



RENAL TRANSPLANT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RTAC)
**A committee of The Transplantation Society
of Australia and New Zealand (TSANZ)**

RTAC BIENNIAL REPORT: May 2017. (John Kanellis: Chair, RTAC)

Distribution

TSANZ: Secretariat / President / President-Elect / TSANZ Project Officer / TSANZ membership
TLRG / OTA: Secretariat / CEO Ann Smith / Eva Mehakovic / Helen Opdam
ANZSN: Secretariat / President / ANZSN membership
CPAC: Chair
RTAC (and subcommittees): membership

TSANZ, ANZSN and OTA secretariat to please forward to their respective membership group and to other interested parties.

RTAC members to please forward to their State Transplant Advisory Committees, Health Departments, Labs and State Transplant and Nephrology services.

RTAC Membership and Subcommittees / Working Groups

RTAC membership and invited guests (see Appendix)
RTAC subcommittees and working groups (see Appendix)
Affiliated committees and working groups with RTAC involvement (see Appendix)

The role of RTAC chair is a 3-year position, due for renewal in late 2019. In Dec 2016 RTAC members supported a motion to appoint Kate Wyburn to the Deputy / Chair Elect position.

NOMS Interstate Exchange Audit by RTAC

The NOMS Audit Jan 2016 - March 2017 was performed at the RTAC meeting in May 2017. There were no major issues identified by the membership. A framework summarising allocation data is being used to give a global view of cases (eg. allocation by hierarchical priority group; risk related issues eg. Hep C, malignancy, marginal donor issues).

TSANZ Clinical Guidelines

The TSANZ Clinical Guidelines document was launched and released at the 2016 TSANZ Annual Scientific Meeting. It summarises current practice and describes emerging issues with regards to organ transplantation from deceased donors. The document is available on the TSANZ website. Minor updates are planned for several sections over the next few months.

A further project through TSANZ / OTA / DonatLife is addressing issues around the Risk of Infection transmission. A combined DonatLife / TSANZ one day workshop was recently held, addressing this issue (May 2017). There is already significant change in practice in this area, now that Hepatitis C specific antiviral treatments are available. The ability to cure Hepatitis C will have a significant impact on i) the recipient profile in liver transplantation, ii) the ability to use donors with a known or perceived risk of transmitting Hepatitis C. Further work is required to advance this project with both global and organ-specific approaches to be resolved by TSANZ and the various Advisory Committees, as well as the various State based bodies including Transplant Advisory Committees and Departments of Health.

Introduction of KDPI (Kidney Donor Profile Index)

A survival index estimating donor kidney survival (Kidney Donor Profile Index: KDPI) was incorporated into the National Organ Matching (NOMS) system in November 2016. Donor kidneys are now allocated with this score.

ANZDATA, DonateLife, TSANZ and RTAC can now use KDPI in local and national audits to better understand patterns of practice and behaviour around donor suitability and donor acceptance. This is a significant advance and will move us towards improved allocation practices in the next 1-2 years as we analyse and use this data, as well as build a new software system (see below). Information on KDPI is available on the TSANZ website (guideline and document download area).

The calculation of a survival index for recipients (the EPTS: Expected Post Transplant Survival) was also recently introduced in NOMS. This data will start to be collected and analysed. Please note that EPTS is not being used to direct allocation and does not appear on allocation lists at this stage.

OrganMatch (formerly AOMS: Australian Organ Matching Service) Project

The Australian Red Cross Blood Service (ARCBS) with the support of the OTA is aiming to replace the National Organ Matching Service System or NOMS (built in 2000) and in the process, implement improved support services for its ongoing management and extension. Significant funds have been allocated towards this project and a vendor has recently been chosen (Datacom) for the build from several shortlisted applicants. Work commenced in late 2016. It will take 18-24 months to be fully completed.

From RTAC - Rhonda Holdsworth, Narelle Watson, John Kanellis and Paolo Ferrari have all been very involved in the process to date as have OTA and ARCBS. Multiple meetings and workshops continue while the software is being built.

