

LSBT
ANNUAL
REPORT
2011-2012

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Foreword from the President

This is my last report as the current ISBT President. After two years, it is time to thank you all for the trust, honour and confidence given to me.

So far, we had two successful congresses (Lisbon and Taipei), where together, we had just over 5,000 delegates coming from more than 100 countries.

Thanks to a very rigid control of all activities and a professional management by our permanent staff, our finances are more stable than ever, despite the difficult times that most countries are facing recently. We now have a new Central Office, totally independent from any external agency, something unique in our history. The Central Office, located at Marnixstraat 317 is now capable to hold Board meetings, promote educational sessions, and host our increasing number of permanent staff. When I took over, there was one ISBT employee and one person contracted from Eurocongress (MCI); now 3 full time ISBT employees, one part time ISBT employee and a financial consultant are part of the permanent staff of the ISBT. A considerable financial investment was made to make our Central Office fully adapted to meet our needs, which will be ready to keep up with the plans defined in our current strategic plan, developed in Estoril, Portugal last June 2011.

Apart from standardisation of a number of internal documents, a Code of Conduct was approved by the Board, including a conflict of interest's policy, which was lacking until then. As expected the ISBT activities were present in 12 different countries this year, and certainly, the number will grow in the very near future. I had the privilege to represent ISBT in 18 countries (Canada, USA, Mexico, Argentina, Brazil, The Netherlands, Germany, Portugal, Italy, France, Austria, United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, China, Taiwan and Mauritius). My apologies for Iran, Turkey and Poland for my absence (due to unexpected reasons), but my thoughts were there at the time of the corresponding events. The ISBT Academy is now mature to fulfil its main task: to provide education at different levels in every corner of the globe, irrespectively of the already successful ISBT Congresses.

New statutes are underway. The Statutes Committee has worked very hard and a draft will be available for public comments, including a session in Cancún totally devoted to this important matter.

Though I confess being grateful and pleased for all achievements during my term, as Past President I will continue to work hard not only on these same issues, but to help the Central Office with the unfinished History Department (thousands of documents and pictures yet to be digitalized and catalogued) and to assist Peter Flanagan in the mission of raising the number of ISBT members all over the world.

I'd like to thank the whole Board and the membership for your support, but also to my staff at Sirio Libanes Blood Bank in Brazil and above all, to my family, who had me absent from home for many months in these past 2 years. Nothing could be possible without this support.

I wish to Peter Flanagan and also to the incoming and the continuing Board members the same good moments we shared during my term. The task is difficult, the path is long, but the outcome is quite worthy, rewarding and honourable. Let's all keep moving forward for the success of ISBT.

Silvano Wendel



Foreword from the Secretary General

This report covers the period from April 1, 2011 to March 31, 2012. During that time ISBT continued to grow as a Society. It organised two major international conferences and moved into new office accommodation. The main activities of the Society in 2011/12 are listed below.

- The European Regional Congress, held in Lisbon, Portugal in June 2011, was extremely successful, with 3881 delegates, including booth staff, from 95 countries. thanks to Dr Helena Gonçalves and her colleagues for making the congress such a success.
- A smaller, but no less successful, congress was held in Taipei, Taiwan in November 2011. 1295 delegates, including booth staff, from 50 countries attended. Many thanks to Prof. Chien-Feng Sun and his colleagues for a very memorable congress.
- Following a bidding process, the ISBT Board awarded the 2014 International Congress to Seoul in South Korea.
- During 2011/12 the ISBT Scientific Secretary and the Scientific Committee have been working hard on preparing an excellent programme for the 2012 International Congress in Cancún, Mexico.
- ISBT established the Standing Committee of the ISBT Academy. The Academy supported 12 activities in 10 countries during the year.
- In June 2011, the Board met on retreat for two days to discuss the strategic plan for 2012 – 2015. The retreat was facilitated by Rene Olie and Elko Klijn from the Department of Strategic Management and Entrepreneurship, Rotterdam School of Management, Erasmus University, Rotterdam.
- No new Working Parties were established during 2011/12. Mickey Koh took over as Chairperson of the Cellular Therapies Working Party, Ralph Knels replaced Pia Bruce as Chairperson of the IT Working Party and Jo Wiersum replaced Pierre Robillard as Chairperson of the Haemovigilance Working Party.

Geoff Daniels



Continued on next page...



New ISBT Office

- Early in 2012 the ISBT office transferred to new office accommodation in Amsterdam. This was an important event for the Society. For the first time in its history, ISBT was dependent on no other organisation for its office accommodation. The new offices were officially opened by the ISBT President on March 12, 2012.
- During 2011/12, ISBT membership remained stable, at 1767 members. Membership fees were unchanged. ISBT announced the introduction of a reduced fee for new members under the age of 35 from April 2012.
- In June 2010 ISBT became aware that it was being sued in the Court of Amsterdam by Ausbio, a company based in Beijing, for alleged irregularities in the voting procedures during the 2010 elections. Although both an injunction and the main case the court ruled in favour of the ISBT, Ausbio decided to appeal against the court's ruling. Consequently, this issue has continued throughout 2011/12.
- On January 1, 2012, Wolfgang Mayr retired as Editor-in-Chief of Vox Sanguinis and was replaced by Dana Devine. The Society is extremely grateful to Wolfgang for all of his work for the journal over eight years, and also to Sabine Mayrobrig-Harrich who provided administrative assistance.
- In 2011, the ISBT Award was given to Bill Wagstaff, posthumously to John Moulds and to Marie Lin.
- During the Taipei Congress the introduction of the ISBT Developing Country Award was announced. This award is open to blood services or centres from developing countries or individuals resident in those countries that work for a blood service in the developing country. The first award will be granted during the International Congress in Cancún in 2012.
- ISBT supported World Blood Donor Day 2011 and its global launch in Argentina.



New Board of Directors, June 2012
Missing from photo: Neelam Marwaha

Board of Directors

Executive Committee:

PRESIDENT	Silvano Wendel, Brazil
PRESIDENT-ELECT	Peter Flanagan, New Zealand
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT	Anne Husebekk, Norway
JUNIOR VICE PRESIDENT	Roger Dodd, USA
SECRETARY GENERAL	Geoff Daniels, UK
TREASURER	Steve Morgan, UK
PAST PRESIDENT	Ehrard Seifried, Germany

Members of the Board representing WHO Regions:

AFRICA	Ravi Reddy, South Africa
NORTH AMERICA	Amalia Bravo Lindoro, Mexico
SOUTH AMERICA	Oscar Torres, Argentina
EASTERN EUROPE	Eugene Zhiburt, Russia
EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN	Salwa Ibrahim Hindawi, Saudia Arabia
SOUTH EAST ASIA	Neelam Marwaha, India
WESTERN PACIFIC	Erica Wood, Australia
	Diana Teo, Singapore
WESTERN EUROPE	Jean-Pierre Allain, UK

Membership

Membership 2011–2012

There was a change to the end of the membership year in 2011/12; the membership year was extended to end on March 31, 2012. From 2012 the membership year will run from April 1 – March 31.

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP AS OF 31 MARCH 2012 STOOD AT 1767 (TABLE1)

TABLE 1 - TOTAL MEMBERSHIP AS AT 31ST MARCH

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
INDIVIDUAL	619	784	730	977	1181	1291	1051	1680
AFFILIATED	18	17	17	16	19	17	7	16
EXEMPT	14	10	22	22	50	74	76	49
HONORARY	25	23	24	23	27	21	24	22
TOTAL	676	834	793	1038	1277	1403	1158	1767

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP PER YEAR PER WHO REGION AS AT 31ST DECEMBER

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
AFRICA	25	38	41	33	59	51	17	50
AMERICAS	206	220	244	267	252	287	218	310
EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN	29	55	71	77	85	127	47	78
EUROPE	395	474	571	597	719	819	542	841
SOUTH EAST ASIA	43	56	88	117	86	81	32	76
WESTERN PACIFIC	107	144	190	252	221	665	195	325
TOTAL	805	987	1205	1343	1422	2030	1051	1680

Congresses

- 21st Regional Congress of the ISBT;
Lisbon, Portugal 2011
- 22nd Regional Congress of the ISBT;
Taipei, Taiwan 2011

21st Regional Congress of the ISBT

Lisbon, Portugal 2011



Mario Muon, Secretary
Local Organising Committee

Highlights and reflections

This 21st Regional congress of the ISBT, Lisbon, Portugal held from 19.06.2011 to 23.06.2011 welcomed more than 2000 attendees from more than 60 nations.

The event with a high level of participation across experts and technically minded people had a strong focus on transfusion medicine advances.

The feedback from participants from anecdotal conversations during the days of the congress indicated a very high level of satisfaction with the event.

There was sponsorship from several partners and major players in the transfusion medicine field. Most of the several objectives which ISBT Lisbon aimed to fulfil, were fully realised.

Bringing together the transfusion medicine community, in particular new and young experts to share their experiences and knowledge with the young investigators and seekers was successfully reached. Attendance by delegates was not disappointing. The global network of the transfusion medicine community experts became stronger. Portuguese language speaking countries like Brazil, Angola, Cape Vert and Mozambique had strong representation.

