



OCTOBER 2010

# MESOTnews

## The 12th Congress of the Middle East Society for Organ Transplantation

Tunis, 18 -21 October 2010  
Karthago le Palace Hotel  
(Gammarth)



### MESOT President welcome message



It is my privilege and pleasure to welcome all transplantologists and members of the affiliated fields to the 12th Congress of Middle East Society of Organ Transplantation in 2010 in the charming city of Tunis.

The objective of MESOT Congress is to enhance transplant activities in the region. There is a great need for cooperation in all spheres and we have to pursue all efforts towards increasing transplantation because the options and the cost of treatment of end stage organ failure are limited and costly. For this, cooperation between centres is imperative. Sharing of data through registry as well as clinical problems through regional publications are the need of the hour. Training of manpower is the other challenge that can only be met through joint efforts. There is no dearth of technical expertise in organ transplantation, be it kidneys, liver or bone marrow. The time has now come that regions with more facilities should step ahead and helps to train the less developed ones. MESOT Fellowship programme is such a step to achieve this goal.

A concerted effort by all especially the countries that have had successful deceased donor programmes can help those centres which are without the benefit of multi-organ cadaver transplants. This is yet another avenue for cooperation which can yield great benefits for thousands of patients in the region. To achieve this goal the organ transplant procurement network will have to be developed in all affiliated countries.

The 12th MESOT Congress will bring together a large number of regional speakers and experts in the field of organ transplantation in Tunisia. Along with acquiring the latest knowledge, the warm friendliness of the people of Tunisia, will provide an opportunity for the delegates to see hospitable land of colors and contrasts, spices and scents and to enjoy its natural beauty and lively festivals.

**Dr. S. A. Anwar Naqvi**

### Congress President welcome message



On behalf of the local organizing committee, it is my pleasure and a great honour to welcome you to attend the 12th Congress of the Middle East Society for Organ Transplantation (MESOT).

For the second time this very special event will take place in Tunisia, from October 18th to 21st, 2010, with the participation of distinguished outstanding international experts.

The scientific committee has planned an exciting scientific program with plenary sessions, focused refresher courses, free communications and poster presentations which will all cover the main topics in the field of transplantation. We are certain that this event will give colleagues who are active, or those who are interested, the opportunity to be updated in all the sectors of transplantation, and to share their clinical experiences.

The local organizing committee is very proud to host this scientific event here in Tunis, the capital of Tunisia. The social committee is going all out to offer an enticing program, allowing you to discover the charm and the rich cultural heritage of Tunisia, land of hospitality and tolerance.

**Dr. Taieb Ben Abdallah**

## Professor Haberal still remains incarcerated

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.

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.

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.

On Friday April 17 it was announced that Dr. Haberal along with 7 other scientists and university presidents were placed under arrest. After 18 months Prof. Haberal still remains incarcerated ■



## 5<sup>th</sup> World Day for Organ Donation and Transplantation

The kingdom of Saudi Arabia keens to be one of the first countries to cope with organizing the World Day for organ donation and transplantation, which falls on October 4, 2009, according to its privileged place in the Arab World and Islamic World in general. The Centre organized an awareness exhibition in the activities of the 5th world day for organ donation and transplantation in Riyadh mall to highlight the great efforts being made to serve the patients with organ failure to stimulate all classes of society to participate in the program and understand the center's mission in supervising organ transplant programs in the Kingdom to achieve better services for patients. ■

## Professor Jeremy Chapman commends the achievements of the Saudi Center for Organ Transplantation (SCOT)

The Saudi Center for Organ Transplantation in May hosted global physician Professor Jeremy Chapman, President of the Transplantation Society (TTS) to identify the regulatory actions of the programs of organ donation and transplantation, as well as the various activities of the Centre.

