Time is passing so fast, and already the spring issue of the EFI Newsletter is knocking at the door. After the long winter nights here comes the spring with the blossoming trees and flowers, and promise to bring new ideas for the future. In this regard I would like to wish you all good health and a cheerful spring mood! What's next for EFI in this spring? Obviously it is the forthcoming EFI annual conference to be held on the historical island of Kos. The goal of the EFI Annual Meeting is to contribute further development of EFI's mission: to facilitate education, provide a forum for sharing scientific information, generate ideas for new projects in the field of immunogenetics and transplantation that in turn will promote excellence in the care of patients. This year's EFI meeting is the 30th in a row and will be highlighted with a special lecture entitled: "30 years EFI Conferences" presented by Professor Catherine Stavropoulos-Giokas which we look forward to.

The entire Program Committee, represented by the local organizers, the EFI Scientific Committee and the EFI Education Committee, deserves recognition for preparing such an excellent scientific program with participation of some of the world's top leaders in the field of genetics, immunology and transplantation. Undoubtedly, the ancient atmosphere of the island of Kos has influenced the choice of the conference's motto: "From Hippocrates to High Tech Immunogenetics" as well as the design of the scientific program which is scheduled to start with a plenary session on: „From ancestry to the 21st century“ and end with a plenary session entitled: „Stem Cells and Regenerative medicine“. The program will as always be complemented by several teaching sessions and ‘meet the experts’ sessions where advanced technologies such as NGS will be introduced. Also interesting debates on some new and conflicting issues e.g. „Exons only or whole gene typing“ and „Virtual vs Actual Crossmatch“ are expected to take place during the conference.

The traditional Ceppellini Lecture will this year be delivered by Professor Effie W. Petersdorf during the Opening Ceremony. The Julia Bodmer Young Scientist Award (JBA) will also be presented in this opening session. Furthermore the JBA winner is expected to contribute a special JBA Review to HLA, the official journal of EFI. And I am more than happy that this year we had more than ten nominations for this prestigious award. It is not surprising that the Scientific Committee had difficulties in selecting a winner given the number of really good applications. Congratulations for the winner! Undoubtedly, the input of our young researchers is tremendous, and we are very proud of them. We also have a new initiative - the best paper published in HLA Journal, authored by EFI member(s), will be awarded and presented during the Opening Ceremony too. Thus, it is very important that you continue to encourage your colleagues and friends to join EFI and remember the HLA Journal when it is time to submit your research articles for publication.

Apart from the scientific program the organizers have made efforts to offer to the attending delegates an exciting social program including a visit to Asclepion temple and Oath ceremony as well as wonderful conditions for Run & Bike & Swim.

The winter period has been as usual quite busy for the EFI Executive Committee. Teleconferences were held to deal with different issues and loads of email discussions were also made. Along with the usual activities, we have had much discussion regarding the financial status of EFI. Why is this important? We require a healthy budget to generate funds that enable us to grant more scholarships to EFI members allowing participation in regional workshops and meetings, annual EFI conferences and to visit other laboratories to learn new technologies and skills. Or in other words, a healthy budget balance makes it possible to achieve one of the main goals of EFI namely to support training and research in the field of immunogenetics in Europe.

Having established a successful collaboration with ASHI and APHIA, EFI is now expanding this collaboration to the next level. Face to face meeting in Kos between the presidents of EFI, ASHI and APHIA to discuss specific steps
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Herewith you will find the EFI Newsletter, including the latest news including the program of the upcoming meeting in Kos. The scientific program looks excellent and it is to be expected that the Greek hospitality is a guarantee for an excellent social program as well. Hopefully, many of you will be present at this historical place to learn about high tech immunogenetics.

From this place, I would like to congratulate our founder, Jon van Rood, with his 90th birthday. Despite his age, Jon is still full of ideas and attending all meetings in his former laboratory.

The other side of the coin, is the fact that we lost two pioneers in the field of HLA and immunogenetics. In January Paul Terasaki and in March Arne Svejgaard passed away. An obituary for both giants in the field of Immunogenetics is included in this Newsletter.

The elections of this year are apparently very simple as the number of candidates was exactly the same as the number of vacancies. You will find the cv’s of the candidates in this Newsletter.

The different contributions to this Newsletter, including the letter of our president, clearly show that EFI is an active organization aiming at new developments in several fields.

Hopefully, the information in this Newsletter is useful to you and I am looking forward to your contribution to the next one.

Frans Claas

Deadline for contributions to EFI Newsletter 80 is, September 1 2016. Please send your contributions by e-mail to fhjclaas@lumc.nl

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for implementation of the joint activity plans have been scheduled.

Unfortunately, some sad events happened during this period. We all were deeply upset by the sudden loss of Dr. Paul Terasaki. He was a valuable and highly respected member of our HLA family. Dr. Terasaki will be remembered by all us for his important achievements in the field of immunogenetics such as developing microcytotoxicity assay and tissue typing tests that are widely used to support transplantation. His legacy in the field of histocompatibility and transplantation will always be considered as milestone for the progress of immunogenetics. In memory of Prof. Paul Terasaki the local organizing committee of the Kos meeting will arrange a ceremony to honor his life and scientific heritage at the Hippocrates Garden (Museum of Hippocrates foundation of Kos).

I look forward to seeing most of you at the EFI conference in Kos and hope that the interesting, scientific and social program combined with the incredible atmosphere of this ancient island will leave unforgettable memories for all of us.

Elissaveta Naumova
EFI President

OBITUARY ARNE SVEJGAARD (1937-2016)

Arne Svejgaard, Professor of Clinical Immunology, University of Copenhagen, Denmark, died on March 15, 2016 in Allerød near Copenhagen after a period of illness.

