



TSANZ

The Transplantation Society of Australia and New Zealand

2022 NEWSLETTER

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

by Associate Professor Fiona Mackie

Dear TSANZ Members,

Haere mai tangata whenua.

TSANZ acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of country throughout Australia and their connections to land, sea, and community. We pay our respect to their elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today.

Welcome to the 2022 edition of the Society newsletter.

2022 has still seen considerable challenges thanks to ongoing issues with Covid-19 but we were able to hold a face-to-face meeting in Adelaide in June. The meeting was a great success and thoroughly enjoyed by those who came along. 153 abstracts were submitted and 321 attended with some taking advantage of the on-demand access after the event. Special thanks to our program convenors Dr Michael Collins and Dr Sanda Stankovic. The Postgraduate course convened by A/Professor Chien-Li Holmes-Liew and Dr Eric

T. Son, and the Masterclass convened by A/Professor Chris Drogemuller and Dr Chanel Prestidge were hugely successful and well attended and our thanks goes to all those involved.

On behalf of Council, I would also like to acknowledge the hard work, long hours and dedication of Nieves Piaggio, Kim Rawson, Roslyn Davies, and Emily Larkins. TSANZ is fortunate and better off for having them.

I wish you all the best for 2023 and hope it brings even more opportunities for us to meet, network and work together on improving transplantation for those who need it. Best wishes for the Holiday season approaching.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Professor Helen Pilmore

President, TSANZ

Kia ora TSANZ members and best wishes for the holiday season. 2022 has been another hugely busy year. Our lives are normalising in terms of Covid, and it was a huge pleasure to see many of you at the ASM in Adelaide in June. It was wonderful to hold our face-to-face meeting in Adelaide and marvellous to have such a great attendance at the meeting, Postgraduate course and Masterclass. It was also wonderful to be able to provide members with on-demand access to the ASM content after the event



I would particularly like to thank Dr Lucy Sullivan and A/Prof Wai Lim who are our outstanding Scientific Programme and Education Committee (SPEC) chairs. They did a fantastic job with this meeting. A very big thank you also to the local organisers, Dr Michael Collins and Dr Sanda Stankovic who developed a wonderful ASM programme. A huge thanks also to A/Prof Chien-Li Holmes Liew and Dr Eric Son, who ran the PGC and Dr Chris Drogemuller and Dr Chanel Prestige who managed the Masterclass – this was particularly successful with 202 registrants up from 61 at the inception of the Masterclass in 2017. A very successful workshop on Machine Perfusion was also held in association with the ASM and many thanks to the excellent organisation of Prof Henry Pleass and A/Prof Natasha Rogers.

We are grateful for the generous support for the meeting by our fantastic sponsors. In particular I would like to thank our platinum sponsor Astellas who support not only the annual scientific meeting but also our Transplant Grand Rounds.

I look forward to seeing you all in Brisbane in June 2023 for our next face-to-face meeting. I hope to see even more of you in person. I'd like to thank in advance the local organisers for 2023, A/Professor Antiopi Varelias and Dr Chandima Divithotawela. It promises to be another outstanding meeting. We also have a great Post Graduate Course programme organised by Dr Jennifer Li and Dr Handoo Rhee, and a fantastic Masterclass programme being managed by Steven Hiho and Dr Georgina Irish.

There have been several other activities that have really been making a difference in Transplantation in our area. The TSANZ/Transplant Advisory Group (TAG) Covid-19 Rapid Response Taskforce continues to meet regularly – this committee has been crucially helpful in managing the response to the Covid pandemic in the transplant arena. I'd particularly like to thank Professor Steve Chadban who co-

chairs this committee and A/Prof Helen Opdam from the donation sector. This meeting has been important in the management of many practical issues faced by the transplant sector including establishing guidelines for the use of organs from Covid positive organ donors, in certain settings.

We are delighted to welcome Ms Emily Larkins to TSANZ. Emily is the Project Manager for our Enhancing Clinical Best Practice Guidelines update that is being done in collaboration with the Organ and Tissue Authority (OTA). This project aims to develop a process for the ongoing oversight, update and maintenance of the Guidelines. Our aim is to make the guidelines as user friendly as possible and to develop ways to streamline and update guidelines as new developments in transplantation and organ donation occur. Many thanks to those of you who have joined the Project Steering Group and Guideline Advisory Panel and we look forward to keeping you all updated with this process.

