



TRANSPLANTATION SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

Annual Newsletter 2018

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Editorial Comment

Dear TSANZ Members,

Welcome to the 2018 edition of the Society newsletter.

This year produced another stimulating annual scientific meeting, held at the Melbourne Convention centre. The convenors, Lucy Sullivan and Rosemary Masterson, organized an excellent meeting, again ably supported by SPEC. Attendance at the ASM was comparable with 2017. Congratulations to all the travel grant and Early Career Researcher Award (formerly the Young Investigator Award) recipients and showcasing the best basic science and clinical research in Australia and New Zealand. Special mention must go to the Ian McKenzie Prize for Outstanding Contribution in Transplantation winner Germaine Wong, the Mark Cocks Transplant Research Scholarship

winner Paul Lawton and the winner of the inaugural Aviva Rosenfeld Award for Excellence in Patient Care in Transplantation Desiree Robson. The PGC/Masterclass series, organized by John Whitlam and Rhonda Holdsworth, was exceptionally well attended this year. A new pre-meeting addition to the ASM was a Cutting-edge Science session, assuredly arranged by Darren Lee and Lucy Sullivan. This was an exciting part of the program including a broad range of topics from the microbiome to sequencing to state-of-the-art microscopy for detailing cellular movement. We plan to continue this programming for 2019.

The ASM and PGC incorporated highly regarded international speakers including Dr Sandy Feng, Dr Stanley Jordan, Professor Vijay Kuchroo and A/Professor Kathryn Tinckam. The Society saw an increase in submitted abstract numbers compared to 2017, covering a range of clinical and basic science research. Students and trainee conference attendance remains steady, albeit quite low (<20% of all attendees at the ASM) and we would continue to encourage senior faculty to promote junior researchers and trainees to experience the conference and present their research.

I would also like to acknowledge the contribution of Sommer Twycross and Nieves Piaggio who handle everything to do with TSANZ all of the time – the council and the Society are grateful.

The 2019 ASM will be held in Sydney from July 28th-30th at the Holme Building, Sydney University. The PGC on Saturday 27th and the Masterclass (clinical and cutting-edge science) on Sunday 28th. The scheduling change of the ASM is to avoid timing a meeting too close to the World Congress of Nephrology.

I look forward to welcoming you all to Sydney next year

Natasha Rogers

-- 1 -- December 2018

President's Message

Dear Membership,

Transplantation in Australia and New Zealand is doing well. Last year, the Organ and Tissue Authority reported over 20 donors per million; numbers that seemed unachievable several years ago. Increasingly we are working to develop ways to ensure that organ availability is tied to equity and while maximising organ survival.

In my small world of paediatrics, we have seen many of the changes lead to huge improvements for children we care for. Priority listing for children from the time of dialysis, listing for small kidneys for children too small to receive adult kidneys, paired kidney exchange, ABO mismatched transplants, and better treatments for recurrent disease have all improved life for these children and their families. For paediatric liver transplants the increase in organs has stemmed the risk of death on the waiting list. Many of these changes reflect the larger changes occurring for adult recipients and donors.

The annual general meeting organised by Rosemary Masterson and Lucy Sullivan in Melbourne showcased the very best the society has in education, research and engagement. There were excellent overseas speakers with Sandy Feng and Stan Jordan from the West Coast, Vijay Kuchroo from Boston and Katherine Tinckam from Toronto providing a world standard insight into basic immunology, antibody mediated rejection and tolerance. These were complemented by the local speakers including Axel Kallies explaining all things immunological and Misty Jenkins explaining unconscious bias. We also benefited from Carmel Hawley from the AKTN adding to the increasing interest in clinical trials in the transplant area. Many of our younger members presented amazing work in the early career session which demonstrated the breadth and quality of research in this area. The winners of the Lafferty Award A/Professor Charmaine Simeonovic, the Mark Cocks Transplant Research Scholarship Dr Paul Lawton, the Ian McKenzie Award A/Professor Germaine Wong and the Aviva Rosenfeld Award for Excellence in Patient Care in Transplantation Desiree Robson, who was able to receive this from

David, Aviva's husband, were all impressive recipients of these awards.

The meeting also saw an increasing level of excellent trainee education with a highly successful Post Graduate Course organised by John Whitlam and Rhonda Holdsworth and the ongoing development and success of the Masterclass organised by Darren Lee and Veena Roberts which has been aimed at providing broad education and upskilling for non-transplanting physicians.

The education portfolio of the Society has been expanded and developed by the SPEC team led by Kelli McDonald and Daniel Chambers. This has included overseeing the AGM and associated meetings and a large number of travel grants that have sent a record number of our researchers to the recent TTS meeting in Madrid including 2 winners of the Mentor Mentee awards, Hong Chee Chew & Mentor: Peter MacDonald and Sam Adhikary & Mentor: Debbie Watson and Karen Dwyer receiving the Woman in Transplantation award.

We continue to benefit from engagement with government through the Organ and Tissue Authority and have a number of shared projects ably managed by Kim Rawson our project officer. These have included the establishment of an indigenous working group with broad representation and funding support from the Minister Ken Wyatt; projects on paediatric donation and allocation and support for RTAC which led by John Kanellis has been working hard on implementing improved allocation for patients and ongoing work on infectious disease led by Sara White. At OTA we were sorry to lose Eva Mehakovic but have welcomed Denise Woodward and Lucinda Barry as CEO along with Helen Opdam, who as the medical director, has driven work on vigilance. The establishment of the Board and the recent EY inquiry into Transplantation reflect the changes that are ongoing in this area. Both Ministers in our area in Greg Hunt, Health Minister and Ken Wyatt, Minister covering Transplantation have been actively involved and supportive of transplantation, especially in supporting initiatives to improve indigenous health.

Council has worked hard on issues that are important to the Society and to patients and their families and donors and their families. In the

area of equity, we have tried to ensure opportunity for all in the society including working on gender issues and issues of representation. Nick Cross has strongly represented the NZ view, Bronwyn Levvey has been our first Nurse Consultant on Council, Nick Shackel has been an advocate for academic and liver related issues as well as non-transplanting hospitals, Rob Carroll has kept the money tight and well spent, Natasha Rogers has been excellent in maintaining communications with the society and is organising 2019 with Bill Mulley. Kelli MacDonald has pulled dual roles as scientific rep and head of SPEC, Chris Russell has cut to the chase as our surgical rep, and Nigel Palk has been our ATCA representative and has helped discussions on many detailed issues around testing and allocation. Toby Coates as president-elect has been a wise and thoughtful member with great energy to drive many of the projects that Council is interested in and a great support for myself and the Council. The Adelaide preponderance has led to a Council meeting in Adelaide which was viewed as highly successful and the basis for a future AGM there. TSANZ had benefitted enormously from its administrative team of Sommer, Nieves, and Kim and we are all grateful for their efforts.

We have worked hard to build links with other groups and societies to work for improvements in care for patients. These have included the revamped Kidney Health Australia, Transplant Australia, ANZSN with Ross and Jonathan and the inclusion of greater transplant content in their AGM, ANZPNA, ANZDATA, BEATCKD and the AKTN as well as internationally with TTS. This has led with OTA to much greater engagement with government and support for the changes to transplantation which the recent EY review reflects. We have also improved our relationship with the Asia Pacific region especially with the work of Richard Allen and VSOT in promoting transplantation in Vietnam.

