



TRANSPLANTATION SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

## Annual Newsletter 2016

### This Issue

Editorial Comment	1
President's Message	2
Secretary's Report	3
Treasurer's Report	3
Advisory Committees & Working Groups	4
SPEC Report	4
Machines Day	5
Awards	9
Membership	9
Travel Reports	10
Calendar of Events	18
TSANZ Council	20
TSANZ SPEC	20
Advisory Committees/Working Groups	20-21

### Editorial Comment

#### Dear Members,

Welcome to the October 2016 edition of the TSANZ Newsletter.

Nieves Piaggio was appointed as Administrative Assistant to TSANZ and has provided invaluable assistance to Sommer Twycross who has taken over the Executive Officer role. TSANZ council on behalf of all members thank Sommer and Nieves for their ongoing support and dedication and for keeping council meetings on track.

The society has had a productive and stimulating year with another highly successful ASM. Once again several awards were given out to members, junior trainees and scientists. Congratulations to Andrew Jabbour and Min Hu the convenors for 2016, who were well supported by SPEC. Andrew and Min made the

bold decision to move the ASM to Sydney. The chill of Canberra was replaced by the balmy climate of Sydney which was a welcomed change. The number of ASM attendees was up and concerns regarding the financial viability outside of Canberra were allayed. The PGC, organised by Lucy Sullivan and Darren Lee, was well attended and the inaugural Masterclass received excellent feedback.

A highlight of the meeting was the talk given by the 2015 Ian McKenzie Awardee A/Prof Angela Webster followed by a plenary session in which we were privileged to hear Prof Jenny Martin, Director of The Eskitis Drug Discovery Institute at Griffith University, discuss her role as a member of the SAGE (Science in Australia Gender Equity) steering committee. This was followed by Dr Debbie Watson who gave us an insight into her personal journey through science. Our international speakers: Dorry Segev, Gabriel Oniscu, Alberto Sanchez-Fueyo, Abraham Shaked and Jack Lake were exceptional. The ASM dinner was a grand affair at The University of Sydney Great Hall. David Marshall from Deakin University spoke on the increasing influence of social media within the transplantation sphere.

After 3 busy days of scientific rigour, the meeting again closed with "The Great Debate". Dorry Segev and Phil Clayton tried their best.....but were no match for Gabriel Oniscu and hmmm, me! Animal model research rules.....nuff said.

The feedback regarding change of venue was encouraging. Both the 2017 ASM and PGC will be held at the Brisbane Convention Centre and will piggy-back with the Immunotherapy@Brisbane conference.

The ASM will be held on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May (pm) to Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May (all day) and PGC on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May (all day) to Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May (am). The Masterclass will run concurrently with the PGC, with some shared sessions being planned. Please put these dates in your diaries now. Victoria will host 2018 – the Society will be informed as soon as the date and venue are decided.

An initiative of the Society this year was a one day workshop held on 13th September at The Park Royal, Melbourne Airport on the “Machine Perfusion”. The state of the art with respect to use of machine perfusion of kidney, lung, heart and liver donor organs was provided before working group discussions. The group met as a whole at the end of the day to feedback consensus opinion within each organ group.

With much sadness we acknowledge the passing of Aviva Rosenfeld and Josette Eris. Both ladies will be honoured and remembered through annual awards at the TSANZ ASM. Our deepest condolences are extended to their respective families.

I hope you enjoy this edition of the newsletter.

**Karen Dwyer**

## **President’s Message**

### **Dear Membership,**

Thank you for your support throughout an interesting and productive year during which we have seen significant progress in clinical and experimental transplantation across the country.

From a clinical perspective, TSANZ continues to serve as the peak professional body representing the interests of transplanters in promulgating best practice, as espoused in our recently released Clinical Guidelines document. In addition, to best practice, clinical transplantation requires access to organs for transplantation and, in this respect, TSANZ is delighted with ongoing improvements in deceased donation rates in Australia, which have increased by over 50% since 2009. To this end, we continue to be active participants together with the Organ and Tissue Authority (OTA) and the organ donation sector, and we anticipate ongoing growth, seeking to achieve a

deceased donor rate around the country of 25 donors per million by 2020.

More donors and more transplants necessitate an increased workload and the clinical transplanters and their teams are currently grappling with issues of workforce and funding. TSANZ will continue to play a key role here; both in discussions with Federal Government and jurisdictions as well as members.

In addition to a focus on increasing the number of available organs from deceased donors, TSANZ is acutely aware of the more important metric of transplantation outcomes and, with the push into more marginal territories for deceased donations, a key role for TSANZ will be to monitor both quality of organs and transplantation outcomes. In this role, our interactions with the transplant registries will be critical.

The scientists of Australia continue to excel on a global scene, both in terms of research outputs and leadership roles. Australians, despite the climate of increasing competition for diminishing research funds, continue to conduct, present and publish world quality research. As a consequence, we are well represented in leadership roles on the global scene. In this regard, on behalf of TSANZ. I would specifically like to acknowledge the sterling performance of Phil O’Connell in his role as President of TTS. Phil completed his responsibilities in this role at the highly successful TTS meeting in Hong Kong which he chaired. Phil’s role with TTS will not end as he remains an important part of the governance framework, working together with numerous Australians who either sit on council or represent key groups within the TTS promoting basic science (Steve Alexander and Shane Grey), xenotransplantation (Peter Cowan), Transplantation Journal (Jeremy Chapman), ethics and council (Steve Chadban) in general.

A further important initiative of the TTS, under the leadership of Phil O’Connell and, Kathryn Wood in particular, has been promotion of the role of women in transplantation. Josette Eris was one of the founding members and Chair of that committee of TTS and her efforts will certainly not be forgotten. That role has since been taken up by the very driven President Elect of TTS, Nancy Asher, and this initiative is almost certain to expand over the coming years.

This will be in parallel with the efforts of our own society TSANZ where the importance of women in transplantation has been actively promoted and will be rewarded by the Josette Eris Astellas Women in Transplantation Prize as of 2017, a prize which seeks to support a mid-career woman in transplantation who has had a distinguished early to mid-career.

We are now finalising our plans for the TSANZ 2017 ASM and Post-Grad Course, to be held in Brisbane May 6-9, 2017. This will feature an impressive array of local and international speakers. Linked to this we will also co-host the third TSANZ-OTA Transplantation-Donor forum on May 10 at the same venue. The 2016 meeting was a productive, collaborative event and we hope to replicate and extend that in 2017. Given the popularity of our inaugural meeting, we will also run our second Transplant Masterclass, seeking to provide clinical updates for clinicians caring for transplanted patients during maintenance phase.

I hope your year has been as successful and interesting as ours has been at TSANZ. We look forward to meeting you at our ASM and other events. Council are here to represent you and promote your interests in transplantation, so please let us know what we can do for you.

**Steve Chadban**  
*President, TSANZ*

## Secretary's Report

The TSANZ council has been led superbly by Steve Chadban (President) and Steve Alexander (President-elect). Rob Carroll as Treasurer has guided the Society to a financially stable position. Being a member of TSANZ council is a privileged position: it presents the opportunity to suggest and enable change. I would encourage everyone to consider contributing to TSANZ council as positions arise with a specific shout-out to the women of the Society in an attempt to improve the current gender imbalance.

We currently have 541 active TSANZ members (610 in 2015) and remind you to encourage junior colleagues to join the Society. The benefits to the individual are many including access to travel grants, application for awards, reduced registration rates for attendance at ASM and PGC and most importantly

networking with colleagues at such events. The TSANZ website outlines the many generous grants and awards offered by the Society for young as well as established researchers, trainees and clinicians.

The Society continues in its efforts to actively promote basic scientific research as well as be involved in clinical developments in organ transplantation. The awards to younger members remain an important focus and every effort is being made to maintain and enhance these opportunities for our up and coming scientific and clinical members. The awardees from the ASM 2016 are highlighted in this newsletter.

