XXVII Annual Meeting of the European Eye Bank Association
Synergies between Eye Banks, Tissue Banks and Advanced Therapy Units: Challenges for the Global Treatment of Ophthalmic Patients

Venue: Padiglione Rama, Fondazione Banca degli Occhi del Veneto Onlus

Programme

THURSDAY 15th JANUARY 2015

12.00 – 19.00: Wet Labs

Local organizers: Diego Ponzin Alessandro Ruzza and Gianni Salvalaio (International Centre for Ocular Physiopathology, Fondazione Banca degli Occhi del Veneto Onlus).

12.00 – 14.00 Ziemer Ophthalmic Systems AG: The power of keratoplasties with the FEMTO LDV Z6

Femtosecond laser-assisted keratoplasties with special focus on ultra-thin DSEK and inverse DSEK.


Preparation of Posterior lamellar grafts (DSAEK / UT DSAEK) using the Gebauer Microkeratome

The wet-lab will be concluded by a lecture about DSAEK Surgery conducted by Antonella Franch (Head of the Department of Ophthalmology, SS Giovanni e Paolo Hospital, Venice, Italy).

17.00 – 19.00 Moria SA: Easy UT-DSAEK/DSAEK with the NEW Moria linear systems: One Use and One Use-Plus DSAEK

This wet-lab will be conducted by Massimo Busin (Head of the Department of Ophthalmology, Villa Igea Hospital, Forlì, Italy), who will stress the ease and reliability of these systems.
FRIDAY 16th JANUARY 2015

09.00-13.30: Registration

09.00-12.00: EEBA Committee Meeting (Closed)

11.00-12.30: WORKSHOPS: EXPERTS MEET EXPERTS

Microbiology and eye banking
Featuring:
Diego Ponzin (Executive and Medical Director of Fondazione Banca degli Occhi del Veneto)
Elisa Zanetti (Eye Bank Laboratory Manager)

Pre-cut tissues for endothelial keratoplasty
Featuring:
Mattia Baruzzo (Eye Bank Laboratory Assistant)
Irina Negura (Eye Bank Laboratory Assistant)
Gianni Salvalaio (Eye Bank Laboratory Assistant & Research Scientist at the International Centre for Ocular Physiopathology)

DMEK tissues for endothelial keratoplasty
Featuring:
Mohit Parekh (Research Scientist at the International Centre for Ocular Physiopathology)
Alessandro Ruzza (Eye Bank Laboratory Assistant & Research Scientist at the International Centre for Ocular Physiopathology)

Cell therapy for limbal stem cell deficiency
Featuring:
Stefano Ferrari (Head of the Research Centre)
Marina Bertolin (Research Scientist)
Claudia Breda (Research Assistant)

The exchange of tissues between Eye Banks in Europe
Featuring:
Silvia Andrighetti (Programming & Biostatistics Office, with special responsibility for Follow-Up)
Carlo Griffoni (In charge of the Programming & Biostatistics Office, and Follow-Up Manager)

12.30-13.30: Lunch

13.30-14.00: Opening Ceremony
14.00-16.00: SESSION I – EYE BANKING: NEW HORIZONS

Chairman: John Armitage (School of Clinical Sciences, University of Bristol, Bristol, United Kingdom)

14.00-14.30 - Keynote Speaker: Gilles Thuret (Laboratory "Biology, imaging and engineering of Corneal Graft" BiiGC, EA2521, University Jean Monnet, Ophthalmology dpt/University Hospital, Saint-Etienne, France, Institut Universitaire de France, Paris, France) “Why it is Time to Revisit Corneal Storage”
Lecture introduced by Philippe Gain (Laboratory "Biology, imaging and engineering of Corneal Graft" BiiGC, EA2521, University Jean Monnet, Ophthalmology dpt/University Hospital, Saint-Etienne, France)

14.30-16.00:
- 3D Mapping of the Folded Endothelium and Segmentation Methods Improve Endothelial Count in Eye Banks
  Aurélien Bernard (Corneal Graft Biology, Engineering and Imaging Laboratory, EA2521, Jean Monnet University, Saint-Etienne, France and Federative Institute of Research in Sciences and Health Engineering, Faculty of Medicine, Jean Monnet University, Saint-Etienne, France)

- A New Software for Non-Supervised Endothelial Counting
  Uta Wolke (Eye Center, Albert-Ludwigs University of Freiburg, Freiburg im Breisgau, Germany)

