



# TRANSPLANTATION SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

newsletter april 2010

## Editorial Comment

Dear Members,

Here is the April Newsletter. Council remains committed to keeping you up to date with the affairs of the Society, and welcomes your feedback and suggestions.

In this Newsletter, I would particularly like to draw your attention to this year's ASM and the associated PGC. As current and past Councillors and convenors know all too well, it is very difficult to find the perfect balance of venue, timing and cost. However, the success of last year's meeting in June at the new venue in Canberra shows that we are on the right track, and I expect that the ASM/PGC will go from strength to strength. The ASM is vital to the ongoing robustness of the Society, and I strongly encourage all members to attend.

I would also like members to note the special TSANZ symposium to be held during the AHMRC congress in Melbourne in November, details of which are given in the Education & Science Report.

Peter Cowan

## President's Message

TSANZ Council have had a number of productive meetings including Council Meetings, which have covered issues that will shape our Society into the future. All the important areas covered in these

discussions will be reviewed at the next Annual General Meeting at the upcoming Annual Scientific Meeting in Canberra. I would strongly encourage everyone to attend the Annual Scientific Meeting which promises to be another exceptional academic meeting, and also the Annual General Meeting to actively contribute to the planning discussion.

I cannot cover the fine details of planning here, but a discussion document will be distributed with the agenda for the Annual General Meeting. We would like everyone to review these recommendations and changes. Several important areas which will be covered are summarised here. As mentioned in previous newsletters, the Society's workload continues to grow and the re-structuring of Council into functional specialty committees should improve the day-to-day running of the Society. Furthermore, the specialty subcommittees will recruit a number of TSANZ members to these subcommittees as active sub-committee participants but will not be formal TSANZ Council members. These subcommittee positions will encourage involvement of increased numbers of members in TSANZ matters, particularly our younger Society members so that they may understand the "nuts and bolts" of our Society, and contribute to the running of Society. This should also groom individuals for the various formal Council positions. The subcommittees will include Education & Science, Awards & Grants, Liaison and Membership committees. An Executive Committee will oversee general administrative, financial and sponsorship matters. The proposed final structure will be outlined in the document to follow.

Our Standing Committees will remain as critical bodies to continue acting as national advisory bodies in transplantation and clinical standards.

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Details of financial planning with the additional assets from the Sydney TTS meeting, the proposed employment of a financial planner and the development of an endowment fund to help secure future finances will be outlined. Scott Campbell will have more to say regarding this matter and changes to the sponsorship structure. Further development of the Postgraduate Course and a national transplant teaching curriculum is a long-term plan, and I personally think this is another key area, which should follow. There are also plans to alter the constitution to clearly define rights and benefits of our growing affiliation membership with other Societies and organisations. Toby Coates, who is our current Secretary, will outline this matter.

The work of the TSANZ Standing Committees with The Australian Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation Authority continues and the National Guidelines for acceptance of potential transplant recipients is taking final shape. National organ allocation criteria is another item on the agenda. We have another public consultation before formalising the final guidelines and these will be discussed at the meeting in Canberra.

Other matters are reviewed in this newsletter and I would take time to read through this edition.

As always, the Annual Scientific Meeting and Postgraduate Course remain our premier events and Council look forward seeing you all in Canberra soon.

**Frank Ierino**

*President, TSANZ*

## Secretary's Report

A major role of the TSANZ is to provide representation of all groups with an interest in organ transplantation. Council has received a request from the Transplant Nurses Association (TNA) regarding representation of the interests of its members nationally. The society offers several categories of membership to cover membership from the Australian Transplant Coordinators (ATCA) and the Transplant Nurses Association (TNA). An ordinary member of TSANZ is defined as "Any person who is or has been engaged in research, or in the practice of the broad field of transplantation, or who has demonstrated particular interest in transplantation, and who is ordinarily resident in Australia or New Zealand". These additional memberships are offered at a reduced rate (\$27.50/per annum) compared to ordinary

memberships (\$220.00). Increased participation of ATCA/TNA members ensures that the TSANZ truly represents the Transplantation community in discussions with government and the community. It should be noted in this regard that TNA and ATCA members may apply for full membership in their own right if they wish.