The Society, with the support of Novartis, are planning a Women in Transplantation workshop aimed at developing a plan for the Society to improve gender equity. An expression of interest was sent out and I thank all the respondents. The workshop will be planned for later this year and I will keep you posted regarding the outcomes and plans moving forward.

There are several meetings throughout the year, which may be of interest to Society members. The main ones to note for the near future are outlined near the end of this newsletter.

I hope to see many of you throughout the year at an event or meeting. Please feel free to contact me if you any comments or questions related to the Society's activities.

**Karen Dwyer**  
*Honorary Secretary, TSANZ*

## Treasurer's Report

TSANZ is in a stable financial position but investments will only continue to gain around 3% interest. These funds have now been divested amongst the 4 major banks.

External Financial Audit remarked on the fact that there were a large numbers of members who were in subscription arrears (poor income stream) and that expenditure (grants, ASM, society salary costs) was well above income generated.

We have simplified the website for payment of subscription and will shortly commence a direct debit option so that dues can be paid automatically.

It is my intention to keep the subscription amount the same without any increase over my term in office so that the membership and TSANZ can budget for a specific amount of income.

We are hoping to ensure that the ASM cost are minimised so that the cost to members can be kept as low as possible.

On a positive note, comparing 2016 to 2015 there were improvement in ASM registration, membership fees and sponsorship but this really only makes up for losses made over the previous years.

**Rob Carroll**  
*Treasurer, TSANZ*

## **Advisory Committees & Working Groups**

This has been a year of great progress from the Advisory Committees and Working groups. Iman Ali, our Project Officer, has again ably helped and assisted the groups with meetings and with getting the changes outlined.

All groups have been able to meet and address a number of issues. The annual general meeting in Sydney allowed the different groups to meet and address a range of matters. Of note was the resurgence of the Paediatric Committee with over 20 participants. The work on the guidelines has them current and active with a more streamlined approach to allow full consultation with appropriate committees, ATCA and OTA, with an annual review and changes.

The two major documents of the NHMRC, Transplant Ethical Guidelines and the Clinical Practice Guidelines, were both released earlier this year at the Annual General Meeting. Dr Sarah White deserves great credit for her work on pulling the clinical guidelines together and in a timely manner. Both documents are available on the TSANZ website.

<http://www.tsanz.com.au/organallocationguidelines/index.asp>

A literature review on infectious disease in transplant has been commissioned and will form the basis of a future guideline in this important area.

The recent meeting in Melbourne to address organ perfusion supported by OTA was a great success and was strongly supported by the various committees with excellent surgical representation and discussion. This important work will hopefully lead to national plans for implementation.

I am extremely grateful to the Chairs of all the Committees for their hard work and collegiality in dealing with often complex issues. I would strongly recommend that interested people take part in the work of the Committees which in many different ways has led to the improvements for our patients and their families.

**Steve Alexander**  
*Chair, TSANZ Advisory Committees & Working Groups*

## **SPEC Report**

2016 was a very significant year for the ASM as it was held outside of Canberra for the first time since 1983 (with the exception of 1988 and 2008 where it was held in conjunction with TTS in Sydney). Congratulations to Andrew Jabbour, Min Hu and SPEC who helped drive this change and put on an exceptional meeting at UTS Sydney. The shorter meeting format (Sunday pm to Tuesday pm) which was first adopted in 2015 was retained for the 2016 meeting and will again be retained for the 2017 meeting which will be held for the first time in Brisbane. However, in the spirit of innovation, 2017 is planned to be the first year without a program booklet - the booklet instead replaced with digital media (which will be available as a PDF on the Society's website and also available through the conference APP) - and that's just one of a number of innovations being worked on by ASM convenors Kelli MacDonald and Ross Francis.

Council's plan at present is to continue to rotate the meeting venue with Melbourne the likely host in 2018. The shorter meeting format running over a weekend, which it is true has not been universally popular, is designed to maximise the educational experience and to

encourage attendance by clinicians, who have previously been unable to include the TSANZ ASM, in what is an increasingly busy transplant congress schedule. It is hoped that these changes will re-invigorate attendance at the ASM in coming years. Certainly this was achieved in Sydney with the highest number of registrants 236 since 2012.

Aside from the wonderful scientific content, some of the highlights of the 2016 meeting were Dorry Segev's talents outside nephrology, running the fun run in temperatures above freezing and the conference dinner at The Great Hall, Sydney University. Once again the meeting closed with the Great Debate on "the future of transplantation research - big data beats small animals". This highly entertaining session between the Pro team of Dorry Segev/ Phil Clayton and the Con team of Gabriel Oniscu/ Karen Dwyer concluded the ASM on a high note. Dorry Segev, from the losing Pro team, admitted gracefully that we do need innovations in transplantation to improve patient outcomes.

We now turn our minds to Brisbane 2017. Ross Francis and Kelli MacDonald are co-convenors for the ASM, while Siok Tey and Veena Roberts are convening the PGC. The PGC and ASM will run from Saturday 6th May until Tuesday 9th May at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, Southbank. Importantly, the timing of the meeting this year was designed to leverage off the Immunotherapy@Brisbane conference which will run directly after the ASM (May 10th-12th). Co-ordinating with Immunotherapy@Brisbane to share speakers (and costs) has permitted us to secure five very high calibre international speakers: Christophe Legendre, Bruce Blazar, Shimon Sakaguchi, Lori West and Elmi Muller all of whom have confirmed.

It is anticipated that the vibrant Southbank precinct will provide a wonderful atmosphere to showcase excellent transplant science over the week. The ASM dinner will be held in the Brisbane City Hall on Monday evening 8th May.

The 2016 Post-graduate Course was convened by Darren Lee and Lucy Sullivan and once again was very well received.

Another innovation for 2016 was the inaugural 'Transplantation Update for Clinicians' or 'Masterclass' held on the Wednesday after the ASM. This was specifically designed for nephrologists caring for kidney transplant recipients, and all the speakers were fantastic - not only discussing the evidence in the literature, but also their practical approach to the common challenges we face post-transplant.

In 2017 the PGC will run as usual on Saturday and Sunday morning prior to the ASM. This year however, the 'Masterclass' will run concurrently with the PGC, with some shared sessions being planned. As usual, the ASM will directly follow the PGC, running from midday on Sunday through to its finish at the end of Tuesday afternoon.

The alterations made to the ASM between 2015 and 2017 are some of the most substantial in the history of the Society, and will leave what is our most important event re-invigorated and better placed to thrive in a changing landscape of educational and scientific information exchange. Nevertheless, change is always disruptive. As SPEC chairs we are delighted to receive comments and feedback about these changes and look forward to working with you to see our Society flourish.

**Dan Chambers and Kelli MacDonald**  
Co-Chairs of Spec

## **Machine Perfusion Workshop Tuesday 13 September 2016**

Forty people met under the auspices of the Transplantation Society of Australia and New Zealand (TSANZ) to discuss the potential role of machine perfusion of organs sourced from deceased donors for transplantation in Australia. The goals of the meeting were to discuss current evidence on the value of machine perfusion, to place this within the context of Australian practice, and then decide whether Australia-wide uptake of this practice should be recommended and pursued. Given differences between organs, the discussions were stratified by organ type. The participants were charged with the responsibility of deciding whether machine perfusion for their organ type should:

1. be pursued now, and if so how this would best be done, including choice of machine, temperature, perfusion solutions, type of donor organs to be targeted, expected outcomes, mechanisms of data capture and whether this should be used for audit or research, and next steps that should be taken towards implementation
2. delayed, if current data was deemed insufficient to support usage but important data that may support uptake was felt to be imminent and, in this instance, required data and timelines to be defined
3. ruled out for now, if present levels of evidence were deemed insufficient to support usage in an Australian context.

