

# ENGAGE II

## International Workshop on Immunomodulation and Desensitisation

Date: 27-28 November, 2024

Location: **Hotel Melia Sky Barcelona**  
Barcelona, Spain

The European Guidelines for the management of Graft recipients (ENGAGE) is an initiative from the European Society for Organ Transplantation (ESOT).

ENGAGE II working group published an updated definition of sensitization in candidates for solid organ transplantation (Bestard et al., Transpl Int, 2021, 34: 1005–1018) suggesting that data from the patient's "immunological" history should be integrated with single-antigen bead assay and cytotoxic (CDC) and flow cytometry cross-matching, to enable their risk of antibody mediated rejection (AMR) and graft loss to be estimated and stratified into one of five categories.

Building on this first step, the ENGAGE II working group performed a systematic search evaluating the Induction Therapies, Antibody Removal Strategies and New Biological Drugs and Maintenance immunosuppression and these data have been synthesised in a white paper that has been the basis for the rationale of the following step, the ENGAGE consensus project.

The project, based on the Delphi methodology, was aimed at obtaining a consensus among European experts on desensitisation and immunomodulation of kidney recipients, according to defined pre-transplantation patient humoral risk profiles.

Desensitisation strategies are employed before the transplantation to prevent hyperacute rejection in patients with high levels of preformed DSA and therefore increase transplant candidate's access to transplantation. In contrast, the modulation of induction and maintenance immunosuppression (including the use of Antibody Removal Strategies) can be adjusted from day 0 onward according to the risk profile of the recipient in order to reduce his risk of subsequent AMR and graft loss.

The ENGAGE II working group final paper titled "European consensus on the management of sensitised kidney transplant recipients: a Delphi study" has been accepted for publication on Transplant International (TI), in March 2024.

### Learning Objectives:

After attending this masterclass participants will learn more about:

- Desensitization and Immunomodulation strategies based on patient risk

### Target Audience:

- Nephrologists
- HLA Specialists
- Transplant Surgeons
- Experts in the field of Immunomodulation and Desensitisation

*This project is possible thanks to unrestricted grants from Hansa and Chiesi*

ESOT Headquarters

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**Scientific Organisers:**

Lucrezia Furian (Italy)  
Olivier Thauinat (France)

**Faculty:**

Oriol Bestard (Spain)  
Georg Böhmig (Austria)  
Emanuele Cozzi (Italy)  
Delphine Kervella (Spain)  
Alice Koenig (France)  
Kevin Louis (France)  
Maarten Naesens (Belgium)  
Søren Schwartz Sørensen (Denmark)  
Ondřej Viklický (Czechia)

**Reading Materials -**

1. [European Consensus on the Management of Sensitized Kidney Transplant Recipients: A Delphi Study](#)

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## Preliminary Scientific Programme – 27 November 2024

### Session 1 Dissemination of ENGAGE II (14:30 – 17:45)

**Moderator:** Lucrezia Furian (Italy)

14:30	Welcome Address	10 min	Lucrezia Furian (Italy)
14:40	<b>Engage II</b> Conclusions	30 min	Lucrezia Furian (Italy)
15:10	<b>Interactive Case Study: Strata 1:</b> <i>How to transplant patients with a CDC positive X match?</i>	30 min	Alice Koenig (France)
15:40	<b>Interactive Case Study: Strata 2:</b> <i>HLAi kidney transplantation with flow cytometry crossmatch pretransplant positivity: IKEM cases</i>	30 min	Ondřej Viklický (Czechia)
<b>16:10</b>	<b>Coffee Break</b>	<b>30 min</b>	
16:40	<b>Interactive Case Study: Strata 3:</b> <i>Day-zero DSA of undetermined significance : how to manage?</i>	30 min	Kevin Louis (France)
17:10	<b>Interactive Case Study: Strata 4:</b> <i>Beyond DSA, looking for hidden memory</i>	30 min	Delphine Kervella (Spain)
17:40	Wrap Up	5 min	Lucrezia Furian (Italy)

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## Preliminary Scientific Programme – 28 November 2024

### Session 2 Paving the way for ENGAGE III (09:00 – 12:00)

**Moderator:** Georg Böhmig (Austria), Olivier Thauvat (France)

09:00	Introduction	5 min	Olivier Thauvat (France)
09:05	Pathophysiology of AMR	30 min	Olivier Thauvat (France)
09:35	Present Treatment Options	30 min	Georg Böhmig (Austria)
<b>10:05</b>	<b>Coffee Break</b>	<b>30 min</b>	
10:35	Paving the way for <b>ENGAGE III</b>	60 min	Panel discussion
11:35	Closing	25 min	Georg Böhmig (Austria) Olivier Thauvat (France)

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