

The background is a solid red color with a pattern of white, semi-transparent blood cells of various sizes and orientations scattered throughout. The text is centered and rendered in a white, outlined, sans-serif font.

LSBT
ANNUAL
REPORT
2018-2019

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Corporate Partners

ISBT is pleased to acknowledge the following Corporate Partners

GOLD:



SILVER:



BRONZE:



ISBT Vision

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

Our mission

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

We achieve this by:

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

“ISBT congresses are always a great opportunity to network and learn from like-minded professionals. I really enjoy being a part of ISBT!”

“Together we improve quality in transfusion medicine: Recipients need best treatment. Donors deserve best care. Professionals need best education.”

“I think ISBT is the main forum for translating science and networking into best practices”

Foreword from the President



We started the 2018/2019 financial year with Ravi Reddy as ISBT President and I took over from him in Toronto in June at our congress there. Ravi and his board had done a great job of putting the society in a good position for the future, both scientifically, educationally and financially. With the help of the Central Office in Amsterdam, the new board has continued to develop the society and its value proposition for its members. At the end of the past year, we have also started to take strides towards developing a new strategic plan for the ISBT but more about that in the next annual report.

Individual membership numbers remain at a high level even after last year's impressive increase, and the 114 nationalities represented show that ISBT is as international as its name. Affiliate membership has become a popular way to open up all the possibilities that ISBT has to offer to co-workers in a Regional Society or Blood Service. At the end of this fiscal year we had twice as many affiliate members as in 2016, a sharp increase also from last year.

The ISBT Working Parties keep on doing a stellar job and truly constitute the engine of our society. Important work for the benefit of blood donors and recipients around the world is being done in more ways than ever. I want to take this opportunity to thank all Working Party chairs and members who give generously of their time to further the goals of ISBT. A particularly exciting development for 2018/2019 was the launch of the Young Professionals Council. They have a special role in keeping ISBT up to date and relevant also for those who have not been part of our field for very long. From what I gather through the grapevine, they have been very active and I have invited them to give a presentation on their activities at our next board meeting.

We have also continued to develop our relations with other organisations. As a token of this, ISBT received awards for our collaboration with the Africa Society of Blood Transfusion (AfSBT) and AABB during the year. We have also developed memoranda of understanding (MoU) with AfSBT and the European Blood Alliance (EBA). WHO remains an important partner and a new collaboration plan was signed off to guide our joint efforts for the next three years. A particularly good example is the fact that our clinical working party has been heavily involved in the update of the WHO Clinical Use of Blood Manual, which is now almost complete. We have also continued to develop the successful Corporate Partner concept together with our friends in the industry. They can now ringfence money for the Working Parties of their choice according to the level of engagement they have chosen.

The board has prioritised the value offering to our members, improving further our online presence and finding new ways to involve all of you as much as possible. To this end, the ISBT Education App was launched at our congress in Toronto. Thanks to this and a major increase in the number of events supported by the ISBT Academy as well as numerous webinars, journal clubs and other activities online, I can happily conclude that we deliver on our intention to provide increasingly good service and learning activities to our members. This can only be done through the never-ending enthusiasm and hard work from our staff at the Central Office. In addition, ISBT staff not only took part in our own congress but also participated, exhibited and recruited members at several other conferences all over the world. Financially, we continue to perform well even if the direct income from our single congress in 2018 was not as high as for the previous year when we arranged two congresses. Since activities were at least as intense as usual, the society made a minor loss during this fiscal year but the financial position is kept under strict surveillance by our Treasurer and remains strong in general.

To summarise the past 12 months, ISBT is a stronger and more visible organisation which is steadily moving towards the goals set out in our strategic plan which is now successfully coming to an end. The development of a new bold strategy together with execution of two regional congresses and introduction of the newly-recruited Jenny White who will take on the job as ISBT's new Executive Director on April 1, 2020, are some of the major events to look forward to during 2019/2020.

I am extremely grateful to the Executive Director Judith Chapman and the staff at the ISBT Central Office for their commitment over the past year. Thanks are also due to my fellow Board members, our corporate and strategic partners for their valuable contributions over the year, and finally, the same goes for all members of our ISBT family for your continued love and support of our society.