Thus action item for the next Annual General Meeting which is to be held 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2010 at 5.15pm in the Manning Clark Centre on the ANU Campus is a change in Article 3, section 2 of the Society's constitution to formally recognise these membership categories in the constitution and to clarify members rights associated with these categories. These constitutional changes will formally define the rights of all society members. At present the society has 5 categories for membership – ordinary members, international members, honorary life members, student members and retired members. As the society grows there are increasing interest in participation in transplantation from a variety of groups and to best allow a wide range of individuals to participate, Council will propose the creation of a new category of TSANZ membership at the next AGM. This category will be an "Affiliate" membership. This category of members would not have voting rights, would be eligible for Society awards and would join as a member affiliated with another transplantation related society. The intention is for TSANZ to consolidate its role as the peak body representing the interests of the Transplant community.

The process of changing the constitution requires 4 specific steps.

1. Notification of an intent to change the constitution at least 21 days prior to the AGM.
2. Voting at the Annual General Meeting
3. Passage of the vote by ¾ majority
4. Lodging of "Form 6" with the Department of Fair Trading

The creation of the new Affiliate membership category will provide an avenue for membership of TSANZ for other interested parties and will ensure an increased society membership. I urge all ordinary members to attend the AGM in Canberra and vote on this important change to the constitution.

Society members are also reminded about the new deadlines for Society awards, which will be considered by the Awards committee. These deadlines are:

- 1st March - for meetings held 1st April - 1st June
- 1st June - for meetings held 1st June - 1st October
- 1st October - for meetings held 1st October - 1st April



The society awards are an important part of the function of the TSANZ and the Council strongly encourages all members to apply for these generous awards. Members are reminded to apply for these awards and that the outcome of abstract submission may not be known before the deadline for application. Full details can be found at the society website.

The Society takes great pride in the achievements of its members and would like to congratulate Professor Robert Jones and Professor David Scott on their recent awards through the Australia Day Honours system.

Finally, in a Federal election year, all members involved in research should be aware of the potential changes to the NHMRC funding in the May budget. TSANZ through affiliation with the Australian Society for Medical Research is concerned about the level of NHMRC funding and directs all members to the ASMR website ([www.asmr.org.au](http://www.asmr.org.au)) for information as to how members may influence federal funding of medical research. Transplantation research relies on a strong level of government funding to allow progress and increasing transplants across all disciplines. I strongly urge members of the Society to engage with their elected parliamentarians and media to promote the positive side of transplantation and transplantation research.

**Toby Coates**

*Honorary Secretary, TSANZ*

## Treasurers Report

The overall financial position of the Society remains solid, boosted by the profit from The Transplantation Society Meeting in Sydney. Council has been looking at the best way to spend and/or invest this money, and is considering a number of options. These include that of establishing an ongoing Trust that might hopefully build over time, to help fund core activities of the Society into the future.

There have been modest increases to the cost of Registration for the AGM/PGC this year, the first increase of this kind since 2002. Despite this increase, I believe that our AGM and PGC remains one of the best value meetings on the calendar each year. By remaining in Canberra, we have been able to keep cost increases down, but the larger meeting, in its new ANU venue does bring rising costs.

**Scott Campbell**

*Treasurer, TSANZ*

## Standing Committees

### *National Transplant Authority Project*

The Standing Committees have continued to develop the National Uniform Eligibility Guidelines & Allocation Protocols for Deceased Organ Donation. A second draft of the document has been completed and posted on the Society's website with an accompanying advertisement to allow for a second round of public consultation. A targeted public consultation forum has been scheduled for 30th April. Any further amendments will be incorporated within the next month. The final document is scheduled for release at the time of the next Annual Scientific Meeting of the Society in Canberra in June 2010.

The Committees have also been working with the AOTA to develop a number of other national policies including a National Paired Kidney Exchange Program and standardised processes for the packing and transport of donor organs.

**Peter Macdonald**

*Chair, Standing Committees*

## Education & Science Report

### **Meetings**

There are a number of exciting local and international transplant and transplant-related meetings in the upcoming year, which we have listed in calendar order below. TSANZ offers several awards to support attendance of transplant meetings, particularly by young presenters. Details of these awards are given on the TSANZ website (<http://www.tsanz.com.au/awardsandfellowships/index.asp>); please note the changes to the closing dates for international travel award applications.

