

Newsletter 1, March, 2010

Helmberg SCORE™ upgraded to meet the new HLA nomenclature changes

“We are continuing to work intensively with delivering HLA typing products and accessories to meet up with the demands of the users”, states Assoc Professor Olle Olerup, founder and CEO of Olerup SSP AB. “Our objective is to be the overall leader in SSP typing by focusing on usability and flexibility for laboratory staff working daily with our products”.



Assoc Professor Olle Olerup

It is a well known fact that the science of HLA matching is a rapidly advancing and an evolving field with new alleles discovered nearly every day. As a result, the current naming convention for HLA alleles is quickly reaching or has exceeded its capacity to name these newly discovered alleles.

The new HLA nomenclature will be launched by the HLA Nomenclature Committee April 1st, 2010 (www.ebi.ac.uk/imgt/hla/) and as a consequence of that Olerup SSP AB has, in close cooperation with Professor Wolfgang Helmberg, updated the Helmberg SCORE™ interpretation software to accommodate the new HLA nomenclature.

The new Olerup version of Helmberg SCORE™ version 4.001T will be replacing the current version end of March. The new features and version is further described below by Professor Helmberg. As a result of the conversion to the new version all users will have to register in order to download the program. The process is described below and detailed instructions will be available in due time before the conversion.

Helmberg SCORE™ 4.001T

Due to the upcoming HLA nomenclature changes the Helmberg SCORE™ will be updated as of April 1st. In the new version an application of new Allele Nomenclature enables instant switch between old and new nomenclature any time for each typing. Typing specific preferences for old/new nomenclature are stored, and a master switch for each front end to use the old or new nomenclature.



“These key features have been of the utmost importance for us to incorporate in order for us to bridge between the nomenclature committee and the SCORE users”, says Professor Wolfgang Helmberg, the inventor and developer of Helmberg SCORE™. “We also wanted old typing to be printed in old nomenclature, new in new with a conversion tool to switch these to all in old, all in new”.

The new features of the Helmberg SCORE™ have been developed so that the conversion between the old and new nomenclature will be as

Professor Wolfgang Helmberg

easy as possible for the laboratory staff. The following news is to be found, once the new version has been downloaded:

- Conversion/teaching tool for information of old/new allele nomenclature.
- Linking back and forth between old and new.
- Complete list for each locus both for old and new alleles.
- Filter functions to select a group of old or new alleles and display the equivalents.
- Combined view of frequency status, old /new name, serological equivalent, g-name, p-name.

Initially the Conversion tool will be a key component. In the start-up phase this will minimize confusion and misinterpretation among Helmberg SCORE™ users. This tool has been in focus during the development and the cooperation with the Nomenclature Committee has been invaluable.

Converting between the old and the new nomenclature

In the conversion tool there are lists for each locus and all specific changes. The user can enter the old name in a drop down box (enter or scroll) and get the new/old name. A complete list of all alleles for each locus is displayed, with frequency status, old name, new name, serology, g-group/name, p-group/name.



“Not everything in Helmberg SCORE™ will be new and unfamiliar to the user”, Professor Helmberg continues. “The program has just been “upgraded” to meet the coming demands and requirements”.

Downloading the Olerup-SSP version of Helmberg SCORE™

The Helmberg SCORE™ version is downloadable free of charge for all users of Olerup-SSP® Typing kits. In order to download this version the user will have to register on the Olerup SSP® web page (link <http://www.olerup-ssp.com/score/>). When doing so you just type your name and working place together with your e-mail address. Once clicking the send button an automatic e-mail will be generated with a user name and password.

The new version will replace the current one and be available for downloading starting March 31, 2010, enabling all Olerup-SSP® users to fully convert to the new nomenclature on April 1st. “This has been the most important objective for us at Olerup-SSP AB”, says Assoc Professor Olerup. “Together with Professor Helmberg and other colleagues we will be able to deliver this important tool to further support and assist the HLA typing laboratories.

For questions regarding the new version please contact Claudia Cargnelli (Europe), at claudia.cargnelli@olerup.com, or Cecilia Musyoki (US), at cecilia.musyoki@olerup.com