



NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2022 - ISSUE 97

.....FROM THE EFI PRESIDENT

DEAR EFI FRIENDS



The news that we hear from the war in Ukraine is appalling. There are millions of affected individuals who have lost their loved ones, their homes, careers and their future dreams. I hope that by the time this newsletter is issued that the situation will be significantly improved. My thoughts are with everyone affected.

The plans for the EFI conference are going extremely well and I am looking forward to seeing many of you in Amsterdam. It will be a joy to see each other again after three years of no face to face EFI meetings. The organising team, including Sebastiaan Heidt and Eric Spierings, have been working hard to make this conference successful. In order to cover all eventualities, the conference will be a hybrid event so that those not able to travel can still benefit from the excellent scientific and educational sessions planned. One of

the highlights, the Ceppellini Lecture, will be delivered by Nobel Laureate Professor Peter Doherty who received the 1996 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine together with Professor Rolf Zinkernagel for their work in defining how T-cells recognise their targets via MHC proteins. You can find more information about Professor Doherty's work at the Doherty Institute website, and in particular I recommend that you read Professor Doherty's weekly column, Setting it Straight, which covers much of what is known about SARs-CoV-2 infections and immune responses.

The pandemic is still with us, although thankfully due to successful vaccination programs and the apparent reduced severity of the omicron variant, it is not having as significant an impact on our healthcare systems. I look forward to the plenary session entitled COVID-19,

at our EFI conference, to find out about the most up to date findings related to SARs-CoV-2. I am also looking forward to the session that we will share with the European Society for Blood and Marrow Transplantation (EBMT). The joint sessions that we have hosted at previous EFI conferences have been very successful and highlight how our speciality impacts on the work of other societies.

Next year we look forward to the EFI conference being hosted in Nantes, France and we know that Pierre-Antoine Gourraud and the organising team are already very active with the planning of this event. I can also announce that EFI 2024 will be hosted by our EFI colleagues in Jerusalem, the first EFI conference to take place in Israel. We wish all organisers much success with their plans. I daresay the EFI Secretary will be looking for applications for 2025, so if organising an EFI conference appeals to you, please look out for the invitation to apply in a future newsletter.

I was honoured to be invited to the inaugural Arabian Society for Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics (ARSHI) conference which took place on line in March. The ARSHI Board, including our Past President Ilias Doxiadis, are to be congratulated on organising a great event which saw over 2000 delegates attend. This highlights the demand for an active Histocompatibility & Immunogenetics society within the Arabic and African region and we wish the society much success with their work. We look forward to EFI and ARSHI working together to benefit from both organisations experiences in our specialist field. The next Summerschool will be hosted by ARSHI, details of which will hopefully be available soon.

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Sebastiaan Heidt

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....FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

As you may have noticed, the last EFI Newsletter was published digitally, but was not sent as a printed version. While this was due to a logistical problem, luckily the current Newsletter is to be sent out in printed form as per usual. If you want your physical EFI Newsletter collection complete, please visit the EFI booth at the Annual Conference, since a limited number of copies of Newsletter #96 will be printed and available.

Mentioning the EFI booth at the Annual Conference, this will be located in the exhibition area of the Beurs van Berlage, surrounded by our loyal sponsors. The support of our sponsors has made it possible for us to plan an exciting meeting in Amsterdam, May 17-20. The motto of the meeting is 'Tolerance, Acceptance, and Permissiveness, which seems more relevant than ever. We are happy to see that many of you have registered already, either in-person or for the online event.

Together with the EFI Scientific Committee we have planned an exciting scientific program, as can be seen in this Newsletter. Additionally, we will have a spectacular opening session, a networking event that will make the city of Amsterdam proud, and a magical closing session. For this closing session, Dutch Illusionist and medical doctor Victor Mids (for the Dutch people well known from National television) will perform his 'Neuromagic' show. So there is lots to do in Amsterdam coming EFI meeting!

Furthermore, this newsletter contains some reports of our committees, a vacancy for the EFI Scientific Committee, as well as a report from the Balkan 2022 EPT meeting.

As always, I hope you enjoy reading this Newsletter. I look forward to meeting you all in Amsterdam soon!

Sebastiaan Heidt

Deadline for contributions to EFI Newsletter 98 is September 12, 2022. Please send your contributions by e-mail to s.heidt@lumc.nl



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< 7 hours total
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.....FROM THE EFI PRESIDENT (CONTINUED)

The EFI Executive Committee is always busy. We have had two teleconference meetings since I last wrote to you. One of our ongoing actions is to review the Constitution and the responsibilities of the members of the Executive Committee. This is in response to a report produced by lawyers after EFI sought advice on our Legal Statutes. I am pleased to say that myself, our Treasurer Gwendaline Guidicelli; Deputy

Treasurer Paul Rouzair and Councillor Kay Poulton are making progress in this area and we will update you on our findings during the General Assembly meeting. We have also initiated work to define EFI's approach to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, having been inspired by the work of EBMT. More information on this topic will follow in future newsletters.

In closing this letter, I wish all of you travelling to Amsterdam safe travels and I look forward to seeing you there.

