

PREFACE

The French Society of Transplantation (SFT) was created in 1971 and has been chaired by numerous French pioneers in the field of Transplantation and Immunology. The successive Presidents were Professor R. Kuss, J. Hamburger, J. Traeger, B. Launois, J. Crosnier, E. Ohayon, J. Dausset, J.M. Dubernard, H. Kreis, B. Charpentier, G. Dureau, Y. Lebranchu, G. Rifle and J.P. Squifflet.

In the late 1990s, with the driving force of Henri Kreis and Jean-Michel Dubernard, the SFT decided to export its expertise out of the French hexagon. Indeed the Hesperis Course became the first major course of the European Society for Organ Transplantation. Moreover, the former SFT extended its official access to the Francophonie and French-speaking countries and regions outside of France. In 2000, the French Speaking Society of Transplantation (SFsT) was created with, later on, its two informal sections: SFT and its anagram TSF meaning “Transplantation Sans Frontières”.

Traditionally, the annual Congress of the SFT takes place during the first weeks of December. The first French speaking one was hosted in Geneva, and then in Paris, Montreal, Brussels, Tours, Quebec, Tunis, Lyon, and in 2011 in Montpellier.

During the past 12 years, beside the organization of the annual congress, the new SFT has developed many roles:

1. The French “Assises de la Transplantation”: a working platform between the SFT and the official French Agency of Biomedecine (ABM = Agence Française de BioMédecine).
2. The Beaune Seminar in Immunology and Transplantation by G. Rifle and P. Hervé. Recently, K.Wood joined the organization board.
3. The DIU in Transplantation, an inter-university diploma in transplantation by Y. Lebranchu and B. Charpentier.
4. Recently, in collaboration with the ABM, B. Barrou, on behalf of the SFT and the AFU (French Association of Urology), created the EFPMO: the French School for Multiple Organ Procurement (L'école francophone de prélèvement multiple d'organes) which will become a springboard for the European diploma, the UEMS.
5. Each year, with the support of the industries, research and travel grants are awarded by the scientific committee to young members for a total amount of €120,000.
6. All activities and meetings are summarized and reported on the website: <http://transplantation-francophone.org>. Articles are published on a regular basis in “Le Courrier

de la Transplantation”. Since 2005, most articles presented during the annual congress have also been reported and published in Transplantation Proceedings. Today a new step is being taken with a first publication of the selected abstracts and programme of the SFT 2012 annual meeting. That is the content of the present supplement to *Transplant International*, the official Journal of the European Society for Organ Transplantation.

During the 12th annual meeting of the SFT in Nantes, several plenary sessions will be shared with representatives of the French Society of Immunology (SFI) and devoted to cellular immunomodulation, good and bad aspects of inflammation, and the role of antibodies in rejection and graft failure. Strategies to overcome immunologic incompatibility will be discussed while maximizing live kidney donation, and paired kidney exchange, with the removal of circulating isohemagglutinins and donor-specific alloantibodies with plasma exchange.

One hundred and eighty-five abstracts were received. Among them 78 were selected for oral and 104 for poster presentations. The six best abstracts will be presented during the special P.O. Denué and B. Ramus session in memory of our two young colleagues who died in an airplane crash in Besançon on 19 October 2006.

Finally, the Nantes meeting with the representatives of the TSF section will be a good opportunity to launch the plans for the 2013 Congress which will take place in Marrakech, Morocco, along with all Maghreb countries.

We look forward to welcoming you to the 12th SFT Congress in Nantes.

Professor Jean-Paul Squifflet, MD, PhD.
SFT President

Professor Denis Glotz, MD, PhD.
President Elect

Professor Gilles Blancho, MD, PhD.
Congress President

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SFT Secretary

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