



# Current Topics in Histocompatibility & Transplantation

A Unique Continuing Education Opportunity

## *2007 Teleconference Series*

Sponsored by  
Sandra Rosen-Bronson, Ph.D., D.(ABHI)  
Georgetown University  
Washington, DC

An ABHI Approved Continuing  
Education Program

## *Current Topics in Histocompatibility and Transplantation for Technologists*

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

All teleconferences are scheduled to start at 1:00 P.M. (Eastern Time) and last approximately ninety minutes. In addition, lecture outlines and slides will be provided to each participating site.

### *Any Questions?*

***How Does a Teleconference Work?*** Three to five days before each lecture, a teleconference packet will be mailed to your site coordinator containing the lecture slides, outline, and dial-in instructions. U.S. participants will receive a toll-free telephone number. International participants may incur additional telephone charges. On the day of the lecture and at the scheduled time, your site will call the telephone number provided in your lecture packet. Once all conference sites have dialed in, participants will follow the slide show with the lecturer. You will have an opportunity to participate in a question and answer discussion session at both the midpoint and at the completion of the lecture.

***What Equipment Do We Need On Site?*** You will need a 35 mm slide or LCD projector with a screen and a speakerphone. You may also want to obtain a quality teleconference system for maximum audio reception and clarity. Your organization's telecommunications department may have one available.

***How Do We Register?*** Complete the teleconference registration form. Fax the form to: (202) 944-2343. Send the original registration form and a check made payable to Georgetown University to:

**U.S. Mail:**

Sandra Rosen-Bronson  
Box 571438  
Georgetown University  
3900 Reservoir Road NW  
Washington DC 20057-1438

**Overnight Courier:**

Sandra Rosen-Bronson  
Preclinical Science Bldg, Room LE8H  
Georgetown University  
3900 Reservoir Road NW  
Washington DC 20007  
(202) 784-2909

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

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

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

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

**2007**  
**Teleconference Schedule**

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

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**March 27, 2007**

**Is Hematopoietic Stem Cell Donation Right for Me?**

Judith Lawrence, R.N.

Donor Stem Cell Coordinator, Georgetown University Hospital, Washington, DC  
and David Means, M.P.H.

Workup Supervisor, C.W. Bill Young Marrow Donor Program, Rockville, MD

Participants will learn how to join the NMDP donor registry and will gain an understanding of the roles of the donor recruitment center and the stem cell collection facility. They will hear about the steps involved once an individual is selected to be a stem cell donor for a patient and will hear about the experience first hand from a donor.

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**April 3, 2007**

**Getting to Know the T Cell and Its Receptor**

Carolyn Hurley, Ph.D., D.(ABHI)

Georgetown University and the C.W. Bill Young Marrow Donor Program, Washington, DC

This basic lecture will provide participants with an understanding of the genes that encode T cell receptors along with information about their molecular structure. Participants will learn how T cell receptors function and their role in the immune response.

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**April 17, 2007**

**Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation from the Patient's Perspective**

Jennifer Wilder, R.N., B.S.N., O.N.C.

Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplant Program, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD

Stem cell transplantation can be a life saving and life-changing experience, but from diagnosis to recovery, patients facing transplant can have a long road to travel. Jennifer Wilder is an experienced transplant nurse as well as donor search coordinator and has traveled this road with many patients. Conference participants will gain an understanding of stem cell transplant clinical protocols and the transplant experience from the patient's perspective.

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**May 1, 2007**

**Solid Phase Antibody Assays: Their Power and Their Pitfalls**

Karen Nelson, Ph.D., D.(ABHI)

Puget Sound Blood Center, Immunogenetics Laboratory, Seattle, WA

The number of manufactures offering some form of solid phase assay for HLA antibody analysis continues to grow. As more laboratories incorporate such assays into their routine test repertoire, there is also a growing need for HLA laboratories to understand the strengths and weaknesses of the assays. This lecture will provide an overview of the solid phase assays available today and will discuss problem issues along with critical questions such as how to interpret and use assay results in the transplant setting.

