

Progress Report
Renal Pathology Center Brazil
North Brazilian Centre of Pathology

Coordinators

F. Filho (pathologist)
S. Melo (nephrologist)

AIM I: Develop an Immunofluorescence Microscopy Capability:

The most important aim of this year's funding was the attempt to make an immunofluorescence microscopy section in our department, which is vital in renal pathology. For this purpose, we have gotten all equipments necessary and sent the technician for specific training in an expert institution (University of Campinas/SP), which required time and costs. Moreover, there is so much bureaucracy to get anything in public institutions in Brazil that it caused a waste of time and money. Anyway, despite these difficulties, we are trying to start our immunofluorescence microscopy studies this month. Once we have fully established this immunofluorescence microscopy service, we will support this from clinical income.

AIM II: Reorganize the Approach to Renal Biopsy:

For a second aim, we are reorganizing the nephrology department, renal pathology services and doctor's minds for an important objective: to get better assistance to the patients with renal disease. For this purpose, we have started meetings with the clinicians, to explain what we are going to do and the importance of these proceedings, as well as to promote studies of the cases with doctors, medical students and fellows. It is important to keep in mind that this will be a new approach because nephrologists are not accustomed to either request biopsies or to analyze the cases in the context of the immunofluorescence microscopy and expert pathologic interpretation. The goal is to perform more biopsies, to obtain more accurate and informative diagnoses and to offer more specific treatment. We also have started trying to catalog the patients based on their diseases. This data bank will help with clinical follow-up of patients and will be used for future clinical and pathologic studies of kidney disease in northern Brazil. We also intend to perform immunofluorescence microscopy on transplant biopsies towards obtaining better treatment results. The data base will allow adequate follow up of the transplanted patients to evaluate our kidney transplant survival.

AIM III: Develop Partnership for Electron Microscopy.

A third aim is to develop a partnership for developing the ability to use electron microscopy to evaluate renal biopsy specimens. The electron microscope that is already being used by university researchers at the Universidade Federal de Pernambuco could be shared with the nephropathology service if an agreement can be arranged. This will be more likely if we can offer some financial support for the electron microscope using COMGAN funds. Once we have established this relationship and start using the electron microscope for clinical renal biopsies, we will support this use from clinical income.

Report provided by:

Agnes Fogo (Chair Renal Pathology Committee)