



International Society
of Blood Transfusion

2022-2023

Annual Report

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Table of contents

About us.....	3
Strategic Goals.....	4
Foreword from President.....	5
Foreword from Secretary General.....	9
Board of Directors.....	12
Membership 2022-2023.....	16
ISBT Central Office.....	17
ISBT 2022.....	19
Report from the YPC.....	20
Financial Summary.....	23
Blood components WP.....	28
Blood Supply Management WP.....	30
Cellular Therapies WP.....	33
Clinical Transfusion WP.....	35
Donors and Donation WP.....	39
GBS WP.....	40
Granulocyte Immunobiology WP.....	42
Haemovigilance WP.....	45
Immunohaematology WP.....	47
Information Technology WP.....	48
Platelet Immunobiology WP.....	49
Quality Management WP.....	50
Rare Donors WP.....	52
RCIT WP.....	54
TTID WP.....	57
Standing Committee on Jean Julliard Prize.....	61
Standing Committee of the ISBT Academy.....	63
Standing Committee on Ethics.....	68
Standing Committee of VS.....	70
Report from VS.....	73
Report from ISBT Foundation.....	75
ISBT Awards and Prizes Report.....	77
In Memorium - Beryl Armstrong.....	81

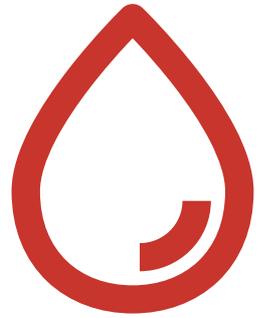
Corporate Partners

ISBT is pleased to acknowledge the following Corporate Partners during 2022-2023.



About Us

The International Society of Blood Transfusion (ISBT) is a scientific society that was founded in 1935. Since that time the ISBT has grown into an international society where transfusion medicine professionals from across the globe come together to share knowledge to improve the safety of blood transfusion worldwide.



VISION

A world of safe and sufficient blood

MISSION

ISBT is a global community of professionals sharing knowledge to enhance transfusion practice. We do this by providing opportunities for advancing knowledge and education & by advocacy for the welfare of blood donors and patients.

Strategic Goals

The new goals, agreed as part of a 5 year strategic plan for 2019-2024, are designed to keep, and build upon those things we do well and to address areas where we feel we can improve.



1

Education & Knowledge

Be the global 'go to' organisation for transfusion medicine education, and knowledge sharing

2

Training and implementation of knowledge

Be the leader in transforming knowledge into practice

3

International outreach

Engage transfusion medicine professionals and institutions globally

4

Congress

Be the international congress of choice for transfusion medicine professionals

5

Publications

Be respected for high-quality scientific and professional publications

6

Digital Resources

Be a trusted 'go to' source for information and interaction in all aspects of transfusion medicine

7

Working parties

Support Working Party activities to achieve outputs aligned with the ISBT strategy

8

Governance

Be recognized for transparent and sustainable governance

9

Governance

Be recognized for transparent and sustainable governance

Foreword from President

It is a great pleasure to share with you the Annual Report of the International Society of Blood Transfusion (ISBT) for April 2022 March 2023. I hope you will enjoy reading about how, in spite of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and other challenges, we are continuing ISBT's scientific and educational mission around the world.

Over the past year, we have shared ideas, undertaken a wide range of activities, strengthened existing collaborations and established new ones, and supported each other on COVID and non-COVID related matters. Our Board, Standing Committees, Working Parties, Transfusion Practitioners network, Young Professionals Council, content providers, Vox Sanguinis editorial group and reviewers, trainers and educators, clinicians, scientists, and researchers, have all been very active, supported by our Central Office team. It's impossible to cover all of the Society's activities in this foreword, but you can read more about the work of the ISBT board, standing committees and working parties in this report.

ISBT celebrated World Blood Donor Day, 14 June 2022, this year held in Mexico and online, where ISBT was represented by Dudi Levi, ISBT Regional Director for Latin Americas. ISBT is a society in official relations with the World Health Organization since 1955. We were pleased to support WHO, the Ministry of Health and the National Blood Center in Mexico in recognising the contributions of volunteer blood donors: without blood donors, there would be no transfusions for patients who need them!



Michael Busch
ISBT President
Institute Director Senior VP of Research
and Scientific Programs, Vitalant
Research Institute,
San Francisco, USA

ISBT supports the implementation of the WHO **Action framework to advance universal access to safe, effective and quality-assured blood products 2020–2023.**

As part of this engagement, members of the ISBT Haemovigilance WP have developed a set of tools and resources for implementation of Haemovigilance systems, now hosted on the ISBT website.

Following on from the 2021 workshop on stepwise access to safe plasma proteins in resource-constrained countries, the ISBT Working Party on Global Blood Safety initiated the International Coalition for Safe Plasma Proteins (ICSPP) to advance access to safe plasma proteins in Low- and Middle-Income Countries (LMIC).

In cooperation with the WHO, this coalition was established to address the global insufficiency of plasma-derived medicinal products that are unavailable or unaffordable in many LMIC. Through its projects in LMIC, the ICSPP seeks to reverse the wastage of domestic plasma that

could be used, when meeting appropriate quality standards, either in industrial fractionation or initially locally to prepare safe intermediary protein therapies. Additional highlights from the Working Parties during the past year included a successful workshop on Eye Drops Of Human Origin workshop in Vienna, organised by the ISBT Cellular Therapy WP with support from ISBT Central Office.



ISBT webinars were held including a series on **Haemovigilance** in collaboration with the National Blood Authority, Australia and International Haemovigilance Network based on programme first planned for ISBT Brisbane in November 2021.

These we coordinated by the Central Office team and attracted over 800 registrations. ISBT continues to support other educational events internationally through the ISBT Academy.

ISBT maintains strong connections with national and regional professional societies, blood services, educational institutions, academic networks, industry and other organisations.

This year, we worked with these groups and our corporate and **strategic partners** on a number of important activities, summarised in the report.

A **new MoU was signed with ICCBBA** in November 2022 giving a formal framework to a long standing and valued relationship.

It was with great regret that we were unable to hold our planned congress in Kuala Lumpur. However, it was simply not possible to continue with our plans for in person

meetings, bearing in mind the safety of our members, staff, guests and exhibitors, the ongoing travel disruptions, and the inability of many working in healthcare and science to leave their posts during a global health emergency.

However, we were very pleased with the success of the 2022 virtual congress. Although the 'learning curve' in transitioning to the virtual environment over the past two years has been steep, we have been well supported by our congress partner MCI, our Central Office team, and our speakers, moderators, abstract presenters and participants.

What felt like new ways of online interaction two years ago are now routine, and while we do very much miss seeing each other in person, these virtual meetings have provided opportunities for increased access to our educational and scientific programs for attendees from all around the world.

Thanks to our ISBT Scientific Secretary, Professor John Semple, who completed his term this past year, for overseeing the congress programs, along with the two Vice-Presidents responsible for the Academy content. John was recently succeeded by Professor Jason Acker.

We thank John for his service to ISBT, and welcome Jason to his new role and wish him every success.



This report summarises the ideas and efforts of many people. On behalf of ISBT, I thank our Executive Director Jenny White and our entire Central Office team, our members who

serve on the ISBT Board helping to refine and implement our strategic plan, our Standing Committees, the ISBT Foundation, the Chairs and members of Working Parties, and Professor Miquel Lozano and the editorial board and staff of *Vox Sanguinis*.

ISBT greatly appreciates the partnerships with our **Affiliate Members**, and the scientific input and funding support from our **Corporate Partners** and our **congress sponsors and exhibitors**, which enable us to maintain our solid financial position and support the activities described in the report.

Although COVID-19 upended many of the things we used to take for granted, you will see that we have adapted and flourished in this new environment. Thank you for your ongoing support of ISBT, and I hope you will enjoy reading this Annual Report and ongoing engagement with our outstanding ISBT community.

Foreword from the Secretary General

For 2022 we remained mostly virtual colleagues, once again – with a virtual ISBT Congress once again held on June 4 – 8, 2022. The congress included more than 60 sessions held live, across various time zones as well as being available on demand. Scientific and case study topic sessions, Live Q & A sessions and meet the experts' sessions were among the popular formats. The availability of “on- demand” and live sessions in various time zones allowed for maximal participation by members and attendees.

The event was well attended with 1186 delegates from 81 countries. A selection of the presentations are available to members as recordings in the [webcast library](#).

The poster and abstract sessions were also available on the virtual platform with 450 posters presented at the **Virtual ISBT 2022 congress**.

The meeting was supported by 16 exhibitors,

including ISBT corporate partners who also contributed 7 Satellite sessions and 1 industry workshop.

Despite the challenges of not being able to travel or meet in person, the Scientific Secretary, John Semple, the ISBT Academy, ISBT office staff, planning committee members, abstract reviewers, and MCI Amsterdam demonstrated expertise, organization, and enthusiasm in successfully leading another innovative Congress.

Gwen Clarke
ISBT Secretary General
Chair of the Vox SC; Associate Medical Director, Canadian Blood Services, Edmonton, Canada



Throughout the year the ISBT Board and central office also continued working toward fulfilment of the strategic plan while working remotely and continuing to connect our ISBT community through an ongoing series of webinars, working party meetings and workshops.

The new website has been effectively used throughout 2022 with a reorganisation of educational content for easier access and a user-friendly interface for expanding ISBT resources. Following the changes to the ISBT Statutes and By-law introduced at the 2022 General Assembly a rolling membership year has been instituted and is supported by the new website and integrated office systems.

ISBT Membership for 2022 - 2023 reached

1525
MEMBERS

All WHO regions and 106 countries are represented within the Society.

Vox Sanguinis had a successful year under the editorial leadership of Dr. Miquel Lozano. A number of the changes to the journal have now been completed and have been well received by authors and readers. The financial contribution to ISBT by the journal remained strong.

The 15 Working Parties (WPs) continue to be an active and vital part of the Society, contributing congress materials, organizing live webinars with an educational focus and providing organizational tools and resources for members and the transfusion community.

The new website has an improved interface to the WP sections with both publicly available and members content included. WP meetings were once again held mostly virtually for 2022, with support from the ISBT office, ensuring that members from all over the globe were able to participate.

At the 2022 Virtual Congress two important prizes were awarded. The **ISBT Presidential Award Winner** was **Dr. Nancy Heddle** and the **Jean Julliard Awardee** was **Dr. Alexander Vlaar**. The award session presentations are available in the online webcast library, titled “Prize Sessions”.

In addition the **Vox Best Paper prize for 2021** was awarded to: **Davison et al. for the paper Blood donation by men who have sex with men: using evidence to change policy.**

Online elections were held in 2022 with a new slate of board members elected and taking office in June.

There was for the first time in ISBT history a dead heat for a board position, and a run-off election was held between the two tied candidates for the role of Regional Director for North America. See section 4 of this report for the composition of the ISBT Board pre and post the 2022 elections.

I can't wait to meet and interact with many of you in person at ISBT Gothenburg 2023 in Sweden.

Finally, we get to meet face-to-face and have some real conversations. Also, mark your calendars for the General Assembly on June 20th, 2023, because I'm really looking forward to seeing you there too!

It's going to be a fantastic opportunity to connect and share experiences.



Board of Directors

April 2022 - June 2022

Elections for some ISBT Board positions took place during the period of this report, with handover in June 2022. The following pages show the composition of the Board Executive Committee and Regional Directors from April - June 2022 and then from June 2022- March 2023.

Executive Committee:



Erica Wood
President



Michael Busch
President Elect



Masja de Haas
Senior Vice President



Yoke Lin Fung
Junior Vice President



Martin Olsson
Past President



Gwen Clarke
Secretary General



Eric Jansen
Treasurer

Board of Directors

April 2022 - June 2022

Members of the Board representing WHO Regions:



Shirley Owusu-Ofori

ISBT Regional Director Africa



Mindy Goldman

ISBT Regional Director North America



Lilian De Castilho

ISBT Regional Director South America



Birgit Gathof

ISBT Regional Director Europe



Cynthia So-Osman

ISBT Regional Director Europe



May Raouf

ISBT Regional Director Eastern Mediterranean



Mahrukh Getshen

ISBT Regional Director South East Asia



Veera Sekaran Nadarajan

ISBT Regional Director Western Pacific



Denese Marks

ISBT Regional Director Western Pacific

Board of Directors

June 2022 - March 2023

Executive Committee:



Michael Busch
President



Pierre Tiberghien
President Elect



Yoke Lin Fung
Senior Vice President



Jill Storry
Junior Vice President



Erica Wood
Past President



Gwen Clarke
Secretary General



Eric Jansen
Treasurer

Board of Directors

June 2022 - March 2023

Members of the Board representing WHO Regions:



Shirley Owusu-Ofori

ISBT Regional Director Africa



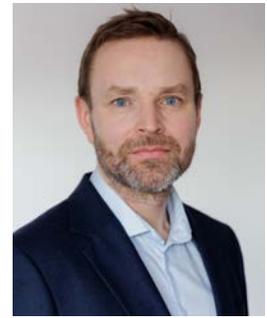
Katerina Pavenski

ISBT Regional Director North America



Jose Eduardo Levi

ISBT Regional Director Latin America



Christian Erikstrup

ISBT Regional Director Europe



Cynthia So-Osman

ISBT Regional Director Europe



Maha Badawi

ISBT Regional Director Eastern Mediterranean



Mahrukh Getshen

ISBT Regional Director South East Asia



Nelson H. Tsuno

ISBT Regional Director Western Pacific



Denese Marks

ISBT Regional Director Western Pacific

ISBT Central Office

The ISBT Central Office is located in the centre of Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

With eight full-time colleagues and one part-time colleague provide comprehensive administrative and organizational support for the Board of Directors and Executive Committee, manage membership affairs, coordinate International and Regional Congresses, facilitate content creation for ISBT Education, support the Standing Committees and Working Parties, edit and distribute ISBT's quarterly magazine Transfusion Today, and serve as the System Administrator for the ISBT website.