The objective of delivering an engaging, informing and technically focused event was fully realised. The range and depth of presentations was incredibly encouraging, entertaining and bodes well for future iterations of the ISBT congresses.





Organizational issue, new developments, clinical transfusion medicine, emerging transfusion transmitted disease, quality and safety of the products, immune haematology, donor management, clinical immunogenetics and cellular therapy were discussed and in many cases consensus and guidance achieved.

Many ISBT working parties gathered together to report and share experiences.

An European Project DOMAINE - DONor Management IN Europe course also took place.

The social events were carefully prepared. Social and cultural offers from the city were also appealing. Sunshine, good weather, Portuguese food and beaches helped to build up good memories of this great event.

Thinking back, all memories flow since the beginning: building Lisbon 2011 congress began with Athens, Madrid, Macau, Cairo, Berlin.

Macau, a former Portuguese colony, was where the bid took place and Lisbon was selected. And the coincidental great news was that Lisbon was the first congress for Silvano Wendel from Brazil and Portuguese speaking as the new President.

The success of ISBT Lisbon congress 2011 was due to great team work, help from a lot of people whose names could fill in many pages. However, one name that I would like to mention is Judith Chapman, the Executive Director of the ISBT, because she was the great maestro and the key of the success of the great event.

I would also like to share with you all the great impact of the Lisbon congress in the Portuguese transfusion medicine which resulted in the restructuring of the Portuguese blood transfusion system. Since February 2012 blood and transplantation merged together in the new Portuguese institute of Blood and Transplantation, becoming the third country in the world with such an organization. Consolidation of regional centres is ongoing as well.

Finally, let's keep these old sweet memories and let's go to find more and more new ones.

Let's go to Mexico Congress 2012!

22nd Regional Congress of the ISBT

Taipei, Taiwan 2011



Chien-Feng Sun,
Congress President

The 22nd Regional Congress of the ISBT Taipei 2011, for me was a great success.

The scientific programme was state of the art, with worldwide relevance without losing the focus on issues of regional importance, such as Miltenberger. Transfusion Transmitted Infectious Diseases, donor recruitment and blood programmes in developing countries, management during disaster, were also thoroughly discussed. I believe this is very important for a regional congress. Educational activities were fruitful. The attendance for the Chinese day programme was great (about 550, please note that our active members of The Taiwan Society of Blood Transfusion are around 200) and was highly valued. I believe we have delivered our hospitality to all attendees and have given all attendees memorable social events, such as speaker dinner night at the “Shi-Yang Culture Restaurant” in a cosy and comfortable atmosphere, or the Congress Dinner night with impressive Taiwanese cultural performances.

I am very grateful for the ISBT in bringing exhibitors to the trade exhibition. We would have been unable to draw such scale of exhibition by ourselves without the help of the ISBT.

It is especially triumphal for a host country with limited resources in transfusion medicine. We were proud to host such an unforgettable event. We are confident that we are capable to host a global congress in the future.





Marie Lin, Mackay
Memorial Hospital, Taipei

The Asian scientific community was very interested, satisfied and honoured to participate in discussions about local problems of prime importance to them

I first joined the Munich ISBT Congress in 1984 and became so enthusiastic about it that I almost attended every Congress after this. Each time I tried as much as possible to obtain new knowledge to help my Taiwanese colleagues back home. Above all it was a wonderful opportunity to meet and make new friends every single time. Friendship has been an invaluable encounter with our Japanese friends and colleagues who have contributed so much inspiration and help to the Taiwanese advancement of science.

In the 2011 Taipei ISBT Regional Congress not only current “hot global issues” of transfusion safety were thoroughly discussed, but many other issues, including emerging granulocytes antigens and antibodies in relation to transfusion medicine were discussed, and for the first time a session on the population migration of East Asia was introduced using classical systems but also less known systems such as mitochondrial DNA and Y chromosome studies. More importantly, a special contribution of the Congress probably for the first time in ISBT history, was the setting up of a Miltenberger symposium, even more meaningful to me as Miltenberger is about the most important blood group in the Southeast Asian countries, and most particularly in the Taiwan region and insular region. This issue as RhD typing during the previous 1999 Taipei ISBT Congress was unique for the congress and the Asian region. In 1999 we discussed the clinical significance of routine RhD typing in Asian countries where almost no RhD negative individual is available. Another special blood group relevant to East Asia was the extensive discussion during this meeting that dealt with the “i” phenotype association with congenital cataract.

The Asian scientific community was very interested, satisfied and honoured to participate in discussions about local problems of prime importance to them (like Miltenberger and RhD negative blood transfusion in Asia), they were very happy to raise these issues in an international congress and draw toward them the world wide attention. They feel confident that from now on they will get advice as well as help from the experts. The sage in Asia always said “One should never be facing a problem helplessly in loneliness”.



Financial Summary



Steve Morgan, Treasurer

The year was marked by highly successful congresses in Lisbon and Taipei, which enabled the society to increase its cash position and reserves from €2.3m to €2.7m, and make a donation to the ISBT Foundation of €100,000.

Revenue

Individual membership fees returned to a “normal” level of €145,000, reflecting a stable membership of around 1,767. 2010-11 had seen a one-off reduction in fees with the decision to extend the 2011 calendar year membership period to fifteen months in order to coincide with the financial year.

In terms of other income streams the new corporate membership scheme realised €85,000 from the three members, and it is hoped that more companies will recognise the scheme benefits and join in the coming 12 months. Royalties from Vox Sanguinis declined from €258k to €217k, largely as a result of reduced non-subscription income from commercial reprints and educational backfiles, a problem that the industry in general has been facing as marketing budgets are constricted. Advertising income also declined for similar reasons. Bank interest income rose by 15%, commensurate with the larger cash balances and a more favourable interest rate secured through ABN Amro.

ISBT was again grateful for a donation from the International Council for Commonality in Blood Banking Automation (ICCBBA), which was used to support two events – two sessions on clinical aspects of transfusion safety at the IABS symposium in Singapore, and a workshop on blood inventory management in Kuala Lumpur

Expenditure

The Society continued with its investment in Academy events, spending €31,000 on a range of programmes, and a number of the Working Parties proved to be extremely active. These activities were supported by Central Office, who moved into their own leased premises for the first time in ISBT's 70 year history. The relocation from Eurocongress' offices to Marnixstraat entailed an investment of €103,000 in leasehold improvements, furniture and fittings, all funded from cash reserves.

The Society also invested €68,000 in strategic advice and implementation during the year, utilising a firm of external consultants. The benefits are already starting to be realised, with for example the Board receiving a significant report on the society's membership which will enable new, tailored recruitment and retention strategies to be implemented.

The ongoing dispute about ISBT's handling of the 2010 Board elections led to additional litigation costs of €26,000. The total related litigation costs now stand at €86,000, and the election costs have reached €35,000. With the decision by Ausbio to appeal for a second (and final) time, the society has set aside a further €25,000 to cover litigation costs in its budget for 2012-13.

Finally, it should be noted that the recent change to Dutch corporate income tax legislation may impact on ISBT's ability to avoid payment of corporation tax. Discussions are ensuing with ISBT's tax advisers, Ernst & Young, and with the tax inspector to investigate a number of options for the revised structure of ISBT and the ISBT Foundation, with the aim of minimising tax liabilities.

In summary, the Society's financial position strengthened significantly during the year. We believe that sufficient resources are available to fund current plans, and that the challenge remains to find innovative ways using latest technologies to improve the safety and sufficiency of blood globally, and to improve our services to all of our members.

Copies of the 2010-11 full financial summary are available from the ISBT Central Office.

Reports from ISBT Working Parties

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

ISBT Working Party on Blood Supply Management



Loyiso Mpuntsha (left), Chairperson
Gilles Folléa (right), Co-Chairperson

Activities:

1. The Terms of Reference (TOR) and Action Plan documents that had been developed were agreed upon in a teleconference held on the 12th of May 2011.
2. A second meeting of the Working Party was held on the 19th of June 2011 during the ISBT congress in Lisbon, Portugal.
3. Planning for the ISBT 2012 to be held in Cancún, Mexico.
 - i. An abstract on “Blood Supply Management: Tools for assessment and improvement” was submitted for the ISBT 2012 Congress to be held in Cancún, Mexico. The abstract highlights the benefit to be derived from sharing the work done by the Council of Europe Working Group on Blood Supply Management and the ISBT Working Party on Blood Supply Management.
 - ii. The Blood Supply Management Working Party had two webex teleconferences to discuss programmes for academic session and information sharing parallel session. The first Working Party webex was held on the 9 February 2012 and a follow-up continuation of the webex teleconference was held on the 23rd of March.
 - iii. A subgroup of the Blood Supply Management Working Party worked on an agenda for an Academic session on Blood supply Management, with a webex teleconference on March 23rd.

