

Minutes of Scandinavia Transplant Council of Representatives Meeting on May 15th 2007 at Rigshospitalet, Copenhagen, Denmark

1. Søren Schwarz Sørensen, Copenhagen, opened the meeting. Arnt Jakobsen, Oslo, welcomed the representatives.
2. Nils H. Persson, Malmö, was elected as chairman of the meeting. Jesper Melchior Hansen, Herlev, was elected as secretary. Lars Wennberg, Stockholm, and Annika Wolfbrandt, Göteborg, were elected as controllers of the minutes.
3. Additional points. Krister Höckerstedt, Helsinki, suggested that information around certification of transplant surgeons in Europe was to be given. Two invited visitors, Director Arie Oosterlee and Medical Director Axel Rahmel from Eurotransplant, were welcomed. Afterwards the representatives were presented (Attachment 1).
4. The minutes from 2006 were approved.
5. The chairman of Scandiatransplant, Arnt Jakobsen, Oslo, presented the extensive annual report for 2006 (Attachment 2). A few corrections to the numbers of organ transplant activities were pinpointed and will be changed in the data displayed on the web site. A thorough presentation was given of the finances at Scandiatransplant, the situation around the development of the new computer system, and the problems with the implementation of the EU-directive on tissue and cells (2004/23/EF). The board applied in 2006 for a grant from the Nordic Council of Ministers to support the development of the IT-system. A grant of DKK 400,000 has been received. The board has discussed applying for another grant at the end of 2007. The annual report was approved with applause. The report will be available on Scandiatransplants web site.
6. Election of Scandiatransplants board members and substitutes. Arnt Jakobsen, Oslo, was re-elected as chairman with applause. Lauri Kyllönen, Helsinki, Søren Schwartz Sørensen, Copenhagen, and Magnùs Bödvarsson, Iceland, were all re-elected as board members with applause.
7. Niels Grunnet, Scandiatransplant, Århus, presented the accounts and the financial balance for 2006. The account has been signed by all board members. On recommendation of the accountants the financial report was approved by the representatives.
8. The budget for 2007 was presented. There will be a deficit of DKK 436,000 due to expenses in development of the new computer system. Styrbjörn Friman, Göteborg, asked for a more thorough presentation of the expected expenses in the further development of the new computer system which was subsequently given by Frank Pedersen, Scandiatransplant, Århus. The budget proposal for 2008 was approved. The budget is based on the anticipation of a steady number of transplantations. If this number should be lower than anticipated, the possibility of charging the centers for the deficit based on the number of transplantations was approved by the representatives. This has been the practice during recent years.

9. Director Arie Oosterlee and Medical Director Axel Rahmel from Eurotransplant gave a presentation of their organisation. A lively debate around the pros and cons of the organ allocation rules in Scandiatransplant and Eurotransplant followed. No decisions of changes to the present set of rules were made.
10. Niels Grunnet, Scandiatransplant, Århus, reported on the activities of Scandiatransplant. The data are available on Scandiatransplants web site. Nils H. Persson, Malmö, suggested that all minutes of the Council of Representatives meeting should be added to the web site. This suggestion was approved.
11. Arnt Jakobsen, Oslo, presented the current status on development of the new computer system. An agreement with the IT department at Skejby sygehus has previously been signed and IT Skejby is project manager for the development of the new system. The IT company ORACLE and its Indian subcontractors together with Frank Pedersen and Christian Mondrup, Scandiatransplant Århus, are at present in the process of developing the new computer system. The IT company Miracle is used for acceptance testing. A thorough written report on the current status is included in the chairman's annual report (Attachment 2). An additional status report will be given by the chairman at the end of 2007.
12. Report from the Tissue Typers Group. Torbjørn Leivestad, Oslo, presented their report on the status for an acceptable mismatch programme for highly sensitized renal graft recipients (Attachment 3). The board has approved that the Tissue Typers Group continue with their work on trying to implement the acceptable mismatch program in Scandiatransplant. The representatives approved this decision.
13. Report from the Nordic Kidney Group. Lauri Kyllönen, Helsinki, gave a brief presentation. The fourth annual meeting was held in Copenhagen, November 2006. The minutes from this meeting will be available at Scandiatransplants web site.
14. Report from the Nordic Living Donor Database Group. Presented by Ole Öyen, Oslo. All centres have now been reporting baseline donor data for the database, but there are still problems with reporting of the follow up data. Nils H. Persson, Malmö, underlined that all centre previously have committed to reporting data.
15. Report from the Nordic Paediatric Renal Transplantation Study Group was given briefly by Søren Schwartz Sørensen, Copenhagen. No meeting had been held since the last Council meeting. The next meeting is to be held at Rigshospitalet in Copenhagen at September 26, 2007.
16. Report from the Nordic Liver Transplant Group. Krister Höckerstedt, Helsinki, gave a brief report. Details on the liver transplant activity are on the web site. It was mentioned that time spent on waiting list is decreasing in the Nordic countries.
17. The report from the Nordic Thoracic Transplant Study Group was given by Folke Nilsson, Göteborg. There have been held two meetings since the last Council meeting. Now the thoracic database includes 3400 patients with baseline data. A presentation of these data showing excellent results of heart and lung transplantation in Scandinavia was given at the International Society for Heart and Lung Transplantation Annual Meeting in San Francisco, April 2007. The Scandinavian results will continue to be represented as an annual report. There is still a problem

of patients dying while on a waiting list. It has been suggested that each centre could have some patients put on a high priority list.