The group was chaired by the president of the TSANZ, Professor Steve Chadban and included representatives of all TSANZ advisory committees, invited speakers with expertise in machine perfusion, and representatives of government from state levels and federally from OTA.

The meeting commenced with a local insight into the practicalities and logistics of using the LifePort Kidney Transporter system for perfusing selected deceased donor kidneys retrieved in Queensland. Scott Campbell and Aimee Cunningham provided an excellent review, a practical demonstration of the machine in use, and an overall sense of enthusiasm for its use in selected cases. Nick Shackel, Henry Pleass, and Dr Ahmer Hameed then presented a comprehensive overview of existing literature, experimental and human. Content was derived from a comprehensive literature review, supplemented by personal accounts of data presented at the recent Transplantation Society (TTS) world congress in Hong Kong.

Session 2 comprised four presentations of the current state of the art for each of heart, lung, liver and kidney, presented by Professors Dhital, Gooi, Fawcett and Pleass. The meeting participants then split into organ-specific groups to decide a machine perfusion strategy to recommend for each organ. All sessions

featured robust, constructive and informed debate. The groups then returned to the main meeting to present their findings.

Professor Dhital presented the unified view from the cardiac group who were in favour of expanding the current successful and highly celebrated strategy of the St Vincent's group in Sydney. Their strategy of using the TransMedics machine with warm perfusion has clearly increased their ability to use hearts that would have previously been discarded. Similarly, the thoracic group were supportive of adopting an East Coast strategy of warm perfusion using a circuit to be determined, most likely the XVIVO system, versions of which are currently in use in both Melbourne and Brisbane. Further debate regarding specifics of donor subtypes to be targeted, the precise makeup of the rig, and the mechanisms of data capture are to be defined.

Professor Shackel presented the findings of the liver group, who proposed broad uptake of the warm pulsatile perfusion rig (OrganOx) currently employed by the Oxford group and trialled recently across Europe, the results of which were presented in Hong Kong and discussed. Significant advantages in terms of hepatocyte preservation were evident, however the critical outcome of impact on bile duct status at one year is yet to be reported, but is expected to be available within six months. The capacity of the apparatus to extend the bounds of donor acceptability appears to be significant in an Australian context, particularly with regards to increasing potential usage of DCD organs. Details including which donors to target, at donor hospital or (more likely) back at base, data capture mechanisms and other issues are to be determined.

The kidney group was numerically the largest, comprising representatives of surgeons, physicians, perfusionists, and administrators. The group was unable to reach a clear consensus and has more work to do. The published randomised controlled trial evidence of the capacity of machine cold pulsatile perfusion using a LifePort system to reduce the incidence of delayed graft function following implantation of extended criteria organs and DCD organs was acknowledged and reviewed and, coupled with the experience of the

Brisbane group in using this apparatus over the past five years, half of the audience were in favour of pursuing that strategy nationwide. In contrast, the remaining half of the group were concerned that this technology is likely to be inferior to warm pulsatile machine perfusion, however the evidence underpinning that is weak. Data currently consists of a single historically controlled, single centre study from Cambridge which was presented verbally at the TTS meeting in Hong Kong but is yet to be published. This showed potential to both reduce incidence of delayed graft function in kidneys currently used but also to increase scope for utilisation of more marginal kidneys. Two properly constructed randomised clinical trials are currently underway however the outcomes of these will not be publically available for at least 2-3 years. In addition, there is no established commercial supplier of the pulsatile machine perfusion hardware. It is likely that would follow within the year or two of publication of the aforementioned trials, assuming they are positive. Thus, this strategy would not be implementable in Australia for at least five years. Equipose was met among the group, split between seeking to develop a cohesive strategy across the country for implementation of cold perfusion now, or waiting for firm evidence that warm pulsatile perfusion is the preferred option and then putting efforts into implementing that. Further discussions will be had through the RTAC and donor surgeons groups, coordinated centrally by TSANZ, such that a consensus can be reached in the near future.

#### Next Steps:

- 1 Kidneys: Need to add some detail and send to RTAC and Donor Surgeons to seek their input as to Wait versus Go with Cold (LifePort).
- 2 Liver: Add detail and send around LITAC for buy-in to proposal to go with Oxford rig plus implementation steps for consideration.
- 3 Heart/lung: Similar to liver, generate a protocol to propose to Cardiac and Lung ACs, then book a date for an implementation strategy meeting which would include jurisdictions and OTA.

The day provided a forum for constructive and progressive debate that significantly advanced the agenda of machine perfusion in Australia. The group was cohesive, constructive and collaborative. This should be a model for further such topic-focused discussions under a TSANZ banner in future. I would like to sincerely thank all participants for their time and expertise, plus willingness from the vast majority to self-fund their attendance.

**Steve Chadban**  
President TSANZ

### **TSANZ Annual Dinner @ The Great Hall, The University of Sydney Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2016**



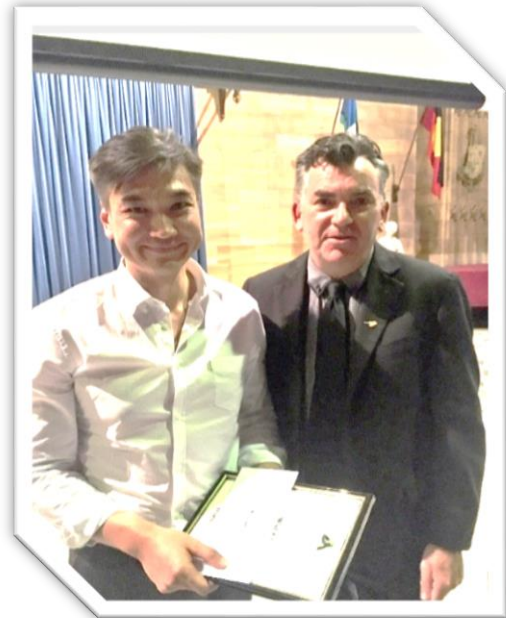
*The 2016 International ASM speakers A/Prof. Dorry Segev, Dr. Gabriel Oniscu, Prof. Alberto Sanchez Fueyo with TSANZ President Prof. Steve Chadban*



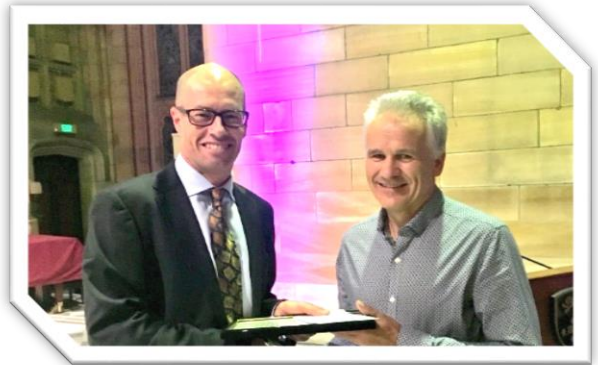
*Gail Wiseman, Astellas Head of Sales and Marketing Australia with Professor Peter MacDonald (representing Sunita Jha) Penny Allen and Vaishnavi Calisa winners of the Astellas Clinical Grants with TSANZ President Prof. Steve Chadban..*



*President's Prize winners (above) Laetitia Le Texier (Basic Science) and (below) Muhammed Imran (Clinical) with TSANZ President Prof. Steve Chadban*



*Mark Cocks Transplant Research Scholarship winner Dr Wai Lim & Mark Thomas CEO Transplant Australia*



*Ian McKenzie Prize for Outstanding Contribution in Transplantation winner Prof. Peter Cowan with TSANZ President Prof. Steve Chadban*



*KHA Award winner (Laboratory) Evelyn Salvaris with TSANZ President Prof. Steve Chadban*



*TSANZ President Prof. Steve Chadban with the inaugural Lafferty Award Winner Professor Richard Allen*





*TSANZ President Prof. Steve Chadban and President Elect Professor Steve Alexander with the Basic Science Young Investigator Award Winners*



