Travel Grant Report Form

Name and origin of applicants
Carina Lund Sørensen, Transplant coordinator and study nurse
Copenhagen University Hospital, Denmark

Purpose granted
The purpose is to visit five Scandinavian Liver Transplant Centers. Study for the purpose of collecting blood samples, helping the local study nurses with registration in the database, validation the CFR, training new study nurses and other logistics of the study.

Amount granted
36,000 DKK

Time and place of visit
12.03.18 – 13.03.18 Tartu DSA-meeting in relation to the NLTG meeting
15.06.18 YSDS Biobank
20.06.18 Gothenburg Study visit + Blood samples
11.12.18 YSDS Biobank
17.12.18 Helsinki Study visit for 2 persons

Transport of Blood samples
11.01.18 Tubes for Helsinki
02.02.18 Tubes for Stockholm
09.04.18 Tubes for Stockholm and Helsinki
15.06.18 Samples from Stockholm
28.06.18 Tubes for Stockholm
Report
The overall purpose of the Study is to evaluate impact of donor specific antibodies (DSA) on all-cause mortality, rejection, biliary complications and fibrosis.

Our primary objective is to investigate if DSA, both pre-formed and de novo, affect survival and allograft loss. For patients diagnosed with HLA antibodies a standard Luminex single antigen IgG analysis and a Luminex C1q single antigen assay will be performed.

Our secondary objective is to investigate if donor specific antibodies, both pre-formed and de novo, increase the risk of allograft rejection, biliary complications and fibrosis. All liver biopsies will be stained by C4d and a DSA analysis will be undertaken.

The visits at the various transplantation sites were aimed at collecting biobank blood tests, as well as reviewing local CRFs and helping for database registration, help for start-up in Helsinki.

As the biobank stock grows larger and larger, there has been pressure on the consignments, which has required assistance from the courier company to handle this, due to the large amount of dry ice and sample.

At the end of January 2019, the number of included patients is at least 584 patients in the DSA Study.

144 in Gothenburg
125 in Stockholm
38 in Oslo (missing the latest update)
50 in Helsinki (missing the latest update)

Evaluation
The Scandiatransplant Travel Grant has helped to ensure the logistics of the research project and made it possible to meet across Transplant Centers and discuss the Study and local experiences. These meetings have been important to maintain the quality of the Study. I learned that due to the large amount of blood samples at each site it is no longer possible for me to collect the samples, because of the airline company rules on dry ice handling. This lesson forced me to use a Handling Agency for blood samples collection.

I wish to thank Scandiatransplant for the opportunity to travel across the Liver Transplant Centers.