International Summer School 2026

11th-14th November 2026

Programme

DAY 1		
Arrival of Participants		
18:00-18:30	Registration	
18:30-19:30	Reception cocktail	
19:30 -	Dinner at hotel	
DAY 2		
08:30 – 10:00	**Introduction to HLA and H&I**	
	HLA antigens: structure, nomenclature, polymorphism, inheritance and biological role	**Professor Sally Elfishawi**
	HLA antibody testing and crossmatching techniques	**Dr Cathi Murphey**
	HLA typing methods	**Dr Nada Al-Shatti**
10:00-10:30	COFFEE BREAK	
10:30-11:30	**Bioinformatics and H&I**	
	AI in H&I	**Professor Sally Elfishawi**
	Machine learning as a tool in prediction of de novo DSA	**Dr Eric Spierings**
11:30-12:15	**Bioinformatics in H&I**	
	Hands on workshop – part 1	**Dr Eric Spierings**
12:15-13:15	LUNCH at hotel	

13:15-14:00	**Bioinformatics in H&I**	
	Hands on workshop – Part 2	**Dr Eric Spierings**
14:00-14:24	**Frans Claas Award Presentations**	
14:00-14:12	Genetic diversity and population-specific variation in the CD94/NKG2 gene cluster	**Viviane Ciriaco**
14:12-14:24	Influence of Killer-cell Immunoglobulin-like receptions (KIR) on Graft versus Host Disease post hematopoietic stem cell transplantation	**Disha Agarwal**
14:24 – 16:00	**Abstract Session I**	
14:24-14:36	Successful Living Donor Kidney Transplantation in a Highly Senstized Recipient despite persistent DSA	**Kalliopi Anastasiou**
14:36-14:48	Evaluation of a Re-Transplant Candidate's Non-Acceptable Antigen Profile: A case study	**Olivia Lee**
14:48-15:00	Can HLA locus improve risk stratification after antibody de-listing? A two case experience	**Daniel Sala Fernandez**
15:00-15:12	Beyond the immunological barrier: A successful lung transplant in the presence of high titre DSA and a positive crossmatch	**Ronit Pasvolsky-Gutman**
15:12-15:24	First outcomes of a 'delisting' strategy for highly sensitized kidney transplant candidates	**Ignacio Perez**
15:24:15:36	Post-transplant monitoring of highly sensitized kidney transplant recipients in the Eurotransplant Acceptable Mismatch program: a Croatian cohort study	**Iva Zulj**
15:36-15:48	Impact of excluding anti-HLA-C and -DP antibodies from the allocation system on kidney transplant access	**Margot Lepage**
15:48-16:00	Implementation of a revised HLA antibody screening protocol in unsensitised renal transplant candidates	**Ally Moore**
16:00-16:30	COFFEE BREAK	
16:30-17:30	**HLA and diseases**	
	HLA and disease associations in clinical practice	**Dr Katerina Tarassi**
	HLA and drug hypersensitivity	**Dr Dianne DeSantis**
17:30-18:45	**Abstracts session II**	
17:30 - 17:42	Advancing donor selection with miHA genotyping and genetic sex determination	**Robert Grosse**
17:42 - 17:54	The role of regulatory CD4+ T cells in alloreactive responses against HLA-DP	**Selina Inalkac**
17:54 - 18:06	The lymphocyte function of allogeneic peripheral blood stem cell grafts is associated with relapse and cytomegalovirus reactivation	**Anna Soderstrom**

18:06 - 18:18	Harnessing immunopeptidome divergence of HLA class II in allogeneic hematopoietic cell transplantation for the cure of leukemia	**Fabian Dressler**
18:18 - 18:30	ADCU - Adult Donor cryopreserved units	**Karen Ende**
18:30 - 18:42	Developing Project: TCRseq of paired HSCT donor and recipients	**Emilie Han**
19:30 -	SOCIAL EVENT in hotel	
DAY 3		
09:00-10:30	**Solid organ transplantation**	
	The role of Histocompatibility in kidney/pancreas transplantation	**Dr Duangtawan Thammanichanond**
	Histocompatibility testing beyond the kidney: supporting heart, lung, and liver transplantation	**Dr Anne Halpin**
	Virtual crossmatch strategies	**Dr Cathi Murphey**
10:30-11:00	COFFEE BREAK	
11:00-12:00	**Solid organ transplantation**	
	Rejection and post-transplant monitoring	**Dr Duangtawan Thammanichanond**
	ABO Histocompatibility	**Dr Anne Halpin**
12:00-13:24	**Abstracts session III**	
12:00 - 12:12	Analytical performance evaluation of a droplet digital PCR based assay for donor-derived cell-free DNA quantification	**James Rowan**
12:12 - 12:24	CXCL10 in kidney transplantation	**Joelle Handschin**
12:24 - 12:36	Apparentness of unseen rejection episodes post-rlTx is reliably enabled by ddcfDNA detection	**Aleksandra Gazikalovic**
12:36 - 12:48	A pilot study of the utility of QuantiFERON Monitor® Kit as a biomarker of immune function in renal patients	**Nikoletta Stoch**
12:48 - 13:00	Human Neutrophil Antigen antibodies in kidney transplant candidates	**Chrysanthi Tsirligkani**
13:00 - 13:12	The role of anti-Human Neutrophil Antigens (HNA) Antibodies in kidney transplantation	**Margarita Samali**
13:12 - 13:24	Establishing the baseline population characteristics, and evaluating the clinical utility of 60 non-HLA specific antibody targets in a large well characterised UK renal cohort, utlilising commercially available testing kits	**Charlene Hoad**
13:25-14:30	LUNCH at hotel	
14:30-16:30	**Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation (HSCT) and transfusion Medicine**	

