Blood transfusion Genomics Consortium

Educational Session 001

Hosted by
Dr Celina Montemayer, Canadian Blood Services
Prof Ellen van der Schoot, Sanquin, the Netherlands

Thursday 23rd September
15:00 -16:30 BST
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83076681124

15:00 – Welcome
Dr Celina Montemayor, Canadian Blood Services, Ontario, Canada

15:05 - The Blood transfusion Genomics Consortium: Its main aims
Professor Willem H Ouwehand, Cambridge University Hospitals, University College London Hospitals and NHS Blood and Transplant, Cambridge/London, UK

15:20 - The HLA system: An introduction
Dr Robert Liwski, Medical and Scientific Director HLA Laboratory, Canadian Blood Services & President Elect for the American Society for Histocompatibility & Immunogenetics, Ontario, Canada

15:45- Questions and Short Break
Prof Ellen van der Schoot, Sanquin and University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands

15:55 – Algorithms to infer HLA antigen types from the Thermo Fisher Axiom array
Prof Alexander Dilthey, Institute of Medical Microbiology, University of Düsseldorf, Düsseldorf, Germany

16:20 – Questions
Dr Celina Montemayor

16:30 – Close

Information about the Consortium – visit: www.bgc.io

Speakers

Willem H Ouwehand received his PhD from the University of Amsterdam. Currently he is Professor of Experimental Haematology at the University of Cambridge, and holds honorary appointments at Cambridge University Hospitals, NHS Blood and Transplant, University College London Hospitals and the Welcome Sanger Institute. He is NIHR Senior Investigator and a Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences. His research is on rare diseases with a focus on inherited haemostasis disorders. As a founder of the NIHR BioResource, Willem has coordinated the NIHR BioResource whole-genome sequencing pilot study for Rare Diseases for the 100,000 Genomes Project**.** With Dr Nicholas Gleadall, he founded the Blood transfusion Genomics Consortium, a collaborative on blood cell immunogenetics in 7 countries and across 4 continents. In partnership with Dr Connie Westhoff from the New York Blood Centre, he chairs the Consortium, which brings together experts in immunogenetics, computer science and bioinformatics, statistical genomics, genotyping and regulatory matters from Blood Services, Academia and Industry

Dr. Robert Liwski is the Head of the Division on Hematological Pathology, Medical Director of the HLA Laboratory and Professor of Pathology at the Queen Elizabeth II Health Sciences Centre and Dalhousie University in Halifax, Canada. He is also the Medical and Scientific Director of the HLA Laboratory at the Canadian Blood Services in Brampton. Dr. Liwski served as the Program Director of the American Society for Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics (ASHI) Proficiency Testing Committee, Chair of the Canadian HLA Laboratory Proficiency Testing Committee, Co-Chair of the Canadian National HLA Advisory Committee and is a consultant to the Brazilian Histocompatibility Association (ABH) Proficiency Testing Program. His research interests include transplantation immunology and optimization of diagnostic testing in transplantation. Dr. Liwski obtained his PhD in Transplantation Immunology in 1999 (Dalhousie), his MD degree in 2003 (Dalhousie) and completed his fellowship training in Hematological Pathology in 2006 (Dalhousie). He also completed the ASHI Director Training Fellowship in 2012. Within ASHI, Dr. Liwski has been a member of the Proficiency Testing Executive Committee (since 2014), the Director Training Review and Credentialing (DTRC) Committee (2016-2020), ASHI Quarterly Editorial Board (since 2017; Editor-in-Chief since 2021), the ASHI Board of Directors (2016-2019) and is the incoming ASHI President Elect.

Alexander studied Computer Science in Germany and Switzerland and has a DPhil in Statistical Genetics from the University of Oxford (2012). He co-founded two companies, Peptide Groove LLP and Lighthouse Cancer Diagnostics Ltd. Since 2016 he is back in academia, first as a visiting fellow at NIH/NHGRI and now leading his own research group at the Institute of Medical Microbiology at the University Hospital of Dusseldorf. His research interests include assembly of the human genome's most complex regions (rDNA, KIR, HLA), immunogenetics and the development of "digital" approaches to detecting and treating disease.