Martin L. Olsson
President



Foreword from the Secretary General

The ISBT held a successful International Congress in Toronto, Canada in June 2018. Congress delegates numbered 2614 including 849 exhibition staff. Abstracts numbering 1000 were presented and there were 81 exhibiting companies.

The Local Organising and Scientific committees as well as MCI Amsterdam once again contributed expertise, organization and enthusiasm leading to a successful and enjoyable Congress.

Membership of the ISBT was stable with 1847 members just 1.1% lower than 2017/18. This follows the general pattern for a one congress year. All regions and 128 countries are represented within the Society.

Vox Sanguinis continues as the leading scientific journal for the Society. A number of new initiatives have been undertaken by the Vox editorial board over the past year, including an increase in the number of review articles. The current impact factor is 2.107, a decline relative to last year. 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 and has recently expanded its editorial advisory board to increase the breadth of expertise and geographic scope of editorial advisors.

The 14 Working Parties continue to be a vital component of the Society. The working parties contribute extensively to the content of the Academy day at all Congresses and have also made many contributions to the new ISBT Education Web Portal.

This Education App launched in 2018 contains extensive educational content accessible on mobile devices. The content includes podcasts, selected recordings of academy day presentations, reviews and case studies as well as discipline specific content related many of the working parties and is also available on the education portal.

The following award recipients were honoured in 2018: The ISBT Presidential Award was presented to Mike Busch, Mike is Director, Vitalant Research Institute, USA. He is recognised for his innovative and productive research and prolific publications

The Jean Julliard Prize was presented to Rik Kapur for his work titled Transfusion-related acute lung injury (TRALI): Identification of novel risk factors and potential therapies

The 2018 ISBT Award was presented to: Diana Teo (Singapore), Peter Flanagan (New Zealand), and Pierre Robillard (Canada).

The Developing Country Award for 2018 was presented to: Department of Transfusion Medicine, Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education & Research, Chandigarh, India

The Vox Sanguinis Best Paper Prize was presented to P.A. Steininger for his paper Change of the metabolomic profile during short-term mononuclear cell storage. P. A. Steininger, E. F. Strasser, B. Ziehe, R. Eckstein, M. Rauh, Vox Sang. 2017; 112(2): 163-172

The Central Office has appointed two new staff members this year; Leonne ter Woord, communications coordinator and Beatriz Galindo as the ISBT Stakeholder and Marketing Coordinator.

Gwen Clarke
Secretary General

Board of Directors

September 2016 - June 2018

Executive Committee:

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

June 2018 - June 2020

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	Richard Benjamin, USA
Southern Americas	Ina-Noelia Pérez-Huaynalaya, Peru
Europe	Miguel Lozano, Spain
Europe	Shubha Allard, UK
Eastern Mediterranean	Ahmad Gharehbaghian, Iran
South East Asia	Neelam Marwaha, India
Western Pacific	Masahiro Satake, Japan
Western Pacific	Che Kit Lin, Hong Kong

Members of the Board representing WHO Regions:

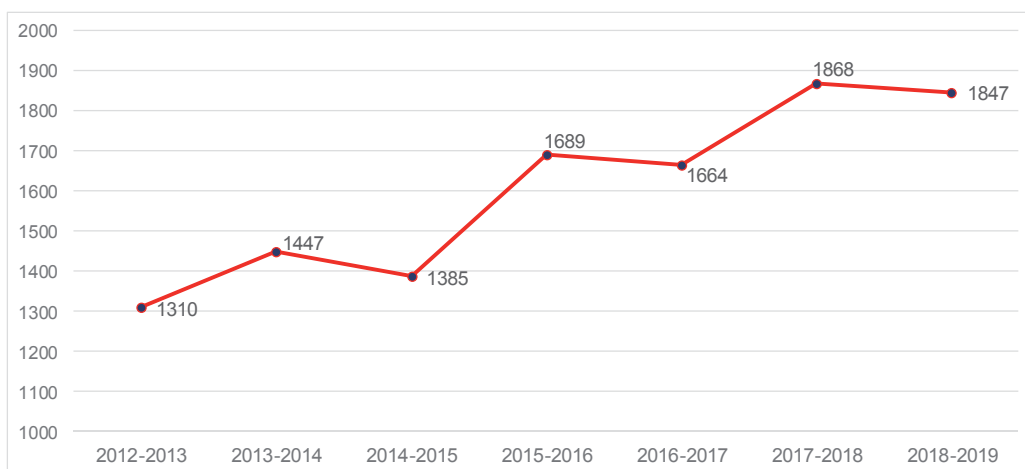
Africa	Justina Kordai Ansah, Ghana
Northern Americas	Mindy Goldman, Canada
Southern Americas	Lilian De Castilho, Brazil
Europe	Shubha Allard, UK
Europe	Birgit Gathof, Germany
Eastern Mediterranean	May Raouf, UAE
South East Asia	Yuyun Siti Maryuningsih Soedarmono,
Indonesia	
Western Pacific	Yoke Lin Fung,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