	HLA and donor selection strategy in HSCT	**Dr Deborah Sage**
	Engraftment monitoring and HLA Loss after HSCT	**Dr Marco Andreani**
	KIR in HSCT	**Dr Marco Andreani**
	The relevance of HLA and HPA in transfusion medicine	**Dr Deborah Sage**
16:30-17:00	COFFEE BREAK	
17:00-18:40	**Abstracts session IV**	
17:00 – 17:12	Patterned but independent: HLA copy number variations in 1.7 million donors	**Stefanie Tietze**
17:12 – 17:24	Who's linked to whom? Decoding HLA haplotypes in the laboratory	**Low Hwei Yee**
17:24 – 17:36	Frequency of HLA-A, HLA-B, and HLA-DRB1 alleles in 1,659 individuals evaluated for hematopoietic stem cell transplantation in Iraq: A retrospective study	**Mohammed Tahir**
17:36 – 17:48	HLA-DRB3, -DRB4 and -DRB5 allele frequencies across 116 populations from 101 countries	**Stefanie Bernas**
17:48 – 18:00	HLA genotyping and autoantibody intensity in individuals evaluated for Celiac Disease	**Sofia Nikolaou**
18:00 – 18:12	B*27 alleles along the Silk Road	**Marissa Monk**
18:12 – 18:24	Population and Malaria association study of HLA characterization and imputation for population genetics in West Africa (Benin)	**Syrine Amara**
18:24 – 18:36	HLA-B at the interface of Autoimmunity and Drug Hypersenstivity: Evidence for a shared Immunogenetics Platform	**Mariana Pavel-Tanasa**
19:30 -	Dinner at HOTEL	
DAY4		
08:40 -10:30	**Abstracts session V**	
08:45 - 08:57	Re-classifying assay-intrinsic HLA reactivity through Orthogonal SAB testing expands donor compatibility without short-term allograft risk	**Anna Mallone**
08:57 - 09:09	Integrating serological CREG and molecular eplet analysis enhances characterization of alloreactivity in renal transplant patients	**Chippy C S**
09:09 - 09:21	Association of DQ-specific eplet mismatch load and PIRCHE-II scores with de novo DSA development in pediatric living-donor kidney transplantation	**Aleksandra Milojevic**
09:21 - 09:33	Validation of LABScreen ™ Luminex® kits for the detection and characterisation of HLA IgM antibodies	**Katie Whittle**
09:33 - 09:45	Building an independent research program in Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics as a young scientist: A transition from Autoimmunity to Alloimmunity	**Marie Skougaard**

09:45- 09:57	Implementation and validation of high-resolution HLA typing by Next Generation Sequencing in a clinical transplant laboratory	**Alin-Dan Chiorean**
09:57 – 10:09	Expanding HLA diversity through Next Generation Sequencing: The Trento HLA laboratory experience in identifying seven novel alleles	**Katia Giacomelli**
10:09 – 10:21	Expanding HLA diversity through Next Generation Sequencing: The Trento HLA laboratory experience in identifying seven novel alleles	**Elena Beretta**
10:25-11:00	COFFEE BREAK	
11:00-12:30	**New methods and trends in H&I**	
	New direction in HLA typing (NGS/nanopore technologies)	**Dr Dianne DeSantis**
	Donor derived cell free DNA in solid organ transplantation	**Dr Nada Al-Shatti**
	Xenotransplantation	**Dr Katerina Tarassi**
12:30-13:00	Closing Remarks	