Current Topics in Histocompatibility & Transplantation

A Unique Continuing Education Opportunity

2008 Teleconference Series

An ABHI Approved Continuing Education Program

Sponsored by

Sandra Rosen-Bronson, Ph.D., D.(ABHI)

Georgetown University

Washington, DC

Current Topics in Histocompatibility and Transplantation for Technologists

This series of twenty interactive lectures, moderated by Dr. Sandra Rosen-Bronson, will reach hundreds of individuals through real-time, ninety minute in-depth audio conferences involving organizations and people from around the world. Without ever leaving your laboratory or office, you can listen to expert scientists and key decision makers thousands of miles away. You can ask questions and get immediate answers as well as listen to other participants' questions. This convenient and cost-effective educational tool will allow you to keep current in the field of histocompatibility testing and transplantation. Each participant will earn ABHI Continuing Education Credit (CEC) equal to 1.5 contact hours or 0.225 CEC per lecture.

Frequently Asked Questions

How Does a Teleconference Work? Three to five days before each lecture, a teleconference packet is mailed to your site coordinator containing the lecture slides as a PowerPoint Show on CD-ROM, handouts, and detailed conference instructions. At the scheduled time on the day of the lecture, your site must call the telephone number provided in the lecture packet. U.S. participants receive a toll-free telephone number. International participants may incur additional telephone charges. Once all conference sites have been connected, participants view the slide show as they listen to the lecturer. You will have an opportunity to participate in a question and answer session at a midpoint and at the completion of the lecture. All teleconferences are scheduled to start at 1:00 P.M. (Eastern Time) and last approximately ninety minutes.

What If the CD Doesn't Work Properly? If the CD you receive does not function properly, it will be replaced at no charge. As soon as you receive your conference packet, please verify that the CD contains the correct Power-Point Show file and that it functions correctly in your computer system. If you experience any difficulty with the CD or have a problem opening the files, contact us immediately.

What If We Haven't Received the Packet ? If you do not receive your conference packet, please contact us no later than one day prior to the conference so that there is time for us to re-ship materials if necessary.

What Equipment Do We Need On Site? You will need an LCD projector or computer with a monitor and a speakerphone.

How Do We Register? Complete the registration form. Fax the form to: (202) 944-2343. Send the original registration form with complete credit card information or a check made payable to Georgetown University to:

U.S. Mail:
Sandra Rosen-Bronson
Box 571438
Georgetown University
3900 Reservoir Road NW
Washington DC 20057-1438

Overnight Courier:
Sandra Rosen-Bronson
Preclinical Science Bldg, Room LE8H
Georgetown University
3900 Reservoir Road NW
Washington DC 20007

In order to assure your registration, it is important to write our **complete and exact address as listed above**.

Cancellation Policy: Cancellations which occur 21 days or more prior to the date of the first lecture for which your site has registered are fully refundable less a nonrefundable deposit of $50. For cancellations which occur from 21 to 14 days prior, 50% of the lecture series fee will be forfeited. No refunds are possible after 14 days prior to the starting date. All cancellation requests **must be submitted in writing.**

Further Questions: If you have questions about the registration process or need a registration form, please contact Andre Thalberg at:

Tel: (202) 784-5518 or (202) 687-8924
Fax: (202) 944-2343
Email: andre.thalberg@georgetown.edu
www.ctht.info

2008
Teleconference Schedule

All dates are Tuesdays and all lectures begin at 1:00 P.M. (Eastern Time)

April 1, 2008
The Sensitized Patient: Is One Therapy More Effective Than Another?
James Gloor, M.D.
Mayo Clinic and Foundation, Rochester, MN

As the number of sensitized patients awaiting kidney transplant increases, there is a heightened focus on desensitization strategies. Dr. Gloor will discuss the advantages and disadvantages of current clinical protocols.

