

## Nordic Pancreas and Islet Transplant group



**Date:** 14<sup>th</sup> October 2025

**Location:** Digital meeting with Zoom

### Participants:

*Torbjörn Lundgren surgeon Stockholm, Hanne Scholz Islet lab Oslo, Bengt Gustafsson surgeon Gothenburg, Olle Korsgren Islet lab Uppsala, Kristine Fasting surgeon Oslo, Christina Andreasson coordinator Uppsala, Bengt von Zur-Mühlen nephrologist Uppsala, Anna Högvall research nurse Uppsala, Lydia Junebjörk research nurse Uppsala, Amir Sedigh surgeon Uppsala, Janis Jushinskis surgeon Riga, Oleg Slivca surgeon Malmö. Monica Olofsson Storro coordinator Oslo. Marko Lempinen surgeon Helsinki, Marku Murreste surgeon Tartu, Lara Aygen Øzbay nephrologist Århus, Anne Boserup Scandiatransplant and Ilse Duus Weinrich Scandiatransplant.*

#### 1. Election of chairmen and secretary for the meeting

Torbjörn Lundgren welcomed participants and was elected chairperson for the meeting. Bengt von Zur-Mühlen was elected secretary.

#### 2. Introduction of participants

#### 3. Agenda was approved

#### 4. Previous protocol – 8<sup>th</sup> April 2025

In the “to do list” reminder to send Pancreas protocol to Torbjörn Lundgren. E-mail from Eggerman – still to be answered. The minutes was approved.

#### 5. Short report from centers on advances and problems since the last meeting.

**Stockholm** – restarted the pancreas program after changes in staff, patients on WL, no tx yet. 1 allo islet in May

**Uppsala** – 1 SPK, 1 allo islet, 1 auto islet, short waiting list

**Gothenburg:** Higher production with pancreas with 13 SPK, 1 PTA, 1 PAK (1 multivisceral). No thrombosis, no mortality, no graft loss, 2 pancreatitis, some early treated rejection

**Malmö** 2 SPK one with reop for bleeding.

**Helsinki** 23 SPK, reoperations due to bleeding, fungal infection with VAC, an case with serious hypertension. Approximately 10 on pancreas waiting list. No islets but 3 on waiting list.

**Oslo** 2 PTA, 4 SPK, one severe bleeding with open thrombectomy, no graft loss. One stenosis of porta vein-stented. One fungal infection. 1 allo islet. 3 on waiting list. 3 auto islet.

Tartu 1 SPK well function

Riga planning to start the program

| Population        | 1968469 | 1241223 | 2904705   | 6114397  |          |           |          |           | 10596652  | 5606944  | 5650325   | 389444    | 1369995  | 29727757              |
|-------------------|---------|---------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------------------|
| Transplant center | Aarhus  | Odense  | København |          | Skåne    | Göteborg  | Uppsala  | Stockholm |           | Oslo     | Helsinki  | Reykjavik | Tartu    |                       |
| <b>Pancreas</b>   |         |         |           |          |          |           |          |           |           |          |           |           |          |                       |
| DBD donation      |         |         | 3         | 3        | 2        | 15        | 1        | 0         | 18        | 8        | 21        |           | 1        | 51                    |
| DCD donation      |         |         | 0         | 0        | 0        | 1         | 0        | 0         | 1         | 0        | 0         |           | 0        | 1                     |
| <b>Total</b>      |         |         | <b>3</b>  | <b>3</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>16</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>0</b>  | <b>19</b> | <b>8</b> | <b>21</b> |           | <b>1</b> | <b>52</b>             |
| PMP               |         |         |           | 0,49     |          |           |          |           | 1,79      | 1,43     | 3,72      |           | 0,73     | 1,75                  |
| <b>Islet</b>      |         |         |           |          |          |           |          |           |           |          |           |           |          | tel:2%2016%201%200%20 |
| DBD donation      |         |         |           |          | 0        | 0         | 1        | 1         | 2         | 1        | 0         |           |          | 3                     |
| DCD donation      |         |         |           |          | 0        | 0         | 0        | 0         | 0         | 0        | 0         |           |          | 0                     |
| <b>Total</b>      |         |         |           |          | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b>  | <b>1</b> | <b>1</b>  | <b>2</b>  | <b>1</b> | <b>0</b>  |           |          | <b>3</b>              |
| PMP               |         |         |           |          |          |           |          |           | 0,19      | 0,18     | 0,00      |           |          | 0,10                  |

## 6. Are all pancreases suitable used for pancreas transplantation or Islet isolation.

Christina Andreasson made a report why a pancreas is not used for islet isolation from the local Uppsala registry (not YASWA). 40 accepted for islet isolation.



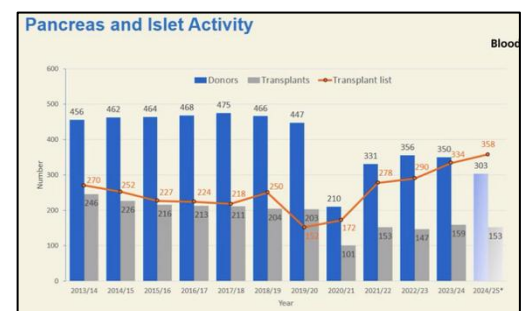
The islet isolation labs in the Network (Uppsala and Oslo) have no on-call system during weekends and holidays. The cost of such system cannot be justified since the overall activity of the years has declined significantly. Thus, islet isolation outside regular working hours is based on the isolation teams willing and available to participate. There is no suitable box in YASWA to register why a pancreas not is offered for islet isolation.