Jenny White
Executive Director



Mildred Kada
Membership
Manager



Ralph Zepeda
Finance Manager



Jeannette Nader
Projects Officer &
Executive support



Geoff Simon
Educational Officer



Beatriz Galindo
Stakeholder &
Marketing Manager



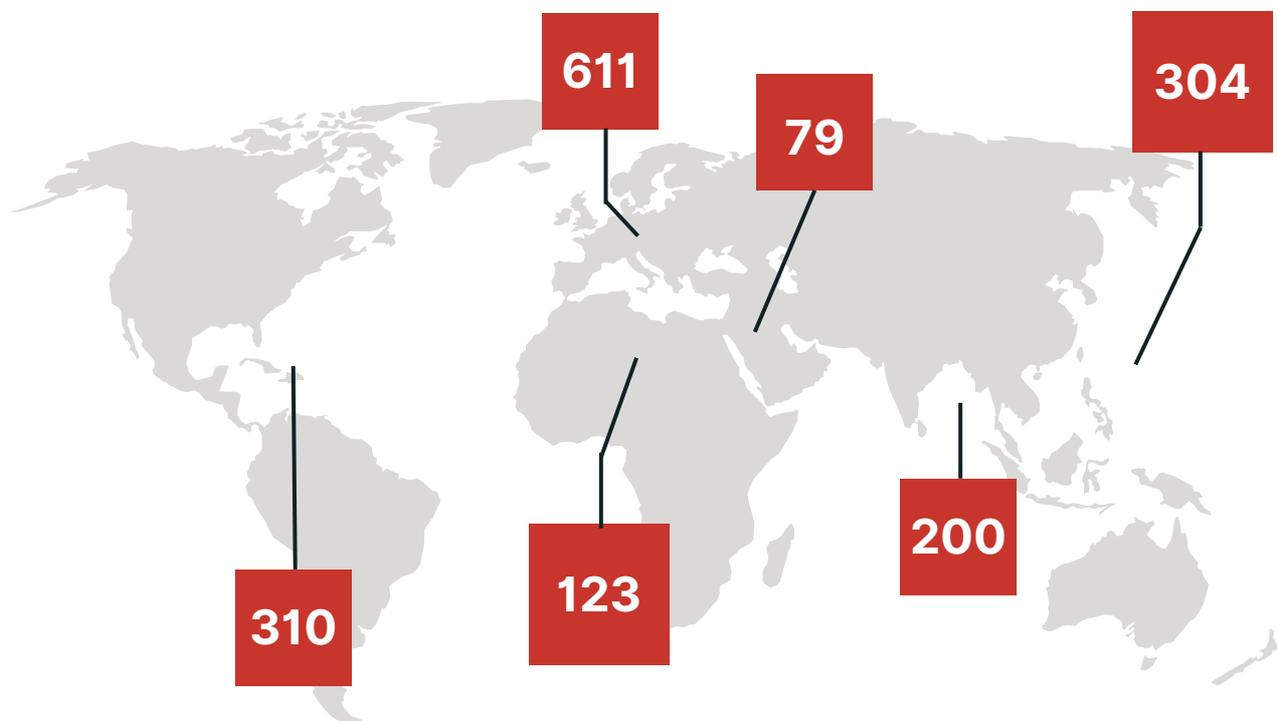
Eszter Herczenik
Scientific Officer



Erica Kukasira
Education support



Marion Molliet
Communications
Officer

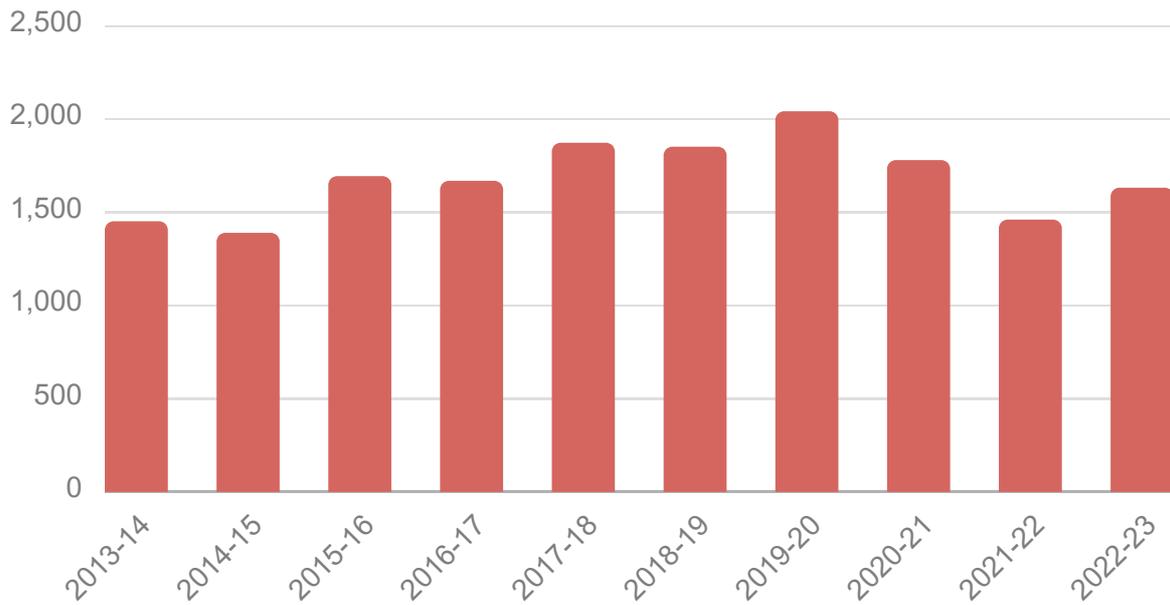


A Global Community

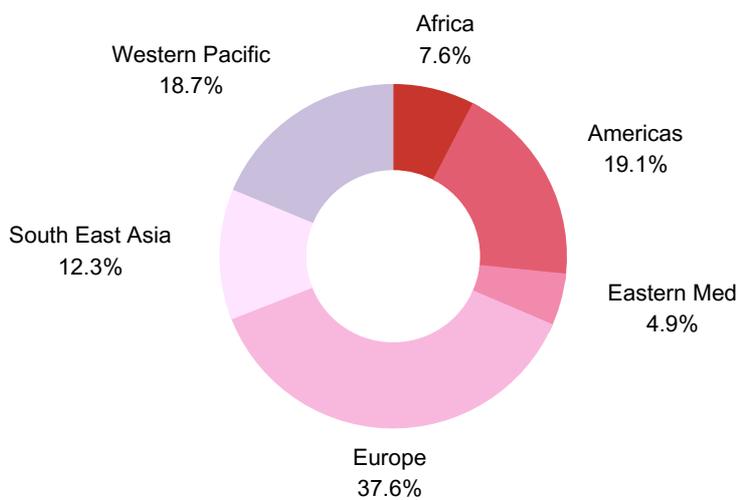
We present an overview of our community, consisting of 1627 members hailing from 103 countries. This diverse and expansive network of professionals forms the backbone of our organization, driving innovation, fostering collaboration, and shaping the future of transfusion medicine worldwide.



ISBT Membership 2012 - 2023



AFFILIATE MEMBERS OVER THE YEARS



2013	16
2014	16
2015	14
2016	14
2017	17
2018	29
2019	31
2020	31
2021	31
2022	28

ISBT 2022 Virtual

The 37th International Congress of the ISBT, planned for Kuala Lumpur was with regret moved on-line as ISBT2022 virtual congress. This was necessary to ensure the safety of our members, staff, guests and exhibitors, and considering the logistical challenges of ongoing travel disruptions, and healthcare professionals being absent from work during a global health emergency.

The **ISBT 2022 Virtual congress** was, however, a great success with almost 1200 delegates from 81 different countries. The congress was held over two time zones to allow for participation in as many different parts of the world as possible, with a full five-day scientific programme as planned for the original congress in KL, by John Semple ISBT Scientific Secretary and Lin Fung, ISBT Academy Chair, with valuable input from the KL local organising committee.

The congress also featured awards, the IBST General Assembly, poster presentations, networking events, exhibition and sponsored sessions. The scientific presentations were available on-demand within 24 hours and from the end of the congress in June until August 31, 2022, and the material recorded has subsequently made excellent content for the ISBT webcast library.

Available on-demand!

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Young Professionals Council

We met monthly on Zoom to connect and share important personal and professional updates, discuss current initiatives, new initiatives, upcoming ISBT congresses, and any other business related to ISBT's Young Professionals (YPs).



Syeldy Sasongko

Chairperson



Nysa McGowan

YPC Secretary
and West Pacific



Antoine Lewin

YPC North
Americas



Nikita Ou-Yang

YPC West Pacific



Saikat Mandal

YPC South East
Asia



Nour Al-Mozain

YPC Eastern
Mediterranean



Lilian Duku

YPC Africa



Carla Dinardo

YPC Latin America

Activities during the period

We welcomed new representatives Nour Al-Mozain (Eastern Mediterranean), Saikat Mandal (Southeast Asia), and Antoine Lewin (North America).

During the ISBT 2022 Congress, we organized the Young Professionals Networking Breakfast, which was, again, a success, with many breakout groups comprising of experts and YPs.

Inspired by ISBT's strategic meetings and goals, we spent several meetings to create the following sentence to guide our council's activities this year: To expand our community by engaging Young Professionals regionally through customized and clear communication, connections, and research activities.

To these aims, we both continued long-standing activities and began new ones, such as:

Social media: we've continued posting multiple times a month regarding various content such as scientific articles, career tips, and networking opportunities through short videos, Instagram Live, and posts. With the help of Nikita, one of our Western Pacific representatives, we now also have a **Weibo** account, which is the most popular social media platform in China. We work closely with the ISBT Office to ensure that all our social media content meets requirements and guidelines.

"Social media is the empowering platform where aspiring young professionals in the field of blood transfusion come together, connecting, inspiring, and fostering a vibrant community that fuels their passion and propels them towards excellence"





Live Journal Clubs: these monthly webinars have continually gathered attention and attendance. In February 2023, we launched the first-ever bilingual LJC in Spanish and English with Carla Dinardo and Oscar Aguilar Sierra.

It was a big success with 100 attendees. In the coming months, we have planned immersive LJC's in Mandarin and French, allowing us to connect with a wider audience and tap into the wealth of knowledge from diverse regions. By bridging language gaps, these LJC's will provide a unique opportunity for professionals to engage, exchange ideas, and collectively push the boundaries of blood transfusion expertise.

Needs-assessment survey: we updated the YPC's prior needs-assessment survey and distributed it from January-February 2023. Over 300 YPs completed this survey, comprising both of ISBT members and non-members, and we are currently analysing the results.

Podcast series: Named "Transfusion Talks," we've begun working on episodes that aim to provide a platform for Young Professionals to share experiences and transfusion knowledge with each other. This podcast series aims to provide a platform where your voice can be heard, your expertise can shine, and your contributions can make a lasting impact on the blood transfusion community.

Stay tuned for the unveiling of "**Transfusion Talks**" after the ISBT Gothenburg congress, as we embark on this exciting journey together, connecting, inspiring, and transforming the way we learn and grow in the realm of blood transfusion.

ISBT Treasurer's Report 2022-2023

When preparing the budget, we always have a conservative view on our income and a negative result of € 302K was anticipated, but 2022-2023 was an even more difficult year than expected. The COVID-19 pandemic was not over in many parts of the world and the Ukraine war resulted in high inflation of our costs. In February 2022 we had to make the decision about the congress in Kuala Lumpur planned for June 2022. Due to ongoing uncertainty over international travel restrictions and with concerns for safety the congress was again held on-line as "ISBT 2022".

The total ISBT income we expected was € 755K and the result was only € 683K compared to € 993K total income in 2021-2022. The total costs increased from € 795K in 2021-2022 to € 946K in 2022-2023, while we expected a total cost of € 897K. This was mostly due to the high inflation in the Netherlands.

The COVID-19 pandemic continued to have an impact on our projects and activities, especially at the beginning of the year. While our working parties were more active than the year before, we nonetheless only spent € 77K from our expected spend of € 166K.

As a consequence, the result before taxes was minus € 340K compared to a still positive result of € 136K in 2021-2022.

Eric Jansen
ISBT Treasurer

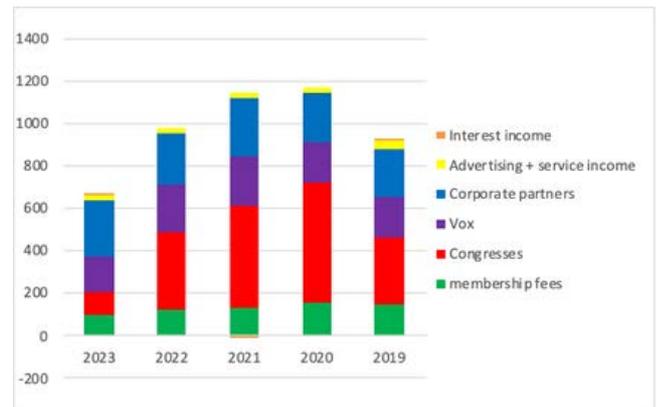


Income

Due to the cancellation of the face-to-face (F2F) congress in Kuala Lumpur and the move to virtual, the congress result was only € 107K which was less than half of what we expected. The congress was very successful as a scientific meeting, but less financially successful than the virtual congresses in 2020 and 2021, in part we believe due to the resumption of F2F national transfusion meetings in some parts of the world as well as a general fatigue of virtual meetings. We are all looking forward to our F2F congresses in 2023.

