



Health and Research Thematic Network
Foundation of Scientific Cooperation
« CENTAURE » dedicated to the 'science of transplantation'

PRESS RELEASE

First International Scientific Advisory Board of the 'RTRS' « CENTAURE »

Nantes, June 2008

The first International Scientific Advisory Board of the 'RTRS' « CENTAURE » dedicated to the science of transplantation took place on June 24, 2008 in Nantes.

The Scientific Advisory Board members have been appointed by the Board of Directors and asked for advice on great scientific issues as well as on the program of actions of the Foundation. It is composed of **6 professors of great international reputation**:

- Pr. Andrew BRADLEY - Addenbrooke's Hospital - Cambridge, United Kingdom
- Pr. Michel GOLDMAN - Institute of Medical Immunology- Charleroi, Belgium
- Pr. Maria Grazia RONCAROLO - San Raffaele Institute for Gene Therapy - Milan, Italy
- Pr. David SUTHERLAND - University of Minnesota - Minneapolis, United-States
- Pr. Yves VANRENTERGHEM - University Hospital of Gasthuisberg - Leuven, Belgium
- Pr. Kathryn WOOD - John Radcliffe's Hospital - Oxford, United Kingdom

During the first SAB, Professor Jean-Michel Dubernard - President of the Foundation - presented the RTRS (founding, objectives, and achievements) , Professor Jean-Paul Souillou - Director of the Foundation - and Mr. François Grimonprez - General Secretary of the Foundation - presented the network organization and the various research aims of the scientific program.

The SAB has also been asked to review and score the 33 projects, which have been sent during the call for tender in the second cycle of the Joint Program of Activity of the Foundation, according to 5 criteria: originality, international competitiveness, scientific excellence, relevant to clinical transplantation and feasibility.

The Scientific Advisory Board has put forward 7 recommendations:

1. To strengthen the added value of the 'RTRS' CENTAURE,
2. To develop the image and to improve the recognition of CENTAURE,
3. To enhance common projects which could not be developed without the CENTAURE's network,
4. To reduce the number of letters of intention by pooling them around major fields,
5. To reinforce the DIVAT project by associating the other core centers to DIVAT,
6. To develop « spin off » studies,
7. To reaffirm the 'translational' position of CENTAURE, a translational position in basic research and clinical research as well as in humans and animals.

These recommendations have been approved by the last Steering Committee which took place on October 24, 2008 in Paris.