*TSANZ President Prof. Steve Chadban with proud fun run winners Rob Carroll and Andrea Henden*

## Prizes Awarded in 2016

### **President's Prize (Basic Science)**

Laetitia Le Texier

### **President's Prize (Clinical)**

Muhammed Imran

### **Ian McKenzie Prize**

Peter Cowan

### **Mark Cock Tx Research Scholarship**

Wai Lim

### **KHA Award (Clinical)**

Wai Lim

### **KHA Award (Laboratory)**

Evelyn Salvaris

### **Astellas Clinical Travel Grants**

Sunita Jha

Penny Allen

Vaishnavi Calisa

### **YIA Novartis**

Penny Allen, Megan Brown, Emily Brooks, Samuel Chan, Yi Vee Chew, Amy Crosthwaite, Samantha Fidler, Muhammad Imran, Sunita Jha, Susan Wan

### **YIA TSANZ**

Vaishnavi Calisa, Jacob Cao, Kevin Chow, Doreen Fang, Andrea Henden, Mario Leong, Laetitia Le Texier, Kate Markey, Paulo Martins, Mamdoh Moawadh

## Membership

Since the last newsletter, TSANZ Council welcomed the following new members:-

### **TSANZ**

Adhikary Sam Raj, Allawati Hussain, Allen Penelope, Barker Kristeen, Brooks Emily, Calisa Vaishnavi, Chan Samuel, Chan Elaine, Evangelidis Nicole Maree, Fernando Mangalee Renuka, Fiene Andreas, Gartlan Kate, Goh Su Kah, Hameed Ahmer Mohammad, Hancock Rebecca, Imran Muhammad, Jha Sunita, Kirkland Geoffrey, Kos Cameron, Kotecha Sakhee, Lawton Paul, Leong Mario, Mariana Lina, Martins Paulo, McGiffin David Charles, Ng Zi Qin, Pannu Kavita Kaur, Paraskeva Miranda, Rosales Brenda Maria, Ryding Laura Jane, Straw Sarah, Tan Sven-Jean, Tey Siok Keen, Thomson Imagen Kate, Vaughan Erin, Wasywich Cara Anne, Woodhouse Elke, Ying Tracey, Yong Kenneth

### **ATCA/TSANZ**

Bryen Erin Lindsay, Sprenger Lauren

### **TNA/TSANZ**

Belmar Beatrix, Roberts Catherine Mary, Tague Grace

### **RESIGNATIONS**

Since the last newsletter, Council has accepted the following resignations:

Baylis Merndy, Bendorf Aric, Bennett Greg, Bergmann Ivo, Bosco Mariea, Brew Sophie, Burt James, Chakera Aron, Chanda Sumon, Chen Titi, Cheong Melody, Chia Fredrick, Coveney Natalie, Cunningham Eithne, Dale Victoria, Dheda Shyam, D'Orsogna Lloyd, Dua Rahul, Elliott Bob, Gilroy Richard, Guo Fei, Habib Miriam, Hanf William, Hing Alfred,

Horvath AO John, House Anthony, Hughes Amy, Hurst Helena Sophie, Jayaballa Mathini, Jeffrey Gary, John George, Kow Lilian, Krischock Leah, Lee Alice, Leveque Lucie, Lewicki Michelle, Lewis Christopher, Li Chenlei Kelly, Liu David, Loss Martin, Mallawaarachi Amali, Malle Elizabeth, Marcus Lisa Maree, Marion Violet, Mawson Jane, McDougall Katherine, McInnes Angela, Muralidharan Vijayaragavan, Muthucumarana Kalindu, Pilgrim Suzanna, Pillay Praga, Power David, Rao Nitin, Rawlings Cassandra Marie, Redzepagic Sanela, Rhodes Helen, Riddiough Georgina, Robb Renee Jessica, Roberts Darren, Rodgers Alexander, Sanders Jo, Schischica Allison, Shepherd Richard, Slater Kellee, Vuat Jodi, Waneck Gerald, Waugh Jane, Weintraub Robert, Williams Keryn, Winlaw David, Xiao Diane, Yuan Fang Fang, Zafiriou Stephen, Zhang Ping



*Professor Stephan Tullius, (Boston, TTS Council and Transplantation Deputy Editor) together with Prof. Shane Grey, Dr Patrick Coates, Sebastian Stead, TSANZ President Prof. Steve Chadban, Imogen Thompson, Dr Angela Webster, Dr Anjan Bongoni and Prof. Peter Cowan.*

## Society Awards and Grants

The Society provides a number of benefits for members, which include support to attend national and international transplantation meetings and reduced fees at meetings sponsored by the society. The eligibility criteria for each award are outlined on the TSANZ website.

## TTS 26<sup>th</sup> International Congress 18<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2016 Hong Kong

### TTS/TSANZ Mentee-Mentor Awards

#### Mentee

Doreen Fang  
Imogen Thompson  
Moumita Paul  
Sebastian Stead  
Anjan Bongoni

#### Mentor

Karen Dwyer  
Angela Webster  
Alex Sharland  
Toby Coates  
Peter Cowan

## ASTELLAS Travel Grant

### Award Reports

## 26<sup>th</sup> International Congress of TTS 18<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2016 Hong Kong

#### David Bo Lu

After the registration, the opening ceremony and welcome reception were held in the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre from 17:30 to 20:30 on 19/08. The conference was held on the convention centre for the next four days. There were about 3000 delegates from all over the world.

The plenary sessions and the oral presentations were attractive. Firstly, Prof. Donna L. Farber, from the USA gave a talk regarding Mapping Human Immune System Tissue, including T cells and dendritic cell (DC) subsets in multiple human tissues, homeostasis and perturbations etc. Secondly, Prof Peter William Nickerson from Canada, reported the Current Status of Alloantibody Measurement and Management in Transplantation, including the current state of HLA diagnostics and the utility of these assays in predicting risk, following patient's post-transplant and predicting outcomes. In addition, Prof. Christophe Michel Legendre from France, talked about Impact of Complement Binding and Non-Binding Antibodies on Rejection. Finally, Dr Felix Meissner from Germany, presented a topic of Proteomics: Eavesdropping

on Communicating Immune Cells, a framework of the social network architecture required for the orchestration of immune functions.

The concurrent sessions were also amazing. I was really interested in many reports, such as the machine perfusion in kidney and liver etc. Besides, I also attended the sessions of ischemia reperfusion injury, immuno-tolerance, advances in surgery and xenotransplantation etc.

This has been a successful congress. I have enriched my scientific knowledge on the transplantation world and got to know many new friends in my field. I have thoroughly enjoyed my trip to Hong Kong. I would like to say thanks for the sponsorship of Astellas and the Transplantation Society of Australia and New Zealand.

### **Anna Francis**

Thanks to the generous support of the TSANZ, I was able to attend the Transplantation Society Conference in Hong Kong in August of 2016. Some of the themes at this year's TTS meeting included the interplay between genetic advances and immunoregulation, improving registries and attendant improved research opportunities and the role of donor specific antibodies in rejection.

The plenary session on day 2 focused on the alloantibodies and their usefulness in predicting rejection. Christophe Legendre gave an interesting talk on the impact of complement binding vs non-complement binding antibodies in rejection. Another plenary session focused on basic and translational sciences, exploring the microbiome and how it shapes the immune system.

In the paediatric sessions, there was discussion around the importance of vaccination children with kidney transplants and Kiara Osfay-Barbe reported on their experience of using live vaccines post-transplant. Tonya Kara gave an interesting talk on the barriers to live donation in New Zealand. The role of complement binding antibodies in the prediction of graft failure in children was discussed, with Burkhard Tonshoff presenting their research showing late graft failure was associated with C1q fixing donor-specific HLA antibodies. Maddy Didsbury presented some of the baseline studies of K-CAD study, examining the health and

wealth in children and adolescents with chronic kidney disease in Australia and New Zealand.