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April 15, 2008
Strategies for Ambiguity Resolution
Brian Iglehart, M.S., C.H.S.
Johns Hopkins University Immunogenetics Laboratory, Baltimore, MD

This lecture will begin with an overview of sequence based typing (SBT) workflow followed by a description of the types of sequence ambiguities typically encountered by HLA typing laboratories. Options for ambiguity resolution will be discussed along with the pros and cons of each technique.

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April 22, 2008
Do We Still Need a Prospective Crossmatch?
Karen Nelson, Ph.D.
Puget Sound Blood Center, Immunogenetics Laboratory, Seattle, WA
and
Peter Nickerson, M.D.
Canadian Blood Services, Immunogenetics Laboratory, Winnipeg, MB, Canada

The availability of single-antigen solid-phase antibody assays has vastly improved our ability to detect and characterize donor specific antibody. This has lead some transplant programs to question whether prospective cross-matching is still necessary for all kidney transplants. The speakers will debate the pros and cons of this question.

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May 6, 2008
HLA Typing Challenges in Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplant
Marcelo Fernandez-Vina, Ph.D.
University of Texas, M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX

The explosion of HLA alleles has lead to increasing confusion about interpretation and reporting of HLA typing results. Dr. Fernandez-Vina will discuss recent ASHI and NMDP guidelines. Participants will learn how to best use allele and haplotype frequency tools available on the NMDP's bioinformatics website for guiding donor selection.

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May 13, 2008
HLA From Start to Finish: How Genetic Information Specifies an Immune Response
Carolyn Hurley, Ph.D.
Georgetown University Medical Center, Washington, DC

This basic lecture will discuss the process through which nucleic acids become cell surface proteins and how they are recognized by immune system.

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May 20, 2008
HLA Typing Beyond Transplantation: Pharmacogenomics and Diagnostics
Maria Bettinotti, Ph.D.
Quest Diagnostics Nichols Institute, HLA and Immunogenetics, Chantilly, VA

There is increasing information about how the particular HLA alleles an individual expresses can contributes to how they respond to their environment and to pharmaceutical agents. This lecture will discuss how this information can be useful for diagnosis as well as individualized treatment.

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June 24, 2008
QIAxcel: An Automated Approach for SSP Electrophoresis
David Senitzer, Ph.D.
City of Hope National Cancer Center, Histocompatibility Laboratory, Duarte, CA

For laboratories using SSP technologies, gel electrophoresis is often the most time consuming and labor intense step. This conference will describe from an HLA laboratory user's viewpoint a new technology that automates and streamlines this step.

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July 22, 2008
Quality Assay Results? It's All About Technique
Hal Gibson, B.S., C.H.T
One Lambda, Inc., Canoga Park, CA

No matter what the assay, accurate and reproducible results often hinge on the most basic and seemingly trivial steps. From precise pipeting and thorough washing to thermal cycler QC, this conference will review the basics and provide useful hints for optimizing and troubleshooting assays.

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July 29, 2008
What is a Quality Assurance Program?
Charlene Hubbell, B.S., M.T., S.B.B.
SUNY Upstate Medical University, HLA Laboratory, Syracuse, NY

Accreditation organizations require laboratories to have a comprehensive quality assurance (QA) program. This conference will discuss how to develop and maintain a quality QA program.

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August 12, 2008
Non-HLA Genomics and AlloTransplant Outcome
Charles Mullighan, M.D.
St Jude Children's Research Hospital, Department of Pathology, Memphis, TN

The observation that HLA-matching alone does not prevent graft rejection or GVHD has generated great interest in the study of non-HLA genetic factors that contribute to allogeneic transplant outcome. This lecture will discuss studies concerning the role of microsatellite polymorphisms in immunoregulatory genes in transplant outcome.

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August 19, 2008
The DynaChip™ Antibody Assay: A User's Perspective
Renato Vega, B.S., C.H.S.
Johns Hopkins University Immunogenetics Laboratory, Baltimore, MD

There is a growing number of commercial solid phase antibody test available. This lecture will discuss one of the newest options, the DynaChip™ system.