Svejgaard was born in Odense. He qualified as medical doctor from the University of Aarhus in 1964. His research career started in Aarhus in the Blood Bank Laboratory of Flemming Kissmeyer-Nielsen in 1965. In 1968, he described the important phenomenon of cross-reactivity between HLA antigens. This important observation paved the way for the lucid and innovative interpretation of the genetics of the HLA system. The two-locus hypothesis predicted that the HLA antigens known at that time were encoded as multiple alleles at two tightly linked loci (now HLA-A and -B) and was published in 1968 by Kismeyer-Nielsen, Svejgaard, and the geneticist Mogens Hauge. This was formally validated in a study of a Danish family, in which a genetic recombination had taken place between the HLA-A and -B loci.

Svejgaard published his thesis on “Isoantigenic Systems of Human Platelets” in 1971. In the same year, he moved to Copenhagen to become head of the Tissue Typing Laboratory at Rigshospitalet, the University Hospital of Copenhagen. He continued his exploration of the genetic structure of the HLA system, and his laboratory presented evidence for a “new” third HLA locus (HLA-C). Svejgaard and co-workers showed that the gene(s) controlling the MLR segregated with the B locus and they designed methods for typing of the HLA-D locus specificities. They also demonstrated that the HLA-DP region was highly polymorphic. Svejgaard's laboratory was among the first ones to demonstrate the importance of HLA-ABC and -DR antigens for the human cytotoxic T-cell and T-helper responses, respectively. He was engaged in the introduction and refined application of molecular biology into the field of genomical HLA typing and he was instrumental in the WHO Nomenclature Committee for Factors of the HLA System.

Svejgaard's further contributions have concerned virtually all fields of clinical immunology, for example to the field of HLA and disease associations. Together with Mogens Hauge and Walter Bodmer, he developed statistical tools for analysing such disease associations, and he established the International Registry for HLA and Disease in Copenhagen. Together with Jean Dausset, he organized the first international congress on HLA and Disease in Paris. Svejgaard and co-workers described the associations between HLA-D region genes and many autoimmune diseases including multiple sclerosis, insulin dependent diabetes mellitus, Addison’s disease, and thyrotoxicosis. Later, they gave significant contributions to the pathogenic mechanisms behind associations between HLA and diseases by the use of transgenic humanized mice models and the generation of antibodies against peptide/MHC complexes. His laboratory played a decisive role in the Danish bone marrow transplantation program ever since Svejgaard was the immunogenetic anchorman behind the first successful transplantation in 1971/2 of a SCID patient. He has been a driving force in HLA-matching in the Danish kidney transplantation program and Scandia Transplant, and the Danish heart, lung, and liver transplantation programs. His laboratory has had a long-standing involvement in in-depth functional and phenotypic studies of inherited and acquired immunodeficiencies, leukemias, the development of the B-cell repertoire, and the significance of mannan-binding lectin as well as other collectins.

Svejgaard's laboratory grew with his scientific career. Bodil K. Jakobsen and Lars P. Ryder contributed from the beginning to this development, and the laboratory attracted over the years many talented scientists whose later careers were strongly influenced by the inspiring and fertile scientific atmosphere that Svejgaard fostered.

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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:

M. Ahci, Essen, Germany  
M. Ramirez de Olano, Cali, Colombia  
L. Macaulay, Dublin, Ireland  
B. Garcia, Cali, Colombia  
C.G. Burcu, Izmir, Turkey  
B.W. Wisse, Utrecht, The Netherlands  
S. Prouse - McMahon, Dublin, Ireland  
A. Costelloe, Dublin, Ireland  
T. B. Rasmussen, Copenhagen, Denmark  
D. Santova, Pilsen, Czech Republic  
T. Turner, London, UK  
E. Melista, Budapest, Hungary  
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T. Hague, Budapest, Hungary  
M. Scala, Budapest, Hungary  
N. Nagy, Budapest, Hungary  
A. Akbarzad-Yousefi, London, UK  
P. Lacina, Wroclaw, Poland  
V. Gambacorta, Milan, Italy  
C. Abad Molina, Sevilla, Spain  
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A. Fidanza, Foggia, Italy  
C. Scala, Foggia, Italy  
L. Cappai, Cagliari, Italy  
V. Uliana, Parma, Italy  
G. A. Mazzola, Torino, Italy  
C. Yavuz, Istanbul, Turkey  
M. D. Valentini, Cagliari, Italy  
J. Hayhurst, London, UK  
J. Stein, London, UK  
J. Bruijnesteijn, Rijswijk, The Netherlands  
S. Li, Huntsville, USA  
J. Yang, Leiden, The Netherlands  
B. Matern, Maastricht, The Netherlands  
A. Giaffreda, Rome, Italy

Obituary Paul Terasaki

Professor Paul Terasaki, Professor of Surgery at UCLA, died on January 25, 2016 at the age of 86. Paul Terasaki was one of the pioneers in the history of histocompatibility and organ transplantation.

Together with John McClelland, his senior technician, he invented the micro cytotoxicity technique which became the standard tissue typing technique throughout the world molecular typing was introduced. Every H&I expert is familiar with the Terasaki tray. Actually, his original CDC assay is still used for cross matching purposes. He published many papers on the effect of HLA matching in clinical transplantation. His activities in the latter part of his career were directed at the role of antibodies in allograft rejection, a concept to which he was firmly committed. In that respect his “humoral theory of rejection” has found its place in the field of transplant immunology.

Paul received many awards for his work, including the Medawar prize, he gave the Ceppellini lecture at one of the EFI meetings in Strasbourg and served as President of The Transplantation Society (TTS). He founded the One Lambda Company, which provided products for tissue typing and antibody screening (and organized parties at EFI meetings). He also created the Terasaki Foundation which provided support for research in HLA.

Paul and his knowledge will be missed by all of us in the field.

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:

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P. Meintjes, Budapest, Hungary  
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V. Gambacorta, Milan, Italy  
C. Abad Molina, Sevilla, Spain  
G. Oliveira, Milan, Italy  
A. Fidanza, Foggia, Italy

Invitation to the EFI 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 13th May 2016, 17:00 – 18:30 pm in the Panacea Hall and I strongly encourage you to attend.

