

## **Histocompatibility & Immunogenetics Support for Transplantation in Scotland.**

### **Scottish Donation and Transplant Group, 25<sup>th</sup> August 2020**

Submitted by Dave Turner and Ann-Margaret Little

#### **Staffing**

Glasgow H&I: full establishment

Edinburgh H&I: full establishment

Both labs have moved back to full staffing after periods of reduced staff numbers coming in to work throughout the worst Covid-19 months.

#### **On call rotas**

Both the Glasgow and Edinburgh testing on call rotas and the Consultant Clinical Scientist on call rota are fully staffed and no have issues.

#### **Quality in Organ Donation (QuOD) project**

UK wide study, ongoing, now funded beyond 2020. Samples being processed in Edinburgh H&I for all Scottish donors. The funding associated with this study has been used to employ a Band 4 Healthcare Scientist until recently, but in the future will fund part of a Band 6 post.

#### **Donor HLA typing**

Both labs continue to meet the ODT KPI for turnaround times related to deceased donor typing. Discussions are still ongoing with NHSBT-ODT regarding future electronic reporting of HLA typing results to reduce the risk of transcription errors (see below).

#### **Donor Characterisation Review**

Meetings of NHSBT-ODT Donor Characterisation Review Working Groups have continued over the last few months. NHSBT will not commission Donor Characterisation testing (HLA typing and microbiology tests) in Scotland (and Wales and NI), but only in England. NSS-NSD are involved in meetings of Working Group 2 (Finance and Commissioning). DT is involved in meetings of Working Group 3 looking at electronic reporting of donor testing results (HLA typing and micro) to ODT.

#### **Joint European Federation for Immunogenetics (EFI) and British Society for Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics (BSHI) Conference, 26<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> April 2020, Glasgow**

As highlighted at the last SDTG, this meeting has been postponed, but we hope to host this in April 2021 at the SEC. Discussions are also ongoing about the possibility of having to organise an 'e-conference' instead of a physical conference. Timings on these decisions are complicated!

**Coronavirus pandemic**

Following the decrease in solid organ transplant activity, both laboratories experienced a decline in workload due to a decrease in out-patient and clinic activities. However, testing activity to support transplantation is now back to pre-Covid levels.