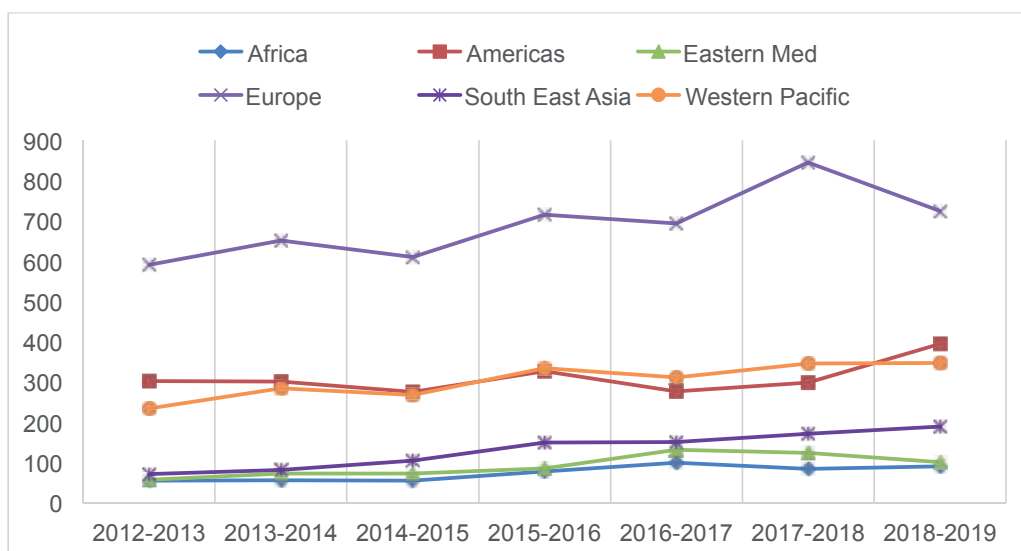
Membership

ISBT membership 2012 - 2019

1847 MEMBERS FROM 114 COUNTRIES



ISBT MEMBERSHIP BY WHO REGION



AFFILIATE MEMBERSHIP

29 Affiliate members in 26 countries

AFFILIATE MEMBERS 2013 - 2018

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



Congress

- 35th International congress of the ISBT, Toronto



Katerina Pavenski

Chair of the Local Organising Committee

35th International congress of the ISBT, Toronto



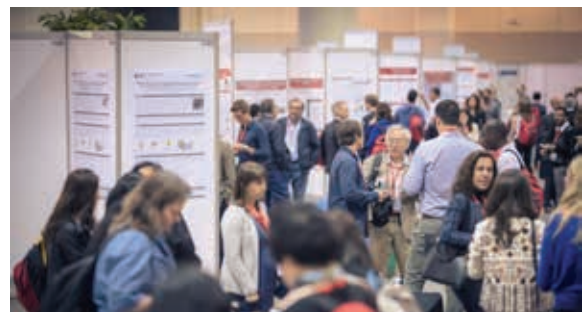
The 35th international congress of the ISBT took place in Toronto, Canada last June. The two years of preparation definitely paid off. The Local Organizing Committee welcomed close to 3,000 delegates from 94 countries. The last time ISBT was held on Canadian soil was in 2002, so an enthusiastic Canadian transfusion community turned up in great numbers. It was especially nice to observe the younger generation of transfusionists who were experiencing ISBT for the first time. I had heard numerous times that the attendance at conferences had been recently dropping because organizations tend to be more short-staffed and budgets are tighter, while more and more content is available online. There is no doubt that a plenary session may sound just as good by a webcast. However, the convenience of a webcast cannot replace the value of impromptu discussions after the sessions, in the hallways and by the posters. This is where true exchange of ideas takes place - and this is why I like to attend in person. I hope that by bringing the ISBT to Toronto, we have given the opportunity to experience ISBT to those who have never been to this congress. The year 2018 marked a very important landmark for transfusion medicine - the 200th anniversary of the first human-to-human