Other initiatives include the ongoing excellent work of the National Indigenous Kidney Transplant Taskforce (NIKTT) chaired by Professor Stephen McDonald with A/Prof Jaqui Hughes as Deputy Chair. The taskforce has made important steps to address the disparity in transplant access for first nations people and has made great progress in engagement across a number of sectors including transplant units, medical, nursing, primary care and of course consumers. A final report is only a short time away and a meeting in Adelaide in December is eagerly anticipated. Next steps include the continuance of NIKTT in some form as a means of continuing this important work in jurisdictions throughout Australia.

Our Transplant Grand Rounds webinars continue to be well subscribed to and have been an additional valuable experience for our clinical and research TSANZ community.

We have continued to have a close relationship with OTA. Many thanks to OTA for their ongoing support of TSANZ. We also have several ongoing projects. These include the Clinical Guidelines Project, a review of Simultaneous Pancreas-Kidney Transplantation led by Professor John Kanellis and a 2nd phase review of the Deceased Donor Kidney Allocation Algorithm led by Professor Kate Wyburn. Additionally, the Virtual Crossmatch project led by A/Prof Ross Francis has been extended for a further 12 months with the anticipation of ceasing all CDC crossmatch by the beginning of 2023.

Many of you will be aware of the Draft National Strategy for Organ Donation, Retrieval and Transplantation proposed earlier this year. We look forward to strong input from TSANZ and transplanting units throughout Australia as

work on this proposal develops over the forthcoming months.

TSANZ council have also been involved in several other projects including advocating to the Attorney General for a review of the current legislation around organ donation to facilitate the use of Normothermic Regional Perfusion (NRP) in DCD organ donation, in particular for liver transplantation. Additionally, we are collaborating with ANZSN to support a framework for the provision of pre-transplant educational material throughout Australia and New Zealand. We look forward to the outcome of the ANZSN-TSANZ Transplant Information/Education Working Group from this perspective.

I am forever grateful to the amazing council members A/Prof Phil Clayton; Dr Jerome Laurence; A/Prof Kavitha Muthiah; Dr Lucy Sullivan; Professor Angela Webster; Dr Tanya McWilliams (New Zealand Representative); Mr Paul Robertson (ATCA Representative); Libby John (TNA Representative); that have worked hard for the Society in the last 12 months. In particular I would like to thank the executive team consisting of myself, Professor Kate Wyburn (President-Elect), A/Prof Fiona Mackie (Secretary) and A/Prof Nikky Isbel (Treasurer). We have met monthly for the last 18 months to ensure that we are able to optimally support the Society and its ongoing projects including regular meetings with the Advisory Committee Chairs.

Finally, I would like to thank our outstanding administrative support. Nieves Piaggio, our Executive Officer has been tireless in her work for the society. Her organisation of the annual meeting was once again absolutely flawless, and we are grateful for her managing the complexities of our first hybrid conference. I would also like to thank Roslyn Davies for her amazing work in particular on the website platform and with running the Grand Rounds. Kim Rawson is our wonderful project officer. Once again, she has done an outstanding job managing a number of complex tasks including projects with OTA, NIKTT, the Rapid Response Taskforce and the Advisory Committees. I am truly grateful for the huge amount of work by our admin team. The society would not be able to run without you.

I would like to wish you all the best for the summer, and I hope you get some time off and are able to enjoy any festivities you have planned. Looking forward to seeing you all in 2023.

Ngā manaakitanga (with best wishes)

HP

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Associate Professor Fiona Mackie Honorary Secretary, TSANZ



It feels like only yesterday I was writing the 2021 report - it has been a busy year for Council and the Executives led so capably and inclusively by our President A/Professor Helen Pilmore with the invaluable assistance of Professor Kate Wyburn (President Elect) and Treasurer Dr Nikky Isbel. Thanks also go to the hard-working team on Council: A/Professor Phil Clayton, Dr Jerome Laurence, Dr Tanya McWilliams, Dr Kavitha Muthiah, Mr Paul Robertson, Dr Lucy Sullivan and Professor Angela Webster. We thank Jerome for his contribution as his time on Council is finishing and welcome Dr Handoo Rhee as the surgical representative. It is a pleasure to welcome back Associate Professor Bronwyn Levvey on Council as the new TNA President.