Ann-Margaret Little

Photo: Sunday afternoon walk Glen Finglas, Trossachs National Park, Scotland.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Since the last issue of the EFI Newsletter we received a lot of applications forms from new members. Hereby we would like to welcome the following new EFI members:

S. De Pelsmaeker, Mechelen, Belgium
S. Sinopoli, Rome, Italy
N. Pollock, Aurora, USA
M. Cooper, Tunbridge Wells, United Kingdom
X. Georgiou, East Barnet, United Kingdom
M. Jirouš, Osijek, Croatia
D. Eggleston, Manchester, United Kingdom
D. Oikonomopoulou, Athens, Greece
H. Klump, Essen, Germany
M. Sorbini, Torino, Italy
S. Koetzier, Maastricht, the Netherlands
R. Raval, London, United Kingdom
P. Rao, New Providence, United States
M. Alheim, Stockholm, Sweden
M. Dratwa, Wroclaw, Poland
P. Flynn, Manchester, United Kingdom
A. Chiorean, Cluj Napoca, Romania
D. Lowe, Alsager, United Kingdom
D. Dell'Edera, Matera, Italy

F. Juhász, Budapest, Hungary
E. Gómez Massa, Vidreres, Spain
L. Leaton, Denver, United States
W. Palmer, Aurora, United States
H. Miyadera, Ibaraki, Japan
D. Nadeem, London, United Kingdom
M. Hoddinott, Hook, United Kingdom
F. Fenninger, Vancouver, Canada
J. Peat, London, United Kingdom
N.K. Moncada Saucedo, Monterrey, Mexico
J.S. Bhamra, Oslo, Norway
G. Hell, Strasbourg, France
A. Kaplanski, Petach-Tikva, Israel
A. Tolios, Vienna, Austria
M. Keogan, Dublin, Ireland
D. Londero, Udine, Italy
L. Anderson, Randpark Ridge, South Africa
D. Stauch, Berlin, Germany

INVITATION TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2022

All EFI members are invited to attend the 2022 EFI General Assembly, which will be held during the 35th European Immunogenetics and Histocompatibility Conference.

The General Assembly will be held on Thursday 19th May 2022, 17:30 – 19:00 hrs in the Beurs van Berlage, Effectenbeurszaal in Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

If you are unable to be present at the General Assembly you can ask someone that you trust to vote for you, this is what is called voting by proxy in the constitution. The General Assembly will be streamed but it will not be possible to vote or ask questions. Please send the application to vote by Proxy to the EFI office no later than two weeks before the General Assembly.

The General Assembly is chaired by the EFI President and a draft agenda is given below.

Agenda

1. Opening
2. Minutes of the General Assembly April 22 2021 (EFI Newsletter September 2021 issue 95)
3. Report of the EFI President
4. Report of the EFI Secretary
5. Report of the EFI Treasurer
6. Report of the EFI Committees
 - a. Accreditation
 - b. Education
 - c. External Proficiency Testing
 - d. Scientific
 - e. Standards and Quality Assurance
 - f. IT & Bioinformatics Committee
7. Next EFI conference - Nantes, France
8. EFI medal
9. Installation of new EFI Officers and Councillors

Mats Bengtsson,
EFI Secretary on behalf of the Executive Committee



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MAY 17-20 2022

BEURS VAN BERIAGE

ASSOCIATED MEETINGS

Monday 16 May 2022

GRAANBEURSZAAL

9:00 - 17:15 Accreditation Inspectors Workshop
Chairperson: **Blanka Vidan-Jeras**

Tuesday 17 May 2022

BLAUWEKAMER

8:30 - 16:00 Standards Committee Meeting
Chairperson: **Katy Latham**

ONTVANGKAMER

8:30 - 16:00 Accreditation Committee Meeting
Chairperson: **Blanka Vidan Jeras**

ADMINISTRATIEZAAL

8:30 - 16:00 Executive Committee Meeting
Chairperson: **Ann-Margaret Little**

MENDEZ DACOSTAKAMER

8:30 - 16:00 External Proficiency Testing Committee Meeting
Chairperson: **Helle Bruunsgaard**

ROLAND HOLSTKAMER

10:00 - 12:00 IT & Bioinformatics Committee Meeting
Chairperson: **Eric Spierings**

14:00 - 17:00 Educational Committee Meeting
Chairperson: **David Turner**

DERKINDERENKAMER

14:00 - 16:00 Scientific Committee Meeting
Chairperson: **Luca Vago**

16:00 - 17:30 Open Meeting of the Population Genetics Workgroup
Chairperson: **Alicia Sanches-Mazas**

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

Tuesday 17 May 2022

EFFECTENBEURSZAAL / GRAANBEURSZAAL

OPENING CEREMONY

17:30 - 18:00 Welcome Addresses
Eric Spierings, Sebastiaan Heidt, Ann-Margaret Little