We are enormously grateful to both Astellas and Novartis who have been our major sponsors and who as well as supporting our AGM have repeatedly stepped up to assist projects across the transplant field.

In the upcoming year we will again have the AGM in Sydney moved to July for the WCN

that is on in Melbourne in April. As with previous years we will support a satellite meeting. This one at the WCN will cover both, First Nations including indigenous transplantation and the Canadian Australian collaborations including work on trials.

We look forward to meeting soon and celebrating the community that is transplantation and the patients and donors that we care for.

Steve Alexander
President, TSANZ

Secretary's Report

Steve Alexander (President) will step-down at the next ASM, succeeded by Patrick (Toby) Coates. The council terms of office for Rob Carroll, Nick Cross and Nicholas Shackel also expire in July 2019. Rob, in particular, has done a fabulous job as Treasurer. The Society has circulated an EOI as positions for 2 councillors and the president-elect will be available for nomination. We encourage all members, regardless of seniority or gender, to nominate for these positions.

We have 565 current members, which has decreased in the last year. However, we still have a dearth of junior medical staff and researchers joining the Society. To encourage student membership the council has decided to substantially drop membership prices, and this was ratified at the AGM this year. Please encourage your students to join and take advantage of financial incentives associated with TSANZ membership, including travel grants, annual scientific meeting prizes and fellowship awards. We also want to broaden the reach and inclusivity of society membership, so please encourage your hepatology, haematology, thoracic and cardiothoracic clinical and research colleagues to join the Society.

A TSANZ branch of Women in Transplantation was created in 2016 to promote gender equity and diversity within the Society. Supported by Novartis, we have been able to hold 2 formal mentor/mentee sessions. I would like to emphasize that this group is not exclusively for women, clinicians, or established University faculty, and we would like to welcome anyone interested in joining. We are hoping to schedule

a third instalment at the ASM in 2019.

The annual scientific meeting was held in Melbourne this year, to great success. The highlights from the meeting, including prize-winners, are featured in this newsletter. Additional meetings of interest to society members are also listed in the Newsletter.

Please feel free to contact me with any comments or questions related to TSANZ activities.

Natasha Rogers
Honorary Secretary, TSANZ

Treasurer's Report

The financial position of TSANZ is stable, though total assets are down to \$1.3 million (2108) from \$1.4 million (2017). We have stability in subscription revenue over the last 3 years (approximately \$140,000) and have adhered to the budget set for the ASM (\$200,000 +/-10%) I thank the organisers of the ASM for their efforts in this regard.

Revenue from the ASM has risen year on year from \$135,000 in the last year of Canberra to \$181,000 from Melbourne. Correspondingly however, in 2018, there has been a fall in sponsorship by about \$40,000 from the longer-term average.

Going forward – I suspect ASM revenue will probably peak and sponsorship will either remain at the new lower level or even diminish. Therefore, TSANZ council may consider minor increases in ASM fees or subscriptions going forward.

Rob Carroll
Treasurer, TSANZ

Advisory Committees & Working Groups

The Advisory Committees and Working Groups gained a new project officer, Kim Rawson in February this year. Kim's background is in Federal Government and she has a personal connection with transplantation with her Mother undergoing a heart transplant in 2017. A new funding agreement with the Organ and Tissue Authority commenced on 1st July 2018 and expires after four years.

In the last 12 months there has been significant work accomplished, including the project; *Improving access and outcomes to kidney transplantation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people*, which received funding support from the Minister for Indigenous Health, the Hon. Ken Wyatt. A detailed analysis of available evidence will be provided to the Department of Health and will include evidence of gaps around steps to waitlisting and to long term transplant function as well as improving the health status of Indigenous patients on dialysis to improve their capacity to be listed. Working groups have been constructed to cover immunosuppressive protocols and prophylaxis for infection. Next year at the World Congress of Nephrology in April a workshop on "First Nations Transplantation" will be held in conjunction with the Canadian Transplantation Society.

Dr Sarah White's study regarding the risk of infectious diseases in transplantation is to be published in The Transplantation Journal in early 2019. The TSANZ Clinical Guidelines are currently being revised in relation to best practice and donor assessment for risk of infectious disease transmission informed by the results of Dr Sarah White's literature review.

The Advisory Committees & Working Groups continue to work closely with the Transplant Liaison Reference Group (TLRG) to keep clear lines of communication between the transplant sector and the Organ and Tissue Authority. We welcome the appointment of Lucinda Barry as the new CEO of Donate Life who has a wealth of experience in the donation sector.

The 10th anniversary of the Declaration of Istanbul was acknowledged this year and the new updated Declaration was released. An updated version of the guideline is available at <https://www.declarationofistanbul.org/resource/policy-documents/825-2018-edition-of-declaration-of-istanbul>.

The contribution of all of the working groups to the ongoing business of Australian transplantation is gratefully acknowledged.

Patrick (Toby) Coates
Chair, TSANZ Advisory Committees & Working Groups

SPEC Report

2018 marked a continuation of the ASM's new format and an opportunity for Melbourne to strut its scientific and transplant stuff for the transplant community. Convened by Rosemary Masterson and Lucy Sullivan, this year's meeting featured a roll-call of some of the world's most esteemed transplanters and transplant scientists including Sandy Feng, Director of Abdominal Transplant Surgery at UCSF; Stanley Jordan, Director of Nephrology & Transplant Immunology at Cedars-Sinai; Vijay Kuchroo, Director of the Evergrande Centre for Immunologic Diseases at Harvard and Kathryn Tinckam, Medical Director HLA Laboratory and Transplant Nephrologist, University of Toronto. Their presence made for an invigorating scientific meeting, and on the social front there was general consensus that the dinner venue selected by Lucy and Rosemary was the best for years.

Overall the meeting was highly successful. Registrates were comparable with the 272 in Brisbane in 2017 and the 230 in Sydney in 2016 providing further support to the changes in format and location which were instituted in 2015.

The Masterclass was truly outstanding in 2018, with wonderful talks from Kathryn Tinckam on 'What on earth makes an antibody positive anyway? The search for relevance in a sea of numbers', Joshua Kausman on eplet matching and Alex Thompson on hepatitis C positive donors, and has become a TSANZ staple. For the first time the Masterclass ran a concurrent session "Cutting edge science – new ideas and approaches" that was well attended and very well received. This session presented innovative state-of-the-art research aimed at exploring how basic science can be translated into the clinic, where we listened to spectacular basic science presentations from Dr Richard Kitching on imaging the glomerulus, Dr Linda Wakim on resident memory T cells, Dr Ben Marsland on the microbiome and Dr Oanh Nguyen on single cell RNA sequencing. The Post-graduate Course was also very well received, with excellent talks from TSANZ's great and good and some of our international visitors.

Whilst Kathryn Tinckam's talk during the ASM again shone, everyone in the room paused to consider their own biases during the highly

entertaining and thought-provoking session from Paul Lawton & Misty Jenkins: The importance of unconscious bias in decision making. TSANZ will continue to work towards being a fully diverse and inclusive society. And finally, on the less serious side, the Great Debate "Australia Should Allow Public Solicitation of Organ Donors" was an incredibly entertaining end to the proceedings. We saw the pro team of Kathryn Tinckam and Greg Snell go up against Sandy Feng and Graham Starkey in a debate that at times got a bit personal but was highly humorous!

