

CST NEWS



Welcome to CST News. This newsletter is sent to all CST members and is posted on the CST Website. CST News is published three times a year by the Canadian Society of Transplantation. Views expressed in news and feature articles are those of the individuals quoted.

CST Communication Committee: John Gill and Patrick Luke

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear CST members,

It is an exciting time for transplantation in Canada and as 2006 opens there are many opportunities and challenges for the Society. The annual scientific meeting continues to be our most important event of the year. Thanks to the program committee and abstract reviewers our meeting in Banff was the best yet. This year Greg Knoll and his committee have developed a program that promises to be every bit as exciting and in this edition of the CST newsletter we have profiled two of our invited speakers. The deadline for hotel booking is January 9. If you haven't booked your room and registered, please do so today as our room block is filling up quickly.

This year we have changed our pre-meeting course from the Fellow's day to the Trainee's Day. While the course is still open to fellows, we wanted to encourage learners at all levels to attend. Marcelo Cantarovich and the rest of the Trainee Day committee have put together a program that will be of interest to all (including staff). On the training front we are also actively looking for new partners to fund research fellowships for trainees.

Our community also finds itself in the midst of a large number of changes with implementation of the CSA Standards, Health Canada developing regulations for Transplant Programs and CCDT developing

consensus papers for donation and transplantation practice. CST is working with Health Canada and CCDT to ensure that the community is well represented in represented during these initiatives.

The strength of the Canadian transplant community has always been our small size and ability to work together to achieve common goals. As the Society gets bigger, we will need to improve our communications to maintain our sense of community. This first edition of the CST Newsletter is our attempt to provide the Society with a forum to keep the members abreast of new developments and initiate discussions on policy issues. The new Communication committee of John Gill and Patrick Luke is planning on four issues a year. The Newsletter will also be posted on the CST Website. If there is anything that you wish to bring to the attention of the Society please feel free to contact them.

Finally, at the CST executive we are here to represent our members. If you have any questions, suggestions or want to get involved in any of our initiatives please feel free to contact any board member

Ken West, MD, FRCPC

Mission Statement – Canadian Society of Transplantation

1 It is the purpose of the Canadian Society of Transplantation to further all aspects of transplantation in Canada.

2 To provide and maintain a national professional forum for physicians and surgeons, scientists and others occupied in clinical and scientific aspects of transplantation.

3 To promote the educational and scientific advancement of the broad discipline of transplantation.

4 To study and to comment appropriately upon the impact of educational and scientific advances and of changing social and economic developments as they relate to the maintenance of high standards of patient care among its members.

5 To collaborate with other national and/or regional organizations having responsibilities or mutual interests related to the attainment of the Society's objectives.

CST MEMBER PROFILE



Dr. Steven Paraskevas is a transplant surgeon at McGill University Health Centre, specializing in pancreas and kidney transplantation. Born and raised in Winnipeg, Steve obtained a B.A. in Biology at Harvard University in 1988, then moved to McGill for medical school and residency in General Surgery. During that time, he spent 3 1/2 years in the lab of Dr. Lawrence Rosenberg, studying mechanisms of cell death in transplanted human

islets, work that contributed to a PhD thesis and earned him the Scientific Trainee Award of the Canadian Diabetes Association. After residency, he completed a two-year fellowship in abdominal solid-organ transplantation at the University of Minnesota.

Returning to McGill in 2002, he joined the multi-organ program at the Royal Victoria Hospital, where he divides his time between the clinical transplant program and the lab. Steve received his PhD in 2004, his current research focusing on cytokine signaling in isolated islets and mechanisms of cell survival during tissue ischemia. He has presented his work at the CST meeting in Banff as well as various North American and international venues. He has helped co-ordinate the Pancreas Transplant Working Group of the CST, with the aim of starting national investigator-initiated clinical trials in pancreas-kidney transplantation. Steve is also a recent addition to the CORR advisory board. He is also developing the clinical islet program at McGill, which will build on that center's expertise with solitary pancreas transplants for non-uremic diabetics. His wife, Line Vautour, is an endocrinologist at McGill and they have one daughter. Outside the hospital, Steve is a marathon runner and cross-country skier who also enjoys books, music and exploring the outdoors with his family.

CST – Annual Scientific Meeting 2006 – Mont Tremblant, Québec

SPEAKER'S PROFILE



Dr. Fadi Lakkis received his medical degree from the American University of Beirut, Lebanon, and his fellowship training in Nephrology and Transplantation Immunology at the Beth Israel Hospital, Harvard Medical School. He then spent the next 9 years as a nephrologist and immunologist at Emory University, after which he became the director of transplant medicine in Yale University between 2001-2005. Recently,

as a Professor of Surgery and Immunology, he was recruited to the Thomas E. Starzl Transplantation Institute in Pittsburgh as its scientific director of transplantation.

An internationally renown immunologist for the last decade, he has served on the NIH/NIAID, Allergy, Immunology and Transplantation Research Committee and on the Board of the American Society of Transplantation. Dr. Lakkis has received numerous awards and honors for his research, being selected for the American Society of Nephrology's Young Investigator Award in 2002 and became an elected member of the American Society of Clinical Investigation in the same year.

Previously, Dr. Lakkis' thought-provoking transplant research had demonstrated the necessity of IL-2 for tolerance induction and the role of IFN-gamma in rejection, T cell proliferation, and the development of glomerulonephritis. He has also re-defined the role of secondary lymphoid tissue in T cell maintenance, and transplant rejection.

Funded by two NIH grants, Dr. Lakkis' current laboratory focuses on the the role of CD8+ T cell memory in organ transplantation as well as the role of costimulation, cytokines and chimerism in tolerance induction.

Register now....
for the
CST Annual Scientific Meeting
March 2-5, 2006
Mont-Tremblant QC
For more information, please visit the
CST website at
www.transplant.medical.org