Outcomes:

- i. The Working Party has organised a Parallel session to be held on the 10 July 2012. The programme will focus on Red Blood Cell Management: tools for assessment and improvement; Implementing a hospital-based programme to help monitoring and improving prescriber practices; Patient Blood Management (how to help better mastering Red Blood Cell use, particularly in elective surgery. Some published relevant recent articles were shared for reference. Presenters to cover the topics were also sourced.
- ii. An invitation on this session was submitted through the ISBT webpage for Working Parties.
- iii. The Working Party has prepared an Academic session, but as the work came too late it could not be held on the 8 July 2012. As a lot of work has been done, this academic session will be proposed for the next ISBT meeting (2013). The programme will focus on Blood Supply Management: Definitions and methods, Experiences from the Asia-Pacific; Europe; Africa and South America. A template has been agreed to help speakers prepare their presentations to present important recommendations from their experience.
4. Membership drive: Through word of mouth there has been an increase in the level of interest on the Blood Supply Management and the membership of the Working Party has grown. See membership list below.

A list of members can be found on the [ISBT website](#).

ISBT Working Party on Clinical Transfusion



Jonathan Wallis, Chairperson

The Working Party last met in Lisbon at the northern hemisphere regional meeting. A successful business meeting was held. The following activities were highlighted for the forthcoming year.

Activities:

Development of 'apps' for clinical transfusion to allow immediate access to practical policies and guidelines via smart phones. Leader: Dr Daffyd Thomas.

Development of educational materials for the ISBT website. Leaders: Peter van den Burg and Jay Brooks.

Development of international indications and standards for audit in clinical transfusion. Leader Jonathan Wallis.

Jonathan Wallis will be standing down as Chairperson at the 2012 meeting and a new chair will be sought.

ISBT Working Party on Donors and Donation



Diane de Coning, Chairperson

The ISBT Working Party on Donors and Donation met at the ISBT Regional Conference in Lisbon, Portugal

The ISBT Working Party on Donors and Donation met at the ISBT Regional Conference in Lisbon, Portugal Saturday 18 June 2011, from 10.00 – 12.00. Apologies were received from 12 members, with 7 members attending the meeting.

Achievements for this period include:

1. A concept paper on altruism/volunteerism with regard to Voluntary Non-Remunerated Blood Donation (VNRBD) was compiled by Cécilia Tan, accepted by all working party members and sent to ISBT to publish on the website.
2. A questionnaire to go to ISBT membership re each member country's status re Voluntary Non-Remunerated Blood Donation has been compiled for further discussion by the working party meeting in Cancún, Mexico.
3. A draft of "guidelines for donor acceptance" for perusal and comment by Working Party members has been circulated.
4. Fact sheet on the Working Party for Donors and Donation has been sent to ISBT for publication on website.
5. The Domain Manuel has been circulated to Working Party members for perusal for possible use by ISBT membership.
6. America's Blood Centres' successful education programme, "My Blood Your Blood", published on the ISBT website.
7. A "Donors and Donation" terminology glossary is being compiled, to be posted on the ISBT website.
8. A brief on the Club 25 concept has been published on the ISBT website.

Progress reports from the working party task teams:

1. Low haemoglobins in regular voluntary blood donors, particularly in the youth, in collaboration with the ISBT Working Party on Haemovigilance, is being addressed.
2. Recognition versus incentives is being addressed. Way forward

The following issues were given priority:

1. A link between Domaine and Donors and Donation on ISBT website is being investigated.
2. The basic questionnaire to go to ISBT membership re each member country's status re Voluntary Non-Remunerated Blood Donation, will be re-circulate to all working party members for their input and comment, and their ideas, before sending to ISBT membership.
3. A draft of "guidelines for donor acceptance" has been circulated to the working party members for perusal and comment. This will be resend to all members for a wider range of comments.
4. An academic programme focusing on the recruitment of voluntary non-remunerated blood donors, in partnership with the Association of Donor Recruitment Professional, is planned for Sunday 8 July 2012 at the International ISBT Conference in Cancún, Mexico.

In conclusion, the last 12 months have been a very productive time for the Working Party on Donors and Donation, with very positive outcomes.

ISBT Working Party on Global Blood Safety



Jean-Pierre Allain, Interim Chairperson

After several preliminary meetings between former members of the Global Blood Safety Working Party and discussions with ISBT executive and board, the new working party Global Blood Safety (GBSWP) was created and held its first official meeting during the ISBT Regional Congress in Lisbon on 22nd June 2011.

During this meeting, attended by approximately 45 people, the position, the structure and the objectives of the Working Party were discussed. The following points were most noteworthy: Being a general as opposed to focused Working Party, its activities might have some degree of overlap with other Working Parties but this should be kept minimal and members of other Working Parties should be participating in the Global Blood Safety Working Party activities. Secondly, outcome of the projects and discussions should be strictly evidence-based. Thirdly, the focus of the Working Party activities should be centred around well-defined projects.

Four subgroups were formed as “break-out” groups for more detailed discussions: Global regulatory convergence, Standards and accreditation, Blood systems: supply demand and availability, Challenges to global safety. The final report of these discussions identified several potential projects of interest to the Global Blood Safety Working Party: Strategies to reach adequate blood supply; Centralised-decentralised-mixed systems; Cost of transfusion relative to other health expenditures; Convergence of regulations; Whole blood versus components clinical needs; Blood systems: sustainability, supply, demand; Creating a network of transfusion leaders in developing countries; Defining accreditation criteria adapted to regional circumstances.

At the end of the meeting, nominations and elections for the members of an Organising Committee (Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Treasurer, Secretary and 5 at large members) took place. Appointments to the positions were established only on an interim basis, in consideration of the absence of approved Terms of Reference. Jean-Pierre Allain (Chairperson), J. Epstein (Vice-Chairperson), J. Holmberg (Treasurer) and M. Vermeulen (Secretary) were designated. R. Dodd, A. Farrugia, P. Ganz, R. Reddy, M. Smit, were voted interim members at large.

Since then, the Interim Organising Committee (IOC) started working and focused first on drafting the Terms of Reference. This was accomplished in February 2012 and the draft was submitted to the ISBT executive for approval in March 2012. Next, the Interim Organising Committee held monthly conference calls to decide on the process and formalities of official nominations (closure 11th May 2012) and subsequently election for an Organizing Committee under the Terms of Reference (8th July 2012). A list of members, a form for nominations and an information letter was sent to attendees of the Lisbon meeting, who are considered Working Party members. A letter of invitation to representatives of industry inviting them to attend the Global Blood Safety Working Party was drafted. In preparation for the general assembly to be held on Sunday 8th July in Cancún 14:30-17:30, three breakout groups were identified: Regulatory convergence; Accreditation; Blood systems: sustainability, supply and safety.

ISBT Working Party on Granulocyte Immunobiology



Lin Fung, Chairperson

21st Regional Congress of the ISBT, Lisbon, Portugal (June 18 -22, 2011)

At the International Scientific Advisory Party meeting, I gave a brief report on the working party, introducing the goal of encouraging this working party to expand its interest beyond neutrophil serology to key matters of neutrophil function and immunomodulation (e.g. in TRALI & in extracorporeal circuits like apheresis & ECMO).

22nd Regional Congress of the ISBT, Taipei, Taiwan (November 19 23, 2011)

The first ISBT Working Party on Granulocyte Immunobiology meeting at an ISBT conference was held, attracting a very good turnout of 18 participants. There was strong support for a Granulocyte Serology Training & Education Seminar in Asia in 2012. Tokyo University is currently the only Asian participant in the Workshop & granulocyte serology skills are presently limited in Asia. Dr. Takahashi and Dr. Tsuno from the Tokyo University kindly offered to hold such a mini-course in their lab and Dr. S. Sentoso (Giessen, Germany) also offered his help. A submission has been made to ISBT for financial support; with funding this endeavour will take place in 2012.

11th International Granulocyte Immunobiology Workshop (IGIW) 2012

Lin Fung, Randy Schuller, Annette Cochrane, Mary Clay and David Mair (Critical Care Research Group, University of Queensland & The Prince Charles Hospital, Australia; and Neutrophil & Platelet Immunology Laboratory, American Red Cross Mid-America Blood, Services Division, St Paul, MN, USA) have organised this workshop. The closing date is 6th April 2012 and the results will be discussed at XII European Symposium on Platelet & Granulocyte Immunobiology, Warsaw, Poland and also presented at the 32nd International Congress of the ISBT, Cancún, Mexico.

XII European Symposium on Platelet & Granulocyte Immunobiology, Warsaw, Poland (May 10-13th 2012). Planning for this meeting began in June 2011.

The programme is now finalised and we are fortunate to have additional granulocyte sessions (i.e. total of 3 sessions) allocated. (i) Granulocyte Workshop; (ii) Neutrophil Immunobiology; (iii) Neutrophil Form and Function.

32nd International Congress of the ISBT, Cancún, Mexico (July 7 - 12, 2012)

The 2nd ISBT Working Party on Granulocyte Immunobiology meeting is scheduled to take place in Cancún. For the first time, results of an International Granulocyte Immunobiology Workshop (IGIW – 11th 2012) will be presented at an ISBT meeting. To expand the interest of this working party beyond neutrophil serology to key matters of neutrophil function and immunomodulation there will be “New Neutrophil Horizons” lecture by an invited speaker.