Dr. Jeremy spoke highly of the achievements of Kingdom in the field of organ transplantation and advances achieved by the program until the kingdom became one of the leading countries in this field ■



Dr. Jeremy Chapman with Dr. Faissal Shaheen

## WORLD KIDNEY DAY

The world Celebrated on March 12, 2009 the Fourth World kidney day under the umbrella of the International Society Of Nephrology (ISN) and the International Federation Of Kidney Foundations (IFKF), where the Kingdom participated in the representative status of the Saudi center for Organ Transplantation and the Saudi Society of Nephrology (SSN) through a variety of activities to raise the level of health awareness of kidney diseases.

The Saudi Center for Organ Transplantation's media campaign included preparation of brochures and posters which were distributed to all the hospitals in the Kingdom,



SCOT also held open day in many health institutions and hospitals and delivering of many lectures to ensure awareness about kidney diseases ■



## Organ Transplantation Law in Pakistan



President of Pakistan signing the transplant bill at Aiwan-e-Sadar, Islamabad

The bill on transplantation was introduced in the parliament about 15 years ago in the early 90's. It remained dormant for the first decade in different select specialist committees from government to government mainly due to non acceptance of transplantation by the society as a mode of therapy due to social, cultural and religious issues. Shortage of donors due to absence of a deceased donor programme and rapidly developing expertise lead to unrelated commercial transplants in the private sector. By the year 2005,

Pakistan became the largest Center of Transplant Tourism in the world where 1500 foreigners received renal transplants in private sector hospitals. SIUT initiated a campaign against organ sale and transplant tourism. The whole society was galvanized including media, judiciary, clergy, medical profession and beaurocracy and took support of the international bodies World Health Organization (WHO) and The Transplantation Society (TTS). Seminars and conferences were held to highlight exploitation and neglect of

the kidney vendors. This lead to judicial activation with suo motto notice from the Supreme Court of Pakistan. Which finally pressurized the government to promulgate "The Transplantation of Human Tissues and Organs Ordinance 2007" in November 2007.

In March 2010 the President of Pakistan signed the bill for organ transplantation and it became the part of the constitution of Pakistan. The bill made history as it was passed unanimously by the two houses of legislature, the National Assembly and the Senate ■

## First Joint Conference of Medical Societies and Hospitals in Pakistan for the establishment of a Deceased Donor Transplantation Program



**T**he first Joint Conference of Medical Societies and Hospitals in Pakistan, for the Establishment of a Deceased Donor Transplantation Programme was organized by the Transplantation Society of Pakistan (TSP) and Sindh Institute of Urology and Transplantation (SIUT). The objective of this unique conference was to achieve national self sufficiency in organ transplantation by pooling resources and increasing availability of organs and to promote multi-organ transplantation to save over 50,000 patients each year. The conference was inaugurated by Dr. Jafar Naqvi, Life Patron of Pakistan Society of Nephrology and attended by

representatives of the Medical Societies related to transplantable organs, who expressed their views through deliberations. In Pakistan an estimated 50,000 people die annually due to End Organ Failure. These include 16000 kidney failure, 10000 liver failure and 6000 heart failure patients.

To initiate the Deceased Donor Programme, the first step is to raise awareness among the medical personnel and the general public.

Deliberations were made by senior specialists from all over the country in the fields of cardiology, Liver and Lung Diseases, Ophthalmology and Kidney Diseases, Care of the Brain dead patient

and the final diagnosis lies in the domain of Anesthesiology and Neurology Senior doctors from these fields addressed the subject to elaborate on this aspect of managing the deceased donor.

The last session addressed the role of the society and promoting education on deceased organ donation. Contribution of the print and electronic media on this aspect was also highlighted and appreciated.

