



Dear colleagues,

It is almost the end of 2015, so it is time for the winter edition of the ETRL newsletter. We hope you've had a fruitful year! In this edition, we provide the dates of the 2016 EPT scheme, information on reporting Bw4, the preliminary program of the upcoming extra mural meeting and information on reporting changes in HLA typing as Serious Adverse Events. We hope the information is useful to you and wish you all a merry Christmas and a happy new year!

### EPT certificates 2015

In the beginning of December, you have received the 2015 EPT certificates by e-mail. Depending on the EPT scheme(s) joined, you have received a certificate for screening, for typing/crossmatching, and for the patient-based cases. In case your center needed to perform additional exercises, you have received the certificate for these exercises in the second half of December.

### Reporting Bw4

For typing (both patients and EPT samples), please report a Bw4, when an HLA-A24, A25 or A32 is found, additional to the Bw4 assigned for HLA-B alleles. Note that chapter 10 of the Eurotransplant manual will be updated on this point.



### Patient-based EPT exercises

In June this year all EPT participants received a written patient-based case with patient and donor information and the question whether this specific donor kidney was suitable for this patient. The ETRL received a wide variety of answers, indicating that a discussion on the different policies, based on these patient-based cases, is worthwhile.

In September, the ETRL sent a second patient-based exercise, this time based on samples that had been sent out for tissue typing and antibody characterisation. Since this type of exercise is completely 'virtual', some necessary information was not present. The results of both exercises, as well as the relevance of the exercises will be discussed at the upcoming extra mural meeting. Centers who have participated have received a certificate of participation.

The dates for patient-based EPT in 2016 are:

<i>Information sent</i>	<i>Deadline</i>
1. 05-04-2016	19-04-2016
2. 31-05-2016	14-06-2016
3. 13-09-2016	27-09-2016

### Extra Mural Meeting Maastricht

The extra mural meeting 2016 will take place in Maastricht, the Netherlands on the 26<sup>th</sup> of February 2016 from 10:30 until 15:30. You can register by sending an e-mail to [etrl@eurotransplant.org](mailto:etrl@eurotransplant.org). Please register before the 15<sup>th</sup> of February 2016.

### EPT shipment dates 2016

In case one of these dates interferes with some special events, please inform us as soon as possible.

Shipping date	Typing dispatch (n)	Deadline typing/xm report	screening dispatch (n)	Crossmatch	Deadline screening report
16-02-2016	3	01-03-2016	12	EPT screening A, B, C	05-07-2016
05-04-2016	3	19-04-2016		EPT screening D, E, F	
31-05-2016	3	14-06-2016		EPT screening G, H, I	
13-09-2016	3	27-09-2016		EPT screening J, K, L	

Location: Hotel Van der Valk Maastricht  
 Nijverheidsweg 35  
 6227 AL Maastricht  
 Tel +31 43 387 35 00  
[maastricht@valk.nl](mailto:maastricht@valk.nl)  
[www.hotelvandervalkmaastricht.nl](http://www.hotelvandervalkmaastricht.nl)

Hotel reservations can be made in the same hotel (Van der Valk Maastricht). Please provide the following reference when making your reservation: MAA-GF22478 for the special Maastricht University Medical Centre discount rate of €94,50 for a single room including breakfast, excluding tourist accommodation tax.

### Preliminary program extra mural meeting 2016

- Patient-based EPT (discussion of results)  
*Sebastiaan Heidt (ETRL)*
- Changes in the EPT website  
*Yvonne Zoet (ETRL)*
- HLA Epitopes  
*Frans Claas (ETRL)*
- News from the TTAC  
*Frans Claas (ETRL)*
- The immunogenicity of HLA-DRB3 variation in kidney transplantation  
*Joris Vanderlocht (Maastricht)*

In case you have suggestions for an additional subject, please contact the ETRL.

### Virtual PRA

A reliable virtual PRA (vPRA) based on all the unacceptable mismatches of a patient will prevent the occurrence of unexpected positive crossmatches. This vPRA is calculated on basis of the HLA type of the actual Eurotransplant donors from the last 5 years. Together with the blood group, this information is a reliable predictor of the chance of finding a compatible donor with the Eurotransplant area. In 2016, the new vPRA calculator will be introduced by ET and will be the only tool to indicate that a patient is sensitized. The vPRA will be calculated on basis of unacceptable antigens only. Therefore, the unacceptable antigens must be registered. Laboratories that have not yet registered the unacceptable antigens for their immunized patients are strongly advised to do so as soon as possible.

From January 2016, the new vPRA calculator, as well as the calculator for the chance on finding a compatible donor, will already be available from the ETRL website. This is for evaluation purposes only, as the new vPRA values will officially be used for allocation once Eurotransplant has incorporated the new vPRA calculator into the ENIS. More information on when the new vPRA calculator will be incorporated into ENIS will follow.

### Serious Adverse Event (SAE) reports

This year, Eurotransplant has initiated a handling procedure for reporting SAE, which includes erroneous HLA typing. Up till now, all changes in HLA typing were regarded as an SAE, including the addition of higher resolution typing than the original typing. This practice is currently being revisited, since a discrepancy in HLA typing should only be regarded as an SAE if it could potentially have been harmful to the patient. The exact procedure and definition of an HLA typing SAE will be published with the next update of chapter 10 of the Eurotransplant manual.

It is of great importance to have good HLA typing data registered into ENIS, so please continue to update typing data if necessary.