

**OPTN Histocompatibility Committee
Meeting Minutes
June 13, 2019
Conference Call**

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

Introduction

The OPTN Histocompatibility Committee met via Citrix GoTo teleconference on 06/13/2019 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Update from OPTN Board of Directors Meeting
2. OPTN Committee Composition
3. Project Discussion: Vice Chair Appointment Process
4. Project Update: HLA Equivalency Table Review
5. Project Update: Donor HLA Discrepancy Reports
6. Project Update: Change CPRA Calculation
7. Introductions and Farewells

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

1. Update from the OPTN Board of Directors Meeting

The committee will receive debrief from the OPTN Board of Directors (BOD) Meeting held in Richmond, VA from 6/10/19-6/11/19.

Summary of discussion:

- The committee chair gave a brief update on what proposals were approved by the OPTN Board of Directors.
- The chair also wanted to stress that the committee should be collaborating with other OPTN committees on projects that require the histocompatibility expertise.

Next steps:

- UNOS staff will send the Ad Hoc Systems Performance Committee Report to members who request it.

2. OPTN Committee Composition

Policy and Community Relations management (PCR) will give a brief explanation of current committee composition according to the new contract.

Summary of discussion:

- UNOS management staff gave an overview of the changes in the structure made to committees required in the new HRSA (Health Resources and Service Administration) contract with the OPTN.
- There were no questions and staff moved on to the next agenda item.

3. Project Discussion: Vice Chair Appointment Process

The Committee will hear an update on the project and vote whether to recommend this to the OPTN Policy Oversight Committee (POC) for consideration in July 2019.

Data summary:

- Timeline:
 - Committee votes on draft bylaw language change: June 13, 2019
 - Public comment anticipated August-October 2019
 - Considered by OPTN Board December 2019
 - Changes would take effect January 2020
- Consistency with all OPTN Standing Committees
- 91.7% of Vice Chairpersons came from their index committees

Summary of discussion:

- UNOS staff showed members the final proposed policy language and asked the committee if they would vote to recommend this project to POC for public comment in fall 2019.
- Staff also told members that following the new contract the OPTN Board of Directors has the authority to effect this change and it will not have to go out for public comment as an alternative option.
- Member had the following comments and concerns:
 - The Chair suggested keeping the sentence in the bylaws about the regional representative because it is the sole place where histocompatibility lab personnel are represented, as it is not stated in the final rule. They stressed that the committee should be made up of HLA experts and if that sentence is taken out then the regions will not have representation.
 - The Vice Chair asked if there was any potential in changing the wording of the language without pushing the scope of the original project.
 - Staff stated not at this time.
 - The Chair supported the idea of going out to public comment instead of have this change approved by the OPTN Board of Directors.
- There was a motion to vote and the committee voted yes to recommend this project to POC to go out for public comment fall 2019. (Vote: 11 yes; 0 no; 0 abstained).

Next steps:

- UNOS staff will present to the POC in July 2019.

4. Project Update: HLA Equivalency Table Review

The Committee will hear an update on the HLA Equivalency Table review.

Data summary:

- The chair of the subcommittee gave a brief project update:

- The subcommittee established a need for a review of the existing tables for any changes.
- Questions arose about whether to have two separate policy proposals or one policy with two parts.
- To create a truncated the list of HLA-DPB1 Alleles in DPB1 Table 4-14 (OPTN Policy 4: Histocompatibility, Table 4-14: HLA DPB1 Unacceptable Antigen Equivalences).
 - This list would be taken from the IMGT (International Immunogenetics information system) database and encompass all DPB1 alleles identified.
- Members agreed to move forward introducing epitope-based equivalencies in a restricted format by focusing on HVR (hypervariable region) C and E for the initial rollout.
- Project Next steps:
 - Members would conclude their review and updates to all tables.
 - Generate new Table 4-14 with epitope-based equivalencies.
 - Begin work on policy change language.
- There were no questions.

Next steps:

- UNOS staff will create a problem statement and have Subcommittee and Committee members review it.
- Conduct a vote to recommend this project to POC on July 9, 2019 Histocompatibility Committee Call.

5. Project Update: Donor HLA Discrepancy Report Update

UNOS research staff will update the committee on the progress 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.
- Previously the code was written where allele and antigen differences were marked incorrectly as discrepant and that will be fixed in this new iteration.

Summary of discussion:

- The chair stressed how helpful these reports will be and will improve the accuracy and transparency within the community.

Next steps:

- UNOS Research staff is currently finishing the project and plan to bring it to committee leadership for review.

6. Project Update: Change CPRA Calculation

The Committee will hear a brief update on the project status.

Summary of discussion:

- UNOS staff have received the project SMEs (subject matter experts) draft manuscript.
- Discussions are ongoing with UNOS General Counsel, data governance, and PCR Leadership.
- Timeline:
- Public Comment Proposal: January 2020
- Project SMEs on the call believe that their project is moving forward and have sent their most recent data (haplotype frequency data) to committee leadership to review. In addition, they have confidence that NMDP (National Bone Marrow Database) data can serve as a panel for OPTN CPRA. Their frequencies (NMDP) are similar to the OPTN deceased donor population. Ultimately, this will allow them to increase the number of loci in CPRA and use IMGT nomenclature.

Next steps:

- UNOS staff plans to discuss the projects next steps with committee leadership on their next call.

7. Introductions and Farewells

The Chair will acknowledge outgoing members and announce new members joining on July 1, 2019

Summary of discussion:

- The Chair announced new members and expressed deep appreciation to outgoing members for their service to the committee.

8. Other Significant Items

- The Chair would like moving forward for the committee to be more involved on other projects by other committees that required histocompatibility expertise, e.g. projects by the OPTN Data Advisory Committee and Pancreas Committee. In addition, would like to have UNOS staff from those committees present their projects to the Histocompatibility committee.
- UNOS communications staff reminded members that they will be in touch via email for the committee's feature on UNOS.org site.

Upcoming Meeting(s)

- July 9, 2019 Full Committee Call
- August 13, 2019 Full Committee Call