All the best,
Elissaveta Naumova, EFI President

Agenda:
1. Opening
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
7. Next EFI Conference – Heidelberg/Mannheim, Germany 2017
8. EFI Medal
9. Installation of new EC members
Within the previous EFI newsletter nominations were invited for vacancies arising on the EFI Executive Committee.

We received the following valid nominations for the officer vacancies on our committee:
One nomination for Deputy Secretary: Dave Roelen, Leiden, the Netherlands (currently serving on the Executive Committee as a councillor)
One nomination for Deputy Treasurer: Katia Gagne, Nantes, France

The biographies for Dave and Katia are within this edition of the newsletter.

Prior to receiving the nominations for the Deputy Secretary and Deputy Treasurer positions, we had two councillor vacancies arising on the Executive Committee. With Dave Roelen being nominated for Deputy Secretary, this increases the number of councillor vacancies to three. Three valid applications for councillor positions have been received and approved by the Executive Committee.

The three nominees are:
Teresa Kauke, Munich, Germany
Valeria Miotti, Udine, Italy
Fatma Oğuz, Istanbul, Turkey

Therefore there is no need for an election this year. Please note that the current nomination and election process is under review by a sub-group of the Executive Committee. The outcome of this review will be presented at the next General Assembly.

Ann-Margaret Little
EFI Secretary

Nomination for Deputy Secretary:
Dave Roelen

Dave Roelen studied Biomedical Sciences in Leiden, the Netherlands, and did his PhD studies on alloreactive T cells under the supervision of Frans Claas and Jon van Rood. After his graduation in 1994, he spent almost 2½ years in Oxford to work on transplant tolerance induction with Kathryn Wood and Sir Peter Morris. From 1997 he continued his research on transplant tolerance and alloreactivity at the Leiden University Medical Center. In 2008 he became a Medical Immunologist and co-director of the HLA laboratory in Leiden. As an on-call immunologist he is dealing with transplant related matters and the Acceptable Mismatch program for more than 15 years. He is a treasurer of the Dutch Transplantation Society and member of the International Committee of ASHI. Since 2012 he is an inspector for the Dutch Accreditation Council (medical laboratories, ISO 15189) and EFI inspector.

Besides his interest in HLA and Immunogenetics with a main focus on antibody mediated clinical implications, he likes to spend time with his wife and 2 children (of 14 and 16 years old) and is a (long distance) runner. He is a Councillor since 2013 and looks forward to become the deputy secretary in order to be able to use his experience in the field for the EFI community.

Nomination for Deputy Treasurer:
Katia Gagne

After my PhD studies: the analysis of the TcR repertoire after kidney transplantation (Pr JP Soulillou, Nantes), I joined the HLA laboratory (Dr JD Bignon, Dr C Retière) in Nantes. Since then, my research interests are centred on the immunology of Natural Killer (NK) cells in the context of Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation (HSCT) with a special interest for the polymorphism associated with HLA molecules and KIR. My expertise in HLA/KIR immunogenetics is recognized by the scientific community through regional, national or international collaborations. In particular, as a member of the French Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics community, I conducted a multicentric study to evaluate the impact of KIR/HLA genetic combinations on cord blood dominance after double umbilical cord blood transplantation. Since 2002, I have also participated in the HSCT component of the International Histocompatibility Working Group. My current research activity is focused on the impact of KIR allele polymorphism on the phenotype and function of NK cells with the help of NGS. In the EFI context, I have participated in annual meetings since 2000. In 2002, I was very proud to receive an EFI award for my work on the impact of KIR gene disparities on HSCT outcome. Overall, it has been a great privilege to work within the EFI community and I hope to expand my experience as EFI Deputy Treasurer.
Nominations for Councillors

Fatma Oğuz

I trained in medicine and following graduation in 1986, I completed residency in Microbiology and Clinical Microbiology. I obtained my PhD in 1998 with a dissertation on the Determination of HLA-DR v DP alleles at the DNA level. This was followed by a post doctoral position at the University of California, San Francisco working with Prof LeeAnn Baxter in the “Sequencing for cord banking project”. I have been involved with the field of Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics since 1992 as a member of the transplantation team at Istanbul University Medical School. Since 2010, I have been director of the EFI accredited Tissue-Typing Laboratory and since 2008 co-ordinator of Bone Marrow Registry. In 2009 I was promoted to Professorship in Medical Biology at Istanbul University. At the national level, I am a member of the Transplantation Immunology and Cord Blood Banking Boards at the Turkish Ministry of Health. I have been an EFI inspector since 2008. I am a member of the steering committee of EPT, which was founded in 2004 and registered by the EFI Committee for EPT in 2014. I have been the director of Balkan EPT program for HLA typing and my main role is the organization of EPT schemes in Turkey and Balkan countries. I have actively participated in the organisation of Immunogenetics and Transplantation meetings in Turkey and Balkan countries including helping Dr. Carin, to organize the 19th EFI meeting in Istanbul. My research interests include determinants of transplant outcome and HLA and disease associations.

Valeria Miott

I was born in 1959 and educated in Italy, graduating in Biological Sciences. My interest in Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics dates back to 1984 when I began my training in the laboratory of “North Italia Transplant” in Milan and that field developed into a passion. Today I am Director of Immunogenetics Laboratory in Udine, part of Transfusion Medicine Department, that provides Haematopoietic Stem Cell and Solid Organ Transplantation and disease susceptibility testing too. I am responsible for the Donor Centre and Regional Bone Marrow Donor Registry and I’m involved in National Committee to set-up the Stem Cell transplant-net with competent authorities and National Italian Bone Marrow Donor Registry (IBMDR). From 2002 to 2014 I served, as secretary and Councilor on the board of Italian Society of Transplant Biology (AIBT) and in 2014 I was elected as President. I’m sure this experience could help me to be of service to the EFI community. I believe in collaboration and in continuing education to improve scientific knowledge for patient’s health and because of this I am an EFI member from the beginning and act as an inspector within EFI accreditation system.

