

**ODT Associate  
Medical Director's  
Communication**



# JUNE 2017

Dear Colleagues,

This month I would like to mark the retirement of an old friend to the Organ Donation and Transplant community in the UK. Dave Collett has led the Statistics Department of NHSBT for many years and his expertise and quiet leadership have been invaluable. Recently a transplant colleague from the European mainland commented that the data management and statistical analysis from ODT are world-leading.

If I were to point to one particular example, I would choose the CUSUM monitoring technique that Dave helped introduce – this puts us in a very strong position in terms of governance and outcome management.

I asked Rachel Johnson to say a few more words .....

With best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "John Forsythe".

Professor John Forsythe  
Medical Director  
Organ Donation & Transplantation Directorate

**The Statistics and Clinical Studies** team will very much miss Dave after his retirement. He joined us in 2003 after teaching and undertaking research at the University of Reading for 25 years, bringing with him a wealth of expertise that the group capitalised on. He has been a strong and much respected leader, building a fantastic statistics team and, more recently, leading NHSBT's Clinical Trials Unit to grow and diversify.



I have been very lucky to have worked with Dave over the last 14 years. He has provided a constant source of support and advice to me and everyone on the team, with a real 'open door policy' and a very open and honest manner. Whenever anyone has needed advice, statistical or otherwise, he has been there. He has always encouraged staff to develop too, supporting people to undertake an MSc in Statistics or to take a secondment to another part of the organisation, or to attend a conference. He has also run many statistical seminars for the team.

Dave has a great (dry) sense of humour and this often comes to the fore when faced with NHSBT bureaucracy (which is rare, of course!). He certainly knows efficient ways to work with NHSBT policies and procedures and is an expert at juggling things to keep the department running successfully while we have staff on maternity leave or secondments elsewhere.

It is the end of a fantastic era in Statistics and Clinical Studies, and Dave will be greatly missed by the team, NHSBT, and I am sure, by the clinical community. **Good luck and many thanks Dave, we wish you a long and very happy retirement!**

### **Death of Alan Ting (1943 – 2017)**

I have recently been told of the sad news of Alan Ting's death. Some of the younger transplant community will not know him but all those of you from the world of H and I certainly will.

I asked Sir Peter Morris to write a short note on Alan's life.....

Alan Ting was a major contributor in the field of tissue typing in renal transplantation but also in studies of HLA associations with disease and anthropological studies of HLA in Melbourne, Oxford and the USA. His career was recognised by his appointment as President of the American Society of Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics (ASHI) in 1999.

Alan was born in Sydney and after taking an Honours degree in Zoology, he moved to Melbourne where he joined Peter Morris in the University of Melbourne Department Of Surgery. One important contribution with Ian McKenzie, John Stocker and Peter Morris was the first description of cytotoxic antibodies in man against pig and sheep lymphocytes which would be a critical hurdle in any future attempts at xenotransplantation.

Following a postdoc with Paul Terasaki at UCLA he re-joined Peter Morris in Oxford in 1975. He was to spend the next 15 years in Oxford in what was to prove an incredibly productive time reflected by his 87 publications in that period. These ranged from unravelling the importance of the cross match to HLA studies in several diseases. His most important contributions were the recognition that allegedly highly sensitised patients awaiting transplantation often had autolymphocytotoxins which allowed many such patients, who had been excluded from transplantation because of a positive cross match, to be transplanted successfully, and the demonstration that matching for the newly described HLA-DR was more important than matching for HLA - A, B.

In the late 1980's he met the love of his life, Helena, soon to be his wife and as she was tied to California for family reasons he decided to move to the California Pacific Medical Centre as Director of the Histocompatibility Laboratory. He then took up a position in 1994 at Stanford University as Associate Professor of Pathology and Co-Director of the Histocompatibility Laboratory, but was to move again in 2000 to Richmond, Virginia as Assistant Director and Director of Research at the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS). His last publication in 2004 was entitled "Human leukocyte antigen in the allocation of kidneys from cadaveric donors in the United States", an appropriate finale to a career in Histocompatibility. In 2005, he and Helena moved back to California to a lovely house on a lagoon in Foster City. He leaves Helena, his wife and many, many friends and colleagues all over the world.

**ODT SMT Performance Report:** At the time of reporting there were 247 deceased donors in the first two months of 2017/18; 8% more than the 229 deceased donors in the same period last year. Please read the full April 2017 ODT performance report [here](#) and determine how you can play a part in making every opportunity count. Together let's miss no opportunity to make a transplant happen.

