

LSBT
ANNUAL
REPORT
2016-2017

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Corporate Partners

ISBT is pleased to acknowledge the following Corporate Partners

GOLD:



SILVER:



BRONZE:



ISBT Vision

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

Our mission

We are an international community of professionals sharing knowledge to enhance transfusion practice.

We achieve this by:

- Providing opportunities for advancing knowledge and education
- Advocacy for the welfare of blood donors and transfusion recipients

Quotes from our members*:

“ISBT provides a great opportunity to interact with colleagues worldwide and to participate in relevant discussions pertaining to the future of transfusion medicine.”

“Membership of the ISBT has been an immeasurable and rewarding experience that has helped me grow professionally”

“ISBT is the best way to be linked and work with people that shape, develop and publish the transfusional field.”

* These quotes are from our anonymous survey.

Foreword from the President

Another year has passed and it is important to reflect on what we as members, the Board and management of ISBT have expected of our society and what we have achieved in reaching the goals we have set for ourselves. In a fast changing landscape in the 21st century where disruptive technology can change the playing fields overnight, we need to adapt quickly to remain relevant.

I took over as president from Celso Bianco in Dubai and unfortunately due to illness Celso could not attend the Dubai meeting. I would like to express my sincere thanks to Diana Teo for taking on the role of president in Celso's absence and performing the official duties at the meeting.

This past financial year has been a successful one for ISBT and the key highlights were retention of our membership base, hosting an international conference in the Middle East (Dubai) for the first time, reviewing the Code of Ethics, increasing international outreach through ISBT Academy Day events in a number of countries globally, continued focus on education and development via the e-portal, increased engagement with working parties, webinars and agreeing a new affiliate membership offering to increase access to educational materials for members and staff members of our affiliate organisations at a low cost per member. This will be introduced in the 2017/18 membership year.

Congresses remain a strategic priority for ISBT and in keeping with the focus of having international congresses in different regions of the world, the 34th international congress was held in Dubai. Our hosts in Dubai really went the extra mile to ensure a memorable event and I am sure that all those that attended have fond memories of the exciting scientific programme, great food and wonderful venue. Personally, the most satisfying aspect for me was that many blood bank staff from the region were able to attend and for many it was the first time they attended an international meeting and could listen to speakers they only read about.

We welcomed seven new members on to the ISBT Board of Directors and have already had two Board meetings in September and February. The main objective of the February meeting was

to review the current 2015 – 2018 strategy. We are pleased that excellent progress is being made in implementation of the objectives particularly with regards to advancing knowledge and international outreach. Small sub groups of the Board were tasked with working on proposals to increase access to ISBT educational and congress related material and this will be a focus for 2017 when we launch the revised Affiliate programme. The ISBT Academy has also provided support to a number of meetings organized by Regional and National Societies.

The Board critically reviewed and endorsed the revised draft of the ISBT Code of Ethics and would like to sincerely thank the Standing Committee on Ethics, chaired by Dr Peter Flanagan, for their significant input in preparing this document.

Strategic partnerships and collaboration with other organisations and societies is an integral part of ISBT's international focus and in the past six months management and Board members represented ISBT at a number of workshops and meetings. These included the Asia Pacific Economic Community (APEC) meeting in Vietnam, The Chinese Society for Blood Transfusion (CSBT) congress in China, the ABHH meeting in Brazil, the WHO Expert Committee on Biological Standardisation (ECBS) meeting in Switzerland and an Accreditation workshop organised by the Turkish Blood Foundation.

Finally I would like to sincerely thank Judith Chapman and the staff at ISBT Central Office for the excellent work and commitment over the past year. Many new initiatives such as webinars and forums have been introduced to improve education, communication and interaction among members and we look forward to ongoing innovation.

Ravi Reddy
President



Foreword from the Secretary General

This report covers the period April 1st, 2016 to March 31st, 2017. I am pleased to report that the ISBT had another successful year, with many encouraging achievements. We had a highly successful International Congress, held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, the first ISBT Congress in this part of the world. The Congress attracted a total of 2701 participants and 724 accepted abstracts were presented. There were 73 exhibiting companies in 2346 square metres of exhibit space. We thank the Local Organising and Scientific committees as well as MCI Amsterdam for their effort and energy, which contributed much to the success of our Congress.

Membership of the ISBT has remained stable, with a current total of 1664 members, only 25 fewer than the preceding year; an excellent outcome for a year with only one Congress. Membership activities are a major strength of the organization, with continuing growth and energy in the Academy.

Vox Sanguinis continues to be the flagship scientific journal for the Society and is competitively rated 37th out of 70 haematology journals maintain its standing compared to other transfusion-related journals, with a current impact factor of 2.63, essentially unchanged from the prior year. There has also been notable progress for the ISBT Scientific Series, which is now a fully peer-reviewed electronically published journal; in addition to Congress presentations, it is featuring additional issues containing submitted papers.

The 15 Working Parties continue to be a vital component of the Society and in addition to their core programs, they have been contributing extensively to content of Congresses and Academy session. The continuing focus on younger members is increasing its momentum and success. We encourage all of you to participate actively in these activities as appropriate to your interests.

In 2015-16, the following awards were presented in Dubai: The ISBT Award to Beryl Armstrong and Steve Morgan for their tireless support of the Society. The Vox Sanguinis Best Paper Prize was presented to T. Berthold, N. Schubert, S. Muschter, M. Rohr, J. Wesche, A. Reil, J. Bux, T. Bakchoul, A. Greinacher of the Institut für Immunologie und Transfusionsmedizin, Universitätsmedizin Greifswald, Greifswald, Germany for their paper: "HNA antibody-mediated neutrophil aggregation is dependent on serine protease activity". The Jean Julliard award was given to Gustaf Edgren, of the Karolinska Institute, Sweden for his research which he described in his award lecture "Big data in transfusion medicine – towards a database driven approach to ensuring the long-term health of both blood donors and transfused patients." The Presidential Award went to Harvey Klein, M.D., of the National Institutes of Health, USA in recognition of his exemplary career and leadership in Transfusion Medicine. The Developing Country Award recognized the National Institute of Haematology and Blood Transfusion (NKHBT) of Vietnam.

The Central Office has appointed two new staff members, please extend your welcome to them. Bodine van Wingerden joined the staff in February in the new post of Stakeholder and marketing co-ordinator. Victoria Lakemann Popa, Office Manager left ISBT in December and was replaced by Mildred Kada. We look forward to their contributions.

Roger Dodd
Secretary General



Board of Directors

June 2014 - September 2016

Executive Committee:

President	Celso Bianco, USA
President Elect	Vengetassen (Ravi) Reddy, South Africa
Senior Vice President	Diana Teo, Singapore
Junior Vice President	Erica Wood, Australia
Past President	Peter Flanagan, New Zealand
Secretary General	Roger Dodd, USA
Treasurer	Steve Morgan, UK

Members of the Board representing WHO Regions:

Africa	Bridon M'baya, Malawi
Northern Americas	Richard Benjamin, USA
Southern Americas	Ina-Noelia Pérez-Huaynalaya, Peru
Europe	Miguel Lozano, Spain
Europe	Claudio Velati, Italy
Eastern Mediterranean	Ahmad Gharehbaghian, Iran
South East Asia	Neelam Marwaha, India
Western Pacific	Masahiro Satake, Japan
Western Pacific	Che-Kit Lin, Hong Kong

September 2016 - June 2018

Executive Committee:

President	Vengetassen (Ravi) Reddy, South Africa
President Elect	Martin Olsson, Sweden
Senior Vice President	Erica Wood, Australia
Junior Vice President	So-Yong Kwon, Korea
Past President	Celso Bianco, USA
Secretary General	Roger Dodd, USA
Treasurer	Eric Jansen, the Netherlands

Members of the Board representing WHO Regions:

Africa	Justina Kordai Ansah, Ghana
Northern Americas	Richard Benjamin, USA
Southern Americas	Ina-Noelia Pérez-Huaynalaya, Peru
Europe	Miguel Lozano, Spain
Europe	Shubha Allard, UK
Eastern Mediterranean	Ahmad Gharehbaghian, Iran
South East Asia	Neelam Marwaha, India
Western Pacific	Masahiro Satake, Japan

Membership

Annual Report 2016-2017 - Membership

1. TOTAL MEMBERSHIP PER END OF MEMBERSHIP YEAR *

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
INDIVIDUAL	805	987	1205	1343	1422	2030	1680	1219	1354	1282	1617	1562
AFFILIATED	27	23	23	18	22	17	16	14	17	14	13	11
EXEMPT	14	18	30	42	69	84	49	55	55	69	39	72
HONORARY	25	23	24	23	27	24	22	22	21	20	20	19
TOTAL:	871	1051	1282	1426	1540	2155	1767	1310	1447	1385	1689	1664

* Until 2010 ISBT membership years ended on 31 December.

From 2011 on, the membership year was from 1 April until 31 March of the next year.

The membership year 2011 was a longer year, because it ran from 1 January 2011 until 31 March 2012.

2. INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP PER WHO REGION PER END OF MEMBERSHIP YEAR:

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
AFRICA	25	38	41	33	59	51	50	43	49	43	78	73
AMERICAS	206	220	244	267	252	287	310	287	284	261	327	270
EASTERN												
MEDITERRANEAN	29	55	71	77	85	127	78	47	61	57	85	116
EUROPE	395	474	571	597	719	819	841	566	637	587	717	672
SOUTH EAST ASIA	43	56	88	117	86	81	76	58	65	78	148	129
WESTERN PACIFIC	107	144	190	252	221	665	325	218	258	256	334	302
TOTAL	805	987	1205	1343	1422	2030	1680	1219	1354	1282	1617	1562

Congress

- 34th International Congress of The ISBT in Dubai, United Arab Emirates

The 34th International Congress of The ISBT in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. 3-8 September 2016

May Raouf, Chairperson, Local Organizing Committee



We look at the ISBT congresses as our window to the new technologies, research updates and developments in the field of transfusion medicine. Therefore and during the last twenty years I used to fly to different countries in the world to attend ISBT congresses. Looking at the history of ISBT congresses we noticed that no international congress had been organised in the Middle East. Therefore we decided to bid for hosting an ISBT Congress in our region to make this wonderful scientific activity close to blood bankers in our region. In 2010 the UAE Ministry of Health represented by Dr. Amin Al Amiri and myself went to Berlin Germany to give our presentation in front of the ISBT Board. We were upset to fail and returned back home with pain. In the following year, 2011 we went to Lisbon, Portugal to bid once again and unfortunately failed again. We were so sure that the region needed to have this scientific congress close to the countries whom find it difficult to fly to Europe and America to attend ISBT congresses and also we were sure of Dubai capabilities for hosting and organising a prestigious international congresses. During 2013 we contacted the Dubai Department of Tourism

and Commerce and Dubai World Trade center whom are pioneers in hosting and organising successful international congresses and asked for their support in preparing bidding document. In addition Dubai at that time was nominated and short listed for Expo 2020. We went to Amsterdam, to give our presentation in front of the ISBT Board with our hearts beating fast, wishing we can do it this time and we did. We were so pleased and proud to win the bid for hosting the 34th International Congress of ISBT in Dubai 2016. We are also so pleased to have this congress under the patronage of HH. Sheikh Mohamed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice president, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai "God bless him" where HH attended the opening ceremony and visited the exhibition Hall.

The Congress took place at Dubai World Trade center a self-contained, world class, congress center providing business networking platform with integrated end-to-end services.

The ISBT Scientific Secretary and the Local Scientific Committee worked closely together to develop a solid scientific programme that covered the educational and developmental needs of a wide spectrum of Transfusion Professionals. The large number of participating countries flavored the programme with diversity of experiences and topics. In the Dubai congress the local day program was very successful with a very good number of participants from regional and international countries. The "Young investigator " has been newly added to the programme to encourage young scientists to find their way in scientific



research and help them to improve their skills. Participants feedback was excellent as most of them found that they have been exposed during the days of the congress to the latest research findings, state-of-the-art technologies, and excellent topics within the Academy Day and the main scientific programme.

The Dubai congress app was available for download with direct access to the scientific programme, speaker directory, abstracts, and venue maps, making participants needs accessible, easy and available.

The Social Program presented an ideal opportunity to experience the multi-cultural delights of Dubai. The organising committee presented the hospitality of Emirates society in a beautiful way with many different delicious Arabic dishes, henna and Arabic calligraphy.

As the local organising committee we would like to thank ISBT for giving us this opportunity to learn lots of organisational skills in addition to the scientific value of this congress. We appreciate the support and effort of Judith Chapman, ISBT Executive Director, Ellen Van Schoot, Scientific Secretary, Diana Teo, Acting President and all ISBT Board members for their effort in improving and supporting blood transfusion practice in most of the countries in our world. We regret the absence of ISBT President Celso Bianco for not being well at that time but we are sure that he was happy to hear the good feedback of participants about ISBT Dubai.



We are honored and pleased to be able to meet participants expectations at organisational, scientific and social aspects, we are looking forward to seeing you in future ISBT activities.

May Raouf
 Head of Dubai Blood Donation Center; Dubai Health Authority, United Arab Emirates
 Chairman, LOC, ISBT 34th International Congress



Quotes from our delegates:

“I thank ISBT for organizing this high level scientific and organizational congress and wish to participate regularly.”

“This was the first time I have attended an ISBT conference and I loved it!”

“So far one of the best ISBT congresses I have attended.”

ISBT Treasurer's report 2016-17



Eric Jansen,
Treasurer

Summary

This financial year ended with a small surplus of approximately € 8.000. Under our agreement with the Dutch tax authorities, our fiscal surplus will be transferred to the ISBT Foundation.

Revenue

In 2016-17 the international congress was organised in Dubai. The surplus was € 210.000 against a budget of €250.000 primarily due to less than expected revenue. There were 2724 participants including booth personnel. Membership fees were relatively flat compared to last year which is satisfying taking into account that only one congress was organised in 2016-2017. The Board is analysing the membership fee structure with the goal of making ISBT membership more attractive and affordable. Corporate partnership income increased approximately € 20.000 to € 154.000 reflecting the addition of two new partners.

The royalties from VOX Sanquinis fell from € 185.000 to € 176.000 mainly because of the effects of the Brexit in the value of the English pound. Interest income further diminished because of falling interest rates.

Expenditure

In 2016-2017, total office costs increased 4%, with an increase in the cost of membership benefits being offset by decreases in among other things, professional and travel expenses.

The cost of membership benefits increased due primarily to the cost of the ePortal (€ 39.000) which had been previously funded by the ISBT Foundation.

The total personnel expenses showed little change compared to last year. We expect a small increase in 2017-18, primarily due to modest adjustments for pay inflation and the appointment of a new Stakeholder and Marketing Coordinator. The coordinator has a range of tasks associated with increasing the ISBT brand, building the membership including Affiliate members and engagement with ISBT's current and potential Corporate partners. Professional expenses are back to the level of 2014-2015. In 2015-2016, it was higher because of the investment in the Society's long-term strategic plan.

The travel expenses fell by almost € 30.000 to € 78.000 due primarily to fewer Board meetings.

Expenditures for Projects and Activities decreased by approximately € 10.000. Amounts spent on the Developing Country Award and the Jean Julliard Prize which are granted every other year were offset by lower spending by the Society's working parties.

Eric Jansen
ISBT Treasurer

Copies of the 2016-17 full Financial Statements are available from the ISBT Central Office.

Reports from ISBT Working Parties

- Working Party on Apheresis
- Working Party on Blood Supply Management
- Working Party on Cellular Therapy
- Working Party on Clinical Transfusion
- Working Party on Donors and Donation
- Working Party on Global Blood Safety
- Working Party on Granulocyte Immunobiology
- Working Party on Haemovigilance
- Working Party on Immunohaematology
- Working Party on Information Technology
- Working Party on Platelet Immunobiology
- Working Party on Quality Management
- Working Party on Rare Donors
- Working Party on Red Cell Immunogenetics and Terminology
- Working Party on Transfusion Transmitted Diseases

Working Party on Apheresis



Hans Vrielink, Chairperson

1. Chairperson and committee

Chairperson: Hans Vrielink, the Netherlands

Secretary: Paul Höcker, Austria, assisted by Margarete Grimus

No report was submitted by the Working Party on Apheresis.

Blood Supply Management Working Party



Dr. Justina Ansah, Chairperson

1. Chairperson and committee

Chairperson: Justina Kordai Ansah, Ghana
Co-chairperson: Gilles Folléa, France

2. Membership information

As at April 4, 2017 the WP had nineteen (19) members representing fourteen (14) countries.

3. Meetings and Telephone conferences

One face-to-face business meeting of the ISBT BSM WP was held in Dubai, at the ISBT Congress, on September 4, 2016. It was attended by ten (10) delegates representing eight (8) countries. The topics covered were as follows.

- Appointment of the Chairperson
- Updated Terms of Reference (ToR), according to the operating principles for the ISBT WPs
- Updated members' list of the WP
- Link between ISBT WP on BSM and ISBT WP on PBM
- Second survey on Blood product wastage, in developing countries
- ISBT WP BSM session during the Dubai meeting (main scientific programme)
- Other project suggestions for WP BSM: Good practices in BSM
- Next meeting

Following the congress in Dubai, one (1) teleconference of a sub-committee was held on 14 November 2016, to discuss a first draft of a questionnaire elaborated for a second survey on blood product wastage, in developing countries (see section 4b).

4. Activities during the period

The main achievements of the ISBT BSM WP during the period are as follows.

- a. Organization of a session on BSM at the ISBT meeting in Dubai, with 3 oral presentations during the main scientific

programme.

- o Rick Tochetti: The state-wide collaborative project for blood inventory management in Australia
- o Merlyn Sayers: Blood supply management in the USA- current trends
- o Greg Wilkie: The Australian blood and blood product wastage

The session was well attended and appreciated.

- b. Preparations towards a second international survey on blood product wastage

- o As all respondents in the first survey were from developed countries (Yazer MH et al. ISBT Science Series 2015; DOI: 10.1111/voxs.12236), the objective of this second survey is to investigate blood product wastage in developing countries.
- o Following the decision to conduct the second survey, there was one teleconference and a series of e-mail exchanges between a four-member sub-committee that constitutes a core group resulting in the performance of the following preparatory steps:
 - Elaboration of the survey questionnaire
 - Preparation of a survey: carried out by ISBT central Office
 - Establishment of a list of low income countries (31) and lower-middle income countries based on the World Bank categorization.
 - Collection and collation of contacts details of colleagues in respective countries with the capacity to respond to the survey questionnaire, performed with assistance from the ISBT central Office.

