Initiating a European Platform

Organ Transplantation: Ethical, Legal and Psychological Aspects.
Towards a Common European Policy

April 1–4, 2007 Rotterdam

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Rationale
As medical advances in organ transplantation have progressed, legal, psychological and ethical issues increasingly emphasize transplantation as an option for treatment. In various (new) countries within the European Union, these psychological, legal and ethical aspects are evolving in different ways. As a result there are opportunities for cooperation between countries, but pitfalls also emerge, like unequal access to care. The purpose of the conference will be to ensure the exchange of information and ideas between national research groups. The aim is to establish a permanent international platform in order to form European guidelines and stimulate joint research efforts. This will help clinicians and policy makers to optimize the organ transplantation programs.

Participants
For the congress is aimed at ethicists, clinicians, psychologists, lawyers and policy makers in the field of organ transplantation. Based on a number of similar conferences during the last three decades (the last Ethical Congress was in Munich, 2002), we expect to attract 200 to 300 participants.

Topics

Living donation
- Organ exchange: cross-over programs, list exchange, one large international living donor pool
- Organ traffic: commercial supply of organs, inside and outside the EU
- Medical tourism: transplantation in foreign countries, in- and outside the EU
- Minorities / religion / gender issues: special problems in living donation in subgroups
- New modalities: (directed) altruistic donation, anonymity, liver and lung donation

Post mortem donation
- Non-residents: uniform European criteria
- Minorities / religion: brain death issues
- Allocation aspects: one common European exchange organization, priorities for immunized, young and elderly patients
- New modalities: extended donor criteria, non-heart beating kidney, liver, pancreas and lung donation

Format
The Congress will have the format of two and half days of presentations and workshops. There will be invited speakers and free communications.

Date
April 1 – 4, 2007

Venue
The meeting will be held in Rotterdam, the Netherlands. Rotterdam is one of the largest ports in Europe, within an hour’s drive of the three main cities Utrecht, The Hague and Amsterdam. Rotterdam is a modern city, with a rich history and famous for its architecture. There are numerous museums, cultural events and a diverse nightlife. As a main port, Rotterdam is easily accessible by road, rail and air (Rotterdam has an international airport).

Website
A website will be available for online registration, abstract submission and hotel bookings. (www.hetcongresbureau.nl)

Please check the conference website for the latest updates and deadlines!

Involved organizations
Erasmus MC, Rotterdam
Dutch Transplant Foundation (NTS)
Dutch Health Council

Contributors
Transplantation Expert Commission Council of Europe
Dutch Ministry of Health
European Society of Organ Transplantation
Eurotransplant International Foundation