1st ISBT-Working Party on Granulocyte Immunobiology meeting at an ISBT Congress (Nov, 2011, Taipei, Taiwan)

ISBT Working Party on Haemovigilance



Jo van Wiersum, Chairperson

Membership

The working party has approximately 80 members.

Committee

At the annual meeting in June 2011 Dr. Pierre Robillard stood down as Chairperson after two successful terms in office. He is succeeded by Dr. Jo Wiersum-Osselton who was proposed by five members and was elected unopposed. Maria Antonia Escoval was nominated to succeed Jo as Secretary; one further nominee was not eligible and one declined. The committee now has five members:

Jo (Johanna) Wiersum-Osselton, Chairperson
 Maria Antonia Escoval, Secretary
 Mickey Koh, Treasurer
 Peter Tomasulo, Donor Vigilance Lead
 Jean-Claude Faber, Member, International Haemovigilance Network President

Meetings

The working party held its annual meeting in Lisbon on 18th June 2011 during the Regional Congress. Twenty-six persons attended. For the first time, half of the day was arranged with two parallel meetings, during which specific themes on donor haemovigilance and on recipient haemovigilance could be discussed between experts. This was appreciated by members and will be repeated in future annual meetings.

The committee held Skype conferences in December 2011 and February 2012, and those members who attend the International Haemovigilance Seminar will meet informally during that conference.

Finances

No use was made of the possibility of financial support from the ISBT Central Office.

Activities

Updating Terms of Reference

The working party terms of reference were revised to bring them in line with the ISBT framework document for working parties. The revisions agreed after extensive debate of the working party objectives at the annual meeting.

Definitions

The final revisions of the definitions for non-infectious transfusion reactions were accepted electronically as discussed in the 2010 annual meeting. A modification was proposed to the diagram representing different main types of errors and incidents. With this modification the definitions were adopted following email consultation of absent members.

Definitions for transfusion adverse events are under development for surveillance purposes.

Links with International Haemovigilance Network

At the annual meeting Jean-Claude Faber informed members of progress on the international haemovigilance handbook, which is in preparation under his editorial responsibility together with Prof. René de Vries and Pierre Robillard.

ISTARE

An initiative of the International Haemovigilance Network, the International Surveillance Database for Transfusion Adverse Reactions and Events (ISTARE) is being jointly promoted by the working party and the IHN. After a number of pilot rounds of data collection, in the spring of 2011 data collection on 2010 is ongoing using the web-based tool. The database captures aggregate national data on both donor and recipient adverse reactions and events of all levels of severity. It is hoped the database will contribute to development of haemovigilance throughout the world, as well as contributing significantly to knowledge of transfusion safety.

Ongoing activities

In the area of recipient haemovigilance, the working party is following with interest the development of, and experience with the French tool for assessing pulmonary complications of blood transfusion.

In the area of donor haemovigilance, the important problem of needle injury from blood donation and the concern about donor iron status have been defined as key priorities for 2012 and beyond.

Links with other working parties

Nominated members of the working party are also members of other working parties, and provide links to ensure that we avoid overlap. Themes with joint interest include:

- Definitions for infectious complications of blood transfusion: working party on Transfusion Transmitted Infections
- Indicators for optimal blood use: working party for clinical blood use.
- Quality indicators for blood establishment: Quality management.
- Traceability: working party on Information Technology
- Donor vigilance: working party on blood donors.

Website

In 2011 the membership list was made available online in the members-only section.

In the public part of the website, the standard definitions for donor complications (2008) as well as the definitions for non-infectious transfusion reactions (2011) are available. They are also available on the publicly accessible part of the International Haemovigilance Network website.

ISBT Working Party on Information Technology (WPIT)



Pia Bruce (left), Chairperson until December 31, 2011
Ralf Knels (right), Chairperson from January 1, 2012

Meetings and Telephone Conferences

In summer 2011 all email addresses on the membership list were checked with 130 responses. 17 of the members joined the Assembly Meeting at June 18th, directly before ISBT-Congress Europe and Middle East in Lisbon. Further meetings of the RFID Task Force with 21 participants, the Interface Task Force with 31 participants and the first meeting of the Traceability Task Force with 15 participants was held in Lisbon on June 17th as well as the Executive Committee (EC) meeting on June 18th. The Executive Committee had 5 telephone conferences in 2011.

Task Force Activities

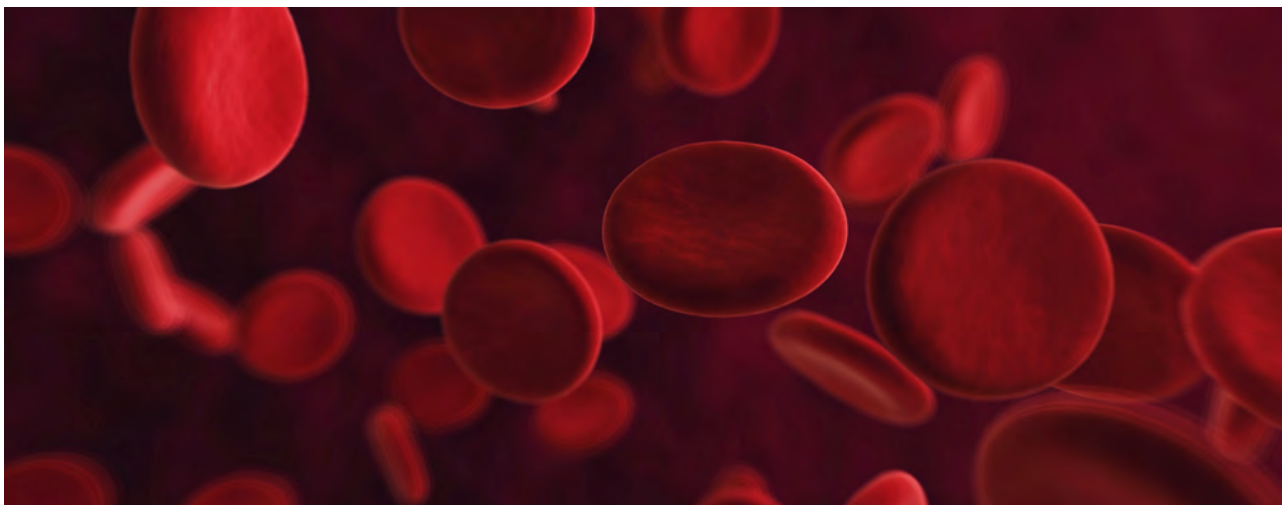
The RFID Task Force published in 2010 the Guideline on Use of RFID in Transfusion Medicine. In response to the positive feedback which has been received to the printed versions of the Guideline, the Working Party Information Technology EC has decided to re-print additional copies of the guideline which will be distributed at ISBT events during 2012.

As RFID technology is a very important aspect for further automation and safety processes in Transfusion Medicine, the Task Force members decided at the Lisbon Congress to review the guideline in 2013 to reflect numerous new developments in the field. A new introduction is already proposed and under discussion. It was also decided to include information about existing solutions (with a short description of results and problems) and identify open issues together with ideas to resolve them, although this work has not yet commenced.

The Interface Task Force is in contact with, and supports, the HL7 project of the ABC. Further work was carried out on a White paper for the Development of an ISBT Instrument/ System Interface Standard. A proposal for a new Task Force for Interoperability and Business Continuity were discussed at the Assembly meeting, but the topic was added to the remit of the Interface Task Force (TF).

The Traceability Task Force is now a joint effort with the Working Party on Haemovigilance and work re-started at the Lisbon meeting (the Task Force having been inactive since 2007). Pierre Robillard of the Working Party on Haemovigilance and Michael Breard of the Working Party Information Technology were elected as Chairpersons. The Task Force's work started with defining its structure and aims.

The Working Party Information Technology Validation Task Force has not been active for the period April 2011 to March 2012. At the Working Party Information Technology Assembly Meeting in Lisbon it was agreed that the Chairperson of the Task Force and the Executive Committee would monitor the state of the art of validation and decide whether to reconvene the group if new aspects were identified. This approach has enabled the EC to direct the resources available within the Working Party Information Technology towards the activities of the other Task Forces. Thus no meetings or telephone conferences were deemed necessary for the Validation Task Force during the period. However, in response to the positive feedback which has been received to the printed versions of the ISBT Guidelines



for Validation of Automated Systems in Blood Establishments since February 2010, the Working Party Information Technology EC has decided to re-print additional copies of the guideline which will be distributed at ISBT events during 2012.

Lectures and Posters

2 of 4 lectures and 1 of 6 posters with Information Technology topics were presented by Working Party Information Technology members at the ISBT Congress in Lisbon.