International Society for Heart & Lung Transplantation (ISHLT), 21-24 April 2010, Chicago, USA (<http://www.ishlt.org/meetings/annualMeeting.asp>)

American Transplant Congress, 1-5 May 2010, San Diego, USA (<http://www.atcmeeting.org/2010/index.cfm>)

TSANZ Annual Scientific Meeting, 23-25 June 2010, Manning Clark Centre, ANU Campus, Canberra, ACT ([www.tsanz.com.au/](http://www.tsanz.com.au/))

XXIII International Congress of The Transplantation Society, 15-19 August 2010, Vancouver, Canada (<http://www.transplantation2010.org/index.html>) (closing date for travel award applications: 1 June 2010)

ANZSN Annual Scientific Meeting, 13-15 September, Perth, WA (<http://www.nephrology.edu.au/meetings/index.asp>)

### Special Symposium

TSANZ is sponsoring a symposium titled "B cells and antibodies in transplantation" at the Australian Health and Medical Research Congress (AHMRC), 14-19 November 2010, New Melbourne Convention Centre ([www.asmr.org.au/Conferences.html](http://www.asmr.org.au/Conferences.html))

The keynote speaker will be Prof Lori West (University of Alberta, Canada), who is famous for describing ABO tolerance in neonatal heart transplantation. The symposium will be held on the morning of Thursday 18 November, and we strongly encourage members to attend what should be an interesting and informative session.

### Training

The convenors of this year's TSANZ post-graduate course (PGC), Bill Mulley and Glen Westall, send the following message to members.

"The post-graduate course of the TSANZ ASM will be held on the 21st and 22nd of June. Speakers from Australia and New Zealand will be joined by visiting international speakers in presenting basic science and clinical aspects of transplantation. This year the course seeks to bring together basic science and clinical aspects of a topic in the same session rather than separating them on different days. It is hoped this will lead to a deeper understanding of each topic area. Areas covered include crossmatching, antibody mediated and cell mediated rejection along with potential tolerance strategies and complications of transplantation. The draft programme and registration details are available at the TSANZ website. The course is targeted to advanced training registrars and recent science graduates as well as more senior clinicians looking for an update on the basics of transplantation. Look forward to your company."

**Steve Alexander and Peter Cowan**

## Membership

Since the last newsletter, Council welcomed the following new members:

### TSANZ

Dyane Auclair, Bibin George, Ming Ji, Tonya Kara, Maleeka Ladhani, Annabel Martin, Richard McGee, Nicole Mifsud, Nitesh Rao, Yin Wang

### ATCA/TSANZ

Joanna Forteath, Cheryl Fourie, Julie Hayne, Karen Joy, Jeanette Lacey, Gillian Walton, Andrew Young

Since the last newsletter, Council has accepted the following resignations:

Toshio Fujiwara, Jenny Gunton, Andrea Jordan, Beth Kindred, Mona Razavian, Lei Sun

## Society Awards and Grants

The Society provides a number of benefits for members, which include support to attend national and international transplantation meetings and reduced fees at meetings sponsored by the society.

The eligibility criteria for each award are outlined on the TSANZ website:

<http://www.tsanz.com.au/awardsandfellowships/index.asp>

## Travel Grant Awards

***The 14th Congress of the European Society for Organ Transplantation, August – September 2009  
Paris, France***

### Vladislav Rozenkov

I would like to express my appreciation to the Society for the TSANZ Travel Grant supporting my attendance at the 14th Congress of the European Society for Organ Transplantation (ESOT) that was held from 30 August to 2 September 2009 in Paris.

This gave me an opportunity to learn about the latest advances in the field of transplantation and present my work, which was one of the 1465 abstracts accepted at the Congress. The 14th ESOT Congress brought together a record number of 3700 participants from more than 80 countries. It



was far beyond a European event with a large number of attendees from Americas and the Asian countries. Several groups from Australia presented their research there.

