OPTN Histocompatibility Committee
Meeting Summary
August 12, 2025
Webex Meeting

Gerald Morris, MD, Chair
Kelley Hitchman, PhD, MS, Vice Chair

Introduction

The Histocompatibility Committee ("Committee") met via WebEx teleconference on 08/12/2025 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. HLA Table Update – OPTN Board
2. ABO Project Planning – DAC Feedback
3. HLA Critical Discrepancy Workgroup Discussion
4. Additional Discussion

The following is a summary of the Committee's discussions.

1. HLA Table Update – OPTN Board

No decisions were made.

Summary of Discussion:

The Vice Chair discussed feedback that was received by the OPTN Board regarding the 2025 HLA Table Update. She mentioned that the Board had questions around unacceptable antigen listing. She clarified that this proposal takes the p-groups that were added to policy in the Update HLA Equivalency Tables, 2023 and assigns them to their DP epitope equivalences.

2. ABO Project Planning

No decisions were made.

Summary of Discussion:

The Chair presented the following feedback from the Data Advisory Committee's review of the *Clarify ABO Typing and Subtyping Determination* project:

- The Data Advisory Committee has interest in seeing further surveys of OPO on feasibility of implementing ABO genotyping requirements.
- The DAC asked about cost implications for HLA labs and general labs.
    - The Histocompatibility Chair clarified that ABO genotyping takes around the same amount of time at HLA typing.
- A DAC member requested the Histocompatibility Committee to consider if a full 90-day transfusion timeline is necessary.
    - The 90-day transfusion timeline was previously determined in a Committee call and is rooted in current ABO transfusion practices.

- The Histocompatibility Chair mentioned that the DAC suggested a radio button for the 90-day timeline when collecting donor information. This additional button would ask whether the donor has had a transfusion in the last 90-days: "Yes," "no," or "unknown."
- Overall, the DAC endorsed the project, and the proposal will be heard next at the Policy Oversight Committee.

3. HLA Critical Discrepancy Workgroup Discussion

No decisions were made.

Summary of Discussion:

The Chair gave an overview of the HLA Critical Discrepancy Workgroup. He mentioned that the workgroup meets once a quarter to review critical discrepancy reports containing potential critical discrepancies reported in the OPTN Computer System Database. Discrepancies are reviewed and elevated for further review if needed. The Chair mentioned that the six-month monitoring report for *Require Reporting of HLA Critical Discrepancies and Crossmatching Events to the OPTN* is not yet available, meaning that mandatory critical discrepancy reporting has not yet been evaluated by the workgroup.

Staff mentioned that the workgroup may present information to the full committee in aggregate. Several members volunteered to join the workgroup.

4. Additional Discussion

No decisions were made.

Summary of Discussion:

A member asked the status of the serological HLA antigen designations and the role of the Committee in this work. The Chair responded that the Committee is still able to propose policies they see fit and appropriate, and the new serology may not be ready right away for policy development.

Another member added that high-resolution typing is currently available for deceased donors. The Chair said that in terms of project work, it is important to balance cost and benefit with proposing projects. He added that there are not many labs doing high resolution typing in real time. The member suggested that potential discrepancies may occur due to allele typing results generated by real-time PCR. Further, the member suggested that high-resolution typing can place donors more quickly.

A member said that as labs move into high-resolution typing, the Committee could develop guidance for data input. The Chair responded that this aligns with rationale behind adding the p-groups to the HLA Table Updates, as some of high-resolution alleles may not have defined serologic equivalents by World Health Organization. Therefore, labs can defer down to the p-groups. The Chair continued that it could be helpful for the Committee to create a guidance document for when it is appropriate for labs to call an allele. A member said he did not think it is within OPTN purview to create such a guidance document, and that this should be left up to ASHI (American Society for Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics).

Upcoming Meeting

- Sept 9, 2025

Attendance

- **Committee Members**
  - Michael Gautreaux
  - John Lunz
  - Ryan Pena
  - Darryl Nethercot
  - Bobbie Rhodes-Clark
  - Crystal Usenko
  - Helene McMurray
  - Gerald Morris
  - Dave Pinelli
  - Jerome Saltarrelli
  - Qingyong Xu
  - Kelley Hitchman
  - Laurine Bow
  - Tiffany Bratton
- **SRTR Staff**
  - Rajalingam Raja
- **UNOS Staff**
  - Jamie Panko
  - Amelia Deveraux
  - Matt Cafarella
  - Susan Tlusty
  - Thomas Dolan