New Chairperson

As a result of changing her employer, Pia Bruce stepped down as Chairperson of the Working Party Information Technology in October 2011 to avoid a potential conflict of interest. After the required election process, Dr. med. Ralf Knels was elected as the new Chairperson. WPIT is very grateful to Pia Bruce for her valuable work and very happy that she will continue her work for the Executive

ISBT Working Party on Platelet Immunobiology



Cécile Kaplan, Chairperson

The ISBT-Platelet Immunobiology Working Party (IPIWP) was mainly implicated in two workshops: the 1st Asian workshop and the preparation of the 16th international workshop. Beside these two important tasks, the report on the 15th International Society of Blood Transfusion Platelet Immunology Workshop was prepared for publication in *Vox Sanguinis* (under review) and advice was asked by the Platelet Nomenclature Committee for inclusion of new platelet antigens in the HPA nomenclature.

First Asian Working Party Meeting

In 2011, the first Asian Working Party Workshop was held. The results have been presented in Taipei during the Regional ISBT meeting in Taiwan in November 2011.

Prior to the meeting in Taipei, the Platelet Immunology Workshop, consisting of two parts, the serological testing of anti-HPA/HLA sera and the HPA genotyping, has been performed.

Organising Committee:

Nelson H. Tsuno, Prof. Koki Takahashi (The University of Tokyo), Prof. Kyou-Sup Han (Seoul National University) and Dr. Guo-Guang Wu (Nanning Institute of Transfusion Medicine).

The Taipei Local Committee:

Dr. Chen-Chung Chu (Mackay Memorial Hospital).

The Advisory Committee:

Dr. Sentot Santoso (Institute for Clinical Immunology and Transfusion Medicine, Justus Liebig University).

The Chairman:

Dr. Cécile Kaplan-Gouet ckaplan@ints.fr (Institut National de la Transfusion Sanguine)

An abstract about the workshop can be found in platelet working party pages on the website.

The Asia Platelet Immunobiology (API) Working Party was established in an attempt to implement and develop the platelet immunology field in Asia as well as other interested countries. Considering the different frequency of HPA between Caucasian and Asian populations, there is the possibility that new and relevant platelet antibodies are overlooked, and this Working Party will enormously contribute for the development of this field. We hope further many active international colleagues will join API Working Party and finally we would like to establish international practical standard methods for detection of platelets alloantibodies compiled by the Workshop.

This Working Party was established under strong support of Dr. Silvano Wendel, the President of the ISBT, Dr. Cécile Kaplan-Gouet, the Chairperson of the IPI Working Party, and was approved by the members of the IPIWP. Dr. Sentot Santoso is giving us a strong support for the implementation of the workshop. The organisation committee of the API Working Party would like to take this chance to thank all who collaborate for the establishment of the API Working Party.

16th International Workshop

The international workshops are dedicated to sharing knowledge, evaluating the different technologies in use, establishing proficiency testing and developing standardization and are organized in the format of wet workshops. This workshop is organised by Rita Fontão-Wendel.

ISBT and the Platelet Nomenclature Committee

The Platelet Nomenclature Committee has been created as a collaborative platform between the ISBT-Platelet working party and the ISTH-SSC on platelet immunology. This committee is the guardian of the HPA nomenclature. Paul Metcalfe is the coordinator (National Institute for Biological Standards and Control).

New platelet antigens are proposed for inclusion in the HPA nomenclature:

HPA-24bw (Cab2); TRANSFUSION Volume 51, February 2011 p393- Jallu et al

HPA-25bw (Swi(a)); TRANSFUSION Volume 51, August 2011 p1745- Kroll et al.

HPA-26bw (Sec(a)); see the paper in Thrombosis and Haemostasis online 107.1/2012 Sachs et al.

HPA-27bw (Cab3,Ak);

HPA-22bw & 23bw

All these proposed antigens have been confirmed by reference laboratories.

The Platelet Nomenclature Committee will give the official response in the coming weeks.

In conclusion

The collaborative efforts shown by the world-wide participants and the exchange of experience of the ISBT Platelet Immunobiology Working Party is a major contribution to the development of platelet immunology.

ISBT Working Party on Quality Management



Paul Strengers, Chairperson

The first full year of the Working Party on Quality Management was quite productive. In the ISBT Academy Programme of the 21st Regional Congress of the ISBT in Lisbon, a Seminar on Quality Management was organised with contributions from Lesley Bust (South Africa), Tomislav Vuk (Croatia), Paul Strengers and Stephanie Agoston (The Netherlands), Christian Seidl (Germany), and Cletus Anyaegbu (Saudi Arabia). The seminar was well attended and the participants responded actively with ideas and proposals. The second meeting of the ISBT Working Party on Quality Management took place and 18 people from 12 countries were present while 6 people, who had shown interest, were not able to come.

Paul Strengers explained the membership rules that require all members of an ISBT Working Party to be active, paid-up members of ISBT. All agreed that for members of the Working Party-Quality Management, active participation is required, as well. The Report of the First Inaugural Meeting of the Working Party in Berlin 2010 was approved.

Christian Seidl chaired a group that developed a survey on Quality Management, undertaken with support of the European Blood Inspection System (EuBIS) project to collect information related to the quality management systems of blood establishments. The survey was released as a pilot to only the Working Party-Quality Management members and with improvements the members supported wider release of the survey pilot.

The members suggested a great number of improvements of the study for example on Quality Management and the definitions provided including the statistical process control and in-process control. Also the category of inspections / auditor should be better defined. "Non-governmental" appears to be ISO.

The Working Party-Quality Management survey could get into more detail on the duration of inspections to capture the number of days per year inspections occur. It was noted that the survey concentrates on developed countries and that the picture will be different in under-developed countries.

The range and number of blood establishments in each country should be determined as a mechanism to reach out and get information from under-developed countries. Some simple quality indicator denominators and results from a defined interval – for example a year or a month were suggested including by asking the respondents what type of blood establishment they had, how many units they collected, and which non-conformities are seen in their blood establishment. However quality management is stronger in larger organizations so obtaining information on the range and mean of blood establishment sizes is important.

Lesley Bust announced that the African Society for Blood Transfusion and AABB have published draft Standards, an Assessment Tool, and Guidance for public comment. Paul Strengers suggested informing World Health Organisation that no one is using the World Health Organisation-quality management standards if the larger release of the survey this will reveal.

The Working Party decided that the results of the survey will be presented at the 32nd International Congress of the ISBT in Cancún and published in *Vox Sanguinis*.

The Working Party decided that the results of the survey will be presented at the 32nd International Congress of the ISBT in Cancún and published in Vox Sanguinis.

For the next year the Follow up / Status / Priorities Work plan will be as follows:

- The Working Party-Quality Management will work on a set of Quality Indicators for blood establishments. Tomislav Vuk will send a list on quality indicators on International Haemovigilance for Clinical Transfusion for review. Paul Strengers and Tom will work with the Chairperson of the Working Party on Haemovigilance to jointly draft a list.
- Define blood establishment inspection standards for inspectors.
- Paul Strengers would like to set up another seminar training course on Quality Management in Amsterdam and present it with Lesley Bust in conjunction with the African Society for Blood Transfusion. It must be a very practical course.
- Working Party-Quality Management members will consider additional questions for Phase 2 of the Quality Management survey.

ISBT Working Party on Rare Donors



Sandra Nance, Chairperson

The Working Party on Rare Donors membership represents 17 countries, all Working Party members are ISBT members, and attendance at Formal Working Party meetings is very strong.

Terms of Reference #1

To develop guidelines for standardization of listing, labeling, shipping, testing and reimbursement for rare donors blood

Actions: Data presentations at Lisbon and Cancún meetings

The Working Party Meeting in Cancún will mark the first time in many years that members of the Working Party will report on their country's level of Rare Donor activity to the full Working Party. These presentations will be collated and published at the least on the Working Party page of the ISBT website.

The full ISBT meeting will contain a programme from the Working Party with concentration on the level of development in different countries and information on how to start and sustain rare donor activities to meet the needs of the patients who require rare blood for transfusion across the world.

Terms of Reference #2

To provide a resource for providing ongoing information on matters related to rare blood.

Actions: Previous publications/presentations on Rare Donor activities had been posted on the ISBT website as a resource for ISBT members. With the transition to the new ISBT website, all the records for the postings for the Rare Donor Working party were lost. This presented a challenge

to resurrect the items of importance to the members of ISBT. The website has been partially recreated; this remains a work in progress. Presentations on Rare Donor topics were made at the Berlin ISBT Congress and will be made at the ISBT Congress in Cancún. The Berlin ISBT Congress had an additional feature, afternoon sessions with presentations by members of the Working Party that were organised in partnership with the German Society for Transfusion Medicine. An informal meeting of the Working Party on Rare Donors was held in Lisbon and Taipei. In Lisbon, Working Party members met along with invited guests from 3 countries not currently represented on the Working Party, Singapore, Italy and Egypt. The small group who met in Taipei was joined by a guest from Sweden. The Working Party welcomed 2 new members in 2011, one each from South Africa and Switzerland.

Terms of Reference #3

To develop and extend the liaison with the International Blood Group Reference Laboratory (Bristol, England), and thus assist blood services internationally to be aware of, and contribute to, the World Health Organisation International Donor Panel.

Actions: Support of International Rare Donor Panel

We have instigated and encouraged a strong liaison with the International Rare Donor Panel (IRDP) whereby the contributing laboratories inform the IBGRL in Bristol when units are shipped overseas. There will be a full report of the yearly activities of the International Rare Donor Panel presented within the Cancún Congress as is the practice.