Now Sydney 2019 beckons. The 2019 ASM will be held at the Holme Building, Sydney University from 27th-30th July 2019. Bill Mulley and Natasha Rogers are shouldering the convening workload; Karen Keung and Michael Collins have been appointed as the PGC organisers, and Karen Dwyer and Darren Lee will oversee the Masterclass program. SPEC looks forward very much to working with the convenors to deliver a truly outstanding Sydney Congress.

After 5 really exciting years where SPEC has overseen significant changes to the Society's programming and educational offerings, Kelli and I have come to the end of our tenure as SPEC co-chairs. We take this opportunity to thank SPEC members, Sommer, Nieves and Council for their support and friendship and are very pleased to welcome Wai Lim and Lucy Sullivan who will commence as co-chairs from the 2019 ASM. Until then, on behalf of SPEC, we wish you a very happy and restful holiday season. See you in 2019!

Dan Chambers and Kelli MacDonald
Co-Chairs of Spec

Issues for Women in Transplantation sponsored by Novartis

Women in Transplantation was established in 2016 through TSANZ, and we have been helped by financial support from Novartis and significant enthusiasm from Urmila D'Cunha (Novartis Business Manager).

An initial workshop was held at Novartis headquarters (Sydney) in November 2016, aimed at developing a vision for women in the TSANZ, building on SAGE (Science in

Australia Gender Equity). A second full-day workshop was held in August 2018 focusing on mentor-/mentee-ship. It was great to see a representation from junior trainees, transplant co-ordinators and clinicians of both genders. We worked with mentoring trainer George Gertos who took us through attributions and skill sets for “what good looks like”.

Establishing this group has led to a recognition that broader diversity, gender distribution and inclusivity are all needed within TSANZ. We are approaching the goals set in these initial meetings by considering state based mentoring programmes in the future, surveying the transplant community for future training to ensure programs are built around wider need.

With the ongoing support of Novartis, we will be initiating a mentoring/networking workshop just prior to the annual scientific meeting to support a captive audience, broaden the access, and enable opportunities for training in action. Expressions of interest will again be sent to all TSANZ members. We would strongly encourage all members, trainees, senior faculty, scientists and clinicians to attend.

Natasha Rogers
Honorary Secretary, TSANZ

Young Adult Clinics and Transition Clinics Visits- supported by Astellas

We have now had 16 interstate and/or New Zealand health professionals visit the Women and Children’s Transition clinics and/or the SA Health Young Adult Clinics in Adelaide over 2017-18. Feedback has been very positive. Thanks once again to Astellas for this initiative.

Rob Carroll
Treasurer, TSANZ

**TSANZ Annual Dinner
@ Showtime Events Centre,
61 South Wharf Promenade,
Melbourne
Monday 30th April 2018**



The 2018 International ASM speakers Professor Vijay K Kuchroo, A/Professor Kathryn Tinckam, Dr Sandy Feng and Dr Stanley Jordan with TSANZ President Prof. Steve Alexander (excited at receiving their Akubra Hats)



TSANZ President Prof. Steve Alexander with Paul Lawton the winner of the Mark Cocks Transplant Research Scholarship and Matty Hempstalk, Transplant Australia



Ian McKenzie Award winner Germaine Wong with TSANZ President Prof. Steve Alexander



TSANZ/Lafferty Award winner Charmaine Simeonovic with TSANZ President Prof. Steve Alexander



Urmila D'Cunha (Novartis) with TSANZ President Prof. Steve Alexander presenting an Early Career Researcher Award for Clinical Science



Inaugural TSANZ Aviva Rosenfeld Award for Excellence in Patient Care in Transplantation Desiree Robson (St Vincent's NSW) with David Rosenfeld



The fun begins – "Nutbush City Limits"



KHA winner (Clinical) Wayne Hawthorne with Shilpa Jesudason KHA

PRIZES AWARDED IN 2018

President's Prize (Basic Science)

Andrew Wilkinson

President's Prize (Clinical)

Nitesh Rao

Mark Cock Tx Research Scholarship

Paul Lawton

Ian McKenzie Award

Germaine Wong

Lafferty Award

Charmaine Simeonovic

KHA Award (Clinical)

Wayne Hawthorne

KHA Award (Laboratory)

Geoff Zhang

Aviva Rosenfeld Award for Excellence in Patient Care in Transplantation

Desiree Robson

St Vincent's, Darlinghurst

Early Career Researcher Awards Novartis

Anna Francis, Paul Lawton, Revathy Manickavasagar, Zi Qin Ng, Madhu Prita Prakash, Nitesh Rao, Sara Shahrestani, Karen Waller, Susan Wan, Tracey Ying

Early Career Researcher Awards TSANZ

Mary El-Rashid, Nicholas Geraghty, Ahmer Hameed, Juewan Kim, Khai Leong, Katie Lineburg, Brenda Rosales, Sebastian Stead, Andrew Wilkinson, Yuanfei Zhao

Best Poster Award (Basic Science)

Holly Bolton

Best Poster Award (Clinical)

Susan Wan

Membership

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

TSANZ

Amy Rose Atkinson, Sarah Jane Byrne, Linda Suzanne Cantwell, Jamie Cheong, Chanel Hsu Yiing Chong, Jessica Conway, Amelia Rose Cossart, Jason Diep, Sine Donnellan, Mary El-Rashid, Basu Gopal, Deidre (Dee) Hahn, Jack Edward Heron, Prue Emily Howson, Sebastian Hultin, Kamyia Kameshwa, Stephanie Kuo, Po Yee Mia Leung, Yan Jun Li, Michaela Lucas, Avik Majumdar, Samantha Sharon Murphy, Gunashree Nagaraju, Kylie Ngu, Nimshitha Pavathuparambil Abdul Manaph, Griffith Boord Perkins, Ana Laura Pimentel, Madhu Prita Prakash, Amy Prosser, Handoo Rhee, Sarah Scheuer, Sara Shahrestani, Amin Sheikh, Reshma Purushottam Shettigar, Susan Mei-Ling Siew, Lee Skeat, Negar Talaei Zanjani, Nishanta Tangirala, Gabriella Tassone, Anastasia Volovets, Alison Weightman, Melanie Wyld, Bryan Yong

ATCA/TSANZ

Shan Elise Cairnes, Jade Mai Carey, Sumon Chanda, Alexandra Hodgson

TNA/TSANZ

Alana Rochelle Goldman, Donna Hickling, Margaret Joy Johnston, Belinda Luscombe, Jessica Anne Natakupa, Julie Pavlovic, Toni Michelle Radford, Sue Ellen Rixon, Megan Sandiford, Hilary Ann Stedman, Calina Ting, Susan Virtue, Claire Ann West

RESIGNATIONS

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

East Toni, Hutchison Brian, Killen John, Kumarasinghe Gayathri, MacQuillan Gerry, Mahmood Usman, Patterson Imogen, Pollock Graeme, Zwierzchoniewska Monika, Barker Kristeen, Flabouris Katerina, Straw Sarah, Balderson Glenda, Sandrin Mauro, Keogh Anne, Walker Mandy, Bryen Erin, Duncan Courtney, Henriksen Aimee, Holmes Kath, Lacey Jeanette, Minio Georgia, Northam Holly, Pumpa Emily, Russell Tara, Wells Erin

CANCELLATIONS

Since the last newsletter, Council cancelled the following members due to non-payment:

Afshar Soheil, Aravindan Anantha-krishnapuram, Barraclough Nicholas, Carrington Emma, Choong Fui Jiun, Evangelidis Nicole Maree, Furlong Timothy James, Ghoraishi Tina, Hancock Rebecca, Jamieson Nathan, Kavarthapol Jayaraman Vinoth Kumar, Keogh Anne, Lawson Malcolm, Manzoor Momena, Pannu Kavita, Qian Yi Wen, Reynolds Annie, Rose Peter Donald, Rutherford David, Tan Yixiong

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.