5. Finances

The working party required no financial support for its activities.

Working Party on Cellular Therapies



Mickey Koh, Chairperson

1. Chairperson and committee

Chairperson: Mickey Koh, UK and Singapore

Committee:

Vice Chairperson: Peter Horn, Germany

Secretary: Christian Gabriel, Austria

Treasurer: Reinhardt Henschler, Germany

2. Membership information

The mailing list consists of 23 persons including the committee. This is a stable group of members. Representation from Europe, Asia, Africa, North America and South America making for a diverse group with worldwide representation.

Nonetheless, The working party is still struggling to attract large numbers of committed members due to competing cell therapy focus in other organisations, especially those with a specific focus on cell therapy

3. Meetings and Telephone conferences

A working party meeting was held during the ISBT congress in Dubai, September 2016. A copy of the minutes for the meeting can be found online.

The meeting concentrated on ways of collaboration and challenges of working on projects when face to face meetings are held only in conjunction with the annual congress

The Apheresis WP represented by Hans Vrieling was keen to combine with our WP.

In addition, the chair-person briefed the members on the activities of the WP as well as its role in interacting with other organisations like WBMT and AABB. There was

discussion on the continuing projects: platelet lysates and serum eyedrops.

A tele conference call among the office bearers was held nov 2016 to plan for the platelet lysate meetings. Regular correspondence also among the office bearers via email.

4. Activities during the period

1. Collaboration with the BEST Collaborative group on a project involving use of Platelet Rich Plasma. A survey has been prepared, disseminated to all ISBT members and results are currently being analysed.
2. A successful and well attended joint EBMT-ISBT Cell Therapy WP session was held at the Annual European Bone Marrow Transplant (EBMT) Congress in Marseille March 2017. The session focused on transfusion support issues including granulocyte transfusions in stem cell transplant. The positive feedback has encourage the organisers to think of this as a recurrent event at EBMT.
3. The office bearers of the ISBT Cellular Therapies continue to be well represented at the Worldwide Network for Blood and Marrow Transplantation. Mickey Koh is the representative and Peter Horn is the other representative. ISBT continues to contribute with regards to cell therapy, graft processing and blood banking issues in this organisation which is affiliated to WHO.
4. The working party works closely with the congress scientific programme organisers and has provided input for the regional congress in Dubai 2016. A podcast talk on stem cell transplant was also done at the Dubai congress.

5. Members of the working party have been involved in a joint project with AABB and ISCT on platelet lysates looking at various issues that need addressing in this field.
6. The WP will submit a proposal to the ISBT Board to consider adding Biobanking to its sphere of concern. This includes both research and therapeutic biobanking. Like cellular Therapy, Biobanking is an area that is growing rapidly and is emerging as an area that blood banks are increasingly involved in as the core functions of blood banking changes. This was discussed at the strategic meeting in Amsterdam.

5. Finances

The Working Party received support for a meeting.

Working Party Highlights

Joint EBMT-ISBT Cell Therapy
session at the EBMT
congress March 2017

Joint project with
AABB and ISCT
on platelet lysates

Working Party on Clinical Transfusion



Cynthia So-Osman (left), Chairperson
Shubha Allard (right), Co-Chairperson

1. Chairperson and committee

Chairs: Cynthia So-Osman, the Netherlands
 Co-Chairperson: Shubha Allard, UK

2. Membership information

Currently, the Clinical Transfusion Working Party has 47 members representing 22 countries from 6 continents. Our Transfusion Practitioners (TP) subgroup now has 5 steering committee members.

Our Pediatric subgroup has 5 members and is expanding.

3. Meetings and Telephone conferences

Business meeting in Dubai at the international ISBT-congress September 2016: 18 members were present. All day interim-meeting on 20st January 2017 in Amsterdam, the Netherlands: 18 members were present in person and 3 members by teleconference. A guest speaker was invited (Anne Davidson, UK). Another guest was invited to participate by teleconference: David Peterson (AUS). Main topics were:

1. Patient Blood Management (PBM) subgroup: e-learning module and website. Presentation from Anne Davidson (UK) on elearning: UK experience, discussion with David Petersen: Australian experience. Future steps to develop module were discussed.
2. TP subgroup: a survey will be designed for better understanding of the role of the TP on a global level.
3. Pediatric subgroup: proposal for ToR and preparation of education symposium at ISBT 2018 in Canada.

Also: 3-5 interim conference calls for subgroups.

4. Activities during the period

The main activities since the Dubai 2016 ISBT-WP meeting are as follows:

- I. **PBM survey:** results of survey in press (Vox Science Series March 2017).
- II. **Transfusion Indication Codes:** survey for Vox Sanguinis International Forum: in press (Feb 2017).
- III. **PBM website:** A PBM website has been developed providing ready access to resources and tools to promote PBM implementation and sharing best practice between countries. Links are provided to other informative websites, published papers, e-learning material and audit tools. This website is further being developed.
- IV. **E learning module for Transfusion Certificate (collaboration with EBA):** this initiative will take more time and more financial support than expected. It was decided to start up as European initiative and to explore the possibilities for EU funding. WP EU-members agreed to liaise with their national societies to participate in the application for funding.
- V. **Transfusion Practitioner subgroup:** The second TP network meeting was organized during the Dubai congress, and a 3-day TP program was launched. The group is expanding and another TP networking meeting in Copenhagen is being prepared. ToR proposal was finalized and agreed. Provided content for Transfusion Today.
- VI. **Paediatric subgroup:** Content was delivered for March issue of Transfusion Today 2017 (theme: Pediatric an neonatal Transfusion). Content for the WP website was delivered.
- VII. **Collaboration with the Thalassemia International**

Federation: on the development of transfusion information for healthcare professionals and patients with haemoglobinopathy.

- VIII. WHO Clinical Use of Blood Handbook:** our WP is actively involved in the update of the Handbook. Teleconferences with WHO are being planned on a regular basis.
- IX. ISBT update meeting in Brazil Nov 2016:** The WP contributed slides and content on PBM with a WP party member delivering a presentation at this meeting.
- X. Epidemiology course:** a clinical basic Epidemiology course was held during the Dubai conference: 20 participants were registered.

5. Finances

The working party received support for an interim business meeting held in Amsterdam in January 2016. The meeting was well attended, and well received also by teleconference (Australian, UK, Canadian and US members).

Working Party Highlights

Paediatric sub group introduced

Transfusion Practitioner forum launched at Dubai Congress

New chapters added to the Patient Blood Management Resource

Working Party on Donors and Donation



Peter Van Den Burg (left), Chairperson
Cheuk-Kwong Lee (right), Co-Chairperson

1. Chairperson and committee

Chairperson: Peter van den Burg, the Netherlands

Co-Chairperson: Cheuk-Kwong Lee, Hong Kong

Committee:

Vice Chairperson: Karin Magnussen, Denmark

Secretary: Matt Granato, USA

2. Membership information

The WP D&D has 35 members from 20 different countries.

3. Meetings and Telephone conferences

The working part Donors & Donation (D&D) met during the ISBT in Dubai in 2016. The cooperation with the working party on hemovigilance, with respect to donor vigilance, is continued and Karin Magnussen is as chair of the donor vigilance subgroup the linking pin between the two working parties.

Apart from the Dubai meeting, the working party committee has regular teleconferences.

4. Activities during the period

In 2016 the working party D&D focused on several topics:

- Education. As associate partner of the European Donor Health Care (DoHeCa) project several members contributed to the development of the educational program DoHeCa. This activity is a great and important activity and in the end of 2017 the program DoHeCa should be completed. The intended start of the program DoHeCa is planned in 2018.

- The ISBT and EBA granted project in collaboration with the Syncopedia Foundation was finalized in 2016. The tutorials and questions are developed and the next step is the implementation of these tutorials in cooperation with the EBA in 2017.
- Representatives of the working party contributed to two international congresses:
 - Transfusion medicine congresses in Naples in April and October 2016,
 - Transfusion medicine congress in Medellin, Colombia, May 2016.

5. Finances

The Working Party required no financial support for its activities.

Working Party Highlight

Launch of donor fainting tutorials and associated questions

Working Party on Global Blood Safety



Silvano Wendel, Chairperson

1. Chairperson and committee

Chairperson: Silvano Wendel, Brazil

Committee:

Vice Chairperson: Marion Vermeulen, South Africa

Secretary: Sandra Nance, USA

Treasurer: Saiwa Hindawl, Saudi Arabia

Other committees in this group:

- Quality Issues with Plasma for Fractionation
- Needs Analysis vs. Demand
- Voluntary non-remunerated donations (vs. replacement)
- Harmonisation

2. Membership information

More than 40 members from all geographic regions

3. Meetings and telephone conferences

There were 2 conference calls and two more are planned until June.