What a thrill it was to have our Annual Scientific Meeting for 2022 in the beautiful city of Adelaide and to be able to see each other face to face. The excitement was palpable, the talks were high caliber, and the meeting was very well attended. Council is very grateful to Lucy Sullivan, Wai Lim and all of SPEC. Next year's meeting will be in Brisbane.

2022 membership has seen us increase from 540 to 602 members with 54% identifying as female. Council has been reviewing the membership fee structure and is pleased to announce there will be a significant reduction in the fee for scientists for full membership from 2023, acknowledging the important contribution they make to our field.

I hope all of you get some time over the coming months to spend time with your family, loved ones and friends after a challenging few years.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Associate Professor Nikky Isbel, Honorary Treasurer, TSANZ



The current financial position of the society remains stable. As at 31st October 2022, including monies held for OTA and NIKTT projects, net assets are \$2,583,210.

Income from membership for 2021 (\$126,319) was slightly less than 2020 (\$134,637). However, income from the ASM was significantly increased for 2021 (\$156,790) and income from sponsorship stable (\$164,500). Additional income through various Covid-19 financial supports, as well as conference revenue meant that overall, the society was

\$212,576 favourable (excluding OTA and NIKTT monies) for 2021.

The financial strategy previously discussed has now been implemented with \$1,000,000 moved into a combination of a higher interest term deposit (\$700,000) and progressive investment (\$300,000) in socially responsible investment funds. The goals are to

1. maintain a reserve such that it could support society activities in adverse economic times
2. utilise the profits to support projects to advance the goals of the TSANZ.

The strategy will be reviewed every 6 months (or sooner if required) and it is planned that the monies will be progressively transferred into investment funds. We have appointed Steve Latham of Findex Financial and Advisory Services to oversee this process. Mr Latham has been the financial advisor for the ANZSN for more than a decade and comes well recommended. Findex is based in New Zealand and Australia and has been in operation for 30 years. The suggested fund has performed well since establishment and with returns above comparator funds and the standard Australian equity market.

The next steps are to develop a Finance Committee to oversee the TSANZ finances, and risk management. One of the functions of that committee will be to monitor the performance of the investment portfolio and to advise on the allocation of funds available to support the societies strategic projects and initiatives for the following year. Further details will be forthcoming.

Thanks to Nieves Piaggio and the TSANZ administrative team for their astute guidance and assistance.

ADVISORY COMMITTEES & WORKING GROUPS REPORT



Professor Kate Wyburn
President Elect, TSANZ Chair, TSANZ Advisory Committees & Working Groups

For the first time since 2019, the Advisory Committees were able to hold face to face meetings during the TSANZ ASM in Adelaide between 19th and 21st June 2022. Having conducted all of our meetings via video conference, it was wonderful to be able to see and connect with people in person. Thank you to the dedication and hard work of our committee members who enable TSANZ to promote research, best clinical practice and advocacy to improve outcomes and increase access to organ transplantation in Australia and New Zealand.

In addition to the face-to-face meetings in Adelaide, the following advisory committees have met via video

conference on a regular basis; the Cardiac Transplant Advisory Committee (CTAC), Lung Transplant Advisory Committee (LTAC), Liver and Intestinal Transplant Advisory Committee (LITAC), Renal Transplant Advisory Committee (RTAC), Donor Surgeons and Donor Coordinators (DSDCAC), Paediatric Transplant Advisory Committee (PTAC), Pancreas and Islet Transplant Advisory Committee (PITAC), and the Vascular Composite Allograft Advisory Committee (VCAAC).

Following implementation of the revised kidney allocation algorithm on the 4th May 2021, RTAC met and reviewed the outcomes of the new algorithm on a bimonthly basis, this was part of phase 2 of the Deceased Donor Kidney Allocation Algorithm Review (KAv2). A final report was provided to the OTA in preparation for a new funding schedule to follow for phase 3 of the project. We would like to thank Mark McDonald from the Organ and Tissue Authority (OTA) for providing the data on the outcomes at these meetings. A manuscript for publication is being prepared.

A new working group related to the ongoing review of the deceased donor kidney allocation algorithm was convened in September to meet monthly. This is part of phase 3 of the project with the group drafting a more extensive proposal that includes the structure, governance and requirements of the working group to further evolve and optimise the deceased donor kidney allocation algorithm in Australia. A formal invitation will be extended to a broader stakeholder group to contribute in the New Year.

