

American Society of Transplant Physicians

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

The 2nd official general meeting of the Society took place in Chicago on December 10, 1982. We now have 295 paid-up members and membership will most certainly increase over the next year since there has been a steady flow of correspondence with our Secretary/Treasurer. I am very pleased to see a response of this magnitude as well as see that we are attracting bone marrow transplanters, individuals involved in laboratory programs which support clinical transplant activities, and those involved in cardiac transplantation. It was our plan to expand our scope to more than just renal transplant interest. I am also very pleased to note that we have several surgeons among our new members. Larry Hunsicker has done an outstanding job in getting us a constitution, organizing the membership, and putting our treasury in a state of excellent health. The scientific program organized for our December meeting by Bernie Carpenter was excellent. The speakers, Carpenter, Kerman, and Goeken presented up-to-date topical clinical material and the level of lively discussion met the needs of our audience for dealing with important topics and the current state of the art. I thank them very much for their outstanding contributions.

The ASTP survey #2 has been developed. We have a need to reclassify our membership and a number of new issues have been raised. You will

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find that on the questionnaire we would like to get some information to make available to the membership about observed lymphomas in patients treated with cyclosporin A. This is a question that comes up frequently and the published literature may be behind a bit on this subject. In addition, there are two studies that have been suggested, one on living donors and the other, a study on the effect of diet on renal failure. For those of you that may be interested in participating, please indicate your interest(s) on the questionnaire. The appropriate principal investigators will receive the list of those interested.

It is my hope that our Society will not only have interesting meetings, but will also develop a system whereby members themselves can initiate and carry out scientific studies with collaborations made possible through the Society. We hope to use the Scientific Studies Committee to facilitate these protocols by providing critique and assistance wherever possible. It is my view that we should all take advantage of the revolution in microcomputers to achieve this goal. For those of you who may not have access to a microcomputer and have no plans to obtain one in the future, there are still a number of ways in which you can actively participate. I have asked, on ASTP survey #2, for information regarding the interest in development of a

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microcomputer network. Such a network would not only allow individuals to propose and collect data on their own topics of interest, but to solicit collaborators and obtain data in a format whereby the micro can do the analysis or the micro can dump the collected data onto a large mainframe for special programs and the study brought to completion. While we will try to offer all the possible hardware and software suggestions so that micros can talk to micros if necessary, it should be appreciated that standard formats of data presentation can be achieved on already developed commercial software eliminating the need to support programmers and expensive consultants. The programs and data format can easily be mailed on floppy discs to individuals who can return them to the original investigator. The era of control of data by the mainframe unit is over, in my opinion, and there are a number of readily available ways to exchange information, build data bases and hold conferences using the electronic medium. One of the immediately useful outcomes of a microcomputer may be the management of your own program's clinical information data base which can make daily life easier and more interesting for you. I hope that these instruments can be utilized to allow a large number of collaborations and that these collaborations will be initiated by members who have bright ideas and need more data than will be readily available at their own center.

Finally, I look forward to seeing a good membership turnout at our next annual meeting in June in Chicago, held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the American Society of

Transplant Surgeons. We encourage as many of you as possible to plan to attend both of these meetings.

I would also remind the membership that we will have a joint symposium with the CDTF next December prior to the ASN meeting in Washington. It would be well to remember that our role in the CDTF will be helped if those of you who have not yet joined the Council on Kidney Disease and Hypertension of the Kidney Foundation would do so. They are very supportive of our Society and we can play a greater role in their Organization as well as establish our own identity as physicians and scientists who are interested in furthering the goals of transplantation of organs and tissues.

I am very pleased to announce the chairs of our Society's committees which have been selected by the Executive Council. The chairpersons are: T.B. Strom, Nominations; P. Lundin, Patient Care and Standards; R.J. Glasscock, Scientific Studies; P. Adams, Membership; and R. Ettenger, Program and Symposia. As soon as the individuals selected to serve on these committees have agreed to participate, we will present the entire lineup. We have made every effort to provide wide geographic distribution and participation in these, our first committees, and we hope that over the years everyone will be contributing.

Best wishes to all for 1983.

R. D. Guttman, M.D.

YOUNG INVESTIGATOR'S AWARDS

The American Society of Transplant Physicians will offer five awards to assist young investigators to attend the 1983 Annual Meeting.

Four Awards will be offered of \$250.00 each. A fifth award, The Upjohn Young Investigator's Award, totaling \$500.00, will be offered for the most outstanding paper by a young investigator; the winner to be announced at the Annual Business Meeting that will follow immediately after the Scientific Session on June 1, 1983.

There will, therefore, be notification of five travel awards (\$250.00 each) made at the time of the final program announcement on or about April 15, 1983.

To be eligible for an award an individual must either be in training in a program with which an ASTP member is associated, or must be an ASTP member within two years of having completed his/her training.

Awards will be made only to those individuals whose abstracts have been accepted for presentation. Awardees will be selected from the eligible applicants on the basis of the degree of excellence of their abstracts as judged by the Program Committee.

To apply for one of these awards the applicant must submit a letter of request for consideration together with the abstract. In the case of a trainee the letter must be co-signed by an ASTP member.

MEETINGS OF INTEREST

May 16-19, 1983 First International Symposium On Cyclosporine	Westin Galleria Hotel Houston, Texas
June 1, 1983 Second Annual Meeting American Society of Transplant Physicians	Drake Hotel Chicago, Illinois
June 2-3, 1983 Ninth Annual Meeting American Society of Transplant Surgeons	Drake Hotel Chicago
October 25-28, 1983 Second International Symposium on High Technology Developments in Immunobiology and Transplantation	Marine Biology Laboratories Woods Hole, Maine
November 30-December 4, 1983 National Kidney Foundation Annual Meeting	Sheraton-Washington Washington, D.C.
December 3-4, 1983 Tenth Annual Clinical Dialysis and Transplant Forum	Sheraton-Washington Washington, D.C.
December 4-6, 1983 Sixteenth Annual Meeting American Society of Nephrology	Sheraton-Washington Washington, D.C.

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

Name of meeting: Second International Symposium on:
"High Technology Developments in Immunobiology
and Transplantation"

Date: October 25 - 28, 1983

Place: Marine Biological Laboratories
Woods Hole, Maine

General Themes: Flow Cytometry
Image Analysis
Gene Cloning
Cell Clones and Their Products

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It is our hope that this initial issue of the ASTP's Newsletter has been of value to the members. We will certainly welcome comments.

We would also ask that members feel free to send us the names of any colleagues who might wish to receive future issues.

Ken Goodman