The income from the royalties of Vox Sanquinis (Vox) is declining because of the trend to move to Open Access; it is not clear yet what the ultimate effect is of this trend will be.

In 2021-22 the Vox royalties were € 229K; we budgeted € 200K and the result in 2022-2023 is € 165K. The GBP vs. Euro exchange rate also had a negative impact on the income from Vox. Income from membership fees decreased a little, whilst the income from corporate partnerships increased.



Expenses

Inflation in the Netherlands led to a notable increase in total expenses, from € 795K in 2021-22 to € 948K in 2022-23 (budgeted € 888K).

Personnel costs rose by 15% due to additional hires and indexation, impacting various expenses for ISBT CO in the Netherlands. Membership benefits costs decreased as fewer members and more members opted for digital versions of Vox and Transfusion Today.

We are working on lowering these costs but keeping up the service to our members.

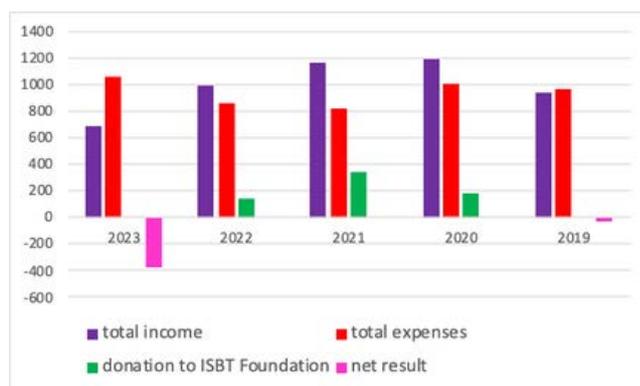
The travel costs increased compared to 2021-22 and returned on the pre-COVID-19 level. After not having a F2F Board meeting for many years we organised a Board meeting and strategy review in June 2022, in Amsterdam. As a consequence, the travel costs returned to a normal level of € 90K.

We are working on lowering these costs but keeping up the service to our members.

The travel costs increased compared to 2021-22 and returned on the pre-COVID-19 level. After not having a F2F Board meeting for many years we organised a Board meeting and strategy review in June 2022, in Amsterdam. As a consequence, the travel costs returned to a normal level of € 90K.

The professional expenses increased because of extra financial and HR support. We also needed legal support for our review of statutes and bylaws and support for legal assistance around setting up the Blood Group Allele database. In person events around the world were also fairly limited and as such, the amount spent on projects and activities was also less than in previous years.

Thanks to some sponsorship of a WP workshop, the total costs of Projects and Activities (awards, I TRY IT program) increased only a little.



Up until this year, the ISBT had an agreement with the Dutch tax authorities which allowed the Society not to pay income taxes as long as the annual result was contributed to the Foundation of the ISBT. While this agreement had served the ISBT well in the past, it limited the Society’s ability to invest in the projects and activities it believes are necessary to achieve its aims. Beginning this year, the Society ended that agreement.

Going forward, this means that we will not be limited in the use of our result. Unfortunately, this also meant reserves which had remained untaxed as part of our old agreement, would now be subject to tax. In no small part due to our good standing with the Dutch tax authorities, we were successful in negotiating a five-year payment window which will allow us to deduct any losses during the period against this tax.

In the current year, we recognized € 43K in tax expense. Such amount is not due for four years and may be reduced by any losses we may have during this time.

Outlook

The challenges the Society confronted over last three years were unprecedented. The uncertainty we faced in almost every aspect of our operations made the decision-making process (both short-term and long-term) extremely difficult.

This year we still suffered from the impact of COVID-19 and could not organise our F2F congress in Kuala Lumpur. Further, new challenges emerged this year with global inflation at historical levels and the uncertainties caused by the war in Ukraine.

Despite the loss in 2022-2023, over the three financial years affected by the pandemic (2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23), the combined result before taxes and contributions to the ISBT Foundation was positive at € 139K and our capital position of EUR 2.2m is still very healthy.

Many thanks again to the Executive Director and all the ISBT Central Office staff for their extraordinary efforts in the difficult COVID-19 years.

Looking forward, we are optimistic about the opportunities the ISBT has to improve transfusion safety worldwide. As we establish our long-term goals in this area, we are looking at the most efficient way to finance the ISBT's growth in order to meet these goals. As a result of changing our agreement with the Dutch tax authorities, we have more flexibility to use positive results to improve our capital position. We can donate to the Foundation of the ISBT when the Foundation needs funds to maintain their good work.

Working Parties

Our Working Parties (WPs) are topic-driven groups that promote science research and best practice in their areas of expertise across the transfusion chain. As a member of a working party you can actively discuss your work with like-minded colleagues from around the globe, attend working party meetings, have access to the members-only content and join discussions.

Currently, ISBT has a total of 15 Working Parties, some of them work closely together. Each Working Party has a formal committee structure and is coordinated by a Chair or Co-Chairs. To read more information about the Working Parties, click on the Working Party of interest below.

- 1. Blood Components**
- 2. Blood Supply Management**
- 3. Cellular Therapies**
- 4. Clinical Transfusion**
- 5. Donors and Donation**
- 6. Global Blood Safety**
- 7. Granulocyte Immunobiology**
- 8. Haemovigilance**
- 9. Immunohaematology**
- 10. Information Technology**
- 11. Platelet Immunobiology**
- 12. Quality Management**
- 13. Rare Donors**
- 14. Red Cell Immunogenetics and Blood Group Terminology**
- 15. Transfusion Transmitted Infectious Diseases**

ISBT Blood Components Working Party

Membership Information

The WP currently has grown to 22 members representing 14 different countries from around the world.

Meetings and teleconferences

Core members of the WP continue to meet, to plan activities for 2023. The WP met five times during 2022-23, including the annual business meeting.

Activities during the period

The WP assisted with two sessions at the 2022 Virtual ISBT Congress.

- An academy day session, “**What’s new with Components**” in which two members of the WP, Thomas Klei and Denese Marks, were speakers.
- A session hosted by the WP titled “**The future of blood components**”, this was the first session to be organised by the Blood Components Working Party.

During this session, the working party was introduced, and two speakers from the WP, Prof. Dana Devine, and A/Prof. Peter Schubert, gave presentations on “**What are we doing about DEHP?**” and Whole blood as a transfusion product, respectively.

CHAIRPERSON AND COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Denese Marks (Australia)

Vice Chair: Dana Devine (Canada)

Secretary: Lacey Johnson (Australia)

Treasurer: Jason Acker (Canada)



The WP held their first annual business meeting on August 10, 2022. Seventeen members attended, as well as five corporate partner representatives.

The WP contributed to the **October Edition of Transfusion Today**, preparing eight articles in total. The October edition focused on “**Blood Components’- What’s in the Future.**”

Financial

The Blood Components WP did not incur any costs or receive income in 2022-2023.



Other Executive members: Rebecca Cardigan (UK), Thomas Klei (Netherlands), Pieter van der Meer (Netherlands), Peter Schubert (Canada), Neil Beckman (Australia/UK)

ISBT Blood Supply Management Working Party

Membership information

As of March 31, 2023, the WP had 49 members representing 23 countries.

Meetings and teleconferences

Two virtual meetings were held:

1. Business Meeting on May 24, 2022, during the ISBT 2022 virtual congress, with 11 delegates representing eight countries.
2. "Welcome" Meeting on November 1, 2022, after a successful recruitment drive, with 19 members representing eleven countries.

Topics discussed during the business meeting included:

- Contributions from BSM WP (How-Do-I, case studies, ISBT forum post, webinar)
- BSM WP Newsletter
- BSM WP Audit
- Other project suggestions: Good practices in BSM
- BSM WP revised Terms of Reference
- Nominations and elections for WP Co-chair and Secretary
- BSM WP scientific session at the 2022 virtual congress

There were several email exchanges between the Chairperson and ISBT CO regarding the recruitment drive for new WP members. Additionally, the Chairperson sent emails to WP members regarding communications from ISBT CO, webinar contributions, and follow-up on tasks.

Members of a BSM WP sub-committee working on a survey about "Blood Supply Management during the COVID-19 pandemic" had ongoing email exchanges.

That's the summary of the meetings and email exchanges.

CHAIRPERSON AND COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Justina Kordai Ansah (Ghana)

Secretary: Diptiranjnan Rout (India)



Activities during the period

The main achievements of the WP during the period were as follows:

ISBT WP contributions to the ISBT 2022 Virtual Congress

A WP Scientific session took place on June 4, 2022, titled **“Planning for major international events”**.

The speakers and their respective topics were as follows:

- Stuart Chesneau, Australia: Strategic planning for international events
- Mohd Isa Ridzuan Dato, Malaysia: Ensuring Adequate Blood Supply in Preparation for A Mass Gathering Event, A Malaysian Experience
- Wayne Smith, South Africa- Collaborative Planning in terms of major events

This session was moderated by the WP Chair, Justina Kordai Ansah, who also chaired a session titled “Planning during a Pandemic” on June 7, 2022, and participated as a facilitator in the ISBT YPC's virtual networking session.

ISBT Education Webinar

A WP educational webinar took place on November 9, 2022. The title of the webinar was “National Blood Supply from the Australian perspective’. The speaker was Stuart Chesneau the Chief Strategic Supply and Growth Officer, Business Growth and Innovation at the Australian Red Cross Lifeblood The webinar was successful and participation excellent.

Recruitment drive for new WP members and a secretary

BSM WP launched a successful recruitment drive on ISBT website on June 27, 2022. A total of 41 applications were received out of which 30 were selected as new members who joined the WP.

The WP now has a current Membership of 49 from 23 countries from the previous membership of 19 from 11 countries.

The new secretary for the WP, Diptiranjana Rout, is a transfusion practitioner and assistant professor at the National Cancer Institute of Badsha, India

Survey

A Survey titled “**Blood Supply Management during the COVID-19 pandemic**” was launched on July 29, 2022, at the ISBT and other websites and social media handles for a period of eight weeks.

A total of **122 complete responses** were received at the end of the survey period. The results have been analyzed and a WP subcommittee is currently working towards a presentation at an appropriate forum and possibly publishing the results, to be submitted to Vox Sanguinis.

Revised TOR

The BSM WP ToR was revised to conform with a template provided by the ISBT central office.

Ongoing work by the ISBT BSM WP

- The WP is developing a concept for a periodic Newsletter for WP members.
- The 2022 survey regarding “**BSM during the COVID-19 pandemic**” is being worked on towards a publication, to be submitted to Vox Sanguinis.

ISBT Cellular Therapies Working Party

Membership information

The WP consists of 22 persons with members from Europe, Asia, Africa, North America, South America, and Australia.

Due to Covid, we haven't been able to recruit new members at in-person congresses as before. However, we have received several expressions of interest from individuals since early 2023, and they will formally join at the Gothenburg WP meeting. One challenge is that our WP falls slightly outside mainstream Transfusion Medicine, and individuals interested in cell therapy may be more inclined to join organizations dedicated to cell therapy like ISCT or EBMT.

Nevertheless, our WP's executive committee acknowledges the urgent need to actively recruit more members, particularly from our younger members. This will be a primary focus for 2023/2024.

Meetings and teleconferences

No specific in person WP meeting was held.

We have continued with monthly zoom based meetings, mainly amongst the executive committee of the WP.

The monthly meetings were for planning of the successful **EDHO Workshop** May 2022 Vienna, post workshop manuscript writing, discussing membership numbers and challenges as well as planning for the upcoming in person working party meeting in Gothenburg.

CHAIRPERSON AND COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Mickey Koh (UK and Singapore)

Vice Chair: Christian Gabriel (Austria)

Secretary: Reinhardt Henschler (Germany)

Treasurer: Thierry Burnouf (Taiwan/France)



Activities during the period

- Mickey Koh organized a successful ISBT-WBMT-Pakistan Haematology session in Rawalpindi, Pakistan, as part of a workshop on Haematopoietic Stem Cell Transplant and Cellular Therapy.
- Mickey Koh and Peter Horn represent ISBT at the Worldwide Network for Blood and Marrow Transplantation (WBMT).
- The WP successfully organized an in-person EDHO in Vienna, May 2022. The workshop had invited speakers and experts in the field, and received excellent feedback for its scientific content and organization.
- A manuscript reporting the findings from the EDHO workshop was completed by the WP and published in Vox Sanguinis as a resource.
- Mickey Koh represents ISBT on CTCLAG, a technical advisory group under ICCBBA.
- The Committee has updated the working party page on the ISBT website.
- The WP submitted a proposal for the 2023 AABB Congress and awaits acceptance confirmation.
- Mickey Koh, Reinhard Henschler, and Thierry Burnouf were actively involved in speaking and chairing sessions at the ISBT 2022 Virtual congress.
- WP members contributed to abstract reviews for both the ISBT and AABB 2023 congresses, with Mickey Koh's assistance in the cell therapy track for ISBT Gothenburg.
- As part of the ISBT Developing Countries Award 2022, the WP delivered a well-received talk on HSCT and the role of transfusion medicine specialists in transplant immunology at a symposium in Manipal, India, in March 2023.

