

Teaching from Switzerland

Once again, Imelda Bromilow, along with internationally renowned speakers, presented an original programme for the Transfusion Science Course held at DiaMed, Cressier sur Morat, Switzerland. Eighty-five participants from 22 countries attended the 4-day course in March 2005 and the programme provided medical doctors, biologists and staff technicians from transfusion and immunology laboratories all over the world with a wide-ranging update on progress in the field. An impressive feature was the high standard of present-day professional activities, as testified by the advanced level of the discussions following the presentations.

Urs Nydegger

Last year "pipette" invited Dr Schoenitzer (Austria), a specialist in blood group typing, to contribute an article to the journal ("Use and abuse of molecular typing of blood groups", article in German), and during this

year's course Dr Geoff Daniels (Great Britain) developed the topic of molecular genetics in immunohaematology. Dr Urs Nydegger (Switzerland) analysed immune complexes, amongst other subjects of interest, whilst Dr Dafydd Thomas (Wales, UK) presented transfusion medicine from the anaes-

thetist's point of view. Direct antiglobulin testing was one of the topics covered by Dr Imelda Bromilow, originally from the UK but now living and working in Switzerland.

The full programme of this course and of further courses to be held in 2005

	Question 1	Question 2	Question 3
 <p>Hiam Matta</p>	<p>Yes, we receive the samples from an outside provider in Canada. For biochemistry the quality tests are done monthly, all other tests every 2nd month.</p>	<p>We started kidney transplantation 5 years ago, the only solid organ transplanted in Lebanon.</p> <p>In the hospital where I work there is no transplantation at the moment.</p>	<p>Although we have only a small blood bank in our hospital and in my laboratory, autologous transfusion programmes function well and are offered to the patients.</p>
 <p>Seog-Woon Kwon</p>	<p>Yes, we receive the samples from the College of American Pathologists and take part in their programme.</p>	<p>Yes, all three organs. Our hospital is reputed for organ transplantation and to date we have transplanted approximately 1077 livers and 1661 kidneys, and have performed 770 bone marrow transplantations.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>
 <p>Keld Homburg</p>	<p>Yes, we use a national system with blinded samples.</p>	<p>Yes, in Denmark we transplant heart, liver and bone marrow in Copenhagen. Kidneys are transplanted in all University Hospitals.</p>	<p>No.</p>

can be consulted at www.diamed.com. “*pipette*” put three questions to three participants selected at random.

The participants were:

- Mrs Hiam Matta, a biologist and laboratory staff member in the El Arz Hospital, rue El-Arz, Beirut, Lebanon.
- Dr Seog-Woon Kwon, MD, PhD, Chief of Transfusion Medicine at the Asian Medical Centre, Department of Laboratory Medicine, 388-1 Pungnap-dong, Songpa-gu, Seoul, Korea and Scientific Director of the Korean Society of Blood Transfusion.

– Dr Keld Homburg, Medical Director, Blood Transfusion Service and Department of Clinical Immunology, County of Storstrommen; Storstrommens Hospital, Fjordvej 15, DK-4800 Nykobing F, Denmark.

The questions put by “*pipette*” were:

1. Does your country feature a quality control system for laboratory analysis – if so, with blinded samples?
2. Does your country offer heart, liver and kidney transplantation?
3. Is your blood bank equipped for preoperative autologous blood donation?

The replies are summarised in the table on page 20.

The answers to the interview questions from just three participants from very different parts of the world thus reflect a united approach in the field of transfusion science and medicine.

All responded affirmatively on the issue of maintaining quality of services by participation in quality insurance schemes, and all three countries have transplantation on the medical agenda, requiring transfusion support, whether or not autologous donation is a common practice.