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**May 15, 2007**

**Therapeutic Protocols: Challenges and Resolutions**

Benita Book, M.S.

Transplant Immunology Laboratory, Indiana University Department of Surgery, Indianapolis, IN  
and Nancy Higgins, M.T., C.H.S.

Transplant Immunology Laboratory, Methodist Hospital, Indianapolis, IN

This lecture will identify drugs that are known to interfere with histocompatibility testing and will describe methods for eliminating interference. This conference will include examples of patient cases where drug interference was encountered and the speakers will describe the steps taken to resolve the problem.

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**May 22, 2007**

**Immunogenetics for Beginners**

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

Histocompatibility Laboratory, Georgetown University Hospital, Washington, DC

This basic lecture will provide an overview of the evolving field of immunogenetics. Participants will learn about current research tools designed to identify the genes of the immune system along with genes that interact with the immune system and contribute to disease susceptibility or prognosis.

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**June 5, 2007**

**Pillow Talk: Peptide and MHC Interactions**

David Eckels, Ph.D., D.(ABHI)

Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics Laboratory, University of Utah School of Medicine, Salt Lake City, UT

This basic lecture will discuss the organization and diversity of MHC and will discuss how the structure of HLA molecules is uniquely suited to their peptide binding function. Participants will learn how the HLA polymorphism affected peptide binding as well as how HLA/peptide complexes are recognized by T cell receptors.

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**June 19, 2007**

**Unique and Challenging Cases in the HLA Typing Laboratory**

Neng Yu, M.D., D.(ABHI)

American Red Cross New-England Region, Dedham, MA

The HLA laboratory can often encounter unusual and confusing typing results with a variety of explanations. Participants in this conference will hear about a particularly interesting case of disputed maternity and will learn about the laboratory investigation performed to resolve this mysterious case.

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**June 26, 2007**

**Organ Donation Through the Eyes of the OPO**

Andrea Tighe, R.N., C.P.T.C.

Procurement Manager, LifeSource, St Paul, MN

Organ donation, the ultimate gift of life, requires an extensive team of courageous, sensitive, and highly skilled individuals. Participants in this conference will gain an understanding of the donation process from the initial identification of a potential donor through final allocation of the donor's organs.

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**July 17, 2007**

**T Cell Directed Therapies**

John O'Shea, M.D.

Scientific Director, National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases, NIH, Bethesda, MD

Agents that interfere with T cell function are therapeutic mainstays for a variety of autoimmune diseases and immunosuppression protocols. Participants will learn about T cell specific agents now in use as well as those currently being investigated.

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**July 24, 2007**  
**Small Bowel Transplantation**

Stuart Kaufman, M.D.  
 Medical Director, Intestinal Transplantation, Georgetown University Hospital  
 and Children's National Medical Center, Washington, DC

The number of small bowel transplants has grown to approximately one hundred per year. While progress in organ preservation, surgical technique, immunosuppression, and postoperative management has helped to improve outcomes, the procedure is still associated with significant mortality and morbidity including infection, rejection, and graft-versus-host disease. Participants will not only learn about small bowel transplantation, but will also gain a greater understanding of the need for a unique partnership between the clinical laboratory and the transplant team.

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**July 31, 2007**  
**Cord Blood Transplantation**

Mary Halet, B.S., C.H.T.C.  
 Manager of Cord Blood Program, National Marrow Donor Program, Minneapolis, MN

Over the past several years, the use of cord blood as a source of hematopoietic stem cells for transplantation has continued to increase. With improved collection techniques along with the use of dual cord units, cord blood stem cells are a viable option for a growing number of adult transplant patients. This lecture will provide an overview of current practice and investigation in the field of cord blood transplantation.