Subcommittee chair on Platelet Lysates: Katharina Schallmoser (Austria)

Subcommittee chair on Serum eyedrops: Denese Marks (Australia)

ISBT Clinical Transfusion Working Party

Membership Information

As of January 2023, the WP has 98 members from 33 countries worldwide, including 14 YPs among 28 new members. The WP saw substantial growth in 2021 and 2022, with 38 new members joining. Presently, there are 26 YPs in the WP.

Meetings and teleconferences

The WP held two business meetings: one in August 2022 (virtual) and another in January 2023 (in-person), with representation from all subgroup leads. The subgroups also conducted regular meetings with varying frequencies (monthly for TP, quarterly for education, PBM, and hemoglobinopathy, and biannually for Wikipedia and pediatrics)

The COVID-19 convalescent plasma working group, established in April 2020, continued to meet bimonthly (30 meetings in total) and completed three rounds of projects.

The working group has published 10 manuscripts and will now be incorporated into the clinical transfusion WP, focusing on immunotherapy.

Activities during the period

Completed activities

- Revised terms of reference for the working party.
- Revised mission for the working party that is accessible through the WP main webpage.
- Update of the WP website with new terms of reference, and new webpages for the PBM, Education, social media, TP and Hemoglobinopathy subgroups.

CHAIRPERSON AND COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Arwa Z. Al-Riyami (Oman)

Vice Chair: Mark Yazer (USA)

Secretary: Satyam Arora (India)



ISBT 2022 Virtual Congress

Members of the WP actively participated in several sessions during the ISBT 2022 congress, including:

- Clinical Transfusion Working Party session
- Transfusion Practitioner session
- Meet the expert session about Transfusion Practitioners
- Meet the expert session on massive transfusion

ISBT Transfusion Reaction E-learning module, developed in collaboration with EBA. It was initially launched in March 2021 and underwent updates in 2022. The WP is currently working on translating the module into Spanish, led by Dr. José María García and Dr. Murilo Daflon. Additionally, the WP received support from the European School of Transfusion Medicine (ESTM) to translate the module into French.

Transfusion Practitioners across the world podcast was launched and can be accessed through the ISBT website, as well as on Spotify and Apple.

Ongoing social media activities using #ISBTClinical and #TransfusionPractitioner.

Organization of the first ISBT World Blood Donor Day social media campaign, with participation from WP members, their followers and institutions, and support from the ISBT office. The campaign took place on social media and utilized the hashtag #ISBTWBDD2022 on its posts. The social media champion for the campaign was Dr. Kamini Khillan from India.

Updating 140 Wikipedia pages on transfusion medicine including 51 pages related to clinical transfusion.

Invitations received to share WP activities & projects

- Hemovigilance WP meeting, August 14 2022
- 2nd global forum on access to safe blood products for patients in need of regular transfusion, November 11, 2022
- ICTMG members meeting, March 15, 2023

Committee members-subgroup leads

PBM: Katerina Pavenski (Canada), Yashaswi Dhiman (India)

Paediatrics: Ruchika Goel (USA), Satyam Arora (India)

Transfusion Practitioners (TP): Linley Bielby (Australia), Rachel Moss (UK)

Clinical apheresis: Hans Vrieling (the Netherlands), Soumya Das (India)

Education: Cynthia So-Osman, Peter van den Burg (the Netherlands)

Haemoglobinopathies: Ratti Ram Sharma, Kamini Khillan (India)

Wikipedia: Lise Estcourt (UK), Gopal Patidar (India)

Social Media: Soumya Das (India), Lakhvinder Singh (India)

TM E-learning/online education qualitative research collaboration with LifeBlood, Australia.

TM e-learning module collaboration with European School of Transfusion Medicine (ESTM).

I TRY IT (2022/2023); supervision of a full cohort of 6 participants in a joined collaboration with the TTID and immunohematology WPs. Two members of the WP are participating as mentors in the program for the last four years. The scope was on writing research protocols in the fields of TTID, Clinical Transfusion, and immunohematology.

A **survey** to obtain members' feedback on the WP activities and engagement opportunities.

The education subgroup has received an invitation from Transfusion & Apheresis journal to publish an article on ISBT e-learning module

he WP webpage experienced increased visits with 13,369 page views in 2023..

The education and TP subgroups have published an international forum on TM e-learning/online education for hospital nurses has been published.

Increased visits to the ISBT transfusion reaction module with 162 users in 2023.

Transfusion Today and Journal clubs

- Two Transfusion Today articles were published in 2022 (TP and pediatrics).
- One webinars/Live Journal club by the Pediatrics subgroup.

Social media posts (January 2022-January 2023)

#ISBTClinical: Twitter (9), Facebook (8), Instagram (8), LinkedIn (7)

#TransfusionPractitioner: Twitter (10), Facebook (9), Instagram (10), LinkedIn (10)

Publications

Nour Al Mozain, Satyam Arora, Ruchika Goel, Katerina Pavenski, Cynthia So-Osman. Patient Blood Management in adults and children: What have we achieved, and what still needs to be addressed? *Transfusion Clinique et Biologique*. 2023 Mar 23

Al-Riyami AZ, Bielby L, Moss R, Rahimi-Levene N, O'Kane A, Hess JR, Saba NE, Kim KH, Arora S, Dua S, Barrett CL. International Forum on Transfusion Education for Healthcare Professionals Who Administer Blood to Patients in Hospitals and Health Services: Summary. *Vox sanguinis*. 2023 Feb 10. DOI: 10.1111/vox.13408

Al-Riyami AZ, Bielby L, Moss R, Rahimi-Levene N, O'Kane A, Hess JR, Saba NE, Kim KH, Arora S, Dua S, Barrett CL. International Forum on Transfusion Education for Healthcare Professionals Who Administer Blood to Patients in Hospitals and Health Services: Responses. *Vox sanguinis*. 2023 Feb 10. DOI: 10.1111/vox.13409

Wasiluk T, So-Osman C, van den Burg P, Herczenik E, Al-Riyami AZ. The ISBT e-learning module in transfusion reaction: An initiative for a global outreach. *Transfus Apher Sci*. 2023 Feb;62(1):103633.

Satyam Arora; Ruchika Goel; Arwa Z. Al-Riyami, Abdul Hakim Al-Rawas, et.al. International Forum on Small-Volume Transfusions in Neonates and Paediatric Patients: Summary. *Vox Sanguinis*. 2022 Nov 8. doi.org/10.1111/vox.13399

Satyam Arora; Ruchika Goel; Arwa Z. Al-Riyami., Abdul Hakim Al-Rawas, et.al. International Forum on Small-Volume Transfusions in Neonates and Paediatric Patients: Responses. *Vox Sanguinis*. 2022 Nov 8. doi.org/10.1111/vox.13398

Patidar GK, Thachil J, Dhiman Y, Oreh A, Vrielink H, van den Berg K, Grubovic Rastvorceva RM, So-Osman C, Al-Riyami AZ, ISBT Convalescent plasma working group. Management of blood transfusion services in low-resource countries. *Vox Sanguinis*. 2022 Dec;117(12):1375-1383. doi: 10.1111/vox.13373. Epub 2022 Nov 8. PMID: 36349461.

Al-Riyami AZ, Estcourt L, Rahimi-Levene N, Bloch EM, Goel R, Tiberghien P, Thibert JB, Bruun MT, Devine DV, Gammon RR, Wendel S. Early and out-of-hospital use of COVID-19 convalescent plasma: An international assessment of utilization and feasibility. *Vox Sanguinis*. *Vox Sang*. 2022 Oct;117(10):1202-1210. doi: 10.1111/vox.13347. Epub 2022 Sep 14. PMID: 36102139; PMCID: PMC9538090

Thierry Burnouf, Birgit Galthof, Evan M. Bloch, Renee Bazin, Vincenzo De Angelis, Gopal Kumar Patidar, Rada Grubovic, Adaeze Oreh, Ruchika Goel, Naomi Rahimi-Levene, Salwa Hindawi, Arwa Z. Al-Riyami, Cynthia So-Osman. Production and quality assurance of human polyclonal hyperimmune globulins against SARS-CoV-2. *Transfusion Medicine Reviews*, 2022 Jul;36(3):125-132. doi: 10.1016/j.tmr.2022.06.001. Epub 2022 Jun 9. PMID: 35879213; PMCID: PMC9183240.

Arwa Z. Al-Riyami, Thierry Burnouf, Erica M. Wood, et.al. International Society of Blood Transfusion survey of experiences of blood banks and transfusion services during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Vox Sang*. 2022 Jun;117(6):822-830. doi: 10.1111/vox.13256. Epub 2022 Mar 8. PMID: 35262978; PMCID: PMC9115426.

Arora S, Dua S, Goel R. Neonatal and pediatric transfusion practices and policies in India: A survey-based cross-sectional assessment of blood centers. *Transfusion*. 2022 May;62(5):1000-9.

ISBT Donors and Donation Working Party

Membership information

The WP currently has 48 members, representing 32 different countries around the globe.

Meetings and teleconferences

The working party chair and secretary have been conducting monthly Skype meetings to discuss ideas and plans. Starting from March 21, regular newsletters have been sent to the members of their WP to maintain contact and provide updates on WP-related matters, as well as news from the field of science and practice. As of now, three newsletters have been sent out, specifically in March, May, and December.

Activities during the period

Apart from Newsletters and monthly Skype meetings for the Chair and Secretary, there has been little activity. We have been holding our breath waiting for physical meetings to be allowed again.

CHAIRPERSON AND COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Karin Magnussen (Norway)
Secretary: Eva-Maria Merz (The Netherlands)



ISBT Global Blood Safety Working Party

Membership information

The WP is comprised of 47 ISBT members from 20 countries. There were 5 new members in the last year. Working subgroup participation includes:

- Voluntary versus Replacement Donation (20, led by Nelson Tsuno)
- Cryoprecipitate and Plasma for Fractionation (4, co-led by Jean-Claude Faber and Thierry Burnouf)
- Harmonization of Regulations and Standards (4, led by Hany Kamel)

Meetings and teleconferences

A plenary business meeting was convened virtually on 28 April 2022. Organizing Committee meetings were convened online on 25 March, 27 October, and 16 February 2023. Multiple virtual meetings of the working subgroups also took place.

Activities during the period

Recent accomplishments of the WP were summarized in the January 2023 issue of Transfusion Today.

The WP conducted an online workshop on **"Stepwise Access to Safe Plasma Proteins in Resource-Constrained Countries"** in 2021. In 2022, a report of the workshop was published in Vox Sanguinis and a commentary on the approach was published in Biologicals.

The WP provided a session on the challenges of donor availability in low resource settings at ISBT In Focus in 2021. A report of the session was published in 2022 in Africa Sanguine.



CHAIRPERSON AND COMMITTEE

Chairperson from Jan 2023: Jay Epstein (USA)

Former Chairperson until Jan 2023: Martin Smid (the Netherlands)

Vice chair: Silvano Wendel (Brazil)

Secretary: Thierry Burnouf (Taiwan)

Treasurer: Martin Smid (the Netherlands)

Consistent with a recommendation of the September 2021 workshop, the Subgroup on Cryoprecipitate and Plasma for Fractionation established the International Coalition for Safe Plasma Proteins (ICSPP) in October 2022.

The goal of ICSPP is to promote access to safe plasma proteins in low- and middle-income countries through introduction of technologies for local production of safe products and eventual plasma fractionation. ICSPP is hosted by the WP on behalf of ISBT with membership of:

- International Federation of Blood Donor Organizations (FIODS)
- International Patient Organisation for Primary Immunodeficiencies (IPOPI)
- World Federation of Haemophilia (WFH)
- Plasma Protein Therapeutics Association (PPTA)
- International Plasma and Fractionation Association (IPFA)

ICSPP operates in alignment with policies and practices of WHO, and WHO participates under an MOU with ISBT.

A pilot project initiated by the WP for ICSPP is underway at the National Blood Transfusion Centre (NBTC) in Dakar, Senegal. It focuses on local preparation of Cryoprecipitate, Pathogen-reduced (Cryo-PR) using V.I.P.S. Solvent Detergent Virus Inactivation kits.

Progress includes an external situational audit, corrective action plan development, blood GMP training, and preparations for hands-on training of operators. Discussions are ongoing for additional pilot projects, such as local Cryo-PR preparation and virus-safe immune globulin production.

The WP collaborated with WHO to add "Cryoprecipitate, pathogen-reduced" to the Model Lists of Essential Medicines. Benefits include local production of safe plasma proteins, improved quality in blood component processing, and Cryo-PR as an alternative for acute bleeding. The application will be reviewed in April 2023.

The subgroup on Harmonization of Regulations and Standards aims to identify established policies and practices for blood component collection and preparation. In 2021, they conducted an online survey on donor testing for infectious diseases, which was published in the abstracts of the 2022 ISBT Congress. Due to limited response, a simplified survey will be distributed to ISBT members in 2023.

At the April 2022 WP business meeting, Nelson H Tsuno took over leadership of the subgroup on Voluntary vs Replacement Donation from Silvano Wendel.

The subgroup aims to develop a roadmap for transitioning from replacement to voluntary donation, particularly in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), to ensure a sustainable supply of safe blood donors. Through meetings in 2022, the subgroup identified the importance of understanding the factors that drive blood donation and the obstacles to converting from replacement to Voluntary Non-Remunerated Donation (VNRD). They are conducting a literature review, group discussions, and pilot interviews in countries that have successfully transitioned to VNRD, such as Brazil, Malaysia, Turkey, Sri Lanka, and Japan. The results will inform a questionnaire survey targeting LMICs heavily reliant on replacement donation.

