



Dear colleagues,

Herewith you will find the latest ETRL newsletter. This issue contains important information regarding reporting of Bw4/Bw6, a subject which has led to quite some discussion and unclarity. Additionally, we are proud to announce that the various calculators for vPRA and chance on finding a compatible donor have gone live on the ETRL website. In this newsletter, information on implementing these calculators locally is provided.

### Reporting Bw4/Bw6

In the previous ETRL newsletter, we announced that for some HLA-A antigens (A23, A24, A25, A32) a Bw4 should be assigned. While this point had previously been discussed by the TTAC, it has led to a discussion during the extra mural meeting in Maastricht earlier this year.

The consensus from this latter discussion was that reporting of Bw4/Bw6 should not be mandatory, and that assignment of Bw4 should only be done for the B locus (both for patients, donors and EPT).

The background of this is that not every Bw4 is exactly the same, and some Bw4 epitopes associated with HLA-A antigens are slightly different from those found on HLA-B antigens. By registering the whole Bw4 group as unacceptable, one may exclude HLA-A antigens to which antibodies are actually not directed.

Every communication stating otherwise (including ET Newsletter 231) should be ignored. The forthcoming update of chapter 10 of the ET manual will also include this information.

### Extra Mural Meetings

The 2016 extra mural meeting was held in Maastricht, the Netherlands on the 26<sup>th</sup> of February. A report in PDF format on the issues discussed can be found on the [ETRL website](#).

The next extra mural meeting will be held in Leipzig, Germany. Further details and the program will follow.



### Patient-based EPT

Thank you for providing your answers to the first patient case that we have sent to you. We noticed that some of the Eurotransplant affiliated centers did not send a response this time, though this is a mandatory exercise. Please do respond to the next case, which will be published beginning of June.

A summary of the discussion on last year's patient-based EPT cases can be found on the [ETRL website](#) in the report of the Extra Mural Meeting.

### vPRA / donor frequency webservice

Since the last ETRL newsletter, we have published various calculators in the ETRL website:

- [Virtual PRA calculator](#)
- [Donor frequency calculator ETKAS](#)
- [Donor frequency calculator AM Program](#)
- [Donor frequency calculator Heart](#)

These calculators are based on HLA data from 6870 donors used for renal transplantation between 2010 and 2014. The calculators will be implemented in ENIS before the end of this calendar year. For individual patients, these calculators can already be used from our website.

We have had many requests from Tissue Typing Centers for ways to use these calculators for entire patient populations or to incorporate the calculators in local laboratory systems. This is possible through a webservice request.

To incorporate the calculators in local laboratory systems, an ICT professional who is familiar with generating webservice requests is required locally. We have written a technical user guide for ICT professionals, which can be found on the [ETRL website](#). It is important to know that the ETRL cannot assist in building applications for individual centers, but will be able to assist in dealing with specific questions from the ICT professionals.