Teresa Kauke

My name is Teresa Kauke and I studied medicine at the Ludwig-Maximilians-University in Munich. Since 2007, I am EFI-Director of the HLA laboratory at the University Hospital Munich. Furthermore I am head of the immunologic committee of the German transplantation society and member of the tissue typing advisory committee of Eurotransplant. After finishing my residency in transfusion medicine I joined the Department of General, Visceral, Transplantation, Vascular and Thoracic Surgery at the University Hospital Munich where I am currently completing my surgical transplant fellowship. My research is focused on transplant immunology in solid organ transplantation with a specific interest in the development of diagnostic and therapeutic algorithms to improve long-term graft outcome.

When elected as a Councillor I aim to encourage clinical research in field of transplant immunology and I would like to support national and international cooperations. My goal is to develop recommendations for the standardization of histocompatibility testing to improve patient safety and better graft survival and to train young scientists and physicians in the field of immunogenetics.
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The European Technical Diploma in Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics - An Update

We would like to inform the EFI community that the outcome of the questionnaire concerning the European Technical Diploma in Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics (ETHIQ) was largely supportive, the majority of EFI members who filled in the questionnaire were in favour of the diploma. Based on the results of the questionnaire, it seems there is interest to work out training of technicians at the European level in the future.

A potential problem envisaged would be the language, so it should be taken into account that the syllabus for the technical diploma should be translated into the different European languages. For the major languages, like Italian, French, German and Spanish the translation could be arranged relatively easily, however for languages which are spoken less frequently it would probably take some time. The strategy would be to start with the English version, then continue with the frequently spoken languages, and work down to the less common languages.

A draft for the technical diploma will be discussed during the Education (Edu) committee meeting at the EFI conference in Kos. We suppose that the Education committee might need help from other EFI members who could give their input with ideas on the way how the syllabus for technicians should be organized. We would need also IT support because it is expected that this will be an online application process.

We are looking forward to meeting all of you at the EFI conference in Kos!

On behalf of the EFI Education committee:

Tony Slavcev, Marco Andreani, Dave Turner, Marie Schaffer and Joannis Mytilineos

Pioneering Medical Director retires from the South African Bone Marrow Registry (SABMR)

Professor Ernette du Toit, who has dedicated her career to helping save the lives of South Africans with leukaemia and other blood diseases, retires at the end of March 2016 after 25 years as Head of the SABMR.

CAPETOWN – Professor Ernette du Toit co-founded the South African Bone Marrow Registry in 1991, and will retire from her position as its Medical Director on 31 March 2016, a few days before her eightieth birthday.

'It’s magical what we can achieve'

The fact that she has helped save lives is Professor du Toit’s most valued achievement. Since 1997, 380 unrelated transplants (where the donor is not related to the patient) have been performed in South Africa, thanks to the work of the SABMR. Ninety-nine of the donors were from the SABMR, the rest from overseas registries. ‘A bone marrow transplant is a desperate procedure for people who are in danger of losing their lives. It has a success rate of just over 60%, and for the ones it’s successful for, it’s fantastic,’ she explains. ‘To me, it’s magical what we can achieve. Former patients have fulfilled their dreams – one is now a yacht captain who sails round the world – and we were able to help with that.’

‘It’s such unique work,’ Professor du Toit explains. ‘You’re actually destroying an individual’s whole immunological system and replacing it with one from somebody who’s like an identical twin, found in the general population. It’s a tremendous challenge to the clinicians who achieve this, and to us to find the match.’ Finding a matching donor is the first hurdle; the next is the transporting the stem cells, often from overseas, to the patient: ‘We facilitate bringing the bag of stem cells by personal courier from the donor to the bedside of the patient within 72 hours, and it’s planned like a military operation.’

She praises her staff, saying, ‘many have been with me for twenty years or more, and we’ve really grown the registry together.’ Indeed, each procedure requires the combined efforts of...
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many, from doctors and SABMR administrative staff to ordinary people who wanted to help others and registered as bone marrow donors.

**From the first heart transplant to bone marrow transplants**

Born on a farm near Montagu in the Western Cape, Ernette du Toit graduated with an MBChB from the University of Cape Town (UCT) in 1960. In 1967 she was working as an assistant in the Laboratory for Tissue Immunology (LTI) at Groote Schuur Hospital, which performed the tissue matching for the world’s first heart transplant - an event that launched her career. ‘It was a case of being in the right place at the right time,’ she says. She ran the laboratory while her boss travelled the world on speaking engagements, and in 1979, after obtaining her doctorate in immunology from UCT, she was appointed Head of the LTI.

Professor du Toit has worked in the fields of tissue matching for organ transplantation, genetic factors and disease associations, forensic case work and paternity testing. At the LTI, she instituted paternity testing in South Africa on a formal scale: these same tests were used by her team for matching in organ transplantation, and are now used in bone marrow transplantation. In 1999, under her guidance, the LTI received accreditation from the European Federation for Immunogenetics (EFI), which meant it ranked alongside similar facilities anywhere in the world and was able to support the level of tissue typing required for the SABMR. Her research activities have included unrelated stem cell transplantation in South Africa, and analysis of the genetic profiles of the various ethnic groups in Southern Africa, including the San and Khoi.

Following international advances in the treatment of bone marrow disorders, Professor du Toit pioneered the establishment of the non-profit South African Bone Marrow Registry (SABMR), co-founding the organisation in 1991 with the late Professor Peter Jacobs.

**About the SABMR’s work**

Based at Groote Schuur Hospital, the SABMR is Africa’s only bone marrow registry supporting an active transplant programme, and has over 71,000 registered South African donors, recruited partly by The Sunflower Fund. ‘Only a minority of patients who need a bone marrow transplant will find a matching donor in their family. For over 70% of patients, their only hope is to find a donor identified by the SABMR,’ says Professor du Toit. However, the chance of finding a compatible unrelated donor is approximately one in 100,000. To increase chances of finding a match for local patients, the SABMR partners with the 75 other international registries.

