Current Topics in Histocompatibility & Transplantation

A Unique Continuing Education Opportunity

2015 Teleconference Series

Sponsored by

Sandra Rosen-Bronson, PhD, D(ABHI)

Georgetown University

Washington, DC

An ABHI Approved Continuing Education Program

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. Additionally, 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. The packet will contain the lecture slides as a PowerPoint file and a PDF file, handouts as a PDF file, and detailed conference instructions all on a CD-ROM. 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 PowerPoint file and that it functions properly 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 ensure 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 any questions, please visit our website at www.ctht.info or contact us at:

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

2015
Teleconference Schedule

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

April 14, 2015
Faster-Cooler: Optimizing Your Antibody Detection Assays
presented by Robert Liwski, MD, PhD
HLA Typing Laboratory, Queen Elizabeth II Health Sciences Centre, Halifax, Nova Scotia, CA

Participants will learn how solid phase antibody assays can be optimized according to the needs of their laboratory and transplant programs. Dr. Liwski will discuss two assay modifications developed in his laboratory: the rapid optimized single antigen bead assay (ROB), which is a modification that can reduce turn-around-times by 70%, and the inhibitor complex exclusion (ICE) protocol that can aid in preventing prozone effects.

May 12, 2015
Infectious Disease and the Transplant Patient
presented by Robin K. Avery, MD
Division of Infectious Diseases, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD

Transplant recipients often face unique threats from new and old pathogens alike. Participants will hear about hot topics concerning infectious diseases that are particularly important for transplant recipients and their donors.

May 19, 2015
HLA Sensitization: Desensitization or Donor Exchange
presented by Dorry Segev, MD, PhD
Department of Surgery, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD

Dr. Segev will talk about two main modalities for helping highly sensitized patients who have a willing but incompatible living donor. Participants will learn about desensitization protocols, as well as paired donor exchanges, and hear about the factors considered when deciding which approach is best for individual patients.

June 2, 2015
Transplant Immunology
presented by Alexander Gilbert, MD
Transplant Nephrologist, Kidney and Pancreas Transplant Program
MedStar Georgetown Transplant Institute, Washington, DC

This basic lecture will review mechanisms of humoral and cellular immunity and how such mechanisms interact and are involved in response to transplantation. Participants will also learn about the clinical implications of the immune response to a transplanted organ.

June 9, 2015
Innate Immunity
presented by Amy Hahn, PhD
Albany Medical College, Transplant Immunology Laboratory, Albany, NY

Participants will hear about pattern recognition receptors, inflammation, cytokines, chemokines, NK cells, and more. They will also learn how innate mechanisms play a critical role in transplant immunity.

June 16, 2015
Matching Strategies in Solid Organ Transplant
presented by H. Michael Cecka, PhD
UCLA Immunogenetics Center, Los Angeles, CA

This lecture will outline strategies for listing unacceptable antigens and getting the most out of virtual crossmatching. The discussion will include considerations about donor and recipient ABO, when to list more or less unacceptable antigens, and how similar factors can be taken into consideration in both living and deceased donor settings.

June 30, 2015
HLA Typing by Next-Generation Sequencing: Laboratory Logistics
presented by Curt Lind, CHS
One Lambda, Thermo Fisher Scientific, Canoga Park, CA

HLA laboratories are beginning to incorporate NGS into their routine testing. Participants in this teleconference will learn the basics of NGS technology and the logistics of setting it up in an HLA laboratory. The discussion will also include workflow management, protocol selection, validation, and more.

July 21, 2015
Nationwide Paired Kidney Exchange: Laboratory Logistics
presented by Myra Coppage, PhD
HLA/Tissue Typing Laboratory, University of Rochester Medical Center, Rochester, NY

As more transplant centers participate in kidney exchange programs, more laboratories are in need of efficient and cost effective workflow systems to support the histocompatibility testing needs of donors and recipients enrolled in paired exchange programs. Participants in this conference will learn from one laboratory's experience with the National Kidney Registry and will receive pointers on timing and logistics of testing, as well as communicating with their local transplant team and other NKR centers.

August 4, 2015
Understanding Transplant Rejection
presented by Alexander Gilbert, MD
Transplant Nephrologist, Kidney and Pancreas Transplant Program
MedStar Georgetown Transplant Institute, Washington, DC

Dr. Gilbert will discuss categories of rejection and how rejection is diagnosed. He will explain the Banff classifications for kidney transplant rejection and how this scoring system is used to guide therapy and allow comparison of rejections.

August 18, 2015
Using KIR to Guide Donor Selection
presented by E. Victoria Turner, PhD
HLA Laboratory, St. Jude Children's Hospital, Memphis, TN

Following a basic review of killer-cell immunoglobulin-like receptors (KIR), participants will learn how knowledge of donor KIR genotypes can be used in a selection strategy which results in superior disease-free survival for patients receiving a hematopoietic stem cell transplant for acute myeloid leukemia.