**NHSBT data on Organ Donation and Transplantation:** The latest reports to be produced by the Statistics team and published on the ODT Clinical Site are the 2016/17 Interim Liver and Kidney Reports <http://www.odt.nhs.uk/uk-transplant-registry/>. We have reviewed all the helpful comments and feedback received via the Organ Specific Annual Reports Survey, and are busy making changes to this year's reports. The changes will improve consistency between the individual organ reports, including providing demographic information on kidney and pancreas transplant recipients as per the other reports. We also plan to improve timeliness in publishing the reports after the end of the financial year, and to feed in any comments received from centres and commissioners, particularly regarding under performance, before final publication. We will also add primary disease specific outcomes to the cardiothoracic report and information on geographical equity of access to transplantation to all reports. Thank you to all who fed back. Final thing, the 2016/17 Organ Donation and Transplantation Activity Report will be published next month.

**Closure of the Sickle Cell Hepatopathy Service Evaluation.** At their November 2016 meeting, members of the Liver Advisory Group (LAG) agreed to close the service evaluation to register and transplant patients with sickle cell hepatopathy. From 2nd May 2017, patients with this condition should be referred to the National Appeals Panel of the LAG for consideration for registration. The appeals process is described in Section 4 of Policy [POL195](#), Liver Transplantation: Selection and Recipient Registration.

**Change to the Super-Urgent Liver Appeal Process.** On 13th April 2017, a new process to refer super-urgent liver cases to the National Appeals Panel of the Liver Advisory Group was introduced. The change seeks to improve response rates by Panel members and timescales for decisions. The details of the new process are available in Section 4 of Policy [POL195](#), Liver Transplantation: Selection and Recipient Registration.

**NHSBT Board:** Board papers are published after each meeting and are available at: <http://www.nhsbt.nhs.uk/who-we-are/introducing-the-board/board-papers/>

**Cautionary Tales:** Please click [here](#) for the April 2017 issue.

**Statistics and Clinical Studies:** Please click [here](#) for the up-to-date April 2017 NHSBT Structure.

**Organ Donation Marketing and Campaigns Bulletin:** Shared with internal clinical staff for Organ Donation and Transplantation plus the wider community attached [here](#) is Issue No 8.

#### **FUTURE ODT MEETINGS/EVENTS: 2017**

- **ODT Care (Organ Donation and Transplantation Care)**  
Tuesday 13th June 2017 - The Principal York Hotel, York
- **Deceased Donation SIM Course**  
Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2017 - Cardiff and University Hospital Wales, SIM centre.
- **Kidney Patient Group Meeting**  
Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2017 - Citadines Holborn, Covent Garden, High Holborn, London
- **AGChC (Advisory Group Chairs Committee)**  
Friday 7th July 2017 - First Floor Board Room, West End Donor Centre, London
- **TPRC (Transplant Policy Review Committee)**  
Friday 7th July 2017 - First Floor Board Room, West End Donor Centre, London
- **Liver Patient Group meeting**  
Tuesday 11th July 2017 - West End Donor Centre, London
- **NRG (National Retrieval Group)**  
Wednesday 12th July 2017 - Association of Anaesthetists, Portland Place, London

#### **INFORMATION FROM OTHER BODIES:**

**Blood and Transplant Matters:** Please click [here](#) for issue 50.

**Organ Donation and Transplantation – Wales E Bulletin:** Please click [here](#) for issue 49.

**Donor Family Network's latest newsletter:** Can be found here <http://www.donorfamilynetwork.co.uk/i/2017/02/Spring-2017.pdf>

#### **FORTHCOMING MEETINGS:**

**International Hands-on Course - Live Donor Course Nephrectomy (LiDo course)**  
28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017. Erasmus MC Rotterdam, The Netherlands.

Educational Objectives: To provide a podium for transplant surgeons and urologists who are specialising in live donor kidney transplantation and to learn the surgical techniques for minimally-invasive kidney donation under the guidance of established and internationally recognised leaders in the field.

Target Group: Transplant surgeons and urologists coming mainly from Europe.

Surgeons or urologists in a transplant fellowship or consultant position who want to start a live kidney donation programme.

Surgeons who want to enrich their surgical skills for live donor nephrectomy. Please follow this link for further information.

**BigBangBarcelona Conference:** 24<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> September 2017 be inspired, educated, connected and entertained. Come and experience a new level of medical meetings in transplantation. At ESOT we have put a focus on the quality of the science but also the formats in which the content is delivered and the opportunity to network with your colleagues. Get engaged in this interactive meeting and take an active role in shaping the future of transplantation research and medicine. The ESOT 2017 Second Announcement is now available for download, with more information on the Congress' ground breaking sessions and speciality symposia.

<http://esot2017.esot.org/news/second-announcement-now-available>