4. Activities during the period

The ISBT WP-GBS organized a meeting in Dubai, on September 2016, with more than 20 participant members. A new organizing committee was elected, including new officers. A list of all members and their corresponding activities is found at the corresponding ISBT site. Several topics were proposed to the membership in order to define what would be the most important topics to be developed by the WP-GBS. After a very productive discussion, it was defined that we should focus on four (4) main subjects:

- 1) **The role of voluntary non replacement blood donation as opposed to replacement donations –** There is still a great controversy whether replacement donations are actually detrimental, particularly in some developing countries.
- 2) **Needs analysis vs. Demand –** GBS is planning to develop it into three main steps: historical research; how exactly should it be surveyed in the future and finally, validation.
- 3) **Harmonisation -** Given that there is a huge difference between countries and centres - as defined by WHO - one issue is to propose harmonisation between regulatory agencies. Assessment criteria for developing countries need more advocacy and assistance for further implementation
- 4) **Quality Issues (plasma for fractionation) -** There is a global wastage of plasma because quality plasma is not being made. What is possible to advocate that these countries meet minimum standards? Funding is the major problem, and it is unlikely that ISBT will have the resources for this task, however, there is room for creating an infrastructure to enable collection of plasma meeting quality standards and find partners willing to do the fractionation. We consider that our main role will be in advocacy. On the other hand, The Hemophilia Society and World Federation of Hemophilia are likely working on getting the 80% of hemophiliacs who do not have access to manufactured product. Virally inactivated Cryoprecipitated -AHF could be a partial solution for these patients, where the ISBT WP-GBS support might be important in the future.

Members were designed for every workgroup, whose initial task is to produce a white paper, that, after full discussion with the membership, should be presented to the Board in order to propose as ISBT recommendations to several agencies around the world. As a matter of fact, the first white paper draft has already been produced, which will be discussed during our meeting in Denmark (June 2017).

The revised terms of reference was presented to the ISBT Board in September 2016, and recently approved. In addition, there was an interview with the WP-GBS chair for the Pan European Networks (www.paneuropeannetworks.com), published in journal Science & Technology.

5. Finances

The Working Party received support to cover office costs.

Working Party on Granulocyte Immunobiology



Lin Fung, Chairperson

1. Chairperson and committee

Chairperson: Lin Fung, Australia

Nomenclature Subcommittee:

Chairperson: Brigitte Flesch, Germany

Members: Ulrich Sachs, Germany
Masja de Haas, the Netherlands
Brian Curtis, USA
Geoff Lucas, UK - retired Nov 2016

International Granulocyte Immunobiology Workshop (IGIW) Steering Committee:

Members: Brian Curtis, USA
Jurgen Bux, Germany
Geoff Lucas, UK - retired in Nov 2016
Lin Fung, Australia - retired Nov 2016

2. Membership information

ISBT members: 30

Countries represented: 14

3. Meetings

XIV European Symposium of Platelet & Granulocyte Immunobiology (ESPGI), May 26 – 28, 2016, Stockholm, Sweden.

4. Activities during the period

XIV ESPGI meeting – Granulocyte workshop

Chaired by Dr Brian Curtis & Dr Lin Fung

- Discussed results from International Granulocyte Immunobiology Workshops (IGIW)
 - o 2014 by Dr Geoff Lucas
 - o 2015 by Dr Brian Curtis
 - o 2016 By Randy Schuller
- Dr Brigitte Flesch provided an update on the nomenclature sub-committee.
- There was robust discussion on whether IGIW should formalise the association with ISBT. A majority (10 of 18) voted to support the motion that the IGIW would become a sub-committee of the GIWP. This result was emailed to all IGIW members on 28th May 2016.
- Dr Geoff Lucas and Dr Lin Fung have stepped down from the IGIW sub-committee, and elections are in progress to recruit replacements.

5. Finances

The working party received support for a meeting and to cover office costs.

Working Party on Haemovigilance



Kevin Land, Chairperson

1. Chairperson and committee

Chairperson: Kevin Land, USA

Committee:

Secretary: Maria Antonia Escoval, Portugal

Treasurer: Jean-Claude Faber, Luxembourg

Donor Vigilance

Coordinator: Mickey Koh, UK and Singapore

Past Chairperson: Johanna (Jo) Wiersum-Osselton,
The Netherlands

2. Membership information

At the request of the ISBT office, the mailing list was reviewed and working party attendees and contacts who are not paid-up ISBT members were asked to consider joining. As of autumn 2016 the working party had approximately 80 members, 15 observers, and approximately 42 additional mailing list contacts, representing at least 35 countries in all.

3. Meetings and Telephone conferences

The committee held 3 teleconferences to discuss working party projects related to the validation of the Donor Haemovigilance consensus criteria and updating the TACO criteria. One call was to finalize the programme for the upcoming congress (Dubai 2016).

The annual working meeting was held during the Dubai congress; 24 members and guests attended. The meeting consisted of general updates, including the progress on TACO definition revision, paediatric HV definitions, iSTARE the IHN HV database, validation results of the harmonized definitions, discussion for revision of the TOR; and general updates from IHN, WHO, and various collaborative actions with other working parties.

During the year, the membership continued participating in revising the TACO criteria. Jo Weirsum (ISBT) and Barbee

Whitaker (AABB) led international efforts to coordinate several teleconferences to collect comments from experts to further refine the proposed criteria.

The TOR were revised based on feedback from the annual meeting.

4. Activities during the period

Recipient haemovigilance subgroup

- Continue to work on updating of TACO definition: revision group held 2 teleconferences. As of March 2017, comments from around the world have been gathered on proposed draft criteria. The next steps are to ask respondees to challenge draft final criteria against their own cases and then to send out the final criteria with standard cases for final validation.
- Members of the recipient vigilance subgroup participated in an IHN meeting (11th March 2016) examining possibilities for collaboration in research. Members also working with IHN to try to coordinate an international consensus conference on the updated TACO criteria.

Donor haemovigilance subgroup

- Donor HV case validation survey sent out in July 2016. Preliminary results presented and discussed during ISBT Dubai 2016 and again at AABB Florida USA 2016. Final manuscript begun with plans to be finished by June 2017. Cases with summary of responses will be available on ISBT and AABB websites by end of March 2017.
- Members of the donor vigilance subgroup participated in an IHN meeting (11th March 2016) examining possibilities for collaboration in research.

Finances

The working party received support to cover the cost of announcing its meetings.

Working Party on Immunohematology



Thierry Peyrard, Chairperson

1. Chairperson and committee

Chairperson: Thierry Peyrard, France

Committee:

Vice Chairperson: Nicole Thornton, UK

Secretary: Sofia Lejon Crottet, Switzerland

Treasurer: Mostafa Moghaddam, Iran

Chair Emeritus: Sandra Nance, USA

2. Membership information

The membership groups include the Executive Committee listed above, the so-called “Small Group of 10” from very interested attendees (considered founding members of the Working Party by the Past Chair Sandy Nance) at the inaugural meeting in Seoul (including the current members of the Executive Committee) and the full Working Party. The Small Group of 10 includes members from nine countries. The full Working Party membership is 25 ISBT members, with 16 countries represented and 5 continents.

3. Meetings and Telephone conferences

Six members from the “Small Group of 10” (Working Party Committee and Jenny White) met in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, for a pre-meeting of the Working Party on Immunohaematology, on September 1st 2016 (9:30-17:30), to discuss and finalize the content of the formal Working Party meeting scheduled two days afterwards. A social dinner followed, funded by the ISBT Board, which served to fruitfully enhance the collaborative and networking nature of such a pre-meeting. The official meeting of the Working Party took place on September 3rd 2016 in the afternoon (15:00-18:00); 13 Working Party members attended along with 14 guests. The program aroused a real interest and participation from the attendees, with introductions of all members and guests and with the meeting agenda

(described in the minutes of the Working Party meeting) that especially included the review of the Terms of References, list of new applicants, and report on past and future activities: International survey on immunohematology practices, topics of interest of the Working Party, case studies in immunohematology published on the ISBT Website, suggestions for the Copenhagen Congress (topics and speakers), and organization of a workshop on the clinical significance of red blood cell alloantibodies.

4. Activities during the period

The major activities were as follows (for more completeness and details, please see the minutes of the Dubai Working Party meeting):

- a) The International Survey on Immunohematology practices, fully developed in terms of content by the Small Group of 10 (66 questions) and technically designed by Jenny White was sent out as a first draft to the members of the Small Group of 10 (pilot study) in a Survey Monkey format. The first results were presented at the Working Party meeting in Dubai. Revision of the questionnaire was performed after the feedback and comments of all the participants.
- b) Publication of case studies in immunohematology on the ISBT Website. After a case study template was developed by the Working Party Committee, Sandy Nance followed up the schedule of volunteer authors for 2016 and a new schedule for 2017 was established at the Working Party meeting in Dubai. The case studies are systematically reviewed by Sandy Nance and Thierry Peyrard, before publication on the ISBT Website. Eleven case studies were submitted in 2016 and 11 are already scheduled for 2017. Each working party member is requested to propose a case study.

- c) A significant revision of the Terms of Reference of the Working Party was performed at the Working Party pre-meeting in Dubai and will be proposed to the ISBT Board.
- d) A workshop on the clinical significance of red blood cell alloantibodies was organised by the Executive Committee of the ISBT Working Party on Immunohaematology and took place in Dubai on September 2nd 2016 for one whole day, in conjunction with the 34th International Congress of the ISBT. This topic was confirmed during prior meetings of the Working Party to be a matter of high concern for all immunohematologists and transfusion medicine specialists. Pre-registration for the workshop reached maximum capacity and attendance was high, with a final total of 66 participants, representing 25 countries, which turned out to be the most popular ISBT workshop ever, according to the ISBT Central Office. A wide range of professions were represented, including medical laboratory technologists, medical doctors/clinical pathologists, scientists, delegates from in vitro diagnostic companies and students. The workshop program was built with the aim of addressing five main educational objectives: (i) To understand the definition of a clinically significant alloantibody; (ii) To establish an awareness of the Notify Library international database and understand how to participate; (iii) To gain insight into the biological tools available to predict the clinical significance of alloantibodies; (iv) To gain an understanding of the current information available about blood group alloantibodies and identify areas where efforts could be concentrated to enhance our knowledge base; (v) To exchange practical experience and promote technical networking between the participants.
- e) The Working Party contributed to three publications in the Transfusion Today Journal: (i) Thierry Peyrard. Resolving immunohaematology problems related to rare blood. *Transfusion Today* 2016;106:6; (ii) Sandy Nance & Thierry Peyrard. Case studies in Immunohematology. *Transfusion Today* 2016;107:17; (iii) Nicole Thornton & Thierry Peyrard. The ISBT Working Party on Immunohaematology Workshop on the Clinical Significance of Red Cell Alloantibodies. *Transfusion Today* 2016;109:28-9.

