Greetings from CareDx!

We have experienced many exciting things in the first half of the year, including the delivery of more than 5,500 AlloMap tests to heart transplant patients.

Earlier this year CareDx completed its acquisition of Allenex AB: a life sciences company with high quality products that facilitate a better match between donors and transplant recipients. My colleagues and I look forward to working with new providers and healthcare programs across transplantation.

In April, the International Society for Heart and Lung Transplantation (ISHLT) held its annual meeting in Washington, DC. This conference brings together world leaders in the science, medicine and treatment of heart and lung transplant patients. Several presentations were given from data provided from the Outcomes AlloMap Registry (OAR), a unique database that matches AlloMap results and heart transplant surveillance information.

June brings two key events in transplantation: The American Transplant Congress and the Donate Life Transplant Games of America. The Transplant Games is a truly inspiring event and gives CareDx a personal opportunity to meet patients and hear their experiences. If you are attending ATC or the Games, please be sure to stop by the CareDx booth and say hello!

Wishing you all a continued happy and healthy 2016.

Peter Maag, PhD  
CEO, CareDx
Just six months ago, Derek Fitzgerald crossed the finish line of the 2015 IRONMAN World Championship in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii. If you would have told him 10 years ago he would be completing such a feat, he wouldn't have believed you.

“I was overweight and hadn’t been active since high school. At 30, I was diagnosed with Non-Hodgkin’s Lymphoma (NHL).”

While chemotherapy for NHL saved his life, it damaged his heart, leaving him with debilitating heart failure. Derek got his second chance at life in January 2011, when he received a heart transplant at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia.

“The first thing I felt was my heartbeat. I had been sick for so long that I had forgotten what it felt like. It was an overwhelming experience. My family was celebrating, but I knew my donor’s family was going through a tragic loss. I was grateful beyond words and determined to find a way to give back.”

During his post transplant rehabilitation, Derek built upon his therapy sessions to run in a 5K race eight months after his transplant. Two months after this, he ran his first half marathon and raised funds for Team In Training. In July 2013, he became the first heart transplant recipient and cancer survivor to complete the IRONMAN triathlon — a 2.4 mile swim, 112 mile bike ride and a 26.2 mile run. Derek has competed in over 70 different endurance events, including marathons, hundred mile bike rides, and several half and full-distance IRONMAN triathlons.

“I run, I swim, and I bike because I can — because I survived. I do it to say thank you to all the people that supported me and to honor the people that didn’t make it this far. I do it because there are still so many that need our support. Everyone deserves a fighting chance — not just to survive, but to live.”

Do you know someone who would like to share their story? We want to hear from you! If you are interested in sharing your story with us, or would just like more information, please email us at info@caredx.com.
Donate Life Transplant Games of America

The Donate Life Transplant Games is a multi-sport festival event produced by the Transplant Games of America for individuals who have undergone life-saving transplant surgeries. Competition events are open to living donors, organ transplant recipients, bone marrow, corneal and tissue transplant recipients. More than an athletic event, the Donate Life Transplant Games highlight the critical importance of organ, eye, and tissue donation, while celebrating the lives of organ donors and recipients.

The Transplant Games bring together donor and recipient families. Donor families get a chance to see how organ donation has changed someone else’s life. The Transplant Games celebrate the gift of life while honoring donors and their families.

“Simply put, the Transplant Games of America are amazing! Everywhere you look you see the power of organ donation on display. You meet amazing people everywhere you go. As a heart recipient, I love meeting the donor families and hearing the stories of their loved ones. Being able to tell them thank you is truly a blessing. I also love meeting other recipients and hearing their stories, every single miracle is motivating. The Games are something I look forward to every year, as I also try to get to the World Transplant Games in the off years. They give me strength to keep moving forward on the tough days and motivation every day!”

– Barb Sheble, Heart Recipient, 2009. Find her on Facebook at KCK Transplant Athlete.

The 14th Donate Life Transplant Games of America are being hosted in Cleveland, Ohio from June 10-15, 2016. They will feature 18 sporting events with competitors of all ages. For more information visit: http://www.transplantgamesofamerica.org/

Organization Follow-Up

MerleJam

The spring edition of AlloSpeak! highlighted MerleJam, a two day concert to raise funds for the MerleJam Transplant Fund, supporting pre- and post-heart transplant patients and their families. We checked back in with Merle Zuel, founder of MerleJam, after the concert:

“2016 was a huge success! We had over 400 people on Friday night, over 1,500 people on Saturday, and raised over $10,000. I want to thank our sponsors: The Legendary Rhythm & Blues Cruise, the Midwest Transplant Network, The Blues Society, our local chapter of the Transplant Recipients International Organization (TRIO KC), CareDx, and finally, a big thank you to the owners of the venue, Frank and Mary Hicks. I can’t wait until next year!”
Snapper with Roasted Grape Tomatoes, Garlic, and Basil