18:00 - 18:20 Julia Bodmer Award
Luca Vago

18:20 - 18:30 HLA Award
Steven Marsh

18:30 - 19:00 Ceppellini Lecture
Ann-Margaret Little

GROTE ZAAL

19:00 - 21:00 Welcome Reception

Wednesday 18 May 2022

EFFECTENBEURSZAAL / GRAANBEURSZAAL

PLENARY SESSION 1

Tolerance in Solid Organ Transplantation

Chairpersons: **Dave Roelen, Silvia Gregori**

8:30 - 09:00 Microbiota and Immunoregulation: a focus on regulatory B Lymphocytes and transplantation
Sophie Brouard

9:00 - 09:30 Regulatory macrophages in solid organ transplantation
James Hutchinson

9:30 - 10:00 The Two study: reducing immunosuppression in renal transplant recipients with the use of Tregs
Fadi Issa

PARALLEL SESSIONS

EFFECTENBEURSZAAL

Special Joint Session EBMT and EFI

Chairpersons: **Katharina Fleischauer, Harry Dolstra**

10:30 - 11:00 Integrated HLA-DPB1 permissiveness models in stem cell transplantation
Katharina Fleischauer

11:00 - 11:30 CAR-T cell therapy: allogeneic versus autologous
Benjamin Reuben

11:30 - 12:00 Allogeneic (CAR)NK-cell adoptive transfer
Harry Dolstra

VEILINGZAAL

10:30 - 12:00 **Abstract Session: Solid Organ Transplantation 1 (O9-O16)**

Chairpersons: **Kirsten Geneugelijk, Gottfried Fischer**

ADMINISTRATIEZAAL

10:30 - 12:00 **Abstract Session: NK Cells and Reproductive Immunology (O17-O24)**

Chairpersons: **Lotte Wieten, John Trowsdale**



GRAANBEURSZAAL

Teaching session: Donor-specific HLA Antibodies - What Can Be Accepted?

Chairpersons: **Ann-Margaret Little, Malte Ziemann, Stefan Schaub**

- 10:30 - 11:00** Methods for donor HLA antibody detection
Stefan Schaub
- 11:00 - 11:30** DSA: what is acceptable in stem cell transplantation?
Ann-Margaret Little
- 11:30 - 12:00** DSA: what is acceptable in solid organ transplantation?
Malte Ziemann

BERLAGEZAAL

10:30 - 12:00 Hands On Teaching Session: Bioinformatics - Molecular Mismatch Tools in Practice

Pre-registration required

Chairpersons: **James Robinson, Ben Matern**

EFFECTENBEURSZAAL

13:00 - 13:45 Industry Sponsored Symposium: CareDx

GRAANBEURSZAAL

13:00 - 13:45 Industry Sponsored Symposium: GenDx

VEILINGZAAL

13:00 - 13:45 Industry Sponsored Symposium: BAG Diagnostics

ADMINISTRATIEZAAL

13:00 - 13:45 Industry Sponsored Symposium: Devyser

GRAANBEURSZAAL

14:00 - 15:30 Abstract Session: Immunotherapy, Gene Therapy and New Technologies (O25-O32)

Chairpersons: **Rainer Blasczyk, Neema Mayor**

VEILINGZAAL

14:00 - 15:30 Abstract Session: Bioinformatics (O33-O40)

Chairpersons: **Nicolas Vince, Martin Maiers**

EFFECTENBEURSZAAL

Teaching session: Non-HLA Antibodies: How Permissible Are They in Transplant Settings?

Chairperson: **Henny Otten**

- 14:00 - 14:30** Non-HLA antibodies: acquirement and detection
Henny Otten
- 14:30 - 15:00** Clinical relevance for kidney transplantation: are non-HLA antibodies acceptable?
Maarten Naesens
- 15:00 - 15:30** Permissiveness of non-HLA antibodies in different transplantation settings
Stefan Berger

BERLAGEZAAL

14:00 - 15:30 Meet the Expert Session

Confirmed experts: **Sir Walter Bodmer, Sjaak Neefjes, Steven Marsh**

ADMINISTRATIEZAAL

14:00 - 15:30 Special Session: Equality, Inclusiveness and Diversity in EFI

Chairperson: **Ann-Margaret Little**

EFFECTENBEURSZAAL / GRAANBEURSZAAL

PLENARY SESSION 2

Big Data - Systems Biology

Chairpersons: **Irma Joosten, Elissaveta Naumova**

- 16:00 - 16:30** Cell atlas methods to study tissue-resident immunity
Menna Clatworthy
- 16:30 - 17:00** Human immunology through the lens of evolutionary genetics
Lluis Quintana-Murci
- 17:00 - 17:30** Computational approaches and air-liquid interface organoids to study immune-mediated human disorders
Vincent van Unen

GRAANBEURSZAAL

17:30 - 20:00 Wine and Cheese Poster Session

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Solid Organ Transplantation | P1 – P50 |
| Reproductive Immunology | P51 – P54 |
| Immunotherapy and Gene Therapy | P55 – P58 |
| New Technologies | P59 – P79 |
| Bioinformatics | P80 – P89 |
| Stem Cell Transplantation | P90 – P115 |
| NK Cells and KIR | P116 – P127 |
| MHC, Evolution, Anthropology, Population Genetics | P128 – P160 |
| SARS-CoV-2 | P161 – P184 |
| Miscellaneous | P185 – P219 |