5. Finances

The Working Party received support for a meeting.

Working Party Highlights

Monthly case studies on the Immunohaematology Web page of www.isbtweb.org

Very successful workshop on the clinical significance of red blood cell alloantibodies at the Dubai congress

Working Party on Information Technology



Pat Distler, Chairperson

1. Chairperson and committee

Chairperson: Pat Distler, USA

Committee:

Vice Chairperson: Goudar Shankar, USA

Secretary: Mónica Freire, USA

Validation Task Force

Chairperson: Jan-Willem Andriessen, the Netherlands

Traceability Task Force

Chairperson: Paul Ashford, UK

RFID Task Force

Chairperson: Lynne Briggs, USA

RFID Task Force

Co-Chairperson: Wayne Bolton, Australia

Interface Task Force

Chairperson: Linda Lodge, UK

Past Chairperson: Ralf Knels, Germany

ICCBBA TAG Representative: Mario Muon, Portugal

- Traceability, and RFID)
- Presentation by Africa Society of Blood Transfusion on their IT working party
- Status of the election of vice chair and secretary
- Status of Interface Standard (with discussion about the standard itself)
- Way forward for Validation Task Force
- Way forward for Traceability Task Force

Validation Task Force: Face-to-face meeting on 16 and 17 March 2017. The group discussed the scope of the validation guidance and topics that must be covered in it.

Conference Calls:

Assembly: There were three conference calls on 26 April 2016, 02 November 2016, and 28 March 2017. Topics discussed were draft terms of reference, data that should be collected on stem cells during the product life cycle, status of task forces, plans for Dubai meeting, content for the WPIT page on the ISBT website, content for ISBT e-portal, and plans for the Copenhagen meeting.

Interface Task Force: 26 January 2017: Discussed comments received during the consultation for the Interface Standard.

RFID Task Force: Conference calls on 2 November 2016 and 24 February 2017. Discussed the scope of the RFID standard, how to gather data on the status of RFID in the healthcare environment, created a questionnaire for data to be collected.

Traceability Task Force: Conference call on 01 December 2016. Discussed scope and topics to be included in Traceability guidance document.

2. Membership information

There are 43 voting members from the following countries: Australia, Austria, Canada, Denmark, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, India, Norway, Pakistan, Portugal, Singapore, Spain, Switzerland, The Netherlands, UK, USA, and Zimbabwe.

3. Meetings and Telephone conferences

Meetings:

There was a face-to-face meeting in Dubai with 28 attendees. In addition to the Executive Committee meeting and the Assembly meeting, the Interface and Validation Task Forces had meetings. Topics discussed included:

- Reports from Task Forces (Interface, Validation,

4. Activities during the period

a. Standardized Interface

The Interface Task Force (ITF) is working on an interface standard that will allow instruments to communicate with a Blood Bank Information System (BBIS). Currently, customized interfaces must be written when various instruments (scales, centrifuges, etc.) need to communicate information to a BBIS, which is time consuming and expensive. The goal of the group is to standardize communication so customized interfaces are not needed.

The ITF evaluated ways in which the complexity and variations of data transfer via electronic message from instrument to BBIS can be reduced. After reviewing the options, the group agreed that utilizing existing standards (HL7 and LIS2-A) was the preferred way forward. The message structure for both standards has been developed.

The ITF released a draft of the ISBT Interface Standard for use in Transfusion Medicine in 2016 for stakeholder consultation. The task force has reviewed the comments received during this consultation and is finalizing the first version of the standard.

b. Radio Frequency Identification (RFID)

The RFID Task Force will determine how this technology can continue to be operationalized into transfusion medicine to improve traceability, quality, and safety of the blood supply.

Anticipated actions are:

1. Assess the state of the market for the use of RFID in healthcare settings, particularly in transfusion medicine and blood manufacturing/fractionation, documenting what has worked, what has not, and critical success factors.
2. Evaluate the current ISBT RFID standard and its utility, particularly regarding the use of tag space for information such as genotypes.
3. Based on the market assessment, seek publication of findings in relevant publication.
4. Determine next steps.

At this point, they have determined how they will first evaluate the status of RFID in healthcare. They have developed the questionnaire they will use to assess this.

c. Traceability

The Traceability Task Force intends to work with the Haemovigilance Working Party to prepare guidance on traceability that will:

1. Define traceability and explain its importance in the field of Transfusion Medicine;
2. Provide guidance on what information should be retained for traceability purposes;
3. Recommend how responsibility for traceability should be defined;
4. Consider the importance of transcription accuracy;
5. Provide measures for the timeliness of lookback;
6. Identify appropriate methods of archiving data whilst retaining traceability; and
7. Determine mechanisms to audit traceability reliability and effectiveness.

This group is just getting started. They've determined what should and should not be included in their guidance.

d. Validation

The Validation Task Force (VTF) is reviewing developments in Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) compliance for Information technology (IT).

They have recently determined the scope of their guidance. They will focus primarily on the infrastructure of IT in a blood center or hospital and suggest what needs to be validated [e.g., platform (IT to Workstation), Including LAN, Workstations associated with network structure] and what does not (e.g., lab instrumentation, black box testing, instrumentation/testing device workstations, slave devices like printers/barcode readers/monitors/handheld devices/label printers, and stand alone devices - connected to but not under the influence of the network) within the scope of their guidance.

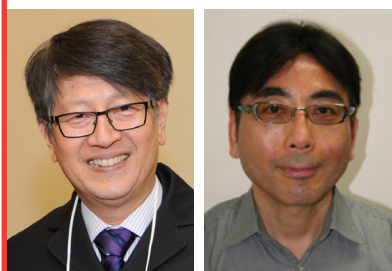
5. Finances

The Working Party received support for a meeting.

Working Party Highlight

The Interface Task Force released a draft of the ISBT Interface Standard for use in Transfusion Medicine

Working Party on Platelet Immunobiology



Sentot Santoso (left), Chairperson

Nelson H. Tsuno (right), Co-Chairperson

1. Chairperson and committee

Chairperson: Sentot Santoso, Germany

Co-Chairperson: Nelson H. Tsuno, Japan

2. Membership information

Australia (2 labs, 2 persons), Brazil (1 lab, 1 person), Canada (1 lab, 1 person), China (3 labs, 3 persons), Croatia (1 lab, 1 person), France (2 labs, 2 persons), Germany (2 labs, 3 people), Israel (1 lab, 1 person), Japan (2 lab, 2 persons), Norway (1 lab, 1 person), South Korea (1 lab, 1 person), Spain (1 lab, 2 persons), Sweden (1 lab, 1 person), The Netherlands (1 lab, 1 person), US (1 lab, 1 person)

Participants of the Workshop (but not IPIWP members)

Australia (1 lab, 1 person), Austria (1 lab, 1 person), Finland (1 lab, 1 person); France (1 lab, 1 person), Germany (2 labs, 3 persons), Poland (1 lab, 1 person), Slovenia (1 lab, 1 person), UK (1 lab, 1 person), USA (1 lab, 1 person)

3. Meetings and Telephone conferences

No telephone conferences were organized in this period.

4. Activities during the period

The organization of the 18th International Workshop of the PIWP was started in October 2015 organized by Dr. Agneta Taune Wikman (Stockholm, Sweden). Around 30 laboratories from Americas, Europe, Australia, and Asia are participating of this workshop. Since several labs were not able to attend the 34th International Congress of the ISBT in Dubai, UAE, the results of this workshop were presented during the XIVth ESPGI meeting (26-28th May, 2016) and were intensively discussed by most international laboratories and experts participated on this meeting. Several problems on laboratory diagnostics mostly on the detection of platelet antibodies due to the limitation of well-characterized sera, reliable method (such as for HPA-15) as well as organization of the workshop were identified. These problems should be approached in the forthcoming years. The results of this workshop were also reported during the the 34th International Congress of the ISBT (4-8th September 2016) and has been published in the ISBT Scientific Series.

In conjunction with the next International Congress of ISBT in 2018, the 19th International Workshop of the PIWP will be organized by Lucie Richard (Quebec, Canada). The topic of this Workshop will be discussed at the 27th Regional Congress of the ISBT in Copenhagen (June 17-21, 2017). During the 28th ISBT Regional Congress in Guangzhou, China, a platelet workshop including laboratory training has been prepared (Local organizer: Dr Fu, Guangzhou Blood Canter, China).

5. Finances

The Working Party received support for a meeting.