Publications:

- Thierry Burnouf, Jay Epstein, Jean-Claude Faber, Claude Tayou Tagny, Daniel Somuah, W Martin Smid. Rationale for supporting stepwise access to safe plasma proteins through local production in low- and middle-income countries: A commentary of an international workshop. *Biologicals*. 2022; 79:27-30. DOI:10.1016/j.biologicals.2022.08.003
- Smid WM, Ansah JK, TayouTagny C, Edirisinghe L, Gunasekera A, Owusu-Ofori S, Duits A. Donor Availability in the Low Resource Environment: How Can we Deal with the Challenges? Meeting report of the session organized by the ISBT Working party Global Blood Safety Session on World Blood Donor Day during the ISBT In Focus online congress, June 14th, 2021. *Africa Sanguine* 2022; 24 (12): 24-29. DOI:10.4314/asan.v24i1.4
- Kamel H, Dodd R, Stramer S, Smid W, Epstein J. ISBT international survey on practices, standards and regulatory requirements for TTID testing: a limited preliminary response. *Vox Sang* 2022; 117 (S1):157-158.
- Thierry Burnouf, Jay Epstein, Jean-Claude Faber, Martin Smid. Stepwise access to safe plasma proteins in resource-constrained countries: Local production and pathways to fractionation—Report of an International Society of Blood Transfusion Workshop. *Vox Sanguinis*. 2022; 117:789–795.

ISBT Granulocyte Immunobiology Working Party

Membership information

The WP consists of 35 members from 18 countries.

Meetings and teleconferences

A working party business meeting took place in July 2022. The following subjects were discussed:

- Revisions to rules for workshop organization
- Supplying workshop materials (serum and DNA samples)
- Workshop participation fees
- Election for the next working party chair

The participants agreed to have an international granulocyte immunology workshop every two years. To ensure that we have enough materials, each new member of the workshop is required to donate a characterized serum sample (minimum 50 mL) to the WP serum bank. The specificity of antibodies in serum must be confirmed by three reference laboratories.

Since the responsibility of providing shipment costs to workshop organisers is challenging, there is a process to support this with an advance from ISBT.

The participation fee will be deposited with ISBT, and the original credit will be available for the next workshop.

This strategy has been used for organizing workshop 2022 by Dr. Tsuno and will be continued in future workshops.

CHAIRPERSON AND COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Behnaz Bayat (Germany)



Since Behnaz Bayat has completed her first 4 years as working party chair, the next election will be conducted when all the open positions on subcommittees have been filled.

Activities during the period

Nelson Tsuno organized the 20th international granulocyte immunology workshop with 17 participants from 14 countries. The workshop results of each participant were evaluated, and a final report was provided.

For the working party, an election was conducted, and four newly elected members were elected:

- Claudia Grabowski, Institute for Transfusion Medicine Dessau, Red Cross blood transfusion service NSTOB.
- Marlies Schönbacher, Department of Transfusion Medicine and Cellular Therapy.

- Daisuke Takahashi, Central Research Institute, Japanese Red Cross Society.
- John-Paul Tong, Research and development. Australian Red Cross Lifeblood.
- Brigitte Flesch has stepped down from the international granulocyte nomenclature sub-committee.

We would like to thank Brigitte who made remarkable contributions in the field of granulocyte immunology and nomenclature. We wish her further success.

ISBT Haemovigilance Working Party

Membership information

The WP has 147 members representing 40 countries. We welcomed 13 new members during the reporting period.

Meetings and teleconferences

The WP held a virtual business meeting of the membership on Wednesday August 24, 2022 (1:30 - 3:30 PM CST). A number of topics were discussed including:

- Educational session with talks from Dr Hans Vrieling on Adverse reactions during apheresis procedures, Jo Weirsum on Dyspnoeic Transfusion Reactions
- An update from Katy Davison on the FAIR study
- Demonstration of the new ISBT website including the new Haemovigilance Tools and Resources by Mary Townsend.
- Year-end review of Recipient HV activities (Gopal Patidar) and Donor HV activities (Shruthi Narayan)
- Update from ISBT Board by Board liaison Maha Badawi
- Update from International Haemovigilance Network (IHN) by Barbee Whitaker
- Updates from Clinical WP (Arwa Al Riyami) and Paediatric Subgroup of Clinical WP (Satyam Arora)

Activities during the period

- A new subcommittee, the Haemovigilance Tools Management Group, has been established to review, update, and expand the resources in the living compendium. This group consists of ISBT members, including the core WHO Haemovigilance Tools development team. Their tasks include reviewing new documents, ensuring accuracy and relevance of existing resources, and recruiting additional tools and resources. The Management Group provides an annual report to the Board of Directors and invites YPs to join.

CHAIRPERSON AND COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Mary Townsend (USA)

Secretary: Gopal Patidar (India)

Donor HV Subsection: Shruthi Narayan (UK)

Recipient HV Subsection: Gopal Patidar (India)



- ISBT HV WP contributed to updating and reviewing the content on the HV webpages on the new ISBT website.
- The April 2022 issue of 'Transfusion Today' focussed on haemovigilance and had contributions from several members of the ISBT HV WP. This can be accessed [here](#).
- Published ISBT HV WP Newsletters 4 and 5. All newsletters are free to access via the [ISBT HV WP webpage](#) and are circulated widely to all members. Informal feedback has been favourable.
- Active participation in and contribution to SHOT/IHN meeting in Brighton UK, July 6-7, 2022 including invited presentation, panel discussion and sharing experiences.
- Collaborative project with other key stakeholders looking at a standardised form to collect information about respiratory complications. The manuscript: "**Standardized reporting of pulmonary transfusion complications: Development of a model reporting form and flowchart**" has been accepted for publication in Transfusion.
- Key members from the HV WP have also been working collaboratively with the IHN data committee on collecting haemovigilance related data (after closure of ISTARE) – this is an ongoing project.
- **Planning ongoing for:**
 - imputability project
 - collaborative project with the paediatric working party.
 - an animated video (with IHN, AABB) providing an overview of haemovigilance.
 - on drafting interactive quizzes for the website to improve user participation (Funding application approved for Kahoot! Publisher account).

ISBT Immunohaematology Working Party

Membership information

The WP consists of 43 members from 26 countries across 6 continents. The regional distribution of members is as follows: 8 from North America, 2 from South America, 14 from Europe, 2 from Africa, 15 from Asia, and 2 from Oceania (1 from Australia and 1 from New Zealand).

Ten new candidates have expressed interest in joining our WP. Elections are planned to be organised at ISBT Gothenburg.

Meetings and teleconferences

No business meeting occurred between April 2022, and March 2023 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The planned 2021-2022 business meeting of the WP was postponed and will now be held in person.

Additionally, a meeting between the Chair and Vice-Chair took place in February 2023,

to discuss and finalize the WP Funding Request for 2023-2024, which was subsequently approved by the ISBT Board.

Activities during the period

A meeting between the Chair of the WP on Rare Donors and the Chair of the WP on Immunohaematology was organised on in November 2022 to make a joint proposal for the main scientific program of ISBT Gothenburg, entitled “**Challenging cases and rare blood support in pregnancy**”. This program was accepted by the scientific committee.

CHAIRPERSON AND COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Thierry Peyrard (France)

Vice Chair: Nicole Thornton (UK)

Secretary: Sofia Lejon Crottet (Switzerland)

Treasurer: Mostafa Moghaddam (Iran)

Chair Emeritus: Sandra Nance (USA)



ISBT Information Technology Working Party

Membership information

After a review of the membership roster, there are currently 27 members and two observers. Three members were added during the year. The group will be recruiting additional members during the coming year

Meetings and teleconferences

There were no face-to-face meetings held. There were four conference calls in January, April, July and October. The Validation Taskforce had multiple conference calls to review the validation manuscript.

Activities during the period

The Terms of Reference were edited to remove the member classification of a consultant to match the membership categories of other working parties.

The Validation Task Force completed the guidance document on validation and the manuscript was published in Vox Sanguinis in November.

A Traceability Task Force completed the Traceability task force and was submitted in early January.

The RFID Task Force is continuing to monitor the use of RFID and has been working on a guidance document.

CHAIRPERSON AND COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Suzanne Butch (USA)

Vice Chair: Goudar Shankar (USA)

Secretary: Jennifer Davies (UK)

Validation Task Force Chair: Jan-Willem Andriessen (The Netherlands)

Traceability Task Force Chair: Paul Ashford (UK)/Suzanne Butch (USA)

RFID Task Force Chair: Wayne Bolton (Australia)

ICCBBA TAG Representative: Mario Muon has retired and will be replaced.



ISBT Platelet Immunobiology Working Party

Membership information

The WP currently has 31 members representing 20 countries. The WP welcomed 3 new members from 3 different countries in 2023.

Meetings and teleconferences

The WP held a post-Congress Zoom Business meeting June 14, 2022. The following topics were discussed:

- Nurul Munira Yahya (Malaysia) presented results of the PIWP Platelet Antibody Workshop.
- Discussed preparations for 2024 Workshop with focus on detecting CD36 antibodies.
- Agreed to not designate CD36 as “HPA-36,” and instead place it in a special category.
- Discussed ISBT help with shipping for future PIWP Antibody Workshops, and member participation requirements.
- Reviewed 3 new lab member applications and discussed need for co-chair and secretary.

Activities during the period

- Streamlined invoicing process for future workshops, ensuring expenses are covered by member participation fees.

- Held the 2022 WP Platelet Antibody Workshop from December 2021 to May 2022. Nurul Munira Yahya (Malaysia) presented a comprehensive report on the findings during the June 14, 2022 Business Meeting. The workshop included 28 laboratories from 19 countries across 5 continents. Out of the 28 labs, 25 accurately detected and reported the HPA-specific antibodies in all 3 plasma samples, while all 28 labs correctly genotyped the 3 matched DNA samples.
- Voted in 3 new lab members from Malaysia, Thailand, and Wales.

CHAIRPERSON AND COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Brian Curtis (USA)



ISBT Quality Management Working Party

Membership information

The WP currently has 37 members from 22 countries: Belgium, Canada, Cameroon, China, Croatia, Egypt, France, Finland, Germany, Greece, India, Maroc, The Netherlands, Romania, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Sweden, Turkey, UAE, Ukraine, USA.

Member organisations 2018-2022:

- Chinese Society for Blood Transfusion CSBT (Zhengrong Zou), Shanghai, China
- Diagnostic Accreditation Programme (Susanna Darnel, ART), Vancouver, Canada
- ISTM Quality special interest group (Nidhi Bhatnagar), Ahmedabad, India
- EU | FH Public Health Education and Prevention (Gesine Weckmann), Rostock, Germany

- Health Education and Research Organization (HERO) (Beukou Fonkou Hygin Steve) Cameroon
- Department of Transfusion Medicine and Haematology, NIMHANS (Vijay Kumawat), Bengaluru, India
- Blood Bank Takhasousi Habib Hospital, (Ahmed Yousef M. Almudayni), Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Cooperating Partners:

- EuBIS Academy

CHAIRPERSON AND COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Christian Seidl

Vice chairs: Tomislav Vuk (Croatia), Yan Qiu (China), Lesley Bust (South Africa)



Meetings and telephone conferences

An online business meeting was held on 2 June 2022 with the following topics discussed:

- Overview of the WP activity profile and subgroups
- Revision of Terms of References (ToR)
- WP Session plans for ISBT 2023
- (R)election of Chair/Board

Activities during the period

Revision of the “Common references on Definitions”

The Board of the WP has initiated a project to standardise the definitions commonly used in blood establishments around the world. Common references available internationally have been consulted in drafting a list of definitions relating to quality management and these references are quoted in the document. Definitions have been adapted from the original sources in some instances.

The resulting list of definitions, which is not prescriptive but is meant to serve as a recommendation, was compiled by ISBT WP Board for this project:

- Christian Seidl (Germany)
- Tomislav Vuk (Croatia)
- Lesley Bust (AfSBT, South Africa)

The list is currently under review by additional participants in the working group thereafter feedback from other ISBT working parties will be welcome:

- Sibel Eldemir (Turkiye)
- Yan Qui (China)
- Nigar Ertuğrul Örüç (Turkiye)
- Paul Strengers (The Netherlands)
- Wade Atkins (USA)

Mentors volunteered for the ISBT YPs are:

- Europe, America Arabia and Africa: Christian Seidl
- Asian Pacific New Zealand, Australia: Yan Qiu

How do I Topic: Perform self-inspection - under revision for 2023 by Christian Seidl, Lesley Bust, Yan Qiu and Paul Strengers.

ISBT Rare Donors Working Party

Membership information

In June 2022 elections for WP chairperson and executive committee took place following which new members were elected and changes in positions made as detailed below. Christine Lomas-Francis, the WP chair for the past 8 years is the immediate past chair and Sandra Nance the previous past chair remains an active advisor to the WP.

The WP has 36 members representing 27 countries. Three new members joined the WP:

- Nor Hafisah Ahmad MD (Malaysia; a country not previously represented)
- Linda Bodecker Zingmark MD (Sweden)
- Stefan Meyer MD (Switzerland)

Erwin Scharberg (Germany) our former vice president notified on March 2023 that he is retiring from the WP.

We thank Erwin, Jill and Beat for many years of service and multiple contributions to the WP and to patients requiring rare blood.

All members are actively involved in their respective country's rare donor programs or transfusion support of patients with rare blood. As outlined in the Terms of Reference for the WP, members are required to share the rare donor list from their country with the International Blood Group Reference Laboratory (IBGRL) who manages the International Rare Donor Panel (IRDP).