transfusion. To highlight just how far we have come, the closing session featured research on creating an artificial cell. Overall, the scientific program was diverse and stimulating, with some attendees jokingly complaining about too many good conflicting sessions. And, despite unseasonably cold weather, after the sessions, the delegates ventured out to explore the city and its sites. I hope that some made it to at least one of my favourite places in Toronto, as featured in the e-list posted by the LOC. Perhaps, some stopped for a selfie





by the foot of the CN tower or in front of the Toronto sign. A few delegations also visited the nearby teaching hospitals to tour the transfusion laboratories. For Toronto, being a young city and home to a few great hip-hop artists (think Weeknd and Drake), it was fitting to have the opening ceremony MC'ed by a beatboxer. And have you ever wondered about the origins of the ISBT talking stick, which opens and closes each congress with a tap? It was crafted by a Canadian First Nations artist and gifted to the ISBT by the Canadian Society for Transfusion Medicine (CSTM) at the 2002 congress in Vancouver, Canada. Since then, the talking stick has been travelling around the world and in 2018 made its return to Canada. Finally, the closing party against the backdrop of Toronto skyline was an absolute blast. ISBT delegates definitely know how to party! Looking back at the experience of hosting this congress, I wonder if a few things could have been done differently or better. But there is always a next time. With immense gratitude to the ISBT, CSTM, the City of Toronto and my intrepid LOC, I sign off.



Young Professionals Council

1. Chairperson and committee

Chairperson: Arwa Al Riyami, Oman

Secretary: Tyler Hutchinson, USA

Members:

Yanli Ji, Republic of China

John-Paul Tung, Australia

Sophie Uyoga, Kenya

Cecile Toly Ndour, France

Satyam Arora, India

2. Meetings and Telephone conferences

The Council had its first meeting face-to-face during the ISBT Congress in Toronto, June 2018. Up to April 2019 the Council had 9 teleconference meetings (monthly with exception of December 2018).

3. Activities during the period

The council finalized the Council terms of reference. It started its functions by reviewing the metrics of young professionals (YP) involvement in the society's activities and congresses over the last years. This was followed by finalizing its initiatives that were distributed among the Council members for implementation.

In order to identify areas of need for the YP, the council designed an online survey that was circulated to all ISBT members under 40 over a 3 months period (December 5th 2018-Feb 28th 2019). A total of 129 YPs participated in the survey; 60% were ISBT members and 57% were in their first year of membership. Although 85% of the YP participants were satisfied with their membership, the survey results identified several needs for the YP members. This includes the following:

- A mentorship program for YPs
- Expanding the opportunities of membership and congress attendance for YPs from low income countries
- Stronger promotion on the ISBT education application
- Stronger promotion and increased membership opportunities at ISBT working parties
- More workshops tailored to YP during the ISBT congresses
- More social/networking opportunities during the ISBT congresses

In addition, the survey results identified a potential benefit from having a YP forum on the ISBT website and an ISBT Instagram social media account.

The council worked on improving the social media activities for YP members. The council created a special hashtag

(#ISBTYoungBlood) and drafts weekly posts (including video posts done by the Council members) that cover the relevant topics tailored to the YP such as membership benefits, educational activities, upcoming congress events such as workshops and young investigator breakfast. These posts are posted on the ISBT Twitter, facebook and linkedin social media accounts.

