The Council of Middle East Society for Organ Transplantation (MESOT) unanimously resolved to express deep shock that Prof. Mehmet Haberal has been taken into custody which is heartbreaking for us as physicians and scientists. He is a humanitarian who has saved thousands of lives in his long and distinguished career. His being out of active duty leaves the patients without the continuous care and expertise so essential to transplanted patients. Prof. Haberal's major concern is for the health and safety of patients in need of urgent medical care and we cannot conceive that such a physician charged with saving lives could be a party to injurious activities against human beings.

Prof. Haberal is the founding President of the Middle East Society for Organ Transplantation which has now evolved as the leading Transplantation Society of the Middle East and Asian region. He has continuously nurtured and supported the Society and has guided the affairs of MESOT till this unfortunate event. For his outstanding contribution he was elected to the Executive Council of the International Transplantation Society from Middle East and African Regions.

Prof. Haberal has exhibited exemplary leadership over two decades by establishing 10 hospitals and 14 dialysis centers in Turkey besides founding the Baskent University. Prof. Haberal is a true hero for all the transplantatologists and medical profession in the whole of the Middle East and Africa. Certainly his contributions are more than is humanly possible in ones life time. His services to medicine and transplantation are recognized the world over for which he has been bestowed with 25 national and international awards in medical sciences and several international honorary degrees throughout the world.

Prof. Haberal is an honorable man who has devoted his life for the well being of humanity at large not only inside Turkey but also internationally. His swift and generous aids to disaster stricken areas in the Middle East and Asia over the years are all witness to this. He was the first one to send two plane loads full of relief goods and dialysis machines and daily needs to the earthquake stricken northern areas of Pakistan in October 2005. With his help a dialysis centre has been established in Azad Kashmir which is providing free dialysis sessions to over 1,000 patients per year. Similarly during the 2006 war in Lebanon his humanitarian support for the patients was the first to arrive. Again in 2009 Prof. Haberal provided relief to the Palestinian victims of military strife in Gaza.

Prof. Haberal was a key player in the Istanbul Declaration 2007 - an international effort against organ trafficking and transplant tourism by the International Society of Nephrology (ISN) and the International Transplant Society (TTS) attended by 104 prominent physicians and surgeons from all over the world. We know Prof. Haberal as a prominent ethicist in the field of organ transplantation with strong beliefs in rule of law and supremacy of the legal system.

MESOT as a medical society strongly appeals to the authorities in Turkey that Prof. Haberal whom we know for more than two decades be given the respect and courtesy that he deserves and released immediately.

S. A. Anwar Naqvi
President
Middle East Society for Organ Transplantation (MESOT)
April 25, 2009
Contributions of Professor Mehmet A Haberal
Founder President of MESOT

Professor Haberal is a well known figure in the international circle of organ transplantation. His contributions are tremendous for the patients with end-organ failure. In Turkey he has organized an excellent system of providing medical care to the sick and along with his team of dedicated workers, has saved thousands of lives.

Dr. Haberal Graduated from Ankara University Faculty of medicine in 1967. He always dreamt of becoming a surgeon. In 1967 he became a resident in the Department of General Surgery at Hacettepe University Faculty of Medicine, and in 1971 he was conferred the title of General Surgeon Specialist.

Although at that time the existence of organ transplantation as a treatment method for end-stage organ failure was not even known in Turkey, Dr. Haberal began working on experimental studies in the field. In 1973, he travelled to the United States to begin his fellowship in the field of burns and organ transplantation.

In November 1975, he performed the first living-related renal transplantation, and thus began a new era in Turkey. With the support of Prof. Ihsan Dogramaci, Dr. Haberal was able to establish the first and only transplantation center in Turkey at Hacettepe University. During this period, he also established the first burn unit at Hacettepe University.

In 1978, the first deceased-donor transplantation took place with a kidney provided by Eurotransplant. In collaboration with lawyers, Dr. Haberal prepared a draft bill. After much effort, transplantation law was passed in 1979. Just one month later, Dr. Haberal performed the first local deceased-donor renal transplant, and once more opened the doors to a new era in Turkey.

In 1985 he established the Turkish Organ Transplantation and Burn Foundation Hospital, followed by the Haberal Education Foundation in 1986. In 1987, he founded the Middle East Society for Organ Transplantation, and became the first president for the term 1988-1990. The Society assembled all transplant surgeons, nephrologists and hepatologists in the Middle Eastern countries under one roof, and currently has over 500 members.

A result of his endeavours, transplantation had become a routine treatment method for patients with kidney disease. However, patients suffering from chronic liver disease were dying. Dr. Haberal performed the first liver transplant surgery in not only Turkey, but the first in the Middle East and North Africa also. In 1989 Dr. Haberal performed the first living-related segmental liver transplantation in Turkey, the Middle East and Europe. One month later he performed the same operation on an adult, which was the first adult living-related segmental liver transplantation performed in the world. The pediatric transplantation program at Baskent University was started in 1985. He has performed 127 pediatric liver transplantations. Dr. Haberal's rapport with the pediatric patients for whom he has performed kidney and liver transplantations has always been unique.

