



ETCO News

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Letter from the President

Dear Members and Friends

In my letter to the News, I would like to reproduce my opening speech at the Cardiff Congress as it is an overview of our role and work and one I would like to share with the readers of OT&C:

Dear Colleagues and Friends

Ladies and Gentlemen

As ETCO President and meeting Chair it gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the 2010 European Organ Donation Congress.

A special welcome to our colleagues from the European Society of Intensive Care Medicine, the European Shock Society, ELPAT and the Paediatric Intensive Care Society with whom we are running joint sessions. We are honored to have received a very warm welcome to the UK, especially from NHS Blood and Transport (NHSBT) who are running a half-day programme within the main meeting.

This congress is the main organ donation meeting taking place in 2010.

The theme of this year's meeting "transforming lives: a time of change for organ donation and transplantation" couldn't be more appropriate. The recent WHO Guiding Principles on the transplantation of cells, tissue and organs, the European Commission Action Plan and the European directive on quality and safety standards of human organs intended for transplantation, create new challenges and requisites for transplant coordination.

Invited speakers are well-known international experts in their field, and there will be almost 130 oral and poster presentations of unpublished research.

The combination of thematic presentations, education, discussion and debate of new data is an interesting combination that will make this congress an extraordinary event.

After the description of the technique of vascular anastomoses by Alexis Carrel, the identification of the HLA system by Jean Dusset and the discovery of cyclosporine, transplant coordination should be considered the 4th major conquest in the remarkable history of transplantation. Transplant coordination is the key to the main obstacle that is precluding the complete development of transplantation therapies in the last 2 decades: organ shortage.

Transplant coordination is in fact an emerging healthcare profession with increasingly complex responsibilities and standards of expertise.

Transplant coordinators are responsible for managing the whole donation process in order to maximize the rate of organ and tissue donation from deceased donors.

Experience in clinical coordination including waiting-list management, assessment of transplant recipients, patient education, coordination of transplant surgery activities, post-operative and outpatient clinical activities are necessary for those working in a clinical context.

In addition, transplant coordinators must continuously promote donation and transplantation in different spheres of the society, including education.

The number of transplant coordinators is increasing all over the world and is expected to increase even more in the very near future, with a clear relationship between their number and qualification, and the success rates of organ procurement and transplantation programmes.

There are currently 56,000 patients waiting for a suitable organ in the European Union and it is estimated that 12 people die every day while waiting for a transplant. There are huge differences in deceased kidney transplantation rates throughout Europe. Only one country has reached 50 transplants per million population (Portugal). There are also huge differences between organ donation rates with just two countries exceeding 30 donors per million population (Spain and Portugal).

ETCO is an organization representing and supporting the profession of transplant coordination and, in this challenging scenario, ETCO will continue to promote high professional and ethical standards to TC as it has been for 27 years, becoming increasingly active, professional and representative. At present, our members come from 33 countries all over the world including most European countries.

Our contribution to solving the organ shortage and to harmonizing donation and transplantation rates in Europe is by improving knowledge and practice in the procurement process. We do this by sharing best practice: up-to-date medical and technical advances, improved procedures and quality assessment, all within the legal and ethical framework we practice in.

ETCO considers education a prerequisite to improving organ procurement and donation rates, and to achieve this goal we run a congress every year in Europe, as well as workshops and courses in order to keep professionals up to date with the latest procedures and research.

All ETCO educational initiatives are now under internal quality assessment control, and congresses and meetings are routinely accredited by the European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education, EACCME.

We have focused our attention and support on Eastern European countries holding the 2006 Meeting in Wroclaw, the 2007 Congress in Prague (jointly with the European Society for Organ Transplantation) and the 2008 Meeting in Riga. The 2009 meeting was in Berlin (jointly with ISODP).

We have also supported national educational workshops in the Slovak Republic (2), and Moldova as well as one in Georgia next month.

The idea behind these national workshops is to create high level, practical, low-cost workshops for transplant coordinators in their own country and language. Long-term results have been very positive and encourage the planning of this type of workshop in other countries.