As for the ISBT congresses, the council has worked with the ISBT office to highlight the YP activities on the ISBT congress website and in the congress book. The Council is working with the office to highlight the Council's hashtag in the different activities during the congress such as the YP scientific session. Moreover, the pre-and post-survey for the Young investigator breakfast was designed by the council to identify potential areas for improvement. In addition, a speed dating event and a reception tailored to YP at the ISBT booth is planned for the Basel congress as additional social activities for the congress YP attendees. The council is working with the office to have a space near the ISBT booth to meet young members throughout the meeting. The council proposed special buttons to identify YPs in the congress, and is planning to capture and record posts from the YP activities during the ISBT Basel congress to post in the ISBT social media account. New workshop ideas on grant writing and career development were proposed for the ISBT congress in Bangkok. The Council's chairman will present the council activities in its first year to the ISBT board during the congress.

Up to date, the Council has contributed with 2 Transfusion Today articles with the aim of publishing an article every 3 months with contribution from all members. The council is co-hosting with the ISBT Scientific Officer career development webinars as part of the ISBT webinar programme.. The Council chairperson participated in the 8th Anatolian Blood Day meeting in March 2019 as representative for ISBT to present ISBT and the Council's social media activities. The Council has put in plans to participate in finding speakers & mentors for the ISBT Live Journal clubs on a monthly basis with representation from the different WHO regions starting from July 2019. The council has submitted proposals on mentorship, college partnership & scholarship programs for YPs which will be reviewed by the ISBT Board. The council is tracking certain metrics to assess the impact of its initiatives including the number of YP members, number of YP participants in Live Journal clubs and Webinars, number of YP abstract submission at the ISBT congresses, and number of attendees of the different congress activities.

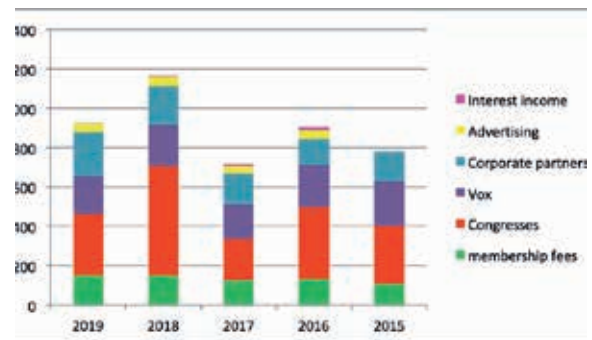
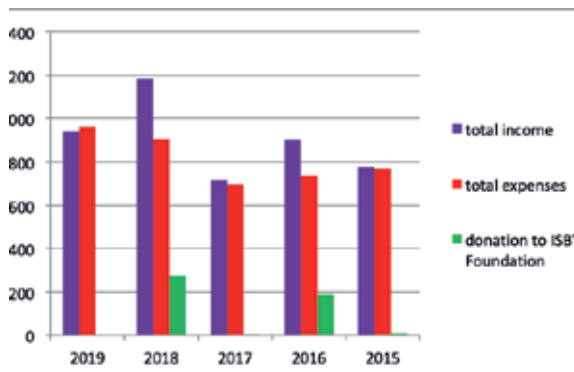
ISBT Treasurer’s report 2018-19



Summary

This financial year the ISBT organised one international congress in Toronto. This means that this fiscal year is a lean year compared to the fat years when we organise 2 regional congresses. The financial result of the congress in Toronto was in line with earlier international congresses. We are very glad that we were able to keep up our number of ISBT members on the high level of December 2017. Our total costs were a little higher so we had a small loss in this fiscal year of € 24.000.

