



Travel Grant Report Form

Name and origin of applicants

[State name and origin of applicants]

Jouni Lauronen

Finnish Red Cross Blood Service, tissue typing laboratory

Purpose granted

[State purpose of the study granted in the application]

Grant for benchmarking visit to Barcelona Hospital Clinic's tissue typing laboratory and transplant coordinator team

Amount granted

[Amount granted in DKK]

15,000 DKK

Time and place of visit

[State time and place of visit]

30.9.-3.10.2013, Barcelona, Spain

Report

[Report of the visit/study – 300 words]

We (Jouni Lauronen, medical advisor, Juha Peräsaari, technical supervisor) went to visit tissue typing laboratory, transplant coordinator team and transplant clinician in Barcelona, Spain on 30.9.-3.10.13.

First day we visited tissue typing laboratory at Hospital Clinic (host Doctor Jaume Martorell). We discussed all tissue typing protocols with emphasis on solid organ transplantations, and compared to those of Barcelona to our own methods. In addition, we had a chance to see laboratory facilities and meet personnel. We also analyzed the data storage and transferring systems of Barcelona.

We were impressed on Barcelona team's way to use virtual crossmatching during kidney allocation process. Also co-operation between clinician and laboratory doctor were more intensive during on call duties than what we have in Finland. This was, to our mind, for the best of the patient and should also be considered here in Finland.

On a second day we met Hospital Clinic's transplantation coordinator team members (Dr David Peredes-Zapata and Dr Angel Ruiz). We learned that they have quite similar methods to operate on donor/transplantation coordinator than what we have in Finland but some differences were also observed. Personnel were physicians while we have nurses. In addition, Hospital Clinic's transplantation coordinators work a lot as donor coordinators. Here in Finland donor coordinators are currently rare but this is changing.

Finally we met transplant nephrologists Dr Oriol Bestard at the Hospital de Bellvitge. He told us the other side on co-operation between laboratory and clinician. We also had discussion concerning use of different laboratory findings for clinical decision making. We learned that Barcelona had two weeks ago performed first ABO incompatible kidney transplantation and they were excited about this possibility. As is current interpretation, ABO incompatibility is considered in Barcelona less harmful compared to pre-existing donor specific HLA antibodies.

Evaluation

[Personal evaluation and "lesson learned"]

Visit was very fruitful and will help us to develop our operational procedures in Finland and this may also give some ideas other Scandinavian laboratories when issues are compared during our annual visits. Especially means to use tissue typing laboratory's expertise including solid phase HLA antibody analysis and virtual crossmatch for kidney allocation is interesting and needs more thorough consideration. Also data storage and transferring systems of Barcelona teams were impressive.
