



PREFACE

The French Speaking Society of Transplantation and “Transplantation Sans Frontières”

Ten years ago, on December 15, 2000, in Geneva (Switzerland), the French Society of Transplantation (Société Française de Transplantation) became the French-speaking Society of Transplantation (Société Francophone de Transplantation = SFT), thanks to the pioneering work of Professor Henri Kreis (Paris, France) and Professor Jean-Michel Dubernard (Lyon, France) as well as Professor Pierre Daloz (Montreal, Canada), Professor Philippe Morel (Geneva, Switzerland), Professor Yves Vanrenterghem (Eurotransplant Past President, Leuven, Belgium) and Professor Jean-Paul Squiflet (Brussels/Liege, Belgium). Together, they proposed to the French-speaking medical and paramedical community to extend the SFT activity out of France, giving access to scientific meetings and congresses, and sharing data and advances in the field of organ transplantation. Therefore, the annual SFT congress moved from Geneva (2000) to Paris (2001), Montreal (2002), Paris (2003), Brussels (2004), Tours (2005), Tunis (2006), Lyon (2007), Québec (2008), Nice (2009), and again Geneva (2010). Thus, the French-speaking community includes France and many pleomorphic entities, regions, provinces, countries with several cultural backgrounds and multilingual diversities: Belgium, Luxembourg, Switzerland, Québec, Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria, and other French-speaking African countries, Balkans, as well as Viet Nam, Oman, and even until Brazil.

On May 2008, following all International and National Transplantation Societies, the SFT implemented into its by-laws the Declaration of Istanbul on organ trafficking and transplant tourism.¹ That was followed by the World Health Assembly Resolution 63.22 on human organ and tissue transplantation.² The SFT has urged French and French-speaking member states to implement these guiding principles, to promote the development of systems for altruistic voluntary non-remunerated donation by deceased and living donors, to oppose the seeking of financial gain, to promote a system of transparent allocation of organs, as well as to improve the safety and efficacy of the process. One of the many roles of SFT seeks to stimulate national and multinational authorities to provide an organization and coordination of donation and transplantation activities, to collaborate in data collection as

well as to facilitate national and international traceability of materials of human origin for transplantation.

Lastly, and more recently, the European Union (EU) has proposed the 2009–2015 action plan followed by a directive dated July 7, 2010.^{3–5} The 10 priority EU actions are divided into 3 stages. The first objective is to increase organ availability by promoting cadaveric donation by employing transplant coordinators and quality control programs, by favoring living donation, and by increasing public awareness while facilitating transborder exchanges. The second objective is to favor efficient accessible transplantation organizations while strengthening state modes to achieve agreements between regions and organs exchange between countries. The third and last objective is to improve the quality and security of organ transplantation by evaluating results and accrediting donation and transplantation programs.

But not all French-speaking regions and/or countries belonging to the EU. Therefore, and for above reasons, the SFT has decided to change its by-laws to create 2 sections: the French section and the French-speaking section, namely “Transplantation Sans Frontières” (TSF). In both sections, specific problems can be debated without interfering with the rules. The French Agency of biomedicine (ABM) which are only valid for French Transplantation Centers. For the Xth SFT Congress, the second in Geneva, the SFT launched its first TSF symposium. It was the right time to update current practices in the field of organ donation and transplantation among the French-speaking regions and countries of Western Europe (Belgium, France and Switzerland) which already have close collaborations. It was also the right time to find ways to collaborate and exchange knowledge between the SFT, the ABM, the WHO and these French Speaking Countries. The following articles describe the TSF symposium.

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