We have also organized symposia with topics that are within the scope of transplant coordination like organ preservation and non-immunological factors in organ donation and pre-congress workshops designed to provide up-to-date training in areas we believe are useful for TC's to keep at the forefront of the field.

As an organization we are committed to providing the support our members need to fulfill their professional goals.

One of the main services we provide is to organize the Certification of European Transplant Coordinators, the only pan-European accreditation of transplant coordination and one which has contributed enormously to establishing levels of practice and gaining recognition for the position of TCs. With seven years experience and nearly 400 TC's accredited, ETCO has pioneered this important international qualification and recently updated it to meet the European Council's recommendations, the Commission's Action Plan and more recently the Directive recommendations.

The Recommendation of the Council of Europe on the role and training of professionals responsible for organ donation identified *"the need for high standard of professional training, to ensure the highest possible professional and ethical standards in organ donation and procurement.*

And stated that *Member states should establish formal national or international accreditation for donor coordination activities. National training requirements should, as far as possible, be consistent with internationally established accreditation mechanisms. There should also be a system in place for periodic evaluation of all donor coordinators and for ensuring their continuing professional development.*

In the Action Plan, the first action to be taken is to *Promote the role of Transplant Donor Coordinators in every hospital where there is potential for organ donation* and action number 10 is to *Promote a common accreditation system for organ donation/procurement and transplantation programmes.*

Finally the Directive states that *healthcare personnel directly involved in donation...should be suitably qualified or trained and competent. And the role of the donor coordinator or coordi-*

nation team should be recognized as key to improving not only the effectiveness of the process of donation and transplantation, but also the quality and safety of the organs to be transplanted.

After two years' studying international models, consulting with fraternal organizations and holding meetings with experts in the field, ETCO has applied to the European Union of Medical Specialists to organize the CETC under its auspices.

The UEMS is a prestigious, experienced and efficient organization, renowned for its high standards and objectivity, and with enormous experience in accrediting and examining health care professionals from many specialist fields.

ETCO's proposal was to form a Board of Transplant Coordinators, inside the Division of Transplantation of the Section of Surgery of the UEMS, with representatives from each member state of UEMS.

The BTC has been formed, had its first meeting in London in January 2010, elected an Executive Committee and an Evaluation Committee and in collaboration with the ETCO Certification Committee started the selection of the candidates and the preparation of the examinations.

Eligibility, examination, evaluation and quality control standards will be homologous with those of the UEMS.

Certification can be obtained in the following separate modules:

Module 1: General Transplant Coordination

Module 2: Donation after Circulatory Death (DCD) Coordination

Module 3: Living Donor Coordination

Module 4: Recipient Transplant Coordination

Module 5: Tissue Donation Coordination

A candidate can be accredited for one or more modules.

Quality control of the examination is provided by:

- the presence of an external examiner who is appointed by ETCO
- minuting each examination session and
- providing a detailed report regarding the examination to the UEMS and ETCO

Examinations for the first examination will start tomorrow and will be held annually during the ETCO congresses.

By accrediting the knowledge, training and experience of transplant coordinators and providing a certification for an internationally recognizable level of expertise we are promoting the best standard of care in organ and tissue donation ensuring that training in transplant coordination is maintained at the highest levels and contributing to harmonize standards of practice and to the definition of TC profession.

We strongly believe in cooperation with other organizations and societies which share with us scientific and clinical interest in organ donation and transplantation. ETCO

recognizes the need to work together with intensivists, surgeons, nurses, psychologists and all health professionals involved in the donation-transplantation process.

In line with this policy ETCO has made cooperation agreements with 9 fraternal organizations to create a platform of mutual support, which will be useful and beneficial for our members.

As a result of the fraternal cooperation agreement between ETCO and the European Society of Intensive Care Medicine we have organized several joint sessions during the congresses of both societies. These sessions include some of the state-of-the art topics related to intensive care medicine and organ donation.