I presented the work that Steve McTaggart, Peter Trnka and I have done on long term outcomes of focal segmental glomerulosclerosis in Australian and New Zealand kidney transplant recipients. Some paediatric centres avoid living donor transplants for FSGS. We showed that in our region, live donor transplants have improved graft survival than deceased donor transplants and we propose that live donation should not be avoided. There was some interesting discussion with other members of the audience after the presentation.

Attendance at this conference enabled me to gain broader exposure to current themes in transplantation and to participate in the international research community. I am very grateful for this opportunity.

### **Yuanfei Zhao**

I really appreciate that the TSANZ committee gave me a big support for my travel to attend the 26th International Congress of The Transplantation Society, which held at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre from 18th to 25th August in 2016. The conference is a great event for people who devote themselves to transplantation or interested in transplantation, to get together to share recent exciting findings in their transplantation fields, as well as make a network event with colleagues on the global scale. Particularly worth mentioning is that The Transplantation Society has already go through half century until this year. Time witnesses the growth and prosperity in the transplantation. As an incredible city combining the East and the West, linking the traditional and the modern, Hong Kong is an awesome place to take the 50th anniversary celebration.

For myself, it was the first time I attended the International congress as PhD student. When I got the information from the conference brochure that there were plenty of selections of symposia and presentations, I highlighted the topics what I was interested in and which had relevance with our projects. One of my interests' presentation impressed me on the first day was the ICU specialist role in the organ donation. It mentioned that based on the ICU is

the best place to support organ donation, the ICU specialists are the suitable candidates to promulgate brain death guidelines to optimize the potential organ donors.

As our projects focus on the regulatory T cells and regulatory macrophages' immune suppressive function in vitro and protective role in vivo, so the presentations for the cell products and clinical trials in ONE STUDY groups definitely are we "must go". They summarized the cell types in the cell therapies, which are world-recognized and having been researched all around the world. So far, according to the 32 patients, they pointed out that cell therapy is still in general safe, and that, at the moment, the rejection rate in treated was not higher than the controls and the TAC mono therapy has worked successfully in all the patients they attempted.

The conference also gave me an opportunity to present my ex-vivo part of my project entitled "Human regulatory macrophages are capable of suppressing the allogeneic response in vitro via soluble molecules" in the session of unravelling DC function and migration. I was very happy that people raised good questions to me after my present, those were nice suggestions for me in my further investigation.

Overall, this attendance at TTS gave me a great opportunity to listen, to see, to learn and gain the useful and up-to-date information in transplant and know people who are expert in different transplant fields. It is a wonderful experience to go to the TTS meeting. Big thanks for the TSANZ's support!

### **Dandan Huang**

During the TTS, I attended some sessions in which there were presentations related to my research field and gave me inspiration for my future project. The most important and impressive information is as following:

#### **1. Update From The One Study: Are Cellular Therapies Safe?**

Our current projects focus on the regulatory T cells. The vitro and vivo experiment in mouse model have confirmed its immunomodulation function. Next step we would apply it in the preclinical non-human primate

model and eventually to the clinical project.

This presentation about the clinical trial involved regulatory T cells gives us very important information about its safe issue.

#### **2. Innovative Trial Designs In Tolerance Studies: How Will Efficacy Be Demonstrated?**

Our research paid more attention to the receipts immune system and the future cellular therapy is the application of receipt-derived T regulatory cells. This presentation was about the other side of the transplantation: how the immune cells of donors affect the allograft survival. This different research field makes us an consider that we can do more to extend the graft survival in the future by using not only the regulatory T cells from the receipts but also genotype modification of the donor in the future xenotransplantation.

#### **3. Knock-In Of Anti-Cd2 and Human Thrombomodulin Transgenes Into Pig Ggta Using Crisper/Cas9**

This topic is about the transgenic pig which can be used for isolation of the neonatal pig islet cells cluster. It is related to the improvement of islet xenotransplantation. This is another research field of our lab. This presentation gives us more indication about the future collaboration.

There are still some other interesting topics and useful talk from other researchers which are not included in this report. But I believe this conference was a very valuable opportunity to communicate with other scientists and gave us much inspiration for future work. I do appreciate TSANZ's finical support for my travel.

### **Camilla Hanson**

I am grateful for the opportunity afforded to me by TSANZ to travel to Hong Kong to attend the 26th International Congress of (TTS) The Transplantation Society in 2016. This was the first TTS meeting that I had attended. Within the extensive program for the meeting, there were a

number of sessions that aligned to my research interests, which include increasing access to transplantation and psychosocial issues in living kidney donor transplantation. As a PhD student, I was eager to hear talks from international experts, whose work has encouraged my interest in living kidney donor transplantation.

I attended the TTS 2016 Congress to present our study on ‘Living kidney donor priorities for outcomes: a nominal group technique study’. We ran focus groups with 67 Australian kidney (aged 27-78 years) donors to find out what outcomes they prioritise for research. Our study found that kidney donors prioritised outcomes including time to recovery, family life, donor-recipient relationship, lifestyle restrictions and kidney function, over kidney failure and mortality. My oral presentation was in an interesting session that was well attended. Some highlights of this session were a Spanish team’s study on the long-term psychosocial impact of living kidney donation which evaluated donor satisfaction, an international survey on current practices for the psychosocial evaluation of living organ donors, and learning about the prediction model developed in the United States, to determine long-term risk of ESRD in living kidney donors based on their individual characteristics. Other highlights from the conference program included a talk by Pankaj Chandak and their UK team about the application of 3D printing technology to assist with complex paediatric renal transplantation. Not only was this useful for surgical decisions, but they had also found these models could help aid the consenting procedure for living donors and recipients.

Attendance at this conference has provided me a greater understanding of psychosocial issues in kidney transplantation and a number of research ideas. In addition to an extensive educational program, Hong Kong was an exciting city to explore in the evenings. Thank you again to TSANZ for this worthwhile opportunity.

### **Susan Wan**

I would like to thank the TSANZ for supporting my travel to the 26th International Congress of The Transplantation Society held in Hong Kong from the 18th – 23rd of August 2016. Through the generous support of the society and its

members, I was able to attend this international conference and present my research, entitled, “Donor Specific Antibodies in Kidney Transplant Recipients and Associated Clinical Outcomes.” The conference provided an invaluable learning experience that showcased cutting-edge research in transplantation, while highlighting the global challenges still to be addressed.

One of the themes that emerged from the conference was the role of antibody mediated injury in long term graft survival, and how this may be studied to improve outcomes. Several groups reported on their experience with potential biomarkers for antibody mediated rejection and graft failure, including: donor specific antibodies, complement fixation, B-cell cytokines and their ratios, and urinary IP-10. Others approached the problem by using information from multiple biomarkers to generate a risk prediction tool. In keeping with the theme of antibodies, there were some excellent discussions on epitope-level matching to predict risk, as well as the role of T follicular cells in the generation of donor specific antibodies, and the identification and function of regulatory B-cells. In addition to the role of alloantibodies, the plenary sessions explored the role of the microbiome in the alloimmune response and the impact of new Hepatitis C treatments on transplantation.

Hong Kong provided the perfect international backdrop to the conference and a vibrant setting to catch up with old friends and colleagues, as well as to make new connections and collaborations. I am extremely grateful to the society for the chance to attend this international conference and have come away with new ideas and directions for research.

### **Su Kah Goh**

The 26th International Congress of the Transplantation Society was held at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre in Wan Chai, Hong Kong. There were over 6,700 participants (including clinicians, nurses, allied health personnel and scientists) from all over the world who attended this prestigious Congress.

