

BMTSANZ News

Bone Marrow Transplant Society of Australia and New Zealand
BMTSANZ Inc ABN: 28 930 578 025

INTRODUCTION

This newsletter has been prepared to provide an update for members of the BMTSANZ on issues currently affecting stem cell transplanters in Australia and New Zealand, as well as members of the Society working in other countries.

The Society continues to be the major channel through which discussions have occurred between the stem cell transplant community and the Therapeutic Goods Administration over legislation to regulate stem cell laboratories, and, through its President, Jeff Szer, is the contact point

for communication with other international societies and organizations involved in BMT. The management of the Society continues to be carried out by a small executive group, elected every 2 years: this currently consists of Jeff Szer (President), Tony Dodds (Vice President), Tony Schwarer (Treasurer), Ken Bradstock (Secretary), Bik To, Simon Durrant, and John Carter. The Society continues to be in a financially sound position, with approxi-

mately 35 members.

All members are encouraged to rally their colleagues (and especially employees) in the field to join this Society.



The Vice president

TGA AND STEM CELL LAB ACCREDITATION

After a prolonged gestation period, the Standards for Accreditation of Haemopoietic Progenitor Cell Laboratories have been finalized. The committee responsible for the process was chaired by your President and known as the

Cellular Therapy Subcommittee of NPAAC (the National Pathology Accreditation Advisory Council) which is a branch of the Department of Health and Ageing. The document is due to be implemented by the begin-

ning of 2009.

The final stages of the process involved the apheresis sector which was well represented by two senior apheresis nurses (Claire Dowsing from RMH and Christine Akers (continued page 2)

August 2007

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Annual General Meeting

- The annual general meeting of the Society will be held during the HAA meeting on the Gold Coast in October. See page 4 for conference information.
- Your attendance at the meeting will ensure your opinion is heard.

TGA AND STEM CELL LAB ACCREDITATION (continued)

(continued from page 1)

from The Alfred) who helped to draft a workable standard.

The document is entitled: Requirements for procedures related to the collection, processing, storage and issue of human haemopoietic progenitor cells - 2007. It has been approved by the DRL (Document Review and Liaison Committee) and will be considered by the full council of NPAAC in August 2007.

The bottom line is that this will be a workable system which should result in some system improvements in many of our units however there is a resource implication of all of the changes in the form of document control and quality assurance. Impact studies are ongoing as to what the implications of all of this for us will be and will be a required part of the finalization phase.



The secretary on Sabbatical

New Zealand has been involved in this process from the beginning although ANZTPA (the proposed Australian and New Zealand Therapeutic Product Authority) is unlikely to come into existence in the near future, mainly due to concerns about loss of autonomy on the New Zealand side.

FUTURE CLINICAL ACCREDITATION

The HPC Laboratory Standards will contain an Appendix providing some guidance useful in the future accreditation of clinical BMT services. These are effectively only suggestions for minimum clinical standards and are not legislated or enforceable, as this is not within the jurisdiction of the TGA. As such, the HPC Standards will have no real impact on clinical services.

However, we believe that introduction of standards to regulate clinical BMT services are inevitable.

This is a process which has already begun with paediatric transplant centres seeking accreditation with the US Childrens Oncology group. It seems likely that Governments in Australia and New Zealand will ultimately require formal accreditation of BMT services, and, rather than be drawn into this in a way analogous to the

TGA process for HPC regulation, we believe that BMTSANZ should be "proactive" and initiate a process of instituting clinical standards.

We propose forming a small working group that will look at existing international standards and come up with recommendations for standards which can be locally applicable and serve as the basis for accreditation of transplant centres.

RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER SOCIETIES

Jeff Szer continues to represent BMTSANZ on a number of international organizations. He is the elected representative on the Center for International Bone Marrow Transplant Research (CIBMTR), where he functions as Vice Chair for Asia, Africa and Australasia on the Advisory Committee, and as such is a member of the CIBMTR executive. He represents the ABMDR and BMTSANZ on the World Marrow Donor Association

Clinical Working Group, which has recently been considering the issue of the safety of G-CSF in normal donors, and is working towards producing a uniform international consent form for donors.