**Decision:** Improve YASWA with a list of causes and reinforce coordinator registration.

## 7. Pancreas allocation in the UK

Professor Gabriel Oniscu transplant surgeon, invited speaker. Newly appointed head of transplant department in Stockholm. He was previously the director of the Edinburgh Transplant Centre in UK. He gave a talk on the UK experience and lessons learn from the Pancreas Allocation Scheme for Whole Organ and Islet Transplantation.

In the UK there are 7 islet centers and 8 pancreas centers. In 2010 a national donated pancreas allocation system was introduced for solid organ and islet transplants. Point



system with waiting time, time on dialysis, HLA immunization, donor < 25 years not offered to islets, DCD and DBD offered equal, BMI > 31 not pancreas (see table)

The scheme has shortened waiting time and increased number of islets without a decrease in pancreas. No difference in outcomes. Islets showed better HbA1c and lower hypoglycemic events.

Prof. Oniscu and prof. Korsgren advocates for a similar system to be adapted and introduced within ScandiTransplant. This has been an ongoing discussion for many years and one suggestion was to start a working group that could look into a national system in Sweden as a first attempt but with the aim to implement it for all later. Ilse Duus Weinrich can do a simulation with historical data when there is a scheme.

**Decision:** A working group was established with the participants of; Torbjörn Lundgren, Olle Korsgren, Gabriel Oniscu, Johan Nordström, Oleg Slivca and Christina Andreasson.

## 8. Islet studies

**Hypoimmune islets – the first in human** investigator initiated study showing survival of transplanted allogeneic islets intramuscular without any immunosuppression was published in NEJM in August 2025 (N Engl J Med. 2025 Sep 4;393(9):887-894).

**Forward trial (Vertex-880-101)** – allogeneic stem cell-derived islet-cell therapy (discussed in detail in previous meetings). Results from the first 14 participants has been published in NEJM (N Engl J Med. 2025 Sep 4;393(9):858-868).

**Short discussion** – these studies could pave the way for future approaches that integrate an unlimited islet source (stem cell-derived islets) with hypoimmune strategies as a potential path forward for beta cell replacement for type 1 diabetes (see editorial N Engl J Med. 2025 Sep 4;393(9):917-921).

## 9. Nordic results – pancreas transplantation

Johan Nordström and Bengt Gustafsson would like to propose a joint project to summarize and analyze “The Nordic Experience for solid pancreas transplantation”. An outline of parameters to be included was suggested but will be decided later after discussion with all participating centers. There can be a problem to share data across some borders. This can be solved by entering and extracting data for the study from YASWA. Possibly new fields for entry could be added to YASWA if the final study protocol includes data not included there yet.

**Decision:** Johan Nordström and Bengt Gustafsson will initiate the study and study group, take care of applications etc. Tartu, Malmö, Stockholm, Uppsala, Oslo and Finland already expressed their willingness to join, provided that all regulatory requirements are followed.

| Factor                 | Level                               | Points                        |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| HLA A, B & DR mismatch | 0 to 4 HLA mismatches               | 730                           |
|                        | 5 to 6 HLA mismatches               | 0                             |
| Waiting time           | Vascularised and first islet grafts | days <sup>2</sup> /365        |
|                        | Second islet graft                  | 365 + days <sup>2</sup> /15   |
| Sensitisation          |                                     | cRP <sup>3</sup> /1000        |
| Dialysis Points        | Dialysis at listing                 | 180                           |
|                        | Pre-emptive listing                 | 0                             |
| Travel time (DBD)      | Closest three centres               | 365                           |
|                        | Other/ islet patient                | 0                             |
| (DCD)                  | Closest centre                      | 10,000                        |
|                        | Next two closest centres            | 5,000                         |
|                        | Other/ islet patient                | 0                             |
| Donor BMI              | 22 or less                          | Whole islet +730              |
|                        | 23-25                               | -365                          |
|                        | 26-28                               | 0                             |
|                        | 29-31                               | -365                          |
|                        | 32 or over                          | -730                          |
| Donor-Recip age match  |                                     | -age match <sup>2</sup> /13.9 |



**10. Study - Fungal prophylaxis**

No news

**11. Replacement of the Cobe system**

The Cobe 2991 cell processor system used in the islet isolation are as previous withdrawn from the market by the end of 2025. Ongoing validation program for using another system is started and preliminary results will be reported at the EPITA symposium in January 2026 (link [Esot-Epita-symposium-2026](#)).

**12. Waiting list and registries**

Medscinet has ended its function for NIR database. The NICS database will continue to host the islet isolation laboratory data for Uppsala and Oslo. Importantly, the existing NIR data is not lost; however future registrations should now be performed in YASWA.

Action: Autologous islet cell transplantations must also be registered in YASWA.

**13. Next meeting**

April 14th 2026, afternoon – digital meeting (Teams).

**Secretary for the meeting**

**Chairman for the meeting**



*Torbjorn Lundgren*

**Bengt von Zur-Mühlen**

**Torbjörn Lundgren**

| TO DO LIST                                                                             |                                                            |  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| Torbjörn Lundgren, Gabriel Oniscu, Johan Nordström<br>Oleg Slivca Christina Andreasson | Working group – national allocation                        |  |
| Christina Andreasson Ilse Duus Weinrich Monica Olofsson Storrö                         | List to YASWA why pancreas is not used for islet isolation |  |
| Johan Nordström Bengt Gustafsson                                                       | The Nordic Experience - publication                        |  |
| Torbjörn Lundgren                                                                      | Change from Zoom to Teams                                  |  |
| Torbjörn Lundgren                                                                      | Decide date for next meeting                               |  |