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**August 7, 2007**  
**Neuroimmunology**

Jonathan Godbout, Ph.D.  
 Molecular Virology, Immunology and Medical Genetics, Ohio State University, Columbus, OH

Neuroimmunology is a growing area of research that studies all aspects of the interactions between the immune system and the nervous system. Participants will learn about the physiological functioning of the neuroimmune system in health and disease and will hear how malfunctions of this system are involved in disorders such as autoimmune disease, hypersensitivities, and immune deficiency.

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**August 21, 2007**  
**DNA Sequencing for Beginners**

Denise Heaney, Ph.D.  
 Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics Laboratory, Emory University Hospital, Atlanta, GA

This basic lecture will provide participants with an overview of the principles and the molecular biology methods employed for DNA sequencing. Manual along with automated methods will be described and troubleshooting issues will be discussed.

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**August 28, 2007**  
**The Effects of HLA and KIR Genes on Disease Susceptibility and Outcome**

Mary Carrington, Ph.D.  
 Human Genetics Laboratory, National Cancer Institute at Frederick, Frederick, MD

Dr. Carrington will discuss her research on the effects of HLA and KIR genes in several types of diseases including infectious diseases, autoimmune diseases, and cancer. Participants will learn about studies that demonstrate that KIR and HLA genes can interact synergistically to affect resistance or susceptibility to disease.

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**September 18, 2007**

**Update 2007: The Future of Kidney Allocation in the U.S.**

M. Sue Leffell, Ph.D., D.(ABHI)

Immunogenetics Laboratory, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD

The OPTN/ UNOS Board's special review group, the Kidney Allocation Review Subcommittee (KARS), continues to work toward the development of a new allocation system based on a calculated net lifetime survival benefit (NLSB). Dr. Leffell, as a member of the KARS and the current chair of the OPTN/UNOS Histocompatibility Committee, has been intimately involved with this process and will provide participants with an update on this critical and controversial initiative.

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**September 25 , 2007**

**The Ethics of Stem Cell Research**

Kevin FitzGerald, S.J., Ph.D.

The David Lauler Chair in Catholic Health Care Ethics, Center for Clinical Bioethics  
and Department of Oncology, Lombardi Cancer Center, Georgetown University Medical Center,  
Washington, DC

This conference will include a discussion of the ethical questions surrounding current genetic research and the ongoing stem cell discussion in our society. Fr. FitzGerald holds doctorates in both molecular genetics and bioethics. He has published extensively on stem cell research, human cloning, and health care ethics. As a research scientist as well as a Christian ethicist, Fr. FitzGerald brings a unique perspective to this controversial topic.

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**October 23 , 2007**

**The Role of KIR and KIR Ligands in HCS Transplant Outcome and Disease Relapse**

Katharine Hsu, M.D.

Bone Marrow Transplantation, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY

Inhibitory killer immunoglobulin (Ig)-like receptors (KIRs) recognize HLA-C and -B epitopes on target cells and are known to be involved in regulating natural killer (NK) cell activity. This conference will provide an update on current research into the role of KIR in HSC transplantation.

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**November 13 , 2007**

**Transplanting the Highly Sensitized Patient**

Kathryn Tinckam, M.D., M.MSc., F.R.C.P.C.

Renal Division and Tissue Typing Laboratory, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, MA

This conference will discuss useful strategies for successfully transplanting patient's with high levels of HLA antibody. Pre-transplant assays as well as protocols for post-transplant alloimmune monitoring will be covered.

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**November 20, 2007**

**HLA Matching for Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation**

Stephanie Lee, M.D., M.P.H.

Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Seattle, WA

Fewer than fifty percent of the patients who need a hematopoietic stem cell transplant are able to identify an HLA-A, -B, -C, -DRB1 allele matched unrelated donor. Nevertheless, an increasing number of patients are being successfully transplanted with a mismatched donor. This conference will review current research concerning the clinical relevance of various HLA mismatches.

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