The review of Simultaneous Pancreas-Kidney Transplantation was undertaken by the working group led by Prof. John Kanellis. The working group produced a scoping paper on pancreas transplantation in Australia that included key findings and recommendations that was presented to TSANZ Executives and the OTA. Dr Matthew Sypek was the primary author of the report, and his balanced and objective insights from the group discussions have been greatly appreciated.

In March 2022, Emily Larkins was employed in the role of Clinical Project Manager as part of the Enhancing Clinical Best Practice Guidelines and Procedures project. This project is focusing on enhancing current processes for managing the Guidelines. A Guidelines Advisory Panel has been formed and meets on a monthly basis. Thanks to the many members of the working groups and advisory committees, Version 1.10 of the TSANZ Clinical Guidelines for Organ Transplantation from Deceased Donors was released in October 2022.

The Virtual Cross Match (VXM) Working Group continues to meet regularly to progress the successful introduction of VXM. The current aim is for CDC cross match to cease by

February 2023. The working group is led by A/Prof Ross Francis and is supported by Rhonda Holdsworth and Narelle Watson. The project has been extended to 30 June 2023.

The National Indigenous Kidney Transplantation Taskforce (NIKTT) Funding Agreement between TSANZ and the Department of Health has been extended until 30 June 2023. This will enable the Secretariat staff to prepare for the next steps and the final report. The NIKTT held a two-day Gathering in Adelaide, 5-6 December 2022, that brought together NIKTT members and kidney patients and carers to reflect on where we have come from, the partnerships that have grown between communities, learning from the NIKTT process and next steps to progress this field.

We continue to work collaboratively with the Organ and Tissue Authority (OTA) with whom we have signed a four year agreement and have excellent working relationships with Donatelif e and the Australasian Donation and Transplant Coordinators Association (ADTCA).

Thanks to the many members of the working groups and advisory committees, the generous efforts of all involved in these groups to continue to deliver and progress the field of transplantation in Australia and New Zealand is gratefully acknowledged, as is the tireless support provided by Kim Rawson.

SPEC REPORT

Dr Lucy Sullivan and Associate Professor Wai Lim Co-Chairs of SPEC

Despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, there has been a seamless transition from virtual ASM in 2021 to a COVID-19

safe face-to-face ASM meeting in 2022. We are hopeful that the world is moving towards a new equipoise, with air travel back in full swing, with the only drawback the hefty ticket price tag and frequent flight cancellations! The appetite for in person education and networking has never been clearer, with the 2022 ASM and ancillary meetings a resounding success. One of SPEC's major emphasis has been to ensure gender equity, which is not only crucial in representations on committees and invited speakers, but also to society as a whole.

There have been several key changes to SPEC committee members. We like to acknowledge the immense and valuable contributions from our retiring SPEC members in Darren Lee, Bill Mulley and Henry Pleass and their leadership, humour and dedication will be greatly missed. Incoming members Sanda Stankovic, Karen Keung and Siah



Kim will join Jeanette Villanueva on SPEC and we have no doubt will excel in their roles in providing guidance to the education contents of TSANZ. The Early Career Research (ECR) subcommittee led by Eric Au and Tracey Ying has welcomed several new members from a large pool of applicants, with Sarah Dart, Adam Philipoff, Tom Crowhurst and Madeline Gill appointed as ECR members.

The 2022 ASM has come and gone, with the number of registrants exceeding expectation and the largest in the history of TSANZ. We welcomed 321 delegates to the 2022 ASM from across Australia (yes, even people from Western Australia) and New Zealand, with 113 and 202 delegates registering for the postgraduate and Masterclass course respectively. In addition, 72 delegates registered for the Machine Perfusion workshop but because of last-minute flight cancellations, only 38 were able to attend in person. We would like to specifically acknowledge the immense efforts of our convenors: ASM - Sanda Stankovic and Michael Collins, Postgraduate Course - Chien-Li Holmes-Liew and Eric Son, and Masterclass - Chanel Prestidge and Chris Drogemuller and Machine Perfusion Workshop - Henry Pleass and Natasha Rogers who provided oversight in the organisation of these excellent programs covering "hot" and relevant basic and clinical topics. We also wish to thank the ECR subcommittee who hosted an excellent "Meet a Research Leader Event" (with Lucy, Wai and Shilpa providing "wise words"), and for organising the fun run (which was won by Wai... apparently it wasn't rigged).