Finally, Jeff is on the International Relations Committee of the American Society of Blood and Marrow Transplantation, and has been negotiating on our behalf to gain access to Biology of Blood and Bone Marrow for members of BMTSANZ

ROLE OF SOCIETY IN FUTURE HAA MEETINGS

The BMTSANZ has been consulted by the HSAZ in the choice of international speakers on the subject of stem cell transplantation for the 2007 and 2008 meetings.

Robert Negrin from Stanford will be the speaker at the 2007 meeting at the Gold Coast, and Joachim Deeg from Seattle has accepted the invitation to come to Perth in 2008.

The Society intends to continue to be involved in the development of a specific program for each meeting on stem cell transplantation, including the choice of international speakers

and the composition of symposia and oral proffered paper sessions.



The president at a meeting

DATA REGISTRY ISSUES

The BMTSANZ continues to be involved in the management of the Australasian Bone Marrow Transplant Recipient Registry, through regular meetings between Registry staff (principally Ian Nivison-Smith) and a group of members of the BMTSANZ (Jeff Szer, Tony Dodds, David Ma, and Ken Bradstock). The transfer of reporting to the Registry from a paper-based to web-based system has proven more complex than originally envisaged, and is still to be implemented.

Jeff Szer has also been a member of AGNIS, A Growable Network of Information Services, since its inception in 2003. The project had a major aim of constructing a system and language that would enable registries to exchange data directly but also to allow individual centres to exchange data with any registry.

The project has got to the point where the first test sites are about to go live: the CIBMTR database in Milwaukee will be tethered to the old NMDP database in Minneapolis in an effort to make them a single, seamless registry. There is also a test linkage being set up between the BMT group at MD Anderson and the CIBMTR in Milwaukee.

This project does have potential application for ABMTRR in terms of seamless reporting to multiple registries simultaneously.

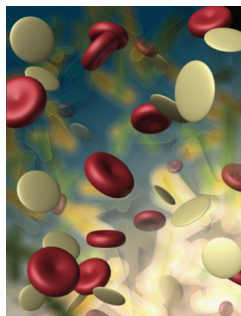
Jeff has also been involved with

same purpose as the ABMTRR Green form which is briefer. Ultimately, it is planned that the ABMTRR uses these forms as the initial reporting form as well.

“AGNIS...aim of constructing a system and language that would enable registries to exchange data directly ...”

SCTOD: Data Advisory Group Subcommittee, which has been set up as part of the CW Bill Young BMT Program in the US under the terms of their new legislation that will make it legally binding to submit transplant activity data to the CIBMTR for all transplants done in the US.

This committee is attempting in the first instance to harmonise the data entry forms for the CIBMTR TED and the EBMT Med A form. These forms serve the



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BMTSANZ

Office Bearers:

President: Jeff Szer (Royal Melbourne Hospital)

Vice-President: Tony Dodds (St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney)

Treasurer: Tony Schwarer (Alfred Hospital, Melbourne)

Secretary: Ken Bradstock (Westmead Hospital, Sydney)

Committee members:

Bik To (Royal Adelaide Hospital)

John Carter (Wellington Hospital)

Simon Durrant (Royal Brisbane Hospital)

UPCOMING MEETINGS



2007 Combined Annual Scientific Meeting of HSAZ, ANZSBT & ASTH

'HAA 2007'
14-17 October 2007
Gold Coast Convention & Exhibition
Centre, Queensland

Contact: Festival City Conventions
Phone: +61 8 8363 1307

www.fcconventions.com.au/HAA2007

The 2007 AGM of the BMTSANZ will be held during this meeting

2008 BMT Tandem Meetings

February 13-17 •

Manchester Grand Hyatt in San Diego
California

<http://www.asbmt.org/cibmtr/Tandem>

**CIBMTR
ASBMT**

The combined annual meetings of CIBMTR and ASBMT provide a comprehensive update on blood and marrow transplantation, laboratory research and patient care for clinicians, investigators and allied health professionals.