

Report of the International Congress of the Iranian Society for Organ Transplantation (IRSOT 2023)

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The International Congress of the Iranian Organ Transplantation Society (IRSOT) was held on 31 October-03 November, 2023 in Shiraz, southern Iran. The congress was attended by more than 50 distinguished foreign speakers and guests from America, Belgium, Spain, France, Turkey, Iraq, Pakistan, Kuwait, Tajikistan, Syria, and Lebanon; and more than 500. Some of the prominent professors and researchers in various fields of organ transplantation including kidney, liver, heart, pancreas, lung, intestine and multi-organ transplantation. The congress was a forum for transplant researchers to share ideas, experiences, and research findings. During the Congress, 70 mini-oral presentations were presented on various aspects of organ transplantation.

The main target group of this congress was all clinicians and researchers in organ transplant surgery, gastroenterology, nephrology, cardiology, pulmonology, radiology, pathology, anesthesiology, and organ transplant coordinators.

On the sidelines of the congress, a one-day conference on organ procurement and transplantation for organ transplant coordinators was held with the presence of more than 250 organ coordinators from all over Iran. Also, four workshops, including ERCP workshops in liver transplantation for gastroenterologists and hepatologists, familiarization with “MeVis Medical Solutions” software for surgeons and radiologists, recent advances in basic sciences for pathologists and basic science researchers, and lung transplant challenges in the world for surgeons and lung and respiratory tracts specialists (cardiothoracic surgeons) were successfully performed before the congress.



Seyed Ali Malek Hosseini (Iran), Mehmet Haberal (Turkey), John J. Fung (USA), Mustafa Al-Mousawi (Kuwait), Naser Simforoosh (Iran), Antoine Barbari (Lebanon), Mohammad Reza Ganji (Iran), Behzad Einollahi (Iran), and Bassam Saeed (Syria) talked about the ethics of organ transplantation.

Prof. Seyed Ali Malek Hosseini had an excellent plenary session about Abu-Ali, a perfect role model both in medicine and philosophy for a millennium.

The Congress enjoyed the participation of Prof. John Fung from Cleveland Clinic; he presented two talks on transplant oncology and management considerations of hepatitis B core antibody-positive liver donors or recipients. In both negotiations, he foretold a promising future in terms of the life expectancy of such patients.

Prof. Mehmet Haberal from Turkey spoke about the development of organ transplantation in Turkey: from past to the future, while Dr. Marty Manyalich from Spain explained how to develop deceased donation worldwide. Moreover, Dr. Marty Manyalich, in another presentation, talked about how donation after circulatory death (DCD) can improve deceased donation and transplantation programs.

Prof. Jan Lerut from Belgium talked in two sessions about hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) and Liver transplantation (LT): how to justifiably extend inclusion criteria, and about liver transplantation and secondary liver tumors, and Prof. Kamran Bagheri Lankarani from Iran Focused on human virome and liver transplantation.

The Congress appreciated the participation of Prof. Andreas Tzakis from Cleveland Clinic; he presented a nice topic: Everything Flows! In this valuable presentation, Prof. Tzakis analyzed the past, present, and future of all types of organ transplants and revealed many hopes and developments in this direction.



In this regard, Prof. Malekzadeh from Iran spoke about new hopes in gene therapy as an alternative for organ transplantation. Moreover, Prof. Baharvand from Iran expressed a practical solution for stem cell transplantation. Dr. Javadpour from Iran gave a comprehensive speech about the future outlook and limitations of artificial intelligence (AI) in medicine and its use in organ transplantation.

The Annual General Assembly of the Iranian Society of Organ Transplantation (IRSOT) was held during IRSOT 2023, and important decisions were made about how to interact with the relevant authorities concerning the salary of transplant surgeons and how to hold future meetings about organ transplants and the IRSOT long-term plans.

On the evening of November 01, 2023, a “Great Ceremony of Life” was held with the presence of more than 1,000 organ donor families and foreign and domestic guests of the Congress to honor organ donor families and promote the culture of organ donation from brain death as gloriously as possible.

During the Congress, there were free tours for the participants to sightseeing and historical places, including the ancient city of Persepolis as well as the mausoleum of Sadi and Hafez, two of the internationally well-known Iranian poets living around 800 years ago, and Shiraz, beautiful Gardens. Also, a gala dinner for all participants was hosted jointly by the city’s mayor and the president of Shiraz University of Medical Sciences. Congress guests were accommodated in the Rose Grand Hotel in Sadra City, Shiraz Grand Hotel, Chamran Hotel, and Homa Hotel.

In the end, we would like to gratefully acknowledge all those involved in organizing this congress, including colleagues in the Ministry of Health and Medical Education, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Fars Governorate, Shiraz University of Medical Sciences, Shiraz Municipality, Shiraz Traffic Police, Fars Police Force, Fars Department of Culture and Islamic Guidance, Tourism Organization, Shiraz Hotels Group, and Abu Ali Sina Hospital.

Seyed Ali Malek Hosseini, *Congress President*

Saman Nikeghbalian, *Chair of Scientific Committee*

Jamshid Roozbeh, *Chair of Executive Committee*