Of our 5 international speakers, Dr Jon Odorico, A/Professor Kieran Halloran, Professor Anette Melk, Professor Jayme Locke and Professor Yves Beguin, with the first 3 joining the ASM in person, and we are appreciative of Professor Locke and Professor Beguin who participated in the live streaming and Q&A from the United States and Belgium at local time! The quality of the presentations from the international speakers was outstanding and covered diverse topics ranging from improving access to transplantation through to the utilisation of mesenchymal stem cells. As per previous years, the clinical and basic research presentations from local speakers were extremely impressive and emphasises the excellence of transplant-related research in Australia and New Zealand, as well as showcasing the quality and global success of our research supervisors and mentors in these areas. The year saw the continuation of the Women in Transplantation (WIT) event, chaired by Germaine Wong, who is also the co-chair of the executive committee of WIT. There were excellent presentations by Professor Anette Melk and Professor Jodie McVernon followed by a Monday networking session that was very well attended. It is hoped that this WIT will remain a firm fixture of future ASMs.

Early Career Researcher Committee Report

Hello! We'd like to take this opportunity to introduce the Early Career Researcher (ECR) Committee. Formed in 2019, fifteen of us were tasked with bringing together early career researchers, clinicians and health care professionals within transplantation and enhancing ECR engagement within the Society.

From our inaugural ECR engagement survey, in November 2021, we know that this was a welcome addition to the Society. The majority of ECRs surveyed would like to be more involved and have more opportunities to connect with each other and with leaders in the field. Thus began the planning of our first ASM initiatives.

Our first initiative was organising the President's Prize People's Choice Award. Delayed by the cancellation of 2019 ASM, this was well received with interesting results at the 2021 Virtual ASM and this year's ASM. It appears the people largely agree with our TSANZ judging panel. Congratulations again to all our winners. In particular, to Dylan Barnett and Leigh Nicholson who managed to woo the crowd away from the President's Prize winners in 2021.

The 2022 ASM in Adelaide was our first in-person event. After a couple of years meeting virtually, what a joy it was to come together, face-to-face, and see our plans come to life.

The ECR Networking Drinks, was a great success. With many of us meeting for the first time, the drinks flowing and canapes on offer, it was a great opportunity to connect and let loose a little. The night continuing for some at SkyCity (for the view of course). Many thanks to the Adelaide ECRC team for organising (Samantha Bateman, Georgina Irish and Thomas Crowhurt). Personally, we enjoyed hearing about the many diverse projects happening across Australia and New Zealand, but also the chance to share our common joys and challenges. We hope some lasting connections were made that evening.

The "Meet the Researcher" event was well attended. It gave ECRs an opportunity to ask diverse panel of mid-career researchers about their experiences and advice on career pathways and research opportunities. We'd like to thank again our Research Leaders, Dr Lucy Sullivan, A/Prof Wai Lim and A/Prof Shilpa Jesudason, for their openness and wisdom in this Q&A session. Thank you also to our fabulous MC's, Sarah Dart and Eric Son. Some valuable insights on research careers and pathways were taken from the session.

Taking over this year's Fun Run was no small feat. The rain nearly got the better of us, but thanks to a dedicated bunch of marshals and some very brave runners, we all made it to

There were multiple prizes awarded and we would like to thank our sponsors in their ongoing commitment to TSANZ. The President's prize honours were awarded to Rachael Adams and Griffith Boord Perkins for their basic science and clinical research presentations. Other prestigious prizes were awarded to Rhonda Holdsworth (Lafferty Award), Debbie Watson (Ian McKenzie Award), Emma Vanhardeveld from Royal Melbourne (Aviva Rosenfeld Award) and Brenda Rosales (Mark Cocks Award).

In other SPEC activities, the 6-weekly grand rounds continue to be a success, attracting up to 190 registrants for each session. We would like to acknowledge the 2022 speakers in providing their time and expertise and the large number of registrants is evidence of the interest in these areas. This initiative will continue in 2023 and a draft program and speakers will be posted on the TSANZ website in the New Year. We do welcome any suggestions and nominations of any potential speakers and topics of relevance to the transplant community.

We are also hoping to establish new initiatives, including a Mentor-Mentee program, difficult "clinical case" discussion (virtual), increase engagement with other transplant societies in the Asia-Pacific regions, and establishing education "modules" relating to topical transplant topics, grant writing and statistical methods. We will provide further information regarding these initiatives in 2023.