Once established, the SABMR went from strength to strength. In 2006, the SABMR hosted the sixth international meeting of the World Bone Marrow Donor Association in Cape Town, where 35 international registries were represented.

**Looking ahead**

Dr Charlotte Ingram will take over the directorship of the SABMR in April 2016. Regarding the SABMR’s future, Professor du Toit says, ‘I hope more South African patients will get a chance to be transplanted.’ The SABMR finds local donors in only 25% of cases, she explains and since using an overseas donor is costly, many patients who cannot find a local donor will not be cured. The more local donors who register, the more lives the SABMR can save. ‘We need more representation from all the ethnic groups in South Africa, and we particularly need more black donors,’ she says.

A devoted mother and grandmother, Professor du Toit retires at the end of March, days before her eightieth birthday. She plans to retain links with the SABMR and possibly do charity work, read, tend to her garden, and attend events with her husband, Dr Len Anstey. She laughs, ‘I’ll go to all the concerts and exhibitions I haven’t attended because I’ve wanted to get up early for work!’

**Contact**

For more information, please contact The South African Bone Marrow Registry: Phone: 021 447 8638
Website: www.sabmr.co.za

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**NEWS FROM THE EFI COMMITTEE FOR EXTERNAL PROFICIENCY TESTING**

Announcement for the “Meet the EPT Experts” session which will take place as part of the upcoming EFI conference in Kos, May 12th, 2015, 16:00 - 17:00, room AEGLE B, Kos International Convention Centre (KICC):

The EFI External Proficiency Testing Committee (EPTC) invites people from H&I laboratories and EPT Providers from all the different EFI Regions to attend our special session and to discuss EPT-related matters. All Regional EFI EPT Coordinators will be present to answer questions on EPT related issues, e.g.:

- EFI Register of EPT Providers
- Establishment of local EPT programs
- Implementation of inter-laboratory exchanges
- Heterogeneity of EPT schemes in Europe
- EFI EPT Standards for Laboratories and Standards for Providers

This year, a focus will be laid on

External Proficiency Testing on Chimerism and Engraftment Monitoring

We are happy to announce three short presentations on Chimerism EPT by

- Andrea Dick, Ludwig-Maximilians Universität, Munich, Germany (in collaboration with INSTAND, Düsseldorf, Germany)
- Felicity May, Welsh Blood Service, Pontyclun, UK (for UK-NEQAS)
- Francesca Quintieri, Istituto Superiore di Sanita, Rome, Italy

We are looking forward to welcoming the interested audience to our session!

Yvonne Zoet and Falko Heinemann (session chairs)

The EFi-EPTC on www.efiweb.eu/efi-committees/ept-committee.html
High resolution HLA typing –
with the HISTO SPOT® SSO System

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HISTO SPOT Xtend Kits in combination with the classical
HISTO SPOT 4D Kits – exclude Null alleles with the HISTO SPOT
Null CWD high res kit

Straight forward automated direct
to high resolution typing:
HISTO SPOT ABC CWD high res Kits
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HISTO SPOT DR/DQ CWD high res Kits
Typing of multiple loci including Null alleles in one go

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now!
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HISTO SPOT 4D Kits – exclude Null alleles with the HISTO SPOT
Null CWD high res kit
Straight forward automated direct
to high resolution typing:
HISTO SPOT ABC CWD high res Kits
HISTO SPOT ABDR CWD high res Kits
HISTO SPOT DR / DQ CWD high res Kits
Typing of multiple loci including Null alleles in one go
## Associated Meetings

### Tuesday 10 MAY 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Chair</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>08:30 - 09:30</td>
<td>MELAMBUS HALL</td>
<td>UEMS Assembly meeting</td>
<td>J. Mytilineos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09:30 – 17:00</td>
<td>MELAMBUS HALL</td>
<td>Accreditation Inspectors Workshop</td>
<td>A. Harmer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 – 13:00</td>
<td>SYNDICATE 2.1. ROOM</td>
<td>UEMS - ESHI Examination</td>
<td>J. Mytilineos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13:00 – 17:00</td>
<td>SYNDICATE 2.1 ROOM</td>
<td>Standards Committee (close meeting)</td>
<td>J. Peräsaari</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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### Wednesday 11 MAY 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Chair</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>09:00 – 17:00</td>
<td>SYNDICATE 2.1 ROOM</td>
<td>Executive Committee meeting (close meeting)</td>
<td>E. Naumova</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09:00 – 17:00</td>
<td>SYNDICATE 2.3 ROOM</td>
<td>External Proficiency Testing Committee (close meeting)</td>
<td>F. Heinemann</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09:00 – 17:00</td>
<td>SYNDICATE 2.7 ROOM</td>
<td>Accreditation Commissioners meeting (close meeting)</td>
<td>A. Harmer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 – 12:00</td>
<td>SYNDICATE 2.4 ROOM</td>
<td>Population Genetics Working group – PGWG (close meeting)</td>
<td>K. Fleischhauer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13:00 – 17:00</td>
<td>SYNDICATE 2.4 ROOM</td>
<td>Education Committee (close meeting)</td>
<td>J. Mytilineos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00 – 13:30</td>
<td>AEGLE B HALL</td>
<td>EFI Population Genetics Working Group (OPEN MEETING)</td>
<td>A. Sanchez-Mazas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14:00 – 16:30</td>
<td>AEGLE B HALL</td>
<td>“HLA” Editorial Board meeting (close meeting)</td>
<td>S. Marsh</td>
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</tbody>
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### Thursday 12 MAY 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Chair</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10:00 – 11:30</td>
<td>SYNDICATE 2.1 ROOM</td>
<td>Scientific Committee meeting (close meeting)</td>
<td>K. Fleischhauer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00 – 13:30</td>
<td>SYNDICATE 2.7 ROOM</td>
<td>Executive Committee and Co-ordinators meeting (close meeting)</td>
<td>E. Naumova</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Programme