Working Party on Quality Management



Christian Seidl, Chairperson

1. Chairperson and committee

Chairperson: Christian Seidl, Germany
 Co-Chairpersons: Tomislav Vluc, Croatia
 Paul Strengers, the Netherlands
 Lesley Bust, South Africa

2. Membership information

24 members from 15 countries (Belgium, Canada, China, Croatia, Egypt, Germany, The Netherlands, India, Indonesia, Romania, Russia, Turkey, UAE, USA, South Africa).

3. Meetings and telephone conferences

- 3.1 Telephone conference and e-mail on the work process of the subgroups and the organisation of the Training Seminars (see below).
- 3.2 Meeting Working Party QM – 34th International Congress of the ISBT in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Business Meeting on Saturday, the 3rd of September from 9:00-11:30am, Room Dubai E, Dubai World Trade Centre with reports on the revised terms of references (ToR), Update on Survey QM and the working group for Harmonisation of Definitions and the Survey results of quality indicators.
- 3.3 Presentation of the terms of references and the ongoing activities of the WP-QM to the ISBT board on Saturday, the 3rd of September, 11:30-12:30.

- 3.4 ISBT Pod-Cast - Working Party on Quality Management on the topic of Current and new developments in the field of quality management. Recorded on Wednesday, the 7th of September 2017.

- 3.5 Telco and e-mailing with reference to the organisation of the ISBT Award training during Feb/March 2017 including the developing of training material and exercises by the trainer team.

4. Activities during the period

Quality Management – Survey and Training (Subgroup 1).

- 4.1 Training seminar and workshop on the topic of 'Quality management and inspection of blood and tissue (SoHO) establishments' during the Academy Day of the ISBT congress with support by the EuBIS Academy Trainers team: Christian Seidl (Germany), Amr Maquas (Saudi Arabia), Lesley Bust (South Africa), Sibel Eldemir (Turkey) and Tomislav Vuk (Croatia) with 30 trainees from 11 countries (India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Morocco, Malaysia, Nigeria, Qatar, Greece, Kuwait, Turkey, Saudi Arabia).
- 4.2 ISBT Developing Country Award Training - Workshop and Training on Quality Management – National Institute of Hematology and Blood Transfusion, Hanoi, Vietnam, the 8th – 10th of March 2017. Organised and hosted by the National Institute of Hematology and Blood Transfusion (NIHBT) with support by the ISBT Working Party on Quality Management and the EuBIS Academy. Trainer Team: Paul Strengers (the Netherlands), Lesley Bust (South Africa).

Africa), Christian Seidl (Germany) and Omar FT (France): 40 Participants on invitation by NIHBT from Vietnamese Blood Transfusion Services around the country including representatives from the ministry of Health.

Quality Indicators Project (Subgroup 2).

- 4.3 Proposal of QIs for hemovigilance systems in hospitals, given by Jean Claude Faber has been revised by Tom Vuk.

Error Classification Project: This project has further developed in cooperation with the working party on hemovigilance.

Harmonisation of Definitions (new project – subgroup)

- 4.4 Revision of a list of definitions (presented on the WP-QM business meeting in Dubai) and thereafter circulated to the subgroup members for further refinement. (Leslie Bust (South Africa) Chairperson, Dr. Nidhi Mehta (India) Jean Claude Faber (IHN, Luxembourg), Marie Laure Hequet (EDQM, France), Yan QIU (China).

5. Finances

The Working Party received support to cover office costs.

Working Party on Rare Donors



Christine Lomas-Francis, Chairperson

1. Chairperson and committee

Chairperson: Christine Lomas-Francis, USA

Committee:

Vice Chairperson: Erwin A. Scharberg, Germany

Secretary: Vered Yahalom, Israel

Treasurer: Inna Sareneva, Finland

IBGRL liaison: Nicole Thornton, UK

Past Chairperson: Sandra Nance, USA

2. Membership information

The working party on rare donors (WPRD) has 31 members representing 24 countries. All members are actively involved in their respective country's rare donor programmes. The WPRD was joined by 2 new members, Christof Jungbauer from Austria (country not previously represented) and Rekha Anand from the UK. In addition, a returning member, Silvano Wendel (Brazil), replaced the retiring Rita Fontão-Wendel

Working Party members are required to be ISBT members and to share the rare donor list (by phenotype) from their country with the International Blood Group Reference Laboratory (IBGRL) who manages the WHO International Rare Donor Panel (IRDP).

3. Meetings and Telephone conferences

A meeting of the WPRD was held at the 34th International Congress of the ISBT in Dubai in 2016. Eighteen members (or their delegates) and twenty-one guests attended. Meeting topics included, but were not limited to, updates on creating an international rare donor card, community

awareness of the form for international reporting of outcomes in patients receiving incompatible transfusions so as to collect valuable clinical data, report on the activities and condition of the International Rare Donor Panel and the enlarging of its database by adding new countries to the WPRD. The revised Terms of Reference for the WPRD were presented. Short presentations were made on the topic of frozen blood: processing, shipping, costs and other challenges; sharing of experiences by working party members. E-mail communication connected members throughout the year and provided an easy and effective way to seek advice and information.

4. Activities during the period

At the 34th International Congress of the ISBT in Dubai, Working Party members organized and presented a session in the Scientific Program on Donors/Donations entitled "When Rare Blood is Not Available". The session included discussion on patient support while rare blood is found and of the logistic challenges (import/export; testing/storage differences; cost; 'red tape' issues) of obtaining the rare blood once found and how these challenges can lead to blood not being available to the patient even if it is available internationally. Other activities include follow-up by members on meeting agenda items such as the development of the international rare donor card, the application of the outcome of incompatible transfusion form and the continuous search for rare blood.

5. Finances

The working party required no financial support for its activities.

Working Party on Red Cell Immunogenetics and Blood Group Terminology



Jill Storry, Chairperson

1. Chairperson and committee

Chairperson: Jill Storry, Sweden

Committee:

Vice Chairperson: Lilian Castilho, Brazil

Treasurer: Christine Lomas Francis, USA

Secretary: Connie Westhoff, USA

2. Membership information

The Red Cell Immunogenetics and Blood Group Terminology working party consists of 21 members from 13 countries. While the diversity among the countries may not be so high with five countries represented by more than one individual, the scope of this working party is highly specialised and membership more reflects the field than exclusivity.

3. Meetings and Telephone conferences

A general meeting was held at the International ISBT meeting in Dubai and was attended by 15 members and 19 guests. Topics addressed were review of new blood group antigens, criteria for WP membership, presentation of a new database for blood group alleles, and a review of in-depth sequencing of ERMAP. Journal Open access and Terms of reference were scheduled for discussion but will be discussed in coming meetings and by e-mail.

4. Activities during the period

Members of the WP participated in an international meeting on Red cell genomics that was organised in part by the WP and in part by the University of Cambridge in February 2017. The outcome of that meeting will be a Green paper (currently in draft stage) and a dedicated session at the ISBT meeting in Copenhagen 2017.

In conjunction with development of a database in one of the member laboratories,[1] the blood group tables were updated by the working party members and posted to the website. Several members are working very actively with other Genome projects such as the EBI/NCBI collaboration, Locus Reference Genomic (www.lrg.sequence.org) to confirm reference sequences for the blood group loci.

Reference:

1. Möller, M., Jöud, M., Storry, J. R., & Olsson, M. L. ErythroGene: a database for in-depth analysis of the extensive variation in 36 blood group systems in the 1000 Genomes Project. *Blood Advances*, 2016;1(3):240-249. <https://doi.org/10.1182/bloodadvances.2016001867>

Working Party on Transfusion Transmitted Infectious Diseases



Michael P. Busch, Chairperson

1. Chairperson and committee

Chairperson: Michael Busch, USA

Committee:

Vice Chairperson: Clive Seed, Australia

Secretary: Brian Custer, USA

Treasurer: Marion Vermeulen, South Africa

Corporate Members

Representative: Stefan Reichenberg, Germany

Individual Members

Representatives: Magdy El Ekiaby, Egypt and Carl McDonald, UK

2. Membership information

Our membership brings together scientific experts, company representatives and members from leading institutions in the fields of blood safety and infectious diseases. The WP-TTID has 143 members (including 36 corporate members) from 47 countries.

3. Meetings and Telephone conferences

The 2016 Annual Meeting was held in Dubai, UAE on September 3, 2016 with a total of 81 participants. A modified meeting structure was used with Subgroup sessions integrated into the WP-TTID General Assembly. Topics included Chairman, Secretary and Financial Reports and WP-TTID Subgroups updates: 1) Bacteria; 2) Parasites, 3) Surveillance, Risk Assessment + Policy (SRAP); 4) TSE and 5) Virology. The assembly ended with a general discussion session, including Corporate Members' feedback. There was an election, with the new members of the Organizing Committee listed above. Meeting agendas and presentations can be viewed online under the TTID Working Party page on the ISBT website.

The TTID Organizing Committee convened 5 teleconferences, partly with the Subgroup Coordinators. Main topics discussed were: meeting planning, member recruitment, funding procedures, projects, WP-TTID Travel Awards and discussion of the I TRY IT program (see next page). The Corporate Members held 2 conference calls to discuss new observer status for companies, optimization of subgroups' structure, general WP-TTID output and increasing meeting frequency. Most subgroups also organized individual conference calls to discuss ongoing projects, develop manuscripts and future initiatives.

The Organizing Committee and each Subgroup met by teleconference on an approximately quarterly bases. Subgroups are listed below with current coordinators. Reports of their activities can be found on the Working Party pages on the ISBT website.