Eric Jansen,
Treasurer

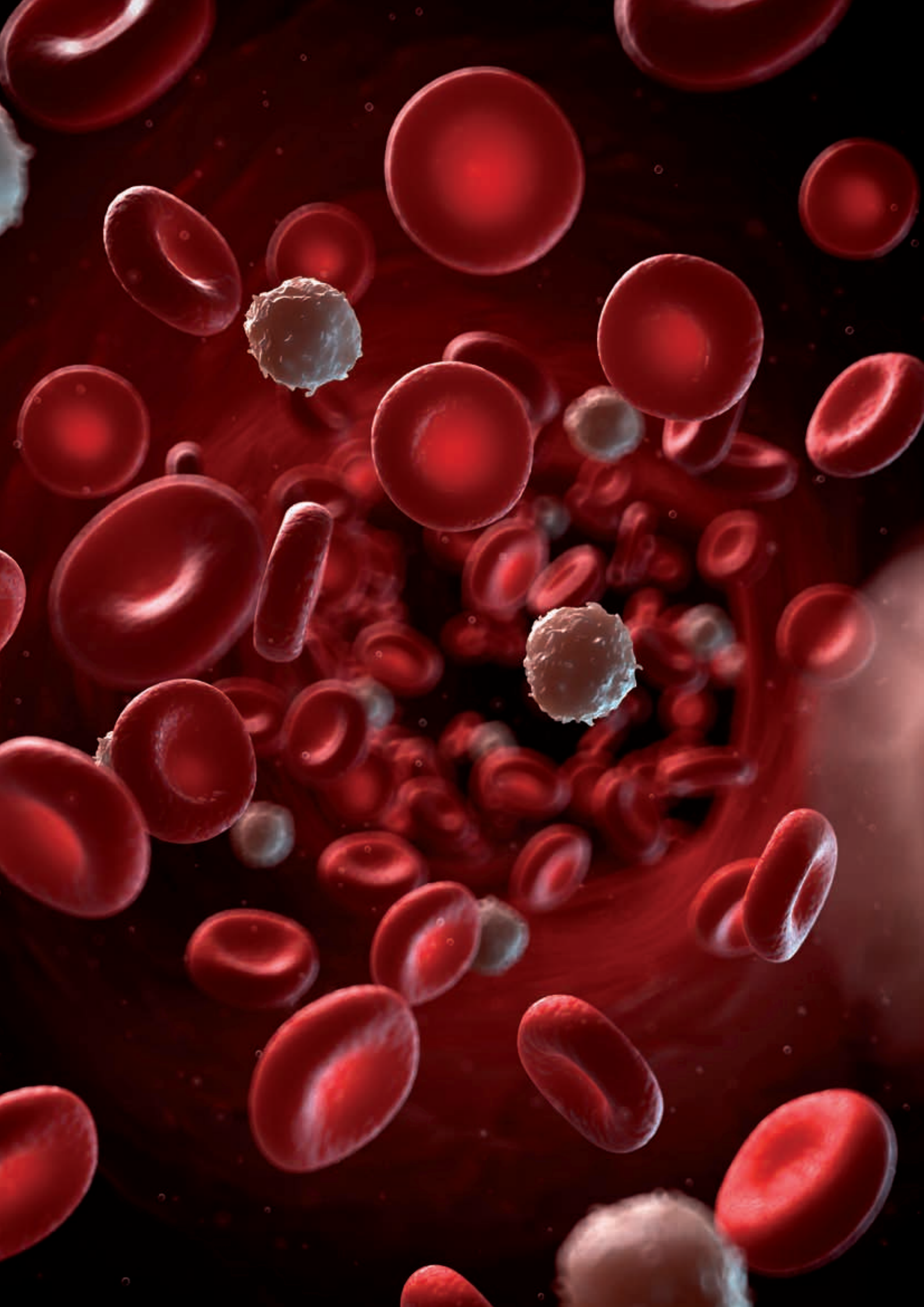


Revenue

The most important revenue of the ISBT stem from the congresses. The congress in Toronto had a high scientific level, we hoped for more attendees from the USA but we had a good financial result (€ 311.000). ISBT is successful in creating more value for our members through increasing our education offering. The result is that we were able maintain the number of members as well as the membership income € 152.000. The royalties from Vox Sanguinis decreased a little to € 194.000 but still higher than the average of the last 5 years. Thanks to the efforts of the ISBT office activities we attracted more corporate partners, our income from this source is € 221.000. 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 the income decreased with € 240.000 compared to the year 2017- 18.

Expenditure

In total the expenses increased with € 55.000. Most cost items are on the same level as last year. The costs of professional expenses increased with € 26.000 mainly because we contracted in 2018 a recruitment agency for selecting the successor of our director of the ISBT. The travel expenses increased with € 50.000, this was already budgeted. Most travel expenses are related to the Board meetings that are held twice a year. The expenses for promotion are lower than last year (€ 44.000) when we invested quite an amount in our website. Funding of Projects and activities increased by € 32.000. Next to our working parties, our most significant expenditure is the ITRYIT program. For many years, the ISBT funded this activity through the TTID Working Party. As the program has grown in size and scope, it was transferred to the ISBT Academy this year.



