented here. The information will also be available electronically during the voting process.

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## ELECTIONS 2019

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### **Marco Andreani, PhD.**

I graduated in Biology Science at the University of Urbino, in Italy in 1978 and gained my PhD in 1988 from the University of Camerino. I worked since 1998 in the in H&I Pesaro laboratory, where in 2001 I became Director. From 2004 I was the H&I Laboratory Director at University Policlinic of Tor Vergata, in Rome. From August 2018 I am the Director of the H&I located at the Pediatric Hospital Bambino Gesù, in Rome, where I currently take care of diagnostic and clinical research. Our laboratory provides service for HSCT as well as supporting disease diagnostics. I am

member of EFI since 1993. From 2006, up to date, I am an EFI Inspector and member of the EFI Educational Committee from 2010 up to 2018. In the present year I was nominated Commissioner for Region 7c (Italy) and member of EFI Accreditation Committee. I am currently Chair of the European Board of Transplant Immunology (EBTI) starting from 2017 (co-Chair from 2013). From 2015 I am also part of the EFI Genetic Population Working Group. My challenge for the next three years as Councillor would be to help EFI to facilitate education and scientific purposes among the EFI members.

### **Katarzyna Bogunia-Kubik**

I am a diagnostician and a scientist with professorship in biological sciences. Since the beginning of my career, working in the first EFI accredited laboratory in Poland, I was involved in implementation of molecular biology techniques for HLA typing and donor-recipient matching for hematopoietic stem cell transplantation. More recently, I became a head of the HLA typing laboratory serving for organ transplantation and was granted with the ESHI Honorary Diploma. Since 1999 I have been an organizer of the HLA Proficiency Testing for Central and East Europe. I was a President of the Polish Society for Immunogenetics (2008-2014), now I

am a member of the Board. I am also a member of the External Proficiency Testing Committee and a representative of Poland on the European Board of Transplant Immunology (EBTI). My research focuses on transplant immunology/immunogenetics and searching for new markers related to susceptibility and course of disease as well as response to treatment. In 2016, I had a great pleasure of hosting the 10th Jubilee East-West Immunogenetics Conference in Wroclaw. As an EFI Councillor, I would share my knowledge and experience, and strengthen and extend the collaboration between laboratories from Eastern Europe and other countries.



### **PD Dr med. T. Hien Tran**

After graduating from the Medical School at the University of Muenster, Germany, and during my residency in Internal Medicine in Berlin and Erlangen-Nuremberg, Germany, I performed research at the University of Pennsylvania and Harvard University, USA, from 1994 to 1997. Since then, my main focus has been transplantation immunology. After returning to Germany, I continued my medical training and completed my specialisation in Laboratory Medicine. Since 2003, I have been working in the Department of Transplantation Immunology, Heidelberg University Hospital, Germany. Since 2004, I have been head of the laboratory of molecular immunogenetics and

the search unit for unrelated stem cell donors. Apart from supervising the diagnostics as an EFI-lab codirector, on-call for histocompatibility testing in organ allocations, developing reagents, reviewer's activities (including for the ZKRD) and students' teaching, my main interest is the relevance of genetic polymorphisms in transplantation. In 2013 and 2017, I was co-organiser of the meeting of the German Society of Immunogenetics (DGI) and of the Joint EFI/DGI Conference, respectively. With support of the DGI, I would like to serve on the EFI Executive Committee as a Councillor. If elected, I aim to promote clinical research and training of young colleagues in immunogenetics and transplantation immunology.



### **Dr Bouke G. Hepkema**

In 1991 I started my work in the HLA lab of the University Medical Center Groningen, after graduation in a Master in Medical Biology and a PhD at the faculty of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Utrecht. I have been Co-Director with my former colleague Simon Lems from 1995 and became Director after his retirement in 2013. The Honorary ESHI Diploma was received in 2014. As a representative of the Dutch HLA working group in several committees of the Dutch Transplant Society I am a linking pin between the Dutch clinical transplant physicians and the HLA laboratories. Since 2013 I am the Dutch representative in the Tissue Typing Advisory Committee of Eurotransplant. Starting in 2006, I have performed on average 3 EFI inspections per year

and from 2015 I am also an inspector for the Dutch Accreditation Council (medical laboratories, ISO 15189). As a member of the steering committee (treasurer) I participated in the organization of the 2013 EFI conference in Maastricht. In 2017 I participated together with transplanted patients and medical professionals from Groningen in the "Transplantoux"; a cycling event organized by the transplant team from Leuven (Belgium). The aim is to promote a healthy lifestyle and to show that with professional guidance even after a transplantation it is possible to climb the Mont Ventoux (France). I found it extremely motivating to see what we can achieve by a transplantation; as a councillor I hope to pass this motivation to the EFI community.



### **Dr Katerina Tarassi, MD, PhD**

I was born and educated in Greece. After graduating from the Medical School (1984), I completed my specialization in Medical Biopathology (1990) and my PhD Thesis (1997). My interest in H&I dates back to 1990 when I started working as Registrar in Immunology-Histocompatibility Dept of "Evangelismos" Hospital in Athens. I still work in the same department, being Director since 2010. Additionally, I reinforced my knowledge in molecular techniques, trained in ARC Epidemiology Research Unit, Manchester-UK (1995 & 1996), in Immunology Laboratory of Hospital "Virgen de Rocio", Seville-Spain (1998) and in H&I and Disease profiling Labo-

ratory at Stanford Medical School-USA (2015). I was also involved in research through publications, research projects and active participation in IHIWs since 1991. I was entitled to Honorary ESHI Diploma since July 2014. I have been an EFI member since 1991 and EFI Inspector since 2009. I am member of the National Transplant Organization Board. Throughout the years, I had the pleasure to collaborate with several colleagues, especially from Balkan countries, some of whom became true friends. So, I would be happy to serve as EFI councillor and I will do my best to promote collaboration between different countries and to support young scientists.