An outstanding panel of speakers from Europe and the USA presented state of the art talks on three plenary sessions. The two major topics were immunosuppression and the role of T cells in transplantation. The immunosuppression session discussed the role of new anti B-cell agents (Mark Pescovitz, Indianapolis), anti-TNF therapies (Petra Reinke, Berlin) and costimulatory blockade (Stuart Knechtle, Atlanta). A review on suppressor T cells was presented by Harvey Cantor from Boston. Manuela Battaglia from Milan focused on regulatory T cells, Kathryn Wood from Oxford on Th17 cells and Federica Sallusto from Switzerland on memory T cells. A dynamic talk on emerging role of tissue engineering in clinical transplantation was given by Paolo Macchiarini from Barcelona.

An important part of the Congress was its educational program that included four courses: the Basic Science Postgraduate Course focusing on novel research tools in transplantation, the Thoracic Postgraduate Course discussing the diagnosis and management of allograft rejection and other aspects of heart and lung transplantation, the European Liver and Intestine Transplant Association (ELITA) course with the topic of "The hepatic artery in liver transplantation", and the European Pancreas and Islet Transplant Association (EPITA) course considering the role of coagulation, therapeutic options for severe hypoglycemias, beta-replacement for type 2 diabetes and organ selection for beta-cell replacement. Further postgraduate courses are to be held at the next, 15th ESOT Congress that will take place in Glasgow in 2011.

Beyond the science, it was a great time to visit Paris in the end of August – beginning of September. Just within a week I experienced four seasons: leaving Australia in winter and arriving in Europe in summer, then leaving Europe in autumn and arriving in Australia in spring.

### ***IPITA-IXA Meeting, October 2009 Venice, Italy***

#### **Joanne Chia**

IPITA-IXA held its combined annual scientific meeting in Venice 2009. Some of the meeting highlights:

The plane has finally landed in Venice after a stopover in Dubai. Of course, being in Venice, one would think of waterways and boats as the main

mode of transport. Instantaneously, we were being chauffeured in Venice-style to the small island of Lido, off St. Mark's.

The welcome reception was held in the Hotel Excelsior. A beautiful hotel with a beautiful view of the beach to match. It was in the Stucchi Room that Prof. Cozzi (I don't know what his last name was and whether he is a Prof.) declared the meeting opened.

The meeting was held at the Palazzo del Casino of the Venice Congress Centre on Venice Lido. For the next 5 days, we would be indulging our ears to speakers from around the world, each prominent in their fields. They would inform us about the small yet ground-breaking baby steps that everyone is making to realize a common dream – to make having successful transplantation of the pancreas and islets, and xenotransplantation a reality. The most interesting talk has to be the talk that came from Prof. Cozzi in the late-breaking abstract. Not only did I gather a wealth of information from his slides about xenotransplantation, I experienced first-hand, a healthy scientific debate amongst the field's leading researchers. Most importantly, I caught a glimpse of their passions for scientific research, and the progress of research.

The gala dinner was a surprise – buffet-styled dining with a live band. We were serenaded with live vocals while creating small talks amongst ourselves.

Of note worthy, the private viewing of the Basilica, to experience the grandeur and majesty of the star of St. Mark's Square cannot be easily put to words. Mosaic after mosaic did the local Venetians put up on to paint the beautiful pictures on the walls and ceilings of the Basilica. It was enriching to understand the stories behind the building and to be introduced briefly to Venice's rich history.

To be able to submerge in the cultures of Venice, Italy and at the same time, enrich my scientific knowledge on the transplantation world, a phrase best fit the feeling – best of both worlds. I have thoroughly enjoyed my trip to Venice. To my supervisors, thank you for giving me an opportunity to present my results to an international audience. Last but not the least, my many thanks to sponsorship of the Transplantation Society of Australia and New Zealand.

#### **Dale Christiansen**

It was 4 years since I attended the 8th International Xenotransplantation Congress in Goteborg, Sweden so it was with excitement that I arrived in beautiful Venice for IXA 2009 to hear what was

'new and hot' in the xeno-world. In general, I found the conference was highly stimulating; the quality of the science presented was excellent as were all the speakers. It was also a great opportunity to be able to present our work in an international setting and to meet and talk with many of the experts in the xeno-field. What was also very impressive was the number of TSANZ members presenting top quality work and having an impact on the field. There were many fine sessions. Highlights that come to mind for me (though I am obviously biased) included the 'immunobiology and the cellular immunotherapeutics' and 'immunoregulation' plenary sessions, the 'coagulation dysregulation as a potential barrier to xenotransplantation' workshop, the 'xenoantigens and antibodies' and 'pig to primate' parallel sessions.