August 25, 2015
Dealing with DSA: It Takes a Team
presented by Milagros Samaniego-Picota, MD
Medical Director, Kidney and Pancreas Transplantation, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

This conference will begin with a brief overview of current immune suppression and rejection treatment options followed by a discussion of how the histocompatibility laboratory can help guide clinical practice. Dr. Samaniego-Picota will discuss individual patient characteristics to be considered when listing unacceptable antigens in UNOS or deciding which donor specific antibodies to treat and what treatment protocol should be followed.

September 1, 2015
The Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients (SRTR)
presented by Ajay K. Israni, MD, MS
Deputy Project Director, Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients, Minneapolis, MN

The SRTR is an ever-expanding national database of transplant statistics based on data collected by the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network (OPTN) from hospitals and organ procurement organizations (OPOs) across the country. Participants will learn how information gathered by the SRTR is used to help develop evidence-based policy, to support analysis of transplant programs and OPOs, and to encourage research on issues of importance to the transplant community.

October 13, 2015
Clinical Impact of Antibodies and Therapeutic Strategies for AMR Across the Age Spectrum– Infants, Children, Adolescents
presented by Simon Urschel, MD
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics and Immunology, Clinical Director Pediatric Cardiac Transplantation, University of Alberta, Stollery Children's Hospital, Edmonton, AB

Participants will learn about how pediatric and adult immune systems differ and about unique aspects of sensitization in children. The clinical role of antibodies in pediatric heart transplant will be discussed

October 20, 2015
Kidney Allocation 2015: The Impact on HLA Laboratories
presented by Julie A. Houp, CHS
Immunogenetics Laboratory, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD

With the implementation of a new kidney allocation system in December 2014, laboratories across the U.S. have been significantly impacted. Participants will hear about how changes to allocation are necessitating changes in laboratory practices. Discussion topics will include how the new system has altered approaches to list management, unacceptable antigen reporting, and more.

November 3, 2015
De Novo DSA: Risk Factors and Determinants of Prognosis
presented by Chris Wiebe, MD
Departments of Medicine and Immunology, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Manitoba, CA

Participants will hear about a study aimed at identifying determinants of prognosis at the time of dnDSA development. Factors such as positive DSA MFI sums and epitope sharing will be discussed.

November 10, 2015
Immunogenetics 2.0: Considerations for HCT Beyond HLA Matching
presented by Medhat Askar, MD, PhD
Allogen Laboratories, Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, OH

Participants will learn about single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNP) found outside the HLA coding genes that can impact clinical outcomes in hematopoietic stem cell transplant.

November 17, 2015
Mapping the Match: Genetic Ancestry and Self-Identification in the 21st Century America
presented by Jill A. Hollenbach, PhD, MPH
University of California, San Francisco School of Medicine, San Francisco, CA

Donor registries facilitate initial selection of potentially HLA-matched donors by classifying them using their self-identified race/ethnicity from a standardized questionnaire. However, racial self-identification among Americans is a complex process that can actually change over time. This lecture will examine the intersection of self-identification with genetics and implications for unrelated donor HLA matching in HSCT.

December 8, 2015
UNOS Histocompatibility Committee Update
presented by Dolly B. Tyan, PhD
Histocompatibility, Immunogenetics & Disease Profiling Laboratory
Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA

Participants will be updated on how the new kidney allocation system is working along with its impact for highly sensitized patients. They will also hear about the implementation of the expanding HLA typing requirements to include DQA and DPB as allocation components.

December 15, 2015
Challenging Antibody Cases: Teachable Moments
presented by Dong Li, MD, and Olga Timofeeva, PhD
Histocompatibility Laboratory, MedStar Georgetown University Hospital, Washington, DC

The speakers will present case study examples helpful for interpreting subtle and unclear antibody specificities. They will also discuss clues for recognizing potentially confusing specificities, such as weak CREG antibodies, public epitope specificities like Bw, as well as DQA and DP antibodies.

December 22, 2015
Angiotensin II Type-1 Receptor Antibodies and Rejection Risk in Living Donor Kidney Transplants
presented by Kelley M.K. Haarberg, MS, PhD
Transplant Immunology Laboratory, Northwestern University, Chicago, IL

The Angiotensin II type-1 receptor (AT1R) has recently been reported as a target for non-HLA antibody (Ab) binding and thus antibodies to AT1R have been implicated to increase the risk for renal graft failure. Participants will hear about the findings of a study aimed at evaluating the clinical significance of elevated levels of AT1R antibody as a predictor of rejection risk.

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