The Working Party has additional countries to be considered in 2013.

Strategic Member Recruitment

Strategic member recruitment has been the objective of the Executive Committee of the Working Party to ensure continued increase in the International Rare Donor Panel and also to build a network of knowledgeable members available to assist locally and globally. Currently the Working Party has 22 members representing 17 countries. At the Lisbon meeting, there were three countries with interest in representation on the Working Party. Also at the Lisbon Working Party Meeting, there was a strategy discussion regarding what countries should be represented on the Working Party. Candidates currently under review would add 3 additional countries at this year's meeting. The Working Party is also experiencing some turnover with long-term productive members retiring. Thus far, the retiring members have been active in recommending the appropriate individual to represent the country and no countries have lost representation on the Working Party. This must be watched carefully for Working Party renewal. The Working Party has additional countries to be considered in 2013.

The ISBT Working Party on Rare Donors is a vibrant Working Party with enthusiastic members working through international channels to ensure patients with rare blood needs are able to be transfused.

[A list of members can be found on the ISBT website.](#)

ISBT Working Party on Red Cell Immunogenetics and Blood Group Terminology



Jill Storry, Chairperson

This working party focuses primarily on nomenclature for blood group antigens and more recently, alleles encoding blood group antigens. Since 2004, we have also organised a biannual molecular genotyping workshop, the results of which are collated and presented at the International meetings of the ISBT.

During the reporting period, a summary of the conclusions from the working party meeting held at the ISBT meeting in Berlin were published in *Vox Sanguinis* [1], as was a report on the 4th Molecular Genotyping Workshop [2], the results of which were also presented in Berlin.

The ISBT office launched its new website during 2011 and I took the opportunity to visit the office and work with the staff to transfer all the blood group nomenclature tables and information that had been hosted by the International Blood Group Reference Laboratory website. I thank Dr. Phil Judson and Dr Geoff Daniels from the IBGRL for their expert curatorship of the pages and for their help in the transfer.

In previous years, activity has been limited to collecting information on new blood group antigens and/or new blood group systems in the intervening period between one international meeting and the next. That work is ongoing and will be discussed at our upcoming meeting in Cancún. The past two years has witnessed considerable activity in the blood groups field. We have received information for, and can look forward to approving, at least 3 new blood group systems and a handful of new blood group antigens in existing blood group systems in July.

Each working party member has also received the task of updating and fact-proofing the blood group allele

nomenclature tables that were uploaded to our home page on the ISBT website, following the working party's approval of Guidelines for Naming Blood Group Alleles. That work has been completed and the updates will be posted once collated

The Working Party for Red Cell Immunogenetics and Blood Group Terminology faces a great information challenge that is borne of the current molecular genetics era. New blood groups and blood group antigens were once painstakingly mapped through family studies and by exhaustive serological cross-testing so that achieving blood group status was a long process, and approval of antigens could wait the two years between working party meetings. Now, determination of the molecular of a blood group antigen and its assignment to a blood group system is rapid and we need to be able to communicate that information efficiently, without losing site of our role as an expert panel of peers. We will be working together in Cancún to examine our role in blood group terminology and to plan a strategy for the future to provide information in a more time-sensitive and useful way.

References:

1. Storry J.R., Castilho L., Daniels G., Flegel W.A., Garratty G., Francis C.L., Moulds J.M., Moulds J.J., Olsson M.L., Poole J., Reid M.E., Rouger P., Van der Schoot E., Scott M., Smart E., Tani Y., Yu L.C., Wendel S., Westhoff C., Yahalom V., Zelinski T.: International Society of Blood Transfusion Working Party on red cell immunogenetics and blood group terminology: Berlin report. *Vox Sang.* 2011;101:77-82.
2. Daniels G, van der Schoot CE, Olsson ML: Report of the fourth International Workshop on molecular blood group genotyping. *Vox Sang.* 2011;101: 327-32.

ISBT Working Party on Transfusion Transmitted Infectious Diseases



Silvano Wendel, Chairperson

The Working Party on Transfusion Transmitted Infectious Diseases (WP-TTID) held its Annual Meeting in Lisbon on 19th June 2011.

The Annual Meeting began with individual sessions of the Subgroup on Bacteria, the Subgroup on Parasites and the Subgroup on Virology. It concluded with the Working Party on Transfusion Transmitted Infectious Diseases General Assembly.

During the meetings, Working Party on Transfusion Transmitted Infectious Diseases members were joined by a number of observers and guest listeners. As well as reports from the Organizing Committee and the Subgroups, the General Assembly featured a Scientific Session which presented relevant scientific issues regarding blood transfusion, with a particular focus on the Iberian Peninsula. The assembly concluded with a Corporate Members Session on Regulatory Harmonization. As outcomes of the session, it was suggested to establish a Working Party on Transfusion Transmitted Infectious Diseases forum for the elaboration of common standards of different regulatory bodies. Also, a platform for scientists from developing countries shall be established within the Working Party.

The Organizing Committee elaborated a procedure to provide resources for projects from developing countries as well as fellowships in transfusion medical science. The initiative has recently been launched and candidates will be selected in the next semester. Among Working Party on Transfusion Transmitted Infectious Diseases members the Organizing Committee is working on a list of mentors to coordinate funding of fellowship projects.

Currently the Organizing Committee is preparing the next Working Party on Transfusion Transmitted Infectious Diseases Annual Meeting which will be held in Cancun on 7th and 8th July 2012.

According to the Terms of Reference, a call for nominations for a new Organizing Committee was sent to all Working Party on Transfusion Transmitted Infectious Diseases members. The election will be conducted during the Working Party on Transfusion Transmitted Infectious Diseases General Assembly in Cancun on 8th July 2012.

Together with the ISBT Central Office, the Working Party on Transfusion Transmitted Infectious Diseases homepage has been updated: <http://www.isbt.org/working-parties/transfusion-transmitted-diseases> (ISBT login is required to follow this link). In addition to all Working Party on Transfusion Transmitted Infectious Diseases documents, such as minutes and presentations from previous meetings, it now also provides a list of all Working Party on Transfusion Transmitted Infectious Diseases members.

Reports from ISBT Standing committees

- ISBT Standing Committee of the ISBT Academy
- ISBT Standing Committee on Ethics
- ISBT Standing Committee of Vox Sanguinis

ISBT Standing Committee on the ISBT Academy



Anne Husebekk, Chairperson

The Academy has had activities related to the ISBT congresses in Portugal and Taiwan and in support of meetings arranged by national societies.

Both in Portugal (Lisbon) and in Taiwan (Taipei) the ISBT Academy day has been arranged successfully.

The Standing Committee of the ISBT Academy was launched during the Lisbon congress. The committee has representatives from all ISBT regions. The committee is expected to be involved in educational activities such as planning for the Academy days during congresses, evaluation of applications for Academy support and plans for other Academy activities. More educational information is planned on the website. The committee wants to challenge the working parties to link educational information of interest to the website of the Academy. Work should be instituted to make a transfusion medicine App to be available for members.

The need for an educational secretary connected to the central office has been discussed.

The following national meetings have been supported:

Argentina – logo only

Brazil – logo only

Germany – logo and financial support

Iran – logo only

Malaysia – logo and financial support

Mexico – logo only

Russia x 2 logo and financial support

Saudi Arabia – logo only

Shanghai – logo and financial support

Singapore – logo and financial support

Turkey – Turkish Society meeting – logo and financial support

Turkey – Thalassaemia International Federation – financial support and logo

ISBT Standing Committee on Ethics



Smaranda Ghibu, Chairperson

The Standing Committee on Ethics held one meeting during the past year in June during the ISBT Lisbon Congress. This meeting was held to assist the Board in determining the position it would take concerning the Dublin Consensus Statement.

ISBT had been asked to endorse the Dublin Consensus Statement (DCS) as drafted in 2010. At that time, the Board of Directors indicated that the 2010 draft was not acceptable as it supported incentives for donors and thus blurred the distinction between Voluntary Non-Remunerated (VNR) and Paid Donors (PD) (Vox Sanguinis, 2011, 100:250-251).

The Dublin Consensus Statement was redrafted in 2011 and ISBT was asked to reconsider its endorsement thereof. The reference to “incentives” was removed from the 2011 draft. However, the Board felt that some issues remained outstanding. Thus, the Board requested that the Standing Committee on Ethics (SCE) provide guidance on two such issues:

1. The scope of the Dublin Consensus Statement 2011 encompasses both donation of labile products and plasma collected for fractionation products; it is unclear whether the ISBT Code of Ethics also covers both.
2. Second, the language used in the Dublin Consensus Statement regarding voluntary donation differs from that used in the Code of Ethics and the Standing Committee on Ethics should offer guidance as to whether those differences are “just semantics” or have an impact on the possible endorsement of the Dublin Consensus Statement by ISBT.