An extensive Congress program was carefully put forward by the committee. The plenary sessions and state-of-the-art lectures were

delivered by many outstanding international experts. Of which, each presenter carefully highlighted the current understanding of modern biology and its impact on transplantation. The emphasis of the Congress on sound basic science, translational and clinical research also provided numerous avenues for many international researchers to present their work on the use of emerging technologies and novel discoveries to improve patient care.

As a future clinician-scientist, I found the following plenary sessions and state-of-the-art lectures to be the most informative and the following oral sessions to be both innovative and relevant to my current PhD project:

- **Plenary Sessions**

Basic and translational sciences  
Hepatitis C virus in solid organ transplantation  
What changes will we see in transplantation over the next five years?

- **State-of-the-art Lectures**

Transplantomics in motion  
What is new and hot in intestinal transplantation?  
Two decades of living donor adult liver transplantation: pushing the limits

- **Oral Communication**

A fresh look at tolerance and rejection  
Diagnosis & monitoring of rejection I  
Diagnosis & monitoring of rejection II

In addition, I presented my paper titled “Donor-specific cell-free DNA as a non-invasive marker of organ rejection after liver transplantation: a pilot study” at the session titled “A fresh look at tolerance and rejection”. The experience was most valuable. Although the communication was brief, the work attracted many constructive comments from a range of experts in the audience.

Attending this Congress has given me with the opportunity to interact with many international clinicians and researchers. It was very pleasant to meet, mingle and share clinical and research experiences with both the younger members like myself and the established members at the TTS Young Investigators Networking Event.

I would like to thank the TSANZ for funding my attendance of this international congress. It was an eye-opening experience that has definitely widened my aptitude for basic science, translational and clinical research in transplantation.

**Kisha Sivanathan**

I would like to thank TSANZ and Astellas for supporting my travel to Hong Kong for the 26th International Congress of The Transplantation Society (TTS) in August 2016. My research interest is in the field of stem cells, cell transplantation and regenerative medicine. My career aspiration is to develop novel cell therapies to prevent and treat transplantation rejection as well as inducing transplantation tolerance. At this meeting, I presented my original research on mesenchymal stem cells as a first author of 2 accepted abstracts entitled:

1. Supercharging Mesenchymal Stem Cells with Interleukin – 17A: an alternative to Interferon-gamma enhancement of Mesenchymal Stem Cell Immunomodulation.
2. Immunodepletion and hypoxia preconditioning of mouse compact bone cells as a novel protocol to isolate highly immunosuppressive Mesenchymal Stem Cells.

Through my attendance and presentations at the TTS meeting, I was able to obtain more reviews on the data generated from my research project to improve the quality and integrity of my study. This meeting was a great opportunity to engage in current research advances and activities in the area of cell transplantation and regenerative medicine. There was good representation of clinical and basic science presentations at this meeting, which was great at bridging the field gaps and in jointly resolving transplantation related issues on a global level. There were also updates on major clinical trials outcomes, for example, the ONE STUDY that uses regulatory T cells for kidney transplantation. There were also presentations to highlight challenges for cell therapy translational into the clinics and safety issues related to cell therapy administration. Other interesting highlights and topics discussed at this meeting include encapsulation strategies of cells, CAR-Tregs,

roles of exosomes in allograft rejection, the function of laminins on T cell polarization, induced pluripotent stem cells for organ regeneration and the CRISPR/CAS9 systems to repair and alter genes, amongst others. My attendance at this conference has significantly benefited me and expanded my knowledge in the field of transplantation. Once again I would like to thank TSANZ for the support.

### **Madeleine Didsbury**

Thanks to the generous support of the TSANZ I attended the Transplantation Society Congress in Hong Kong from the 18th-23rd of August 2016. This was the first international conference I have attended and I enjoyed the diversity of fields of research and speakers included in the program.

The congress was packed full of cutting-edge research and we were spoilt for choice with many streams running concurrently. Having a Paediatric transplant stream was a bonus and it was fascinating to hear about different Paediatric transplant programs across the world and the specific challenges they face in clinical practice. It was also interesting to hear about new findings in donor and recipient selection as well as vaccination programs after transplantation. These are examples of the large amount of research presented which will improve the care of children undergoing transplants in the future.

I was also fortunate enough to have the opportunity to attend the post-graduate course prior to the main congress. This covered a range of topics including HLA-matching, donor selection and immunosuppression, which were valuable in developing my understanding of clinical transplantation practice. Furthermore there were several invaluable lectures on writing and presentation skills with many practical tips that will be useful in the future.

On the second day of the congress, I presented the preliminary findings of the K-CAD study, a longitudinal cohort study we are conducting across five paediatric renal units in Australia and New Zealand aimed at determining the impact of socioeconomic status on children with chronic kidney disease. It was great to have the opportunity to discuss our work with leaders in paediatric nephrology research from around the

world, and we received positive feedback and useful ideas about the next stage of the study.

During the congress I also attended the Standardised Outcomes in Nephrology (SONG) transplant consensus workshop. This was an interesting forum in which a diverse range of nephrologists, researchers, transplant surgeons and patients were able to discuss which outcomes should be included in a core outcome set for transplant recipients. It was wonderful to see the patients getting involved in the process and I am looking forward to seeing what the outcomes of the consensus workshops were.

Hong Kong itself had a lot to offer. We enjoyed the amazing views of the harbour and attending the night markets, as well as some spectacular local cuisine.

I would like to again extend my gratitude to the TSANZ for giving me the funding to present in Hong Kong. This was an incredible educational opportunity and has provided me with great experience to carry into my future research.

## **Travel Grant Award Reports**

### **2015 Joint Congress IPTA-CTS IXA 15<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> November, 2015 Melbourne, VIC**

#### **Yi Wen Qian**

I would like to thank TSANZ for their generous support in allowing me to attend the IPITA-CTS-IXA 2015 Joint Congress held in Melbourne, Australia. It was a unique opportunity as IPITA (International Pancreas and Islet Transplantation Association), CTS (Cell Transplant Society), and IXA (International Xenotransplantation Society) have only held their own independent conferences in the past. I was able to present my oral presentation "Foxp3+ regulatory T cells are essential for the induction and maintenance of tolerance to neonatal porcine islet cell cluster xenografts induced by co-stimulatory blockade", and received the IXA Scientific Award.

A conference of this magnitude consisting of three international societies, allowed for various

group to come together to collaborate and share ideas. It was wonderful to get an overview of cutting edge research into transplantation, and many different ways of tackling the problems we face in both allo- and xeno-transplantation today. While my area falls in xenotransplantation of islets and transplant tolerance, I was able to attend talks on heart, kidney, and cornea xeno-transplantations. I was surprised at the pig-to-human cornea transplantation trials, which indicated that we were almost at the point where xeno-transplantation can be a clinical reality. Graft tolerance was observed at from various angles, and that included tolerant dendritic cells, Treg cells, and Mreg cells. The updates on "The One Study" were exciting as it incorporated much of the cellular immunotherapy research developed over the years and applied them to a large cohort of patients. Other strategies were also discussed, such as encapsulation, and anti-bodies that targeted activated cells as a potential new immunosuppressive agent. A shortage in donor islet supply was addressed, with presentations on the genetic engineering of transgenic pigs as donors, growing islet cells from stem cells, and gene therapy that could specifically target a group of cells to produce insulin.

I learnt so much over the four days at the conference. Thank you TSANZ again for giving me this opportunity.

**74<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting  
American Academy of Dermatology  
4<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2016  
Washington DC, USA**

**Sudipta Sinnya**

Earlier this year in March, I was lucky enough to travel to Washington DC to attend the 74th Annual Dermatology meeting and present the findings of my Master of Philosophy (Mphil) thanks to the travel grant awarded to me by TSANZ!