CHAIRPERSON AND COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Vered Yahalom (Israel)
Vice-Chair: Thierry Peyrard (France)
Secretary: Inna Sareneva (Finland)
Treasurer: Tanya Powley (Australia)
IBGRL liaison: Nicole Thornton (UK)
Past Chair: Christine Lomas-Francis (USA)



Meetings and telephone conferences

The executive committee met virtually twice, discussing the WP executive committee transition meeting and updates to the WP webpage. An official virtual business meeting took place in November 2022, covering various topics such as mentoring programs, rare donor programs, educational materials, and IRDP activities.

E-mail communications were used throughout the year for information sharing, rare blood search, collaboration, and preparation for ISBT congress and webpage updates.

Activities during the period

ISBT Education: WP contributions to the ISBT Congress in June 2022 included a working party session with presentations on rare blood needs, management options for patients with sickle cell disease, and the implications of MNS antigens for transfusion. An oral abstract presented the survey findings on rare donor programs worldwide.

A virtual ISBT webinar on rare donors and rare blood transfusion was conducted in February 2023, and a case study on a rare anti-JK3 was uploaded to the WP webpage.

Other activities

Throughout the year Eduardo Muñoz Diaz mentored the Rare Donor Latin American Group (GCIAMT) to further develop their rare donor programs individually and as a collaborative group.

Shipment of antisera from WP members to the Rare Donor Latin American Group (GCIAMT) was achieved following extensive preparations and logistic arrangements. Rare antisera were also shared for 2 scientific projects.

Following participation as a speaker in the XXI Congress of the Chilean Society of Hematology and the XI Congress of Transfusion Medicine in 2018, Sandra Nance was invited to participate in the Postgraduate Program in Advanced Immunohematology of the Faculty of Health of the Universidad Diego Portales in Santiago de Chile in 2022 and 2023. Her presentations have focused on Rare Blood Programs. As needed, she will be available to Chilean efforts to advance their Rare Blood Program.

A survey was sent to WP members regarding different aspects of the various rare donor programs. The information gathered was sent as an abstract to ISBT Gothenburg and will be uploaded by country name in the updated ISBT WP webpage.

ISBT Red Cell Immunogenetics and Blood Group Terminology Working Party

Membership information

The WP comprises 30 members representing 14 countries. Three new members were welcomed into the WP in the last quarter of 2022. The working party welcomed Aline Floch from France, Celina Montemayor from Canada, and Vanja Crew from the UK.

Each member has a curatorship responsibility for one or more of the blood group systems. This involves curating respective Blood Group Allele Tables to list all allelic gene variants that are associated with a clinically significant blood group phenotype. This information in turn provides a reference base and professional service for all members within the international transfusion community globally.

The ISBT CO continued support for Harald Obergasser, employed part-time (0.6FTE), whose duties include coordinating, curation verification and uploading Tables on the ISBT website.

Meetings and Teleconferences

Two official business meetings were held via zoom, on May 24 and December 5, 2022.

During the business meetings, members discussed and voted on the acceptance and naming of recommended novel blood group systems and antigens. **One new blood group system, Er (ISBT 044)**, was acknowledged at the December meeting, and three new blood group antigens were acknowledged in the KEL, LW, and RHAG systems at the May meeting.

CHAIRPERSON AND COMMITTEE

Co-chairs: Catherine Hyland and Christoph Gassner

Vice-Chair: Nicole Thornton

Secretary: Margaret Keller

Treasurer: Thierry Peyrard

Board Liaison Officer: Jill Storry

Cell-free (cf) DNA Subgroup: Frederik Clausen



The meetings also involved discussions on a revised terms of reference and the review of the Cell-free (cf) DNA Subgroup and ongoing projects. Workload assignments for the blood group systems among the 30 members were reviewed as well.

Other meetings: Executive member and ISBT Office meetings

Formal virtual Executive meetings were held on September 26 and November 4 to assist with planning to business meetings and assist with ongoing planning for projects.

The Co-chairs continue with informal meetings on a weekly basis. In addition, numerous ISBT office meetings have also been held to guide and plan for the Blood Group Allele Database Project.

Activities during the period

Cell-free DNA subgroup by Frederik Clausen

After succeeding with a publication on recommendations for non-invasive fetal antigen genotyping, the Cell-free DNA Subgroup decided to meet in person at ISBT Gothenburg.

Frederik Clausen and Åsa Hellberg are organizing the 5th International Meeting on Cell-Free DNA in Copenhagen in May 2023. They will host a Special Discussion Workshop on "Non-invasive Fetal Antigen Genotyping." The findings from this workshop will be presented and discussed at the cfDNA Subgroup meeting at ISBT Gothenburg.



Contribution to ISBT 2022 Virtual

The WP again contributed to the ISBT 37th International Congress in 2022 organising the session: **“Blood groups on a chip”** . Invited speakers were Yann Fichou, Nick Gleadall and Connie Westhoff.

“Filling the Gaps Project”

A major milestone was quietly achieved in December 2022 with the uploading of the almost all the blood group allele tables in a new look, the so called “project 2” format, including new data points (GenBank Accession number, references and rs-ID numbers, where available) for every of the approx. 2000 alleles included in the tables.

Expansion with these data points started after two blood group genomic workshops held in 2018 and 2019.

A thank you to all members and a special thank you and call out to our ISBT supported co-ordinator, Harry Obergasser, who worked tirelessly co-ordinating and managing these uploads. All blood group systems are now on the “Board” including the enigmatic Lewis system.

Blood Group Database Project

Over the last 12 months the WP worked further on specifications envisaged for the future Blood Group Allele Data Base. This project aims to convert the current tables mentioned from the current fixed “pdf” file format to an electronic format. Responses from invitations to submit formal tender proposals are under review.

WP Report to Vox Sanguinis

As a result of many email exchanges amongst members of the working party we prepared a report that is now published in the journal Vox Sanguinis (Vox Sanguinis. 2022;117:1332-1344). This report provided a summary of blood group systems and antigens registered by the working party between June 2019 and June 2021. From this current annual report, it is clear that the wave of discoveries has continued over 2022.

Acknowledgements

A special thank you to the ISBT office for support during these challenging post-COVID times.

ISBT Transfusion-Transmitted Infectious Diseases Working Party

Membership information

The WP's membership data comprises 92 individual members, 19 corporate member partners, 11 institutional members, 3 honorary members, and 17 observers.

Meetings and Telephone conferences

The WP held its Annual Business Meeting on April 25, 2022.

The WP OC Committee convened three teleconferences and had ad hoc email discussions regarding TTID, our WP Terms of Reference, membership questions, and new member applications. Each SG held quarterly conference calls/virtual meetings to provide updates on current work and to plan future activities.

All WP members are invited to participate in all SG meetings and over the last year we have significant participation by many WP members in all SG meetings.

Activities during the period

- The SRAP SG public health **tool kit** is nearly final. It is an important new contribution of TTID WP to broader global public health initiatives.
- The Bacteria SG finished a survey on microbiological environmental monitoring. A manuscript summarizing the survey results will be published in Vox Sanguinis.
- The Parasite SG published a review on the impact of climate change on parasitic risk to the blood supply.

CHAIRPERSON AND COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Brian Custer (USA)

Vice Chair: Sheila O'Brien (Canada)

Individual Member Representatives: Marion Vermeulen (South Africa) and Michael Schmidt, (Germany)



- The Parasite SG completed a blood donor screening study for Babesia in Tyrol, Austria.
- Updated Terms of Reference were modified to better align with ISBT Corporate Sponsorship and approved by the ISBT Board.
- An evaluation of production of bacterial toxins during storage of contaminated platelet units conducted by the Bacteria SG.
- Studies of HCV testing options including discontinuation of anti-HCV screening of blood donations in countries that perform ID-NAT (leads Magdy El Ekiaby and Marion Vermeulen) and characterization of primary occult hepatitis B virus infection in blood donors: impaired HBsAg detection (leads Daniel Candotti and Xuelian Deng). Both led by the Virology SG.

Key planned activities in next year:

- Completion of public health tool kit (lead Connie Higgs).
- Completion of the NAT survey with development of manuscripts focused on understanding usage and yield 20 years on from first implementation of NAT for blood screening (leads Helen Faddy and Carla Osiowy).
- Bringing the I TRY IT participants who have proposed research projects on parasites (malaria, leishmania, etc.) directly in contact with the Parasites SG members so that mentorship of I TRY IT studies will be possible by subject matter experts.
- Completion and publication of results of a study on bacterial growth in cold-stored platelets (leads Sandra Ramirez-Arcos and Carl McDonald).

Challenges in 2022

Colombian study to evaluate the incidence of bacterial contamination in platelet components has been determined not to be feasible. Approaches to partnering with other blood centers or hospitals in South America are being explored.

2022 TTID Bibliography

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Lewin A, Osioy C, Erikstrup C, Custer B, Renaud C, Tiberghien P, Russell A, Lieshout-Krikke R, O'Brien SF; Surveillance, Risk Assessment, Policy Sub-group of the ISBT Transfusion Transmitted Infectious Diseases Working Party. Research partnerships between blood services and public health authorities: An international, cross-sectional survey. *Vox Sang*. 2022 Nov 10. doi: 10.1111/vox.13374.

Kamel H, Ramirez-Arcos S, McDonald C; ISBT Transfusion-Transmitted Infectious Disease Bacterial Working Party Bacterial Subgroup. The international experience of bacterial screen testing of platelet components with automated microbial detection systems: An update. *Vox Sang*. 2022 May;117(5):647-655. doi: 10.1111/vox.13247.

Schmidt M, Ramirez-Arcos S, Stiller L, McDonald C; ISBT Transfusion-Transmitted Infectious Diseases Working Party, Subgroup on Bacteria. Current status of rapid bacterial detection methods for platelet components: A 20-year review by the ISBT Transfusion-Transmitted Infectious Diseases Working Party Subgroup on Bacteria. *Vox Sang*. 2022 Aug;117(8):983-988. doi: 10.1111/vox.13283.

Cloutier M, De Korte D; ISBT Transfusion-Transmitted Infectious Diseases Working Party, Subgroup on Bacteria. Residual risks of bacterial contamination for pathogen-reduced platelet components. *Vox Sang*. 2022 Jul;117(7):879-886. doi: 10.1111/vox.13272.

Special Series in *Annals of Blood*, 2022-02-18 – Guest Editor: Ramirez-Arcos S; Editorial by Ramirez-Arcos S and McDonald C: <https://aob.amegroups.com/post/view/bacterial-contamination-of-platelet-components>.

Bloch EM, Siller A, Tonnetti L, Drews SJ, Spencer BR, Hedges D, Mergenthal T, Weber-Schehl M, Astl M, Patel EU, Gaber M, Schennach H for the ISBT TTID Working Party Parasite subgroup. Molecular screening of blood donors for *Babesia* in Tyrol, Austria. *Transfusion Medicine and Hemotherapy* 2023.

Drews SJ, Wendel S, Leiby DA, Tonnetti L, Ushiro-Lumb I, O'Brien SF, Lieshout-Krikke RW, Bloch EM. Climate change and parasitic risk to the blood supply. *Transfusion* 2023;63: 638-45.

Reports from ISBT Standing Committees

The Standing Committees each oversee specific areas of work within ISBT. Each Standing Committee comprises a Chairperson and individual ISBT members chosen for their experience in the particular field of work, and reports to the ISBT Board of Directors.

- 1. ISBT Standing Committee on Jean Julliard Pirze**
- 2. ISBT Standing Committee of the ISBT Academy**
- 3. ISBT Standing Committee on Ethics**
- 4. ISBT Standing Committee of Vox Sanguinis**

Standing Committee Jean Julliard Prize

Chairperson and committee

The committee is chaired by the Past President of ISBT, Erica Wood, with members appointed by the ISBT Executive Committee.

During the reporting period the Chair was Erica Wood (Australia), and committee members were Steven Spitalnik (USA), Katerina Pavenski (Canada), Thierry Burnouf (Taiwan) and Faten Moftah (Egypt).

The committee Terms of Reference and a number of working documents and processes were reviewed during 2021-2022.

During that period, several new members had been appointed, resulting in a gender-balanced and geographically diverse group with expertise across a broad range of topics in transfusion medicine and relevant to the work of the committee.

Chairperson: Erica Wood (Australia)

Activities during the period

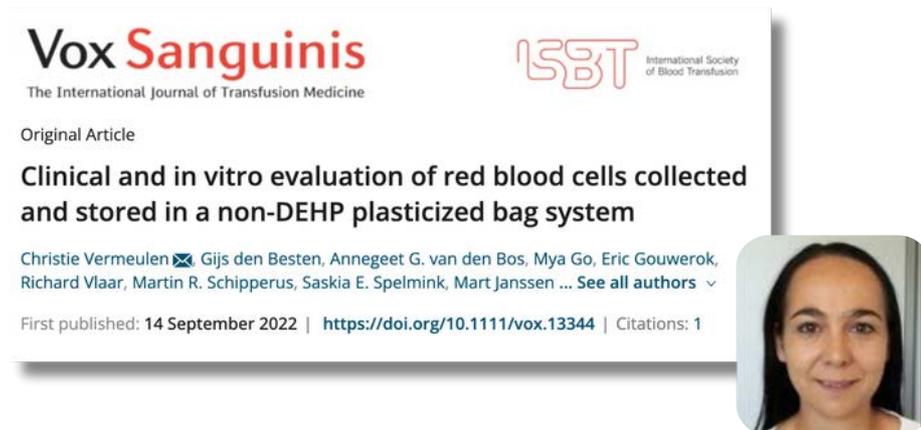
Vox Sanguinis Best Paper Prize

This prize is awarded each year for the best original paper published in Vox Sanguinis in the previous calendar year. The winner is decided by the committee based on nominated papers selected by the Vox Sanguinis section editors. **The value of the prize is € 5,000.**



The committee met to review candidate papers for the 2022 prize, and this will be awarded to **Christie Vermeulen**, on behalf of all authors, for the manuscript: Vermeulen C, den Besten G, van den Bos AG, Go M, Gouwerok E, Vlaar R, Schipperus MR, Spelmink SE, Janssen M, Lagerberg JW, de Korte D, and Klei TRL: **Clinical and in vitro evaluation of red blood cells collected and stored in a non-DEHP plasticized bag system**. Vox Sanguinis 2022;117: 1163-70.