A. Subgroup on Bacteria

Coordinators: Sandra Ramirez and Carl McDonald

B. Subgroup on Parasites

Coordinators: David Leiby and Evan Bloch

C. Subgroup on Surveillance, Risk Assessment and Policy (SRAP)

Coordinators: Sheila O'Brien and Brian Custer

D. Subgroup on TSE

Coordinators: Luisa Gregori and Whitney Steele

E. Subgroup on Virology

Coordinators: Jose Levi and Helen Faddy

F. ISBT TTID Research Young Investigator Training (I TRY IT)

Coordinators: Brian Custer, Marion Vermeulen, Sheila O'Brien and Michael Schmidt

I TRY IT Part 1 – Study Design

Two cohorts have completed of this program, including 8 full participants and 1 observer participant in 2016. The didactic learning portion of the program was conducted in advance of the meeting in Dubai. Participants completed writing of protocols. As in 2015, 3 members of the WP-TTID provided protocol reviewers (Jose Levi, Syria Laperche, and Marcia Cardoso) and three protocols were selected to receive small grant awards (Eriobu Nnakelu, Valeria Magutu, and Salam Sawadogo)

I TRY IT Part 2 – Analysing Data, Reporting and Publishing Research

Once the data are collected there are still many additional steps which are necessary for understanding the study findings and reporting the results in the form of abstracts for congresses and manuscripts. All of these efforts are based on the need to communicate the main findings because results may be useful for policy making and in the design of further blood safety interventions or surveillance studies. The second part of I TRY IT aims to build the skills of participants in data analysis, results reporting and scientific writing for peer reviewed journals. The objective is to support young investigators in the process of converting data to results and results into manuscripts submitted for publication.

I TRY IT part 2 is structured using the same format as I TRY IT Study Design; online lectures, homework, and in-person sessions linked to an ISBT Congress. Participants gain further experience of peer review on their own work, and learn how to conduct data analysis and streamline the writing process, including developing tables/figures, writing the manuscript, selecting a title and submitting the manuscript. At the end of I TRY IT part 2 participants will have a draft manuscript and comments on the manuscript structure and content from facilitators and other participants.

Reports from ISBT Standing Committees

- ISBT Standing Committee of the ISBT Academy
- ISBT Standing Committee on Ethics
- ISBT Standing Committee Jean Julliard Prize
- ISBT Standing Committee of Vox Sanguinis

Standing Committee of the ISBT Academy



Diana Teo (left), Chairperson to September 2016

Erica Wood (right), Chairperson from September 2016

1. Chairperson and committee

Chairperson to Sep 2016: Diana Teo, Singapore

Chairperson from Sep 2016: Erica Wood, Australia

Co-Chairperson: So Yong Kwon, Korea

Committee:

Lilian Maria de Castilho

Judith Chapman

Rajendra Chaudhary

Gwen Clarke

Salwa Hindawi

Graciela Leon

Neelam Marwaha

Shirley Owusu Ofori

Veera Sekaran Nadarajan

Jenny White

Eugene Zhiburt

During the period of this report Diana Teo (ISBT Senior Vice-President, Singapore), Graciela León de González (Venezuela), Neelam Marwaha (India) and Eugene Zhiburt (Russia) completed their terms of service on the Academy Standing Committee. ISBT sincerely thanks them for their support.

Lilian Maria de Castilho (Brazil), Rajendra Chaudhary (India) and Veera Sekaran Nadarajan (Malaysia) were welcomed to the committee.

The Academy Standing Committee is supported by ISBT Scientific Officer Eszter Herczenik, and ISBT Executive Director Judith Chapman, and works closely with Ellen van der Schoot, ISBT Scientific Secretary, and Roger Dodd, ISBT Secretary General.

2. Meetings and Telephone conferences

The Academy Standing Committee met in person at the Dubai international congress in September 2016.

The following topics were addressed:

- ISBT Strategic Plan (focus on education).
- ISBT e-Portal (content development, access, translation of materials). Eszter Herczenik provided an overview of the content and features to the committee. Working parties will be invited to present a webinar once a year to contribute.
- Feedback from the ISBT Academy Day and scientific sessions at the Dubai congress was reviewed. A number of new, and younger speakers participated, in line with the strategic plan.
- Preparations for Academy Days and scientific sessions at the regional congresses in Copenhagen (June 2017) and Guangzhou (November 2017). The Academy Day programme for Guangzhou will follow the new format designed for shorter regional congresses, and which worked well in Bali, with Academy Day sessions interspersed with the scientific programme sessions instead of a separate one-day programme.

Other activities were conducted by email and teleconference.

3. Activities during the period

Support for educational events: The Academy supported a total of 19 educational events across the regions, through financial support and/or use of the ISBT logo. These included both repeat support (for events which have previously been supported), and new events. Suggestions for Academy events are welcome from ISBT members and others.

The streamlined process for application and review (two application deadlines per year (April 1 and October 1) is working well. Effective processes to capture feedback from participants at ISBT Academy-supported events are a priority.

The first ISBT Working Party webinar was held in January 2017, and presented by Dr Jill Storry. It was both over-subscribed and very well received. Monthly webinars are planned during 2017. The webinar in March, by Masja de Haas, was also received well.

Academy support for transfusion medicine-related educational courses was prompted by an enquiry from members. Evaluation criteria were developed, and Jenny White, Gwen Clark and Erica Wood drafted a template for applications for ISBT Academy support for courses, which was reviewed by committee members and ISBT staff.

Academy Days at ISBT congresses: The Academy Day at the Dubai congress was well attended. The program included a range of topics relevant to an international audience, and a number of new, young speakers participated.

Plans for future Academy Days in Copenhagen and Guangzhou include opportunities for more interactive presentations, some shorter presentations (to permit more participation and discussion) and scheduled panel discussions, audience participation, questions and answers, voting, etc.

Academy e-Portal: this continues to be very popular. New material from congresses and other activities is constantly added. Limited access to the e-Portal via new Affiliate membership arrangements was reviewed by a subcommittee of the Board. It was agreed that basic material (fundamental information) is the priority in terms of content.

The content will include:

- Congress material up to 2 years back, from Academy day sessions, some plenary sessions, and other selected sessions (for example, the “How to...” sessions – e.g. “How to write a scientific paper”).
- Beryl Armstrong’s educational book – this is one of the most popular items on the e-portal and is basic and practical.
- Guideline library.

Materials will be reviewed and rotated periodically to avoid “accumulation” and to ensure up to date content is available. Access will be via dedicated affiliate member access to a separate area of the e-portal. A small editorial group assisted by the ISBT Scientific Officer will manage both the content (refreshed each year) and the process. This will require additional input from the Scientific Officer. It creates an opportunity for ISBT members to volunteer to participate in the editorial process, which will increase the visibility of ISBT among its target audience and among affiliate members. It also links with ISBT’s plan to enable translation of some e-portal content into languages other than English (for example, this group could identify some of the most relevant and/or popular fundamental content to prioritise translation activities).

Future congress speakers will be asked to classify their presentations as basic or more advanced, to help with assignment of material to the e-Portal.

Standing Committee on Ethics



Peter Flanagan, Chairperson

1. Chairperson and committee

Chairperson: Peter Flanagan, New Zealand

Committee:

Western Pacific: Peter Flanagan and Chi Kit Lin, Hong Kong

Africa: Justina Ansah, Ghana

Americas: Celso Bianco and Roger Dodd, USA

Europe: Gilles Follea and Guy Rautmann, France

East Asia: Neelam Marwaha, India

Eastern Mediterranean: Hasan Abbas Zaheer, Pakistan

Smaranda Ghibu retired from the chair of the committee in May 2016 after 7 years in the role. Her contribution was significant and she will be greatly missed by the committee. The ISBT Board appointed Peter Flanagan as the new chair.

2. Meetings and Telephone conferences

A meeting of the committee took place during the International Congress in Dubai. An updated draft of the revised Code was developed and this was further revised by exchange of e-mails. Ethics was presented to the ISBT Board for review.

3. Activities during the period

The activities of the Committee continued to focus on the drafting of a revised version of the Code of Ethics.

In November 2016 the proposed revised Code of Ethics was submitted to the ISBT Board for review and comment. A final draft of this was subsequently approved by both the SCE and ISBT Board in February 2017. This was made available for member consultation in March 2017. Feedback from this will be reviewed by the SCE and a decision made as to whether the revised Code is ready for tabling at the General Assembly in Copenhagen in June 2017.

ISBT Standing Committee Jean Julliard Prize



Celso Bianco, Chairperson

1. Chairperson and Committee

Chairperson: Celso Bianco

Committee:

Lilian Castilho, Brazil

Lin Fung, Australia

Mindy Goldman, Canada

Michael Schmidt, Germany

Che-Kit Lin, Hong Kong

2. Meetings and Telephone conferences

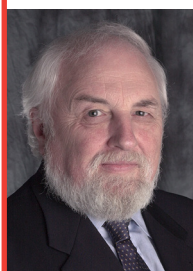
All activities were performed using electronic communication (e-mails).

3. Activities during the period

The Jean-Julliard Prize Committee is responsible for managing the selection of the Jean Julliard Prize and the Vox Sanguinis Best Paper Award.