My overall impression of the conference though in some ways left me a little disappointed.... certainly not with the quality of the science, just that after 4 more years of some very creative/innovative research we are still only slowly advancing towards making xeno a clinical reality. However, to finish on a positive note, that just means more exciting discoveries are ahead of us!

I would like to thank TSANZ for giving me the opportunity to attend and participate at this meeting.

#### **Tina Ghoraishi**

I would like to thank TSANZ for the support which provided me with the opportunity to attend the IPITA-IXA 2009. The meeting was held in the Palazzo del Casino of the Venice Congress Centre on Venice Lido on October 12-16.

My poster presentation title was: "Hormone resuscitation of BD porcine donors reduces pancreatic inflammation" and it was presented on Oct 12. It was on display from 9am to 6pm, and I answered the questions and held discussions from 1pm to 2pm. I met other scientists with similar interest, and gained useful information and tips from my discussions.

The IPITA sessions were both valuable and enlightening. There was much to learn from the plenary sessions and presentations. I found out about the impressive global progress in pancreas and islet transplantation. From my point of view the highlights of the IPITA sessions were: updates in pancreas and islet transplant outcomes, alternative beta cell resources, improved methods of pancreas preservation, islet isolation and grafting. Here are some example presentations: development of beta cells from embryonic stem

cells and bone marrow as an alternative site for islet transplant.

The IXA sessions were also very informative. I am particularly interested in islet xenotransplantation and there were several plenary sessions and presentations covering the concept. Some of the areas included: updates in islet xenotransplantation, reports on pig to primate works, defeating coagulation dysregulation towards xenotransplantation, e.g. multi-transgenic pigs designed for xenoislet transplants and novel strategies to overcome IBMIR; and last but not least voting in favour of islet xenotransplantation as the first xenotransplantation clinical trial.

Furthermore, the chance to make contacts with various research and clinical groups and to find out more about the related work fields during the meeting will be a precious resource for the rest of my PhD and scientific career.

In addition to the magnificent learning experience; the visit to Venice, the beautiful Gala dinner and the great ambience of the congress all made the IPITA-IXA 2009 an unforgettable event.

#### **Russel Hodgson**

I would like to thank TSANZ for a travel grant which enabled me to attend the IPITA-IXA Venice Meeting. It was a unique experience for me as it was the first xenotransplantation meeting I have attended, and the first time I have visited Venice (or Italy!). Thanks to this funding, I was able to present my research at the Xenotransplantation meeting.

There seemed to be a general feeling in the air that the world was marking time until the first human trials commenced, and that there was hope that these trials would spark a new interest and push towards successful xenotransplantation. With the Xenome Project, many European groups had received new funding and there were a lot of innovative discoveries towards islet xenotransplantation – many using GKO/CD46 knockout pigs. There were, however, no further developments in organ transplantation. Two large multicentre studies were presented: E. Cozzi's team had little success with kidney xenotransplants using GKO/CD55/CD59 knockout pigs; and D. Cooper's team gained only minimal improvement in liver xenotransplants and required lethal doses of immunosuppression for this to occur.

My favourite talks were C-G Park's summary of lessons learned from the pig-to-mouse model (for its relevance and clarity) and E. Salvaris' talk on kidney xenotransplants (where I thought the lack of immunosuppression was a big advantage over



other studies in its contribution to our knowledge of rejection). I was also very impressed with the large number of presentations from Australian and New Zealand researchers – we certainly contribute our fair share of world knowledge, given our population and funding!

While I was too engrossed at the conference to enjoy any of the beauty of Venice (like the grand canal, the Peggy Guggenheim collection, that magnificent string group that played Vivaldi in the chapel, or that restaurant around the corner from San Marco that did a fantastic vongole pasta dish), the trip was still both educational and enjoyable. Thank you again, TSANZ.



### Eddy Lee

I would like to record my appreciation to the Transplantation Society of Australia and New Zealand for the travel grant to attend the combined International Pancreatic Islet and

Xenotransplantation Association (IPITA-IXA) and Conference in October 2009, Venice, Italy.