This conference will bring to reality a successful deceased donor programme in Pakistan with joint efforts of the professionals and the members of the society ■

## Organ Transplantation in Iran

**T**ransplantation was started in Iran around two decades ago in 1967.

The first kidney transplant was performed in Namazee hospital, Shiraz. Unfortunately, this valuable commencement was not so successful and after very few cases, was stopped. Renal transplantation was restarted in Tehran in 1985 and Shiraz kidney program resumed in 1988. Within a few years, Shiraz witnessed some huge steps toward transplantation for other organs, since the first liver and heart were transplanted in 1993 in this center. The religious permission (Fatwa) of Shiite clergies on brain death issue had substantial effect to this progress, while the parliament delayed to pass this significant law for more than a decade. Liver transplant program was started in 1993 in order to

organize the process of organ donation. This process includes ICU, emergencies and neurosurgical wards nurses, neurologists, neurosurgeons and anesthesiologists throughout Fars and other seven provinces in the southern Iran.

In 1999, the south of Iran network for organ donation was established and the percentage of consent from the deceased donor increased dramatically. Iranian network for Transplant Organ Procurement (TOP)) was founded in 2002 in Tehran. In 1997, the first living donor liver transplantation was accomplished on a 4-year old child who suffered from cirrhosis due to neonatal hepatitis. The first right lobe liver transplantation was carried out in 2002. In this operation, right lobe from a

father was transplanted to his 13 years old son who had cirrhosis due to Wilson disease. Shiraz initiated intra abdominal organ transplantation fellowship program in 2005. Liver transplantation with technique of Ex situ splitting was started in 2004 and the first In situ liver transplantation was performed in 2006. In the same year, the first pancreas was transplanted. Since then, 73 patients have been received pancreas. In 2010, the first multivisceral organ transplantation (stomach, pancreas and small bowel) was done

There are over 20 and over 25000 kidney transplantations have been performed in the last 30 years. Donor trends show that 20% are now deceased donors ■

## Lebanon TPM Training Course in Transplant Coordination

The National Organization for Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation (NOOTDT) organized an Intermediate Training Course in Transplant Coordination in Shtoura, Lebanon. The course was managed by the Spanish Transplant Procurement Management (TPM) with over 30 participants from several Lebanese hospitals, including nurses, intensivists, emergency physicians and coordinators. There were also two coordinators participating from Kuwait.

The course addressed important issues related to living and deceased donors including donor detection, identification and management; brain death, organ viability and selection, family approach and multi-organ retrieval. The course also included group workshops on brain death, donor management and family interview with participants simulating various scenarios when approaching families for consent ■



Dr. Manyalich with course participants

## National Organization of Organ Donation and Transplantation (NOODT)

**R**ecently in Lebanon the national organization of organ and tissue donation and transplantation (NOOTDT) was formed by a decree from Minister of health. It is headed by the minister of health and the vice chairman is Dr Antoine Stephan and the organization responsibilities are the waiting list, supervise all organ donation and transplantation, education program and transplant registry.

The waiting list has been activated and a joint program with the Spanish

organ donation program started on September 29th 2009 to help the organization in its activities. Training for transplant coordinators is very active and two Lebanese are being trained by the Spanish group to become trainers (this program **Train the Trainer** is supported by The Mediterranean Transplant Network: MTN). Spain is a member of the MTN. The Trainers would then train the local coordinators. Transplant activity in Lebanon shows 40 corneal donors and one multi organ donor (2 kidneys and 1 liver).

The National transplant registry is now collecting all the data and a national ethic committee (order of Physicians) is being formed to supervise all organ donations. All organ donors should get approval from the ethic committee (mainly non related) while currently all non related donations have to be approved by the ministry of health ■



## Workshop on Deceased Donation in the UAE

Abu Dhabi Health Services Co. "SEHA" organized a workshop on "Deceased Organ Donation and Transplantation" with participants from UAE and other Gulf countries. The one day workshop which was held in Rotana Hotel, Abu Dhabi discussed various aspects of deceased donation including legal, ethical and religious aspects, evaluation and selection of donors, family approach and the experiences of KSA, Kuwait and Qatar. Dr Ali Al Obaidly, Chief Clinical Officer at "SEHA", who organized the workshop also presented the steps taken to establish a deceased donor program in the UAE and a draft of the new law on transplantation which specifically promotes deceased donation and fights organ trafficking and commercialism. Dr Abrar Khan, Director of Transplantation and Hepatobiliary Surgery at Sheikh Khalifa Medical Center also presented the UAE experience in performing 32 kidney transplantation over the last two years and the preparatory work done to start a liver transplant program. ■