Thursday 19 May 2022

EFFECTENBEURSZAAL / GRAANBEURSZAAL

PLENARY SESSION 3

Tolerance Through Gene Therapy

Chairpersons: **Mats Bengtsson, Antoine Sicard**

- 8:30 - 09:00** Innovative strategies for kidney bioengineering
Ton Rabelink
- 9:00 - 09:30** Engineering cells (and organs) to evade immune detection
Rainer Blasczyk
- 9:30 - 10:00** HLA-specific CAR Tregs in organ transplantation - from bench to bedside
Megan Levings

PARALLEL SESSIONS

EFFECTENBEURSZAAL

Special Session: Acceptable and Unacceptable Antigens in Solid Organ Transplantation

Chairpersons: **Bouke Hepkema, Jean Villard**

- 10:30 - 11:00** Solid phase assays to determine HLA antibodies: pros and cons
Stefan Schaub
- 11:00 - 11:30** Utility of the virtual crossmatch in kidney transplantation
David Turner
- 11:30 - 12:00** Modes of identifying acceptable vs non-acceptable mismatches in kidney transplantation
Nils Lachmann

VEILINGZAAL

10:30 - 12:00 Abstract Session: Stem Cell Transplantation (O41-O48)

Chairpersons: **Laura Bungener, Esteban Arrieta Bolaños**



ADMINISTRATIEZAAL

10:30 - 12:00 Abstract Session: MHC and Anthropology (O49-O56)

Chairpersons: **Natasja de Groot, Jose Manuel De Abreu Nunes**

GRAANBEURZAAL

Teaching Session: Tissue-specific Immunity

Chairpersons: **Michael Eijkmans, Arnold van der Meer**

10:30 - 11:00 Mucosal tolerance
Janneke Samson

11:00 - 11:30 Tolerance in kidney transplantation
Raphael Duivenvoorden

11:30 - 12:00 Tolerance in stem cell transplantation
Femke van Wijke

EFFECTENBEURZAAL

13:00 - 13:45 Industry Sponsored Symposium: Oxford Nanopore Technologies

GRAANBEURZAAL

13:00 - 13:45 Industry Sponsored Symposium: One Lambda Inc. A Thermo Fisher Scientific Brand

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13:00 - 13:45 Industry Sponsored Symposium: Omixon

ADMINISTRATIEZAAL

13:00 - 13:45 Industry Sponsored Symposium: Immucor

GRAANBEURZAAL

14:00 - 15:30 Abstract Session: Solid Organ Transplantation 2 (O57-O64)

Chairpersons: **Wendy Swelsen, David Turner**

ADMINISTRATIEZAAL

14:00 - 15:30 Abstract Session: SARS-Cov-2 and Miscellaneous (O65-O72)

Chairpersons: **Ilias Doxiadis, Jill Hollenbach**

BERLAGEZAAL

14:00 - 15:30 Hands on Teaching Session: Permissiveness of DSAs: to Transplant or Not?

Pre-registration required

Chairpersons: **Christine Voorter, Michael Eikmans, Laura Bungener, Arnold van der Meer**

EFFECTENBEURZAAL

Teaching Session: Bioinformatics

Chairpersons: **Ben Matern**

14:00 - 14:30 Developing bio informatics tools in NGS
Gerhard Schöfl

14:30 - 15:00 NGS-based HLA typing in practice
Neema Mayor

15:00 - 15:30 TCR sequencing with NGS
Peter de Greef

EFFECTENBEURZAAL / GRAANBEURZAAL

PLENARY SESSION 4

Future Perspectives in Stem Cell Transplantation

Chairpersons: **Adriaan van Beek, Luca Vago**

16:00 - 16:30 Cell and tissue-specific cellular and molecular mechanisms that influence tolerance vs anti-tumor immunity upon stem cell transplantation

Ronjon Chakraverty

16:30 - 17:00 HLA-DQA/DQB permissiveness in stem cell transplantation

Effie Petersdorf

17:00 - 17:30 gd-T cells and future perspectives of stem cell transplantation

Jurgen Kuball

EFFECTENBEURZAAL

17:30 - 19:00 General Assembly

Friday 20 May 2022

EFFECTENBEURZAAL

8:30 - 10:00 Best Abstract Session (O1-O8)

Chairpersons: **Luca Vago, Sebastiaan Heidt, Eric Spierings**

PLENARY SESSION 5

State of the Art: COVID-19

Chairpersons: **Joannis Mytilineos, John Trowsdale**

10:00 - 10:30 How the Sars-Cov2 pandemic unfolded
Marc Bonten

10:30 - 11:00 Immunogenetics and COVID-19
Jill Hollenbach

11:00 - 11:30 Sars-Cov2 peptide presentation and immune response
Juliane Walz

EFFECTENBEURZAAL

12:00 - 13:00 Special Session: Reports From the 18th IHIWS

Chairpersons: **Sebastiaan Heidt, Eric Spierings**

EFFECTENBEURZAAL

CLOSING CEREMONY

Chairpersons: **Sebastiaan Heidt, Eric Spierings, Ann-Margaret Little**

13:00 - 13:45 Neuromagic

"Neuromagic is a combination of illusionism, psychology, medicine and sleight of hand. While leaving the classical form of magic behind, Victor takes his audience in an entertaining and intelligent way along a range of illusions and neuropsychological experiments. How easily will you be distracted? How do you erase someone's memory? And does a free will actually exist? Find out how easy your own brain and senses are being fooled."