Travel Grant Award Reports

American Transplant Congress (ATC)

2nd - 6th June, 2018

Seattle, USA

I am incredibly grateful to the TSANZ for supporting my travels to Seattle to attend one of the premier transplant meetings. I presented two posters regarding long-term cancer and clinical outcomes for Australian and New Zealand participants in five randomised controlled trials of Everolimus; both were rewarded posters of distinction.

For me, some of the most interesting sessions included the following:

1. Consequences of the opioid epidemic in the United States: contrary to popular belief, data presented showed that only a small percentage of opioid-related deaths were converted to donation. Maximising utilisation would result in over 2000 more transplant annually; thus, more research is needed to understand the barriers to maximising donation.

2. Calcineurin-inhibitor minimisation regimens: alternative CNI-minimisation regimens for maintenance immunosuppression remains hugely topical. This year, the TRANSFORM trial (everolimus with reduced CNI vs. standard dose CNI + mycophenolate in kidney transplantation) showed some encouraging results, showing a comparable incidence of death, graft loss, the incidence of biopsy-prove acute rejection and renal function. Similarly, everolimus with reduced CNI was found to be superior to standard CNI-based triple therapy, 12 months after lung transplantation in a multi-centre German study. Longer term results are awaited for both trials. Another promising compound (CFZ533) is in the early phases of clinical trials. CFZ533 is a humanised monoclonal antibody preventing CD40 pathway signaling and activation of CD40+ cells. Twelve-month results showed promising results in outcomes such as similar rejection, graft loss and death compared with standard-CNI based triple therapy (CNI, MMF, steroids) and improved renal function in ~50 kidney transplant recipients.

3. Hepatitis C positive donors: although still extremely limited in long-term data, there is collectively more information regarding the outcomes of Hepatitis C viraemic organs into non-viraemic recipients in the short term. In the context of effective direct-acting antiviral therapy for HCV, some transplant centres have shown up to 100% sustained virologic response at 4 weeks. In another session, quality-of-life at 6 and 12- months among Hep C negative patients who received a hepatitis C infected kidney remained stable or improved with time. Overall, a lot more research is required in this area before it can become standard practice.

Seattle proved to be a fantastic city to host the ATC 2018. Despite Seattle's reputation for frequent rain, the meeting received only a few days of light drizzle. Along with the inspiring conference, I enjoyed "pretty-good" coffee amongst a laid-back atmosphere. This experience has thus far been one of my favourite international meetings, and I whole-heartedly thank the TSANZ again for providing me with the financial support.

Tracey Ying

27th International Congress of The Transplantation Society (TTS) 30th June - 5th July, 2018 Madrid, Spain

I would like to thank the TSANZ for providing me with a travel grant to participate as an oral presenter at the 27th International Congress for The Transplantation Society in Madrid, from the 30 June to 5 July 2018.

With this help I was also able to attend the Post-Graduate courses, which provided an excellent update of transplantation science from leading experts and tips for surviving academia that I will remember my whole career. The Young Members activities organised by TTS this year were incredibly helpful for a first-timer to the congress, which began with a short orientation and included poster tours, catch-up sessions and networking events with key opinion leaders. I have made some invaluable connections at these events with other young investigators and was able to glean some advice from key opinion leaders.

My presentation on "Cancer mortality in kidney transplant recipients: a cohort study of Australia

and New Zealand” in one of the first sessions included evidence for excess mortality from cancer compared to the general population, with no change over the past 30 years. There were some excellent talks highlighting the increasing burden of cancer in transplantation, including by C. Unterrainer who demonstrated an increased risk of site-specific cancer recurrence post-transplant, but no difference in risk for new cancers in recipients with cancer history post-transplant. There were also some promising studies investigating epigenetic biomarkers for cancer surveillance, including 16 differentially methylated regions specific to cutaneous SCC by F.S. Peters. Lastly, presentations on advances in our understanding of the influence of sex in transplantation by B. Foster, and higher resolution HLA typing for organ matching by F. Class were invaluable for informing them methods of my own work.

Thank you TSANZ for such a worthwhile opportunity.

Brenda Maria Rosales

I would like to thank TSANZ for the International travel award which allowed me to attend the 27th International Congress of The Transplantation Society (TTS) in Madrid, Spain.

I presented my work entitled “Characterization of 3D-Printed Human Regulatory T-Cells” on the first day of the congress at the campfire session for Islet Transplantation. The format of this session was quite different to other oral presentations I had been to. The campfire sessions for different topics were set up around the edges of the exhibition hall. Each campfire session had a circle of chairs and three monitors in the middle of the circle. Each presentation consisted of 5 minutes of presentation followed by 5 minutes of discussion with peers. I personally really enjoyed the campfire sessions however it was rather hard to hear the presenters sometimes which could have been significantly improved with a mic.

I focused on going to sessions that were relevant to my research interests such as islet transplantation and Tregs. A presentation by Professor Qizhi Tang in the State-of-the-Art session for new therapeutic approaches to Transplantation, entitled “Nudging clinical Treg responses”, was very interesting to me and

I learnt a lot from this talk. A plenary session entitled “Future development in Transplantation – From Immunotherapy to Tissue Engineering” was the highlight of the congress for me. In this plenary session, professor Abul K. Abbas and Dr. Marcela V. Maus presented on the fundamentals of Tregs and CAR T-cells, respectively, and I thoroughly enjoyed every minute of their presentations.

Another aspect of the congress I enjoyed was the networking events. Both young investigators networking event and congress networking event were extremely well planned at amazing venues (one of the best rooftop bars in Madrid and Palace of Duques de Pastrana, respectively) and I enjoyed meeting brilliant researchers from all around the world.

Again, I would like to show my gratitude and appreciation to TSANZ for this amazing opportunity.

Juewan Kim

I was very fortunate to have the opportunity attend the 27th International Congress of the Transplantation Society in Madrid. Here I was also able to present my research presentations on “Primary Central Nervous System Post-Transplantation Lymphoproliferative Disorder: A Case Series” and “Outcomes of Screening for BK Viraemia and BK Nephropathy in Renal Transplant Recipients: A Single Centre Cohort Study”. I very much enjoyed this session, as it allowed for an in-depth discussion of my work and gave me the opportunity to reflect on my research.