In 1990, Dr. Haberal founded the Turkish Transplantation Society. In 1992, he once again signed his name to a first in the world when he performed a combined liver-kidney transplantation from a living-related donor. Prof. Haberal is founder and president of Baskent University which has established 10 hospitals and 14 dialysis centers throughout the country and is part of the national medical network.

Always willing to lend a helping hand to people anywhere in the world in need, he utilized his every resource to provide relief. In the days following the Northwestern Turkey Earthquake disaster of 1999, he sent blankets, clothes, medical supplies and even dialysis machines to the disaster area in addition to building a small town to shelter the people. His humanitarian efforts were not limited to local disasters, as is evident from the aid he sent to various other places in the world like Pakistan and Lebanon where he provided medical supplies, in addition to food and clothing and dialysis machines.

As a physician who never stepped out of the bounds of ethical practice in organ transplantation, Dr. Haberal put his full energy into the prevention of organ trade in not only Turkey but throughout the world. He has been elected as the Council Member of The Transplantation Society representing the MESOT region and attended several meetings regarding the ethical aspects of organ transplantation. His great contribution will always be remembered for hosting the Istanbul Declaration Meeting with more than 150 participants from 78 countries and where important decisions were taken regarding the prevention of organ trade and transplant tourism in the world.

Currently, Prof. Haberal is a member of 35 national and international medical societies and has organized 22 national and international scientific meetings in Turkey. He received 25 national and international awards in medicine. He is author of 1428 scientific publications, 6 books, and is on the editorial board of 10 medical journals and is editor-in-chief of 2 medical journals, Experimental and Clinical Transplantation and Dialysis, Transplantation and Burns.

On Friday April 17 it was announced that Dr. Haberal along with 7 other scientists and university presidents were placed under arrest. It is hoped that the Turkish justice system will look into the matter and this gross injustice done to Dr. Haberal will be reversed. It would be impossible to deny his contributions to raising the scientific platform of Turkey to its current modern status. Particularly in the fields of transplantation and burns, he has provided thousand of patients with the means for treatment.
After decades of lobbying for getting the
government to regulate organ
transplantation in Pakistan, urologists,
human rights activists and civil society
succeeded in having a law enacted in
2007. The "Transplantation of Human
Organs and Tissue Ordinance 2007" one of
the key features of this law was that it
banned the sale of human organs.

This law was of great significance in
Pakistan's context as the country had
emerged over the years as a lucrative
market for kidney trade as foreigners
began to take advantage of the
unregulated status of organ
transplantation in Pakistan. The ordinance
of 2007 put an end to this commercialism
by providing for transplantation of organs
from live related donors and banning the
sale of organs.

The law affected those professionals who
had been indulging in unethical practices.
They therefore challenged it in the Federal
Shariat Court where the petitioners
pleaded that the law was restrictive and
discriminatory as only close blood relatives
were allowed to donate organs and when
close blood relatives were not available
only the Hospital Evaluation Committee
with members of civil society was
empowered to determine the donor. They
termed the law discriminatory because it
forbade transplant of organs in foreigners
which included Muslims from other
countries.

Why the Society of Transplant Physicians
and Surgeons of Pakistan chose to appeal
on the Shariat Court is not clear, This court
is an affiliate bench of the Supreme Court
of Pakistan which issues judgments in the
light of Islamic laws as laid down in the
Holy Quran and the Prophet's teachings
(Sunnah). The Society chose to go before
this court which has given landmark
judgments on vital issues adopting a
very discerning stance. The court was
disenchanted with the commercial
segments of society and secondly to put
spanners into the works of commercial
transplant and tourism.

International WHO and the
Transplantation Society joined hands to
support ethical transplants. The mounting
pressure of the civil society witnessed the
judicial activism which helped the
government to pass the "Human Organ
and Tissue Ordinance 2007" September
2007.

The Human Organ and Tissue Ordinance
banned commercial unrelated transplants
of both locals and foreigners. It allowed
donation from living related and in case of
non availability of family donors, permitted
only unrelated altruistic donors after
rigorous investigations by the Evaluation
Committee. The law also allowed deceased
organ donation and established the Human
Organ Transplant Authority to maintain a
national registry and to monitor transplant
activity in the country.