I was able to present my work as a PhD candidate in an oral presentation session which generated considerable interest. This in turn created opportunities to meet other researchers in the same field who had different strategies but a common goal of successful xenotransplantation. I gained new and valuable insights on the protein C pathway, its application to ischemia reperfusion injury, and it's possibly under recognised role in xenograft rejection. The insights have lead to an abundance of new ideas to pursue to use aspects of the pathway to overcome clotting issues in xenotransplantation.

A significant portion of the meeting concentrated non-human primate recipients of pig organ grafts. The results probably more closely reflect the pig-to-human situation and it gave me further ideas on how my work on endothelial protein C receptor can eventually be incorporated in a genetically modified pig. Pancreatic islet transplantation was also extensively discussed and these sessions comprehensively covered experimental frontiers, isolation and allocation techniques, and clinical management laboratory developments. It was good to see that techniques in islet transplantation I have been developing are consistent with some of those described giving me confidence to pursue my model to test genetic modifications. It was interesting to see that some techniques presented that have not been tested in non-human primate models are being tried in humans raising significant ethical concerns. It reminded me of the great responsibility we have to maintain our integrity in medical science to benefit mankind rather than to use humans to benefit one's self.

Finally, the meeting served as an excellent update in the xenotransplant and islet transplant fields more widely. The information is most timely as I update the literature review of my PhD thesis. It also suggested to me that I was in the perfect position to contribute to the growing body of knowledge in protein C mechanisms and islet cell transplantation. Furthermore, the opportunity to meet many a number of international colleagues has prompted some thought of spending time abroad as a post doctoral fellow in the future. The travel award made something extremely valuable possible that would otherwise be out of reach for many young scientists so I would like to thank and congratulate the society on such ongoing initiatives.

### Lina Mariana

The IPITA-IXA 2009 is a joint meeting between International Pancreas and Islet Transplantation

and Xenotransplantation, which the main aim is to further improve the work on finding therapies for diabetes. During this meeting, I had the opportunity to present my work on our islet transplant program and islet encapsulation. This was my first international conference and it was made possible by the travel grant provided by the TSANZ.

My project aims to improve the islet isolation procedure with donor pancreata to achieve the best quality of islets, which can then be transplanted into recipients suffering from type 1 diabetes. In Australia, the islet transplantation program is suffering from shortage of organ donation, which severely reduces the possibility to choose the donor pancreata based on their quality. Each year, we receive an average of 40 pancreata. However, despite these limitations, we have successfully transplanted 11 donors into 6 recipients since late 2007. Furthermore, 3 out of 4 recipients who received 2 islet transplants are no longer dependent on insulin injection and for at least one year in two of the recipients. While we consider this as a great achievement under the current limitation, further discovery on improving islet isolation will help to increase the yield as well as the quality of isolated islets.

During the IPITA-IXA 2009 joint meeting, I had the opportunity to attend a special symposium titled: "Collagenase Enzyme Blend for Human Islet Isolation: Efficacy, Useful Additives, safety and cGMP/GCP-regulations", which discuss the advantages as well as limitations of three commercially available collagenase enzymes, namely the Roche Liberase, Serva Collagenase and Vita-Cyte Collagenase. It was discussed at this seminar that the Serva Collagenase yields better quality of islets whereas Roche Liberase HI is more efficient for pancreas dissociation and produce more IE/g of pancreas (Bradhorst H et al and Salamone M et al). The islet isolation group from the University of California San Francisco has had great success in producing good quality and quantity of human islet for transplantation using the Serva Collagenase. Furthermore, Vita-Cyte Collagenase provided similar results both in quality and quantity when compared with Serva Collagenase. At this stage the three enzymes seems to be comparable and the results are not significantly different from each other.

Sarah E. Cross presentation highlighted the importance of the washing steps following a collagenase digest to remove excess collagenase. The presence of residual collagenase enzyme throughout islet processing can cause over-digestion of islets cells leading to islet breakdown, which reduces the quality and quantity of the isolated islets. Hirohito Ichii suggested that the quality and quantity of isolated

islets are also dependent on the capability of each individual in the islet isolation team, each is required to undergo proper training and possess a vast knowledge of the isolation protocol.

