

MESOT

news

March 2016

NEWSLETTER OF THE MIDDLE EAST SOCIETY FOR ORGAN TRANSPLANTATION



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3 ▶ **40th Anniversary of Kidney Transplantation in Turkey**
3 November, 2015
Ankara, Turkey

4 ▶ **International Congress of Transplantation and Implantation**
17-20 November, 2015,
Mashhad, Iran

5 ▶ **SIUT International Symposium 2015 Celebrating 40 years of SIUT philosophy “free with dignity”**
8-12 December, 2015,
Karachi, Pakistan

6 ▶ **1st MESOT Local Meeting**
20-21 January, 2016,
Cairo, Egypt

7 ▶ **Hepatocellular Carcinoma Conference**
4-5 March, 2016,
Doha, Qatar

SECRETARIAT

Taskent Caddesi No:77, Kat 4,
Bahcelievler 06490 Ankara, Turkey
Phone: +90 (312) 212 7393
Fax: +90 (312) 215 08 35
email: mesot@mesot-tx.org



MESOT Fellowship Program in Organ Transplantation

The MESOT (Middle East Society for Organ Transplantation) is pleased to announce the establishment of the MESOT Fellowship Program. The program, which will be 1-2 years in duration, has been created for physicians and surgeons from the Middle East region willing to acquire particular skills related to clinical and medical aspects of organ transplantation.

The objective of this program is to promote and advance organ transplantation in underserved areas of the region by helping physicians to establish new programs or improve already existing ones.

A limited number of grants will also be available, with recipients being determined by the Fellowship Program Committee.

Further information can be found online at <http://www.mesot-tx.org/home/fellowship.php>, where candidates may also apply online. The application deadline is the 30th of June of each year.



MIDDLE EAST SOCIETY FOR ORGAN TRANSPLANTATION CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

We are seeking nominations by members of MESOT of qualified and dedicated individuals fill the positions that will be vacated in the Council during the 15th Congress of the MESOT, to be held in Amman on 21-24 September, 2016.

MESOT is seeking nominations for **four Officers**:

- *President-Elect*
- *Vice President*
- *Secretary*
- *Treasurer*

In addition, **six Councilors** shall be selected for the following regions/countries:

- *North African Region (2 representatives)*
- *Eastern Mediterranean Region (2 representatives)*
- *Saudi Arabia & Gulf States Region (1 representative)*
- *Turkey (1 representative)*

Nominees for Council positions must be active members in good standing at the time of election and during the terms of their office. They shall all be elected by the general assembly as prescribed by the bylaws. Nominators and supporters of nominations must also be full members in good standing.

If you wish to nominate someone, please send the following to MESOT Headquarters at mesot@mesot-tx.org,

1. *A letter of support indicating the reasons for nomination;*
2. *CV of the nominated member;*
3. *The names of 2 supporting members.*



On 3 November, 2015, Prof. Haberal and several members of the original transplant team came together at Baskent University to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of that first achievement, which opened the door to many others over the years.



40th Anniversary of Kidney Transplantation in Turkey 3 November, 2015 Ankara, Turkey

On November 3rd, 1975, the first successful kidney transplantation was performed in Turkey by Prof. Mehmet Haberal.

From January 1, 1974 until June 30, 1975, Prof. Haberal trained under Prof. Thomas Starzl at the University of Colorado in Denver. On his return to Turkey, he immediately met with Prof. İhsan Dođramacı, Founder and President of Hacettepe University, who made the necessary arrangements for the transplantation unit to be set up.

Just 4 months later, on November 3, 1975, the first renal transplantation in Turkey was performed with a kidney donated by Mürvet Çalıřkan to her 12-year-old son Bahtiyar. At the time, there was no law in Turkey governing organ transplantation and as it was to be the first, Bahtiyar's parents had to sign a deed of consent for the operation to go forward.

On October 10, 1978, the team succeeded in performing the first deceased-

donor kidney transplantation using an organ supplied by the Eurotransplant Foundation. Many of the kidneys supplied by Eurotransplant generally arrived after having undergone more than 24 hours' cold ischemia. However, Prof. Haberal and his team were able to extend the cold ischemia time to more than 100 hours and many of these kidneys were used with a high success rate.

It became clear that the source of organs needed to be local, and Prof. Haberal began working with the government authorities, Parliament, and the Board of Religious Affairs to establish a law governing transplantation. Finally, on June 3, 1979, law no. 2238 on the "harvesting, storing, grafting, and transplanting of organs and tissues" was passed and has been deemed progressive enough to be used as a model by many other countries. Article 3, stating that the "Buying and selling of organs and tissues against a monetary amount or another interest are forbidden," is a rule that

is only recently being established in many countries around the world.

Following this, on July 27, 1979, the team performed the first local deceased-donor kidney transplantation at Hacettepe University. Unfortunately, the number of donors was still very low, and in 1982, Prof. Haberal applied again to the government, and the law on organ and tissue transplantation was amended and law no. 2594 was added on January 21, 1982 stating that if the relatives of a deceased person could not be found, then the organs could be harvested without having to obtain permission.

Thanks to these laws, the transplantation of almost every organ is being carried out successfully in many centers throughout Turkey, though it is essential to increase deceased-donation, which can only be achieved through widespread education of the public.