From Food Network Kitchens

Find even more great heart healthy recipes at: http://www.foodnetwork.com/healthy/photos/favorite-heart-healthy-recipes.html

Total Time: 30 min
Prep: 10 min
Cook: 20 min

Ingredients:

- 2 cups grape tomatoes, halved
- 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 2 cloves garlic, sliced
- 1 teaspoon balsamic vinegar
- Pinch red pepper flakes
- Kosher salt
- 1/2 cup fresh basil leaves, torn
- 4 (6-ounce) snapper fillets, with skin
- Freshly ground black pepper

Directions:

Position a rack in the middle of the oven and preheat to 350 °F.

Toss the tomatoes with 1 tablespoon of the olive oil, garlic, vinegar, pepper flakes, and salt, to taste.

Spread out on a baking sheet and roast until the tomatoes get juicy, about 15 minutes. Transfer tomatoes to a bowl and toss with the basil.

Dry the fish very well all over. To keep the fish from curling in the pan, lightly slash a cross-hatch pattern into the skin of the fish with a sharp knife. Brush the rounded flesh side of the fish with the remaining olive oil. Season with salt and pepper, to taste. Heat a large non-stick skillet over medium-high heat. Place the fish, seasoned side down, in the oil, and cook undisturbed over high heat, until the fish turns both opaque along the edges and golden on the bottom, about 3 minutes. Lightly salt the skin side of the fish. Flip the snapper and turn off the heat and let the fish cook in the residual heat of the pan until the fillets are firm but still juicy, about 1 minute more.

Divide the fish among 4 plates. Top with the tomatoes and serve.
Robert Woodward, Ph.D.
Senior Director, Research & Development (R&D)

Patients speak at our Town Hall meeting every month to share their transplant story. We use this section of Allo-Speak! to introduce CareDx to you.

Robert Woodward, Ph.D., has been with CareDx for over 15 years and is currently the Senior Director of Research & Development. He received his Ph.D. in Physiology, Molecular Biology from the University of Missouri and completed his Post Doctoral Fellowship at the Gladstone Institute of Cardiovascular Disease at the University of California, San Francisco.

What was CareDx like when you started?
The company was known as BioCardia, before it was called XDx and now CareDx. It was a true start-up environment with fewer than 10 employees in a small warehouse. At that time we were focused on developing the technology for what is now AlloMap and getting the CARGO clinical trial up and running. We quickly realized that the small temperature fluctuations in the San Francisco Bay Area could cause problems with the experiments so we moved to a larger lab space.

What are the main responsibilities of your team?
The R&D group is responsible for researching new biomarkers and technologies for transplantation diagnostics, identifying promising candidate markers and improved techniques, and developing them into diagnostic tests. We evaluate potential biomarkers in discovery studies to determine whether they can serve as a useful diagnostic.

The most recent example is cell-free DNA found in blood plasma, of which a very small amount is from the transplanted organ. We incorporated the latest DNA sequencing technologies and developed new methods to measure extremely low amounts of cell-free DNA. We have developed a robust test for this biomarker and are now studying the performance in both heart and kidney transplant patients. These data are critical to understanding how a new diagnostic test can be used to improve patient care. The generous participation of hundreds of heart and kidney transplant patients in CareDx studies enables our collaborations with clinicians to determine how a biomarker may correlate with patient outcomes.

What is your favorite part about working for CareDx?
Folks at CareDx come to work every day to create new products that have a direct impact on people’s lives. I was and still am excited to have been involved in the development of AlloMap and am looking forward to creating new products to serve the needs of transplant patients.
We encourage you to stay connected with our community and spread awareness and educate others who may be experiencing something similar.

- Check out and like our new CareDx on Facebook
- Hear stories from patients and caregivers who have been impacted by AlloMap on YouTube
- Check out our redesigned website at www.allomap.com

We look forward to staying connected with you!

Sincerely,

The CareDx Team

More About AlloMap®

AlloMap is a non-invasive diagnostic test that helps to assess the risk of organ rejection. It measures the expression levels of specific genes found in your blood. The combined level of expression of these genes, represented as an AlloMap test score, can help provide your doctor with additional information regarding your body’s response to your transplanted heart.

When used together with standard clinical assessment, AlloMap can help inform your doctor whether you are at low probability of rejecting your heart at the time your blood was drawn.

To find a transplant center and a draw site near you, click here.

For additional information, or to contact us about service-related questions, please visit us online at www.allomap.com or call at 1-888-255-6627. You can also download the AlloMap brochure here.

We hope you enjoy receiving communications and updates from the AlloMap family.