

LSBT
ANNUAL
REPORT
2019-2020

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ISBT is pleased to acknowledge the following Corporate Partners during 2019-20

GOLD:



SILVER:



BRONZE:



Vision, mission and goals

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 vision and mission and strategic goals

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 2020-2024, are designed to keep, and build upon those things we do well and to address areas where we feel we can improve.

Education & Knowledge

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

Training and implementation of knowledge

Be the leader in transforming knowledge into practice

International outreach

Engage transfusion medicine professionals and institutions globally

Congress

Be the international congress of choice for transfusion medicine professionals

Publications

Be respected for high-quality scientific and professional publications

Digital Resources

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

Working parties

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

Governance

Be recognized for transparent and sustainable governance

Advocacy

Be the advocate for blood donors and patients

Foreword from the President



During the 2019/2020 financial year, ISBT has continued to build its brand as the go-to organisation for transfusion professionals around the globe. In addition to our two regional congresses in Basel and Bangkok during 2019, and the multitude of ISBT Academy events supported in many parts of the world, we introduced ISBT Highlights meetings to increase our outreach further. We started by offering a mix of the best speakers and updated topics from the past few congresses and were able to hold two successful and much appreciated ISBT Highlights in Brazil and India. I am of course very grateful to everybody, whose hard work made this possible, particularly the national organisations who welcomed us as part of, or prequel to, their meetings.

From a long-term perspective, perhaps the most important activity undertaken during the past fiscal year was development and completion of a new strategy for our organisation. Whilst much of this work was done by the Board, it is up to all parts of this organisation to implement it, action point by action point, during the coming five years. I encourage you to read it and think about how you can help ISBT reach its new ambitious goals.

Our Working Parties remain the engine of our Society, the hubs where work gets done. ISBT depends on individual members taking a step forward, serving as Working Party chairs, vice chairs, secretaries and treasurers to grease up these engines so they can continue to run smoothly to go where ever ISBT needs them to go. They also need delegates who devote their time and expertise to a higher, common goal – to improve the knowledge base and actual practice in the field specific to each Working Party, on a worldwide scale. I thank you for all your dedicated contributions.

Despite the serious turbulence and harsh consequences due to the Covid-19 situation during Q1 of 2020 for all of us, both personally and professionally, ISBT as a Society can look back at another prosperous year. Individual membership numbers surpassed our goal, which was first to reach 2000, then 2020. Thanks to many of you and eager work from the Central Office staff, we made it to 2037 individual members whilst we at the same time grew our Affiliate membership to record levels, including 32 organisations with many thousands of transfusion individuals, who can now all benefit from a selection of ISBT's educational offering.

Towards the end of the fiscal year, many activities gravitated towards providing help, expertise and support to our members for how to deal with the pandemic and its effects on staff, donors and patients. Even if our office staff had to work from home, numerous activities were initiated, including viral webinars, WHO interactions and a resource webpage at www.isbt.org with a collection of the latest, informative documents.

Part of ISBT's philosophy is to be as inclusive, fair and transparent as possible. In order to achieve this, we favour collaboration rather than competition, and keep the door open for agreements about working together to help reach common goals. Therefore, we have continued

to develop new and old relations with organisations around us. During this year, we have intensified our work together with WHO. We signed agreements with the Chinese Society of Blood Transfusion and developed memoranda of understanding with the International Collaboration for Transfusion Medicine Guidelines (ICTMG) and Associação Brasileira de Hematologia, Hemoterapia e Terapia Celular (ABHH) in Brazil.

We have also continued to develop ISBT's Corporate Partner base. During 2019-20 we had 8 Gold, 1 Silver and 4 Bronze partners – important sounding boards for ISBT and true friends of our profession. Many of them are taking advantage of the possibility to direct part of their contribution to specific Working Parties of their choice according to the level of engagement they have chosen. This has resulted in a flurry of creative projects and activities, now involving many more of our Working Parties.

Financially, we continue to perform well despite increased activities on most fronts but the coming year already looks like a challenge for us, as it is for the rest of the world. No matter what, we were able to donate a substantial amount to the ISBT Foundation in accordance with our agreement with the Dutch tax authorities.

Perhaps the most drastic change to the Society during the period, happened on the very last day of the fiscal year. As you have probably all noticed, our Executive Director since eleven years, Judith Chapman, retired on March 31, 2020. Throughout the year, her successor Jenny White has been standing by, learning the tools of the trade directly from Judith, sometimes on site in Amsterdam and sometimes from a distance. Jenny has also taken part in Board meetings, strategy work sessions and congresses to be able to hit the ground running from April 1. Needless to say, I am very happy that this handover process has had the chance to settle over time, especially given how disruptive the Covid-19 situation has been.

The painful but necessary decision to postpone the ISBT congress in Barcelona was taken by the Board on 16 March 2020, which of course meant that Judith's last days in office were busier than ever and Jenny's start could have been easier. As expected both did a stellar job sorting everything out, as did our staff at the Central Office.

To summarise the past 12 months, ISBT continues to strive for "A world of safe and sufficient blood" by being a most vital 85-year-old with a leading role in providing a friendly arena for science and education available to transfusion professionals globally.

I want to close by again expressing my immense gratitude towards Judith Chapman, who truly transformed ISBT from 2009 to what it is today in 2020. Her legacy is strong and provides inspiration for all of us when we continue to battle the hardship of the pandemic. My thanks also go to all fellow Board members, our wonderful office staff and of course to you, the ISBT family.

Martin L. Olsson
President



Foreword from the Secretary General

The ISBT held two successful Regional Congresses in the past year - in Basel in June 2019 and in Bangkok in November 2019.

The Local Organising and Scientific committees as well as MCI Amsterdam once again contributed expertise, organization and enthusiasm leading to very successful and enjoyable Congresses in Europe and in Asia.

Throughout this year the board has been hard at work on our new strategic plan (2019 – 2024) which has now been formally launched. Look for the details in the Strategic Plan section of the ISBT website.

The ISBT Conflict of Interest and Disclosure Policy and Process, written by the Standing Committee on Ethics (Chaired by Peter Flanagan) was accepted at the November 2019 meeting of the ISBT board in Bangkok. Work toward implementation of this policy is now underway.

Membership of the ISBT increased to 2037 members this year, meeting our target of more than 2000 members for 2020. All regions and 118 countries are represented within the Society.

Several changes occurred for Vox Sanguinis over the last year. In response to initiatives undertaken by the Editor in Chief and Section editors the Impact factor rose to 2.364. Dana Devine, long time editor of Vox, announced her decision to step down from the post. A search for a new editor in chief commenced in the fall of 2019 and Miquel Lozano was announced as the new Editor in Chief early in 2020. Miquel and Dana have had an opportunity to work together over the last few months and Miquel will carry on as the Editor in Chief following the regular editorial board meeting in June. The financial contribution to ISBT by the journal remains strong.

The ISBT Scientific Series remains a fully peer-reviewed electronically published journal; in addition to Congress presentations, it continues to feature submitted papers. The Science Series applied for Medline Indexing in early 2020.

The 14 Working Parties continue to be an active and vital part of the Society. The working parties contribute to the content of the Congresses and many presentations on the ISBT Education Web Portal have come from Working Parties and working party members.

The content on the Education App, launched in 2018 continues to expand. Open access content related to CoVid19 has been highlighted on the education portal along with focused webinars related to the pandemic and transfusion service preparedness.

The following award recipients were honoured in 2019:

ISBT Award:

Ellen van der Schoot (the Netherlands),
Roger Dodd (USA),
Neelam Marwaha (India) and
Masahiro Satake (Japan)

The Vox Best Paper Prize was awarded to M Möller, Å Hellberg, and ML Olsson for their paper: Thorough analysis of unorthodox ABO deletions called by the 1000 Genomes project. (Vox Sanguinis 2018;113:185-197).

A number of changes to the ISBT office staff also took place this year.

Jeannette Nader joined the ISBT office team as an Executive Assistant in May 2019

Last, but certainly not least, this year has seen the retirement of our long time Executive Director, Judith Chapman. Judith's last day was March 31st 2020. We wish her all the best on the occasion of her retirement and extend a warm welcome to Jenny White in the role Executive Director commencing April 1, 2020.

Gwen Clarke

Secretary General

Board of Directors 2019

Executive Committee:

President	Martin Olsson, Sweden
President Elect	Erica Wood, Australia
Senior Vice President	So-Yong Kwon, Korea
Junior Vice President	Masja de Haas, the Netherlands
Past President	Vengetassen (Ravi) Reddy, South Africa
Secretary General	Gwen Clarke, Canada
Treasurer	Eric Jansen, the Netherlands

Members of the Board representing WHO Regions:

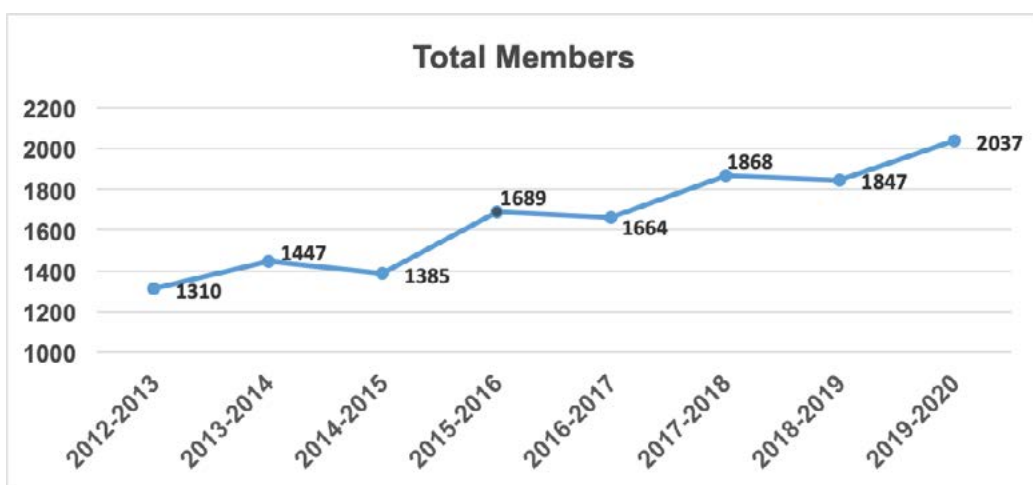
Africa	Justina Kordai Ansah, Ghana
Northern Americas	Mindy Goldman, Canada
Southern Americas	Lilian De Castilho, Brazil
Europe	Shubha Allard, UK
Europe	Birgit Gathof, Germany
Eastern Mediterranean	May Raouf, UAE
South East Asia	Position vacant during 2019
Western Pacific	Yoke Lin Fung, Australia
Western Pacific	Veera Sekaran Nadarajan, Malaysia



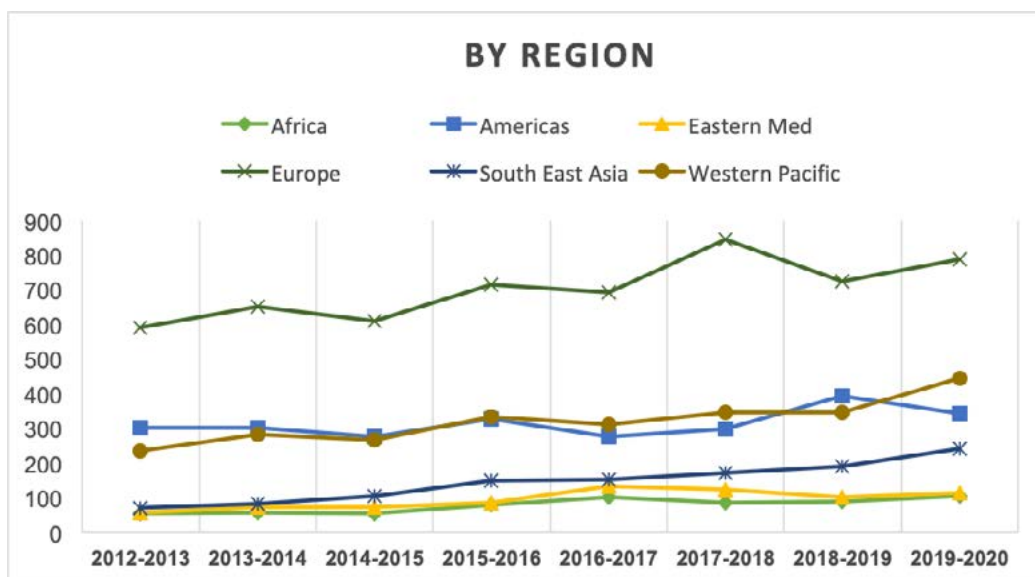
Membership

ISBT membership 2012 - 2019

2037 MEMBERS FROM 118 COUNTRIES



ISBT MEMBERSHIP BY WHO REGION



AFFILIATE MEMBERS 2013 - 2018

2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
16	16	14	14	17	29	32



Congress

- [Bangkok Congress report](#)
- [Basel Congress report](#)



Bangkok Congress Report

Ubonwon Charoonruangrit

Congress President

National Blood Centre of the Thai Red Cross Society,
Thailand



Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, Vice President of the Thai Red Cross Society was interested in Dr. Martin L Olsson's lecture topic: "A World of Safe Blood - Matching Donor and Patient for Transfusion in the 21st Century."