- Increased Sensitivity of Blood Culture Bottles for Microbiological Testing of Cornea Organ Culture
  Ina Wilkemeyer (University Tissue Bank, Cornea Bank Berlin, Institute of Transfusion Medicine, Charité-Universitätsmedizin, Berlin, Germany)

- Validation of RESEP, a Device for Elimination of Antibiotics from Liquid Samples
  Laura Giurgola (Alchilife S.r.l., Viale Austria 14, 35020 Ponte S. Nicolò - Padua, Italy)

- Silencing HLA Expression in Corneas to Decrease the Risk of Graft Rejection after Keratoplasty
  Constança Figueiredo (Institute for Transfusion Medicine, Hannover Medical School, Hannover, Germany)

16.00-16.30: Coffee break

16.30-18.30: SESSION II – DSAEK AND DMEK: SHIFTING PARADIGMS ON CORNEAL TRANSPLANTATION

Chairman: Massimo Busin (Department of Ophthalmology, Villa Igea Hospital, Forlì, Italy)

16.30-17.00 - Keynote Speaker: José L. Güell (Cornea and Refractive Surgery Unit, Instituto Microcirugia Ocular of Barcelona, Autonoma University of Barcelona, Spain) “DMEK: Surgical Technique, Update International Results and Limitations”

17.00-18.30:
- Preliminary Results of a Multicenter Prospective Randomized Controlled Trial Comparing Ultra-Thin and Standard DSAEK
  Mor Dickman (University Eye Clinic, Maastricht, The Netherlands)
- The use of Corneas with Previous LASIK Surgery for Processing Ultrathin DSAEK Lamellas
  Elba Agusti (Barcelona Tissue Bank [BTB], Banc de Sang i Teixits, Barcelona, Spain)

- Suitability of Pseudophakic Donor Material For DMEK – A Masked, Experimental Study
  Kristina Spaniol (University Eye Hospital, Düsseldorf, Germany)

- Graft Dislocation and Graft Failure after DMEK using Precut Tissue
  Philip Maier (Eye Center, University Hospital Freiburg, Germany)

- Two Cases of Ultrathin Descemet Stripping Automated Endothelial Keratoplasty
  Diego Ponzin (Fondazione Banca degli Occhi del Veneto Onlus, Zelarino-Venice, Italy)

18.30-18.40: Conclusion and information about dinner or social events

19:00: Bus transfer to Venice

20.00: Gala Dinner in Venice Historical City Centre, Scuola Grande di San Giovanni Evangelista

SATURDAY 17th JANUARY 2015

08.30-09.30: EEBA Business Meeting (Open)

09.30-13.00: SESSION III – EYE BANKS MEET CELL FACTORIES: NEW CHALLENGES AHEAD
  Chairman: Stefano Ferrari (Fondazione Banca degli Occhi del Veneto Onlus, Venice, Italy)

  9.30-10.00 - Keynote Speaker: Julie T. Daniels (Moorfields Eye Hospital Cells for Sight Stem Cell Research Unit, London, United Kingdom). “From Tissues to Tissue Equivalents: New Horizons for Eye Banks?”

  10.00-11.15 Advanced Therapies for the Reconstruction of the Ocular Surface (Cornea and Conjunctiva):

  - Expression Pattern of Epithelial Stem Cell Markers in the Normal Human Cornea
    Michael Nicolas (Department of Ophthalmology, University of Lausanne, Jules-Gonin Eye Hospital, Lausanne, Switzerland)

  - Functional and Molecular Characterization of Limbal Stem Cells
    Marina Schock (Department of Ophthalmology, University of Duisburg-Essen, Essen, Germany)

  - Long Term Results of Autologous Transplantation of Cultivated Limbal Epithelium in Limbal Stem Cell Deficiency
    Simone Scholz (Department of Ophthalmology, University of Essen, Germany)

  - Comparative Analysis of Corneal Epithelial Markers in Mesenchymal Stem Cells From Bone Marrow (BM-MS)
    Nuria Nieto Nicolau (Department of Surgery, School of Medicine, University of Barcelona, Spain)
- **Gene Based Approach to Correct Ocular Surface Disorders in EEC Syndrome**  
  *Vanessa Barbaro* (Fondazione Banca degli Occhi del Veneto Onlus, Zelarino-Venice, Italy)

11.15-11.45: Coffee break

11.45-13.00 **Advanced Therapies for the Reconstruction of the Endothelium: an Alternative to DMEK?**