Victor Mids, illusionist and medical doctor

13:45 - 14:00 Jon van Rood Award and Best Abstracts Awards
Committee chair: Steven Marsh

14:00 - 14:15 Best Poster Awards

Committee chair: Kirsten Geneugelijk

14:15 - 14:30 Closing remarks

UPDATE FROM THE EFI EDUCATION COMMITTEE

MARCH 2022

European Specialisation in H&I (ESHI) Diploma

Online ESHI Diploma exams were undertaken by three candidates in November 2021. All three candidates passed the modules they had applied for. In total 29 candidates have undertaken the oral examination with only 3 (10%) candidates failing all modules and 3 (10%) candidates failing some of the modules applied for. Information on the application process for the ESHI examinations can be accessed the Section of Surgery Transplant Immunology page of the UEMS website (at: <https://uemssurg.org/divisions/transplant-immunology/>). The next examinations (online) will take place in May 2022, with a deadline for application of 30th April 2022.

e-Learning

The 30 minute presentations on different aspects of H&I in solid organ transplantation, HSCT, disease association and transfusion are still available to EFI members via the website. Log on to the EFI website and navigate to 'Resources' under Useful Links and 'ESHI Diploma training course', then follow the instruc-

tions to register and create an account to access these talks.

EFI Continued Medical Education (CME) / Continued Professional Development (CPD)

The Education Committee and EFI Office (with input from colleagues on the Accreditation Committee and the Executive Committee) has worked with a UK company called CPDme to develop an online system for EFI members to record CME/CPD activities. Activities can be noted, allowing categorization according to whether they are Educational, Clinical, Professional or Academic. Self-reflective statements can be captured and associated documents linked to the activity. A visual summary allows an at a glance oversight of your CME/CPD and an annual statement can be created when required. This will be launched at the EFI 2022 Conference and will be free for all members.

European Technical H&I Qualification (ETHIQ)

This scheme is for technical staff working in EFI accredited laboratories, with supervision given by senior staff in

their own lab. The aim was to create a qualification that gives a measure of both knowledge and technical competence in H&I. During a pilot, four colleagues working in France have completed the logbook, associated work and the online assessment. To grow the scheme, the EFI Education Committee and EFI Office have developed the ETHIQ qualification as an online Moodle resource to enable more members to access the qualification. The platform and cost to applicants is currently being finalized and after Summer 2022 it is hoped EFI members will be able to apply for the online ETHIQ via the EFI website.

And finally....

After 12 years on the EFI Education Committee, the last 6 as Chair, I'll be leaving the group after the EFI 2022 conference. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time working with all of the members of the committee over the years and it's been very rewarding to have been involved in so many interesting activities. I wish Deborah Sage the best of luck in taking over the Chairing of the group.





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- Paired Kidney Exchange
- DSA Analysis
- Virtual Crossmatch Assessment

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- Reagent Vendor Interfaces
Assign SBT, Assign Trusight, Chimerism Interfaces, Flow Cytometry Interfaces, HistoMatch, HLA Fusion, HLA Twin, MatchIt!, Mia Fora NGS, NanoDrop, NGSengine, QiaXpert, QuBit, SBTengine, Scisco Genetics, Score5, Score6, SureTyper, TypeStream Visual, UniMatch, uTYPE
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REPORT OF THE EFI ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE

Due to the new wave of COVID-19 the Training Workshop for aspirant inspectors planned for January 22nd 2022 had to be postponed to April 8th. We hope for no additional surprises which unfortunately cannot be completely excluded in this difficult time. While there has not been an EFI accredited laboratory in Ukraine yet, some Russian laboratories are working according to the EFI standards to assure quality services to transplantation programmes. For them, all processes necessary to renew accreditations have been carried out virtually.

EFI has received the Memorandum of Understanding from Deutsche Akkreditierungsstelle (DAkkS), the national accreditation

body of the Federal Republic of Germany, jointly prepared with EFI Commissioners from Germany and some other members of the Deutschen Gesellschaft für Immungenetik (DGI). It's our turn now to give feedback.

The Accreditation Committee is preparing interesting programmes for Annual Inspectors Workshop that will be held in Amsterdam on May 16th. We look forward to meeting as many inspectors as possible there and later on other EFI colleagues and friends.

Blanka Vidan Jeras
Chair EFI Accreditation Committee

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS TO THE EFI SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

We are pleased to call for applications regarding an opening for a Regular Member in the EFI Scientific Committee (SC). Any EFI member with a strong scientific background and ongoing activities in scientific research, as evidenced by her/his CV and publication record, is invited to send in her/his application. Applications should consist of

Applications should be sent directly via email to the chair of the Scientific Committee, Prof. Luca Vago (vago.luca@hsr.it), and to the EFI Secretary Dr. Mats Bengtsson (mats.bengtsson@igp.uu.se), no later than Saturday April 30, 2022. Applications submitted after this deadline will not be considered.

