

Istanbul, April 5th, 2021

Dear EKITA Board Members,

Dear Friends,

As I had my training at Ohio State University, I was interested in American Transplant Societies before I was attracted by the welcoming attitude of ESOT. My duties as faculty since 2016 at LIDO and HESPERIS Courses were excellent opportunities for me to understand the educational and organizational success of ESOT. I also have been organizing and performing faculty duties at the activities of "The International Transplant Network" (ITN) platform. We had ESOT endorsement for our recent activities of Kidney Transplantation Surgery Courses and the International Transplant Meetings of ITN. All these activities helped me to network with significant number of transplant teams not only from Europe but also from the developing transplant world at the Balkans, Africa, Middle East, and Asia.

My proposal while being a board member to EKITA was to open the doors for the countries beyond Europe. We just started to interact in EGYPT with a special EKITA session at the 38th Annual Congress of the Egyptian Society of Nephrology and Transplantation by the contribution of Robert and Reiner Oberbauer. This activity was just before the COVID infection and some projects in Turkey, Egypt, Lebanon, Senegal, and Dubai had interruption after then. But the boundaries over the world are disappearing while the online education adds more to interaction by the COVID era. The Hesperis Online Course is currently progressing these days with great success. I am assisting the educational committee to organize an Online Hesperis Course for developing countries aiming to have the transplant education and introduction of ESOT to reach out an extended world beyond Europe for the first quarter of next year. As kidney transplantation is the major solid organ activity in developing world, the EKITA Board will have access to strengthen the bonds with these countries after initiating the interaction with educational aspect of ESOT. I believe this interaction will not only increase our collaboration as members of EKITA but will also enable a significant network of transplant physicians all around the world ready to collaborate for our future projects.

I am also the Turkish delegate at UEMS Transplantation Surgery Board. We are having more surgeons from Turkey taking UEMS Transplant Surgery Board examinations for the last two years. My major motivation is to integrate the new generation of Turkish transplant physicians to ESOT. The integration of Turkish Colleagues can contribute to the corresponding clinical studies especially about living donation in ESOT.

I appreciate the commitment of Lucrezia as the chair to help building a dynamic and motivated EKITA Board team with scientific papers and implementing international collaborations. I will be happy to be a part of this team and will be committing myself to increase the international collaborations through my networking as the vice chair of EKITA.

Kind regards,

Baris Akin,

Professor of Surgery

Director of Kidney Transplantation Program

Demiroglu Bilim University

Florance Nightingale Hospital