

**OPTN Histocompatibility Committee
Meeting Summary
September 8, 2020
Conference Call**

**Peter Lalli, Ph.D., D(ABHI), Chair
John Lunz, Ph.D., D(ABHI), Chair**

Introduction

The Histocompatibility Committee met via Citrix GoToMeeting teleconference on 09/08/2020 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Public Comment Proposal Presentation: Align OPTN Policy with US Public Health Service Guideline, 2020
2. Public Comment Proposal Presentation: Update on the Continuous Distribution of Organs Project

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

1. Public Comment Proposal Presentation: Align OPTN Policy with US Public Health Service Guideline, 2020

The OPTN Disease Transmission Advisory Committee (DTAC) Immediate Past Chair presented on the proposal out for summer Public Comment to inform the Histocompatibility Committee and gather their feedback.

Summary of discussion:

A committee member asked what type of specimen would be required from a living donor. The DTAC Past Chair specified that one specimen would be required for serologic testing and one would be required for nucleic acid testing, and both could be plasma specimens collected simultaneously with DNA specimens.

The presenter asked about the Committee's thoughts on leaving hemodilution in policy, just removing it as a risk factor. Members stated that distinguishing between red cell products and crystalloids is more crucial, but it depends on the level of hemodilution.

One member asked if nucleic acid testing (NAT) would be required for candidates or just for donors. Presenter clarified that it would only be for donors, although recipient testing would be required but would not need results back prior to transplant.

Vote: 4 Strongly Support, 11 Support, 1 Neutral/Abstain, 0 Oppose, 0 Strongly Oppose

Next steps:

UNOS liaison will draft committee response with leadership to submit to DTAC for consideration.

2. Public Comment Proposal Presentation: Update on the Continuous Distribution of Organs Project

UNOS staff presented on the Lung Committee's Continuous Distribution of Organs project.

Summary of discussion:

One of the issues with sensitization in thoracic allocation is that sensitization is not always black and white, and that each individual patient may have a difference in how much antibody they will tolerate, and it might differ based on donor characteristics. In addition, a lot of the candidates are less medically stable than a kidney candidate who is able to be maintained on dialysis, so it can be much harder to pass on an organ, even if there are some donor-specific antibodies. Unacceptable antigens may not be as clear cut as they are for kidneys, and at different lung-allocation scores (LAS) surgeons may be willing to accept more risk.

One committee member brought up that it is not the duty of an allocation system to account for differences in clinical practice, but instead to be equitable and take into account risk factors applicable to the acceptance of an organ. Allocation benefits could get sensitized patients offers and then programs could make their decisions based on the offers received. One concern that committee members expressed was that entering unacceptable antigens for cPRA screens kidney candidates from match runs with incompatible donors, but that the thoracic community may not want that in all cases. This could lead to a difficulty applying an allocation benefit equitably. There would need to be more research into this issue, and the committee suggested starting with MFI levels, previous non-specific binding, and positive crossmatches.

Next steps:

Committee members to complete online AHP exercise by October 1st.

Upcoming Meetings

- September 14, 1 PM Eastern, Discrepant HLA Typings Subcommittee Teleconference
- September 28, 2 PM Eastern, HLA Equivalency Tables Review Subcommittee Teleconference
- October 14, 11 AM Eastern, Teleconference

Attendance

- **Committee Members**
 - Bill Goggins
 - Evan Kransdorf
 - Gerald Morris
 - Idoia Gimferrer
 - Jennifer Schiller
 - John Lunz
 - Karl Schillinger
 - Manu Varma
 - Marcelo Pando-Rigal
 - Peter Lalli
 - Phyllis Weech
 - Reut Hod Dvorai
 - Taba Kheradmand
 - Tracy McRacken
 - Valia Bravo-Egana
 - Vikram Pattanayak
 - Yvette Chapman
- **HRSA Representatives**
 - Jim Bowman
 - Marilyn Levi
- **SRTR Staff**
 - Katie Audette
 - Nick Salkowski
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Courtney Jett
 - Darren Stewart
 - Emily Ward
 - James Alcorn
 - Kaitlin Swanner
 - Kelsi Lindblad
 - Leah Slife
 - Susan Tlusty
- **Other Attendees**
 - Marian Michaels
 - Medhat Askar