- The completed relevant application form, to be downloaded from the EFI website at https://www.efi-web.org/fileadmin/user_upload/Website_documenten/EFI_Committees/2016-09-16_Committee_Application_Form_v3.pdf
- A short CV with complete publication record (only peer-reviewed publications, published or in press)
- A short letter of presentation stating the motivation for the applicant's interest in serving the EFI-SC

UPDATE ON THE EFI EXTERNAL PROFICIENCY TESTING COMMITTEE

The EFI EPT Committee met virtually on December 15, 2021. All EPT schemes were running despite the Covid-19 pandemic.

An update on Standards for Providers have been created and accepted by the EFI EPT Committee in April 2021 and approved by the EFI Executive Committee. New standards are found on the EFI website.

On behalf of the EFI EPT Committee,
Helle Bruunsgaard
Chair EFI External Proficiency Testing Committee

Members of the EPT Committee in 2022

| Name | Region | Country | Role |
|-------------------------|--------|-----------------|----------|
| Helle Bruunsgaard | 1 | Denmark | Chair |
| Yvonne Zoet * | 2 | The Netherlands | Co-Chair |
| Deborah Pritchard | 3+99 | UK | Member |
| Martin Bernheiden | 4 | Germany | Member |
| Katarzyna Bogunia-Kubik | 5 | Poland | Member |
| Sylvie Ferrari-Lacraz | 6+11 | France | Member |
| Elena Longhi | 7 | Italy | Member |
| Anastasiya Mihaylova | 8 | Bulgaria | Member |
| Sandra Tafulo | 9+10 | Portugal | Member |

Seeing Beyond Limits

In addition to our Gold Sponsorship, we are thrilled to also provide reagents for official workshop projects!

Immucor is a proud partner and gold sponsor of the 18th International HLA & Immunogenetics Workshop, May 2022 in Amsterdam, The Netherlands!

We invite you to participate in these exciting projects that aim to better understand and define HLA epitopes and clinical relevance of non-HLA antibodies in the absence of donor-specific HLA antibodies.

- The Immucor LIFECODES® Non-HLA Antibody reagents will be used in the “Testing the clinical utility of commercial Non-HLA antibody kits” project coordinated by Dr. Raymond Fernando (United Kingdom).
- The Immucor LIFECODES® LSA™ Class I and Class II reagents will be used in the “Definition of Immunogenic Epitopes” project coordinated by Dr. Sebastiaan Heidt (The Netherlands) & Dr. Eric Spierings (The Netherlands).

To participate in these projects visit <https://www.ihw18.org/>



MAY 17 - 20 2022
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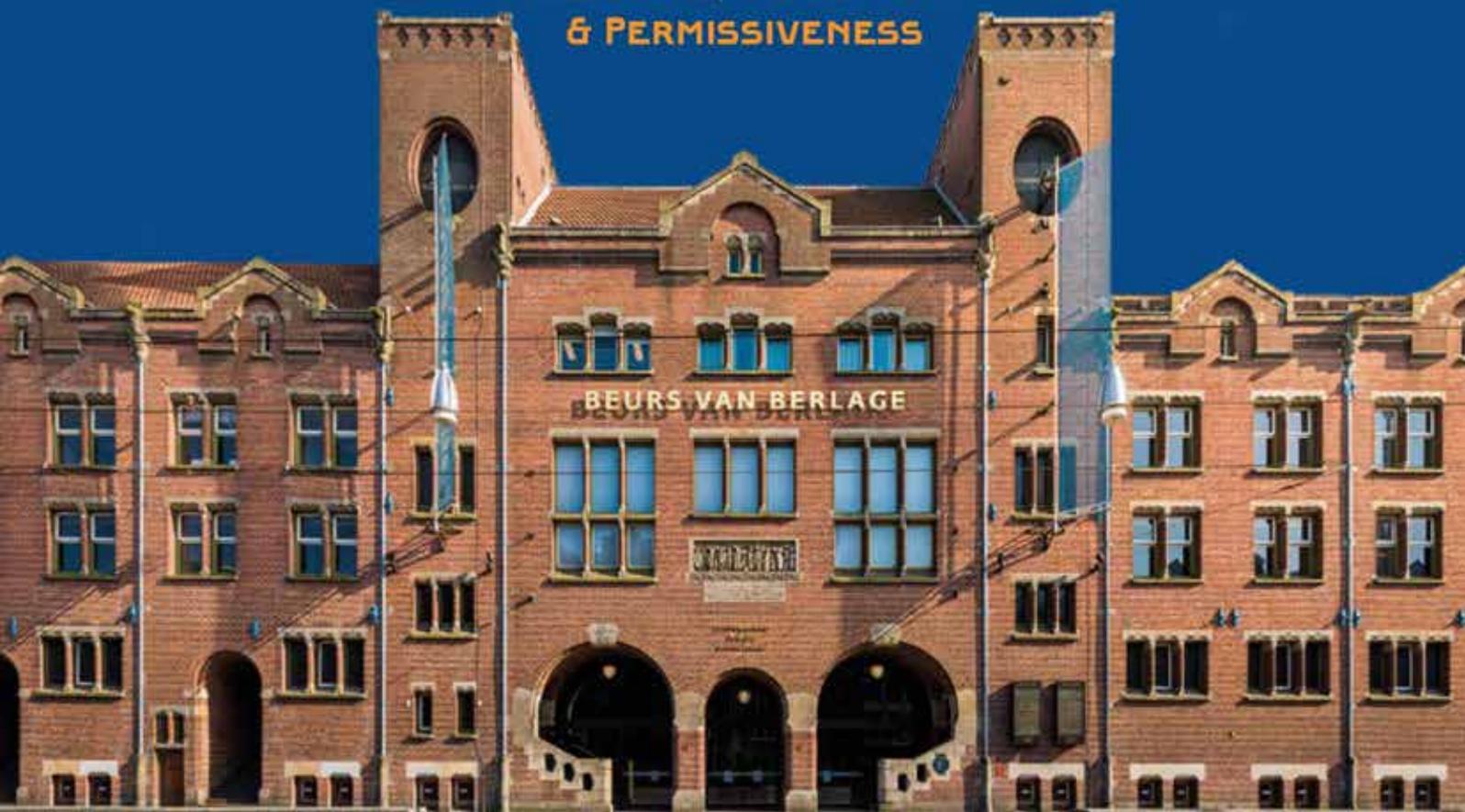
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EFI 2022