18. The report from the Transplant Coordinator Group was given by K the Meyer, Oslo (Attachment 4). The Transplant Coordinator Group had sent a list of proposals to the board and representatives. It was approved by the board and representatives that one transplant coordinator can apply for membership of the International Transplant Coordinators Society. The policy for covering expenses connected to transportation of retrieval teams remains unchanged. Thus, an invoice of expenses can be sent to the receiving centre. The coordinators suggested that they should be represented in Scandiatransplants organ groups. It was decided that all organ groups could invite one of the local coordinators from the hosting centre to their meeting. A more formal decision is postponed for the next Council meeting, and the suggestion must be discussed in each organ group before this meeting. The last problem regarding the ELTR requirement of notification of macro- or micro visceral steatosis in the deceased organ donor form will be discussed further in the liver group.
19. Report from the reference group on prevention of transmission of infectious diseases from organ donors to recipients (Attachment 5). The report was presented by Vanda Friman, Goteborg. New guidelines for prevention of transmission of infectious diseases from organ donors to recipients have been submitted to the representatives. The representatives have some suggestions for rephrasing of the text. The reference group will finish the work and further discussions should take place in the organ groups. It will be decided at the next board meeting whether the report should be placed on Scandiatransplants web site.
20. Report on pancreatic islet transplantation was presented by Gunnar Tufveson, Uppsala. The Nordic collaboration on pancreatic islet cell-transplantation is working well. The last year however, provided a few set-backs. A randomized study on the use of dextranulphate in the preservation procedure has been delayed. The use of Roche collagenase for preparation of islets has been stopped since March 2007 because of the use of cow brains in the production. The use of collagenase from a new supplier has been tested and seems to work. The collaboration has further studies on islet preservation in the pipeline. Finally, it was stated that Denmark, at present, does not procure pancreas for donation.
21. The Nordic Transplant Committee. A report was presented by Arnt Jakobsen, Oslo. The board of Scandiatransplant meets once a year with representatives from the National Health Authorities from the five Nordic countries. The meeting in 2006 was held in Helsinki. The meeting in 2007 will be in Oslo. The minutes of the 2006 meeting are included as Attachment 6.
22. International cooperation activities by Arnt Jakobsen, Oslo.
 - a. OEO. Representatives from the individual organ exchange organisations in Europe meet once a year. A common contract of organ exchange between the organisations has been worked out.
 - b. Council of Europe. Per Pfeffer, Oslo, reported from the Expert Committee of the Council of Europe. Per Pfeffer has been elected as co-chairman of the committee. At the moment it seems that the committee should work as a think tank, providing general recommendations to the politicians with a focus on safety and quality in organ transplantation.

23. Scandiatransplant travel sponsorship 2007. Travel grants were presented by Niels Grunnet, Scandiatransplant, Århus. All applications which fulfil the application rules were supported. Marko Lempien, Helsinki received 10,000. DKK. Martin Silverborn, Göteborg, received 10,000 DKK. Juha Peräsaari, Elina Honkavaara and Kaija Vilen, Helsinki, received a total of 8,100 DKK. Katri Haimila and Pirjo Vartiainen, Helsinki, received a total of 6,720 DKK.
24. Other matters. Krister Höckerstedt, Helsinki, provided information on the certification of transplant surgeons (liver, pancreas, and kidney) in EU, which seems to include both a “list of knowledge” and an exam. Established transplant surgeons can apply for certification within a 2 year period without taking the new exam.
25. The next Council of representatives meeting will be held in Oslo the 14th of May 2008, at 13:00 -17:00. Final remarks were given by Nils H. Persson and Arnt Jakobsen who thanked the representatives for their participation.

Copenhagen May 16th 2007

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Attendants in Scandinaviatransplant Council of Representatives Meeting on may 15th 2007 at Rigshospitalet, Copenhagen, Denmark

Helsinki: Jorma Sipponen
Hannu Jalanko
Kristen Höckerstedt
Kaija Salmela
Jussi Merenmies

Stockholm: Lars Wennberg

Uppsala: Gunnar Tufveson

Malmö Nils H. Persson

Lund: Lena Mared

Göteborg: Styrbjörn Friman
Lars Bäckman
Lennart Rydberg
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Oslo: Øystein Bentsdal
Torbjørn Leivestad
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København: Martin Egfjord
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Herlev: Jesper Melchior Hansen

Odense:

Århus: Lars Ilkjær
Øyvind Østraat

Island: Margrét B. Andrésdóttir