Deceased donation is an essential component in the pursuit of self-sufficiency as established in the Madrid Resolution. To maximize donation from deceased donors and increase awareness of the ICU staff to the problems arising from the chronic imbalance between supply and demand of organs as well the quality of organs are the aim of these sessions.

This is the program of the joint session here in Cardiff and the next joint session in Barcelona next month. We are sure there will be interesting, in-depth discussions among experts in both fields that will strengthen the cooperation between intensive care medicine and transplant coordination and we warmly invite you to be present.

We are restarting collaboration with ESOT directly, through ELPAT and working together in the Division of Transplantation of the UEMS.

But to achieve our common goals, aiming to increase donations, improve transplant management and, to sum up, bring life to thousands of people across Europe, a deeper collaboration is needed. A formal negotiating process is in progress and we are looking forward to quickly achieving an agreement in order to consolidate our projects and start new ones.

We have signed a new fraternal agreement with the European Shock Society and are renewing the agreement with ITNS, negotiating the possibility of combining their European symposium with our annual congress.

On a global scale, we worked with WHO, the Transplantation Society and the Spanish National Transplant Organization at the Third WHO Global Consultation on Organ Donation and Transplantation. We participated in the Global Alliance for Transplantation meeting in Vancouver and we were invited to participate as external observers in the Ibero American Council on Organ Donation and Transplantation and in the meetings of the Council of Europe.

ETCO has officially endorsed the declaration of Istanbul on Organ Trafficking and Transplant Tourism and as a professional organization we will comply with the goals identified by their task forces.

For all this, ETCO must be considered one of the most important stakeholders in the donation and transplantation field and be recognized as the real link between professionalized Transplant Coordinators, National Organizations and all the health care professionals involved in organ and tissue donation and transplantation.

But to achieve these goals we need membership and sponsorship. I would like to take this opportunity to highlight the role of those companies that support organ donation initiatives and appeal to the others to pay more attention to the donation side and support the people who really make transplantation possible, the Transplant Coordinators, because, as we all know, without organs there is no transplantation.

This has been a memorable year for ETCO. With the continued support of our members, our accomplishments will pave the way for further achievements next year.

Delegates of this Congress: In the next three days you'll be the actors of something that was prepared over the last two years. For the organizers I'm sure that your presence has already justified the effort and that afterwards, with your participation and the experiences we all share, the Cardiff Congress will stay in our mind as an exceptional scientific event and an excellent opportunity to focus your work, your feelings and your ideas for the future of transplant coordination in the world.

Thank you so much for coming.

Rui Maio
ETCO President

2010 European Organ Donation Congress, ETCO 22nd, Cardiff Wales 24-26 September

The 2010 European Organ Donation Congress, ETCO 22nd was held in Cardiff from 24-26 September with pre-congress workshops held on Thursday 23rd. The congress was a great success with:

520 Congress participants
35 oral presentations
94 poster presentations

ETCO would like to thank the invited speakers, the chairs, the workshop faculty and the scientific committee for their commitment and generosity in giving their time and work to contribute to this memorable scientific programme. The success of the meeting is largely due to your efforts.

The attendance to the workshops was the following:

Workshop 1: Organ preservation, 17 participants
Workshop 2: Donor Treatment, 22 participants
Workshop 4: Quality Assurance, 17 participants

Feedback from the workshops was very positive and ETCO will continue to run the workshops at future congresses including the Communication Skills workshop which unfortunately had to be cancelled for the Cardiff congress. If you have any suggestions concerning the workshops or would like workshops covering other areas please let us know. ETCO is also working on a Tissue Donation workshop and a workshop on Preparation for the CETC Examination, though the latter would have to be held at an earlier date than the congress.

The quality of the scientific programme can be objectively measured by the EACCME credits it was granted:

2010 European Organ Donation Congress, 22nd ETCO (Cardiff, United Kingdom, 24–26.09.2010)

Event code: **4519** was granted **21** European CME credits (ECMEC) by the European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (EACCME).

