OPTN/UNOS Histocompatibility Committee
Meeting Minutes
December 12, 2017
Conference Call

Robert Bray, PhD, D(ABHI), Chair
Cathi Murphey, PhD, HCLD/CC(ABB), Vice Chair

Introduction

The Histocompatibility Committee (the Committee) met via Citrix GoToTraining teleconference on 12/12/2017 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Board Meeting Recap
2. Committee on Committees: Proposal to Change Existing Committee Structure
3. Zero ABDR Mismatch Discussion

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

1. Board Meeting Recap

The Board of Directors met from December 3-5, 2017.

Summary of discussion:

The Review of HLA Tables (2016) proposal passed on the consent agenda with no questions or concerns. It will now move to implementation. The liver allocation was also passed by the Board, which frees up space in Goal 2 of the strategic alignment making way for new projects including the Change CPRA Calculation project proposal brought to the Policy Oversight Committee in October 2017. There was also discussion on the recent lung allocation changes. A question was raised as to whether the lung allocation restructuring would use any of the resources for Goal 2. UNOS staff will follow up with the Committee about the impact of the lung allocation on Goal 2.

One Committee member asked when the Review of HLA Tables (2016) proposal would go into effect. UNOS staff reported that the IT work start date has moved from beginning in January to May, but it is still projected to be fully implemented by October 2018.

Another question was raised regarding when the Minority Affairs Committee will release the guidance document on non-A1 and non-A1B kidneys for Type B candidates. UNOS staff responded that it should be live on the website.

2. Committee on Committees: Proposal to Change Existing Committee Structure

The Executive Committee is sponsoring a proposal to change the existing committee structure.

Summary of discussion:

UNOS staff provided an overview of the proposed structure of Subject Committees and Expert Councils, which will replace the current committees. Subject Committees would present policy proposals to the Board, and the leaders would be often identified for Board service. They are looking to improve the pipeline from committee member engagement to the Board of Directors. Expert Councils would communicate with Subject Committees through their representatives, and Councils are educated on proposal development. Subject Committees can be thought of as how committees are currently composed with chairs, vice chairs, and regional representatives. Expert Councils would not have regional representatives. The members of the Expert Councils

would be open to anybody in the community (similar to communities of practice from the American Society of Transplantation (AST)). It would be a way to update the committee structure to reach more people. Expert Councils would not sponsor public comment or Board proposals, but they are able to bring project ideas to the Policy Oversight Committee and Executive Committee. The project would then be allocated to one of the Subject Committees. Expert Councils would meet online, and maybe a smaller contingency would meet in person. The restructure is a work in progress. UNOS staff showed a list of the specific Subject Committees and Expert Councils.

One Committee member commented that the Expert Councils seem more like administrative councils, questioning the designation and suggested "Expert Committees" and "Subject Councils". The Committee member asked what the expertise was of the members. UNOS staff explained that the Expert Councils would be comprised of experts in the respective fields, including Board members.

The committee restructuring proposal will be presented at regional meetings and will go out for public comment in the fall after the proposal is further refined. If the proposal passes in December of 2018, the plan is for it to be effective in 2019.

3. Zero ABDR Mismatch Discussion

The Committee Chair requested data from UNOS and presented a graph representing the distribution of 0-ABDR mismatch recipients by CPRA value and race since the onset of the new kidney allocation system (KAS).

Summary of discussion:

The Committee Chair discussed the data requested from UNOS for 0-ABDR mismatch recipients. Across all CPRA values, the ethnic group that appeared to benefit the most from the kidney allocation points allotted for a 0-ABDR mismatch was white recipients. In the context of thinking about how to realign point allocation to improve survival, one item to consider is what the real survival impact for 0-ABDR mismatched transplants is. The Committee Chair posited keeping 0-ABDR mismatch points for pediatrics. For adults, however, the real survival advantage is likely due to Class 2 matching (HLA DP, DQ, and DR). The data shows that holding on to 0-ABDR is disproportionately favoring one racial group over the others. In addition, since KAS, the percentage of transplants in 0-ABDR has dropped from about 8% to 4.5% of total transplants. The pertinent question is what the value is of maintaining it as opposed to thinking about giving better weight to better DR matching to try to improve overall survival.

A question was raised about whether it normalizes the race better when just looking at the DR or if it still mostly benefits the white population. The Committee Chair will go back and look at the data to answer that question. It was also suggested that they need more data on DQ.

Upcoming Meetings
- February 13, 2018
- March 13, 2018 – Chicago, IL

Attendance

- **Committee Members**
  - Bob Bray
  - Cathi Murphey
  - Adam Bingaman
  - Laurine Bow
  - Cathy Gebhart
  - Steven Geier
  - Chantale Lacelle
  - Peter Lalli
  - Mayra Lopez-Cepero
  - John Lunz
  - Gabriel Maine
  - Allen Norin
  - Rajalingam Raja
  - Carley Shaut
  - Craig Van De Walker
  - Melissa Yeung
- **HRSA Representatives**
  - James Bowman
  - Joyce Hager
  - Raelene Skerda
- **SRTR Staff**
  - Katie Audette
- **OPTN/UNOS Staff**
  - Alison Wilhelm
  - Betsy Gans
  - Emily Kneipp
  - Anna Kucheryavaya
  - Elizabeth Miller
  - Kimberly Taylor