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August 26 , 2008
STR Analysis for Monitoring Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplant Recipients
David Senitzer, Ph.D.
City of Hope National Cancer Center, Histocompatibility Laboratory, Duarte, CA

Short tandem repeats (STRs) are highly polymorphic DNA sequences in the human genome. This conference will discuss how STR genotype analysis is used to monitor bone marrow engraftment after allogeneic transplantation.

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September 9, 2008
Transplant Tolerance: Are We There Yet?
Megan Sykes, M.D.
Massachusetts General Hospital, Transplantation Biology Research Center, Boston, MA

Tolerance has long been the holy grail of the transplantation. Dr. Sykes will provide an overview of concepts and approaches to tolerance induction. She will review the results of a recent clinical study that utilized allogeneic stem cell transplantation to induce tolerance prior to kidney transplantation.

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September 23, 2008
The Role of Minor Histocompatibility Antigens in Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplant
Thomas Ellis, Ph.D.
Blood Center of Wisconsin, Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics Laboratory, Milwaukee, WI

This lecture will discuss current knowledge of what minor histocompatibility antigens are and how they play a role in hematopoietic stem cell transplant outcome.

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September 30, 2008
Predicting Crossmatch Outcome: Approaching Virtual Reality
Paul Warner, Ph.D. and Ruby Siegel, M.S., C.H.S.
Puget Sound Blood Center, Immunogenetics Laboratory, Seattle, WA

The ability to accurately predict crossmatch outcome based on recipient alloantibody specificity and donor HLA type has become known as the virtual crossmatch. This lecture will explore the concept of the virtual crossmatch, including factors that impact the accuracy of crossmatch prediction, the utility of the virtual crossmatch in select patient populations, and how laboratories may utilize this important tool in their own clinical practice.

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October 14, 2008
The Panel Reactive T Cell (PRT) Assay
Peter Heeger, M.D.
Mount Sinai School of Medicine, Transplant Institute and Institute of Immunology, New York, NY

This lecture will discuss an ELISpot-based panel reactive T cell (PRT) assay that can identify patients at risk for post-transplant cell mediated graft injury despite the absence of humoral allosensitization.

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November 18, 2008
Update 2008: The Future of Kidney Allocation in the U.S.
M. Sue Leffell, Ph.D.
Immunogenetics Laboratory, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD

The OPTN/ UNOS is continuing to work toward the development of a new allocation system based on net survival benefit. Dr. Leffell, as a member of the initial review sub-committee and the current chair of the OPTN/UNOS Histocompatibility Committee, has been intimately involved with this process and will provide participants with an update on this critical and controversial initiative.

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November 25, 2008
Immunogenomics of Hematopoietic Cell Transplantation
Effie Petersdorf, M.D.
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Seattle, WA

Generally accepted criteria for selection of unrelated donors for hematopoietic stem cell transplant include allele level matching of HLA loci. Graft-versus-host disease (GVHD), however, remains a life threatening complication even after transplant with an HLA identical donor. Dr. Petersdorf will discuss current ongoing studies of the role of non-HLA MHC genes in HSC transplant outcome.

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December 2, 2008
Immunosuppression Options: How Histocompatibility Test Results Help Guide Clinical Descisions
Kathryn Tinckam, M.D.
University Health Network, Toronto Medical Laboratories, HLA Laboratory, Toronto, Canada

This lecture will explain modern immunosuppression options and will discuss how histocompatibility testing results no longer necessarily preclude transplant or endorse transplant but rather risk stratify patients and assist the physician in tailoring treatment to the needs of the individual patient.

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December 9, 2008
The Joint Transplant Histocompatibility Conference: A Progress Report
Moderated by Ronald Kerman, Ph.D.
University of Texas Medical School, Houston, TX

This conference will provide an overview of the discussions and initial conclusions from a transplant and histocompatibility conference co-supported by ASHI, AST, ASTA, ISHLT, NIH and UNOS. This will be a panel discussion with representation from histocompatibility laboratories along with transplant surgeons and physicians.

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