Congress President, Dr Ubonwon Charoonruangrit, Former Director of National Blood Centre of the Thai Red Cross Society reported to H.R.H. Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn in the Royal opening of 30th ISBT Regional Congress Bangkok on 16th November 2019.

I remember one special day in 2016, during 34th International ISBT Congress in Dubai, when the Thai representatives were interviewed by the ISBT executives for bidding on the upcoming Regional Congress, in order to bring back ISBT Congress the second time to Bangkok Thailand again after the first one was arranged in 2005. The National Blood Centre of the Thai Red Cross Society had been selected to host the 30th ISBT Regional Congress in Bangkok in 2019. Over the course of the next three years, we worked hard on this great job, together with excellent supporting team of ISBT, the board members especially Ms Judith Chapman, and the professional organizers.

One of the most memorable events of the 30th ISBT Bangkok Congress, held 16th to 19th November 2019, was the auspicious occasion when Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, Vice President of the Thai Red Cross Society inaugurated the opening ceremony and graciously addressed all participants and honored guests. H.R.H princess was interested in Dr. Martin L Olsson's lecture topic:



"A World of Safe Blood - Matching Donor and Patient for Transfusion in the 21st Century." The participants expressed



Dr Martin L Olsson, ISBT President, introduced H.R.H. Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn to the exhibitions displayed 5 decades activities of National Blood Centre of the Thai Red Cross Society and ISBT 200 years' history of blood transfusion development.

great appreciation when ISBT's President, Dr. Olsson proposed an Honorary Membership for H.R.H. Princess. A total of 1,537 participants from 67 countries registered for the congress, and 52 corporate partners, exhibitors and sponsors supported the congress in which the participants were able to update the latest modern technologies and also expand their networks.

The scientific program comprised 7 academy sessions, 4 plenary sessions, and 10 parallel scientific sessions, while 379 scientific abstracts were accepted presentations. Being a host country, we were so happy to welcome participants from around the world as relatives with the warmth and sincerity of our Thai culture. The smiles, joyful and friendliness from blood transfusion professional friends while attending the "Bangkok 2019" were precious rewards that we received from this event.

Surprisingly, Dr Harold Gunson's report that the previous ISBT congress "Basel 2019" was a farewell from the international transfusion stage of himself as he stepped down from the post as the Director of Swiss Transfusion SRC. October 1, 2019 was also my time as well, retiring from the Director of National Blood Centre of the Thai Red Cross Society. The "Bangkok 2019" ISBT congress was also my farewell from 40 years of blood transfusion professional official work.

Therefore I would like to offer some reflections to our blood service society that I had given to the "Bangkok 2019" ISBT congress party dinner: "Blood transfusion service professionals have a common characteristic of supporting the patients from behind as well as along with successful clinical treatments. In Thai, we figuratively call the people working hard behind the scenes as putting the gold leaf behind the Buddha image. We praise those who do good things out of sight without expecting fame. It is ISBT that provides opportunities to bring these behind the scenes professionals together, promising that our society will never die if we hold on together."

Thank you for always good friendship and support.





Rudolph Schwabe
Joint LOC Conference President

Basel Congress report



I had the idea of bringing the ISBT congress back to Switzerland after so many years quite early on. The first exploratory talks with a small group of people resulted in by all means positive, keen feedback. Shortly afterwards, it was decided to prepare an application dossier and present this in Dubai.

The local authorities in Basel were very supportive in helping us realise the event: finding conference venues, hotel rooms, catering and a worthy social programme for nearly 2900 (!) participants from around the globe is quite a challenge in a small country like Switzerland. Everything went perfectly and things had been organised around one year ahead of the congress. The scientific programme, on the other hand, wasn't completed until shortly before the actual congress.



For my co-congress president Behrouz Mansouri and myself, the scientific programme was something special this time round: a number of speakers “thought outside the box”, as it were, widening horizons and perspectives so that the discussions were much broader than before. The topics themselves also helped people think about the future, especially the aspect of technology transfer in countries with few resources in “Bridging the Gap”, or discussions of the opportunities offered by and risks involved with “Big Data”. As a scientist, I was of course very interested in these debates and for me they were the key sessions of the programme.

Unlike Toronto, we had exceptionally good weather and all of the participants enjoyed the warm summer air in the compact city of Basel: many of them were surprised by how small our congress venue was – all of the locations and sites for the social programme were within walking distance of each other! Obviously, quite a few congress participants were amazed by the numerous swimmers in the Rhine, and one or two of them even took the plunge themselves into the cool, clean water and let the city of Basel glide by.

“Basel 2019” was a farewell from the international transfusion stage for Behrouz and me, a world in which we were at home for many years and that has bestowed a number of valuable encounters and inputs upon us. Which is why it was very important for us both to say goodbye to our international friends as hosts of the ISBT congress in our home country.



Looking back over these eventful, exciting and enjoyable days in Basel, all that remains for me to say is thank you to everyone who helped us make Basel the success we always hoped it would be. Special mention should be made of Judith Chapman and her crew, of John Semple, of MCI for the perfect organisation, and a very special thank you to Anka Stark and the entire organising committee.

Thanks to their help, the city of Basel – which is my home town – will now be inextricably linked with the 2019 ISBT congress in my memories!

Young Professionals Council



1. Chairperson and committee

Chairperson: Satyam Arora, India

Secretary: Tyler Hutchinson, USA

Members:

Arwa Al Riyami, Oman

Yanli Ji, Republic of China

John-Paul Tung, Australia

Sophie Uyoga, Kenya

Cecile Toly Ndour, France

2. Meetings and Telephone conferences

The Council had its second face-to-face meeting during the ISBT Congress in Basel, June 2019 and also elected the new chair for the year 2019-2020. Since then the Council had 8 teleconference meetings (one meeting monthly with exception of November 2019) up to March 2020.

3. Activities during the period

The council, throughout the year, contributed at various levels with ISBT office to generate multiple opportunities to for young professionals (YPs) from across the world to engage more with ISBT and improve the membership value. Some of the initiatives are as follows:

a. Connecting ISBT to YPs in the field

The council continued to work with the ISBT office to reach out to the YPs from across the world through weekly posts on various social media platforms (namely Twitter,

Facebook, LinkedIn & Instagram). Weekly social media posts were drafted for the office and included various topics such as current opportunities for the YPs, upcoming events and congress highlights. The council members provided with multiple videos on monthly basis throughout the year. YPs were also encouraged to use the council hashtag #ISBTYoungBlood for its activities

b. Obtaining Feedback from YPs.

In order to connect and identify areas of need for the YPs, the council designed its second online survey for YPs. The council had initiated its second survey for YPs in Feb 2020 to further analyse the response from last years' council activities and to guide future plans. The results of the survey will be analysed to guide further plans for YPs.

c. Professional Development Opportunities for YPs

The council coordinated with ISBT to provide opportunities for YPs to present live journal club (JC) presentations from their region, on a monthly schedule with representation from different WHO regions. Total of six (6) JC were presented since July 2019. The council also co-moderated one of the career development webinar by ISBT. The council worked closely with the ISBT office and the ISBT board to open opportunities of the YP membership as an observer or individual membership in the working parties (WP).

d. Contribution to Transfusion Today & publications

The council members contributed with 3 articles for Transfusion Today. In addition, Members of the council were also invited to write a manuscript for Global Journal of Transfusion Medicine (GJTM) with Asian Journal of Transfusion Medicine (AATM) on the functions of the council as a “Special Communication”.

e. Improved experience of YPs during ISBT Congresses; Basel and Bangkok 2019

The council worked closely with ISBT office to plan various activities for YPs to make their experience a memorable and engaging one during the ISBT Congresses. During the Basel ISBT Congress; there was a special dedicated area (booth) for the council members to meet and interact with YPs and other members of ISBT. The YPs were provided with special buttons to help identifying them during scientific and networking sessions. The council organized the first “Speed Dating Event” for YPs to help YPs meet the representatives from the ISBT board, ISBT working parties, Vox Sanguinis editorial board and the council in order to understand more about the society. A dedicated reception was arranged for YPs to have more interaction in an informal setting. The council helped ISBT office to organize various workshops, both at Basel and Bangkok Congress in 2019, and selected workshop topics that were tailored to interest of YPs. Members of the council were also present at the Young Professionals Breakfast session during both the congresses helping YPs to network and interact.

f. Participation at various forums and congresses

During the last year members of the council participated at two meetings namely; the ISBT Academy Day during Indian Society of Transfusion Medicine (ISTM) conference, Mumbai, India (January 2020) and The XIII National / International Blood Banking & Transfusion Congress, Antalya, Turkey (8-12 March 2020) to increase the awareness of the initiatives and activities of the council. During the XIII national/international Blood Banking & Transfusion Congress, a full session dedicated for Young Professionals was organized with international presenters. In addition, the council co-chaired a session presented by local YPs. ISBT initiative to form the YP council, have echoed in both the Indian and the Turkish societies of transfusion medicine. Both societies are working to develop similar forums for YPs from their region.

g. Way forward/ Upcoming initiatives

The council is working on multiple new projects for the coming year namely:

- Coordinating between ISBT office and Vox Sanguinis to create an opportunity for YPs to work with the editors and learn the process of scientific review and publications. The council have received multiple applications for the same and the project will begin soon.
- The ISBT office and council is also working closely with International Collaboration for Transfusion Medicine Guideline (ICTMG) to create an opportunity for YPs from different WHO regions to be involved in development of the transfusion guidelines in order to have better adaptability to different setups worldwide.
- The council is working with ISBT to develop a mentorship program for YPs in the field of Transfusion Medicine,
- The council is also in the process of revising the council Terms of Reference (TOR) for the council, to enable smooth transition of the council membership closer to end of the existing members' term.
- The council is working on creating a dedicated YP section on the ISBT website.
- The council is working closely with ISBT office for upcoming ISBT congress in Barcelona 2020

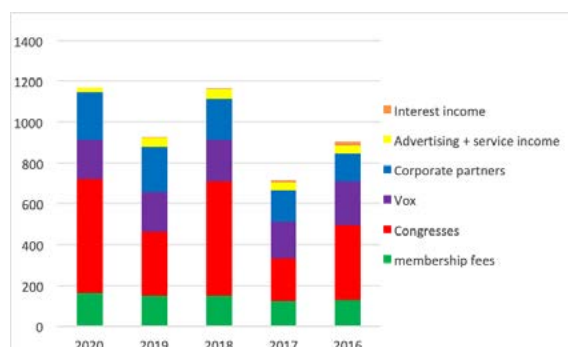
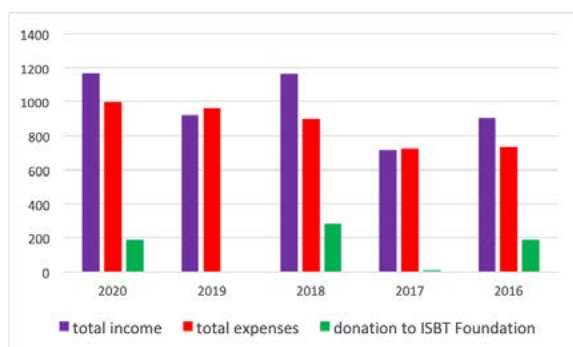
ISBT Treasurer's report 2019-20



Summary

This financial year was a very successful year. We ended up with more than 2000 members in December 2019 and we had two great international congresses in Basel and Bangkok. Compared to last year with only one international congress our financial result was again very positive and the ISBT will be able to donate € 188.000 to the ISBT Foundation.