Several members were invited to attend the meeting in addition to several ISBT Directors. The members are: **Neelam Dhingra**, BTS co-ordinator at World Health Organisation, **Jean Emmanuel**, Former co-ordinator BTS at World Health Organisation, **Smaranda Ghibu**, Chairperson, Vice-President, Legal Affairs, Héma-Québec, **Faten Mofteh**, Transfusion expert, Ministry of Health in Egypt, **Rut Norda**, Chairperson of the EDQM CD-P-TS, **Ana Padilla**, World Health Organisation co-ordinator of plasma products, **Johan Prevot**, CEO of IPOPI and member of the Board of PLUS, **Cees van der Poel**, Chairperson of the EDQM GTS group of the Council of Europe. ISBT Directors are: Judith Chapman, Executive Director of ISBT, **Diane de Coning**, Chairperson ISBT Working Party on Donors and Donation, **Geoff Daniels**, Secretary-General of ISBT, **Roger Dodd**, ISBT Vice-President and Director Vice-President, R&D, American Red Cross, **Peter Flanagan**, National Medical Director, New Zealand Blood Service/President-Elect of ISBT Board.

The members were chosen for their particular skills regarding this issue as well as varying points of view thereon.

The issue of Voluntary Non-Remunerated vs. Paid Donors donation was thoroughly debated and the members of the group were unable to reach a consensus regarding whether the Dublin Consensus Statement is compatible with the Code of Ethics.

The different points of view were set out, along with several recommendations, in a report to the Board of Directors.

ISBT Standing Committee of Vox Sanguinis

Vox Sanguinis is the scientific journal of the ISBT. The Editorial Board of Vox Sanguinis is responsible for editorial policy, whereas the Standing Committee is responsible for governance of the journal and forms a link between the Editorial Board and the ISBT.

The Standing Committee is chaired by the ISBT Secretary General. The other members of the committee were the ISBT Treasurer (Steve Morgan), Roger Dodd, Erhard Seifried, and Diana Teo. Dana Devine was replaced by Diana Teo on January 1 2012. The Vox Sanguinis Editor-in-Chief, representatives from Wiley-Blackwell, the publishers, and the ISBT President are invited to attend Standing Committee meetings. In addition, since January 1 2012 the retired Editor-in-Chief, Wolfgang Mayr, will also be invited to meetings in an advisory capacity to provide continuity.

On January 1 2012 Wolfgang Mayr retired as Vox Sanguinis Editor-in-Chief, to be replaced by Dana Devine of the Canadian Blood Services. Many thanks to Wolfgang for all his work for Vox Sanguinis over many years and to Sabine Mayrobrig-Harrich who provided administrative assistance.

An annual prize is awarded to the best paper published in Vox Sanguinis. Papers are nominated by the editors and the winner is selected by the Jean Julliard Committee. In fact prizes were awarded to two papers at the Lisbon Congress in 2011: Scheiblauer H et al. Performance evaluation of 70 hepatitis B virus (HBV) surface antigen (HBsAg) assays from around the world by a geographically diverse panel with an array of HBV genotypes and HBsAg subtypes; and Borkent-Raven BA et al., The PROTON study: profiles of blood product transfusion recipients in the Netherlands.

Vox Sanguinis continues to flourish. The impact factor in 2010, the most recent year to be published, showed a substantial increase from 2009, putting Vox Sanguinis roughly on a par with the other leading journal in the field.

An application for the ISBT Science Series to be included in Medline was not successful. The main reasons given for the rejection were that Science Series papers are not peer-reviewed, that the Science Series is not published at regular intervals, and that authors and topics are selected on the basis of a scientific conference and not by an editorial board. The Vox Sanguinis Standing Committee considered that the Science Series is a valuable publication and the committee will explore ways in which it might be changed to satisfy the demands of Medline.



Report of the Historian

Activities

Information has been provided to university students in the UK and colleagues in South America who have been researching early information on transfusion.

A report was been made on global perception of the early relationships between AIDS and transfusion. (1)

Information on the First ISBT Congress, Rome 1935

A translation is now available of the memoirs of Ludwig Hirzfeld who established the Mendelian heritage of the blood groups and was the first to point out the value of seroanthropology. He was the leader of the international attendees at our First International Congress, Rome 1935. A chapter of his work is devoted to a graphic description of his impressions of that Congress. (2)

A Remembrance of the Ninth Congress, Mexico City, 1962

It is exactly 50 years since the Society held its Ninth Congress in Mexico City a meeting that cemented significant understanding and relationship among the participants that those of us who attended remember well. One of the Vice Presidents of that 1962 Congress was Doctor Eduardo Uribe Guerola. He had served as President of the Second Mexican Blood Transfusion Congress that was part of the Conference on Rh held in 1946 in Mexico.

A Special Note on an Rh Conference, Mexico City, 1946

An International Hematology and Rh Conference organized jointly by colleagues from both Mexico and the United States offered sequential, back-to-back meetings in Dallas and Mexico City in November 1946. In the Proceedings, (3) Doctor William Dameshek, Dean of American hematology, states that discovery of the Rh blood group and its role in human disease had led to acceptance of immunohematology and transfusion as clinical sciences. He designates a move of the discipline to becoming a part of the specialty of hematology away from its history as an adjunct to surgical practice. Indeed, out of the Conference were born both the International Society of Hematology and the structure for the establishment in the following year of the American Association of Blood Banks. (3)

History of transfusion in Mexico

At the 1946 joint Conference, Doctor Uribe gave a historical review of Mexican Blood Transfusion. He recorded the first hospital in the Americas as established in Mexico in 1524 and pointed out that the Conference meetings were being held in a rebuilding of a church at the Juarez Hospital which its first American university was founded in 1553. The Juarez Hospital Blood Transfusion Centre was founded in 1932, three years before the first Congress of the ISBT. The Mexican Blood Transfusion Society was formed in 1938.

1. Schmidt PJ. Blood, AIDS and bureaucracy: The crisis and the tragedy. *Trans Med Rev* 2011;25:335-43.
2. Schmidt PJ. Ludwik Hirzfeld; the story of one life. (book review) *Transfusion* 2011;51:842
3. The Rh factor in the clinic and the laboratory. *Blood; The Journal of Hematology* 1948, Special Issue No. 2.

Paul J. Schmidt, Historian



ISBT Partners

World Blood Donor Day 2011

The National Blood Program (NBP) was created in 2002 with the following aims: to promote voluntary and repeated blood donation, to strengthen the work in scale in preparation blood product and to promote the appropriate use of blood components.



WBDD Argentina 2011

Argentina hosted World Blood Donor Day (WBDD) on June 14, 2011 becoming the first Latin American country to host this event. World Blood Donor Day is a day where we recognize and celebrate the voluntary blood donors all over the world who's blood save the lives of patients who require blood transfusion.

We have to recognize the initiative of four international organizations which started the celebration: World Health Organisation, International Red Cross and Red Crescent, FIODS and ISBT.

The choice for hosting World Blood Donor Day in Argentina was based on 3 main points: vision and ethics of our National Blood System, the integrated work between government and society to achieve the socio-cultural transformation which is required and the projection to Latin America that will be given to the celebration.

A part of the World Blood Donor Day celebrations was the implementation of the so called Domino Project, which entailed integrating efforts into a common agenda to display blood donation in different areas distant from diseases. Using traditional events, each community was encouraged to become a leader in promoting voluntary blood donation.

The celebration has led to an important contribution: all members of the working task agreed it is of legal, ethical, socio-medical and scientific importance to change the current model of blood donation. It is necessary to have organized systems based on healthy blood donors to support the needs of patients in order to achieve a high rate of social development.



WBDD Argentina 2011

The National Blood Program (NBP) was created in 2002 with the following aims: to promote voluntary and repeated blood donation, to strengthen the work in scale in preparation blood product and to promote the appropriate use of blood components.

Nowadays the National Blood Program is one of the priority programs of the National Ministry of Health, being “the resource human blood,” a state policy. As a federal country this problem has been incorporated not only in the National Social Agenda, but also in the social agendas of the 24 provinces.

World Blood Donor Day Argentina 2011 should become a turning point in the development of blood donation in our country. While this seems like a dream, we must turn it into a reality. It is clear that dreams can come true with the daily efforts of dedicated men and women. This is what is happening in our country.

We thank all the voluntary blood donors, Government Programs, Programs for Voluntary Blood Donation, Scientific Societies, Civil Societies Associations, the Local Organizing Committee and all those who have supported and put their effort in to the success of World Blood Donor Day.

Dra. Mabel Maschio, Prof. Gabriela Fernández Cid, Dr. Carlos García, Dr. Daniel Fontana, National Blood Programme of Argentine Republic.

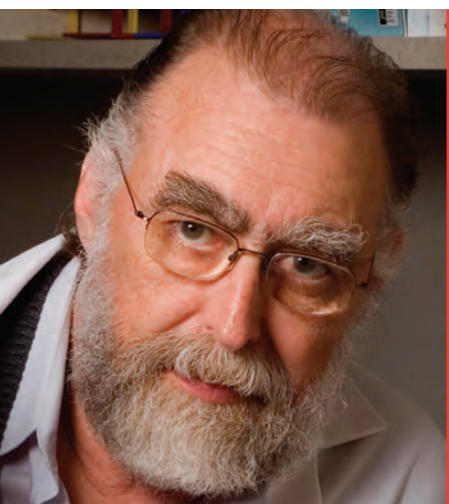
ISBT Awards and Prizes

- The ISBT Award
- Vox Sanguinis Best Paper Prize

ISBT Awards and Prizes

The ISBT Award

The ISBT award is granted for an outstanding contribution to the educational aspects of blood transfusion and transfusion medicine.