AMSTERDAM - THE NETHERLANDS

AMSTERDAM
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TOLERANCE, ACCEPTANCE
& PERMISSIVENESS



ORGANIZATION

EFI - European Federation for Immunogenetics LUMC
Poortgebouw Noordzijde
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Tel: +31 (0)71 526 5111



LOCAL ORGANIZATION
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The 18th International HLA & Immunogenetics Workshop

The Netherlands, May 11-15, 2022

Preliminary program

| Day | Time | Program |
|-------------------------|---------------|--|
| Wednesday, May 11, 2022 | 13:00 - 18:00 | Registration |
| | 18:30 - 22:00 | Opening and welcome reception |
| Thursday, May 12, 2022 | 8:30 - 12:00 | Workshop Sessions |
| | 12:00 - 13:00 | Lunch |
| | 13:00 - 17:00 | Workshop Sessions |
| | 17:30 - 19:00 | Dinner |
| | 19:00 - 22:00 | Wine Tasting |
| Friday, May 13, 2022 | 7:00 - 8:30 | Councillors' Breakfast Meeting (on invitation) |
| | 8:30 - 12:00 | Workshop Sessions |
| | 12:00 - 13:00 | Lunch |
| | 13:00 - 18:00 | Workshop Sessions |
| | 19:00 - 24:00 | Networking Event |
| Saturday, May 14, 2022 | 8:30 - 12:00 | Workshop Sessions |
| | 12:00 - 13:00 | Lunch |
| | 13:00 - 17:00 | Workshop Sessions |
| | 17:30 - 19:00 | Dinner |
| | 18:00 - 22:00 | Councillors' Dinner (on invitation) |
| Sunday, May 15, 2022 | 8:30 - 12:00 | Plenary session |
| | 12:00 - 13:00 | Lunch |
| | 13:00 - 17:00 | Plenary session / Closing |
| | 18:00 | Departure Amsterdam |
| Monday, May 16, 2022 | 11:00 | Departure Amsterdam |

Registration now open!

<https://www.ihw18.org/ihw18-registration/>

By Luca Vago, section editor HLA journal

Polymorphism of the HLA system and weak antibody response to BNT162b2 mRNA vaccine.

Crocchiolo R, Gallina AM, Pani A, Campisi D, Cento V, Sacchi N, Miotti V, Gagliardi OM, D'Amico F, Vismara C, Cornacchini G, Lando G, Cuppari I, Scaglione F, Rossini S.

HLA. 2022 Mar;99(3):183-191. doi: 10.1111/tan.14546.

Among the many effects that the COVID-19 pandemic had on science, one of the most striking is the unprecedented rapidity with which an approach as new as mRNA vaccination was implemented in global practice. Now that their clinical efficacy has been largely proven by real-life evidence, investigation is focusing on dissecting the key determinants of this success. In particular, the brief report from Crocchiolo and coworkers focused on the small proportion of individuals who develop a weak antibody response to the vaccination and investigated potential association with their HLA asset. Comparing HLA-A, -B, -C, and DRB1 allelic frequencies of 111 individuals with responses below the 5th percentile with the reference Italian population, the Authors identified that a number of alleles and one haplotype (HLA-A*24:02~C*07:01~B*18:01~DRB1*11:04) associated with a weaker antibody response after vaccination, together with the age of vaccinees. Even though these results should be confirmed on a larger dataset, and possibly supported by data on presentation of the relevant peptides by the alleles of interest, they provide an interesting and relevant stepping stone for future studies.

SARS Cov-2 vaccination induces de novo donor-specific HLA antibodies in a renal transplant patient on waiting list: A case report.

Abu-Khader A, Wang W, Berka M, Galaszkiwicz I, Khan F, Berka N.