The prize will be presented at ISBT Gothenburg. The Jean Julliard Prize will be next awarded in 2024.



Acknowledgements

The Chair thanks the current committee members for their contributions during 2022-2023, and acknowledges the work of the previous Chair, Professor Martin Olsson (Sweden), and previous members, for their great service to ISBT in these roles.

Standing Committee of the ISBT Academy

Chairperson and committee

In this period Shirley Owusu (Ghana), Lilian Castilho (Brazil), Veera Nadarajan (Malaysia) and Maha Badawi (Saudi Arabia) completed their terms on the Standing Committee of the Academy (SCA), and they were thanked for their valuable contribution. In this period, the ISBT Scientific Secretary John Semple also finished his term, and Jason Acker was appointed.

The Academy Standing Committee is supported by the ISBT Scientific Officer Eszter Herczenik, and ISBT Executive Director Jenny White, and works closely with ISBT Secretary General Gwen Clarke, ISBT Scientific Secretary Jason Ackers, and Chair of the ISBT Foundation Ravi Reddy.

Meetings and teleconferences

The former SCA met virtually in Nov 2022 to:

- Conduct biannual review terms of reference (ToR)
- Review composition of SCA – identify retiring members and recruitment of new members
- Review composition of Education Project Steering Committee (EPSC) – Jill Storry to Chair

- Discuss role of SCA in organising ISBT Congress Academy Days – Update on 2023 congress plans and to seek relevant regional SCA member input
- Review policies for Education Activity Funding and ISBT Highlight days – feedback gathered, and policy updated
- Discuss ways to achieve financial reconciliation of ISBT Academy funded events – process defined

The new SCA met virtually in February 2023. The primary goal was to orientate new SCA members to their roles and responsibilities. The ToR were revised, and key activities of the SCA and Education Projects Committee (EPSC) were discussed.

Chairperson: Lin Fung, Australia
Vice-Chair: Jill Storry, Sweden



Activities during the period

Support for educational events

From April 2022 to March 2023 there were 13 applications for financial support. The location of the 10 educational activities were as follows: one in Brazil, Egypt and Serbia, South Africa and Tanzania, 3 in India and 3 in Pakistan. ISBT Highlights Day took place in Brazil and Malaysia. Applications for Academy support totalled €64,232 in this period. In addition, from January to December 2022 there was 3 requests to use the ISBT logo.

Academy Days at Virtual ISBT Congress 2022

The Academy Day program of the virtual ISBT2022 meeting was integrated in topic-centred days. This meeting was organised with two different starting times a day, to make live attendance possible for many in the world. The program included a range of topics relevant to an international audience, and a number of new, young speakers participated. All Working Parties contributed to this a successful program.

ISBT Highlight Days

There were 2 ISBT Highlight events in this period, both in October 2022. The Malaysian Blood Transfusion Society organised a very successful session at the 10th National Transfusion Medicine Congress, in Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia. It had the highest number of registrations in history with at least 500 participants. The ISBT Highlights Day included an overview of the ISBT Academy and topics on Connecting with Donors; Granulocytes and Immunohaematology and Clinical Transfusion. There were a high number of abstracts, and the meeting provided an excellent forum for transfusion education and research.

Together with the ABHH, the second ISBT Highlights Day took place in Sao Paulo as part of the Brazilian Congress of Hematology, Hemotherapy and Cell Therapy (HEMO).

Members:

Lani Lieberman (Canada), Imelda Bates (UK), Ratti Ram Sharma (India), Sophie Uyoga (Kenya), Sally Lam (Malaysia), Clotilde Carsolio Estrada (Mexico), Dina Ekram (Egypt).

This was a large meeting with over 3000 participants and very successful. Portuguese was the main language, but the congress provided very professional translation services. ISBT contributed talks on TRALI, Neutrophil Antigens and Antibodies, Patient Blood Management and Use of Tranexamic acid for Safe Surgery.

ISBT Academy Day in conjunction with AfSBT

Two years later than originally planned, the 10th International Congress of the Africa Society for blood Transfusion (AfSBT) was held on September 19-22, 2022 in Dakar, Senegal. The theme of the 2022 Dakar congress was Blood Transfusion and Health Priorities in Africa. As part of the MoU that has been established between the two societies, ISBT supports an ISBT Academy day at the AfSBT biennial congresses. The 2022 ISBT Academy Day, was a series of educational sessions covering a central theme: Getting To The Root Of Non-Conformances. The educational objectives were to introduce participants to the importance of quality management in blood services, more specifically on the identification and management of non-conformances in the framework of a well-organized and functional quality management system. The day was attended by 150 delegates from 26 countries, and conducted with simultaneous English/French translation.

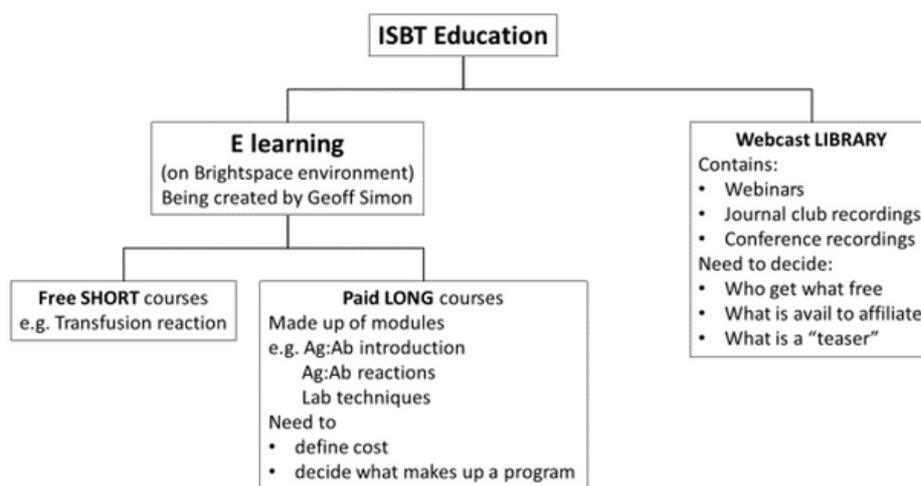
I TRY IT

As in the previous year, the 2022 I TRY IT programme was conducted online. There were seven participants, Sriraman P (India), Juan Manuel Cisneros Carrasco (Mexico), Basanta Khatiwada (India), Keerti Angampally (India), Demewoz Tadesse Alebachew (Ethiopia), Aikaj Jindal (India) and Divjot Singh Lamba (India). Out of the seven selected participants, 6 finished the programme.

Education Projects Steering Committee (ESPC)

The ESPC is a subcommittee of the ISBT Academy Standing Committee and is comprised of the following members: Jill Storry (Chair, Sweden), Lin Fung (Australia), Ratti Ram Sharma (India), Veera Nadarajan (Malaysia), Sandy Nance (USA), Lilian Castilho (Brazil), Geoff Simon (Australia)

The committee in its current form has had two virtual business meetings since July 2022. The Chair has also had two ad hoc meetings with the ISBT staff. The business meetings have focussed on the development of the e-learning modules, a project led by Geoff Simon. Our mandate is to oversee the development of educational materials for the ISBT members and other Transfusion Medicine professionals. The organisational chart below outlines the ISBT Education activities, and the EPSC focus has been on the E-learning platform, specifically the development of the long courses which we plan to develop as an accredited course that generates an income stream.



ISBT education overview June 2022

The e-learning content is based on the second edition of the popular textbook Introduction to Blood Transfusion: From Donor to Recipient by Beryl Armstrong. Two modules have been released to date. These are Course 1. Introduction to antigen-antibody reactions; and Course 2. Antigen-antibody reactions in the laboratory. The material has been developed by Dr Geoff Simon and reviewed by Transfusion Medicine experts prior to release. The courses are accredited by the European Board for Accreditation in Haematology (EBAH) and participants earn 1.5 CME points per course upon completion. An e-learning workshop is being planned for the Regional ISBT meeting in Cape Town in November 2023. ISBT successfully transferred its e-Learning platform from MultiLearning to Brightspace in March 2022 after a thorough evaluation. We consider that Brightspace better fulfils our criteria for flexibility and traceability and is more user-friendly.

Other developments

In the next financial period, based on advice from the ISBT Foundation, the Academy will have the capability to fund up to €100, 000 worth of education activities.

From 2023 the Standing Committee of the ISBT Academy will be allowed to approve financial applications requesting up to €7,500 euros. The limit was previously €5000, and increased due to rising costs globally. Any request for amounts >€7,500 euros will be forwarded to the Foundation Board for consideration.

THE SCA would like to fund educational activities from a more diverse regional spread. To achieve this, electronic notices will be sent to ISBT members, and Regional Directors will be asked to promote the awareness of the available Academy support.

The updated ToR and policies for Education Activity Funding and ISBT Highlight days have been upload to the SCA webpage.

Standing Committee on Ethics

Meetings and teleconferences

There have been 4 virtual meetings, in September, October, December 2022, and February 2023.

The topics covered included:

- The Committee Mandate and Terms of Reference
- Introduction of committee members
- Where to find information about the SCE on the ISBT website, and update of website with current SCE members
- ISBT Code of Ethics, including how the latest version was developed, and the type of review required at this time
- Conference abstract guidelines for submission and review to ensure lack of commercial bias
- Development of an SCE interactive session at the Gothenburg conference
- Draft Advocacy and Endorsement Policies

Activities during the period

Renewal of committee membership

After many years of service, Peter Flanagan stepped down as chairperson of the SCE

committee. Mindy Goldman was appointed as the new chairperson by the ISBT CO, Peter Flanagan and Shubha Allard agreed to stay on as members of the SCE committee, and seven new committee members were appointed. These include Carla Dinardo, a member of the YPC, and three current members of the ISBT Board of Directors (Gwen Clarke, Nelson Hirokazu Tsumo, and Shirley Owusu-Ofori).



CHAIRPERSON AND COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Mindy Goldman (Canada)

Abstract submission guidelines for conferences

The current conference abstract submission guidelines were reviewed. These were largely silent regarding abstracts coming from commercial entities. Guidelines from other societies, such as the AABB, the ISTH, the BSH, the Japan Federation of Gerontological Societies, the Japan Gastroenterological Endoscopy Society, and ASCO were reviewed. The AABB 2019 Abstract Book, and organisation of abstracts was reviewed. A document entitled Abstract Review Guidelines and Commercial Content was developed and finalised after the Dec 5, 2022, SCE meeting. The recommendations from this document were utilized to update the abstract submission guidelines for the Gothenburg conference.

SCE session at ISBT Gothenburg

To raise awareness of the ISBT Code of Ethics and ethical issues in transfusion medicine and cellular therapies, a session is planned for ISBT Gothenburg.

The session will be chaired by Mindy Goldman, and include two SCE members as speakers, Arwa Al-Riyami and Shubha Allard. Additionally, other SCE members will be part of panel discussions of vignettes and cases that highlight ethical issues.

ISBT Code of Ethics

Preliminary discussion has started about the type of review that is required. We will focus on items that we feel are missing in the current Code of Ethics. Documents from other societies such as the International Society for Cellular Therapies may be reviewed and perhaps added as an addendum to our document or also placed on the ISBT website.

Draft Advocacy and Endorsement Policies

We briefly discussed the draft advocacy and endorsement policies developed by the ISBT office. These will be discussed in more detail at upcoming meetings.

Committee:

Arwa Al-Riyami (Oman), Birgit Gathof (Germany), Gwen Clarke (Canada), Carla Dinardo (Brazil, member of YPC), Peter Flanagan (New Zealand, past chairperson), Nelson Hirokazu Tsumo (Japan), Ratti Ram Sharma (India), Shirley Owusu-Ofori (Ghana), Shubha Allard (UK), Jenny White (ISBT Executive Director).

Standing Committee of Vox Sanguinis

Meetings and teleconferences

Virtual meeting on June 20, 2022 where all voting members were in attendance

Business included discussion regarding the optimal means of ensuring a move to predominantly on-line distribution of VS, as part of the ISBT environmental sustainability strategy. Options for limited numbers of print copies and the possibility of paid “print on demand” for limited numbers of member requested print copies were discussed along with potential options for print journal distribution through national societies.

Miquel Lozano provided a report from the editor-in-chief noting that many planned changes to VS have now been achieved. These include page length increases and monthly publication as well as regular review articles and professional illustrations. A new layout of the papers in the journal along with a new font and colour scheme have also been completed.

There are planned changes to the Section editors following the retirement of Clive Seed (Australia). Sheila F. O'Brien (from Canada) has confirmed that she will take over the position as the Vox Section Editor for Transfusion-Transmitted Disease and its Prevention.

Jenny White provided an from the ISBT CO, including plans for an updated online version of the book “**Introduction to Blood Transfusion: From Donor to Recipient**”.



CHAIRPERSON AND COMMITTEE
Chairperson: Gwen Clarke (Canada)

This new version will include a photograph and dedication to **Beryl Armstrong** commemorating her commitment to education and to ISBT and highlighting her work on this important resource.