Nominations for the Vox Sanguinis Best Paper Prize are made by the editorial committee of the journal. The Jean Julliard Prize Committee received 6 nominations for the best paper in 2016. The committee determined that the award should go to the manuscript titled Epigenetic and molecular signatures of cord blood CD34 cells treated with histone deacetylase inhibitors. D. Gajzer, Ross J, Winder L, Navada S, Zhang W, Silverman L, Chaurasia P. Vox Sang. 2016; 110(1):79-89.

Standing Committee of Vox Sanguinis



Roger Dodd, Chairperson

1. Chairperson and committee

Chairperson: Roger Dodd, USA

Committee:

Geoff Daniels, UK

Eric Jansen, the Netherlands

Steve Morgan, UK

Diana Teo, Singapore

Dana Devine, Canada

2. Meetings and Telephone conferences

The Committee meets at least once a year, in person or by telephone conference. Representatives from Wiley-Blackwell (the publisher) and the ISBT President are invited to participate in Standing Committee meetings. The Standing Committee met on February 17th, 2016. An annual prize is awarded for the best paper published in Vox Sanguinis. Papers are nominated by the editors and the winner is selected by the Jean Julliard Committee. In 2016, the prize was awarded in Dubai. The winners were: T. Berthold, N. Schubert, S. Muschter, M. Rohr, J. Wesche, A. Reil, J. Bux, T. Bakchoul, A. Greinacher of the Institut für Immunologie und Transfusionsmedizin, Universitätsmedizin Greifswald, Greifswald, Germany for their paper: "HNA antibody-mediated neutrophil aggregation is dependent on serine protease activity."

The financial report indicated that, for 2015, income was somewhat lower compared to 2014, largely as a result of reductions in subscription and advertising revenue, following a broad industry trend but electronic and bundled subscriptions had increased substantially. Gross revenues will be lower in 2016, as, for legal reasons income from ISBT member subscriptions can no longer be included in the profit-share, but this will be offset by a reduction in charges to ISBT. The overall 2016 budget is similar to that for 2016.

The total number of manuscripts published in 2015 was 89. The rejection rate for submitted papers in 2015 was 77%. But some 40 manuscripts were directed to Science Series for further consideration. Submissions and acceptances showed a good geographic distribution. The impact factor has declined somewhat, but the journal is ranked 37th among all haematology journals, but retains its position relative to other transfusion-focussed journals. Improved formatting for electronic versions of papers now allows access by mobile devices.

The development of ISBT Science Series continues and it is anticipated that a submission for PubMed indexing will be made, likely within the next year.

The Central Office surveyed the ISBT membership to determine attitudes towards converting to a fully-electronic delivery of Vox: at this time, the option is not attractive enough to justify such a change.

ISBT Foundation



Geoff Daniels, Chairperson

The objectives of the ISBT Foundation are to enhance transfusion medicine by expanding knowledge and education on blood transfusion medicine, transfusion science, blood banking and related disciplines, and by supporting the objectives of the ISBT. The Foundation was initially established in 2006, but was reconstituted in 2013 with a new Board and a major focus on education in transfusion-related fields, especially in the developing world. This is achieved primarily by providing financial support to the ISBT Academy, which facilitates the educational activities of the Society.

The Foundation is managed by a Board of Directors comprising the Secretary General of ISBT (currently Roger Dodd), the Treasurer of ISBT (Eric Jansen), and the Chairperson of the Standing Committee of the ISBT Academy (Erica Wood), plus two other ISBT members elected by the Board of ISBT (Geoff Daniels and Martin Gorham). The Chair of the Foundation Board is Geoff Daniels, Vice-Chair is Martin Gorham, Secretary is Roger Dodd, and Treasurer is Eric Jansen. None of the Board members receives any remuneration; all are volunteers interested in the provision of safe blood supply for patients. The Foundation is advised by the ISBT Academy Standing Committee, which reviews applications for financial support for educational purposes.

To ensure effective governance and to comply with Dutch law, the Foundation complies with statutes approved by the Foundation Board in 2014.

During the 2016/17 financial year the Foundation has provided financial support for a number of meetings, including those of the Associação Brasileira de Hematologia, International Haemovigilance Network, Pakistan Society for Blood Transfusion, Asociación de Hemoterapia de Guatemala, Illinois Association of Blood Banks (for an Indian Immunohematology Initiative Workshop), Thalassaemia International Federation, Indian Society for Transfusion Medicine, Asian Association of Transfusion Medicine, and Education Course for Leadership of Blood Services (co-sponsored by the Chinese Society of Blood Transfusion). Financial contribution were also made for classroom refurbishment at the Mzuzu University, Malawi, and to the Australian and New Zealand Society of Blood Transfusion and Karolinska University, Sweden, for travel grants.

ISBT Award and Prizes

- ISBT Presidential Award
- Jean Julliard Prize
- ISBT Award for Developing Countries
- ISBT Award
- Vox Sanguinis Best Paper Prize

ISBT Presidential Award

Harvey G. Klein

The ISBT Presidential Award was instituted at the initiative of the Foundation Transfusion Medicine in Amsterdam. The Award is granted to a senior person who has made eminent contributions to transfusion medicine or a related field through basic or applied research, the practice of transfusion therapy or through significant educational and/or service contributions to the field. Dr. Klein is widely published on such topics as transfusion-transmitted disease, the management of immunosuppressive effects of blood transfusion, blood storage, and the impact of biotechnology on transfusion medicine. He co-authored the eleventh edition of Mollison's textbook, *Blood Transfusion in Clinical Medicine*, and has held editorial roles with several publications, including *Blood*, *Transfusion*, *Transfusion Medicine Reviews*, and the *Journal of Clinical Apheresis*. He is the recipient of a number of awards.



Harvey G. Klein



From left to right: Pim van Aken, Diana Teo, Harvey G. Klein

Jean Julliard Prize

Gustav Edgren

The Jean Julliard Prize recognises clinicians or scientists who are less than 40 years of age and have a noteworthy portfolio of recent published work contributing to advances in transfusion medicine. “Big data in transfusion medicine – towards a database driven approach to ensuring the long-term health of both blood donors and transfused patients”.



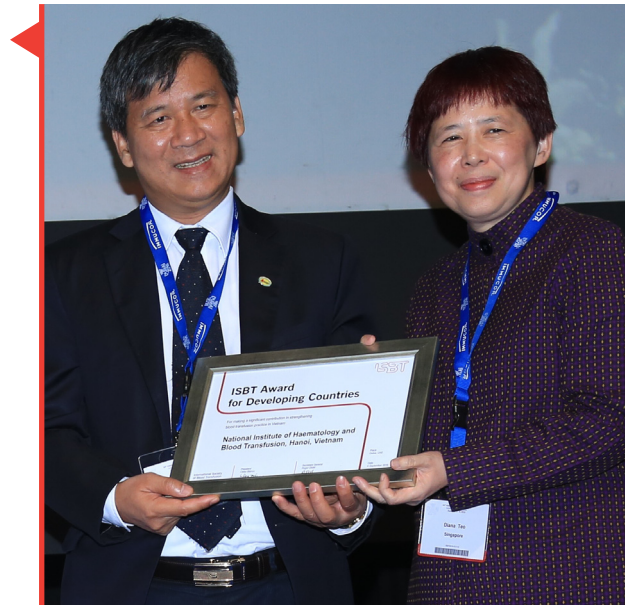
From left to right: Peter Flanagan, Diana Teo, Gustav Edgren

ISBT Award for Developing Countries

National Institute of Haematology and Blood Transfusion Hanoi, Vietnam

Highly commended: Bicol Medical Centre Blood Bank and Transfusion Services in the Philippines and Aga Khan University Hospital Blood Bank, Karachi, Pakistan

The ISBT Award for Developing Countries is awarded to a Blood Service/Centre from a Developing Country that has made a significant contribution in strengthening Blood Transfusion Practice within the Country.



Nguyen Anh Tri and Diana Teo

ISBT Award

Awarded at each congress to persons who have contributed significantly to transfusion medicine and science, mainly in educational aspects. The decision to grant the ISBT Award is made by the members of the Executive Committee and is presented at an ISBT congress.

Beryl Armstrong

Beryl received the award for her active role in furthering the mission and objectives of ISBT in respect to education; her long membership of the ISBT Education and Academy standing committees, her editorship of the popular Science Series book *Introduction to Blood Transfusion Technology* and her organisation and promotion of the ISBT Academy days at the African Society for Blood Transfusion congresses in 2012, 2014 and 2016. Her responsibilities for the overall direction and implementation of the Step Wise Accreditation Programme and Education programme in her role as Programmes Director for AfSBT are also recognised.



Beryl Armstrong and Diana Teo



Steve Morgan and Diana Teo

Steve Morgan

Steve is recognised for his eight year term as Treasurer of ISBT, particularly for securing ISBT's financial reserves during the global financial crisis to ensure the continuing activities of the Society and for his role in the re-establishment of the ISBT Foundation which is key for the sustainable funding of ISBT's strategic objectives in respect of education for the global transfusion community

Vox Sanguinis Best Paper Prize

T. Berthold and co authors

The Prize for the best article published in Vox Sanguinis in 2015 was awarded to T. Berthold, N. Schubert, S. Muschter, M. Rohr, J. Wesche, A. Reil, J. Bux, T. Bakchoul and A. Greinacher for the paper “HNA antibody-mediated neutrophil aggregation is dependent on serine protease activity” (Vox Sang 109, 366–374).



From left to right: Dana Devine, Tom Berthold, Roger Dodd