Eric Jansen,
Treasurer



Revenue

The largest revenue source of the ISBT stems from the congresses. The regional European congress was held in Basel and was on a high level with a good attendance. We were very happy with the financial result (€ 391.000). The other regional congress was held in Bangkok, also on a good scientific level. Sometimes it is difficult to realise a good financial result for a regional congress outside Europe but the Bangkok result was on a good level (€ 169.000). ISBT is successful in creating more value for our members through increasing our education offering. Thanks to the growth in the number of members we were able to increase the membership income to € 160.000. The royalties from Vox Sanguinis stayed on the same high level € 195.000.

This year we attracted more corporate partners, increasing our income from this source to € 230.000. Some corporate partners allocate part of their funds directly to ISBT WP's.

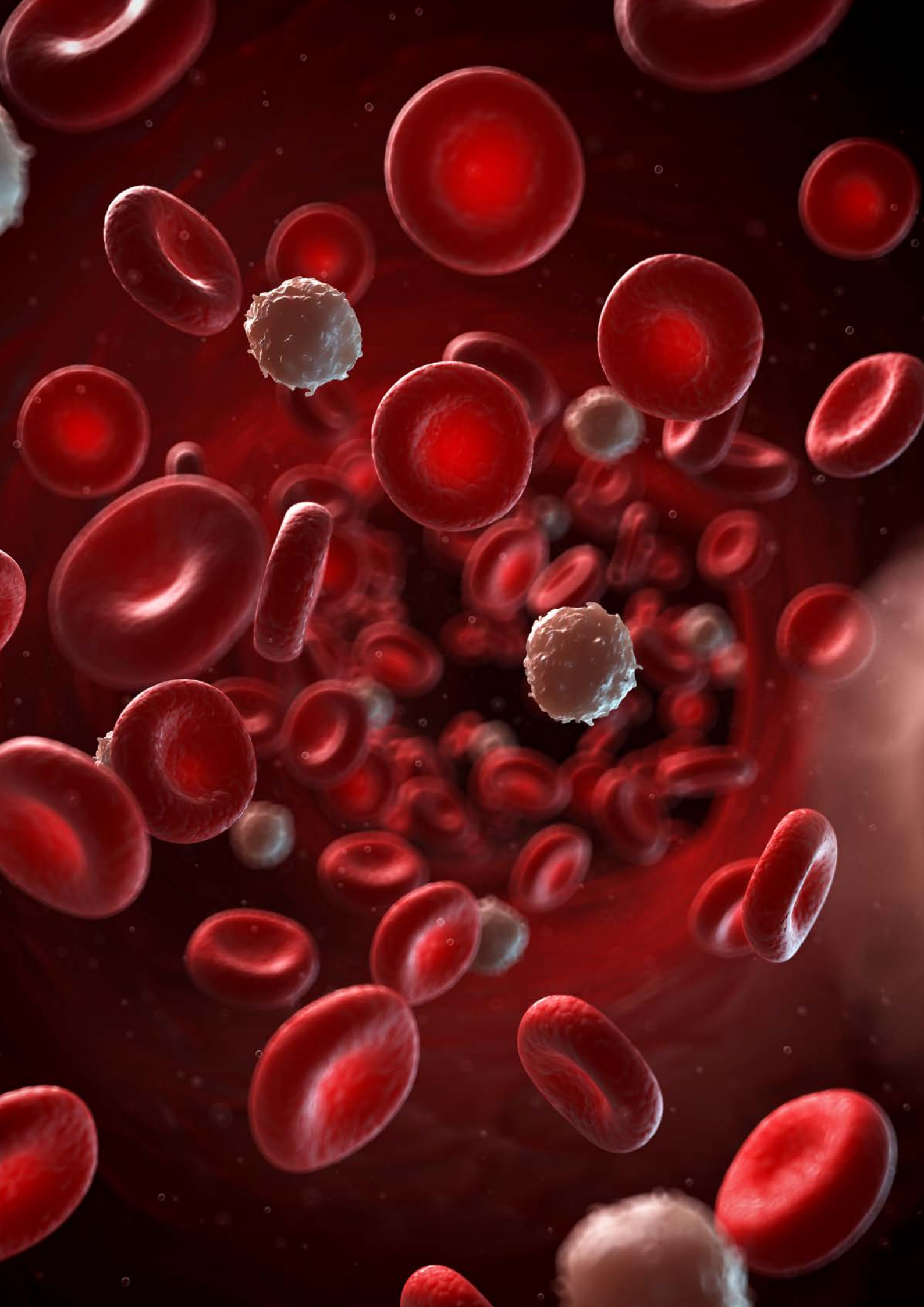
The interest income is further diminished because of reducing interest rates.

In total the ISBT income increased with € 245.000 compared to the year 2018- 19.

Expenditure

In total the expenses increased with € 39.000. Most cost items are at the same level as last year. The office staff increased a little (0.4 FTE) and of course the salaries were indexed. For that reason the total personnel expenses increased to € 391.000. The professional expenses (- € 14.000) and travel expenses (- € 15.000) decreased thanks to strict cost control. The other costs did not really change.

The conclusion is that the costs are managed very well. The costs for Projects and Activities decreased with € 11.000. In addition to the expenses of Working Parties such costs also include the ITRYIT program as well as awards and prizes.



Reports from ISBT Working Parties

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

Blood Supply Management Working Party



Justina Ansah, Chairperson

1. Chairperson and committee

Chairperson: Justina K. Ansah [CEO National Blood Service, Ghana]

Co-chairperson: Gilles Folléa [SFTS (French Blood Transfusion Society), France]

2. Membership information

As at 31 March 2020 the WP had seventeen (17) members representing eleven (11) countries.

3. Meetings and E-mail exchanges

One face-to-face business meeting of the ISBT BSM WP was held in the Hong Kong Room of the Congress Centre, Basel, Switzerland, during the 29th Regional Congress of ISBT, on Sunday June 23, 2019. It was attended by fifteen (15) delegates representing nine (9) countries.

The topics covered were as follows:

- Second International Survey on blood product wastage in low and middle income countries (LMIC)
- Contributions from Working Party [“How-Do-I”, case studies, ISBT forum post; webinar]
- Effective cold chain management as a tool for better BSM
- Emergency supply of blood
- BSM Newsletter
- Survey on improving the supply chain of blood and components.
- ISBT WP BSM session during Barcelona 2020 meeting (main scientific programme)
- Other project suggestions for WP BSM: Good practices in BSM
- Next meeting

Following the congress in Basel, there were a couple of e-mail exchanges between the Chairperson and members with respect to communications from the ISBT Central office for contributions requested from each Working Party. These contributions include “How-do-I”, case studies, ISBT forum post every three (3) months, suggestion of a topic and speaker for a webinar and volunteers towards the establishment of a pool of professionals willing to help ISBT young professionals (YPs) in their career development and their work in transfusion medicine. In addition there were e-mail exchanges between members of a sub-committee of the ISBT BSM WP working on a survey identifying best practices in the supply chain management of Red Cells and Platelets (high availability; low risks of shortages; and low risks of outdated).

4. Activities during the period

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

a. ISBT Blood Transport Container validation guidelines

The document was completed and submitted for uploading on the ISBT website

b. International Society for Blood Transfusion International Survey on Blood wastage in low- and medium- income countries. (ISBT Science Series (2019) 14, 260–268)

The original paper authored by Neil Beckman, Justina Ansah, Gilles Folléa and Mark H. Yazer was published in the ISBT Science Series in June 2019

c. Preparations towards a survey on best practices in Blood Supply Chain Management by Blood Services

- o Following the decision to conduct the next survey, there was one face-to-face meeting and a series of e-mail exchanges between a three-member sub-committee that constitutes a core group, resulting in the performance of the following preparatory steps:
- Elaboration of the survey questionnaire
 - Preparation and validation of the final version of the survey questionnaire carried out with assistance from the ISBT central Office
 - Establishment of a list of 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.

The survey is expected to be carried out in the period 4 March to 15 April 2020. The results of the survey is anticipated in the beginning of May 2020.

The results of the survey will be presented at a scientific session of the ISBT WP BSM scheduled to take place during the 36th International Congress of ISBT in Barcelona, Spain in December, 2020.

It is the hope of the ISBT BSM WP that a final draft article will available to be submitted for publication in the first quarter 2021/2022.

Cellular Therapy Working Party



Mickey Koh, Chairperson

1. Chairperson and committee

Chairperson:

Mickey Koh (UK and Singapore)

Committee:

Christian Gabriel (Austria): Vice Chair

Reinhardt Henschler (Germany): Secretary

Thierry Burnouf (Taiwan/France) :Treasurer

Katharina Schallmoser (Austria): Subcommittee chair on Platelet Lysates

Denese Marks (Australia): Subcommittee chair on Serum eyedrops

2. Membership information

The mailing list consists of 32 persons including the committee. The numbers have remained largely steady and not a huge number. We have members who also become inactive after a while. Overall, this is expected as the working party sits slightly outside mainstream Transfusion Medicine. There continues to be worldwide representation including from Europe, Asia, Africa, N America, South America and Australia.

3. Meetings and Telephone conferences

Quite a number of meetings and teleconference calls were held this year.

- planning meetings for the ISBT Eyedrops workshop in Vienna March 2020
- teleconf calls to write manuscripts for the human platelet lysates
- telephone meetings to organise the election and new office bearers
- in person meeting in at ISBT Basel 2019

4. Activities during the period

- i) This was a very busy year. The main thing done was the announcement and coordination of the revised committee for this. Emails were sent out for nominations for the various office bearer posts. All the posts were uncontested. We now have 3 new members on the executive committee and the previous vice chair Peter Horn has left
- ii) The ISBT were quite productive with its manuscripts. We built on the success of the previous platelet lysate workshop and have since then published 3 articles in this field. I have attached the note indicating that our publications belong to the highly cited category which is a good commendation
- iii) Ongoing work to plan for the March 2020 Eyedrops workshop in Vienna. Unfortunately, this had to be postponed due to the Covid pandemic and as a result, we had a few telecon meetings to try to resolve this
- iv) ISBT continues to be well represented at the Worldwide Network for Blood and Marrow Transplantation. Mickey Koh and Peter Horn are the representatives. ISBT continues to contribute with regards to cell therapy, graft processing and blood banking issues in this organisation which is affiliated to WHO. There is monthly participation in teleconf calls and bi-yearly Board meetings
- v) 2 members of the committee participate in the current WBMT project on "Unproven Cell Therapies" a position document for WHO.