The credits were included on the attendance certificates given at the end of the congress.

The following awards were presented at the closing ceremony of the congress:

- **BEST ABSTRACT & ORAL PRESENTATION AWARD**
With 750 euros

Awarded to: *Teresa Pont, Joan Gener, Eva Oliver, Maria Bodi, Jaume Mestre, Mariona Badia, Salvador Quintana, Emma Muñoz, Xavier Esquirol, Roser Deulofeu*

For their abstract on: *MULTICENTER STUDY OF THE EVOLUTION OF CRITICAL NEUROLOGICAL DISEASES IN ICUS FROM CATALONIA*

- **BEST ABSTRACT & POSTER PRESENTATION AWARD**
With 500 euros

Awarded to: *Gaetano Trabucco, Maddalena Marcanti, Francesco Procaccio*

For their abstract on: *AN "INTEGRATED MODEL" OF PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSISTANCE IN THE NEURO-*

INTENSIVE CARE UNIT AND ORGAN PROCUREMENT

- **TRANSPLANT MEDICAL DEVELOPMENT AWARD FOR TECHNICAL ADVANCEMENT**
With 1000 euros donated by Transplant Medical Development

Awarded to: *Ralf Conrad, Frank Polster, Claus Wesslau, Bernd Heigel, Axel Pruß*

For their abstract on: *VALIDATION OF EXISTING TRANSPORT SYSTEMS OF ABDOMINAL ORGANS - MEASUREMENTS OF THE COURSE OF TEMPERATURE OF DIFFERENT TRANSPORTATION BOXES UNDER SIMULATED CONDITIONS*

- **ORGANS TISSUES AND CELLS AWARD FOR BEST ARTICLE 2008-2009**
With 1000 euros donated by Organs, Tissues and Cells Journal and ETCO

Awarded to: *Carl-Ludwig Fischer-Fröblich, Werner Lauchart, Dariusz Patrzalek*

For their article on: *EVALUATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE TRANSMISSION DURING ORGAN DONATION AND TRANSPLANTATION: VIEWPOINT OF A PROCUREMENT COORDINATOR*

The authors of this last prize accepted the prize as recognition of the quality of the article but, as one of the authors is on the ETCO Board, donated the prize money to the Donor Families Association of Wales.

ETCO warmly congratulates the authors on their research.

ETCO/ESICM Joint Session at ESICM Congress, Barcelona 9-13 October, 2010

As the ETCO News goes to print, ETCO will again be participating in a Joint Session in the ESICM Congress, to be held in Barcelona on 9-13 October 2010.

This Session, chaired by ESICM President, Dr Rui Moreno, and ETCO President Prof. Rui Maio, will include some of the state-of-the art topics related with Intensive Care Medicine and Organ Donation.

ESICM – ETCO session: Improving processes in organ donation: new challenges

Room Athens, 13 October, 12.10-14.10

Chairpersons: Rui Moreno (Lisbon, Portugal) & Rui Maio (Lisbon, Portugal)

- **Organ donation in Europe: quantitative aspects (epidemiology, indications, results).** Beatriz Dominguez-Gil (Madrid, Spain)
- **Death by neurological criteria - agreements and disagreements. Time for a consensus.** José Maria Domínguez-Roldán (Seville, Spain)
- **Admission of potential organ donors in ICU: is it good practice?**
Rui Moreno (Lisbon, Portugal)
- **Extended Criteria Donors: an inevitable source of organs.**
Rui Maio (Lisbon, Portugal)
- **Barriers to family consent: can we improve it?**
Doug White (Pittsburg, USA)
- **ICU doctors as transplant coordinators.**
Teresa Pont (Barcelona, Spain)

The ESICM/ETCO joint session at the Cardiff Congress was very well attended showing the interest in this area of organ donation. ETCO and ESICM will continue to collaborate and develop this area, holding joint sessions at each others congresses.