The conference program allowed for excellent educational opportunities for clinicians, scientists, and surgeons to improve their knowledge and collaborate on the most recent advances in transplantation. I was able to attend several sessions, which covered immunology, complications post transplantation, recipient selection and organ allocation. One session gave an excellent summary of the evidence for treatment of chronic antibody mediated rejection, including results of IL6 receptor blockade. As a junior nephrologist I found the sessions on ‘assessing transplant candidate’s risk’ and ‘post-transplant complications’ particularly informative. This session covered disease recurrence, focussing on when to consider transplantation in the various glomerular diseases. It also highlighted the

different probabilities of recurrence amongst the glomerular disease, and the risk factors that may be associated with disease recurrence, including genetic mutations in adult primary focal segmental glomerular sclerosis and atypical haemolytic uraemic syndrome, where it can be helpful in prediction of risk recurrence. The session on 'histological predictors of premature graft loss' gave an informative and comprehensive overview.

I also particularly enjoyed the interactive presentations on post-transplant complications. I attended a case discussion of local experts regarding particularly difficult cases of CMV and BKV in transplant recipients and participated in a lunchtime discussion on post-transplant complications and malignancies. Finally, I explored the beautiful city of Madrid during summer and enjoyed the incredible tapas and wine the city had to offer. Once again, I would like to thank the TSANZ again for their generous support of a travel grant that allowed me the opportunity to attend this congress

Kushani Jayasinghe

Thanks to the generous support of TSANZ, I was able to attend the 27th International Congress of the Transplantation Society from June 30th to July 5th, 2018 in Madrid Spain. This meeting provided an incredible scientific program that combined basic science with clinical application across a range of transplant applications.

It was a highlight for me to be able to present my most recent research, developed over the latter stages of my PhD candidature. This work focused on our identification of the novel expression profile of MARCH-family E3 Ubiquitinases in the gastrointestinal epithelium together with their role in regulating MHC II presentation by non-professional antigen presenting cells during graft-versus-host disease (GVHD) onset. Attendance at this meeting made it possible for me to discuss my work with international experts from both laboratory-based research and clinical backgrounds alike.

The keynote and invited speakers were internationally respected leaders in the field of transplantation. A highlight session for me was the plenary: Future Developments in Transplantation – From Immunotherapy to Tissue Engineering, which included a

remarkable presentation by Dr Marcela V. Maus from the USA on the advancement of CAR T cells in cancer immunotherapy and which I found particularly interesting and relevant to my ongoing research interests. In addition, the meeting included an extensive list of oral presentation sessions that were extremely informative, including the T cell biology sessions and Immune monitoring following transplantation. Finally, a state-of-the-art session focused on the delivery of co-stimulation blockade in the clinical setting was also very interesting as my research has now focused on field of Immunotherapy. In addition to the presentation sessions, the TTS Young Members Social event evening was another conference highlight. Here I was able to meet other young researchers and discuss my work in a relaxed and beautiful setting as the sun set over Madrid.

The International Congress of the Transplantation Society provided a tremendous opportunity for me to engage with research that was extremely relevant to my ongoing work in the field of transplantation but most importantly it allowed me to present my own research and to engage with international researchers within the field of transplantation. Thank you to TSANZ for the International Travel Award and this exceptional opportunity.

Katie Lineburg

I would like to take this opportunity to appreciate the travel grant awarded to me by TSANZ which ensured me to present our work at the 27th international Congress of TTS, June 30-July 5, 2018 in Madrid, Spain.

I had 5 abstracts as senior author or PhD supervisor presented at this conference focusing on transplantation immunoregulation and tolerance and islet xenograft protection, including 3 orals, 1 mini-oral and 1 poster. I personally presented orally one of them entitled of "Human HLA-DR+CD27+ memory type regulatory T cells show potent xenoantigen-specific suppression in vitro", which interested many of audiences in that particular session and got useful feedbacks as well allowing us to improve this study in the future. More impressively, one of our abstracts was granted the "Young Investigator Scientific Award" among total 26 winners at this TTS conference. There were a number of abstracts on the recent

achievement around world in the development of cellular therapies for transplantation immunomodulation, including regulatory T cells (Treg), regulatory B cells (Breg), regulatory DC cells (Dreg), regulatory macrophages (Mreg) and mesenchymal stem cells (MSC), which updated our knowledge for our own study on the preparation and selection of xenoantigen-specific Treg for clinical xenotransplantation. In particular, the oral presentation entitled of “Co-stimulatory modulation of human regulatory T cells for enhanced immunotherapy” by Kathryn Wood group from University of Oxford demonstrated that CD27+CD70- Treg subset separated from human Treg after 38-day expansion with rapamycin were potent suppressive with Foxp3 stability, suggesting a new strategy towards tolerance induction. This is consistent with our finding that CD27+ was one of cell surface markers used to select xenoantigen-specific memory Treg subset for effective immunotherapy in xenotransplantation.

In summary, by attending the TTS 2018 conference I have gained valuable information and vital experience that will benefit my own research and CTRR in the future.

Shounan Yi

We very appreciated learnt lots of new findings during the 2018 transplant society. According to my research, I most targeted on immunomodulation, especially on xenotransplantation. The most important immunomodulation cell still been regulatory T cells (Tregs). Now researchers more target on antigen-specific Tregs, or more suppressive Treg subsets, such as CD27, mentioned both by Rebecca C. and Shounan Y. Both groups have result such as CD27+ Tregs has enhanced suppressive function in mixed-lymphocyte reaction (MLR) in vitro. Rebecca C.’s experiment showed human Tregs differentially altered their expression of CD27 and CD70 after in vitro expansion, and they confined the CD27+CD70-population has stronger suppressive capacity than CD27-CD70+ population both in vivo and in vitro. Also, this enhanced function can block by antibody, CD27-CD70+ population can increase their suppressive potency by α CD70 blocking antibody too. They concluded the modulation of the CD27/CD70 pathway may allow for the generation of a purer population of Tregs.

Shounan Y.’s presentation showed another possibility of CD27. Their group target on xeno-antigen specific Tregs, they screened lots of markers related to activated or “memory” Tregs, finally choose CD27 and HLA-DR. They used Tregs after stimulated with xeno-antigen during culture, sorted CD27+HLA-DR+ subsets and other subsets not CD27+HLA-DR+. Confirmed the CD27+HLA-DR+ subsets more potency in xeno-MLR in vitro, but not in polyclonal-beads stimulated MLR and allo-MLR. Indicated this population is more possible been xeno-antigen specific population, maybe the CD27 and HLA-DR can select this population. Moreover, they test the stability of CD27+HLA-DR+ Treg subsets in vitro. They cultured CD27+HLA-DR+ Treg subsets under Th17 induction environment, confirmed these subsets is more resistant to the Th17 induction environment. Indicated these subsets may more stable in vivo.

Other researchers also targeted on LAP+CD154- Tregs as xenoantigen specific Tregs. Or use rIL-2 or rIL-4 and alloantigen to activated Treg population got potent antigen-specific Treg for therapy.

Anyway, the immunotherapy for transplantation is more precisely target on the organ or cells from donor and prolong its survival and function, this is a necessary improvement and important for the transplanted patient.

