

OPTN/UNOS Histocompatibility Committee
Meeting Summary
June 17, 2015
Conference Call

Dolly Tyan, Ph.D., Chair
Bob Bray, Ph.D., Vice Chair

Discussions of the full committee on June 17, 2015 are summarized below and will be reflected in the committee's next report to the OPTN/UNOS Board of Directors. Meeting summaries and reports to the Board are available at <http://optn.transplant.hrsa.gov/>.

Committee Projects

1. Annual Update to the HLA Equivalency Tables

The Committee reviewed the proposed changes to the equivalency tables in Policy 4.8: Reference Tables of HLA Antigen Values and Split Equivalences. The Committee made a few additional suggestions before voting on the final version of the proposed changes:

- For HLA-A equivalences, include 0s before the 2 antigens, add 0201, and in the unacceptable antigen table make 0201 equivalent to itself.
- For HLA-B equivalences, B703 should be B0703, B4001 should be added and be equivalent to itself and 60, B1401 should be added, B1402 should be added, and B1501 and 1502 should be added.

The Committee voted in favor of recommending the proposed changes to the equivalency tables be distributed for public comment during the Fall 2015 public comment cycle. (11 approve, 0 oppose, 0 abstentions).

UNOS IT also presented the Committee with cost estimates for programming various aspects of the proposed changes. The changes to the equivalences alone is a small estimate, because the tables, the equivalence patterns, and the template for making these updates already exist.

However, the Committee previously discussed proposing two other changes in addition to the changes to the equivalences: updating labels, changing data collection and equivalence patterns for DR51, DR52, and DR53; and updating the label for DR to change to DRB1. Updating the labels, changing the data collection and the equivalence patterns for DR51, 52, and 53 would incur a much larger programming cost, because the changes would require new look up tables and values and would require new equivalence patterns, which changes the way the logic works in all matches, both in DonorNet and KPD. Additionally, updating DR to be called DRB1 would also incur a very large cost, because the label change would have to be made in almost every single page in UNet, and the testing to ensure the changes were made in all necessary places would be time-consuming.

In light of this information, the Committee discussed whether these changes should be made. The Committee decided that DR does not need to be changed to DRB1 at this time, because everyone in the field knows that DR refers to DRB1. For similar reasons, the Committee determined that DR 51, 52, and 53 do not need to be changed.

Lastly, the Committee briefly discussed creating additional equivalence tables for DQA and DPB, as programs will soon be able to enter unacceptable antigens for DQA and

DPB in the system soon. There was some agreement amongst the Committee it should create tables for DQA and DPB, but they did not finalize the discussion during this teleconference.

Other Significant Items

1. 2015-2018 OPTN/UNOS Strategic Plan

The Committee received an update on the newly approved 2015-2018 OPTN/UNOS Strategic Plan. UNOS staff explained the rationale behind the new Strategic Plan, and the impact it might have on current and future Histocompatibility Committee projects. The Committee is particularly concerned with the impact on the KAS desensitization project, for which a survey has already been distributed to members. The Executive Committee will decide which projects should continue and which should be put on hold on June 29, 2015.

Upcoming Meeting

- July 13, 2015: New Committee Member Orientation at 2pm Eastern