International Congress of Transplantation and Implantation 17-20 November, 2015, Mashhad, Iran

The International Congress of Transplantation and Implantation, was organized in cooperation with the Association of Surgeons of Khorasan, Mashhad University of Medical Sciences, and the Iranian Society of Organ Transplantation (IRSOT) in Mashhad, Iran on 17-20 November. With the participation of prominent domestic and foreign professors and lecturers, the congress proved to be a great success, offering attendees high quality scientific content as well as the chance to exchange new ideas in the field of transplantation medicine.

Organized with great attention to detail by Prof. S. A. Malekhosseini, President of IRSOT, and Dr. Mohsen Aliakbarian, Executive Secretary of the Congress, the meeting gathered much attention from the international transplant community and was supported by several societies including the Middle East Society for Organ Transplantation, the Turkish Transplantation Society, and

the Turkic World Transplantation Society. More than one thousand physicians, nurses and coordinators attended the meeting. Over 140 oral and posters were presented as accepted papers and 200 invited speakers presented new updates in transplantation and implantation in different fields including kidney, liver, heart, lung, pancreas and multivisceral. A valuable workshop on organ donation was also held in this meeting by Professor Manyalich and his colleagues for many of Iranian coordinators in four days. One of the characteristics of this congress was active and exciting collaboration of medical students as executive managers, translators and coordinators.

The congress offered a unique opportunity to combine science with social interaction; the warm hospitality of the people coupled with the rich cultural heritage of several millennia ensured that many were able to experience their trip in the fullest manner possible.



SIUT International Symposium 2015 Celebrating 40 years of SIUT philosophy “free with dignity” 8-12 December, 2015, Karachi, Pakistan

A five-day international symposium was organized by SIUT at its premises Dewan Farooq Medical Centre (DFMC), Hanifa Sulaiman Dawood Oncology Centre (HSDOC) and Transplant Tower, from 8th-12 December 2015 to mark the acceptance of its 40-year old philosophy: provide medical care “free with dignity.”

Adibul Rizvi and his team have been working for the benefit of the people, with the belief that health care is the basic right of every individual and all people should receive care without any discrimination of cast, color, creed or any religious bias. SIUT has been practicing this philosophy for the last four decades with dedication and compassion, resulting in great successes that were

celebrated by all attendees present at the Symposium.

Pre Symposium Workshops were held 8-9 December. The inauguration, in which many prominent colleagues from around the world praised the achievements of SIUT was held on the 9th, and the main Symposium began on the 12th of December.

In addition to a large number of medical doctors from within Pakistan, over 100 delegates from abroad representing various branches of medicine attended the symposium, with several world-renowned scientists. The gathering proved to be an unprecedented meeting in Pakistan, with a variety of subjects and issues covered in the many scientific sessions and courses.



1st MESOT Local Meeting 20-21 January, 2016, Cairo, Egypt

The 1st Local MESOT Meeting was held on 20-21 January, 2016 in Cairo, Egypt. The meeting, organized by our esteemed Egyptian colleagues and headed by Prof. Refaat Kamel, was certainly a unique opportunity for an up-to-date, scientific brainstorm in the different fields of transplantation and provided attendees the chance to take part in a high level of scientific discourse while at the same time building up international friendships.

It proved to be an ideal setting for a gathering of transplant professionals from the region and beyond. With more than 400 attendees from all fields of transplantation in Egypt and the world, it was an excellent opportunity to share experiences and knowledge in a more localized manner. This will certainly be an important step for individual countries in MESOT to identify the key issues related to the development of the field and the specific problems that must be overcome together.

As far back as four thousand years, Egypt stood as the land where many civilizations have met. The social activities alongside the scientific program allowed the attendees to truly appreciate the city. Cairo, with its vibrancy and wealth of cultural and historical monuments was certainly an ideal location to hold the 1st Local MESOT Meeting.





Hepatocellular Carcinoma Conference 4-5 March, 2016, Doha, Qatar

The 2016 Hepatocellular Carcinoma Conference was organized in Doha, Qatar by Hamad Medical Corporation in collaboration with the Pan Arab Liver Transplantation Society on 4-5 March, 2016. With 80 invited guests and endorsements from the International Liver Transplantation Society, the International Liver Cancer Association and the Middle East Society for Organ Transplantation, the meeting was a great success and drew 300 registrants from 24 countries.

The main theme of the congress, hepatocellular carcinoma, is a major health concern worldwide, particularly in the Middle East where it is highly prevalent. This multidisciplinary conference offered a scientific platform for the exchange of experiences in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of HCC. The scientific

program included state-of-the-art lectures, round-table discussions and free paper presentations and was also the occasion of the 1st PALTS Registry Meeting.

Attendees were able to enter four raffle draws during the two-day conference for prizes that included iPads and iPhones, and at the close of the meeting awards were presented for best oral and poster presentations.

In addition to a widely varied scientific program, the organizing committee, headed by the President of PALTS Prof. Hatem Khalaf, provided several opportunities for the guests to see the many sights of Doha through a range of social activities and dinners.



15th Congress



of the Middle East Society for Organ Transplantation

21-24 September
2016

LE ROYAL HOTEL, AMMAN, JORDAN



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