



## **Responsibilities of the Eurotransplant Reference Laboratory (ETRL)**

The ETRL is an integral part of Eurotransplant and as an independent entity situated within the section Immunogenetics and Transplantation Immunology (ITI) in the Immunohematology and Blood transfusion (IHB) department of the Leiden University Medical Center (LUMC). The ETRL serves as the link between Eurotransplant and the HLA-laboratories serving transplantation centers within Eurotransplant.

### **Tasks of the ETRL**

- 1) Organization of the Eurotransplant External Proficiency Testing for transplantation related immunological tests.
- 2) Organization of and supervision over the Acceptable Mismatch (AM) program for highly sensitized patients awaiting a kidney transplant. The ETRL checks whether AM candidates fulfil acceptance criteria and verifies the HLA antibodies and (un)acceptable HLA antigens assigned by the centers. Patients can be fully tested for histocompatibility by the ETRL when a center does not have the possibility to do this in its own laboratory. Laboratory tests of the ETRL are performed by the Leiden diagnostic HLA laboratory (NLBTT) as specified in the Service Level agreement (SLA) between ETRL and NLBTT (publically available on the ETRL website).
- 3) Providing immunological back-up for all transplantation centers affiliated to Eurotransplant and the Eurotransplant office.
- 4) Quality control and training of all HLA laboratories affiliated to Eurotransplant, as well as training and help to new laboratories, among which are laboratories in (possible) future member states of Eurotransplant.
- 5) Performing histocompatibility testing for non-EFI accredited laboratories in (possible) future member states of Eurotransplant. These tests are performed by the NLBTT laboratory according to the aforementioned SLA.
- 6) Maintenance of the ETRL website and development and maintenance of calculators for defining the vPRA and chance on a donor in the various allocation programs.
- 7) Analysis, publication and presentation of data from the AM program database and the EPT results.