



Dear colleagues,

This edition of the ETRL newsletter contains information on some personnel changes within the ETRL, as well as the preliminary program of the 2024 extramural meeting, which will be held in Munich, Germany. As usual at the end of the year, also the dates for the EPT shipments of next year are announced. For now, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a great 2024!

### ETRL personnel news

After working at the ETRL for 10 years, Sebastiaan Heidt will leave the ETRL and Eurotransplant end of January 2024. During the last 10 years a number of milestones regarding histocompatibility were achieved within Eurotransplant, with the recent introduction of the virtual crossmatch as a true highlight. Sebastiaan will start as the head of the Transplantation Immunology research laboratory of the Erasmus medical center in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, but will continue to serve as an advisor for the ETRL. A vacancy for Director of the ETRL will be posted soon. Furthermore, a vacancy will become available for an additional person to work on the AM program inclusion. Details will be posted on the ETRL website.

### Virtual crossmatch

The virtual crossmatch has been active for almost a year now, allowing for the first preliminary analyses to be performed. We observed >98% of all donor HLA typing data is being transferred using HML files. Most importantly, since the introduction of the virtual crossmatch the percentage of positive recipient center crossmatches for immunized patients has reduced to levels of positive recipient center crossmatches for non-immunized individuals. A detailed analysis of the virtual crossmatch and the most prevalent issues with HML upload will be presented during the 2024 extramural meeting.

### Acceptable Mismatch program

- Please be aware that when alleles are registered as unacceptable antigen for patients in the AM program for the time being these alleles will be “translated” to serological equivalents. So for instance if a patient is typed DRB3\*02:02 and DRB3\*01:01 is defined unacceptable this unacceptable allele will be “translated” into DR52 thus preventing the recipient of receiving an organ offer with his/her own DRB3 allele. We aim to allow for the use of (un) acceptables at the allelic level in the AM program in the near future.
- It is not necessary to register DQA, DPB, DPA acceptable antigens on the AM application form as these are not used for matching within the AM program.
- We would like to remind you that, when a transplanted AM patient is re-registered on the kidney waiting list, a serum sample together with an update form must be set to the ETRL once the patient is on a transplantable status.
- For updates from patients who are active on the AM waiting list it is usually sufficient to send a signed update form to [etrl.am@eurotransplant.org](mailto:etrl.am@eurotransplant.org). If deemed necessary we will ask for a serum sample to be sent to the ETRL.
- Please be aware that when you are sending an AM application in the December month parcels may take longer than usual to arrive because of the busy postage service during that period.

### EPT shipment dates 2024

Shipping date	Typing dispatch (n)	Deadline typing/xm report	Crossmatch dispatch*	Screening dispatch*	Deadline screening report
27-02-2024	3	12-03-2024	EPTxm-A, B, C	EPTScr-A-L	02-07-2024
09-04-2024	3	23-04-2024	EPTxm-D, E, F	x	x
04-06-2024	3	18-06-2024	EPTxm-G, H, I	x	x
03-09-2024	3	17-09-2024	EPTxm-J, K, L	x	x

\*For screening and crossmatching different sera are shipped

Extra shipment 2024: 05-11-2024. Deadline typing/xm report: 19-11-2024 and deadline screening report: 10-12-2024

### Patient Based EPT 2024

Information/form sent	Deadline
27-02-2024	12-03-2024
04-06-2024	18-06-2024
03-09-2024	17-09-2024

### EPT announcements

1. The category SPA (solid phase assays from cell lysates) has been discontinued due to low number of participants. For the other categories (CDC, SPA SA, and SPA SA Complement Fixing Antibodies) no changes have been made.
2. Due to increased shipping costs, the shipment fee will be adjusted to €85,- per shipment as of January 2024.

EPT certificates will be issued in December 2024.

### ET desensitization program

Since September 2023 the ET desensitization program is active. Patients waiting in the AM program for more than 3 years can be included and are evaluated based on waiting time. This means that patients waiting in the regular AM program the longest are being evaluated first.

The local center provides the ETRL with a proposal on antigens that are acceptable within the desensitization program in addition to the regular acceptable antigens. A recent serum is analyzed by the ETRL and an (additional) proposal on acceptable antigens under desensitization is made. Both are sent to an audit committee consisting of nephrologists and immunologists from the ETKAC and TTAC, respectively. A final advice on acceptable antigens is formulated and sent to the respective center. The numbers so far are:

Number of AM patients >3yr on waiting list	173
Letters sent to centers for possible inclusion	27
Audits requested	4
Audits completed	3
Patients transplanted before audit commenced	1
Pending ETRL serum tests	2
Pending at transplant centers	7
Patients active in program	1
Patients not fit for program	15

From a general inquiry on all patients waiting >3 years in the AM program it is clear that 54 patients are not suitable candidates for the ET desensitization program. For these patients, no letters will be sent.

### Extramural Meeting 2024

The 2024 extramural meeting will be organized Friday 15th of March in Munich, Germany. The venue is: "Klinik und Poliklinik für Mund-, Kiefer und Gesichtschirurgie", Lindwurmstraße 2a, 80337 München. We welcome you all to join us for a lively discussion.

#### Preliminary program:

- EPT results 2023 (Yvonne Zoet)
- Patient based cases EPT 2023 (Yvonne Zoet)
- Virtual Crossmatching, One year experiences (Cynthia Kramer)
- Feasibility of retrospective recipient center cross-matches (tba)
- News from the TTAC (Nils Lachmann)
- Scientific Lecture by a local speaker (tba). Subject: xenotransplantation

For those arriving on Thursday a get-together dinner will be organised. Location: restaurant pizzeria Viva Maria, Rothmundstraße 5, D-80337 München.