HLA. 2022 Jan;99(1):25-30. doi: 10.1111/tan.14492. Epub 2021 Nov 28.

The immune effects of COVID-19 are numerous and still poorly characterized, and it is even less clear which ones occur also upon SARS-Cov-2 vaccination. Although infrequently, it has been described that COVID-19 can induce the appearance of donor-specific anti-HLA antibodies. The brief report from Abu-Khader and coworkers describes the clinical case of a patient in the waiting list for kidney transplant, with no previous history of sensitization or sensitizing events such as previous transplants or blood product transfusions, that upon two doses of mRNA-based anti-SARS-CoV-2 vaccination developed de novo anti-HLA antibodies against B57 (MFI 12'211) and against B58 (MFI 10'920), corresponding to the HLA typing of the kidney donor. Flow cytometric cross matching performed after vaccination was strongly positive in the allogeneic setting for both T cells (MCS 3SD shift 185, cutoff 66) and B cells (MCS 3SD shift 149, cutoff 97). Owing to the presence of dnDSA and strongly positive final crossmatching, the scheduled transplant was canceled. This interesting case warrants even more careful assessment of patients in transplant waiting lists during these dire times, and larger studies to understand the frequency with which vaccinations induce anti-HLA antibodies.

MR1 encompasses at least six allele groups with coding region alterations.

Rozemuller E, Eckle SBG, McLaughlin I, Penning M, Mulder W, de Bruin H, van Wageningen S.

HLA. 2021 Dec;98(6):509-516. doi: 10.1111/tan.14390.

MHC class I-related protein 1 (MR1) is an MHC-I like gene that presents microbially derived vitamin B-related metabolites to a set of unconventional T cells called mucosal-associated invariant T cells (MAIT cells). Recently, it has also been shown that MR1 is able to present ligands derived from the cancer metabolome, supporting a possible role as target for immunotherapies. One of the most attractive features of MR1 for translational applications in this setting is its limited inter-individual variability, fulfilling the ideal of targeting a multi-cancer multi-individual "universal" antigen. The study from Rozemuller and coworkers challenges this notion by sequencing MR1 in 56 DNA samples from cells with a diverse set of HLA genotypes and describing six allele groups encoding for different MR1 proteins. The two most frequent allele groups found in this panel had a frequency of 71% (MR1*01) and 25% (MR1*02), respectively. In addition, numerous intronic SNPs and silent variants were detected, with individual samples containing up to 15 heterozygous positions. These data suggest marked variation in MR1, worth of further exploration, and prompts to study from the functional perspective if the different alleles have different capacity to present antigen and are bound with different affinity by MR1-specific T cell receptors.

Finally we would like to point the attention of the EFI newsletter readership to the obituary written by Takashi Shiina, Asako Ando, Jerzy K. Kulski and Masao Otain in memory of Hidetoshi Inoko, celebrating his milestone contributions to the field of immunogenetics, with milestone studies on HLA typing, transplantation, comparative genomics and disease association. He has been one of the founders of modern immunogenetics in Japan, and a central figure in the establishment of an international network in this field of research. He will be sorely missed.



55th ANNUAL MEETING 2022



German Society for
Transfusion Medicine and
Immunohematology e. V.

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21–23 September 2022
MANNHEIM

General Information

Conference venue

Congress Center Rosengarten
Rosengartenplatz 2
68161 Mannheim

Date

September 21–23, 2022

Homepage

www.dgti-kongress.de

Conference management

Prof. Dr. med. Gregor Bein
Institute for Clinical
Immunology and
Transfusion Medicine
Justus Liebig University
Giessen
University Hospital Giessen
and Marburg GmbH

Conference organisation and organiser of the industrial exhibition

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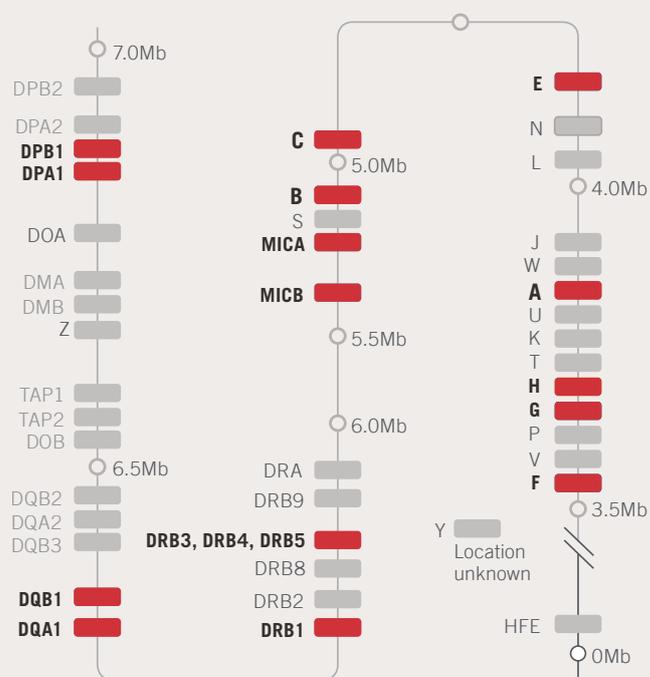
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