OPTN/UNOS Histocompatibility Committee
Meeting Minutes
August 14, 2018
Conference Call

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Introduction
The Histocompatibility Committee (Committee) met via Citrix GoToTraining teleconference on 08/14/2018 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Addressing HLA Typing Errors Project Update
2. CPRA Project Update
3. Kidney Pancreas Workgroup Update
4. Heart Allocation Update

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

1. Addressing HLA Typing Errors Project Update

Summary of discussion:
UNOS staff gave an update on public comments received on the proposal. At the point of the meeting, two comments had been submitted and were generally supportive of the proposal. UNOS staff reminded Committee members about the regional meeting dates, and that there would be prep calls for each of the Regional Representatives on the Committee since they will be presenting the proposal at each regional meeting.

Next steps:
The Committee will review all public comments at the in person meeting on October 16th, 2018.

2. CPRA Project Update

Summary of discussion:
The presenter provided an update on the status of their work with OPTN data. The goal is to establish the feasibility of using HLA frequencies from the National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP) stem cell registry for CPRA. The presenter’s group wanted to see if the HLA typings from NMDP’s bone marrow data were similar to OPTN solid organ data. The presenter explained that their group created rules for mapping the two data sets. They looked at whether the frequencies were similar at various loci levels. Allele frequencies between OPTN and NMDP reference panels were very similar, while the group found very little similarity for five-locus haplotypes. The group did validate that the NMDP algorithm can generate accurate five-locus HLA haplotype frequencies when they used the OPTN data file they received from UNOS. The two-locus haplotypes that include HLA-C and HLA-DQ were also very disparate. Other data showed a high similarity for common HLA haplotypes.

Next steps:
The group will continue their research and report updates to the Committee at a later date.

3. Kidney Pancreas Workgroup Update

The Committee heard a brief update on the work of the Kidney Pancreas Workgroup that is examining new distribution models that eliminate the use of DSA and regions. Committee
members commented that the options have the potential to change how labs operate with crossmatching and shipping of samples. They commented that it could also significantly increase costs to centers.

4. Heart Allocation Update

The Committee continued to discuss if action was needed in response to the upcoming implementation of the new heart allocation system. UNOS staff shared that the data elements the Committee is concerned with will be implemented as planned, but that the Committee is welcome to send a memo expressing their concerns to the Thoracic Committee. Committee members continued to express their disapproval of the data elements as listed, but agreed that they wanted their concerns conveyed to the Thoracic Committee for possible future adjustment. Additionally, Committee leadership will talk with Thoracic Committee leadership to further articulate the Committee’s concerns.

Upcoming Meeting

- September 11, 2018