## 11 May 2016 - Wednesday

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>08:00 – 18:30</td>
<td>Registration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15:00 – 17:30</td>
<td>Visit to Asklepieion Healing Temple - Hippocrates Oath Ceremony (Optional upon Registration)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18:30 – 20:30</td>
<td>OPENING CEREMONY</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Welcome addresses</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Julia Bodmer Award Lecture</td>
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<td></td>
<td>HLA Award</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ceppellini Lecture: Prof. Effie W. Petersdorf, University of Washington, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20:30</td>
<td>WELCOME RECEPTION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>“EROTOKRITOS” poetic romance, a performance by Ilias Karellas Theater Company</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

## 12 May 2016 - Thursday

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>07:00 – 08:00</td>
<td>&quot;Run to the sunrise and swim under the rays of the sun&quot; (sponsored by GenDx)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08:30 – 10:00</td>
<td>HIPPOCRATES HALL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Plenary Session I: From ancestry to the 21st century</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chairs: S. Marsh (UK) – C. Papasteriades (GR)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The divergence of H. sapiens from other species, R. Bontrop (NL)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bioarcheology: from the archeological sites to the microbiology laboratory. What we can learn?, S. Rubino (IT)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Current theory of MHC evolution, J. Kaufman (UK)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 – 10:30</td>
<td>Coffee break &amp; Poster viewing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30 – 12:00</td>
<td>PANACEA HALL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Teaching Session I: Organ allocation across Europe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Coordinator: F. Claas (NL)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kidney allocation in UK, D. Turner (UK)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kidney allocation in Spain, J. Martorel (ES)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kidney allocation to highly sensitized patients, S. Heidt (NL)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Future allocation on basis of HLA epitope matching, F. Claas (NL)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30 – 12:00</td>
<td>AEGLE A HALL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Abstract Sessions 1 (O10 – O18)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>“Immunogenetics in Organ Transplantation I”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chairs: G. Guidicelli (FR) – M. Carin (TR)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30 – 12:00</td>
<td>AEGLE B HALL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Abstract Sessions 2 (O19 – O27)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>“Immunogenetics in Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chairs: F. Oguz (TR) – I. Constantinescu (RO)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
HLA Laboratory Management Software

HLA Laboratory System Orpheus is a specialized information management software for immunogenetics laboratories, which complies with EFI/ASHI requirements. The system functions cover a wide range of laboratory activities, including complete laboratory workflow from an arrival of the sample to reporting of results and billing. Orpheus can be also connected to external systems and devices.

Orpheus Features

- Database of donors and patients
- Sample processing:
  - DNA isolation, Serological separation, etc.
- Both serological and molecular typing
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- High/Low Resolution, NMDP codes
- Solid Organ Testing, Antibodies screening
- Connection to external devices
  (BioRobot, AB 3130/3500, Luminex, etc.)
- Results import from analytical software
  (Assign, SCORE, Fusion, QuickType, etc.)
- Connection Bone Marrow Donor Registry software "Prometheus"
- Sample storage
  (evidence, custom structure, search)
- Typing worklist support
- Lot numbers, expiration, validation tracking
  (reagents, materials, equipment, etc.)

Orpheus Benefits

- Long-term guarantee of the compliance with accreditation requirements (EFI, ASHI)
- Covers all types of HLA laboratories
- Connection to laboratory devices
- Bar codes label print and search
- Protocols and results print
- Images and files upload option
- MS Windows based software
- Statistics and reports
- Automated billing
- User rights and rules
- Data export/import
- Store management
- Technical and user support
- Easy to use software application
- Validation process of every released version
- Customer specified new features development on request

Steiner Ltd.