- vi) A face to face meeting was planned in Amsterdam April 2020 to write the conference proceedings and manuscript for the serum eyedrops workshop which however got cancelled due to the pandemic.
- vii) A chapter for the book “Best Practices of Apheresis in HSCT” was co-authored by Mickey Koh together with 2 members of the WP: Senarath Jayasekara and Lakmali Morawaka
- viii) Members of the WP helped in the abstract reviewing and programme suggestions for the ISBT congresses (Basel and Bangkok)

Clinical Transfusion Working Party



Cynthia So-Osman, Chairperson

1. Chairperson and committee

Chairperson:	Cynthia So-Osman, Consultant in Haematology and Transfusion Medicine, the Netherlands
Vice-chair:	Mark Yazer, Consultant Pathology, USA
Secretary:	Arwa Al Riyami, Consultant Hematopathology, Oman

2. Membership information

Currently, the Clinical Transfusion Working Party has 56 members representing 23 countries from 6 continents. Our Transfusion Practitioners (TP) subgroup has 6 steering members.

Our Paediatric subgroup increased to 10 members and is slowly expanding.

3. Meetings and Telephone conferences

The WP had two business meetings, one in January 2020 (interim business meeting in Amsterdam), in which a selected group of 12 members, mostly subgroup leaders, were invited, of which two joined by teleconference, and one at the Basel congress with participation of 26 members, including some observers and two persons from the industry. The TP group had regular monthly teleconferences. The other subgroups had 3-5 teleconferences.

4. Activities during the period

The main activities were as follows:

- I. Wikipedia project: now 140 pages on transfusion-related topics on Wikipedia. Other WPs have been invited to include and screen Wikipedia for their related topics.
- II. PBM website: This website provides ready access to resources and tools to promote PBM implementation and sharing best practice between countries. This website is further being updated with new resources added and others being updated.
- III. E learning module for Transfusion Certificate (collaboration with EBA): an interactive case-based e-learning module on Adverse Transfusion Reactions has been developed and will be finalized and launched in Mid 2020 on the ISBT website. This module received funding from ISBT and EBA.
- IV. Transfusion Practitioner subgroup: TP network meetings were organized during the Basel congress and the Bangkok congress. TP workshops were presented in Dubai and Oman. In May 2019 an ISBT Journal Club was organized.
A separate TP web-page has been launched.
- V. Paediatric subgroup: The Paediatric subgroup had a face-to-face meeting at the Basel congress. The subgroup has developed surveys looking at the uptake of PBM in neonates and children. Collaboration with the Haemovigilance (HV) WP was started for members with a pediatric background, who have specific interests for both clinical and Haemovigilance topics. Via the website, crosslinks with the HV WP-website were provided. Collaboration with BLOODNET (Paediatric critical care blood research network) has started and a new collaboration with the TAXI-guideline group is being explored.

- VI. WHO Clinical Use of Blood Handbook: This project has been delayed. It is planned that in 2020 several chapters will be finalized and placed as digital modules on the ISBT website.
- VII. I TRY IT programme: a joint collaboration with the "I Try it" program of the TTID WP was continued for the second year. Two members from the Clinical WP are Mentors in the program.
- VIII. The live Journal Clubs (JCs): Live Journal clubs were continued with participation of young professionals from the world through the ISBT Young Professional council. In 2019-2020, 9 live journal clubs have been finalized. Scoring rates in 2019 improved compared to 2018. Also, there was an increased representation from the different WHO regions.
- IX. A WHO/ISBT proposal to perform a survey on worldwide availability of blood on World Blood Donor Day 2020 is being prepared.
- X. Collaboration with ICTMG: the first steps of collaboration have been explored in order to have more global involvement in guideline development and implementation. Young Professionals will be encouraged to participate.
- XI. Clinical Apheresis group: this new subgroup will recruit members and will be participating in all ongoing projects where clinical apheresis is involved.
- XII. Use of social media: our WP decided to increase its use of social media through the ISBT network channels by posting news from the subgroups more regularly. A Twitter hashtag: #ISBTClinical was selected to be used to refer to the social media posts made by the WP.

References

Papers published between April 2019 and March 2020 to be added, when relevant.

Donor and Donation Working Party



Karin Magnussen, Chairperson

1. Chairperson and committee

Chair: Karin Magnussen, Norway
Vice-Chair: Mary Townsend, USA
Secretary: Eva-Maria Merz, the Netherlands

2. Membership information

47 members from 30 countries.

3. Meetings and Telephone conferences

The working party met during the ISBT Congress in Basel. Collaboration with the Hemovigilance working party continues, and both Mary and Karin are active in donor vigilance. Regular email and skype contact among Chairperson and committee.

4. Activities during the period

Welcoming new WPDD members. Providing suggestions for the ISBT Barcelona 2020 Academy. Day Donors and Donation session, and a session is accepted. Attending and presentations at congresses regarding transfusion medicine and Blood Donation in Antalya Turkey. Distributing and answering surveys relevant for the working party.

Activities on the Forum. Educational material “How do I manage blood donors with *Streptococcus bovis* bacteremia?” for the WPDD webpage.

Global Blood Safety Working Party



W. Martin Smid, Chairperson

1. Chairperson and committee

Chair: W. Martin Smid, Netherlands

Organizing Committee

Vice-chair Yetmgeta Abdellah, Egypt

Secretary Silvano Wendel, Brazil

Treasurer Susan Stramer, USA

At-large Jay Epstein, USA
Hany Kamel, USA
Daniel Somuah, Ghana
Cees Smit-Sibinga, Netherlands
Thierry Burnou, France

2. Membership information

The WP has a total of 45 Members and they come from 25 different countries.

3. Meetings and Telephone conferences

The working party had a business meeting during the Basel meeting that included two presentations sharing experience from low and medium human development environment. Since the organizing committee had organized four teleconferences.

4. Activities during the period

The WP has divided the activities in four subgroups that organized their teleconferences separately:
The four subgroups are Harmonization and Standards

(3 teleconferences); Plasma for fractionation and local produced viral inactivated cryoprecipitate (regular e-mail exchanges); Voluntary vs replacement donation (3 teleconferences); and Transfusion need vs demand. Following two Recommendations published on the WP website in 2019, the subgroup Plasma for fractionation and locally produced cryoprecipitate has published three articles in peer-reviewed journals stressing the importance of plasma product availability and safety for low and medium development income countries. Further, a show-case for the 2020 Barcelona meeting was accepted.

The subgroup of Harmonization has developed a draft questionnaire in cooperation with the Working Party for Transfusion Transmissible Infectious Diseases (TTIDs) that will be sent out in 2020. The goal of the project is to describe the global range of established requirements and recommendations for TTID testing and to interpret the rationale for variability of those policies and practices in an educational publication.

The subgroup Voluntary vs. replacement donation has become visibly active with teleconferences and during the breakout session during the Basel meeting. There are two active Task Groups on Types of Donors and Factors in Conversion to VNR. which produced a number of working documents for discussion and action.

Activities of the fourth subgroup transfusion need vs. demand are on-hold for the moment pending reconsideration of the initiative.

Granulocyte Immunobiology Working Party



Behnaz Bayat, Chairperson

1. Chairperson and committee

Chairperson: Behnaz Bayat, Germany

Nomenclature Subcommittee:

Chairperson: Brigitte Flesch (German Red Cross Blood Service West)

Members:

Brian Curtis (USA),
Masja De Haas (Netherlands),
Kasper Nielsen (Denmark)
Ulrich Sachs (Germany)

International Granulocyte Immunobiology Workshop

Chair: Jurgen Bux (University of Bochum, Germany)

Members:

Jurgen Bux (Germany)
Brian Curtis (USA)
Behnaz Bayat (Germany)
Peter Höglund (Sweden)

2. Membership information

Members: 34
Countries: 17

3. Meetings and Telephone conferences

Nov 17, 2019, 8.30-12.30, Bangkok Convention Center, Lotus Suit 12

Number of participants: 15

Working Party Chair: Behnaz Bayat (Germany)
Session chair: Behnaz Bayat and Lin Fung

Attendees:

Japan: Mika Matsuhashi, Junko Nakamora, Moe Ando, Rie Onodera, Nelson H. Tsuno

Australia: David Mahon, Denise Herbert

Germany: Ulrich Sachs and Sentot Santoso

Iran: Behnaz Esmaeili

Thailand: Chalunda Kongmaroeng, Pyae Mon Kyaw, Piapong Simptong

China: Yuan Shao

The meeting started at 8.30 with a welcome from the chairman.

Results of the granulocytes workshop 2019 was presented via video conference by Brian Curtis.

Brian gave a concise overview of the 19th Granulocyte Immunobiology Workshop. There were 20 registered participants from 14 countries from the Americas, Europe, Asia, and Australia. The workshop consisted of two parts; part A, antibody detection and identification and part B, HNA genotyping. In part A, four samples were investigated for the presence of granulocyte-reactive alloantibodies. Part B consisted of four DNA samples for the molecular typing of HNA-1a, -1b, -1c, HNA-3a and -3b, HNA-4a and -4b, HNA-5a, and 5bw.

The analysis of anti-HNAs by EGIFA (Extracted Granulocyte antigen Immunofluorescence Assay) was described by Rie Onodera.

Piapong Simptong presented Human neutrophil antigen profiles and related diseases among Thai patients.

Ulrich Sachs announced the next ESPGI, organized by Dr. Lilach Bonstein which will be held September 8-10 in Herzliya, Israel (currently postponed to September 2021).

4. Activities during the period

Behnaz Bayat from the granulocyte laboratory, Institute for Clinical Immunology and Transfusion, Giessen, Germany organized the granulocyte workshop 2020. Samples have been distributed to 18 members of the workshop (Japan, Australia, France, Slovenia, USA, Poland, UK, The Netherlands, Sweden, Germany, Spain, Croatia, Israel, and Denmark) end of January. The deadline to receive the analysis results was March 4 and the results of all laboratories are collected.

Granulocytes laboratory team in Giessen for the neutrophil diagnostic techniques trained three young investigators from Iran and Spain.

Haemovigilance Working Party



Kevin Land, Chairperson

1. Chairperson and committee

Chair: Kevin Land

Committee:

Secretary: Maria Antonia Escoval

Treasurer: Jean-Claude Faber

Donor Vigilance Coordinator: Karin Magnussen

Recipient Vigilance Coordinator: vacant

Past Chair: Johanna (Jo) Wiersum-Osselton past-chair

IHN Liaison: Martin Schipperus (president of the International Haemovigilance Network).

The committee membership will be updated during 2020-21, and potential candidates have been identified.

2. Membership information

The mailing list was reviewed and working party attendees and contacts who are not paid-up ISBT members were asked to consider joining and were reminded that per working party TOR, they would be unable to vote unless they were members. Currently, the working party has representation from at least 37 unique countries and is made up as follows:

Membership Type	2020	2019	2018	2017
Corporate Partner	7	5	4	0
Full Member	76	78	75	80
Observer	25	25	28	15
Visitor	21	22	22	0
Total	129	130	129	95

Current Corporate vendor partners include

Representative	Corporate Partner
Frank Tolksdorf	Macopharma
Geralyn Meny	Grifols
Ghislain Mourmsi	Grifols
Jerry Holmberg	Grifols
Isobelle Galeon	TerumoBCT
Marcia Cardoso	TerumoBCT
Stephane Bombard	Bio-rad

3. Meetings and Telephone conferences

The committee held a few teleconferences to discuss working party projects related to the validation of the Donor Haemovigilance consensus criteria and finalizing the TACO and TRALI criteria.