We would again like to express our appreciation and gratitude for the tireless work of our extraordinary reliable administrative team, brilliantly led by our experienced TSANZ Executive officer Nieves Piaggio and TSANZ Administrative Officer Roslyn Davies. Their level of enthusiasm, work ethics and thoroughness provided invaluable support to all the convenors, but most of all to both of us. Navigating through the difficulties of the pandemic and increasing demands of the logistics and competing interests of organising education programs, Nieves and Roslyn have provided invaluable guidance through these times.

The quote of Nelson Mandela "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world" should resonate with all of us as we strive to attain the goal of improving health outcomes of all transplant recipients. We are grateful for the continuing support of the council, TSANZ members, consumers, agencies and funding bodies, which are critical for the success of all SPEC programs. The work by all TSANZ members is critical to the definitive goal of achieving clinical and research excellence. We look forward everyone to an excellent education program and ASM in Brisbane in 2023.

Lucy Sullivan and Wai Lim

Co-Chairs of SPEC

the end. A/Prof Wai Lim won first-place bragging rights (but next year we might start a check-in at the start of the race). Many thanks to Georgie for her tireless efforts bringing this all together.

From all in the ECRC we are thankful to those who supported our formation and initiatives and hopeful for some greater impact in the new year.

American Transplant Congress, Boston 4-8 June**Georgina L Irish**

With the support of the TSANZ travel award I was fortunate enough to be able to attend the American Transplant Congress in Boston. After many years of virtual conferences, it was thrilling to be able to attend in real life and meet up with old and new friends. I delivered an oral presentation about the use of the Living Kidney Donor Profile Index to differentiate between donors for compatible pairs in the paired kidney exchange. This is a project I have been working on with collaborators in Australia and from University of British Columbia, Vancouver. A highlight of the meeting was being able to meet in person the people I have worked for months with over zoom. This area was topical, with an impact session debating whether all donor recipient pairs should be decoupled.

A new and fascinating focus of the congress was the session on xenotransplantation. We heard from Robert Montgomery and Jaymie Locke on their experiences with xenotransplantation of pig's kidneys. Then we heard from Muhammad Mohiuddin about the much-publicised pig cardiac transplant that was published in the New York times. There was also discussion about the ethics of xenotransplantation. Exploring further innovation, we heard from Martine Rothblatt at the Thomas Starzl state of the art lecture, about how her company is planning on using autonomously flown devices like drones to transport organs throughout the United States of America.

Outside of the conference, I got to learn more about American history exploring the freedom trail, had a gorgeous run along the Charles River, and got to pretend I was a student at Harvard by drinking in their college bars. Overall, it was an exceptional learning experience, and I cannot thank TSANZ enough for the opportunity.

Griffith Perkins

This travel award enabled me to attend the American Transplant Congress in Boston. This was my first time attending this meeting, and I would like to thank TSANZ very much for the opportunity.

ATC is an excellent meeting, and Australia transplant research and the Society were well represented. Between Professor Toby Coates, Professor Steve Chadban and myself, we presented the outcomes an observational study and two randomised, controlled trials tackling the issue of profound impairment of COVID-19 vaccine immunogenicity in kidney transplant recipients during the late breaking poster session.

The conference was centred on recent movement in the xenotransplantation space, namely, the first pig to human heart transplant in a living recipient. Professor Mohiuddin from the University of Maryland presented the outcomes of this procedure in a plenary talk and panel discussion, along with Professor Robert Montgomery, who is behind the two recent, successful (no accelerated acute AMR) hearts transplants from their GalSafe pig (genetically modified with 10+ knock-out/knock-in mutations) into decedent recipients. With the reason for the eventual failure of the living recipient heart transplant unclear, discussion centred on our capacity to screen for porcine viruses and effectively manage the risk of zoonosis.

Outcomes for some notable trials of monoclonal antibody therapies were presented, including a negative outcome (no change to eGFR at 24 months, with increased rate of BK viremia) for the CTOT-19 trial, which investigated infliximab as a component of induction therapy in deceased donor kidney transplantation.

Some trends featuring this year more so than previous conferences were the study of innate immune cell populations, bioengineered products (including CAR Tregs, and modified cytokines and 'fusokines'), immune senescence and senolytics, tissue resident immune populations, machine learning, and a huge number of industry-sponsored studies of cell-free DNA.