Steiner Ltd. has been developing software for the healthcare industry for more than 20 years. The company provides specialized solutions in more than 20 countries around the world and is a holder of ISO 9001 and ISO 27001 certificates.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 10.30 – 12.00   | AKESO HALL          | Abstract Sessions 3 (O28 – O36)  
“Bioinformatics in Immunogenetics”  
Chairs: P-A. Gourraud (FR) - D. Degiannis (GR) |
| 10.30 – 12.00   | MELAMBUS HALL       | Abstract Sessions 4 (O37 – O45)  
“Peptide-MHC-TCR interactions/ Functional studies”  
Chairs: D. Roelen (NL), P. Costeas (CY) |
| 12:00 – 14:30   |                    | Lunch break & Parallel Satellite Symposia  
BAG HEALTH CARE GmbH  
HISTOGENETICS  
ILLUMINA  
OLERUP SSP AB  
OMIXON BIOCOMPUTING Kft.  
ONE LAMBDAX INC., A THERMO FISHER SCIENTIFIC BRAND |
| 14:30 – 16:00   | HIPPOCRATES HALL    | Plenary Session II: Peptide/MHC-TCR interactions  
Chairs: C. Bade-Döding (DE) - N. Constantinidou (GR)  
New findings on pMHC-TCR interactions, D. Cole (UK)  
TCR diversity in cellular therapies, D. Price (UK)  
HLA molecules in host-tumor interactions, C. Baxevanus (GR) |
| 16:00 – 16:30   |                    | Coffee break & Poster viewing                                                                                                                  |
| 16:30 – 17:30   | AKESO HALL          | Teaching Session II: Epitope Matching in Transplantation: Crosslinking the solid organ experience with the stem cell world  
Coordinator: K. Fleischhauer (DE)  
Serologic epitopes in solid organ transplantation: M. A. Fernandez-Vina (USA)  
T cell epitopes in hematopoietic stem cell transplantation: K. Fleischhauer (DE) |
| 16:30 – 17:30   | AEGLE A HALL        | Meet the expert I: Implementation of NGS platforms  
G. Fischer (AT), M. Tilanus (NL) |
| 16:30 – 17:30   | AEGLE B HALL        | Meet the expert II: H&I EPT programmes in Europe  
F. Heinemann (DE), Y. Zoet (NL) |
| 16:30 – 17:30   | PANACEA HALL        | Debate I: Virtual vs Actual Crossmatch  
Moderator/ Chair: C. Süsäl (DE)  
Debaters: T. Kauke (DE), D. O’Neill (IE) |
| 17:00 – 18:30   |                    | Poster Session – Olives and Wine (sponsored by Histogenetics)  
Poster Committee: I. Doxiadis (NL-DE), V. Dubois (FR), A. Fylaktou (GR), A. Harmer (UK), L. Mascaretti (IT), A. Roldan-Nunez (ES), |
| 20:00           | CEPPELLINI & INVITED SPEAKERS DINNER | (by invitation only) |
| 22:00           |                     | "One Lambda’s Annual EFI Party" - Zona Club (by invitation only) |
**Friday 13 MAY 2016**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Session/Session Type</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>08:00 – 09:30</td>
<td>HIPPOCRATES HALL</td>
<td>Plenary Session III: Immunogenetics in Reproduction</td>
<td>Chairs: M. Varla-Leftetherioti (GR), M. Daniilidis (GR) MHC evolution through embryo allorecognition, I. Athanassakis (GR) HLA-KIR interactions in embryo selection and implantation, F. Colucci (UK) Genes providing susceptibility to pregnancy disorders, Th. Hviid (DK)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09:30 – 10:00</td>
<td></td>
<td>Coffee break &amp; Poster viewing</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00 – 11:30</td>
<td>PANACEA HALL</td>
<td>Parallel Sessions</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00 – 11:30</td>
<td>AEGLE B HALL</td>
<td>Abstract Session 6 (O55-O63) “Immunogenetics in Organ Transplantation II” Chairs: A. Iniotaki (GR), K. Poulton (UK)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 – 11:30</td>
<td>MELAMBUS HALL</td>
<td>Abstract Session 5 (O46-O54) “New Technologies in Immunogenetics, KIRs and other non MHC polymorphisms” Chairs: A. Bishara (IL), Th. Keramitzoglou (GR)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 – 11:30</td>
<td>AEGLE HALL</td>
<td>Abstract Session 7 (O64-O72) “MHC Evolution, Anthropology, Population Genetics” Chairs: C. Carcassi (IT), K. Tarassi (GR)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 – 11:30</td>
<td>AKESSO HALL</td>
<td>Abstract Session 8 (O73-O81) “Immunogenetics in Autoimmunity, Infection and Cancer” Chairs: M. Ivanova (BG), K. Adam (GR)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:30 – 14:00</td>
<td></td>
<td>Lunch break &amp; Parallel Satellite Symposia</td>
<td>GenDx IMMUCOR, Inc LINKAGE BIOSCIENCES ONE LAMBDA INC., A THERMO FISHER SCIENTIFIC BRAND</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
15:30 – 16:00  Coffee break & Poster viewing

Parallel Sessions

16:00 – 17:00  AKESSO Hall
Teaching Session IV: Immunogenetic information through the web
Coordinator: D. Middleton (UK)
Allelefrequencies.net: Database for assisting H&I, D. Middleton (UK)
MIRING of FHIR: Bioinformatics tools for improving the interoperability of HLA and KIR for improved Science and Health, M. Maiers (USA)

16:00 – 17:00  AEGLE A Hall
Meet the expert III: MHC-Infectious agents and self tolerance
J. Kalil (BR), I. Theodorou (FR)

16:00 – 17:00  AEGLE B Hall
Meet the expert IV: ESHI Diploma examination
D. Turner (UK), M. Andreani (IT)

16:00 – 17:00  PANACEA HALL
Debate II: Exons only or whole gene typing?
Moderator/Chair: M. A. Fernandez-Vina (USA)
Debaters:
V. Lange (DE), K. Latham (UK)

17:00 – 18:30  PANACEA HALL
EFI GENERAL ASSEMBLY

18.30 – 20.00  Visit to Hippocrates Foundation of Kos Museum and Gardens – Ceremony in the memory of Paul Terasaki (complimentary, upon registration)

20:30  CONFERENCE DINNER PARTY

Saturday 14 MAY 2016

08:30 – 09:00  HIPPOCRATES HALL
Special Lecture
Chairs: B. Vidan-Jeras (SI), J. Mytilineos (DE)
Comprehensive characterization of the MHC: New means-New findings, D. Monos (USA)

09:00 – 10:30  HIPPOCRATES HALL
Best Abstracts
Chairs: E. Thorsby (NO), J. Trowsdale (UK)

10:30 – 11:00  Coffee break

11:00 – 12:30  HIPPOCRATES HALL
Plenary Session V: Stem Cells and Regenerative medicine
Chairs: J-M. Tiercy (CH), P. Horn (DE)
Immunogenicity of pluripotent stem cells, D. Charron (FR)
Mesenchymal stem cells in regenerative medicine, W. Fibbe (NL)
Multi-system regenerative therapy by mesenchymal stromal cells from different sources, S. Slavin (IL)
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- Type for allele level differences corresponding to antibodies detected in Single Antigen Bead assays
- Helps identify matches for highly sensitized patients

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12:30 – 13:00  HIPPOCRATES HALL
Closing Lecture
Chairs: E. Naumova (BG), M. Spyropoulou-Vlachou (GR)
“30 years EFI Conferences – Insight to the future”, C. Stavropoulos-Giokas (GR), I. Doxiadis (NL-DE)

13:00 – 13:30  HIPPOCRATES HALL
Closing Ceremony
Chairs: E. Naumova, M. Varla-Leftherioti, M. Spyropoulou-Vlachou, J. Mytilineos
Best Abstract Awards
Committee Chair: E. Thorsby (NO)
Best Poster Awards
Committee Chair: I. Doxiadis (NL-DE)
EFI 2017, Heidelberg/Mannheim, Germany
Closing Remarks

➢  There will be additional company sponsored events which will be announced by the companies directly. Please visit the conference’s Web page for always up to date information.
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LABType XR and CWD, One Lambda’s new research use only, bead based typing products, offer high resolution results and fast turnaround using the proven One Lambda workflow and new LABScan3D instrument.

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High resolution results and decreased ambiguities translate into enhanced laboratory workflows, reduced costs, and decreased subtyping routines.