The Annual Academy of Dermatology (AAD) is the biggest Dermatology meeting held each year and attracts thousands of Dermatologists from all over the world to the US. I had the opportunity to present the findings of my thesis in a poster presentation session at the meeting. Here I was able to present my poster as well as

give a brief 5 minute overview on both the pertinent skin surveillance and photo-protection behaviours in the liver transplant recipients in Queensland, Australia. Apart from this, I also had the privilege to meet physicians and Dermatologists from the US and world-wide in transplant dermatology and share both clinical concerns and research ideas. I was also able to attend a focused meeting held by the International Transplant Skin Cancer Collaborative (ITSCC) at the prestigious National Press Club in Washington and also had the opportunity to attend sessions dedicated to Transplant Dermatology at the AAD itself.

Lastly I did leave myself some time for sight-seeing and took this opportunity of being in DC to attend few of the Smithsonian museums, the White House, Lincoln Memorial and taste the local cuisine around town! All in all it was a great experience and I would like to thank TSANZ again for affording me this wonderful opportunity.

**ISHLT (International Society for  
Heart & Lung Transplantation)  
26<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> April 2016  
Washington DC, USA**

**Jacob Yiming Cao**

Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to describe my experience at the 36th International Society for Heart and Lung Transplantation Annual Meeting, at Washing DC. As a very junior researcher in this rapidly developing field, I was able to witness the frontier of clinical and experimental research. Most notably, there was a focus on mechanical circulatory support systems (MCS). In a session titled "Novel MCS Design and Management", the speakers reviewed the latest developments in MCS designs as well as means to monitor the patients on MCS, such as using the ventricular filling phase slope to predict abnormal hemodynamics. Of interest to myself, Dr. Peggy Blood also reviewed the usage of MCS in other settings, especially palliative care, noting that the palliative physicians were quite capable to managing such patients under MCS in both a physical and psychological realm thereby reinforcing a more holistic approach to patient care. There were plenty of Australian presenters



too at the conference. Dr. Kumud Dhital from St. Vincent's Hospital Sydney spoke regarding the successful series of donation after circulatory death (DCD) cardiac transplantation since 2014, and the potential for this new source of organ to expand the organ pool and thus limiting waiting times for patients. Experimental research was certainly not under-represented at the conference either, with hundreds of posters and presentations focusing on molecular targets and new findings on immunosuppressant efficacies and mechanisms of action. Contributing to this was the Macdonald Lab at the Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute presenting our latest results on DCD heart and liver transplantation in large and small animals. Overall the conference was indeed eye opening and I am grateful for the support that TSANZ was able to provide me with.

### **Ling Gao**

I like to thank TSANZ for kindly providing a travel grant for me to attend the 36th Annual Meeting of the International Society of Heart & Lung Transplantation held 27-30th April 2016 in Washington DC where I presented my research works titled "Post-conditioning with cyclosporine: impact on ischemia reperfusion injury in a rodent model of donor heart preservation".

Our research lab headed by Professor Peter Macdonald at the Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute has been dedicated to the development of strategies that improve preservation of donor hearts during heart transplantation. One of our recent research interests has been focusing on the effects of pharmacological conditioning against ischemia reperfusion (I/R) injury during donor heart preservation. Presented as a poster at the conference, our study has shown the beneficial effects of Cyclosporine as an inhibitor of mitochondrial permeability transition pore in improving the preservation of donor heart in an isolated perfused rat heart model. To our knowledge this is a novel finding of the cardio-protective effects of cyclosporine in a non-infarct experimental model.

While the conference has given me the opportunity to share with others our research findings, more importantly it has exposed me to

the latest advancements in the study of I/R injury during organ transplantation. A number of works presented at the conference have shown the key role of reactive oxygen species (ROS) in the progress of I/R injury. Works by Werner et al from the University Hospital Frankfurt have shown that mTOR inhibitors are able to reduce I/R injury in human microvascular endothelial cells through reduction in ROS production. Their works suggested that the protective effect diminishes within short time and the application should already be started previous to severe inflammation. Both Everolimus and Sirolimus are also able to reduce endothelin-1 production after I/R injury and therefore potentially prevent transplant rejection induced by endothelial inflammation. Another work by Takahashi et al from Kyoto University in a rat lung I/R model has shown the beneficial effects of hydrogen rich saline for lung storage indicated by improved lung function and decreased pro-inflammatory cytokine productions after I/R injury. Hydrogen dissolved in saline was found to directly pass through the visceral pleura and work as an anti-oxidative agent by selectively reducing ROS.

It's been an inspirational and unforgettable experience for me to attend the conference and meet the other peers from around the world. I like to thank TSANZ again for its continuous support and wish to pay back with more outputs in future research works.

### **ATC (American Transplant Congress)**

**11<sup>th</sup>- 15<sup>th</sup> June 2016**

**Boston, USA**

### **Megan Brown**

It was a great privilege to attend the American Transplant Congress this June in Boston and be able to present our poster considering optimal measures of timely transplantation and correlation between early listing and transplantation outcomes. I am very grateful for the support I received from TSANZ by way of a TSANZ travel grant which allowed me to attend this incredible congress.

I was able to attend a range of sessions covering immunology, clinical transplantation, recipient

and donor health and deceased organ allocation. There were a number of highlights from the congress including several sessions on new approaches to hepatitis C treatment and implications for both donors and recipients, as well as implications for organ allocation. I was also able to participate in sessions considering consensus approaches to BK viral nephropathy and subclinical rejection. There were some interesting updates in pharmacogenomics and effects on immunosuppression dosing including variations in CYP3A5 and tacrolimus dosing. One of the many sunrise symposiums I was privileged to attend considered pregnancy outcomes for both donors and recipients, and what we can learn from pregnancy with regard to immune tolerance. Non-adherence with approaches to defining risk of non-adherence prior to transplant and strategies to maximise adherence were discussed at one of the midday symposiums. This is an interesting and important area given that an estimated 1/3 of graft loss is associated with non-adherence. Novel approaches to tolerance induction were also considered including the potential use of combined renal and bone marrow transplantation in inducing tolerance. There were also several sessions reflecting on the Organ Procurement and Transplant Network Kidney Allocation System (OPTN KAS) which were particularly interesting as we reconsider the kidney allocation algorithm in Australia.

Once again, I would like to thank the TSANZ for the opportunity to attend this congress.

## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

### **2016 Meetings**

*Australian and New Zealand Society of Cardiac and Thoracic Surgeons (ANZSCTS) Annual Scientific Meeting*  
6th – 9th November 2016  
Cairns Convention Centre, Cairns, Queensland, Australia  
More info go to [www.anzsctsasm.com](http://www.anzsctsasm.com)

### ***The Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute 17th International Symposium & Princesses' Lecture***

6th – 8th November 2016  
Garvan Auditorium, Burton Street entrance, Darlinghurst, Sydney  
More info go to  
<http://www.victorchang.edu.au/home/news-events/event/symposium/>

### **2017 Meetings**

#### ***International Society of Heart & Lung Transplantation (ISHLT)***

5th - 8th April  
California USA  
More info go to  
<https://www.ishlt.org/meetings/futureMeetings.asp>

#### ***American Transplant Congress (ATC)***

29th April – 4th May  
Chicago, USA  
More info go to <http://atcmeeting.org/>

#### ***TSANZ PGC & ASM***

6th – 9th May  
Brisbane Convention Centre  
Brisbane, Australia  
More info go to [www.tsanz.com.au](http://www.tsanz.com.au)

#### ***Royal Australian College of Surgeons ASM (RACS)***

8th – 12th May  
Adelaide, Australia  
More info go to <https://www.surgeons.org/>

#### ***15th Transplantation Science Symposium (TSS)***

24th - 26th May 2017  
Victoria BC, Canada  
More info go to [www.tss2017.org](http://www.tss2017.org)

#### ***9th Congress on Pediatric Transplantation (IPTA 2017)***

27th - 30th May  
Barcelona, Spain  
More info go to [www.ipta2017.org](http://www.ipta2017.org)

