

WELCOME ADDRESS

Dear ladies and gentlemen, dear colleagues

We would like to welcome you to the 22nd Annual Meeting of the German Transplantation Society (Deutsche Transplantationsgesellschaft, DTG). For the first time, the congress is held in Frankfurt am Main - a transplantation centre with a long tradition that is celebrating its 45th anniversary in 2013.

During the last 20 years, transplantation medicine has made tremendous progress in terms of outcome parameters like patient and graft survival. Transplantation is a successful example of interdisciplinary cooperation, to which we owe the success achieved today. With excellent survival of patients and grafts in the short-term, it is important to further improve the long-term graft survival. Hence, research is focussed on the optimal and individual adjustment of immunosuppression. In addition to the reduction of infections and malignancies, emphasis is placed especially on the prevention of chronic allograft rejection. Furthermore, the side effect profiles of immunosuppressive agents – especially in the area of diabetogenicity, cardiovascular morbidity and nephrotoxicity – have to be improved. These are challenges for translational research networks consisting of transplant physicians, basic scientists, infectiologists, immunologists and the pharmaceutical industry.

The conference includes not only invited talks given by internationally recognized experts but also provides time for presentations of new scientific and clinical results in short oral contributions and posters in order to involve basic and clinical scientists doing transplant research.

As in previous years, the 17th Symposium of associated health professionals (AKTx Pflege e. V.) will be held simultaneously.

Frankfurt am Main is a leading cultural and economic centre of Europe. For centuries, it was the city of election and coronation of the German emperors. It is the birthplace of Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, and also the city of the first German parliament in the Paulskirche. Frankfurt has a large exhibition centre, that hosts many fairs most famously the more than 500 years old book fair. Frankfurt has also numerous museums to visit and the city is an international banking centre with the headquarters of the European Central Bank. Frankfurt's international airport provides easy access to the congress and to the city centre, so additional to the scientific exchange you can also enjoy some of the other attractions of Frankfurt.

We look forward to welcoming you in Frankfurt and hope that you can obtain many ideas and concepts for your own clinical practice. We wish you and us a successful and interesting conference and look forward to your participation in the 22nd DTG Annual Meeting in Frankfurt am Main in 2013.

Ingeborg A. Hauser, Frank Ulrich
Congress presidents

Martin Brzoska, Juliane Liese, Martin Welker
Congress secretaries