Immunogenetics 2012: the state of the art

On behalf of the International HLA and Immunogenetics Workshop (IHW); the European Federation for Immunogenetics (EFI) and the British Society for Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics (BSHI) you are invited to attend the 16th International HLA and Immunogenetics Workshop and Joint Conference in Liverpool from 28th May to 3rd June 2012.

16th International HLA and Immunogenetics Workshop

The 16th International HLA and Immunogenetics Workshop will take place from 28th May – 30th May 2012. To date the following Workshop Projects are active; some continuing from the 15th Workshop.

Solid Organ Transplantation
- Improving Prediction of Chronic Rejection by Donor Specific Antibody and Serum Creatinine - Paul Terasaki and Donny Zou
- Evaluation of Antibody Frequencies and Solid Phase Assays - Andrea Zachary and John Hart
- Towards Standardization of Microparticle-based, Solid Phase, HLA Antibody Identification Assay - Robert Bray and Howard Gebel
- MICA-MICB Project - Peter Stauny and Yizhou Zou
- The Role of Natural Killer Cells in Solid Organ Transplantation - Jeroen van Bergen and Ilias Doxiadis
- Prevalence of IgA anti-HLA antibodies and previous graft survival in kidney re-transplant candidates - Bernd Spriewald, Marie-Luise Arnold

Stem Cell Transplantation
International Histocompatibility Working Group in Haematopoietic Cell Transplantation - Effie Petersdorf and Mari Malkki

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Anthropology
- Population global distribution of KIR and ligands - Jill Hollenbach, Raja Rajalingam,
  Derek Middleton
- AHPD: Analysis of HLA Population Data - Alicia Sanchez Mazas

Bioinformatics
- Immunogenomic Data Management Methods - Steve Mack and Jill Hollenbach
- Frequencies of Rare Alleles - Faviel Gonzalez, Marcelo Fernandez-Vina, Derek
  Middleton
- IHW Registry Diversity Project - Martin Maisers, Carinhez Müller, Steven Marsh
- Development of an HLA EpiEpepe Database - Rene Duquesnoy

New Frontiers
- Next Generation HLA Sequencing - Alison Castley, Richard Allcock
- The Analysis of HLA Class I Non-coding Regions - Alison Castley, Linda Smith

Pharmacogenomics
- Clara Gorodezky and Susie Leffell

Anyone interested in joining these projects, should contact the specific project organisers via www.16ihiw.org. Other new proposals for Projects are welcome, contact: derek.middleton@rlbuht.nhs.uk

The IHWG programme will also include the following social events:

Monday 28th May
Welcome Reception – Merseyside Maritime Museum

Wednesday 30th May
Party Circo – Albert Dock

Teaching
The Teaching Sessions will cover topics including histocompatibility and immunogenetics and issues associated with organ and haematopoietic progenitor cell transplantation.

Thursday 31st May
Welcome Reception – St George’s Hall

Sunday 3rd June
Gala Dinner – Aintree Race Course

General Information

Arena & Conference Centre Liverpool
Both workshop and conference will be held at the BT Convention Centre, Arena and Conference Centre Liverpool (ACCL). The ACCL was built on the former site of Kings Dock in Liverpool city centre, which together with Albert Dock, provide a conference village with hotels, bars and restaurants.

Getting to Liverpool

By Air
Liverpool John Lennon Airport is 7 miles from the City Centre. There are 60 direct destinations available and hundreds of worldwide connections with KLM to and from Liverpool via Amsterdam. Manchester airport is only 60 minutes away by direct rail link and offers flights to many more destinations.

By Rail
Liverpool Lime Street station is a 10 – 15 minute walk from the ACCL and surrounding hotels. There is a direct high speed Virgin train route from London Euston to Liverpool that takes approximately two hours.

By Car
For those travelling by car, there is car parking adjacent to the venue and hotels.

Liverpool
Liverpool is a city with a maritime history. The city won UNESCO World Heritage Site status in 2004 as the waterfront represents a ‘supreme example of a commercial port at the time of Britain’s greatest global significance’.

In recent times the city has moved away from its industrial past and there has been a lot of regeneration in the city centre. In 2008 Liverpool was European City of Culture. A regional branch of the Tate Museum is situated in Albert Dock. The Walker Art Gallery is home to a stunning collection of paintings and sculpture, from the 13th century to the present day. Other museums around the city include the World Museum, Merseyside Maritime Museum, International Slavery Museum and the Museum of Liverpool.
Liverpool has long been famous for music and is the official World Capital of Pop. The Beatles Story is located in Albert Dock, a short walk from the ACCL. The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra is the UK’s oldest surviving professional symphony orchestra dating from 1840 and gives over 60 concerts each season in its home town under the leadership of Chief Conductor Vasily Petrenko.

Another “must do” in Liverpool is a trip on the famous Mersey Ferry. Ferries have operated between Liverpool and the Wirral since the 12th century. The current fleet have been in operation since the 1960s.

Liverpool also has strong sporting links. It has two Premiership football teams; Liverpool and Everton and is also home of the Grand National horse race. Liverpool is situated on England’s golf coast with three of the top links courses in Britain; Birkdale, Royal Liverpool and Lytham & St Annes amongst the 20 courses located within easy reach.

You will be guaranteed a warm welcome from the locals.

Further Afield
If you are attending both the Workshop and the Conference, there is an opportunity to explore further afield on the 31st May – a day free of sessions. A tour is planned to the Lake District, England’s largest National Park. For those wishing to explore the area independently, the city of Chester is of historical interest as its streets reflect the influences of Roman, Norman and Georgian architecture.

Hotels
Accommodation is being held at a number of hotels located around the ACCL ranging from 5 star to budget options. Information about hotel options will be available on the web site and accommodation can be booked when you register.

Exhibition and Sponsorship
A sponsorship brochure is available from the conference secretariat.

The websites will be updated regularly – www.IHIWEFIBSHI.org and www.16ihiw.org

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