While these are the highlights of my attendance in the joint meeting, there were other discussions within the meeting which were potentially beneficial to our islet transplantation program. Thus, in closing, I would like to thank TSANZ for giving me the opportunity to not only present my work on islet transplantation at an international meeting, but also to meet with people vastly experiences in the subject of islet transplantation. Furthermore, through this joint meeting, I have acquired additional knowledge to further improve islet isolation in Australia.

#### **Lindy Williams**

I would like to thank TSANZ for their generous support which allowed me to attend the meeting of the International Pancreas and Islet Transplant Association (IPITA) held jointly with the International Xenotransplantation Association (IXA). These meetings were convened under the umbrella of The Transplantation Society, and held in Venice, October 2009.

IPITA focused on key issues surrounding islet transplantation, such as organ retrieval, immunosuppression of the recipient, the isolation procedure, prediction of function and engraftment of islets.

A workshop was held in which comparisons of the 3 enzymes (SERVA NB1, VitaCyte and Liberase MTF C/T), available for islet isolations were presented. There was no consensus on what is the best enzyme combination, however, data indicates successful islet isolation and transplantation is possible with all 3 enzymes currently available.

A modified method for isolating islets from young donors, was presented by M. Shimoda of Baylor University, Texas. He presented data which indicated that the initial perfusion of higher concentrations of enzyme into the pancreases of donors <30y, resulted in a decrease in embedded islets normally associated with young donors. Although there was no statistically significant increase in islet yield demonstrated, possibly due to few replicates, it shows promise as a useful protocol for the extraction of islets from these difficult donor pancreases.

There were a number of presentations examining possible methods of studying islet loss following transplantation and promotion of graft survival. S. Sigrist of Strasbourg, described an in vitro model



utilising a modified Boyden chamber, which enabled IBMIR to be examined via the migration of macrophages. This group demonstrated that macrophage migration was increased when there was a decrease in islet purity, likely due to an increase in chemokine secretion noted with impure preparations. However, in the presence of PSC-RANTES (a chemokine antagonist), or heparin or pentosan, macrophage migration was significantly reduced, suggesting such strategies may improve islet viability during the transplantation procedure.

A method of introducing genes into transplanted islets which will promote engraftment and survival of the transplanted tissue was described by M. Takita of Baylor University, Texas. To promote the vascularisation of intraportally transplanted islets, this group introduced a non-viral plasmid vector encoding the hVEGF gene into the liver of diabetic nude mice transplanted with a marginal number of islets. The vector was introduced using Ultrasound Targeted Microbubble Destruction. 73% of these animals became normoglycaemic compared to 13% and 14% in the control groups (no vector or vector encoding GFP). Liver biopsies showed a

greater density of capillaries in the treated compared with the control groups.

IXA addressed the ethical and safety considerations, establishment of guidelines for clinical trials as well as the physiological issues involved in the transplantation of tissues from other species into humans.

There was a large focus on what the regulatory requirements should encompass for clinical trials of xenotransplantation. Such issues as the documentation required, sample collection and storage and the pre-clinical trials that should be carried out prior to the commencement of such trials was discussed. These are of relevance to the Australian Xenotransplantation Consortium, as the National Health and Medical Research Council which recently announced the lifting of the moratorium on clinical trials of xenotransplantation in Australia.

Once again, I wish to express my thanks to TSANZ for their continued support of Senior Scientists.

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

*The Annual General Meeting of the Transplantation Society of Australia and New Zealand will be held on Wednesday 23rd June 2010 in the Manning Clark Centre, ANU Campus, Canberra, ACT at 5.15pm.*

### AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Confirmation of the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 17th June 2009
3. Business arising from the minutes
4. President's Report - A/Professor Frank Ierino
5. Treasurer's Report - Dr Scott Campbell
6. Secretary's Report - A/Professor Toby Coates
  - Proposed changes to the TSANZ Constitution
7. Report on Standing Committees
  - Professor Peter Macdonald
8. Education/Communication Report
  - Professor Peter Cowan & A/Professor Steve Alexander
9. RACP Liaison/Membership Report
  - Professor Geoffrey McCaughan
10. General Business