Certificate of European Transplant Coordination

by José Maria Domínguez Roldán

The project of Certification European Transplant Coordination (CETC) guaranteed and supported by European Union of Medical Specialists (UEMS) and the European Transplant Coordination Organization (ETCO) has started up. This joint project, which aims to assure the qualification of professionals who perform transplant coordination activities in Europe, has been developed by the Board of Transplant Coordination (BTC), with the participation of many countries of the European Union and representatives of ETCO, and the ETCO Certification Committee.

The coordinated work of both organizations originates from the need of a high-quality professional synchronic development of transplant coordination in all countries of Europe. Transplant coordination has grown parallel with the development of organs and tissues programs, associated with the growing demands of organ and tissue programs. However, this professional development has been asynchronous, not only in the number of health-care professionals dedicated to this field in different countries of the European Union, but also in the theoretic field of knowledge and professional development of transplant coordinators.

The new CETC model takes into account the current belief that professional certification must be based on the evaluation of professional competencies. In addition, these competencies must be guaranteed by the evaluation of previous professional performance. This model of certification differs from those based only on time of training or on examinations.

During the 2010 European Organ Donation Congress, ETCO 22nd, held in Cardiff, the first edition of the new model CETC took place. Candidates could select certification in one or more of the following modules: Module 1: General Transplant Coordination, Module 2: Donation after Circulatory Death (DCD) Coordination, Module 3: Living Donor Coordination, Module 4: Recipient Transplant Coordination and Module 5: Tissue Donation Coordination. The syllabus of each of these modules had been previously defined and included objectives, area of knowledge, and professional skills.

Prior to sitting the examination, candidates had to fulfill eligibility criteria producing the following documentation: a license to practice as a health care professional, training as a transplant coordinator at a training program recognized by the BTC, experience as a transplant coordinator at an officially recognized hospital or local, regional or national sharing organization, a log book of the number of organ and tissue donations managed in the previous 12 months to 60 months, and details of training, teaching and publishing carried out by the candidate in the field of transplant coordination.

In order to guarantee high levels of objectivity, transparency, and quality in the examination, the BTC and the ETCO Certification Committee developed a database of questions for the examination designed to cover all the fields of transplant coordination included in the different modules as well as all the professional practice of transplant coordinators in Europe. In order to prepare for the examination, in addition to the syllabi, recommended reading lists were prepared, which, by their high scientific quality, could be considered resource bases not only for the certification in transplant coordination but for the professional training of the candidates.

Prior to the Cardiff Congress, the Evaluation Committee of the BTC had assessed the applications of the candidates of the examination and approved eleven, some of whom were applying for examinations in more than one module. The examinations were oral, before an examination board of three who asked open questions and analyzed the knowledge, professional experience, abilities, and professional maturity of the candidate. The examinations were held on Saturday 25 September in parallel sessions to the congress. With this new model of certification of transplant coordination, a new field of professional standardization of

Transplant Coordination in Europe and the world has been opened. This certification, open to all health-care professionals involved in the coordination of transplants is aimed at accrediting and ensuring standards of quality among the professionals of Transplant Coordination.

Future Congresses

ETCO is currently negotiating a closer collaboration with ESOT and has appointed a task force with ESOT to reach an appropriate agreement. In the meantime ETCO has been invited to join the ESOT Congress in Glasgow 4-7 September 2011, and participate in the organ donation sessions and will run the workshops and the CETC examinations during the congress. The Board of ETCO has therefore decided to postpone the European Organ Donation Congress in Dubrovnik to September/October 2012, the exact dates have yet to be confirmed. All updates will be posted on the website and members will kept informed by emails and the ETCO News.

News from the National Key Members

by Nikola Zgrablic, NKM Chair

Dear ETCO members,

I am very excited to write to you for the first time as the Chair of the National Key Members (NKMs). During the last NKM meeting in Cardiff, Tina Coco, our previous Chair, handed over the Chair to me for the next two years. Sandor Mihaly assumed the role as the Vice Chair. NKMs cordially thank Tina for the great job she did over the last two years.

