



Dear colleagues,

Herewith you will find the summer edition of the ETRL newsletter. This issue contains information on both the upcoming tissue typers meeting, as well as on the next extra mural meeting which will be held in Leipzig. We are happy to introduce our new ETRL co-worker, who many of you will recognize as a familiar face. Lastly, we provide you with some information on SAE with regards to donor HLA typing, and important information on the donor HLA report form.

SAE reporting

There has been quite some debate on how to deal with changes in donor HLA typing with regards to Serious Adverse Event (SAE) reporting. Recently, a letter has been sent to all tissue typing laboratories to clarify the procedure. In short, the TTAC has discussed what changes in HLA would be regarded as an SAE and concluded that a change in HLA is an SAE when the newly found antigen is present in the list of unacceptables of the recipient. The check whether a newly found antigen is in the list of unacceptables for the patient(s) involved will be performed at Eurotransplant.

All other changes in HLA will be filed as an incident and communicated to both the Tissue Typing lab that performed the initial typing, as well as the laboratory that found the alternate typing. In all instances of a discrepancy in HLA, the two labs involved should come to a consensus typing together, which may involve retyping. If the two centers cannot come to a consensus, DNA will have to be sent to the ETRL for a reference typing.

Program tissue typers meeting 2016

This year's Tissue Typers Meeting of the Eurotransplant Annual Meeting will be held on Friday 30th of September from 9:30 to 11:00 at the Holiday Inn, Leiden. Registration can be done at the [Eurotransplant annual meeting website](#). The program is as follows:

1. Practical aspects and results of the external proficiency testing program (Yvonne Zoet, ETRL)
2. Report on the current activities of the TTAC (Frans Claas, ETRL)
3. Long term results of patients transplanted via the AM program (Sebastiaan Heidt, ETRL)
4. The role of DSA: preliminary results of the PROCARE study (Henny Otten, Utrecht, the Netherlands)

New at the ETRL team:



My name is Marissa van der Linden-van Oevelen and I am happy to join the ETRL team to assist in running the AM program. Originally I was trained as a microbiological laboratory technician. After working in this field in a hospital in Amsterdam for some years, I decided to try something else and was lucky to get a job at the Leiden HLA

screening laboratory. This was a completely new field for me and it was interesting to learn many new techniques.

After working at the screening laboratory for 18 years, I have been given the chance to assist Marian Witvliet in running the AM program, alongside my work at the screening laboratory, a combination which I am thoroughly enjoying.

What else can I tell you? I am a mum of two sons and my hobbies are reading and traveling.

Data required to register AM patients

When registering a patient for entering the AM program, several pieces of information are required to be present in ENIS. Next to the HLA typing of the patient (including splits of HLA-A, -B, -C, -DR and -DQ loci), specificities of HLA antibodies, acceptable and unacceptable antigens, the full immunological history of the patient is of importance. This also includes the HLA data of previous transplants from living donors, which often is not registered in ENIS.

You are kindly asked to use the following email address for all communication regarding AM patients: etrl.am@eurotransplant.org

Extra Mural meeting 2017

As announced in the last newsletter, the upcoming extra mural meeting will be held in Leipzig. The date of this meeting has been set at Friday the 17th of March 2017. The program will be announced in due time.

HLA report form

For a short period of time, a digitally editable HLA report form (F1.53) was available from the Eurotransplant website, as well as the ETRL website. However, this form has some **major bugs**, such as the disappearance of HLA antigens under some circumstances, and interference of the typing technique button for HLA-DR and the button for selecting Bw6.

Please refrain from using form F1.53 and use donor report form F1.0.2 from the Eurotransplant member-site. In the meantime, a new HLA report form is being drafted and will be released soon. This new form will be editable both manually, as well as digitally.

ETRL calculators webservice

As described in the last newsletter, the ETRL has developed the possibility for a webservice request for the various calculators:

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

To make sure that we can inform the users of the webservice on upcoming versions, we will register the users. This means that a password needs to be requested through the ETRL website, which can be incorporated into the webservice request. Please note that this is only for the webservice, not for use of the stand-alone calculators on the ETRL website. We have written a technical user guide for ICT professionals, which can be found on the [ETRL website](#).

Workshop virtual crossmatching

At the upcoming Alpbach wintermeeting we will organize a workshop in which we would like to discuss the future introduction of virtual crossmatching in Eurotransplant. Where are we now, what are the prerequisites and what are the consequences of introducing virtual crossmatching are topics that will be discussed. All tissue typers and others who are interested in the subject are welcome to join this workshop.