

Post-transplant Skin Cancer Meeting, Oslo, June 2010

PETTER GJERSVIK

Department of Dermatology, Oslo University Hospital, NO-0027 Oslo, Norway.

E-mail: petter.gjersvik@rikshospitalet.no



Skin Care in Organ Transplant Patients in Europe (SCOPE) is a network of dermatologists and other researchers with an interest in skin complications after organ transplantation. The 2010 annual meeting of SCOPE will be held in Oslo.

Organ transplant recipients are at greatly increased risk of skin cancer, especially squamous cell carcinoma (SCC). This is well documented in epidemiological studies from many countries, including Sweden and Norway (1). Other skin complications include actinic keratosis, keratoacanthoma, viral infections, especially verruca vulgaris, fungal infections, and direct pharmacological effects of drugs.

These complications are consequences of the necessary continuous treatment with immunosuppressive drugs. With improved patient and graft survival times, post-transplant skin cancer has become a major concern for both transplant physicians and patients. Dermatologists have an important role in the prevention and management of post-transplant skin cancer, through clinical work, research, education, and cooperation with transplant physicians.

Skin Care in Organ Transplant Patients in Europe (SCOPE) is a network of dermatologists and other researchers, established in 2002 in Berlin on the initiative of Eggie Stockfleth (Berlin, Germany) and Sylvia Euvrard (Lyon, France) (2). Both have

served as SCOPE presidents, the current president being Jan Nico Bouwes Bavinck (Leiden, The Netherlands). SCOPE members come from most European countries, and membership is open to all dermatologists on application (2). SCOPE cooperates closely with a similar network in the USA, Canada and Australia – The International Transplant Skin Cancer Collaborative (ITSCC) (3).



Fig. 1. Jan Nico Bouwes Bavinck, President European SCOPE network.

SCOPE members perform clinical, epidemiological and experimental research, write guidelines, set up multi-centre studies, and construct consensus statements. Working to increase awareness of skin cancer among organ-transplanted patients and transplant physicians is an important task. SCOPE members publish extensively, including a recent book on post-transplant skin cancer (4), and have organized special sessions on the topic at several dermatological congresses.

The SCOPE network holds annual meetings at which clinical and scientific work and ideas are presented and discussed in a more informal setting than can be provided by larger scientific meetings. Previous meetings have been held in Berlin, Lyon, London, Stockholm, Barcelona, Dublin, Venice and Thessaloniki. The 2010 SCOPE meeting will be held in Oslo on 10–13 June 2010 at Oslo University Hospital (presently known as Rikshospitalet). All dermatologists interested in the topic are welcome to attend. A modest, but interesting social programme is being prepared. Further information about the meeting will be posted on the SCOPE website in the coming months (2).

On behalf of the local organizing committee and the SCOPE network, I look forward to welcoming you to Oslo.

References

1. Lindelöf B. The epidemiology of skin cancer in organ transplant recipients. In: Otley CC, Stasko T, editors. Skin disease in organ transplantation. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2008.
2. Skin Care in Organ Transplant Patients (SCOPE). Available from: <http://www.scoopenetwork.org/index.htm> (Dec 17, 2009).
3. International Transplant Skin Cancer Collaborative (ITSCC). Available from: <http://www.itsc.org> (Dec 17, 2009).
4. The SCOPE Collaborative Group, eds. Skin cancer after organ transplantation. Berlin: Springer Verlag, 2009.