John Moulds was active in the field of blood groups for many years. John was the imitator of the Serum, Cell and Rare Fluids Exchange, SCARF programme. The SCARF exchange scheme still exists as a web-based facility. John joined Gamma Biologicals in 1975 as director of consultation and education, where he became very involved in the production of monoclonal antibodies.

John was involved in research into blood groups, having identified several new blood group antigens and, in collaboration with Wolfgang Dahr, on the biochemistry of glycoproteins.

John Moulds was a member of the ISBT Working Party on Terminology for Red Cell Surface Antigens, and of the ISBT Working Party on Red Cell Immunogenetics and Blood Group Terminology, since its inception in 1980. He was always willing to come forward with new suggestions on the classification of red cell surface antigens. He was chair of the Working Party from 1990-1994.

Bill Wagstaff was the Director of the Blood Centre in Sheffield, England, for many years. He had a life long commitment to quality and played a key role in the development of blood standards in both the United Kingdom and Europe. He was largely responsible for the development of the Council of Europe Guide for the preparation, quality assurance and use of blood components and also the United Kingdom joint Blood Transfusion Services and National Institute for Biological Standards and Control professional standards for transfusion practice (The UKBTS/ NIBSC Red Book). Bill was the ISBT Treasurer in 1984, 1989, and from 1990 - 1992. He was made an honorary member of ISBT in 1992.





Marie Lin Just over 31 years ago Prof. Marie Lin and her colleagues from the Taiwan Society of Blood Transfusion made a great effort to help the Taiwan Minister of Health to establish a national blood program (100% national voluntary blood supply was achieved in 1992), and help hospitals to establish standard hospital blood transfusion services through long term nation-wide continuing education and hospital inspection.

Marie Lin successfully brought the Society to the point of being an important member of the international blood transfusion community. She is a great inspiration to young researchers in Taiwan. She is awarded the ISBT award for her excellence and outstanding contribution to blood transfusion medicine, in particular in the field of education.

Vox Sanguinis Best Paper Prize

Vox Sanguinis has granted a scientific award, the Vox Sanguinis Best Paper Prize, for the best original article published per calendar year in Vox Sanguinis.

An annual prize is awarded to the best paper published in Vox Sanguinis. Papers are nominated by the editors and the winner is selected by the Jean Julliard Committee. Prizes were awarded to two papers at the Lisbon Congress in 2011:

1. Scheiblauer H et al. Performance evaluation of 70 hepatitis B virus (HBV) surface antigen (HBsAg) assays from around the world by a geographically diverse panel with an array of HBV genotypes and HBsAg subtypes.
2. Borkent-Raven BA et al., The PROTON study: profiles of blood product transfusion recipients in the Netherlands.

In Memoriam

- Patrick Mollison
- Paddy Moore
- John Moulds
- Alfred Prince

In Memoriam



Patrick Mollison

Transfusion Medicine has become a clinical specialty in its own right, largely due to the contributions by Patrick Mollison, whose textbook, with 11 editions, is considered as “the bible” amongst most specialists internationally. From 1951 to the early 1980’s “Blood Transfusion in Clinical Medicine” was the only authoritative, comprehensive account on the subject. The strongest reason for the success was that Mollison had first-hand experience of many of the clinical, experimental and laboratory areas covered in the book.

Patrick Mollison was born in London in 1914. His father was a distinguished Ear, Nose and Throat surgeon. He studied in Cambridge and then at St Tomas’s Hospital, qualifying as a doctor in 1938. He married Dr Margaret Peirce in 1940 and they had three sons: Simon, Denis and Anthony. They divorced in 1965. In 1973 he married Dr Jennifer Jones, a consultant anaesthetist, with whom he shared a very happy life of travel, opera, concerts and good food. In fact, he was skiing with a granddaughter at the age of 86; he drove a Mercedes Benz sport car up to the age of 95 and it was only last summer, at 97, that he went to 2 operas in Glyndebourne. A quiet and very private man, he was very generous with his knowledge. His solid and diverse contribution to Clinical Blood Transfusion will remain with us forever.

Written by: Marcela Contreras

Paddy Moore

Dr. Paddy Moore died on December 5th 2011 at the age of 92 at Napanee, Ontario, Canada. Born in Belfast, Northern Ireland he graduated in medicine (M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O.) from Queens University, Belfast in 1942.

In 1944 he was appointed Junior Research Assistant to Sir Almroth Wright at what is now the Wright-Fleming Institute of St Mary’s Hospital, London, England. The institute was then the epicentre for bacteriologists because of Fleming’s work on penicillin and Wright’s earlier work on opsonins and vaccine therapy; it was there he learned the mysteries of making and using capillary pipettes for serology. This interest in developing, making and using his own equipment and serums remained with him throughout his career. In 1948 the Mater Infirmorum Hospital Board in Belfast, where Dr Moore was working as Honorary Clinical Pathologist, decided to abstain from the new National Health Programme which left Dr Moore without a salary. Faced with the dilemma of private practice, joining the UK Public Health Service, or the fledgling Canadian Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service (CRCS-BTS), he chose the latter and emigrated to Canada, followed a year later by his wife (Maire) and young son.

Dr Moore was ISBT President from 1980–1982. He was elected to Council in 1972; created three Working Parties (Automation and Data Processing, Terminology of Red Cell Surface Antigens, and Socio-Economic Aspects of Blood transfusion). He was Past Chair of the Publications Committee and the Committee of Ethics and Legislation.



Written by: Rachel Berger

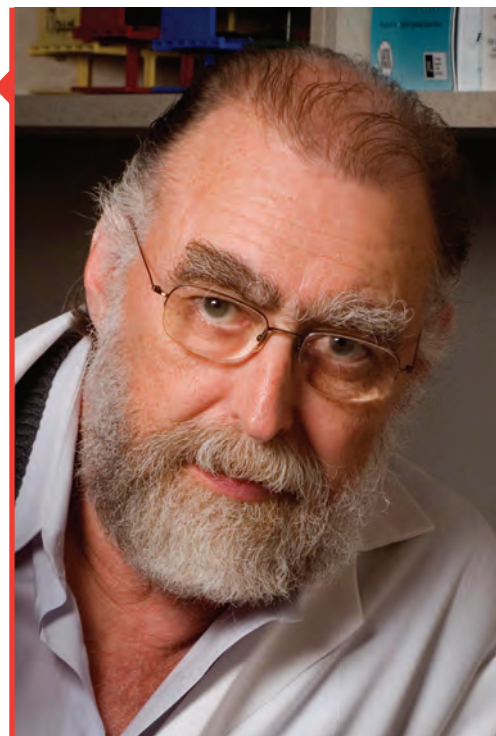
John Moulds

John Moulds passed away on June 13, 2011. Moulds was active in the field of blood groups for many years. He was the initiator of the Serum, Cell and Rare Fluids Exchange, SCARF programme. The SCARF exchange scheme still exists as a web-based facility. John joined Gamma Biologicals in 1975 as director of consultation and education, where he became very involved in the production of monoclonal antibodies.

He was involved in research into blood groups, having identified several new blood group antigens and, in collaboration with Wolfgang Dahr, on the biochemistry of glycoproteins.

He was a member of the ISBT Working Party on Terminology for Red Cell Surface Antigens, now the Working Party on Red Cell Immunogenetics and Blood Group Terminology, since its inception in 1980 until very recently, always coming forward with new suggestions on the classification of red cell surface antigens. He was chair of the Working Party from 1990-1994.

John will be remembered as one of the main leaders in immunohematology, who contributed to the development of blood group serology, and helped many professionals all over the world for more than two decades.



Written by: Silvano Wendel

**Alfred Prince**

A great virologist, professor Alfred. M. Prince, has passed away in October 2011 at the age of 82. Since 1965 he was working at the New York Blood Centre as head of the Laboratory of Virology, Lindsley F Kimball Research institute. His major accomplishment was the discovery of antigen SH, which he found was associated with hepatitis B virus, which turned out to be identical with Australia antigen detected by Baruch Blumberg. Blumberg received the Nobel prize for his finding, but in the opinion of many scientists he should have shared the prize with Prince.

Also Prince was the first in 1974 who reported of the existence of a virus, distinct from hepatitis A and B virus, now termed hepatitis C virus. In the 80's he developed the solvent / detergent procedure for sterilization of blood derivatives still widely used in the world. In that period he also developed a low cost HBV vaccine, still in use in China. He founded and was the director of a chimpanzee colony in Robbertsville Liberia, where human viruses (e.g. HBV, HCV, HIV) were studied in primates.

Next to all his scientific achievements, Fred was a very amiable man who was always kind enough to share his results with others and to help others with their research.

Written by: Hendrik Reesink

