

Copenhagen May 9th, 2023

The Nordic Kidney Group (NKG), Scandiatransplant. Report 2022-2023

The annual NKG meeting took place at Kastrup Airport on 22nd November 2022. This was the first face-to-face meeting in NKG since the Covid pandemic

Minutes from the meeting can be found on:

http://www.scandiatransplant.org/members/nkg/Minutes_NKGmeeting_16th_November_2022_Copenhagen.pdf

The annual NKG data report was presented and can be found on:

http://www.scandiatransplant.org/members/nkg/NKG_annual_report_1995_2021.pptx

As usual group activity between the annual meetings has been high, not at least due to constant inflow of patients for the STEP (paired exchange) and STAMP (acceptable mismatch) programs. The evaluation for the STAMP program is a continuous effort made by Tissue Typers that are members of the STAMP committee. STEP is led by the STEP committee together with Ilse Weinrich from the Scandiatransplant office in Aarhus. The STEP now includes all centers from Denmark, Finland, Norway, and Sweden. Four yearly match runs are performed each time resulting in several transplantations with organ exchange from living donors between centers in the participating countries. Logistically these donations/transplantations are challenging, but successful due to the fact that the centers are used to close clinical cooperation through Scandiatransplant.

A group of patients included in the STAMP program have a transplantability score so low that statistically they will never receive an organ offer. At the 2021 meeting it was decided to explore the possibility for a cooperation with Eurotransplant on these patients. The first phase of this was an exchange of sera to Eurotransplant for evaluation. This work is in progress and results are expected to be presented in 2023.

In 2022 NKG was approached by ESOT in relation to their effort for promoting transplantation of highly immunized patients. Planned by NKG, with participation of one transplant clinician and one transplant immunologist from each NKG center, an ESOT arranged workshop on transplantation of highly immunized patients was held in Kastrup Airport, Copenhagen on March 17th, 2023. The workshop was very successful and fruitful.

In 2022 the second publication on the STAMP program was published in the American Journal of Transplantation (PMID 36030513).

Work on publications of results from the STEP program and from ABO incompatible transplantation is in progress.

The next NKG meeting will be held at Kastrup Airport on November 15th, 2023

Søren Schwartz Sørensen

Chairman of the Nordic Kidney Group, Scandiatransplant