## Laparoscopic donor nephrectomy Fellowship at Shahid Labbafinejad Medical Center

**S**hahid Labbafinejad Medical Center is the largest urology training center in Iran offering fellowships in subspecialties of urology, including endourology and urolaparoscopy, pediatric urology, and renal transplantation. This centre has excellent training facilities and endourology workload so important for providing training. The centre has a animal lab and excellent library facility.

Laparoscopic donor nephrectomy (LDN) is done routinely at the centre and over 1200 LDN has been performed so far. Over 50 doctors have been graduated from this centre and many of them doing LDN in different cities of Iran. In 2009 Dr. Shabir Ahmad Sayed Omran Almousawi from Kuwait has completed his two year fellowship in Endourology and Urolaparoscopy under the

supervision of Prof. Nasser Simforoosh, Head of the Department. Dr. Almousawi is the first graduate from Middle East area and now can perform LDN and other advanced procedures. Shahid Labbafinejad Medical Center is also moving towards deceased donor programme and has performed 8 such transplants in September 2010 ■





## THE DOHA ACCORD

**T**he Doha Accord calls for the equitable allocation of organs, cells and tissues for transplantation, without regard to gender, ethnicity, religion, or social or financial status of the recipient.

Her Highness Sheikha Mozah Nasser al-Misnad giving her consent to the Doha Donation Accord which outlines the government's strategies to promote organ donation. The primary objective of transplant policies and programmes should be optimal medical care to promote the health of both the donors and recipients.

Financial considerations or material gain of any party must not override primary consideration for the health and well-being of donors and recipients. Financial considerations or material gain of any party must not influence the application of relevant allocation rules. It provides for the felicitation of the act of heroism by a live donor every year by a top government official by granting a

medal of honour in appreciation for their gift of life.

Among other benefits for the donors, the Doha Accord has provisions for a comprehensive health insurance for life, life-long free medical care, disability insurance, air tickets, accommodation and a host of other incentives.

The provisions of Doha Donation Accord are accessible only by "related live donors and recipients residing permanently in Qatar" (Qataris and expatriates), and not for visitors or unrelated donors.

Unrelated living donors in Qatar, whether visitors or residents, Qatari or non-Qatari, are not eligible for the Accord provisions.

The Accord calls for the establishment of an Organ Donation Committee which should include experts who can assess the psychological, medical and social evaluation for each live donor.



As all individuals register for healthcare at the Hamad Medical Corporation, there will be an opportunity to register as a deceased organ and tissue donor.

"As a result of that donation consent, all nationals and expatriates will receive equitable access to deceased organ and tissue for transplantation."

Counseling and travel support for families will be provided at the time of the "deceased organ and tissue donation".

An Organ Donation Fund will be set up that will cover all the expenses resulting from the implementation of these proposals.

The fund will be provided by annual payments from Hamad Medical Corporation, Ministry of Health, non-governmental organisations, human rights organisations and charity donors ■

## Kuwait starts its Liver Transplant Program with an International Conference

**A**s a step towards starting a liver transplant program, Kuwait organized its first Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Surgery and Transplantation conference in March 2010. Seven well-known figures in the field from USA, Canada, France, Japan, and South Korea were invited to give talks over 3-days. More than 400 participants attended the conference and a good number of the participants were from the Middle East region. The organizers plan to host this conference biannually.