The annual working meeting was held during the Basel congress; 32 members and guests signed in. The meeting consisted of parallel recipient and donor subsections, followed by a general session. Topics for the Recipient Subsection included publication updates on both TRALI and TACO, iSTARE's retirement and the need for help in designing a suitable replacement, and status of the paediatric HV subgroup. During the Donor Vigilance Subsection, the group discussed updates on donor iron status, update on joint ISBT-AABB work on standardization of Donor AE severity scoring, DEXTOR, and possible future topics. The General Session had discussions about the meeting in Toronto, feedback from the subgroup sessions, and updates from other working parties and affiliations/collaborations including IHN, WHO, TP forum, TTID, Global Blood Safety, Donors and Donation, Cellular

Therapy, and IT and Traceability. A call went out for those interested in becoming coordinators for the donor and recipient subsections (no interest was received).

4. Activities during the period

- TACO and TRALI manuscripts published, joint DAR Severity Grading tool has been finalized and publication submitted to Transfusion, ongoing work with Clinical WP on Paediatric HV terms and COVID-related manuscripts.
- Ongoing work with IHN to develop an RFP to replace >10 year old iSTARE database

Immunohaematology Working Party



Thierry Peyrard, Chairperson

1. Chairperson and committee

The Working Party on Immunohaematology is chaired by Thierry Peyrard (France).

The Vice Chair is Nicole Thornton (United Kingdom), Secretary is Sofia Lejon Crottet (Switzerland), Treasurer is Mostafa Moghaddam (Iran) and Chair Emeritus is Sandra Nance (United States).

2. Membership information

The full Working Party membership is currently 38 ISBT members, with 21 countries represented and 5 continents (North America 7, South America 1, Europe 15, Africa 1, Asia 12, and Oceania 2).

3. Meetings and Telephone conferences

The official meeting of the Working Party took place in Basel on June 22nd 2019 in the afternoon (15:00-18:30). 17 members (including 4 members of the Executive Committee) attended along with one liaison member (Chair of the Working Party on Rare Donors) and 37 guests (including 9 corporate guests). The program aroused a real interest and active participation from the attendees, with introductions of all members and guests and with the meeting agenda that especially covered the following topics: review of the final Terms of References of the Working Party, review of the list of new members, report on past and future activities (especially an update on case studies in immunohaematology available on the ISBT Working Party website), and presentation of a survey sent to all members entitled “Routine pre-transfusion testing protocol”, followed by an interactive discussion. More information about the content of this meeting is available in the minutes.

Eight members (Thierry Peyrard, Nicole Thornton, Sandra Nance, Sofia Lejon-Crottet, Jenny White, Franz Wagner, Abdullah Meshi, and Anu Korhonen) met in Basel after

the official Working Party Meeting, on June 22nd 2019 in the evening (18:00-22:00), to discuss about the strategic development plans of the Working Party and topics to be proposed at the ISBT Congress in 2020 in Barcelona, especially for the Academy Day program and a possible Working Party Session.

4. Activities during the period

a) Publication of cases studies in immunohaematology on the ISBT Website.

Each working party member is requested to propose case studies, for education purpose (a case study template was developed and made available by the Working Party Executive Committee). This year, the working party guests and representatives of Corporate Partners were also encouraged to submit case studies. Sandy Nance followed up the schedule of volunteer authors for 2019 and a new schedule for 2020 was established at the Working Party meeting in Basel. All case studies submitted are systematically reviewed by Sandra Nance, Thierry Peyrard and Nicole Thornton, before publication on the ISBT Website. Twelve case studies were published online between April 1st 2019 and March 31st 2020, available for ISBT members exclusively. Several other case studies are currently under review and expected to be published online by December 2020. As of today, 39 cases studies were published online since 2016.

b) Contribution to the ISBT Community Forum:

Submission of one topic open to discussion and debate: “An intriguing case in immunohaematology!”

- c) **Mentoring programme:** Each Working Party was requested to nominate two members of the Working Party who would be willing to act as mentors. Two members of our Working Party were proposed by the Executive Committee, Anu Korhonen (Finland) and Cinzia Paccapelo (Italy), who both kindly accepted to play this role.
- d) **Additional publications in the Immunohaematology Journal** about the presentations of the Workshop on the Clinical Significance of Red Blood Cell Alloantibodies held at the ISBT Congress in Dubai, in September 2016. All the expected manuscripts have been now submitted and published.
- e) **Planning for the 36th International Congress of the ISBT, Barcelona, Spain, December 2020:**
- Building and proposal of a session for the ISBT Academy Day, with potential speakers' names, entitled "Clinical and technical challenges in patients with autoimmune hemolytic anemias".
 - Building and proposal of a Working Party Session to be possibly included in the scientific program, with potential speakers' names, entitled "Immunohaematology issues that divide opinion – is there one answer?"
 - Building and proposal of a Master Class entitled "The art of solving complex cases in immunohaematology". This session will consist of several case studies and will provide participants the opportunity to enhance their immunohaematology problem solving skills through an interactive format, led by experts in the field.



Information Technology Working Party



Michael Breard, Chairperson

1. Chairperson and committee

Executive Committee:

Chair: Michael Breard, USA

Vice-Chair: Goudar Shankar, USA

Secretary: Monica Freire, USA

Validation Task Force Chair: Jan-Willem Andriessen, The Netherlands

Traceability Task Force: Michael Breard, USA

ICCBBA TAG Representative: Mario Muon, Portugal

- The RFID Task Force is indefinitely on-hold (Chair: Lynne Briggs, USA; Co-Chair: Wayne Bolton, Australia)
- Work of the Interface Task Force is on-hold pending ISBT decisions on intellectual property and financial issues. (Chair Linda Lodge, Scotland)

2. Membership information

membership has remained at 40 voting members from the following countries: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Ethiopia, Finland, France, India, Norway, Pakistan, Portugal, Singapore, Spain, Switzerland, The Netherlands, United Kingdom, United States of America and Zimbabwe.

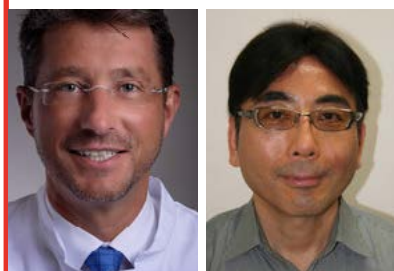
3. Meetings and Telephone conferences

There was one face-to-face meeting of the Traceability Task Force in Phoenix, AZ to continue work on the Traceability Guideline and keep the momentum going. There were 3 conference calls – one each for the Traceability Task Force and the Validation task Force and the Executive Committee.

4. Activities during the period

- The Interface Task Force has approached the ISBT Board to resolve the complex intellectual property and financing issues surrounding continued work on the interface, and cannot proceed until a solution is found. The Task Force feels strongly that the interface is something that would benefit global members.
- The RFID Task Force is on-hold due to lack of interest in RFID mostly due to cost.
- Traceability Task Force continues work on the Traceability Guideline and has made significant progress to the point of a rough draft. In addition, the Task Force will be Co-Presenting a session at the Barcelona Meeting
- Validation task Force continues work on the Traceability Guideline and has made significant progress to the point of a rough draft. In addition, the Task Force will be Co-Presenting a session at the Barcelona Meeting

Platelet Immunobiology Working Party



Ulrich J. Sachs (left)

Nelson H. Tsuno (right), Chairpersons

1. Chairperson and committee

Ulrich J. Sachs, Germany and Nelson H. Tsuno, Japan, are currently chairing the Platelet Immunobiology Working Party. They are also chairing the Asian/Pacific Regional Subcommittee. The WP Subcommittee on Quality is chaired by Brian Curtis, United States, and the chair of our WP Subcommittee on Clinical Guidance is currently vacant.

2. Membership information

Our WP has 28 members from 17 nations including Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Finland, France, Germany, Israel, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Spain, Sweden, Taiwan, United Kingdom, and the United States of America. Two new laboratories have joined our WP during 2019, NHS B&T Filton, Bristol, UK and the Thrombocyte & Haemostasis Laboratory, Finish Red Cross, Helsinki, Finland. Our Asian/Pacific Subcommittee has currently 41 active members from Australia, China, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand.

3. Meetings and Telephone conferences

A platelet training course organized in March 2019 was run by Nelson H. Tsuno and took place in Tokyo, Japan. We had a Business Meeting of the WP and the Asian/Pacific Subcommittee during the ISBT Regional Meeting in Bangkok, Thailand on November 17, 2019.

Núria Nogués, Carme Canals and Eduardo Muni-Díaz from Barcelona, Spain, organized the International Platelet Immunology Workshop, which was well attended. Results will be presented during the ISBT International Meeting in Barcelona, Spain.

4. Activities during the period

We have moved the Platelet Nomenclature website away from EBL/NHS to Versiti in Milwaukee, WI, USA; it can now easily be navigated through the ISBT web page.

A guideline for minimum requirements for the diagnosis of anti-CD36 induced FNAIT has been prepared and awaits approval.

The international workshop took place, and an additional survey was launched to better understand the needs of international reference laboratories working in platelet serology.

Quality Management Working Party



Christian Seidl, Chairperson

1. Chairperson and committee

Chairperson	Christian Seidl (Germany)
Co-Chairs:	Tomislav Vuk (Croatia)
	Paul Strengers (The Netherlands)
	Lesley Bust (South Africa)

2. Membership information

20 members from 16 countries: Algeria, Belgium, Canada, China, Croatia, Egypt, France, Germany, India, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Romania, Russia, South Africa, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United States of America.

New Member organisation 2018-2020:

Chinese Society for Blood Transfusion CSBT (Mr. Dr. Zhengrong Zou), Shanghai, China
 Diagnostic Accreditation Programme (Mrs. Susanna Darnel, ART), Vancouver, Canada
 National Blood Agency – MoH (Mrs. Dr. Aziza Hammadi), Algiers, Algeria
 ISTM Quality special interest group (Dr Nidhi Bhatnagar), Ahmedabad, India
 E U | F H Public Health Education and Prevention (Prof. Dr. Gesine Weckmann) Rostock, Germany
 Cooperating Partners:
 International Plasma Fractionation Association (IPFA)
 EuBIS Academy

3. Meetings and telephone conferences

Business Meeting at the ISBT conference in Basel and Bangkok with the following topics:

- Working Group on Harmonisation of Definitions
- Status report – Quality Indicators
- Update on Training – Seminar ISBT GMP/GPG training Bangkok

Several telephone conferences / e-mails between the board members on the topics presented and articles to be written (see below) on the activities performed by the working party.

4. Activities during the period

Based on the Working party on Quality Management subgroups: The subgroup quality management and training (Christian Seidl), the subgroup quality indicators, revised list of quality indicators to be released March – published on the ISBT WP-QM homepage (Tomislav Vuk) and the subgroup harmonization of definitions (Lesley Bust).

The working party also developed a training programme on 'GMP/GP standards and their implication for the safety of blood and blood components' for a half day training session.

A Similar training session had been organised during the ISBT meeting in Dubai and in extended from for the ISBT Developing country award in Hanoi.

The GMP/GPG training session has been performed by Christian Seidl, Paul Strengers and Yan Qiu during the ISBT conference in Bangkok in cooperation with the EuBIS Academy and IPFA.

Scientific session concept for the ISBT meeting in Barcelona has been submitted and a session for GMP training during the ISBT congress in Barcelona has been accepted.

Activities related to the ISBT website for education:

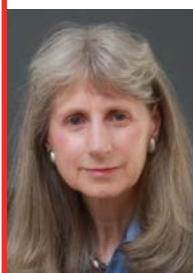
The Working party provides its 'list of quality indicators for blood establishments' to those who are interested by uploading it on the ISBT Internet (Working Party) Reference: Vuk T. Quality indicators in blood establishments: ISBT Working Party on Quality Management Project. *Transfusion Today* 2013;96:10-11.