Lu Cao

I would like to thank the TSANZ for supporting my travel to Madrid Spain for 27th international Congress of the Transplantation Society 2018. This was a great opportunity for me to learn more about “cutting edge” research in transplantation.

The meeting program was extensive, and covered a broad range of topics in transplantation, both scientific and clinical aspects. In the basic science session, new insights into allo-recognition pathway, targeting allo-reactive T and B cells and new cell therapeutics in transplantation, the complex functionality of innate immune cells in transplant rejection and tolerance, microbiome and immunity in the regulation of transplantation outcome, were of particular interest for my current research.

Our projects involve manipulating gut microbiome to prevent kidney transplantation rejection through regulating allo-immunity in kidney allograft rejection. The conference gave our group the opportunity to present our work entitled “High fibre diet and gut microbial metabolite SCFA induces donor specific kidney allograft tolerance in mice” in the session of T cell biology, which was one of several sessions looking at the role of T cells in transplantation. Attendance at this conference has hugely improved my knowledge of transplant immunology. Once again, I would like to thank the TSANZ for their support.

Huiling Wu

I would like to thank TSANZ for providing me with a travel grant to attend and present at the 27th International Congress of The Transplantation Society held June 30 – July 5 in Madrid, Spain. As with all big meetings the program was extensive and attending all sessions of interest an impossible task. Of particular value is that sessions were recorded and many are available for attendees and members to view online (<https://tts.guide/webapp/programme>).

Prior to the meeting I took the opportunity to attend one of the basic science post-graduate courses. In the ‘Immune Regulation & Flow Standardisation session’, Megan Levings (Regulatory T and B cells), Xian Li (Tolerogenic function of and innate immune cells) and Birgit Sawitzki (Strategies to standardize and objectify assays e.g. flow cytometry automated gating) presented excellent overviews and insights in their respective areas of expertise. From a flow perspective, Birgit’s involvement in the ONE Study provided invaluable experience around the challenges in handling and analysing human Tregs samples by flow cytometry and their work has set the standard for assessment of these cells in human samples to date. ‘The Future of Organ Transplant Replacement’ session featured the current and future status of genomics & epigenomics (Daniel Maluf), cellular therapy (Anil Dhawan) and gene-specific nucleases - CrispCas, TALEN (Marc Guell) in transplantation and outlined bench-to-bedside progress in these fields.

A particular highlight was the plenary session ‘Future Developments in Transplantation -

From Immunotherapy to Tissue Engineering. Three excellent presentations by Abul Abbas (The development and function of Treg), Marcela Maus (CAR T cells - lesson learned from cancer immunotherapy) and Jonathan Bromberg (Designing natural and synthetic immune tissues) clearly provided both background and the latest developments and I would encourage anyone with an interest in these areas to view online.

Renal ischemia reperfusion injury is a key interest in our lab and several sessions covered the mechanisms involved and current therapeutic interventions. I was pleased to have the opportunity to present our paper ‘Blockade of the G-CSF receptor is protective in a mouse model of renal ischemia reperfusion injury’ where we demonstrate that G-CSFR blockade with a monoclonal antibody significantly protects against renal IRI (with significant reduction in inflammatory infiltrate and in the expression of renal injury markers and inflammatory cytokines) with an efficacy similar to that of anti-C5 treatment.

Of course, attendance also gave me the opportunity to meet with colleagues and collaborators both past and present and share in the delicious tapas and wine for which Madrid is renowned. Thank you again to TSANZ for this worthwhile opportunity.

Jennifer McRae

I would like to thank TSANZ for the provision of a travel grant to attend the 27th International Transplant Congress (TTS) held in Madrid, Spain over the period June 30th – July 5th this year. It provided me with a great opportunity to update the latest best practices in clinical islet transplantation for the treatment of type 1 diabetes and also expand my knowledge within the fields of transplant immunology, cell therapy and material science in transplantation.

I was able to attend several sessions with presentations focussed on the use of novel biomaterials and/or support cells to improve islet transplant outcomes, a major research focus of our group. These sessions included presentations from two of our PhD students looking at 3D printing of islets using supporting cells and biologically active bioinks and modification of a polyurethane scaffold to elute immunosuppression in a site-specific manner.

Both presentations were well received and provided both the students and I an opportunity to discuss our research with other experts in the field.

Another session of great interest focussed on beta cell replacement of the future looking at the emergence of closed system insulin delivery systems (artificial pancreas), the impact gene editing through the use of CRISPER on donor pigs might have on xenotransplantation and finally the progress made in development of stem cell derived beta cells for treatment of type 1 diabetes. This session provided a great overview of where islet transplantation is currently and a thoughtful look into what the near future might look like.

As part of the pancreas and islet transplant session I was able to present the clinical outcomes of our newly established total pancreatectomy and islet auto transplant program, the only remote TPIAT transplant centre in Australia, to an international audience. This provided an opportunity to discuss and compare our results with other TPIAT centres around the world. It was pleasing to note that our results to date compared favourably with those achieved at other leading centres.

The other areas of interest for me were the sessions on immune tolerance, regenerative medicine and cellular therapies, beta cell replacement therapy and B cell biology. It was a great opportunity to see what the field of organ transplantation might look like in 10 years and in particular the advances being made in various cell therapies for the treatment of many diseases.

Once again, I would like to thank TSANZ for this fantastic opportunity to visit the great city of Madrid and present at TTS 2018.

Chris Drogemuller

I very much appreciate the Council of the TSANZ providing me with a travel grant, which enabled me to attend the World Transplant Congress being held from 30th June to 5th July 2018 in Madrid, Spain.

The congress was well organized with up to 3000 attendees in basic and clinical sciences from all regions of the world. In attending this conference, our abstract "High fibre diet

induces donor specific tolerance of kidney allografts through SCFA induction of Tregs" was presented.

In addition to our focus on research in this meeting, there were some interesting research directions that attracted me, in particular, the organ donation with molecular therapeutic targets to minimize ischemia reperfusion injury and organ machine perfusion preservation to improve the quality of marginal donor organ, presented in the Monday morning plenary session, and the tissue engineering with the development and function of Treg to induce transplant tolerance in the Tuesday morning plenary session.

Some other very interesting talks that I very much enjoyed in the conference were on organ bioengineering and regeneration, biomarkers and immune monitoring in basic science oral sessions and other concurrent sessions.

In a word, I would like to thank the TSANZ for the travel grant, which support my travel to the conference. The conference offered me a great deal of up-to-date information in my research areas, and opened some new directions for my future study.

Chuanmin Wang

I would like to thank the TSANZ for the generous travel grant provided my travel to attend the 2018 International Congress of The Transplantation Society (TTS) in Madrid, Spain from June 30 to July 5 in 2018.

The grant provided covered a part of my airfare but it enables the work carried out at Westmead to be presented to international audiences. I presented two first author presentations including an oral and a poster presentation. I also was senior author on five oral and/or poster presentations. These include studies of expansion of Tregs on humanized islet transplant mouse model, whole-blood immunophenotyping on islet transplant patients, and the role of memory Tregs in a tolerant islet xeno-graft transplant mouse model. The title of first author presentations was "Low Dose IL-2 and Rapamycin Leads to Prolongation of Human Islet Allograft Survival by Inhibition of IFN- γ T cells and Expansion of FOXP3+CD25+ Tregs in a Humanized Islet Transplant Mouse Model", and "Correlation of Dynamic Immune Cell Profile with Individual

Alloresponse and Outcome in Type 1 Diabetes Islet Transplantation Recipients”.