The Amiri Hospital was selected as a location for the future program and as a start a Hepatobiliary unit was established and is active since June of this year until all necessary equipment is available and the teams are ready. As an adjunct the Ministry of Health in Kuwait is reviewing



proposals for collaboration from major Liver Transplant centers in the world to give a jump-start, train the teams, and help maintain the program until it is able to function independently ■

## Kuwait Reorganizes Organ Procurement to Boost Transplantation from Deceased Donors

**T**ransplantation from deceased donors is scarce in most countries in the MESOT area compared to that in Europe and North America. There are many social, religious and organizational factors to account for this, but several countries in the region have proven that it is possible to substantially increase organ retrieval from deceased donors by building up an efficient system to obtain organs from a large number of potential deceased donors.

Kuwait is an example of these countries as it managed to increase kidney transplantation from deceased donors by tenfold by developing an efficient program in 1996. This started by training ICU doctors and nurses on identifying



and referring of possible deceased donors and on methods of approaching families for consent. A transplant coordinator was also appointed for the first time in Kuwait.

*Continued on page 7*

## Events

## Latest developments of MESOT Fellowship Program

In 2008, the MESOT launched its fellowship program which was an initiative aimed at supporting organ transplantation in the Middle East Region. This program gives the great opportunity to the young 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 spread the science of transplant medicine and to promote and advance organ transplantation in under-served areas of this region of the world by helping them to establish local transplantation programs or to improve an existing program

Today, 2 years after the establishment of this program, the members of fellowship committee on behalf of MESOT council is pleased of what it has been achieved during this period of time. So far 10 fellows have been selected for transplant training programs and assigned to different centers of excellence across the

Middle East and one of them has already finished his training at Baskent University in Ankara and received his certificate which is the first in our program

In 2010, there are 19 eligible applicants for MESOT Fellowship Program from 7 Middle Eastern countries out of them 4 female doctors.

7 candidates applied for medical kidney transplant fellowship, 6 candidates applied for surgical kidney transplant fellowship, 5 candidates applied for surgical liver transplant fellowship, and one candidate applied for medical liver transplant fellowship

Lastly, ISMETT which is a well known transplant center in Palermo - Italy, has applied to MESOT to become one of the approved training centers of MESOT



Dr. Ahmad Khalid (MESOT Fellow) from Afghanistan in Shiraz

Fellowship Program. Although Italy is not part of the Middle East from the geographical point of view, but given the divert transplant services provided in this center (kidney, liver, heart, lung, pancreas, islet cells, hepatic hepatocytes) and given the fact that it is a neighboring country to the Middle East, the last MESOT council meeting held in Vancouver in August has approved this center to train fellows from the MESOT Fellowship Program ■

## Selected Fellows for 2011 MESOT Fellowship Program

Name	Nationality	Specialty	Fellowship	Center
Sherif Salah Azab	Egypt	Urology	Surgical Kidney	Mansoura
Ahmed Mahmoud El-Mahmoudy	Egypt	Nephrology	Medical Kidney	Mansoura
Mohamed Mourad Gargouri	Tunisia	Urology	Surgical Kidney	Baskent
Salah Alahmad	Syria	Urology	Surgical Kidney	Shiraz
Manar Bushra Abdalla	Sudan	General Surgery	Surgical Kidney	Mansoura
Mohamed Hamed Al Neel	Sudan	General Surgery	Surgical Kidney	SIUT
Syed Haider Mehdi	Pakistan	General Surgery	Surgical liver	Shiraz
Zafar Iqbal	Pakistan	General Surgery	Surgical Kidney	SIUT
Ahmad Alwazna	KSA	Nephrology	Medical Kidney	Mansoura
Kiran Nasir	Pakistan	Nephrology	Medical Kidney	Riyadh

## Kuwait Reorganizes Organ Procurement to ..... Continued from page 6

The experience since 1996 showed clearly that the number of donors depended on the efficiency and quality of the transplant coordinator. Over the last two years Kuwait experienced a decline in the number of consented and utilized donors due to lack of active coordinators.

The Ministry of Health recently reorganized Organ Procurement Unit at Hamed Al-Essa Organ Transplant Center, which is the only transplant center serving the small population of Kuwait.