The People's Choice Award for Best Presentation went (deservingly) to Dr. Alessandro Alessandrini from Massachusetts General Hospital. Dr. Alessandrini presented his group's work on the composition of graft infiltrating immune cell populations in an animal model of long-term graft acceptance, identifying a shift from a T cell- to B cell-rich composition that defined tolerance in this model. This work utilised single cell RNA sequencing technologies, and the rapidly expanding accessibility of this and other single cell technologies (at least within the United States) was evident in a whole host of similar studies presented.

**British Transplantation Society Annual Congress
5-7 September Belfast, Northern Ireland****Dr. Dylan Barnett****General Surgery Registrar, Adelaide, South Australia**

After receiving a TSANZ travel award I was able to attend and present at the British Transplantation Society Annual Congress held from 5-7th of September in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

Upon arriving in Belfast, I was given the traditional Irish welcome by my taxi driver who made a point of informing me of the best place in town to get a pint of Guinness. The Congress itself was held at the International Convention Centre Belfast along the waterway where the RMS Titanic was built and launched from. The meeting had been delayed twice due to COVID and attendees were eager to have the chance to reconnect with their colleagues face-to-face. I came away from the congress with several notable observations from the congress which will hopefully be of interest to the wider TSANZ membership base.

Firstly, although people were meeting in person, the impact of COVID-19 permeated the entire meeting. Presentations outlined approaches to novel challenges associated with the pandemic such as transplantation in patients with Vaccine-induced Immune Thrombotic Thrombocytopenia (VIITT) and the treatment of refractory COVID-19 ARDS with lung transplantation. What was particularly notable to me were several presentations that described the experience of using remote monitoring equipment to overcome the closure of many outpatient services. Several studies explored the use of point-of-care devices such as the Mitra micro-sampling device by patients at home. This technology provides essential results such as serum creatinine and tacrolimus levels that clinicians can then use in conjunction with telehealth to manage transplant patients in the community. In addition to reducing the risk of COVID-19 exposure, researchers observed a significant increase in patient satisfaction scores, such that many did not want to return to face-to-face clinics after COVID-19 rules were relaxed. Researchers also found that this approach increased equity of access for rural patients which obviously has relevance to our local setting in a country as vast as Australia. A final benefit of this strategy was the reduction in calculated emissions through the reduced travel of patients to and from hospital. Indeed, a focus on strategies to reduce carbon emissions generated through our clinical practice was another notable theme of many presentations. This focus was reflected in the dedicated "Transplantation and the Green economy" symposium session.

Secondly, it was interesting to hear about some of the challenges that are currently faced by transplant units in the NHS. Particularly, that the introduction of the National Organ Retrieval Service (NORS) has actually led to an increase in nocturnal transplantation surgery and daytime retrieval which was neither expected nor particularly wanted. Another acute challenge faced by the NHS, is how to provide adequate exposure and training opportunities to surgical registrars since the introduction of Surgical Care Practitioners who are specially trained nurses that provide surgical assistant services for the NORS teams. This issue sparked spirited debate between the speaker and audience members during a particular Q&A session.

Finally, there was a captivating session dedicated to the concept of Regional Organ Assessment and Recovery Centres (ARCs) specifically developed for the resuscitation and reconditioning of marginal organs. While this concept remains futuristic at this juncture, it provides a glimpse into what the world of machine perfusion can possibly offer if unlocked to its full potential. The meeting was also notable for the absence of certain topics. Despite the report of the first successful cardiac xenotransplant earlier this year there were no presentations relating to xenotransplantation at the BTS congress.

What was clear from attending the BTS Congress was that we are currently working in a time of significant evolution in clinical practice. There is great enthusiasm for the uptake of novel technologies and how they might be used innovatively to improve outcomes for our patients. Pleasingly, our poster was very well received as well, and we were awarded best poster in our category at the moderated poster session.

I would like to thank the TSANZ SPEC for awarding me this Travel Grant. Attending the 2022 BTS congress has given me a fresh perspective on the cutting edge of transplantation practice and left me very excited about future developments currently in the pipeline.



TSANZ 40th Annual Scientific Meeting

June 19 - 21, 2022

Adelaide Convention Centre

Early Career Researchers Award (Basic Science)
Presented by TSANZ President Professor Helen Filmore



Early Career Researchers Award (Clinical Science)
Presented by Presented by Helen Mahony



2022 AWARD WINNERS

During the Annual Dinner on June 20, 2022, at the 40th TSANZ Annual Scientific Meeting, award winners were announced by President, Professor Helen Pilmore.

