

NIVI Travel Grant 2012

Report of the American Transplant Congress, June 2012, Boston, USA

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The American Transplant Congress Meeting was held in June 2-6, 2012 in Boston. This congress is designed for physicians, surgeons, scientists, nurses, organ procurement personnel and pharmacists who are interested in the clinical and research aspects of solid organ and tissue transplantation. The American Transplant congress gives an overview of both clinical and basic research in transplantation field. Besides the already often discussed topics of renal transplantation, there was a lot of attention on new topics such as stem cell transplantation and islet transplantation.

The congress started with different pre-meeting symposia on the 2nd of June, including symposia about essential immunology in transplantation, infection in transplantation, and outcomes of different organ transplantations. On the second day of the congress, there were plenary sessions about immunology in cancer research. Furthermore, there were parallel sessions about microvascular injury and repair, immunosuppressive therapy after transplantation, and donor issues. Most interestingly, there was also a trainee program for PhD students about the science, the art and the allure of transplantation. On the third day, the plenary session involved the mechanisms of antibody action and the parallel sessions included topics such as kidney complications after transplantation, regulatory T-cells, and islet transplantation. On the fourth day, the discussed topics included molecular diagnostics, organ graft fibrosis, and islet transplantation. On the final day of the congress, new topics were discussed that could be interesting for the future of transplantation research, including stem cell therapy.

There were several reasons why I wanted to attend this particular conference. The first reason was the opportunity to give an oral presentation about microvascular injury before and after simultaneous pancreas-kidney transplantation. Furthermore, I also had the opportunity to give a poster presentation about microvascular alterations after living kidney transplantation. Attendance and presentation of my work at this meeting has fastly improved my general knowledge of transplantation field. In addition, I was able to meet experts who had important suggestions and comments on my work. In addition, I learned a lot about transplantation in general, especially after joining the trainee sessions. Finally, I learned a lot of the presentations given by other research groups.

In summary, the ATC was a well organized and well visited congress that gave insights in the latest developments in transplantation field. I would sincerely like to thank the Dutch Society for Immunology for providing me with a travel grant to attend the American Transplant Congress.