As well as replacing all the functions of NOMS, it is envisaged that OrganMatch will incorporate functionality such as: an organ matching simulation environment, "survival matching" functionality, clinician functions (eg. viewing, report generation), OrganMatch mobile software for tablets and smart phones, and self-service reporting.

Australian Kidney Exchange / Paired Kidney Exchange Programme

As many of you will have discovered by now, the National Clinical Director of the highly successful Australian Paired Kidney Exchange (AKX) programme, Professor Paolo Ferrari will be leaving his role to return to Switzerland. The programme Coordinator Claudia Woodroffe will also be retiring from her role. A/Professor Peter Hughes (Royal Melbourne Hospital) has been appointed to take on the role National Clinical Director once Paolo departs. A smooth transition is anticipated and there should be no disruption to the continued operation of the programme.

Paolo and Claudia have done an amazing job over the last 6 years, creating a highly successful and internationally recognised programme which has benefitted many patients and their families. They are to be congratulated for their contribution and for the great success of the programme.

AKX match runs have and will continue to occur four times per year under the guidance of the AKX Director and Co-ordinator. More than 200 transplants have been performed to date. Publicity remains high as the programme attracts significant interest from the media and the public. **Please note - there are AKX guidelines for dealing with the media. These have been circulated to all units but are also available from the AKX director and co-ordinator.**

Inclusion of New Zealand in the paired kidney exchange program is planned and hoped for the future. Various issues are being resolved including things such as minor differences in protocols, the transportation of organs and timing of surgery.

The RTAC AKX clinical oversight sub-committee (RACOS), regularly reviews urgent issues that arise, performs audits of match runs, and provides some aspects of clinical governance and review of the AKX Programme on behalf of RTAC. The Subcommittee feeds back to RTAC and convenes outside the biannual RTAC meetings by way of teleconference. This process has been running very well since it was set up in 2014.

Resources and funding for RTAC / Anticipated future projects

The funding model for RTAC provides support for two face to face meetings of the entire membership per year. This is through OTA and its funding agreements with TSANZ and the Australian Red Cross Blood Service (in relation to NOMS support). The number and complexity of issues to review is very large. It has long been apparent that these meetings alone, do not provide sufficient opportunity to leverage the group's expertise adequately in relation to the issues it should be addressing. The RTAC AKX Clinical Oversight Committee (RACOS) has had good support through the AKX programme, the "Allocation" and "Histocompatibility" subcommittees have not had a clear stream of support. In recent times ad hoc requests to TSANZ and OTA have been required to progress specific projects through smaller RTAC working groups. This approach will continue.

Further working group sessions will be needed to discuss "Allocation Reform". Key components towards this include "Survival Matching" functionality and approaches to donors with perceived or known risk of "Disease Transmission" (infection, malignancy).

A large amount of work is also required to assess and model how we might better manage immunological issues in allocation (eg. HLA matching, HLA antibodies, preventing sensitisation in the young, etc.).

TSANZ Machine Perfusion Workshop. 13 Sep 2016

A workshop was held in Melbourne on the 13th Sep to discuss and review machine perfusion technologies for all organs. Speakers and invited guests were selected from all states and organ groups via TSANZ, OTA and the organ specific advisory groups.

From a renal perspective, there was limited enthusiasm for implementing a national approach to hypothermic kidney perfusion as the main benefits were viewed as being minimally worthwhile. These benefits are i) allowing a prolongation of cold ischaemia time which is not necessarily desirable, and ii) decreasing delayed graft function. Long term benefit is not proven.

Developing a system for normothermic kidney perfusion was viewed as a more promising activity. This would currently require specific transplant groups to promote this at an experimental level. NSW and Victoria each have transplant surgeons interested in this area that are further examining possibilities for the future.

