

WELCOME ADDRESS

Dear ladies and gentlemen, dear colleagues

We would like to extend a warm welcome to you to the 20th Annual Meeting of the German Transplantation Society (Deutsche Transplantationsgesellschaft, DTG) in Regensburg.

Almost 20 years ago, our Society was founded to advance the organizational, clinical and particularly scientific aspects of transplantation medicine in Germany. Owing to the significant engagement of the founding pioneers and the succeeding colleagues, a great deal has been achieved: The DTG is not only respected as the scientific society in Germany, it plays important roles in the interaction with pivotal institutions such as the German Medical Association (Bundesärztekammer), the Deutsche Stiftung Organtransplantation and Eurotransplant. Further, in addition to being actively involved in national quality assurance programs, the DTG is a much-sought contact for patients and many others interested in transplantation.

The Annual Meetings of the DTG have always played a major role in communicating novel developments in transplantation medicine. This year, our almost 700 DTG members submitted more than 300 abstracts. From these, the Organizing Committee has compiled an attractive scientific program, complemented by a multifaceted Industrial Exhibition, daily Lunch Symposia and events of partner organisations.

The dramatic organ shortage and its negative impact on post-transplantation outcomes is a key topic this year. In this context, we will discuss possible solution strategies and current developments during the process of revising the German transplantation law.

Another focus will be on novel aspects in immunosuppressive therapies and experimental data on mechanisms in transplant tolerance and damage. Further, the Master classes introduced at last year's meeting will be continued in Regensburg, and there will also be a premiere – a session dedicated to new developments in bone marrow and stem cell transplantation.

In the name of the Regensburg Transplant Center's team we thus look forward to welcoming you and your colleagues to this DTG Annual Meeting in the historical – and modern – city of Regensburg.

Hans J. Schlitt, Bernhard Banas
Congress presidents

Stefan A. Farkas, Martin Loss,
Marcus Scherer, Carsten A. Böger,
Stephan W. Hirt
Congress secretaries