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

2. Membership information

As at 31 March 2019 the WP had seventeen (17) members representing ten (10) countries.

3. Meetings and E-mail exchanges

One face-to-face business meeting of the ISBT BSM WP was held in Toronto, Canada at the ISBT Congress, on Sunday June 3 2018. It was attended by nine (9) delegates representing six (6) countries. The topics covered were as follows.

- Updated members' list of the WP
- Scope of Working Party (WP) Terms of Reference (ToR)
- Effective cold chain management as a tool for better BSM
- Emergency supply of blood
- BSM Newsletter
- Survey on Blood product wastage in developing countries
- ISBT WP BSM session during the Toronto meeting (main scientific programme)
- Other project suggestions for WP BSM: Good practices in BSM
- Next meeting

Following the congress in Toronto, there were a couple of e-mail exchanges between the Chairperson and Working party members with respect to communications from the ISBT Central office for contributions requested from each Working Party e.g. 'How-do-I', case studies and ISBT forum post every three (3) months.

In addition there were e-mail exchanges between members of a sub-committee of the ISBT BSM WP working on the second international survey on blood product wastage.

4. Activities during the period

The main achievement of the ISBT BSM WP during the period is as follows.

The second international survey on blood wastage in low and middle income (developing) countries

The outcome of the survey was presented and discussed at the ISBT WP BSM Business meeting held during the ISBT Congress in Toronto, Canada on June 3 2018. Subsequently the draft article was presented at the scientific session of the ISBT WP BSM at the Toronto congress on Tuesday June 5 2018. It is the hope of the ISBT WP BSM that the final article will be submitted in April 2019 for publication as part of the ISBT Science Series Edition on Whole Blood.

5. Finance

The working party required no financial support for its activities

Cellular Therapy Working Party



Mickey Koh, Chairperson

1. Chairperson and committee

Chairperson: Mickey Koh, UK and Singapore

Committee:

Vice Chair: Peter Horn, Germany

Secretary: Christian Gabriel, Austria

Treasurer: Reinhardt Henschler, Germany

2. Membership information

The mailing list consists of 40 persons including the committee. The numbers have remained steady and this is expected as the working party sits slightly outside mainstream Transfusion Medicine. There are also several other competing cell therapy organisations that individuals may be more inclined to as there are focused entirely on cell therapy. Encouragingly, there is worldwide representation including from Europe, Asia, Africa, N America, South America and Australia.

3. Meetings and Telephone conferences

A workshop, partly sponsored by AABB and ISBT on human Platelet Lysates (HPL) was held in Zurich over 2 days March 2018. This was a very successful small group meeting involving experts in the field, regulators and commercial manufacturers. There were more than 50 delegates and the meeting generated extremely positive responses

A working party meeting was held during the ISBT congress in Toronto, June 2018

Numerous tele-conferences; fortnightly or monthly were held amongst the executive committee plus 2 others (Thierry Burnof and Katharina Schallmoser) mainly for the planning of the Zurich workshop and post workshop, for the consensus guidelines and scientific paper generated from the workshop.

The teleconferences (10) also included discussion on topics/speakers for the ISBT congress as well as the planning of a future workshop on serum eye drops to be held in Vienna October 2019.

4. Activities during the period

1. Organising a successful Human Platelet Lysate workshop Zurich 2018 (all done within the WP)
2. Scientific paper titled: "Human Platelet Lysates: Current Standards and Future Developments" was published in *Transfusion* and represented the output from the workshop
3. Commencement of planning for a workshop on Serum Eyedrops in October 2019
4. ISBT was invited to participate in an Exosome meeting held in March 2018 in Singapore. This was organised by ISEV (International Society of Extracellular Vesicles) and also attended by International Society of Cell therapy (ISCT). This meeting consisted of experts in the field trying to establish standards and definitions for Exosomes and such extracellular vesicles, increasingly important in medical therapeutics. A draft manuscript has been written and submitted for peer reviewed publication.

5. 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
6. The Working Party has responded to official requests for suggestions/contributions for the annual congress in Toronto 2018.
7. The Executive Committee met face to face in Amsterdam at the ISBT offices to plan the 2019 activities for the WP.