I take this position as a great responsibility, as NKMs are becoming a more and more important part of ETCO. As I see it, we are the connection between ETCO and our countries, which gives us the position to facilitate processes in both ways. Members from our countries can help ETCO, and ETCO can help our countries solve many problems in the field of donation and transplantation, either through advice or technical or personal support in organizing educational courses. There are many opportunities to utilize.

I think that one of our tasks is to have transplant coordination acknowledged as a speciality, because we are the origin of the whole transplant process. We are important, but sometimes unrecognized, both in public and professional circles. I take this opportunity to remind you to inform your colleagues about the CETC examination and to encourage them to sit it.

We also welcome four new NKMs: Hedi Aguiar from the

USA, Atsushi Aikawa from Japan, Urs Christen from Norway and Suzanne Malmors from Sweden.

At the ETCO congress in Cardiff, we presented our research project "A comparative evaluation of National Key Members country profiles and the impact of register on donation rate". The project was inspired by our member from Malta, Tony Bujega, who was very keen to elicit the opinions of other countries regarding donor registries as the Maltese Government was about to implement a register to increase donation.

I find this a good example of co-operation between NKMs and a way to clarify doubts or questions we might have in our practice: to ask our colleagues what they do in their countries.

In that line, we discussed whether the NKMs should work towards another research project which could be presented at the next ETCO conference. It was agreed that objectives for this project should be written around the areas of active school education programs on organ donation and transplantation. Highlights should be on problems and solutions for implementing such program. NKMs are asked to send comments and suggestions on the future research. I wish you all a successful year in your work and look forward to meeting you.

Elections 2011

Board elections are due to be held in 2011 with the positions of vice-president, treasurer and one councillor becoming vacant. A new general secretary is also needed following the resignation of Andrew Broderick for reasons of health and workload. The Board members thank him for his work on the Board and as Chair of the Cardiff LOC and wish him all the best in the future.

Members will be asked to present their candidacies next spring, profiles of the positions will be available on the website.

Organs, Tissues and Cells Journal

One of ETCO and *Organs, Tissues and Cells* Journal (OT&C)'s objectives is the indexation of the journal and OT&C will apply to be indexed in Pubmed in the near future. To facilitate citations, OT&C has agreed to make their articles open access. This will also help candidates for the certificate of European Transplant Coordination as many articles from OT&C are included in the reading lists. Members are encouraged to publish their research in the journal and to write up the abstracts they present at the congress into articles.

Calendar of Events

January 26-28, 2011

Eurotransplant Annual Winter Meeting 2011

Alpbach, Austria

Information: Mrs. Ellen Houwaart,
phone: +31 71 5795795, fax: +31 71 5790057,
e-mail: e.houwaart@eurotransplant.org

March 9-11, 2011

British Transplantation Society (BTS), 2011 Annual Congress

Bournemouth, UK

Information: www.bts.org.uk/congress

April 13-16, 2011

31st Annual Meeting and Scientific Sessions of the International Society for Heart & Lung Transplantation (ISHLT)

San Diego (USA)

Information: www.ishlt.org/meetings/annualMeeting.asp

September 4-7, 2011

European Society for Organ Transplantation (ESOT)

Glasgow, Scotland

Information: www.esot.org

ETCO will participate at the ESOT congress in the
Organ Donation sessions

October 1-5, 2011

European Society of Intensive Care Medicine (ESICM), 24th Annual Congress

Berlin, Germany

Information: www.esicm.org

ETCO participates in a joint session with ESICM on
transplant coordination

November 27-30, 2011

International Society of Donation and Procurement (ISODP), 11th Congress

Buenos Aires, Argentina

Information: www.isodp2011.org.ar

April 18-21, 2012

The International Society for Heart and Lung Transplantation (ISHLT), 32nd Annual Meeting

Prague, Czech Republic

Information: www.ishlt.org

ETCO is hoping to have joint sessions at the ISHLT and
ETCO congresses in 2012.