The Mark Cocks Award SPONSORED BY



This prestigious award is to recognise the life of Mark Cocks and his contribution to Transplant Australia and the wider transplant community. It has been generously offered by Transplant Australia.

2022 WINNER – **Brenda Maria Rosales**

TSANZ Aviva Rosenfeld Award for Excellence in Patient Care in Transplantation

This award has been established in honour of Aviva Rosenfeld, the TSANZ Executive Officer from 1996 to 2015. The Aviva award recognises an outstanding clinician (including physicians, surgeons, nurses, psychologists, social workers, other allied health professionals) who has demonstrated excellence in patient care in transplantation.

2022 WINNER – **Emma Van Hardeveld**

TSANZ Ian McKenzie Prize for Outstanding Contribution in Transplantation

This prestigious award recognises researchers who have demonstrated excellence and exceptional contribution in the field of transplantation.

2022 WINNER – **Debbie Watson**

TSANZ Lafferty Award

The award is presented every 2 years to recognise a member of the society who has made significant and outstanding contributions to the advancement of transplantation in Australia and New Zealand and to the TSANZ.

2022 WINNER – **Rhonda Holdsworth**

KHA Awards SPONSORED BY



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TSANZ SPEC, with support of the council has continued the interactive state-of-the-art educational virtual webinars which will provide a succinct overview of important clinical, translational and practical aspects of the spectrum of organ transplantation and are suitable for all members of the clinical and research community, including medical and surgical advanced trainees in transplantation. The webinars also provide an opportunity to interact and submit questions to the speakers and access to the recorded talks.



Grand Rounds #8

Professor Michaela Lucas

Circulating or tissue resident memory T cells
- potential targets in organ transplantation?

February 10, 2022



Grand Rounds #9

Dr Peter Boan

COVID-19 in solid organ transplantation: past,
present and future directions

March 17, 2022



Grand Rounds #10

Associate Professor Shilpa Jesudason

Pregnancy post-transplant: How to Plan
and Manage for a successful outcome

May 5, 2022



Grand Rounds #11

**Dr Stella McGinn
and
A/Prof Peter Hughes**

Paired kidney exchange program
- is it time to think outside the box?



Grand Rounds #12

**Prof Geoff McCaughan
and
A/Prof Bill Mulley**

Novel platform to predict and
individualise treatment for antibody
mediated rejection

October 6, 2022



Grand Rounds #13

Dr Beatriz Dominguez-Gil
Director General of the Spanish National
Transplant Organization - (ONT)

Improvements in deceased organ donation

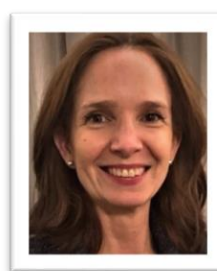
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Grand Rounds are presented in 2022 thanks to the support of





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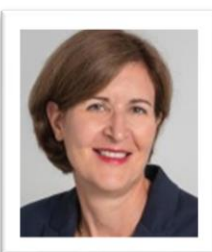
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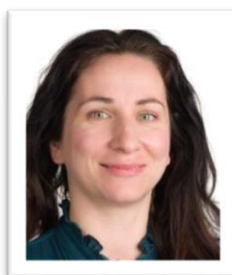
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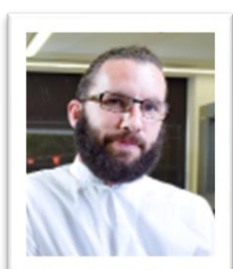
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 Peter Hughes
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 Nicholas Larkins
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 Kathy Paizis
 Matt Sypek
 Narelle Watson
 Mark McDonald

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 Rob Carroll
 Ankit Sharma
 David Darley
 Peter MacDonald
 Greg Snell
 John Kanellis
 Wai Lim
 Matt Sypek
 Susan Wan
 Robert Jones
 Dan Chambers
 Peter Hughes

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 Yi Vee Chew
 Nicole Byrne
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 Anjan Bongoni
 Hilton Gock
 Mauro Sandrin
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 Ian McKenzie
 Tom Loudovaris
 Bob Elliot
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 Kidney Transplantation (SPK WG)

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