Mentors for the ISBT's young professionals assigned are: Christian Seidl and Yan Qiu

Webinar: Principles of GPG and GMP for blood and blood components - Christian Seidl (in preparation – time to be announced)

How do I: Topic: Perform self-inspection – Christian Seidl, Lesley Bust, Yan Qiu and Paul Strengers

Rare Donor Working Party



Christine Lomas-Francis, Chairperson

1. Chairperson and committee

Chairperson: Christine Lomas-Francis (USA)

Members of the Executive Committee

Vice-Chair: Erwin A. Scharberg (Germany)

Secretary: Vered Yahalom (Israel)

Treasurer: Inna Sareneva (Finland)

IBGRL liaison: Nicole Thornton (UK)

Past Chair: Sandra Nance (USA)

2. Membership information

The working party on rare donors (WPRD) has 33 members representing 25 countries. All members are actively involved in their respective country's rare donor programmes.

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 International Rare Donor Panel (IRDP).

3. Meetings and Telephone conferences

A meeting of the WPRD was held at the 29th Regional Congress of the ISBT in Basel in 2019. Twenty-two members (or their delegates) and twenty-two guests, including industry representatives from Grifols and Immucor, attended.

Meeting topics included, but were not limited to the following: a presentation entitled "Global search for a specific rare blood type; benefits and challenges of media and social media" that shared lessons learned from a high profile search to support a young child with rare blood. A case study with a similar theme highlighted not only the challenge of identifying the type of blood the patient required, but also the logistics of sourcing and importing

the product. In addition, the topic "Ethical issues of rare blood transfusion" – donor and patient perspectives, medico-legal issues" led to a lively discussion.

A presentation on "Mentoring of working party members from countries with newly established or developing rare donor programmes" gave an opportunity to discuss ways to assist and coach candidate working party members and to review the countries who are involved in rare blood activities but are not represented on the working party.

A report on the activities and condition of the IRDP was presented. Progress has been made on securing a new database and website for contributors to register rare donors (reducing the work of IBGRL staff) and initiating an international rare blood search. Suggestions for topics for the ISBT Barcelona Congress and Academy Day as well as potential contributions of educational material for the ISBT website and maintaining a list of "rare blood" references on the working party website were discussed.

Data was presented regarding the outcome of incompatible transfusions with a view to the possibility of developing a centralized data base for clinically relevant information. 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

Following on from the Basel meeting through e-mail communication, a rare donor session was developed and accepted for the Barcelona Congress. An abstract, based on data provided by members of the working party, was submitted and accepted as a poster presentation for Barcelona. Advice was sought by several working party members from the group regarding procedures and to source rare blood. In addition, each year, working party member activities focus on adding rare donors to the IRDP, and to facilitate that the domestic and international needs of patients for rare blood are met.

Red Cell Immunogenetics and Blood Group Terminology Working Party



Catherine Hyland (left)
Christoph Gassner (right), Chairpersons

1. Chairperson and committee

Co-chairs:	Christoph Gassner Catherine Hyland
Subgroup: cffDNA	Frederik Clausen
Secretary:	Margaret Keller
Treasurer:	Thierry Peyrard
Board Liaison:	Lilian Castilho
Past Chair:	Jill Storry

2. Membership information

We have 24 members, representing 14 countries. One member, Masja de Haas, recently stepped down from the WP. We wish to thank Masja for her past contributions for over ten years of membership as well as her ongoing support.

A ballot process is under way to elect new members and outcomes will be available when this report goes to print.

3. Projects

The members are responsible for curating blood group allele tables for one or more designated Blood Group Systems. These blood group allele tables are unique in that each allele has proven association with a blood group phenotype and associated antigen profiles.

The WP members have engaged with two projects:

- “Filling the Gaps”
- “Building an electronic database”

The “Filling the Gaps” project involves revising/cleaning all Blood Group Allele Table data points and adding additional data points for each entry as per the gaps defined in the “Blood Group Genomics Workshop Amsterdam” in December 2018. More details are given in section 4 below.

The second project, “Building an electronic data base”, is in a feasibility assessment stage. Bill Lane, member of our Working Party, has agreed to assist as Honorary Data Base Project Manager for this.

4. Activities during last 12 months

Business Meeting at the 29th ISBT Regional Congress in Basel:

Co-Chairs Christoph Gassner and Catherine Hyland: The Business Meeting is a forum for submissions that provide evidence for candidate new blood group systems and antigens. Eighteen (18) members attended the WP Business Meeting on the Saturday preceding the Basel ISBT regional congress in Switzerland. Guest speakers included Professor Ogasawara from Japan and Dr Richard Kaufman from USA.

Three new blood group systems, now designated ISBT 037,038 and 039, were submitted for review and accepted (one on a conditional basis subject to review at the 2020 International Congress). In addition, four new antigens were submitted and accepted bringing the total number of antigens within the 39 blood group systems to 330.

“Blood Group Genomics Workshop” preceding the 29th ISBT in Basel

Co-chairs Christoph Gassner and Catherine Hyland: This workshop extended discussions on additional data required for the existing Blood Group Allele Tables. These discussions are guiding the “Fill the Gaps” project. Ten WP members and 3 invited guests attended. Members also received instruction on International Allele Variant Terminology (HGVS nomenclature).

“Filling the Gaps Workshop” at the Bangkok Regional Congress, 2019 (No.1)

Co-chair Catherine Hyland:

Six WP members who attended the Bangkok regional ISBT met for an information update on the project for “Filling the Gaps”.

“Filling the Gaps Workshop” with hands on in Amsterdam 2019 (No.2)

Co-chair Christoph Gassner:

Six invited WP members and three guests met on Dec 9th to 11th, 2019 in Amsterdam. Members transformed 10 Blood Group Allele Tables into the new standardised Blood Group “Map”, exclusively addressing protein-based blood group systems with low ISBT numbers (RHCE, LU, KEL, FY, JK, YT, GE, RAPH, JMH, GIL and CD59), which served as model systems for the first transfers of data to the new file format, e.g. MS Excel maps.

cffDNA Subgroup adherents – Basel 2019

Fredrik Clausen chaired a meeting for interested parties on the Sunday at the regional ISBT in Basel, 2019. This was an inaugural meeting with participants expressing interest in becoming supporters although not on the Working Party. There was discussion on the gaps in current quality control guidelines for NIPT RHD genotyping. Contributors expressed interest in preparing guidelines to address these gaps and further meetings will be held in 2020.

Two other “Filling the Gaps Workshops”, one on Blood Group Systems mainly defined by Carbohydrates in Lund by mid March 2020 and another ahead of the ISBT congress in Barcelona, focusing on RH, in June 2020 were postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Publications and postings on the ISBT website

The first group of revised blood group allele tables were posted on the ISBT Web Site by end of March 2020. For examples please see tables for RHCE, LU, KEL, FY, JK, YT, GE, RAPH, JMH, GIL and CD59. Future postings will occur in batches and include references and a Change Track File within each single Blood Group Excel Map to delineate changes between each upload.

For blood group aficionados a challenging Blood Group Genotyping Puzzle on KEL genetics is currently being loaded on the ISBT Forum site.

Other education activity

Co-Chair Christoph Gassner and the Data Base Project Manager Bill Lane presented in an ISBT sponsored WP session at the Annual AABB meeting for 2019 along with Barbera Veldhuisen from Sanquin.

Transfusion Transmitted Infectious Diseases Working Party



Michael P. Busch, Chairperson

1. Chairperson and committee

Chair: Michael Busch, USA

Vice Chair: Clive Seed, Australia

Corporate Member Representative: Stefan Reichenberg, Germany:

Individual Member Representatives:

Magdy El Ekiaby, Cairo, Egypt and Carl McDonald, UK

2. Membership information

The WP-TTID has different levels of membership, including Corporate Members (CM), Honorary Members (HM), Individual Members (IM), Institutional Liaisons (IL), and Observers (O). Currently, TTID has 123 members (19 CM, 2 HM, 72 IM, 9 IL, and 20 O) from 32 countries. The WP-TTID activities are coordinated by the organising committee (OC) and sub-group (SG) coordinators listed below:

A. Subgroup on Bacteria

Coordinators: Sandra Ramirez, Carl McDonald

B. Subgroup on Parasites

Coordinators: David Leiby, Evan Bloch, Silvano Wendel

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

Coordinators: Sheila O'Brien, Brian Custer

D. Subgroup on Virology

Coordinators: Daniel Candotti, Helen Faddy

3. Meetings and telephone conferences

Each SG holds quarterly calls to share knowledge and advance specific projects.

The full WP and SGs meet annually during ISBT Global or European regional congresses, holding scientific update sessions focused on current TTID issues and discussion of SG projects.

4. Activities during the period

Current TTID and SG projects include; a study of bacterial growth in cold-stored platelets; an international survey of *T. cruzi* interventions for blood safety; HIV risk modelling linked to donor eligibility criteria for men who have sex with men; a survey of the adoption and use of NAT as a follow-up to a project conducted 10 years ago by WP-TTID, and a study of molecular characterization and pathophysiology of breakthrough HBV infection in vaccinated blood donors. This list is not exhaustive and several other projects are ongoing or planned for 2020. One of the objectives in the upcoming years is to enhance the participation of countries across the levels of development spectrum in the activities of the WP-TTID and its SGs. In summary, the WP-TTID serves as nexus for global collaboration in TTID.

Bacteria Subgroup

Currently, the BS is coordinating five projects:

- 1) Generation of a repository of bacterial strains for Red Blood Cells (RBCs); this study was completed in 2019 with the generation of a repository of five bacterial strains for RBCs, which was endorsed by the WHO. A manuscript has been prepared and will be submitted for publication in *Vox Sanguinis*
- 2) Production of a repository of bacterial strains for platelet concentrates in a lyophilized format (Bioballs); two out of 16 participant laboratories have completed testing with promising results. Experimental work is expected to be finalised by the remaining sites in 2020

- 3) Studying the effect on the quality and safety of thawed plasma upon room temperature excursions; experimental work has been finalized and data have been analyzed. A manuscript will be prepared and submitted for publication in *Vox Sanguinis* in 2020
- 4) Bacterial growth in cold-stored PCs; the study protocol has been prepared and sent to 10 participant laboratories worldwide
- 5) Assessing bacterial contamination of platelets in Colombia; collaborations have been established with colleagues in Bogotá, Colombia, to conduct an active surveillance study. Proposals for project funding and ethical approvals will be prepared and submitted to different entities in 2020.

The BS publication initiatives for 2019-2020 comprised

- 1) A Conference Proceeding Summary of the presentations given during the WP-TTID Meeting prior to the 2017 ISBT Congress, which was published in the ISBT Sciences Series
- 2) A peer-reviewed manuscript summarizing the results from the RBC Bacterial Standards study
- 3) A peer-reviewed manuscript summarizing the results of the Plasma Ambient Exposure study
- 4) Three sequential reviews on the key bacterial issues of culture detection methods, rapid testing techniques, and pathogen inactivation. The manuscripts and reviews will be submitted for publication in *Vox Sanguinis* in 2020.

