



June 2011

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To the members of AECVP

Dear colleagues,

This spring has been marked by two important meetings on allograft pathology. The 31st meeting of the International Society for Heart and Lung Transplantation (ISHLT) held in San Diego in April 2011 had several sessions and a pre-meeting symposium devoted to the pathology of antibody-mediated rejection (AMR). A few weeks before this symposium, a slide survey was organized by A Angelini and G Berry using digitalized H&E and immunohistochemistry-labeled slides from multicenter endomyocardial biopsies (EMB). In the same field, the 11th Banff conference on allograft pathology was organized in Paris in June. The message from these meetings is that the pathology of AMR in the cardiac graft is now better comprehended [see this paper "The ISHLT working formulation for pathologic diagnosis of antibody-mediated rejection in heart transplantation: evolution and current status (2005-2011) J Heart Lung Transplant. 2011 Jun;30(6):601-11]. The diagnosis of AMR in the heart can be based or at least strongly supported by EMB. However the weight of C4d deposits in the diagnosis of AMR is challenged and C4d positivity is no more a dogma. The cardiac dysfunction is no more a criterion for the diagnosis of AMR. Furthermore, subclinical AMR and its role in the development of cardiac allograft vasculopathy are in vogue. Other potential

markers of AMR (CD68, C3d, endothelial markers, HLA-DR...) are debated. The entity named "mixed

humoral and cellular rejection” is under evaluation. In parallel the detection and the fine characterization (specificity and titers) of antibodies (anti-HLA specific or not of the donor, anti-endothelial, autoantibodies, complement-fixing antibodies...) are major indicators of AMR. The role of AMR in lung transplantation is not so clear, mainly because lung biopsy difficulties are hampering this diagnosis : however promising data suggest a role in lung graft dysfunction and in BOS.

Our next appointment will be the 23rd European Congress of Pathology in Helsinki, Finland (August 27th-September 1st, 2011), where we will have several interesting sessions: a short course on vasculitis (2.5 hours), a symposium on updating cardiovascular pathology (2.5 hours), a slide seminar on vasculitis (2.5 hours), and a business meeting including a quiz diagnostic case session (1.5 hours). The next board meeting will be held during this meeting.

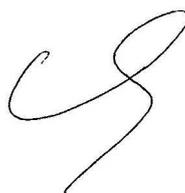
Concerning our educational role, now in association with our North American colleagues of the Society for Cardiovascular Pathology, we develop consensus documents to update and standardize the knowledge in cardiovascular diseases. The paper on EMB will be soon published and a paper on the surgical pathology of the aorta has been designed.

Before I wish you cheering or exciting holidays, I would like to engage you to actively participate in our activities.

See you soon in Helsinki.

Patrick Bruneval

President of AECVP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the name 'P. Bruneval' in a cursive style.