Key areas at the meeting that interested me were: the plenary session-future developments in transplantation from immunotherapy to tissue engineering; state of the art -New Therapeutic Approaches to Transplantation, -Cutting Edge of Allorecognition, -Beta-Cell Replacement Therapy: Current Outcomes and Future Landscape; oral presentations- Mononuclear Phagocytes, -Mechanisms of Allograft Rejection, - IRI Mechanisms, - Immune Monitoring, -Cellular Therapies on the way to clinical application; Post section: - Islet Transplantation.

In summary the ability to attend this meeting allowed me to learn about the “cutting edge” studies in my area, to learn more broadly about immunological mechanisms, and to meet with people who were able to offer new ideas related to my current studies.

Min Hu

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Society for providing a travel grant to attend the 27th International Congress of The Transplantation Society in Madrid, Spain. This conference was held at the IFEMA Feria de Madrid Convention Centre from the 30th of June to the 5th of July 2018. This grant contributed greatly to my ability to attend the conference, and was able to cover registration and accommodation costs.

I presented my research in an oral session covering Donation after Circulatory Death. In my talk, I presented a systematic review and meta-analysis of outcomes for islet transplantation in donation after circulatory death (DCD) compared with donation after brain death (DBD), which was well-received by attendees. This was a very informative and relevant session covering the current landscape of DCD donation around the world, as well as research into long-term outcomes and the technical, ethical and practical aspects of DCD donation.

As a whole, TTS 2018 was a highly engaging meeting, featuring transplantation research ranging from patient care, clinical application, basic science and translational medicine. I was able to attend several excellent plenaries and

oral sessions, particularly sessions on islet transplantation, xenotransplantation, transplant immunobiology and several presentations on cutting-edge research currently in clinical trials. Of note, was the presentation by Prof Qizhi Tang from the University of California, USA, covering outcomes and considerations in ongoing clinical trials using T regulatory cell therapy in autoimmune (Type 1) diabetes. Similarly, Dr Rafael Correa-Rocha from the Instituto de Investigacion Sanitaria Gregorio Maranon, Spain, presented a novel protocol for extracting thymus-derived Tregs for cellular immunotherapy in children receiving heart transplants. Prof Megan Levings from the BC Children’s Hospital Research Institute in Canada further presented on the potential of antigen-specific Tregs for more efficient immunotherapy, compared to polyclonal cells. On the xenotransplant and tolerance front, Dr Erik Berglund from Columbia University, USA, spoke about different non-myeloablative regimens designed to promote immunosuppression-free long-term liver allograft tolerance in cynomolgus monkeys. In addition, several excellent state-of-the-art talks were presented by Dr Alfred J. Tector III, Prof Wayne Hawthorne, and Prof Muhamad Mohiuddin regarding the advances in research and current prospects of clinical xenotransplantation in the field of kidney, islet and heart xenotransplantation, respectively.

Once again, I’d like to thank TSANZ for giving me this opportunity to attend the TTS 2018 conference, which has not only allowed me to learn about current research and innovative new technologies in the field of transplantation, but also forged many new connections with experts in the field with the aim of information exchange and future collaborations.

Yi Vee Chew

Thank you very much to TSANZ for providing me the opportunity to present my oral abstract and attend the 27th International Congress of the Transplantation Society in Madrid, Spain in July 2018. The conference was highly educational. The plenary session of particular interest to me was that by Marcela Maus on CAR T cells - lesson learned from cancer immunotherapy. In her plenary she discussed the modifications that can be made to T cells such that they can be redirected to specifically recognise an antigen of interest. A patient’s own

cells are collected and are then genetic modified-engineered either with T-cell receptors or chimeric antigen receptors (CAR)-before ultimately being infused back into the patient. Successful application of CAR T cell therapy in the treatment of various types of haematologic malignancies from various studies was presented, and also the current and future developments in this area, which includes work on gene edited T cells which will hopefully enable the development of universal T cells that could therefore be used to treat more than one donor. The potential utility of this approach for the modification of T regulatory cells in the setting of solid organ transplant could be of interest in the future.

An oral abstract session that I thought was a highlight was that on vascularised composite allografts (VCA), an area of transplantation with which I am much less familiar. The preservation of amputated limbs is complex given that there are various tissue types involved, and conditions to enable replantation is of great interest. One of the abstracts in the session Optimisation of an ex-vivo limb perfusion protocol for replantation and transplantation presented some novel research in an animal model. The group evaluated the impact of machine perfusion at various temperatures (normothermic, subnormothermic, hypothermic) and assessed the expression of cytokines and markers of muscle injury (creatinine kinase). Expression of inflammatory markers including IFN γ and IL1 β was highest in the normothermic group; creatinine kinase as a marker of tissue injury was extremely low. The group concluded that optimal tissue perfusion occurred at normothermia which also induced a reduction in markers of muscle injury; expression of a number of cytokines was higher and the presenter proposed that this heightened inflammatory response may not necessarily be a harmful, but required further evaluation

Karen Keung

I would like to thank TSANZ for awarding me an International Travel Award to attend the 27th International Congress of The Transplantation Society (TTS) held in Madrid, Spain from 30th June to 5th July, 2018. This allowed me to attend the meeting and be presented with an International Science Mentee Mentor Award with my third year PhD student Sam Adhikary.

My student Sam had the opportunity to present his PhD research on how “In vivo depletion of dividing donor cells using post-transplant cyclophosphamide can reduce the development of graft-versus-host disease in a humanised mouse model”. I was also given the opportunity to present work by my colleagues Professor Stephen Alexander and Dr Geoff Zhang on how “CD48 blockade Limits Tolerance Induction in a Treg Dependent Allograft Tolerance Model”. The TTS conference had great talks from experts in the field of transplantation and was very informative. The plenary by Professor Abul K Abbas was excellent, who presented an overview of regulatory T cells with an emphasis on the role of IL-2. Professor Megan Sykes presented an informative plenary on tracking the alloresponse in human transplant recipients using TCR CD3 sequencing to identify donor reactive T cells.

Professor Qizhi Tang spoke about the use of regulatory T cells and the progress made with transferring Tregs in the clinical setting. It was great to have the opportunity to meet Qizhi with my PhD student Sam and long-time mentor and president of TSANZ Professor Stephen Alexander. There were other interesting talks on CAR T cell therapy (Professor Marcela V Maus), antigen specific CAR T regs (Professor Megan Levings), and talks on the role of metabolism in transplantation (Professor Jonathan Powell).

Being a strong supporter of Science and Gender Equality (SAGE) at TSANZ, it was great to see two women, Professor Megan Sykes and Professor Katherine Wood be awarded the Medawar Prizes for their research in transplantation and to hear about their journey’s to becoming successful leaders in the field of transplantation. It was also a highlight to see Australian Dr Karen Dwyer be awarded the Woman Leader in Transplantation prize.