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Dear colleagues,

The two main goals of chimerism monitoring after haematopoietic stem cell transplantation are to confirm engraftment and to predict relapse by following the kinetics of chimerism over time (increase or decrease in the percentage of a patient’s own cells).

Often, one cell subtype is of greatest importance for chimerism monitoring (e.g. CD3+ cells for T-cell ALL). The survival of different cell types in a blood sample can be affected by length of time and storage conditions. The poor survival of polymorphonuclear leukocytes in drawn blood is well documented and plays a major role in chimerism result interpretation. Therefore, an EPT scheme that offers stable, chimeric DNA samples for testing would be desirable.

In addition, EPT schemes currently available for chimerism do not offer samples for quantification at the level of sensitivity that can be obtained when using the real time PCR technique.

Therefore, we propose an EPT scheme prepared from artificial mixtures of stable DNA with minor component (e.g. recipient) percentage levels that are compatible with the limits of sensitivity of real time and STR PCR. We propose one shipment per year each containing DNA from the donor, DNA from the recipient (“pre-transplant”) and ten samples with simulated DNA mixtures of recipient DNA as the minor component at different levels, in a background of donor DNA.

If you are interested, please contact us.

Dead line to contact us for order request before 30 April 2016

Best Regards
On behalf of organiser comity:
Dr Christophe Picard, Dr Valerie Dubois, Mehdi Alizadeh
Mehdi Alizadeh PhD
Phone: 33(2)99 54 74 12
Cellular phone: 33 6 08 22 91 21
E-Mail: mehdi.alizadeh@efs.sante.fr
Address:
EFS Bretagne
Rue Pierre Jean Gineste
BP 91614
35016 Rennes Cedex, France

Report on an Educational Visit to Stanford Medical School Blood Center in Palo Alto, California, USA

by Dr Katerina Tarassi, MD, PhD
Director
Immunology-Histocompatibility
Dept “Evangelismos” Hospital, Athens-Greece

Firstly, I would like to thank the EFI Education Committee for the bursary that gave me the opportunity to perform an educational visit to Histocompatibility, Immunogenetics and Disease Profiling Laboratory at Stanford Medical School Blood Center, Palo Alto, California, USA for two weeks in November 2015.

I would also like to extend my great thanks to Prof. Marcelo Fernandez-Viña, Director in the above mentioned Laboratory, for accepting me and arranging my training program, as well as his generous staff for their kindness and warm hospitality. Additionally, I would like to thank Prof. Michael Mindrinos, Director in Stanford Genome Technology Center, for his strong encourage and support.

I am working in Histocompatibility Laboratory of “Evangelismos” Hospital in Athens - Greece, which is involved in Haematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation, in cooperation with the several HSCT Units all over Greece, in organ transplantation, in volunteer HSC donors typing and it has been nominated as “Reference Center for disease Immunogenetics” since 1990. As HLA molecular typing in the Laboratory is only performed by PCR-SSOP and/or PCR-SSP techniques, it is more and more important to implement sequence based methods and especially NGS for HLA high-resolution typing. So, the purpose of my educational visit to the host Laboratory was to expand my theoretical knowledge of NGS technology.
Diagnosis in Transplantation

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and to gain some practical experience using various NGS platforms.

During my two weeks stay in the hosting Laboratory, I had the opportunity to attend the performance of NGS technique (both manual and automated), using 4 different kits provided by Illumina, Sirona-Immucor, Omixon and One Lambda on two platforms (Illumina-MiSeq and Ion Torrent), whereas theoretical background was also provided to me. The Lab has been involved in the evaluation of these kits and it has also initiated, since 2014, a multi-center pilot study in order to assess the performance of various NGS protocols, platforms and software for full gene typing of classical HLA class I and II alleles. The whole procedure from long-PCR amplification, to library preparation and to final results takes about one week and during my visit, I gained a clear insight into the practicalities (reagents not provided by the kits, additional equipment required, cost) that need to be met in order to implement NGS technology for HLA typing in a routine Laboratory. However, my training focused in HLA typing results interpretation and evaluation using the appropriate software, under the kind guidance and assistance of Mr Kazutoyo Osoegawa, PhD, Senior Research Scientist (One Lambda and Omixon kits), Mrs Fiona Yamamoto, M.S., Clinical Laboratory Scientist (Illumina-Trusight kit) and Mrs Lisa Creary, PhD, Research Associate (Sirona-Immucor kits). I would like to thank the above mentioned scientists, as well as Mr Konstantinos Barsakis (Life Sciences Research Professional II) and the Life Sciences Research Assistants Mr Kalyan Mallempati, Mrs Sridevi Gangavarapu and Mr William Pickle for their help and time devoted to my training, sharing their knowledge and experience.

In parallel, during my stay in the Lab, I had the opportunity to participate in a rotation program specially designed for Pathology Residents of Stanford Medical School concerning methods, procedures and results in the field of Histocompatibility and Transplantation. During these meetings, I enjoyed the fruitful discussion with both Prof. Marcelo Fernandez-Viña and Prof. Dolly B. Tyan, concerning especially the interpretation of anti-HLA antibody screening and identification, using the combination of single-antigen beads with both the IgG assays and the locally developed C1q assay, and their clinical application for solid organ transplantation (mainly for patients in desensitization program), HSCT and transfusion support.

Besides the scientific and practical part, I really enjoyed my stay in Palo Alto area, especially this period of time with wonderful autumn colors, and my privilege to participate for a few days in the famous Academic life of Stanford University and its Campus.

Finally, I gained new experience, as I visited a Laboratory with excellent facilities and high international reputation, I met interesting people and I made new friends. So, my educational visit in Stanford Medical School Blood Center was very helpful and motivating, not only for me but also for my Lab in Athens, where I intend to transfer the application of this knowledge.
Satellite Lunch Symposium

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Friday May 13 13.00 - 14.00

HLA SBT Teaching Session

Next Generation Sequencing

Wednesday May 11 8.30 - 16.00

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