

**OPTN Histocompatibility Committee
Meeting Minutes
May 14th, 2019
Conference Call**

**Cathi Murphey, Ph.D, HCLD/CC, Chair
Peter Lalli, Ph.D, Diplomat (ABHI), Vice Chair**

Introduction

The OPTN Histocompatibility Committee met via Citrix GoTo teleconference on 05/14/2019 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Project Discussion: *Modify Appointment Process for Histocompatibility Vice Chair*
2. UNOS.org features Histocompatibility this Summer
3. Project Update: *HLA Equivalency Table Review*
4. Project Update: *Change CPRA Calculation*
5. Project Update: *Donor HLA Discrepancy Reports*
6. Collaboration w/OPTN Standing Committees

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

1. Project Discussion: *Modify Appointment Process for Histocompatibility Vice Chair*

Staff will present draft policy language for the Committee to consider prior to vote scheduled for 06/13/19 meeting. Public comment period anticipated August-October 2019.

Data summary:

- Timeline of this Project
 - Committee Vote on draft bylaw language on June 13, 2019
 - Public comment anticipated August-October 2019
 - OPTN Board Consideration in December 2019
- Presented data about the appointment of previous Vice Chair's from other committees to help assuage any concerns committee members have had previously.
- UNOS staff presented to the committee the selection process for Vice Chairs by the Vice President of the OPTN.
- Staff presented the current version of the draft bylaw language and the suggested version by Histocompatibility leadership to the committee.

Summary of discussion:

- The Chair expressed that the suggested version would prevent the appointment of someone without committee experience as well as prevent any future Chair/ Vice Chair from recommend someone without committee experience or experience in the projects the committee is working on.
- Other members asked questions about the implication of the current bylaw language.
- Staff asked members to think about what questions to ask in the public comment proposal.

Next steps:

UNOS Staff will:

- Send out a draft language prior to the next committee meeting.
- Put together a public comment proposal.

2. UNOS.org features Histocompatibility this summer

UNOS communication has an upcoming editorial about the OPTN Histocompatibility Committee.

Data summary:

- UNOS.org is planning to feature the OPTN Histocompatibility committee this summer.
- Below are possible ideas/topic to include in this feature and asked members for their feedback.
 - Introduce current committee leadership
 - Possible photo or Q&A
 - Overview of Histocompatibility
 - Direct members to current Histocompatibility resources
 - Update on any policy related information such as:
 - New Donor HLA Discrepancy Reports
 - Enhancements to the CPRA Calculator
 - Reminder about the addressing HLA typing errors policy requirements for OPOs and labs.
 - Data section
 - UNOS Research suggested to include the percentage of deceased donor kidney offers refused due to a positive cross match since the implementation of CPRA.

Summary of discussion:

- A member suggested an FAQ about Histocompatibility and asked staff to send the list of topics out for review.

Next steps:

UNOS Communication staff will send out the list of topics for members to review.

3. Project Update: HLA Equivalency Table Review.

The Chair of the Subcommittee will provide a report to the committee members post 4/26/2019 meeting.

Summary of discussion:

- The following are key topics/ideas discussed at the subcommittee meeting.
 - Goal of the group was to review all equivalency tables in *OPTN Policy 4.10: Reference Tables of HLA Antigen Values and Split Equivalences* and identify any updates that may be needed in accordance with *OPTN Policy 4.9: HLA Antigen Values and Split Equivalences*.
 - Members expressed the need to alter *OPTN Policy 4.10: Reference Tables of HLA Antigen Values and Split Equivalences Table 4-14: HLA DPB1 Unacceptable Antigen Equivalences*. The current table being very onerous with 17 pages.
 - A member created a crosswalk that included a select group of 45 significant alleles that comprised 99.9% of alleles that have been reported in WaitlistSM.

- Members then discussed the use of Epitope based matching for the DPB1 loci.
 - Several labs would like to be able to list all the unacceptable antigens (UAs) for DP alleles using the given epitope group associated with it.
 - Currently there are 6/or 7 epitope groups that are well characterized.
 - An idea was proposed was to create a table that list all of the 6/or 7 epitope groups and list the corresponding alleles that possess that epitope as an equivalency.
 - Example: Someone would like to select a DEAV epitope as an UA, they then can select that epitope and all the alleles listed in that group would be selected as an UA for the candidate.
- An alternative policy process was discussed to help aid the development and implementation of future table updates.

Next steps:

- The next subcommittee meeting is May 16th, 2019.

4. Project Update: Change CPRA Calculation

UNOS Staff will share incremental progress achieved.

Data summary:

- UNOS Staff shared with members their conversations with UNOS data governance and general council teams about the next steps on this project.
- Staff is currently waiting documentation from our SMEs (subject matter expert) on this project.

Summary of discussion:

- The SME told members to expect their paper at the end of May 2019.
 - Also stated that in the next few months they should have a working calculator as a web application and would like for the committee's input and testing.

5. Project Update: Donor HLA Discrepancy Reports

UNOS research will give the committee and update on the status of this project.

Data summary:

- Staff highlighted that this project would allow histocompatibility labs to have access to their donor HLA discrepancy reports through the data service portal.
- These reports would include a summary of the discrepancies reported within the previous quarter.
- A sample report was shown and explained to committee members.

Summary of discussion:

- Members asked if allele vs antigen mismatches would be marked as discrepant and research responded by stating that they are working on correcting this.
- A suggestion was made to put a column into the report about the impact or potential impact the corresponding discrepancy would cause. Staff stated that there might be a permissions issue but would look into it.
- Timeline:

- Currently IT is working on a permissions issue; however, this is slated for quarter 3, 2019 implementation.

Next steps:

- UNOS Research staff will update the committee on the date of implementation.

6. Collaboration w/ OPTN Standing Committees

Committee leadership will share their work with other OPTN standing committees on other projects.

Data summary:

- Operations and Safety Committee (OPS)
 - A discussion with the committee about a project targeting the electronic transfer of HLA typing for donors and candidates.
 - Currently HistoTrac is working with the OPTN for an API for UAs however; there is nothing for HLA typing.
 - Questions were raised on how to transfer information/verification of information and the need for a standard format of data transfer.
 - Expressed that this would need several discussions between laboratories, vendors, OPTN committees and UNOS staff.
- Data Advisory Committee (DAC)
 - Staff update the committee that feedback about DAC project was given to the committee and that staff will continue to stay in contact with that committee.
 - Members asked to know what DAC decided as their final decision and staff will follow up.

Upcoming Meeting

- June 13th, 2019 Committee Call