

## **OPTN Histocompatibility Committee**

### **Meeting Summary**

**June 10, 2025**

**Webex Meeting**

**Gerald Morris, MD, Chair**

**Kelley Hitchman, PhD, MS, Vice Chair**

### **Introduction**

The Histocompatibility Committee (“Committee”) met via WebEx teleconference on 06/10/2025 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. ABO Project Planning

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

### **1. ABO Project Planning**

**The Committee voted to recommend the Table Update language to OPTN public comment.**

#### Summary of Discussion:

The Committee discussed potential policy updates for ABO blood typing. One member, following up on previous concern about state-by-state ABO testing requirements, shared that states like New York have a variety of pathways for testing.

The following policy ideas were suggested:

- Definition for transfused donors
- Permissibility of ABO molecular testing
- ABO molecular subtyping

A member asked if molecular testing would need to be confirmed. The Chair clarified that policy requires two ABO tests for donors to confirm blood typing. A member asked if subtyping should be required for “A” donors or for “non-A1s.”

Members expressed concern about requiring molecular subtyping. One member agreed that lectin testing is not the most accurate form of blood typing, however, it may be too early to require molecular testing. The Chair suggested that if “A” donors are to be allocated as a “non-A1”, it needs to be confirmed by a molecular genotype. The Chair also mentioned that when presenting this idea to the Organ Procurement Organization Committee, their members were not opposed to this policy addition.

An SRTR attendee stated that subtyping would be helpful in circumstances of heavily transfused donors, ABO incompatible donors, or routine disease donors. The Chair mentioned that recommended uses outside of a policy requirement would fit into a guidance document.

A member expressed concern about increasing use of subtyping, as non-A1 donors are more likely to go to minority candidates, and increased subtyping may limit transplant opportunities for these candidates. This member also stated that most laboratories are not equipped for molecular testing requirements. The Chair reiterated that the OPO Committee, along with around two dozen labs in his knowledge,

support molecular typing usage, whether through verbal confirmation or current use of ABO molecular genotyping at their labs.

The Committee moved onto discussing potential guidance work. The Chair mentioned that the Operations and Safety Committee previously released guidance in 2018 and 2020 covering ABO testing, molecular typing usage, current policy requirements, and more. A member expressed concern about a 90-day transfusion history that could lead to a donor being flagged as transfused. The Chair expressed that the 90-day transfusion history is not to trigger any requirements, but to flag that the donor's ABO typing may have been affected by a transfusion. A member said that guidance could include information around molecular typing to use for discrepancies triggered by front and reverse typing.

The Committee moved onto discussing data collection. A member suggested collecting the frequency of molecular ABO being used, as without it, it could be difficult to move to the next step of increased mandatory molecular ABO. Members also discussed a potential notification flag for transfused donors in UNet. This flag would draw attention to the potential for discrepant ABO typing in transfused donors. This flag could also suggest the use of molecular testing to avoid these discrepancies, and members agreed that this awareness is important.

Members felt that subtyping requirements could fit into guidance, but further discussion is needed. Members agreed that a transfused donor definition and testing types could be included in policy.

### **Upcoming Meeting**

- July 15, 2025

## Attendance

- **Committee Members**
  - Michael Gautreaux
  - John Lunz
  - Ryan Pena
  - Darryl Nethercot
  - Bobbie Rhodes-Clark
  - Crystal Usenko
  - Qingyong Xu
  - Helene McMurray
  - Jerry Morris
  - Kelley Hitchman
  - Andres Jaramillo
  - Laurine Bow
  - Stephanie Osier
  - Tiffany Bratton
  - Jerome Saltarelli
- **SRTR Staff**
  - Rajalingam Raja
- **UNOS Staff**
  - Jamie Panko
  - Betsy Gans
  - Laura Schmitt
  - Amelia Deveraux
  - Matt Cafarella
  - Thomas Dolan