

WELCOME ADDRESS

Dear ladies and gentlemen, dear DTG members

We would like to welcome you to the 23rd Annual Meeting of the German Transplantation Society (Deutsche Transplantationsgesellschaft, DTG). It is a great pleasure for us to host this year's conference in Mannheim – especially because the Transplantation Centre Mannheim is celebrating its 25th anniversary.

Although transplantation medicine has made tremendous progress during the past 60 years, unsolved issues remain, which we will focus on during the DTG's Annual Meeting:

- Shortage of organs, management of donors and patients
- allocation of organs: novel concepts, ethical issues concerning distributive justice
- Living donation: morbidity and long-term effects
- Long-term survival of patients and grafts
- Immunisation: diagnostics and treatment
- Psycho-social support, adherence
- Immunosuppression: mechanisms and novel agents

In the opening session Prof. Jochen Taupitz, Hochschule Mannheim, will give a lecture dealing with the most interesting topic "Law and ethics in research with embryonal stem cells". In our plenary session I on October 17, 2014 lectures from Prof. Volker Nicleit, Chapel Hill, dealing with polyomavirus nephropathy after renal transplantation, from Prof. Edward Geissler, Regensburg, dealing with cellular approaches to achieve transplant tolerance and from Dr. Gregor Warnecke, Hannover discussing the use of OCS in lung transplantation will be congress highlights. The plenary session II on October 18, 2014 will deal with the most important topic of "ethics in transplantation medicine".

The high number and excellent quality of scientific abstracts presented at the 23rd Annual Meeting of the German Transplantation Society as depicted in this issue of

Transplantation International demonstrate the good scientific standing and lively exchange of ideas within the German Transplantation Society.

Special emphasis will be placed on creating a platform for young transplant physicians from surgery, internal medicine, immunology, psychosomatic medicine, pathology and others by providing a framework of open lectures, poster sessions and events for young professionals (Master Classes).

As in previous years, the 18th Symposium of associated health professionals (AKTx Pflege e. V.) will be held simultaneously.

The 'city of the squares' Mannheim is lively and cosmopolitan. With the National Theatre, known as Schiller's stage (inaugural performance of Friedrich Schiller's *The Robbers* 'Die Räuber' in 1782), the Kunsthalle Mannheim and the Technoseum, Mannheim is an important theatre and museum centre. The Popakademie Baden-Wuerttemberg (since 2003) and an active music and cabaret scene make Mannheim a cultural landmark. The former residence of the Elector Palatine is the economic and cultural centre of the densely populated Rhine-Neckar Metropolitan Region, which has a population of 2.4 Million inhabitants. Important inventions were made in Mannheim: the first two-wheeler by Karl Drais in 1817, the world's first electric elevator by Werner von Siemens in 1880, the first automobile by Carl Benz in 1886, the Lanz Bulldog in 1921.

We are looking forward to a successful as well as interesting conference and to your participation in the 23rd DTG Annual Meeting in Mannheim.

Prof. Bernhard K. Krämer, Prof. Stefan Post
Conference presidents

Prof. Bernd Krüger, Prof. Kai Nowak
Conference secretaries