Parasite Subgroup

- 1) As part of the TTID WP General Meeting at the 2019 ISBT Basel Congress, the Subgroup organized a mini-symposium on the development of Plasmodium screening assays and pathogen reduction strategies to contend with transfusion transmitted malaria.
- 2) The Subgroup completed an international survey of mitigation practices to contend with transfusion-transmitted *T. cruzi* in non-endemic countries; an abstract that details the findings has been submitted for presentation at the ISBT International congress in Barcelona (June 2020) and manuscript preparation is underway.
- 3) A scoping review of filariasis and the blood supply has also been initiated by the subgroup with a view to publication in *Vox sanguinis*.
- 4) A new, industry sponsored, project is being planned to screen blood donors in Austria for Babesia using a newly licensed molecular assay

SRAP Subgroup

- 1) A SRAP team has developed a model (a hybrid of two previous models) to estimate HIV risk with shortened

deferral periods. The risk of a 3-month deferral was estimated for Canada, and used as part of the regulatory submission that resulted in implementation of a 3-month deferral in Canada in June, 2019. The estimates were published in *Vox Sanguinis* in February, 2019. Current modelling is focused on modified or removal altogether of MSM criteria with plasma product quarantine and retest or with use of pathogen reduction technology, and an abstract was submitted to ISBT.

- 2) SRAP sponsored a joint Education Session at AABB on San Antonio, TX with the AABB Donor History Task Force entitled Men who have sex with men: Transforming policies around the globe. The session was well attended.
- 3) SRAP has submitted a proposal for another AABB Education Session, also jointly with the AABB Donor History Task Force entitled Men who have sex with men: Is plasma donation the next step?
- 4) SRAP members are working collaboratively with the Parasitology sub-group on an international survey of Chagas Disease risk mitigation strategies, and with the Virology sub-group on an international nucleic acid testing (NAT) survey. The former Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy (TSE) subgroup has now merged with SRAP.

Virology Subgroup

Current activities of the subgroup are centered around three research projects, all of which have received funding through ISBT.

- 1) The first is an evaluation of HBV breakthrough infection in vaccinated blood donors from low to high endemic areas with differences in HBV genotype distribution. Through a collaboration with the SRAP subgroup, the virology subgroup is undertaking an international forum on NAT, with the aim of understanding usage and yield 20 years on from first implementation.
- 2) The subgroup is also leading research aiming to collect evidence to be presented to regulators (WHO, ISBT, AABB, FDA, and PEI) to support stopping anti-HCV screening of blood donations in countries where HCV ID-NAT is implemented.
- 3) In addition, the group aims to encourage colleagues from high endemic, and frequently resource-limited, countries to join in order to develop and support more collaborative work in settings where viral blood safety issues remain critical. In that regard, two colleagues from the Dalian Blood Center and the National Center for Clinical Laboratories, Beijing Hospital, China, were invited to present at the Virology subgroup session of the ISBT TTID Working Party Meeting in Basel 2019.



Transfusion Started
Date 20.6.13.
Time 14.00
Signature J Saunders
Complete & return to Blood Bank
within 2 hours

Patient and donor blood
groups differ.
This component is
suitable for transfusion.

Reports from ISBT Standing Committees

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

Standing Committee of the ISBT Academy



So Yong Kwon, Chairperson

1. Chairperson and committee

Chairperson: So-Yong Kwon, Korea

Co-Chairperson: Masja de Haas, The Netherlands

Members:

Shirley Owusu, Ghana

Lani Lieberman, Canada

Imelda Bates, UK

Lilian Castilho, Brazil

Veera Nadarajan, Malaysia

Maha Badawi, Saudi Arabia

Ratti Ram Sharma, India

During the period of this report Jenny White (UK) and Rajendra Chaudhary (India) completed their terms of service on the Academy Standing Committee. We would like to express our sincere appreciation to the committee members who retired for their contribution.

Lani Lieberman (Canada), Imelda Bates (UK) and Ratti Ram Sharma (India) were welcomed to the committee.

The Academy Standing Committee is supported by the ISBT Scientific Officer Eszter Herczenik, and ISBT Executive Director Judith Chapman, and works closely with ISBT Secretary General Gwen Clarke, ISBT Scientific Secretary John Semple, and Chair of the ISBT Foundation Board Geoff Daniels.

2. Meetings and Telephone conferences

Include the number of meetings and the topics covered. Similarly topics covered in any telephone conferences.

The academy Standing Committee met in person at the Basel regional congress in June 2019. The following topics were addressed:

- Update on ISBT Strategic plan 2019-2022
- Update on ISBT Academy activities including Academy events and ISBT Education
- Update on Academy publication committee activities
- Update on organising ISBT Highlight days in Brazil and India
- Feedback from the ISBT Academy day and scientific sessions at recent and current congresses was reviewed.
- Preparations for Academy days at the regional congresses in Bangkok (November 2019) and Barcelona (June 2020)
- Discussions about the educational materials available on ISBT Education
- Discussions about the evaluation process of applications for Academy support of educational events

Other activities were conducted by e-mail and teleconference.

3. Activities during the period

Support for educational events: Applications for Academy support remained high during this fiscal year. The Academy supported a total of 31 educational events across the regions, through financial support and/or use of the ISBT logo. These included both repeat support (for events which have been previously been supported), and new events. Organizers of seminars, workshops and other educational and scientific events are encouraged to apply for Academy support.

The streamlined process for application and review (two application deadlines per year, April 1 and October 1) is working well. This gives more time for preparation and review of applications, and enhances the robustness of the

process, with constructive feedback provided to applicants. Effective processes to capture feedback from participants at ISBT Academy-supported events are a priority.

Compared to previous years, applications were well distributed among regions: Africa 14%, America's 13%, Europe 23%, Eastern Mediterranean 20%, South East Asia 13% and Western Pacific 17%. In the previous year 73% of European applications were from Western Europe; this year 71% were from Eastern Europe. The Standing Committee strongly feels that more support should be given to low resource countries and a strategy to improve the value of the funding is needed. For this purpose, a standardized feedback form will be worked out.

Transfusion medicine-related educational courses can also apply for ISBT support, using defined criteria available on the website. Four courses are endorsed by ISBT. More information is available at: <http://www.isbtweb.org/knowledge-education/endorsed-courses/>

Live journal clubs, organized by the Clinical Transfusion Working Party, and the ongoing webinars have been well attended and well received. One webinar on home transfusion was held in Spanish to target our Spanish-speaking membership. The TTID Working Party arranged a webinar on the COVID-19 outbreak and its implication on blood safety and collection in March 4, 2020. This was one of the first webinars about COVID-19 held by an Academic society and it was made available to anyone. All Working Parties are invited to contribute content, and suggestions for topics and speakers are welcomed.

Academy days at ISBT congresses: The Academy Day at the Basel congress was well attended. The program included a range of topics relevant to an international audience, and a number of new, young speakers participated. Several of the sessions were interactive and feedback was positive.

Plans for future Academy Days in Barcelona will continue to include opportunities for more interactive presentations, some shorter presentations (to make more participation and discussion possible) and scheduled panel discussions, audience participation, questions and answers, voting, etc. Considerations will be made to invite moderators to include regional representation, if possible.

ISBT Education: New materials from congresses and other activities are constantly added. Uptake of the material available for affiliate members is working well.

I TRY IT: This is the 4th year of the I TRY IT program. The program aims to train young investigators to develop skills in conducting research. Currently six mentors are participating in the program involving mentors of the Clinical Transfusion and TTID Working Party; Brian Custer (USA), Marion Vermeulen (South Africa), Michael Schmidt (Germany), Sheila O'Brian (Canada), Leo van de Watering (The Netherlands), and Arwa Al-Riyami (Oman). It continues to be very attractive to young investigators as 40 applications were received for the program.

ISBT Academy Publication Committee: The first project of the ISBT Academy Publication Committee, chaired by Mindy Goldman (Canada), was to update the Blood Transfusion Technology e-book written by Beryl Armstrong and first published in 2008. The committee allocated authors for each ebook chapter to review and refresh the original content. Together with the chair of the committee, Beryl Armstrong and Rob Wilkinson, the initial authors, reviewed the updated chapters. Target timeline for ePublication is to be ready for the Barcelona meeting.

Future activities may include translating some of the most relevant and/or popular materials on ISBT Education into key languages spoken by our membership.

ISBT Highlight Day: Two ISBT Highlight Day events were organised with the aim to provide an opportunity to delegates in regions that were missed out of ISBT congresses to interact with International as well as National faculty. The very first ISBT Highlight Day was on November 6, 2019 during the ABHH meeting that was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The second event took place in Mumbai, India on January 8, 2020 during the TRANSMEDCON 2019 meeting. The program for each event was put together in collaboration with the local organising committee and the topics and speakers were selected from recent ISBT congresses. Both events draw many participants and the quality of the program and speakers was highly appreciated.

Standing Committee on Ethics



Peter Flanagan, Chairperson

1. Chairperson and committee

Chairperson: Peter Flanagan, New Zealand
Shubha Allard, UK
Justina Ansah, Ghana
Roger Dodd, USA
Mindy Goldman, Canada
Neelam Marwaha, India
Guy Rautmann, France

2. Meetings and Telephone conferences

The Committee met face to face during the Regional Congress in Basel. Subsequent work has been carried out by e-mail.

3. Activities during the period

In February 2108 the SCE was asked to initiate a review of the Society's policy on management of conflicts of interest. In doing so the SCE was requested to consider a range of issues including which positions should be covered by the policy. An initial draft was developed and reviewed at a meeting during the International Congress in Toronto in 2018. Further work was undertaken by e-mail correspondence with a final draft tabled at a face-to-face meeting during the Regional Congress held in Basel in June 2019. The document was subsequently updated and signed off by e-mail.

Peter Flanagan presented the agreed version of the document to the Board during the Regional Congress held in Bangkok in November 2109. The document was approved without change. Responsibility for its implementation lies with the Board and Central Office.

ISBT Standing Committee Jean Julliard Prize



Ravi Reddy, Chairperson

1. Chairperson and Committee

Ravi Reddy (Chairperson)
Lilian Castilho
Lin Fung
Mindy Goldman
Miquel Lozano
Michael Schmidt

2. Meetings and Telephone conferences

There were no meetings or teleconferences. The Chairperson confirmed with all members that they were willing to serve on the Committee for this period. Additional e-mail communication was related to timelines for receiving nominations and submitting scores for Jean Julliard Prize 2020 and the Vox Sanguinis Best Paper Prize 2020.

3. Activities during the period

This year the Standing Committee was responsible for selecting:

- a) The recipient of the Jean Julliard Prize 2020. Eight applications were received for this award and the panel members scored each application based on specific criteria. The Chairperson collated all scores and the recommendation was made to award the prize to Angelo D'Alessandro for his work on "High-throughput metabolomics in Transfusion Medicine: towards Personalized Transfusion Medicine".
- b) The recipient of the Vox Sanguinis Best Paper prize. The Editorial Committee of the journal, Vox Sanguinis, submitted five nominations for the Best paper prize. Each member of the committee scored every submission based on specific criteria. The Chairperson collated the scores and the Best Paper prize was awarded to the manuscript "Extending the 30-minute rule for red cell units – investigation of the bacterial risk of 60-minute exposures to ambient temperature" by Kate Aplin, Tyrone Pitt, Jennifer Allen, Anjana Roy, Katrina Tidey, Joanne Ball, Carl Peter McDonald

The prizes will be awarded at the ISBT Congress in Barcelona in December 2020.

Vox Sanguinis Standing committee



Gwen Clarke, Chairperson

1. Chairperson and committee

Chair: Gwen Clarke, Canada

Committee:

Diana Teo, Singapore, (ISBT member)

Lin Fung, Australia (ISBT member),

Eric Jansen, the Netherlands (ISBT Treasurer)

Dana Devine, Canada (Vox Editor in Chief; non-voting member)

Martin Olsson, Sweden (ISBT president – observer)

Thomas Trier Monk (observer from Wiley, the Vox publisher)

Judith Chapman (ISBT Executive Director - observer)

2. Meetings and Telephone conferences

Teleconference Meeting April 23, 2019

Topics discussed included a report on the Toronto ISBT meeting and the activities of the Standing committee during the year 2018-2019. The discussion included reporting on changes to the section editors for Vox Sanguinis, and recruitment of an editorial advisory board for the Vox Science Series. A publisher's report and finance report were also discussed along with the potential impacts of open access articles. The committee heard from the Editor in Chief of Vox Sanguinis regarding recent initiatives of the editorial board and changes to the journal content. The ISBT ED and the Chair were charged with the development of a job description and contract for the editor in chief.

