

**OPTN/UNOS Histocompatibility Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
February 14, 2017  
Conference Call**

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**Introduction**

The Histocompatibility Committee met via Citrix GoToTraining teleconference on 02/14/2017 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. UNOS Histocompatibility Education Effort
2. National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP) Database Update
3. Discrepant HLA Typing Subcommittee Update
4. Back Up Director

The following is a summary of the Committee's discussions.

**1. UNOS Histocompatibility Education Effort**

The Instructional Innovations department at UNOS identified a need from members for education on histocompatibility topics.

Summary of discussion:

The UNOS staff member from Instructional Innovations presented the responses to a needs assessment survey put out by the department to the Committee. At all levels of experience, ranging from members who had been in the field less than three years to more than ten years, members were interested in learning more about histocompatibility issues in transplantation. The specific topics identified by members were:

- HLA interpretation and reporting
- HLA typing and transplant across antibodies
- Types of crossmatching
- Conducting virtual crossmatching
- HLA lab member requirements and compliance
- Highly sensitized patients
- General education on HLA typing
- Histocompatibility and immunogenetics
- Working with HLA labs and immunologists to improve chances of transplantation
- HLA typing: how it works, PRA values
- HLA basics

Since there is a need from members, Instructional Innovations will be providing education on histocompatibility topics to the transplant community. Committee members were interested in who the target audience would be for these education materials and methods available to present the information. UNOS staff clarified that the main audience would be transplant coordinators and administrators, but as this project develops the audience may expand. Instructional Innovations is open to ideas for presentation methods, and has experience providing educational materials in different formats such as videos, presentations, and written resources. Several committee members suggested partnering with other transplant and histocompatibility organizations such as the American Society for Histocompatibility and

Immunogenetics (ASHI). UNOS staff agreed that this was important, and has been in contact with NATCO. One committee member is involved with educational projects with ASHI and will be a contact point for involving the organization in this process. Committee members asked where these learning materials would be stored. UNOS staff explained that any materials created would be available on the UNOS Connect Learning Management System, which is linked on the OPTN and Transplant Pro websites.

Next steps:

UNOS staff from Instructional Innovations will put together a group of volunteers from outside organizations (ASHI, NATCO, etc.) and several committee members interested in participating in this education project. Staff will then organize a kick-off call for further project planning.

## **2. NMDP Database**

Committee leadership gave an update on the status of a data request from the National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP).

Summary of discussion:

Committee leadership had previously reached out to a contact at the NMDP about accessing their data for potential use in updating CPRA calculations. Leadership was specifically interested in viewing DQA, DPA, and DPB frequencies. The contact at NMDP replied to committee leadership expressing interest in sharing the data once it was available. UNOS Research staff reminded committee leadership that there are now over 10,000 records in the UNOS database with DPB, unlike when the Committee first began to explore updating CPRA in the past.

Next steps:

The Committee will review the NMDP data when available and consider its usability in CPRA calculations. The Committee will also hear a presentation from UNOS Research staff on the frequencies of DQA1 and DPB1 in candidates, including the distribution in the current CPRA, at the next full committee meeting in Chicago, IL, on March 21, 2017.

## **3. Discrepant HLA Typing Subcommittee**

The Committee heard a brief update on recent work done by the Discrepant HLA Typing Subcommittee (the Subcommittee).

Summary of discussion:

UNOS staff gave a short update to the Committee on the recent Subcommittee work, including the Subcommittee's review of quarterly discrepancy reports for 2016. One Subcommittee member who had reviewed Quarter 2 data shared findings and concerns. For Quarter 2, 58 of the 115 listed discrepancies were incorrect typings where the wrong data was entered; about half of those 58 discrepancies had been rerun. A Committee member asked which loci were most frequently involved. The Subcommittee member commented that it was largely DP and DQ. These discrepancy reports also predate the educational letters that were sent out to labs in fall 2016. A general educational letter was sent to all labs, and a more specific letter was sent to labs who had a certain rate of critical discrepancies in any quarter of 2015. The first discrepancy report that will reflect any potential impact from these letters will be available in June 2017. A member from SRTR asked if we knew information about the affected kidneys, such as if they were discarded due to the mistyping and if they were turned down after a virtual crossmatch made them acceptable because of the mistyping. Research staff said that some of this information exists, but was not pulled for this specific discrepancy report project. Some of the more detailed data that would get at specific details may not be available. Due to resource

constraints, the Committee is not interested in looking into this sort of data at this time. Committee leadership are interested in publishing a manuscript with the data from the discrepant reports in order to educate the community on what types of errors the Subcommittee is seeing occur. The Committee supported this decision.

Next steps:

The Committee will explore options for creating a “threshold” for the number of critical errors a lab can have before next steps (such as informational letters) are taken. This will be discussed at the next full committee meeting in Chicago, IL, on March 21, 2017.

**4. Back Up Director**

The Committee heard an update from UNOS staff and committee leadership on the status of back up director discussions. UNOS staff from Member Quality and Policy reviewed the current bylaws and are not recommending any changes to incorporate language specific to back up directors at this time.

**Upcoming Meeting**

- March 21, 2017 – Full committee in person meeting in Chicago, IL.