**16th Congress of the International Pancreas and Islet Transplant Association (IPITA**

**2017)**

20th - 23rd June

Oxford, UK

More info go to [www.ipita2017.org](http://www.ipita2017.org)

**XV International Congress of the Intestinal Rehabilitation and Transplant Association (CIRTA 2017)**

28th June - 1st July

New York, NY, USA

More info go to [www.cirta2017.org](http://www.cirta2017.org)

**14th Congress of the International Society for Organ Donation and Procurement (ISODP 2017)**

6th - 9th September

Geneva, Switzerland

More info go to [www.isodp2017.org](http://www.isodp2017.org)

**14th Congress of the International Xenotransplantation Association (IXA 2017)**

20th - 23rd September

Baltimore, MD, USA

More info go to [www.ixa2017.org](http://www.ixa2017.org)

**European Society of Organ Transplantation (ESOT)**

24th - 27th September

Barcelona, Spain

More info go to [www.esot2017.org](http://www.esot2017.org)

**Joint Congress of the Cell Transplant & Regenerative Medicine Society/Canadian Society of Transplantation (CTRMS-CST 2017)**

26th - 29th September

Halifax, NS, CA

More info go to [www.tts.org/ctrms](http://www.tts.org/ctrms)

**13th Congress of the International Society for Vascularized Composite Allotransplantation (ISVCA 2017)**

26th - 27th October

Salzburg, Austria

More info go to [www.isvca2017.org](http://www.isvca2017.org)

## **2018 Meetings**

**International Society of Heart & Lung Transplantation (ISHLT)**

11th – 14th April

Nice, France

More info go to [www.ishlt.org](http://www.ishlt.org)

**Royal Australian College of Surgeons ASM (RACS)**

7th - 11th May

Sydney, Australia

More info go to <https://www.surgeons.org/>

**American Transplant Congress (ATC)**

2nd – 6th June

Seattle, USA

More info go to <http://atcmeeting.org/>

**XXVII International Congress of The Transplantation Society (TTS 2018)**

July

Madrid, Spain

More info go to

<https://www.tts.org/eventsmeetings-a-congresses/at-a-glance>

**European Society of Organ Transplantation (ESOT)**

Not available

More info go to [www.esot.org/](http://www.esot.org/)

## TSANZ COUNCIL

**Professor Steve Chadban**  
President  
[Steve.chadban@sswahs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Steve.chadban@sswahs.nsw.gov.au)

**Professor Steve Alexander**  
President Elect  
Chair of Advisory Committee/Working Groups  
[stephen.alexander@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:stephen.alexander@health.nsw.gov.au)

**Professor Karen Dwyer**  
Honorary Secretary/Communications  
[karen.dwyer@deakin.edu.au](mailto:karen.dwyer@deakin.edu.au)

**Dr Rob Carroll**  
Treasurer  
[robert.carroll@sa.gov.au](mailto:robert.carroll@sa.gov.au)

**Professor Shane Grey**  
Liaison with Scientific Societies  
[s.grey@garvan.org.au](mailto:s.grey@garvan.org.au)

**Dr Nick Cross**  
New Zealand Representative  
[nick.cross@cdhb.health.nz](mailto:nick.cross@cdhb.health.nz)

**Professor Henry Pleass**  
Surgical Representative  
[Henry.Pleass@sydney.edu.au](mailto:Henry.Pleass@sydney.edu.au)

**Mr Nigel Palk**  
ATCA Representative  
[Nigel.Palk@sa.gov.au](mailto:Nigel.Palk@sa.gov.au)

**Professor Greg Snell**  
Lung Transplant Service  
[g.snell@alfred.org.au](mailto:g.snell@alfred.org.au)

**A/Prof Nicholas Shackel**  
RACP AMDC Liaison Rep  
[n.shackel@unsw.edu.au](mailto:n.shackel@unsw.edu.au)

**Ms Sommer Twycross**  
TSANZ Executive Officer  
[tsanz@tsanz.com.au](mailto:tsanz@tsanz.com.au)

**Mrs Nieves Piaggio**  
TSANZ Administration Assistant  
[admin@tsanz.com.au](mailto:admin@tsanz.com.au)

## TSANZ SPEC

**Co-Chairs of Spec**  
A/Prof Daniel Chambers and  
Dr Kelli Macdonald

**A/Prof Daniel Chambers**  
[Daniel.Chambers@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:Daniel.Chambers@health.qld.gov.au)

**Dr Kelli Macdonald (2017 ASM)**  
[kellim@qimr.edu.au](mailto:kellim@qimr.edu.au)

**Dr Ross Francis (2017 ASM)**  
[Ross.Francis@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:Ross.Francis@health.qld.gov.au)

**Dr Wayne Hawthorne**  
[wayneh@med.usyd.edu.au](mailto:wayneh@med.usyd.edu.au)

**Dr Min Hu**  
[min.hu@sydney.edu.au](mailto:min.hu@sydney.edu.au)

**Dr Andrew Jabbour**  
[ajabbour@stvincents.com.au](mailto:ajabbour@stvincents.com.au)

**Dr Darren Lee**  
[Darren.Lee2@easternhealth.org.au](mailto:Darren.Lee2@easternhealth.org.au)

**Dr Veena Roberts (2017 PGC)**  
[Veena.ROBERTS@svha.org.au](mailto:Veena.ROBERTS@svha.org.au)

**Dr Siok Tey (2017 PGC)**  
[siok.tey@gimrberghofer.edu.au](mailto:siok.tey@gimrberghofer.edu.au)

**A/Prof Allison Tong**  
[allison.tong@sydney.edu.au](mailto:allison.tong@sydney.edu.au)

## ADVISORY COMMITTEES

**Chairperson – Steve Alexander**  
[stephen.alexander@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:stephen.alexander@health.nsw.gov.au)

**TSANZ Project Officer – Iman Ali**  
[iman@tsanzprojects.com](mailto:iman@tsanzprojects.com)

**Cardiac:**  
Dr Robert Larbalestier  
[rlarb@iinet.net.au](mailto:rlarb@iinet.net.au)

**Donor Surgeons & Coordinators:**  
Dr Michael Fink  
[mafink@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:mafink@unimelb.edu.au)

Ms Nicola Seifert  
[Nicola.Seifert@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Nicola.Seifert@health.nsw.gov.au)

**Liver:**

Professor Jonathan Fawcett  
[j.fawcett@uq.edu.au](mailto:j.fawcett@uq.edu.au)

**Lung:**

Dr Tanya McWilliams  
[tmcwilliams@adhb.govt.nz](mailto:tmcwilliams@adhb.govt.nz)

**Pancreas & Islet:**

A/Professor Henry Pleass  
[Henry.Pleass@sydney.edu.au](mailto:Henry.Pleass@sydney.edu.au)

**Renal:**

A/Professor John Kanellis  
[john.kanellis@monash.edu](mailto:john.kanellis@monash.edu)

**Immune Tolerance**

A/Professor Frank Ierino  
[frank.ierino@svha.org.au](mailto:frank.ierino@svha.org.au)

**Vascular Composite Allograft**

Professor Karen Dwyer  
[karen.dwyer@deakin.edu.au](mailto:karen.dwyer@deakin.edu.au)

## **WORKING GROUPS**

**Chairperson – Steve Alexander**

[stephen.alexander@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:stephen.alexander@health.nsw.gov.au)

**Cornea:**

Dr John Males  
[jmales@eye.usyd.edu.au](mailto:jmales@eye.usyd.edu.au)

**Paediatric:**

Mr Joshua Kausman  
[joshua.kausman@rch.org.au](mailto:joshua.kausman@rch.org.au)

**Tissues:**

Ms Joyleen Winter  
[joyleen.winter@pluslife.org.au](mailto:joyleen.winter@pluslife.org.au)

**Xenotransplantation:**

Professor Peter Cowan  
[peter.cowan@svhm.org.au](mailto:peter.cowan@svhm.org.au)