The Federal Shariat Court has now ended
all avenues for organ sale or transplant
tourism in Pakistan. It is a victory for all
professionals both local and international
with the help of WHO and the
Transplantation Society of Pakistan would
like to acknowledge the efforts of WHO
and The Transplantation Society who have
helped in the efforts towards prohibition of
organ sale and transplant tourism in
Pakistan.
11th Congress of Asian Transplantation Society Beirut, Lebanon

Congress Venue: Habtoor Grand Hotel Convention Center

Organ Donation and Transplant Coordinator Course
30th Sep - 1st Oct 2009

02 Pre-Congress Courses

06 Workshops are planned for the 1st of October

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<td>Dr. Malekhosseini Ali Iran</td>
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**Meeting of Mediterranean Transplant Network (MTN)**
30th September 2009

**Istanbul Declaration Steering Committee Meeting**
30th September 2009

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### Scientific Program

**Thursday October 1st**
- Hall A: Pre-Congress Workshops
- Hall B: Coffee Break
- Hall C: PS #1 Joint Session ATC-AST
- Hall D: PS #3 Registry
- Hall E: PS #2 Genetics

**Friday October 2nd**
- Hall B: Early Bird
- Hall C: Coffee Break
- Hall D: State of the Art
- Hall E: Oral Communications

**Saturday October 3rd**
- Hall B: Early Bird
- Hall C: Coffee Break
- Hall D: State of the Art
- Hall E: Oral Communications

**Sunday October 4th**
- Hall B: Early Bird
- Hall C: Coffee Break
- Hall D: State of the Art
- Hall E: Oral Communications

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**Deadline for abstract submission**
June 30, 2009

For further info & details
www.cast2009.com
e-mail: info@cast2009.com
The 11th Congress of Middle East Society for Organ Transplantation was held in Shiraz, Iran. It was the largest MESOT Conference attended by delegates from all over the world. The Congress President Dr. Seyed Ali Malekhosseini and the Organizing Committee put together an absorbing and interesting scientific programme as well as cultural and social activities. The guest list was very impressive who deliberated important aspects of transplantation. The scientific papers and presentations were of high quality by the members of MESOT in the field of transplantation.

The 10th Asian Bioethics Conference was held in Tehran from April 26 to 29, 2009. The conference is a yearly event of the Asian Bioethics Association (ABA) and was co-sponsored by UNESCO and the Tehran University of Medical Sciences (TUMS). Over 125 delegates from 25 countries across Asia and the rest of the world attended this meeting and presented research papers and reports. The Pakistani contingent consisted of 6 people, including four alumni and one faculty member of the Centre of Biomedical Ethics and Culture, SIUT. The event was inaugurated by Dr Bagher Larijani, the Chancellor of TUMS. Among the prominent speakers were Dr Darryl Macer of UNESCO Bangkok, professor Leonardo deCastro, President of ABA, Professor Anoja Fernando from Sri Lanka and Professor Sahin Aksoy from Turkey. Also attending the meeting was Professor Mustafa Al Musawi, renowned transplant surgeon from Kuwait, who spoke on the lessons learned from live, unrelated transplantation of Kuwaitis.
Organ Trade: Supreme Court of Pakistan takes stern action through suo-moto

The government of Pakistan promulgated the “Human Tissue and Organ Transplantation” in September 2007. Human Organ Transplant Authority which was established to oversee the transplant activity has not been able to exert due pressure on account of lack of coordination and support of the provincial governments. The organ trade continues in some hospitals in Central Punjab.

The Supreme Court took suo motu notice of the illegal sale of organs after the Transplantation Society of Pakistan named two hospitals allegedly involved in the trade namely the Kidney Centre Rawalpindi and Aadil Hospital Lahore.

Complaints about mushroom growth of unscrupulous private clinics in the country especially in the twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad had prompted the apex court to take up the matter. It was accused then that the poor donors from small villages were enticed mainly because of poverty or huge debts by middlemen to find kidney donors for buyers mainly from and Arabs from Middle East countries.

In response to the June 20th notice, CEO Abdul Waheed Sheikh of Aadil Hospital Lahore assured the court that the hospital management had decided not to carry out any transplant of human organs in future.

CEO of Aadil Hospital assured the court not to carry out any transplant of human organs in future.

The Kidney Centre, Rawalpindi stated that there was no violation of the ordinance and transplantation was being carried out according to law.

The Court ordered to submit all details of patients and donors transplanted during the last 3 years.

Forthcoming Meetings and Events

14th Congress of the European Society for Organ Transplantation

43rd Annual Scientific Meeting of the European Society for Paediatric Nephrology
02 - 05 September 2009, Birmingham, UK www.espn2009.co.uk

2009 Organ Donation Congress

10th ISODP and 16th ETCO
October 4 - 7, Berlin, Germany www.isodp2009.org

30th Congress of the Société Internationale d’Urologie
01-05 November 2009, Shanghai, China www.siucongress.org/siu2009/

12th International Congress
15 December 2009, Kish Island, Iran

MESOT Fellowship Program

MESOT (Middle East Society for Organ Transplantation) is pleased to announce the establishment of the MESOT Fellowship Program of 1-2 years in duration for physicians and surgeons from the Middle East region willing to acquire some particular skills related to various aspects of organ transplantation.

The objective of this program is to promote and advance organ transplantation in under-served areas of this region of the world by helping them to establish local transplant programs or to improve an existing program.

A limited number of grants are available for the time being.

Application deadline is the 30th of June of each year.
Any individual interested in this training program should direct his or her inquiries to:

Bassam Saeed, M.D.
Chairman, MESOT Fellowship Program
P.O.Box: 8292 Fax: +963 11 4462800
Damascus - Syria
E-mail: bassam.said@gmail.com