

**OPTN HLA Equivalency Table Subcommittee  
Meeting Minutes  
April 26, 2019  
Conference Call**

**John Lunz, PH.D., D ( ABHI), Chair**

**Introduction**

The OPTN HLA Equivalency Table Subcommittee (thereafter the subcommittee) met via Citrix GoTo teleconference on 04/26/2019 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. HLA Equivalency Table Review Kickoff

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

**1. HLA Equivalency Table Review Kickoff**

The Subcommittee will discuss the following points to start the process of Table Review:

- Charge presented to the Subcommittee
- Current Status of the Tables
- Goals to Accomplish
- Timetable
- Next steps

Summary of discussion:

The subcommittee met for the first time to discuss the need for table update. All members agreed that a table update was needed.

- The Chair stated the need to move away from the traditional idea of parent and split antigens, with advancing technology the need to look at antigens from a molecular or allelic level is needed.
- Reviewed the charge of the subcommittee and explained what currently exists in the policy as well as reviewed changes made in the previous table update.

Four preliminary goals were established.

- To review current tables in OPTN Policy (4-2 through 4-15) against single antigen bead assays and IMGT (international Immunogenetics information system) database.
- Update OPTN Policy *Table 4-14: HLA DPB1 Unacceptable Antigen Equivalences*
  - Possibly shorten it by only using common and well documented alleles (CWD) or G/P groups.
  - Hesitant to add more due to the current length of the policy document.
- Epitope based UA assignment for the DPB1 loci.
  - Epitope based UA assignment was suggested in previous table updates and members would like to pursue this in the scope of this project. Due to the advancing terminology and technology, the field of Histocompatibility will be, and is, using epitopes more often. It was suggested to start with one loci (DPB1) and to not make this mandatory to allow for flexibility of histocompatibility labs. It was also stated that loci Bw4/Bw6 in current

policy use epitope based HLA-B UA assignment. Members questioned what it should look like in terms of needing a new table as well as how it would work in the UNet<sup>SM</sup> system itself.

- Expedited Policy process using OPTN *Bylaw 11.8: Expedited Actions*
  - Member in the past had questions and concerns about why the table update took a considerable length of time from the start of the project till implementation and what process is available to expedite this process.
  - During the Histocompatibility Committee in-person meeting in March 2019 an expedited pathway was suggested; OPTN Bylaws: *11.8 Expedited Actions*.
  - The bylaw language was shown to members and the meaning explained by UNOS staff. It was also highlighted that this language would be applied to future table updates but would need to be included in this policy proposal to apply.

### **Upcoming Meeting**

- May 16, 2019, HLA Equivalency Table Subcommittee Call