

**OPTN Histocompatibility Committee
Meeting Summary
June 11, 2024
Webex Meeting**

**John Lunz, MD, Chair
Gerald Morris, MD, Vice Chair**

Introduction

The Histocompatibility Committee (“Committee”) met via WebEx teleconference on 06/11/2024 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. New Serological Nomenclature
2. Virtual Crossmatching Webinar Key Points

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

1. New Serological Nomenclature

No decisions were made.

Presentation Summary:

The Chair reiterated the Committee’s continued contribution towards aligning OPTN policy with the new World Health Organization (WHO) serological nomenclature for HLA antigens and alleles.

Summary of discussion:

A committee member mentioned the time needed to implement crosswalks between potential new serotypes. The Chair also considered how laboratories should deal with tracking and regulating unacceptable antigens, whether that be OPTN panel policies or laboratory reporting. A member replied that translating antigens to WHO serological equivalencies is valuable to create consistency, while another said a focus on retroactively translating serology could be a disservice to the movement towards molecular typing. A member stated that adding serology can only work with increased IT support, and asked the Committee what the priority should be – such as listing unacceptable antigens or creating a new nomenclature. The Chair added that a universal requirement for HLA typing labs would take time. The Chair also raised concern about the abilities of rapid typing kits in defining a string of alleles and crosswalking this to serotyping.

A member said that the Committee should make a table of the new serotypes to the old nomenclature. The Committee discussed the timeline of implementation. The Chair mentioned potential OPTN enforcement discretion due to possible significant changes, and a member supported educational communication of the changes.

Next steps:

The committee will continue discussion on this topic.

2. Virtual Crossmatching Webinar Key Points

No decisions were made.

Presentation Summary:

The Chair discussed the interest of the OPTN Expeditious Task Force to promote virtual crossmatching to increase efficiency of transplants. The Chair stated that the Committee is looking to hold a webinar on this topic to educate stakeholders on this topic. The webinar will cover definitions, structure of policies and bylaws, and recommendations from current guidance. The webinar will include data on virtual crossmatching utilization and comparisons of virtual and physical crossmatching. The webinar will also cover waitlist management and communications, such as those between transplant hospitals and histocompatibility labs. Lastly, the webinar will include an overview of current and upcoming lab tools that may help facilitate virtual crossmatching.

Summary of discussion:

The committee discussed that virtual crossmatching may not be universally applicable to all scenarios. A committee member stated that the webinar should clarify that virtual crossmatching does not need to be performed by the HLA director.

Next Steps:

Upcoming Meeting

- July 11, 2024

Attendance

- **Committee Members**
 - Qingyong Xu
 - Laurine Bow
 - John Lunz
 - Helen McMurray
 - Crystal Usenko
 - Amber Carriker
 - Omar Moussa
 - Roshini Abraham
 - Caroline Alquist
 - Julie Houp
 - Hermant Parekh
 - Andres Jaramillo
- **HRSA Representatives**
 - Jim Bowman
 - Marilyn Levi
- **SRTR Staff**
 - Katie Audette
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Thomas Dolan
 - Jamie Panko
 - Tamika Watkins
 - Susan Tlusty
 - Laura Schmitt
 - Amelia Devereaux
- **Other Attendees**
 - Manish Gandhi
 - Kelley Hitchman
 - Ryan Pena
 - Michael Gautreaux