John Kanellis
Chair, RTAC
May 2017

Appendix

RTAC Members (as at May 2017)

Representation	Member
Vic/Tas Representative & Chair	A/Prof. John Kanellis
Vic/Tas Representative	A/Prof. Peter Hughes
NSW/ACT Representative	A/Prof. Angela Webster
NSW/ACT Representative	A/Prof. Kate Wyburn
Qld Representative	Dr. Scott Campbell
Qld Representative	Mr. Anthony Griffin
SA/NT Representative	Prof. Graeme Russ
SA/NT Representative	Prof. Toby Coates
WA Representative	Dr. Wai Lim
WA Representative	Prof. Lloyd d'Orsogna
New Zealand Representative	Dr. Ian Dittmer
New Zealand Representative	Dr. Nicholas Cross
Renal Transplant Surgeon	Dr. Christine Russell
AKX Medical Director	Prof. Paolo Ferrari
TSANZ Representative	(Prof. Toby Coates)
ANZSN Representative	Dr. Ross Francis
National Laboratories Representative	Rhonda Holdsworth
ATCA Representative	Luke Datson
Consumer Representative	(Vacant)
Consumer/Community Representative	Mr. Carl Pedersen
NOMS Manager	Prof. Jeremy Chapman
Ex Officio	
NOMS Analyst	Ms. Jenni Wright
DonatLife State Managers	Ms. Tina Coco
ARCBS Lab Manager NSW	Ms Narelle Watson
ARCBS Software Expert	Chris Rankin
Current Standing Invited Guests	
OTA National Medical Director	Dr. Helen Opdam
OTA Director Clinical Programs	Eva Mehakovic
Paediatrics Representative	Dr. Fiona Mackie
Secretariat	
TSANZ Project Officer	Iman Ali

RTAC working groups and subcommittees requiring additional meetings and teleconferences to progress specific projects.

RTAC AKX Clinical Oversight Subcommittee - RACOS (as at May 2017)

RTAC State Rep & Subcommittee Chair	Peter Hughes
RTAC State Rep	Kate Wyburn
RTAC State Rep	Scott Campbell
RTAC State Rep	Robert Carroll
RTAC State Rep	Wai Lim
Surgical Rep	Christine Russell
AKX Director	Paolo Ferrari
AKX Deputy Director	Stella McGinn
AKX Laboratory Rep	Linda Cantwell
AKX Program Coordinator	Claudia Woodroffe

Allocation Subcommittee (as at May 2017)

RTAC VIC State Rep & Subcommittee Chair	John Kanellis
RTAC NSW State Rep	Kate Wyburn
RTAC QLD State Rep	Scott Campbell
RTAC WA State Rep	Wai Lim
RTAC SA State Rep	Graeme Russ
RTAC Consumer Rep	Carl Pederson
RTAC Surgical Rep	Christine Russell
Paediatric Rep	Fiona Mackie
ANZDATA Rep	Phil Clayton
Laboratory Rep	Rhonda Holdsworth

Histocompatibility Subcommittee (as at May 2017)

National Lab Rep	Rhonda Holdsworth (Chair)
SA Lab Rep	TBC
WA Lab Rep	TBC
NSW Lab Rep	Narelle Watson
VIC Lab Rep	Fiona Hudson
QLD Lab Rep	Alicia Thornton
AKX Lab Rep	Linda Cantwell
NOMS Software Rep as required	Chris Rankin
SA Rep	Toby Coates
WA Rep	Lloyd d'Orsogna
VIC Rep	Peter Hughes
NSW Rep	Kate Wyburn
QLD Rep	Ross Francis
Paediatric Rep	Joshua Kausman
ANZDATA Rep	Phil Clayton

RTAC affiliated committees requiring representation from RTAC (as at May 2017).

Significant projects are being undertaken within these groups requiring frequent meetings, teleconferences, project development and document review.

TLRG (OTA)	Toby Coates Graeme Russ John Kanellis
OTA AKX Governance Committee	Peter Hughes John Kanellis Paolo Ferrari - AKX
NOMS Strategic Governance Committee	John Kanellis Kate Wyburn Jeremy Chapman Rhonda Holdsworth Narelle Watson Paolo Ferrari – AKX
NOMS User Group (NUG)	Rhonda Holdsworth Narelle Watson John Kanellis Kate Wyburn
OrganMatch Steering Committee	Rhonda Holdsworth John Kanellis