TTS also provided opportunities for networking with the Welcome reception, the Young Investigator’s “Cocktails and KOLs” on a rooftop bar, the Women in Transplantation drinks and the Conference dinner. It was a great opportunity to meet young investigators as well as international experts in transplantation, while enjoying the wonderful food (tapas, seafood paella), and drinks (sangria, wine, and cerveza) that Spain had to offer.

I am so grateful to TSANZ for their long-time support of myself and my students and for granting me this travel award and giving me the opportunity to attend and present at an international transplant conference.

Debbie Watson

I would like to thank TSANZ for awarding me an International Travel Grant. This facilitated me attending the 27th International Congress of The Transplantation Society (TTS) in Madrid, Spain, between the 30th of June and 5th of July. At the congress I gave an oral presentation on my research pertaining to “Modification of Polyurethane scaffolds for localised immunosuppression of subcutaneous islet transplantation”. I was able to discuss my research and other work with leaders in the field and academics from around the world.

In attending this conference, it provided me with some wonderful opportunities to engage with and meet new people, doing valuable research from all areas of the world. The social events, including the Young Members Networking Event on the roof of Azotea del Círculo and the conference dinner at Palacete de los Duques de Pastrana, were at amazing venues with incredible food and atmospheres, which stimulated engaging conversations and interactions.

Some of the highlights of the conference included the second plenary session titled “Future Developments in Transplantation-From immunotherapy to Tissue Engineering”. This session dealt with the promising field of CAR T-cell therapy, the development and function of T-regs and designing natural and synthetic immune tissues. These speeches were very informative and presented exceptionally well. They also dealt with and detailed the cutting-edge medical research that was being undertaken in each field. One aspect of the CAR T-cell presentation that particularly interested me was that it discussed the CD19-targeted CAR T-cell therapeutics which were prominent in world media last year. Other presentations I was privileged enough to see included a presentation from a colleague in my lab Juewan Kim, as well as from people I had met last year at IPITA. This allowed me to see the progress in their research. One other presentation that really interested me was “MHC:T-cell receptor allorecognition interface” by Professor James McCluskey. This talk discussed the current

understanding of MHC: T-cell recognition, as well as observations and evidence for a far more complex system.

I would like to thank TSANZ for the opportunity to come to TTS provided by the International Travel Grant. This was an exceptional experience and has been one that has allowed me to interact with world leaders in the field of transplantation and the invaluable opportunity to present my research at an international conference.

Francis Kette

**American Society of Nephrology
Kidney Week
October 23-28, 2018
San Diego, USA**

I would like to thank the TSANZ for their generous support with my attendance at the American Society of Nephrology Kidney Week in sunny San Diego.

During the meeting I had the opportunity to display my poster titled “Machine learning prediction for de novo donor specific antibodies and acute rejection after simultaneous pancreas kidney transplantation”, which was well received. I was also able to attend many of the Standardised Outcomes in Nephrology (SONG) workshops and meetings that were held simultaneously with ASN. Seeing the enthusiasm in the nephrology community for this important work, and hearing patients speak about what is important to them (in particular at the SONG-Kids workshop), was inspirational.

There were numerous other highlights, including talks by Stanley Jordan and Anat Tambur on advances in the diagnosis and treatment of antibody mediated rejection, as well as an encouraging presentation by Adam Bingaman on how the challenges of transplanting highly sensitised recipients may be overcome. The educational sessions, particularly the pre-meeting course on glomerulonephritis and interactive ‘nephrology quiz’, were also highlights of the meeting. Overall the content at ASN Kidney Week was of an incredibly high standard making it difficult to choose from the multiple concurrent sessions being held. I am grateful to TSANZ for their support in attending this meeting.

Ankit Sharma

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2019 Meetings

International Society of Heart & Lung Transplantation (ISHLT)

3rd – 6th April

Orlando, Florida

For further information go to

<http://www.ishlt.org/meetings/futureMeetings.asp>

World Congress of Nephrology (ISN & ANZSN)

12th - 15th April

Melbourne, Australia

For further information go to

<https://www.theisn.org/events/isn-world-congress-of-nephrology>

5th ELPAT congress

on Ethical, Legal and Psychosocial Aspects of Transplantation

26th -29th April

Krakow, Poland

For further information go to

<https://www.esot.org/events-education/events/11665/overview>

10th Congress of the International Paediatric Transplant Association

4th - 7th May

Vancouver, BC Canada

For further information go to

<http://ipta2019.org/>

Royal Australian College of Surgeons ASM (RACS)

6th - 10th May

Bangkok, Thailand

For more information go to

<https://www.surgeons.org/for-health-professionals/annual-scientific-congress/>

Australasian Society for Infectious Diseases

16th - 18th May

Darwin Convention Centre

For more information go to

<https://www.asid.net.au/meetings/asid-annual-scientific-meeting-2019>

American Thoracic Society (ATS) International Conference

17th - 22nd May

Dallas, Texas

For further information go to

<http://www.dgnewsnetwork.com/crc.nsf/congresses/BC080703DBB1C6BE85257EBC0067E778>

American Transplant Congress (ATC)

1st – 5th June

Boston, Massachusetts

For further information go to

<https://asts.org/education/events-meetings/calendar-of-events/2019/06/01/default-calendar/2019-american-transplant-congress#.WoYuWExuJ1M>

European Renal Meeting

13th - 16th June

Budapest, Hungary

For further information go to

<https://www.eurolink-tours.com/2019/ERA-EDTA/>

XVI International Congress of the Intestinal Rehabilitation and Transplant Association (CIRTA)

TTS Official Section Meeting

3rd - 6th July

Paris, France

For more information go to

<http://cirta2019.org/>

17th Congress of the International Pancreas and Islet Transplant Association (IPITA)

TTS Official Section Meeting

2nd - 5th July

Lyon, France

For more information go to

<http://www.ipita2019.org/>

37th TSANZ Annual Scientific Meeting

27th - 30th July

Holme Building Sydney University

Sydney, Australia

For more information go to

<https://www.tsanz.com.au/>

Cardiac Society of ANZ

8th - 11th August

Adelaide Convention Centre

Adelaide, Australia

For more information go to

<https://www.csanz.edu.au/>

European Society of Cardiology

31st August - 4th September

Paris, France

For further information go to

<http://www.congressbookers.com/detail1a2a9-1e07-4a92-b13b-555fa77d3032/esc-2019-paris-the-european-society-of-cardiology-annual-congress>

International Society of Peritoneal Dialysis

5th -7th September

Nagoya, Japan

For further information go to

<https://ispd.org/event/9th-asia-pacific-chapter-meeting-of-the-ispd-apcm-ispd-2019/>

**European Society of Organ Transplantation
(ESOT)**

15th - 18th September

For further information go to

<http://www.esot.org/>

European Respiratory Society

28th September - 2 October

Madrid, Spain

For further information go to

<http://www.ers2019congress.org/>

**15th Congress of the International
Xenotransplantation Association (IXA)**

10th - 13th October

Munich, Germany

For more information go to <http://ixa2019.org/>

**15th Congress of the International Society for
Organ Donation and Procurement (ISODP)**

12th - 15th November

Dubai, UAE

For more information go to

<https://www.tts.org/isodp/about-isodp/welcome-to-isodp>

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