Claire Dowbekin gave an update from the publisher. Highlights included the process for continued access to the Science Series content on the Wiley and ISBT websites, including ongoing free access for members. Data on downloads, authors and overall journal use were provided. Based on the data an increase in the impact factor was anticipated. The Wiley diversity, equity and inclusion statement was also shared with and discussed by the standing committee. Open access publication continues to increase with more and more countries signing transitional deals that are national or institution wide.

Additional items for discussion included planning for the WHO Clinical Use of Blood Manual.

Virtual Meeting of November 10, 2022; All voting members were in attendance

Reports from the Editor in Chief, the publisher and the ISBT were provided.

Miquel Lozano drew the attention of the committee to an editorial published in VS and timed to correspond to the COP 27 meeting. The editorial highlighted the efforts of VS is toward increasing the sustainability of the journal and the society. The committee agreed to highlight the editorial content on this topic further through regular social media and email communications to members.

There has been a substantial increase in the impact factor of the journal, to 2.996 in 2022. Initiatives to increase page length and number of journals per year have had the desired outcome of substantially reducing the time between article acceptance and publication, which now is at only 2 months.

Members:

Diana Teo (Singapore), Lin Fung (Australia, ISBT Board member), Eric Jansen (the Netherlands, ISBT Treasurer), Miquel Lozano (Spain, Editor in Chief for Vox Sanguinis; non-voting member), Claire Dowbekin (observer from Wiley, publisher) Jenny White (ISBT Executive Director - observer).

A report from the publisher was also provided and included information on a new author facing entry portal for the journal as well as updates on new transitional arrangements allowing for increased open access publishing from around the world.

The publisher's diversity, equity and inclusion statement was reviewed and approved for use by the standing committee with a plan to create a similar statement for use by ISBT.

The committee discussed the current statistics related to article acceptance and the relevance of these statistics as we move to more open access publishing. Plans for discussion of open access publishing impacts, article acceptance rates and development of an associated Open Access Action plan were discussed.

It was decided that this open access planning session will form one part of the editorial board meeting following ISBT Gothenburg.

As of November 2022, approximately 600 ISBT members were continuing to request print copies of the journal, representing approximately half of the membership.

The committee reiterated a commitment to gradually moving toward increasing the online-only access as an underpinning of the ISBT sustainability strategy.

Activities during the period

Activities of the VS Standing Committee over the 2022- 2023 year have included a focus on development of sustainability strategies for the journal in line with the ISBT sustainability strategy. In addition, plans for development of an action plan for the eventual transition to open access publishing were made. A commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion in publishing was highlighted.

A substantial increase in the impact factor was achieved in 2022, suggesting that planned changes in page length, publishing frequency, review articles and format have had a positive impact.

The ISBT office continued to work with the Vox editorial team and authors to ensure that key articles are highlighted through social media campaigns.

Report from Vox Sanguinis

Editor and Editorial Board

During the last year there has been just one change to the Vox Sanguinis Editorial Board. In January 2023 Dr. Clive Seed stepped down as the Section Editor for Transfusion-transmitted Disease and its Prevention after 11 years, having taken over from Peter Flanagan in January 2012. Dr. Sheila O'Brien agreed to take over as the new Section Editor from the beginning of this year. Dr. O'Brien is from Australia and currently works for Canadian Blood Services as Associate Director of Epidemiology and Surveillance in Ottawa, Canada. Clive worked very closely with Sheila to ensure a smooth transition between them.

The other sections continue to be overseen by the same Editors: Blood Component Collection and Production: Denese Marks (Australia); Cellular Therapies: Ziggy M. Szczepiorkowski (USA); Donors and Donations: Katja van den Hurk (The Netherlands); Haemovigilance: Claudia S. Cohn (USA); Immunohaematology and

immunogenetics: Jill R. Storry (Sweden); Patient Blood Management: Nelson H. Tsuno (Japan); Reviews: Leo van de Watering (The Netherlands) and Ziggy M. Szczepiorkowski; Transfusion Medicine and New Therapies: Pierre Tiberghien; and International Forum: Nancy M. Dunbar. There have been no changes in the 26 professionals we recruited last year to form our expanded Editorial Board. Miquel Lozano holds the position of Editor-in-Chief (EiC)

Miquel Lozano

Editor-in-Chief of Vox Sanguinis, Chief in Hemotherapy and Hemostasis section, Clinic Hospital in Barcelona, Spain



Maria Davie continues as technical editor, to the full satisfaction of the EiC, the Editorial Board and the authors. She continues to ensure high typographical quality and the standardization of the papers published by the journal. Claire Dowbekin has continued as Journal Publishing Manager at Wiley, and continues to be instrumental to the changes that occur in the publication of the journal, the last one being the implementation of ReX, a new platform from Wiley for submission of papers to Vox Sanguinis. The new submission platform is more user friendly for authors and allows an easy switch between journals in case of rejection.

As last year, all review articles and the reports from the various ISBT Working Parties continue to be made free to read in order to facilitate access to them for all interested readers.

Meetings and Telephone conferences

As a face-to-face ISBT meeting could not be held in 2022 due to the pandemic, a virtual meeting of the Editorial Board was held on 30th June 2022 during which different aspects of Vox Sanguinis functioning were discussed.

Activities during the period

Vox Sanguinis metrics refer to the volume of a given year. In 2022, Vox Sanguinis published 12 issues with a total of approximately 1,100 pages, featuring 133 articles. In 2022, we received 282 manuscripts, a reduction of 26.1% compared with 2021, resulting in an acceptance rate of 47.1%.

This acceptance rate was 20% higher than in 2021. In 2022, 341,333 articles were downloaded from the Vox Sanguinis website, which represents a decrease of 16.5% in comparison to 2021. The increase in the number of pages published has allowed us to decrease the time between acceptance and publication to 2 months.

In order to improve the visibility of articles published in the journal, the table of contents for each issue of Vox is being sent to all ISBT members by the ISBT Central Office. Articles can then be clicked on directly from there.

ISBT Foundation

The Foundation of ISBT continues to support research and education initiatives related to Transfusion Medicine globally, with a specific focus on Developing Countries. Applications are received for funding during the year from Blood Transfusion Services to support educational activities. These applications are vetted by members of the ISBT Academy Standing Committee. The Standing Committee is delegated the authority to approve funding up to € 5,000 provided that the required criteria are met. Any request in excess of € 5,000 is submitted to the Foundation Board for approval.

The current Board of Directors comprises two ISBT members who are appointed by the ISBT Board (Ravi Reddy and So Yong Kwon), the Secretary General of ISBT (Gwen Clarke), the Treasurer of ISBT (Eric Jansen), and the Senior Vice President of ISBT, who also serves as Chairperson of the Standing Committee of the ISBT Academy (Lin Fung).

The Board met online in 2022/2023 and there was also correspondence via e-mail when approvals were required for funding in excess of € 5,000. The Board, at its meeting in January, approved that the ISBT Academy Standing Committee members could in future approve applications for funding up to € 7,500.

Members of the Foundation Board also met with members of the International Coalition for Safe Plasma Proteins (ICSP) to discuss



Ravi Reddy
ISBT Foundation Board Chairperson,
CEO, South African National Blood
Service, Johannesburg, South Africa

a request from ICSP to fund educational activities related to programmes to improve access to plasma derived medicinal products globally. ICSP will provide an application for funding in the 2023/2024 financial year.

There were thirteen applications for funding received and processed during the financial year. Ten of the applications were approved (8 by the ISBT Academy Standing Committee and 2 by the Foundation Board). Three applications were rejected.

There were a further 18 applications for funding received by 31 March 2023 for educational activities in the 2023/2024 financial year. These are currently being considered for approval by the ISBT Academy Standing Committee.

ISBT Awards and Prizes

The ISBT Awards and prizes honor exceptional contributions in blood transfusion and transfusion medicine. The ISBT Award recognizes outstanding education contributions, the Vox Sanguinis Best Paper Prize celebrates the best paper published in the journal, and the Jean Julliard Prize highlights young achievers in transfusion medicine. These prestigious awards offer recognition and support, including sponsorship to attend the International Congress of the ISBT and opportunities to present groundbreaking work.

- **Vox Best Paper Prize**
- **Developing Country Award**
- **Jean Julliard Prize**
- **Presidential Award**

ISBT Awards and Prizes

ISBT Presidential Award

The ISBT Presidential Award was instituted in 2000 and is managed by the Board of the Foundation Transfusion Medicine, The Netherlands and ISBT. It is presented at the biennial ISBT International congresses. The ISBT Presidential Award winner 2022 was **Nancy Heddle**. Her award lecture at ISBT 2022 was **“Three decades of transfusion research: the smallest trial, the largest and the outcome I shouldn’t have used!”**



Nancy is currently a Professor Emeritus in the Department of Medicine at McMaster University and the Research Director at the McMaster Centre for Transfusion Research. She has published over 225 scientific papers and given more than 260 presentations nationally and internationally. Nancy trained as a Medical Laboratory Technologist. She completed a master’s degree in health research methodology at McMaster

University in 1992 and set up a clinical research program in Transfusion Medicine at McMaster University in 2001. Her research has utilized both qualitative and quantitative methodologies with a focus on evidence-based and safe transfusion practices. Throughout her career she has been an educator, a researcher and a mentor, teaching transfusion science and research methodology to over 250 fellows, residents, graduate students, and medical laboratory technologists. A teaching award in her name was created by the Division of Hematology at McMaster University and is given annually to a faculty member who demonstrates excellence in teaching.

Nancy served as an Associate Editor for the journal *Transfusion* from 2004 to 2018 and initiated the Clinical Research Focus section for the journal as a resource to understand clinical research methodology. She has received 18 national and international awards including the International Woman in Transfusion Award (AABB, BBTS and ISBT), the Emily Cooley Award from the AABB and a Lifetime Achievement Award from Canadian Blood Services.

Jean Julliard Award

The Jean Julliard Prize was established in 1962 in memory of the Society's first Secretary-General and is awarded to a scientist (< 40 years old) in recognition of recent and excellent scientific work in blood transfusion and related subjects.

The Jean Julliard Prize 2022 winner is **Alexander Vlaar** for his exceptional work "**Transfusion-associated circulatory overload - a breathtaking syndrome**". This was presented in the Jean Julliard award plenary session at ISBT 2022 Virtual congress in June 2022.



Alexander Vlaar. PhD, MD, MBA is professor Intensive Care Medicine (H-index: 31, 4.570 citation, > 220 articles) and principal investigator in intensive care medicine.

He works as an intensivist in the Amsterdam UMC, location AMC, Amsterdam, and has extensive experience in the design and execution of large national and international multicenter trials next to basic science.

The focus of his research is transfusion-related morbidity and mortality. His research lines consist, among others, of pre-clinical and clinical investigation in the field of antibody and non-antibody mediated transfusion related acute lung injury (TRALI) and transfusion associated circulatory overload (TACO).

He is the chair of the international TRALI re-definition working group and chair of the ESICM Transfusion Task Force.

Developing Countries Award

The ISBT Award for Developing Countries is given to a Blood Service/Centre or a Department of Transfusion medicine within a medical institution from a developing country that has made a significant contribution in strengthening blood transfusion practice within their country. In 2022 the award was made to **The Kasturba Hospital Blood Centre** for providing a reliable and safe blood supply and showing excellence in the areas of education, research, innovation, and outreach. **Dr. Shamee Shastry** received the award on behalf of the centre at the ISBT 2022 virtual congress.

Vox Best Paper Prize

The Vox Best Paper prize for 2021 was awarded to: **Davison KL, Reynolds CA, Andrews N, Brailsford SR, Group UKBDSS**. Blood donation by men who have sex with men: using evidence to change policy. Vox Sang 2021;116: 260-72.

The prize was presented at the ISBT 2022 virtual congress.

In memorium

It is with deep sorrow that we record the passing of Beryl Armstrong on 18 June 2022, at the age of 75, after a courageous battle with cancer. She spent the last years of her life in her beloved village of Botrivier and towards the end was comforted by the many messages, thoughts, and prayers that she received from friends and colleagues. She is survived by her sons, Graham and Stewart, three grandchildren and her sister, Jean.

On 5 September 1970 Beryl married Duncan, who later became CEO of the National Bioproducts Institute, and they remained a devoted couple until Duncan's passing in 2021.

In a career in the field of blood transfusion that spanned more than 55 years, Beryl became known to colleagues throughout the world for her passion, integrity and energy.

Born in Vryheid in KwaZulu-Natal on 2nd July 1946, Beryl started her career at the Natal Blood Transfusion Service in 1964 and went on from there to spend time at the World Health Organization in Geneva – a time that she was busy documenting at the time of her passing – and later served with the Africa Society for Blood Transfusion (AfSBT) in several different capacities.





During her time with the AfSBT she had an enormous impact on raising the standard of blood transfusion in many countries, and she will be fondly remembered by the countless professionals who she mentored all over the continent. I had the sincere pleasure of working closely with Beryl and a small team for many years, developing Standards for the Practice of Blood Transfusion, the now well entrenched AfSBT Step-Wise Accreditation Programme, and conducting training programmes. A definite highlight was writing the “Introduction to Blood Transfusion Technology” published under the auspices of the International Society of Blood Transfusion (ISBT), which Beryl insisted be made available free of charge to the blood transfusion community throughout the world.

Those folk who knew and worked with Beryl will miss a highly intelligent, vibrant individual with a rare ability to mentor and bring out the best in people.

Their sorrow will be lessened only slightly by the comforting thought that they had the privilege to know her.



A tribute written by Rob Wilkinson, Africa Society for Blood Transfusion, South Africa



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International Society
of Blood Transfusion