The new unit headed by Dr Mustafa Al-Mousawi started its work by adopting the Spanish Model in appointing local transplant coordinators in each major hospital in Kuwait. These coordinators are doctors and nurses already working

in hospital ICUs and will be paid extra for working as coordinators in addition to their job. Each coordinator is instructed to report any case of possible brain death as early as possible especially when patient is admitted with severe brain injury or intracranial hemorrhage.

Once a case is reported, usually by a phone call or SMS message, a cascade of events are arranged by KOP (Kuwait Organ Procurement unit) which includes contacting neurologists to test for brain death, donor maintenance, contacting the family to explain brain death when confirmed and to ask for consent. When consent is obtained arrangements are made with donor hospital for organ and tissue harvesting. In addition to kidneys, the ophthalmologists are involved in retrieving the corneas and the plastic

surgeons in taking skin from the donor. The Saudi Center for Organ Transplantation (SCOT) is also contacted for participating and retrieving organs which are not used in Kuwait, such as the liver, heart and lungs.

This new system has been in effect since July 2010 and so far it seems to be working well. The referral rate has been greatly improved as every potential case is referred in addition to receiving reports on all deaths in every major ICU to make sure that no case is missed.

The next step is to train the coordinators in donor maintenance and methods of approaching families for consent. This is being organized with help from the Middle East Transplant Coordinators Organization (METCO) before the end of the year ■



## Iran performs 1st islet cell transplant

**F**irst time in the Middle East, Iranian researchers have succeeded in transplanting pancreatic islet cells to diabetics, making them free from insulin injection. "During the past 50 years, a great revolution has been noted in the treatment of diabetes. New types of drugs and insulin have reported promising results in controlling the crippling disease, neither of them, however, have succeeded in completely curing the sufferers," said Dr. Baqer Larijani, the head of the researcher team and the dean of Tehran University of Medical Sciences. He went on to say that Iranian scientists have recently

performed many innovations, including transplanting stem cells, to treat diabetic patients. Transplanting the pancreatic cells responsible for producing insulin is their latest advance. In the novel technique, pancreatic cells were extracted from a brain dead individual and thereafter were transplanted to a diabetic after they were purified through a complex technique. "After doing years of research on animal samples, we have performed the operation for the first time in our country," said Larijani, stressing that Iran is the first country in the region that has done so ■



The **MESOT new website** is designed to be fully interactive, to have online membership application, Fellowship Program application, dues payment, and access to the membership directory.



Dr. Anwar Naqvi and Dr. Bassam Saeed en route Damascus

*Two different bookings and routing.  
Two seats next to each other - beyond  
the laws of probability !*

Karachi → Istanbul → Tunis  
Damascus → Istanbul

## Egypt passes new organ transplant law

**E**gypt's Parliament voted overwhelmingly to pass regulations on organ transplants in the country. It ends months-long controversy over a bill aimed at curbing illegal trafficking and tourism that has arisen from organ dealing.

According to the law passed, Egypt has banned commercial trade in organs and barred Egyptians and foreigners from transplants with each other, except in cases of spouses.

The government will now finance all organ transplants in government-run hospitals.

The passing of the bill comes only weeks after the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs said earlier this month that hundreds and possibly thousands of poor Egyptians are selling their organs, mainly kidneys and liver, each year to pay off their debts and buy food, making Egypt the center for the illicit organ trade, confirming what was said by the World Health Organization (WHO) said in this regard.

The Regional Director of the WHO in the Middle East and North Africa, Hossein Jazayeri, who considered the ratification of the law a great step and creates hope for thousands of patients who have been

waiting a long time for an organ transplant operation in order to save their life. He also said it is an important step to face the trafficking of organs, which usually leads to surgeries that take place in unsafe conditions and that could harm both the donor and the patient ■

**MESOT News** has been published by Sindh Institute of Urology and Transplantation (SIUT) on behalf of Middle East Society for Organ Transplantation (MESOT). Kindly send the entries to SIUT Secretariat - Sakina Yousuf

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