

WELCOME ADDRESS

Dear colleagues, members of the German Transplant Society (DTG) and guests,

It is our immense pleasure to welcome you to the 26th Annual Meeting of the DTG to the beautiful and historic City of Bonn.

On June 19, 1969, the University Hospital of Bonn was the site of the first German liver transplantation and the beginning of a success story that has meanwhile led to solid organ transplantation representing one of the cornerstones and an accepted standard treatment option of terminal organ failure capable of saving lives and increasing the quality of life of patients. And after nearly 50 years, the main conference of German physicians dedicated to the implementation of transplantation medicine is now held in Bonn for the first time since its inaugural conference in 1992.

Throughout its history, Bonn has been a place of importance that has brought together people from all areas. It was founded on the banks of great River Rhine 12 B.C. by the Romans to establish a military post as a part of their colonization efforts of the Rhine Valley. Until today, this has led to the mingling of differing cultures, peoples, and beliefs that have contributed to the open and international flair of this region in Germany. 1770 saw the birth of one of the great sons of the City of Bonn, Ludwig van Beethoven, who has contributed his incomparable music to world culture. He is the genius behind a tune known to almost every human on the planet that is part of his 9th symphony and is used as the anthem of the European Union. In 1949, Bonn emerged from the ashes of World War II to serve as our nation's capital until 1999, when it was moved back to Berlin. And even today, the City of Bonn is home to several Federal Ministries and Organizations of the United Nations.

Against this background, we have chosen the World Conference Center Bonn as venue for the 26th conference of the DTG. Located within the conference center is the plenary hall of the German Parliament, which was used until 1990 and is the place where the post-WW II Federal Republic of Germany was shaped and developed. During this conference bringing together all colleagues in transplantation medicine, you will therefore be able to savor the atmosphere of this historic place, and we hope it will stimulate lively discussions and exchange, and the quest to provide solutions for the most pressing controversies and challenges surrounding organ transplantation.

The program will focus on the challenges of organ allocation and the framework of regulations and their development required to organize fair and successful transplantations especially considering the scandals that have occurred in organ transplantation. An important part of the considerations before and after organ transplantation is a specific issue of infectious diseases such as viral hepatitis, fungal infections, and HIV. Equally important is the assessment of malignant disease either as a specific indication for transplantation or as a reason for the exclusion of patients. The rapid development of tumor therapy requires a close look at the current knowledge and its impact on allocation. In recent years, frailty has received increasing attention as a defining force for the outcome of therapeutic interventions, which also include organ transplantation. A discussion of its impact on the assessment of transplantability and the methods capable of reliably determining frailty are in order.

In addition to these hot topics in transplantation medicine, we will offer a transplant course with an animal model to provide practical hands-on experience. The program also contains master classes to provide a forum for general continuing education in transplantation medicine.

Finally, there will be room and time for a casual get together. A Rhine cruise through the spectacular Rhine Valley will provide time and space for relaxation and networking against the backdrop of one of the most beautiful landscapes in Germany that is home to mythological places such as Drachenfels Castle believed to be the place of the epic fight between Siegfried and the dragon.

We look forward to welcoming you in Bonn for the 26th Conference of the DTG and a stimulating, interesting, informative, and also enjoyable meeting of the dedicated physicians in transplantation medicine. On behalf of the organizing committee the Co-President and the German Transplantation Society.

Welcome to the DTG conference in Bonn 2017!

Prof. Dr. med. Christian Strassburg
Prof. Dr. med. Jörg C. Kalff
Conference Presidents

Prof. Dr. med. Rainer Woitas
Dr. med. Tobias Weismüller
PD Dr. med Steffen Manekeller, MHBA
Conference Secretaries