Teleconference Meeting September 24, 2019

The recent resignation of the editor in chief of Vox Sanguinis was discussed and a plan for seeking expressions of interest was developed. Criteria and

timelines for candidate selection were established.

The recently updated job description and contract for the editor in chief were reviewed.

The inclusion of the editor of the Vox Science Series as a member of the Vox Standing Committee was agreed upon.

A plan was made to consider re design of the Cover page for Vox Sanguinis

A discussion of adjustment to the article publication charge took place and was agreed to.

Meeting November 17, 2019

The committee discussed the expressions of interest for the editor in chief position along with the scoring of candidates which had taken place by email. A candidate was selected and plans for notification of all applicants was made.

3. Activities during the period

Activities of the Vox Sanguinis SC over the 2019 – 2020 year have included selection and appointment of a new editor in chief for Vox Sanguinis. Miquel Lozano will take on this post in June 2020 following a 6-month period of overlap with the current editor in chief, Dana Devine. This change in leadership for the journal was accompanied by an update to the job description and contract which were overseen by the Vox SC.

In March of 2020 Thomas Trier-Mork, the Wiley representative on the Vox SC announced that changes at Wiley to the editorial teams would result in his departure to a new set of journals. The new Wiley representative for

Vox Sanguinis and the Vox Science Series will be Claire Dowbekin. Claire is a Senior Journals Publishing Manager with Wiley and will oversee hematology and transfusion journals.

The Vox Science Series editor became a member of the Vox Standing Committee and will commence attendance at meetings beginning with the first meeting of the 2020 year.

The Vox Science Series application for Medline indexing was re submitted in February 2020, and a decision is expected in June.

Discussions with the Vox Sanguinis Editorial board continued with respect to initiatives to improve the impact factor (IF) of the journal. In June 2019 the IF for 2018 was released and had increased from 2,107 to 2,364.

Wiley has continued to provide information on expansion of open access article requirements and contracts with additional countries and universities for article access in Wiley journals.

Vox Sanguinis Report



Dana Devine, Editor in Chief

1. Editor and Editorial Board

The editorial board of Vox Sanguinis is led by the Editor in Chief Dana Devine.

The Vox Sanguinis editorial board includes 8 experienced editors from Australia, Canada, France, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the United States. The section editors of the board include James AuBuchon, Rebecca Cardigan, Miquel Lozano, Clive Seed, Jill Storry, Zbigniew Szczepiorkowski, Pierre Tiberghien, and Leo van de Watering. Dr. AuBuchon retired from the board of Vox Sanguinis in May, 2019, after a remarkable 18 years of service to the journal.

The section editors are assisted by Doug Huestis who provides writing support to improve manuscripts and Terry Holliday who performs the role of technical editor for the journal. The editorial board enjoys an effective partnership with our publisher Wiley, including support from managing director Thomas Trier-Mork, publishing manager Claire Dowbekin and our production editor Kristine Dela Rea.

In January 2020, the announcement of the appointment of Miquel Lozano as the next Editor in Chief was made. He will replace Dana Devine in June 2020.

2. Meetings and Telephone conferences

The editorial board of Vox Sanguinis has one face to face meeting each year coinciding with the spring/summer ISBT congress. In 2019, the editorial board met in Basel in June to review the performance of the journal in 2018 and to review various editorial policies. Topics discussed included strategies to improve aspects of the reader experience and to increase the impact factor of Vox Sanguinis, the categories of accepted manuscripts and the revision of the instructions to authors.

3. Activities during the period

Vox Sanguinis metrics refer to the year's volume. Each year Vox Sanguinis publishes a total of 800 pages of articles. For 2019, volume 114, the journal published 100 papers. In 2019 298 manuscripts were submitted to Vox Sanguinis. Of these (not including 25 papers that were undecided or withdrawn) 172 papers were rejected for an acceptance rate of 37% in 2019. Papers were received from all regions of the world with the majority of submissions coming from Europe and Asia. Papers published in 2019 came from Europe, North America, Latin America, Africa, Asia and Australia/New Zealand reflecting the international nature of our contributors.

The journal has undergone some changes to align better with current publishing practices. We have refocused the types of articles published to discontinue the publication of short reports and case reports, as we seek consistency in the publication of information using the format of original articles. We have added a new category of article, the Commentary, which is intended to focus on areas of concern within the reach of the ISBT mandate. These topic areas of these articles will be vetted by the editor prior to considering any submission. The online Instructions to Authors for the journal have been updated to include informative links to various considerations for publication including publication ethics. In 2020 and in the context of a need to communicate COVID-19 information rapidly to the membership we began to publish on line accepted articles prior to setting in the Vox Sanguinis format. This is a step earlier in the publishing process than the early view papers with which our readership already can access on the Vox Sanguinis website.

In addition, authors will have seen new efforts to promote the work published in Vox Sanguinis including the push of tables of contents from each new issue, and recognition of our highly cited or downloaded articles.

ISBT Science Series Annual report



Pieter van der Meer

The ISBT Science Series publishes peer-reviewed original papers, letters and reviews, as well as ISBT working party progress reports. Papers have a confinement with respect to the topic or due to its geography, to distinguish papers from those submitted to Vox Sanguinis.

The editors are Denese Marks (Australian Red Cross Blood Service, since 2015), Claudia Cohn (University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN, since 2017) and Pieter van der Meer, editor-in-chief (Sanquin Blood Bank, The Netherlands, since 2015). Editorial assistance is provided by Eszter Herczenik.

Preparation for Medline-indexing

In 2019, we finalized the last details for Medline-indexing. We reapplied in February 2020. Our previous score improved from 3.00 in 2011 to 3.25 in 2017, while 3.75 is the minimum required to be Medline indexed. We believe we addressed all items that were brought forward by the Medline committee.

Submissions, page counts, issue information

The ISBT Science Series has four issues per year. In 2019 there was one congress issue (Toronto), two regular issues with original research papers, and one themed issue on Whole Blood Transfusion. The regular issues in 2018 had 186 pages, and the themed issue had 91 pages, resulting in 277 pages of original papers. This has gone up from 158 pages in 2018 (including 86 pages for the themed issue), and therefore we are now on target of having at least 200 pages of original research per year.

The number of original submissions remains low, and we still depend on papers transferred from Vox Sanguinis to the ISBT Science Series, 28 papers (34% of total submissions) were transferred in.

In 2020, papers of the Basel and Bangkok congresses will be published. A themed issue was planned around donor motivation and behavior, with Tanya Davison (Australian Red Cross Blood Service, Melbourne, Australia) as guest editor. However, due shifting priorities caused by the covid-19 crisis, this themed issue will now appear early 2021. Depending on the number of submissions on the effect of covid-19 on the blood supply, for which a call for papers was sent out, we may still have a themed issue on covid-19 in 2020. In addition, in 2020 we will have a Supplement with an update of what is referred to as Beryl's book, after Beryl Armstrong who in 2008 collected a series of "how to" papers that proved to be very popular.

Peer review, acceptance rates

About half of the original papers are accepted after review, which includes 10 papers for the themed issue, all of which were accepted for publication. Of the 28 papers transferred in from Vox Sanguinis, 14 were accepted. Of the accepted papers in 2019, the average handling time was 76 days from submission to final acceptance, and 115 days from submission to early online publication. Unformatted manuscripts are published online since November 2019, which has drastically shortened the time to online publication. There were no specific issues with the peer review process.

Congress papers are usually of high quality and not likely to be rejected, and we also allow more leeway for expert opinion in such a review. None were rejected, but 2 let their submission expire, one because the reviewers had too many comments, the other author did not respond to a query.

Foundation of ISBT



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 (Gwen Clarke), the Treasurer of ISBT (Eric Jansen), and the Chairperson of the Standing Committee of the ISBT Academy (So Yong Kwon), plus two other ISBT members elected by the Board of ISBT (Geoff Daniels and Martin Gorham). In 2019/20, the Chair of the Foundation Board was Geoff Daniels, Vice-Chair was Martin Gorham, Secretary was Gwen Clarke, and Treasurer was 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.

The Foundation is registered as a charity in the Netherlands. The Foundation's primary source of funding is the annual net result of the ISBT. To ensure effective governance and to comply with Dutch law, the Foundation complies with statutes approved by the Foundation Board in 2014.

During the 2019/20 financial year the Foundation received a substantial increase in applications for funding over previous years. The Foundation provided financial support for conferences and other educational meetings and events, including travel grants and delegate funding, in the following countries: Cameroon; Egypt; Rwanda; South Africa; Tanzania; Argentina; Brazil; Uruguay; China; Fiji; India; Malaysia; Pakistan; South Korea; Australia; Albania; Russia; Slovenia; Spain; and Ukraine.

ISBT Award and Prizes

- The ISBT Award
- Vox Sanguinis Best Paper Prize 2018

ISBT Awards and Prizes

The ISBT Award

There were two recipients of the ISBT Award during the opening ceremony of the 29th European Regional congress of the ISBT in Basel, Switzerland and two more at the 30th Regional Congress of the ISBT in Bangkok, Thailand.

Ellen van der Schoot is given the award for her service as ISBT's second Scientific Secretary for the period 2015 – 2018 and for the way she provided young investigators a platform to share their research and expand their international network. The Executive also recognised her extensive contribution to the international community of immunohematology and transfusion medicine, including your efforts to introduce cell-free fetal DNA typing and innovative molecular typing methods in immunohematology laboratories.



Roger Dodd is given the award for his substantial contribution to the furtherance of the objectives of ISBT and transfusion medicine. He has served in numerous leadership positions in ISBT including Chair of two Working Parties and as Vice President, 2010-2014 and Secretary General, 2014-2018. Notable achievements include being involved in the expansion of the ISBT Academy programmes, the rewriting of the Statutes and Bylaws and the restructuring of the Code of Ethics as well as being a member of the small task team looking into the ISBT membership categories with the outcome of more membership categories with additional benefits for members.

Masahiro Satake is given the award for his global recognition as an expert in the area of transfusion transmitted infections and haemovigilance and for his contribution to the 'Securing Safe Blood' initiative, Japanese Red Cross International co-operation programme to exchange information and experience and also assist in strengthening cooperative ties between Red Cross and Red Crescent societies within the Asia region. He is also recognised as a dedicated member of ISBT, as a long term active member of the Transfusion Transmitted Diseases Working Party and former Regional Director for the West Pacific region.



Neelam Marwaha is given the award for her outstanding contribution to the field of blood transfusion and transfusion medicine education internationally. Also for being a tireless advocate for improvements in blood safety and transfusion practice in India, and for being a committed teacher and mentor, having mentored many professionals over the years, some of whom have gone on to leading positions in transfusion medicine. She is also recognized as a dedicated member of ISBT including service as Regional Director for SE Asia, as a member of the ISBT Academy Standing committee and current member of the ISBT Standing committee on Ethics.

Vox Sanguinis Best Paper Prize 2018

The Vox Sanguinis Best Paper prize was awarded at the 29th European Regional congress of the ISBT in Basel, Switzerland, for the manuscript 'Thorough analysis of unorthodox ABO deletions called by the 1000 Genomes project' Möller M, Hellberg Å, Olsson ML Vox Sanguinis 2018;113:185-197.