- **The ex Vivo Expansion of Human Corneal Endothelial Cells**  
  *Mohit Parekh* (International Center for Ocular Physiopathology -ICOP, Fondazione Banca degli Occhi del Veneto Onlus, Zelarino-Venice, Italy and Department of Molecular Medicine, School of Biomedicine, University of Padua, Padua, Italy)

- **Influence of Pressure on Corneal Endothelial Cells Derived from Human Induced Pluripotent Stem Cell**  
  *Aurélien Bernard* (Corneal Graft Biology, Engineering and Imaging Laboratory, EA2521, Saint-Etienne, France and Federative Institute of Research in Sciences and Health Engineering, Faculty of Medicine, Jean Monnet University, Saint-Etienne, France)

- **Bioengineering of Endothelial Grafts using Decellularized Femtosecond-Cut Corneal Lamellae**  
  *He Zhiguo* (Corneal Graft Biology, Engineering and Imaging Laboratory, EA2521, Saint-Etienne, France and Federative Institute of Research in Sciences and Health Engineering, Faculty of Medicine, Jean Monnet University, Saint-Etienne, France)

- **Effects of Alfa-Melanotropina on Human Cornea Tissue in Vitro**  
  *Mirjana Nasic* (University Hospital Center Zagreb, Croatia)

- **Increasing the Pool of Graft Tissue by Implementing the Hemi-DMEK Technique**  
  *Esther Groeneveld-van Beek* (Netherlands Institute for Innovative Ocular Surgery, Rotterdam, The Netherlands and Amnitrans EyeBank, Rotterdam, The Netherlands)

13.00-14.00: Lunch

**14.00-15.30: SESSION IV – TISSUE AND EYE BANKS: A CLOSER LINK FOR A BETTER SERVICE**

**Chairman:** *Diego Ponzin* (Fondazione Banca degli Occhi del Veneto Onlus, Venice, Italy)

14.00-14.30 - **Keynote Speaker:** *Esteve Trias-Adroher* (Barcelona Tissue Bank [BTB], Bane de Sang i de Teixits, Barcelona, Spain), “Collaboration between Eye and Tissue Banking in the Era of Regenerative Medicine: an Opportunity or a Need?”

14.30-15.30:

- **Preparation of Pre-Cut DMEK Transplants in a Tissue Bank**  
  *Christian Gabriel* (Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service for Upper Austria/Austrian Cluster for Tissue Regeneration, Linz, Austria)
- Linking Eye and Tissue Banks "Because a Network Makes Sense"
  Martin Boergel (German Society for Tissue Transplantation (DGFG), Hannover, Germany)

- Human Limbal Stem Cells Cultured on Different Scaffolds
  Natasa Draca (University Eye Hospital Svjetlost, Zagreb, Croatia)

- Thickness Control of Precut DSAEK Grafts in Eye Banks
  Sandrine Pereira (French Blood Centre Auvergne Loire, Eye Bank, Saint Etienne, France)

15.30-16.00: Coffee break

16.00-17.30: SESSION V – RULES OF ENGAGEMENT: HOW GUIDELINES AND COUNTRY DIRECTIVES ARE AFFECTING EYE BANKS AND CELL FACTORIES
Chairman: Jesper Hjortdal (Department of Ophthalmology, Aarhus University Hospital, Aarhus, Denmark)

16.00-16.30 - Keynote Speaker: Deirdre Fehily (Tissues and Cells Italian National Transplant Centre – CNT, Rome, Italy), “Regulation of Eye Banks in the EU – the Challenges Posed by Emerging Technologies”

16.30-17.30:
- Validation of Automated Sterility Controls for Fresh and Cryopreserved Amniotic Membrane
  Henning Thomasen (Department of Ophthalmology, University of Duisburg-Essen, Essen, Germany)

- How did German Laws and Organ Transplantation Irregularities Influence the Rate of Corneal Donation
  Marie-Christine Knoche (Eye Center, Albert-Ludwigs University of Freiburg, Germany)

- Transitioning to ISBT128 – The experience of The Eye-Bank for Sight Restoration
  Patrícia Dahl (The Eye-Bank for Sight Restoration, Inc., New York, New York, USA)

- Unique Donor Documentation Database and First Implementation of Global Coding ISBT 128 in Ocular Tissue Bank in Czech Republic
  Yveta Urbanova (Ocular Tissue Bank/International Eye Bank of Prague, Faculty Hospital Kralovské Vinohrady, Prague, Czech Republic)

17.30-18.00: Conclusions and Closing Ceremony