A/Professor Toby Coates  
Honorary Secretary  
19th April 2010

## Calendar of Events

### TSANZ Annual Scientific Meeting

Manning Clark Centre  
ANU, Canberra  
June 23, 2010 – June 25, 2010  
Website: [www.tsanz.com.au/meetings/index.asp](http://www.tsanz.com.au/meetings/index.asp)

### TSANZ Post Graduate Training Course

Manning Clark Centre  
ANU, Canberra  
June 21, 2010 – June 22, 2010  
Website:  
[www.tsanz.com.au/meetings/postgraduatetrainingcourse.asp](http://www.tsanz.com.au/meetings/postgraduatetrainingcourse.asp)

### American Transplant Congress

San Diego Convention Center  
San Diego, California, USA  
May 1 2010 - May 5 2010  
Website: [www.a-s-t.org](http://www.a-s-t.org)

### Joint 6th ELITA-ELTR Annual Meeting & 5th International Meeting on Transplantation from Non-Heart Beating Donors

May 13, 2010 - May 15, 2010  
The Mermaid Conference & Events Centre, Puddle Dock, Blackfriars, London EC4V 3DB  
UNITED KINGDOM  
Course Organisers - Dr. P. Muiesan and Prof. Prof. A.K. Burroughs ESOT Office  
Phone: +39 049 3005796  
Fax: +39 049 2106306  
Email: [office@esot.org](mailto:office@esot.org) or [paolo.muiesan@uhb.nhs.uk](mailto:paolo.muiesan@uhb.nhs.uk)  
Website: [www.nhbd2010.org](http://www.nhbd2010.org)

### MMRI Stem Cell Symposium 2010

May 20, 2010 - May 21, 2010  
UQ Centre for Clinical Research on the RBWH Campus  
Herston, Queensland, Australia  
For further information contact:  
Convenor:  
Phone: (007) 3163 3429  
Email: [kerry.atkinson@mater.org.au](mailto:kerry.atkinson@mater.org.au)

### ANZSN 2010 Annual Scientific Meeting

The 46th Annual Scientific Meeting will be held in Perth, Western Australia 13th -15th September 2010 at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre.  
[www.anzsn2010.com.au](http://www.anzsn2010.com.au)

### XXIII International Congress of The Transplantation Society

Vancouver Convention & Exhibition Centre  
Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada  
August 15, 2010 - August 19, 2010  
Congress Secretariat: International Conference Services Ltd  
Phone: (604) 681 2153  
Email: [tts2010@meet-ics.com](mailto:tts2010@meet-ics.com)  
Website: [www.transplantation2010.org](http://www.transplantation2010.org)

### Tissue Engineering & Regenerative Medicine International 2010 Asia Pacific Meeting

(TERMIS AP 2010)  
September 15, 2010 - September 17, 2010  
Sheraton on the Park, Sydney, Australia  
TERMIS AP 2010 Secretariat  
Ms Rebecca Southcott, C/- Conference Action Pty Ltd, PO Box 576, Crows Nest NSW 1585  
Phone: +61 2 9431 8699  
Fax: +61 2 9431 8677  
Email: [termis2010@conferenceaction.com.au](mailto:termis2010@conferenceaction.com.au)

### 23rd Scientific Meeting of the International Society of Hypertension 2010 (ISH 2010)

September 26, 2010 - September 30, 2010  
Vancouver, Canada  
Conference Organizer  
Sea to Sky Meeting Management Inc.  
Ph: +1 604-984-6455  
Fax: +1 604-984-6434  
Email: [kazia@seatoskymeetings.com](mailto:kazia@seatoskymeetings.com)  
Website: [www.VancouverHypertension2010.com](http://www.VancouverHypertension2010.com)



**australian  
transplant  
games 2010**  
CANBERRA 2010

October 2, 2010 – October 10, 2010  
Canberra, ACT

Whether you're there to participate or to spectate, we can all celebrate the gift of life at the Australian Transplant Games in Canberra. Just by being there, you'll raise awareness of organ and tissue donation and encourage the people of Australia to discover the issue, decide for themselves and discuss their wishes with their family.  
[www.australiantransplantgames.com](http://www.australiantransplantgames.com)



## TSANZ Council

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## TSANZ Standing Committees

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