5. Finances

The Working Party received financial support for an interim business meeting

Clinical Transfusion Working Party



Cynthia So-Osman, Chairperson

1. Chairperson and committee

Chair: Cynthia So-Osman, the Netherlands
Vice-chair: Mark Yazer, USA

2. Membership information

Currently, the Clinical Transfusion Working Party has 52 members representing 22 countries from 6 continents. Our Transfusion Practitioners (TP) subgroup has 5 steering members.

Our Pediatric subgroup increased to 8 members and is slowly expanding.

3. Meetings and Telephone conferences

The WP had two business meetings, one in January 2019 (interim business meeting in Amsterdam), in which a selected group of 13 members, mostly subgroup leaders, were invited, of which two joined by teleconference, and one at the Toronto congress with participation of 25 members, including some observers. 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:

1. An International Forum survey on prehospital blood management has been sent out and the results were published (1).
2. 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 developed.
3. E learning module for Transfusion Certificate (collaboration with EBA): a pilot module on Adverse Transfusion Reactions has been developed and will

be finalized and launched in Mid 2019 on the ISBT website. This module received funding from ISBT and EBA.

4. Transfusion Practitioner subgroup: The fourth TP network meeting was organized during the Toronto congress, which also included a TP session in the program. Articles published on the role of the TP in PBM (2), Disaster Planning (3) and TP networking breakfast (4). An international TP survey was undertaken with excellent response rate, the results will be published in 2019. Two members presented ISBT webinar and participated in International Consensus Conference on Patient Blood Management in Frankfurt.
5. Paediatric subgroup: The Toronto congress program included a face-to-face meeting and a Paediatric Transfusion session, which resulted in new membership. The subgroup have developed surveys which will shortly be piloted looking at the uptake of PBM in neonates and children. The first steps of combining with the paediatric special interest group of the Haemovigilance WP were made. A collaboration with BLOODNET (Pediatric critical care blood research network) has started and the group presented at the September 2018 BloodNet meeting. The subgroup have published several papers (5, 6).
6. WHO Clinical Use of Blood Handbook: our WP (including TP group) is actively involved in the update of the Handbook. This project is almost finalized.
7. Epidemiology course: a joint collaboration with the "I Try it" program of the TTID WP was continued. Three members from the Clinical WP are Mentors in the program.
8. The live Journal Clubs (JCs) were continued: in 2018-2019 7 JCs have been finalized.

9. ICC-PBM congress: several members actively participated in the PBM consensus conference (April 2018, Frankfurt), which resulted in a joint publication (7)
10. Wikipedia project: under development and progressing: this subgroup to provide and update content for the Wikipedia website regarding Transfusion Medicine.
11. A WHO/ISBT proposal to perform a survey on worldwide availability of blood on World Blood donor Day 2019 is being prepared.

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5. Finances

The Working Party received financial support for an interim business meeting

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

45 members from 28 countries

3. Meetings and Telephone conferences

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

4. Activities during the period

Welcoming new WPDD members
Providing suggestions for the ISBT Basel 2019 Academy
Day Donors and Donation session
Activities on the Forum
Attending and presentations at congresses regarding transfusion medicine and Blood Donation in Teheran, Iran and Kiev, Ukraine
Distributing and answering surveys relevant for the working party.

5. Finances

The working party required no financial support for its activities

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

2. Membership information

The WP has a total of 51 Members and they come from 25 different countries.

3. Meetings and telephone conferences

The working party had a business meeting during the Toronto meeting when the present organizing committee was elected. Since the organizing committee had organized three 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 (3 teleconferences); Plasma for fractionation and local produced viral inactivated cryo (1? teleconference) and Voluntary vs replacement donation (1 teleconference) and transfusion need vs demand.

The subgroup plasma and locally produced cryo has developed two recommendation papers with a focus on low resource settings. The first recommendation is on locally produced pathogen reduced/inactivated cryo and the other on plasma for fractionation. Both recommendations were approved by the committee and published on the WP webpage.

The subgroup of harmonization has started a project to compare and contrast a selection of available standards. Activities of the two other subgroups: voluntary vs replacement donation and need vs demand are still in a developing phase.

5. Finances

The Working Party received support to cover office costs.

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, 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

A meeting of the Granulocyte Immunobiology Working Party took place at the European Symposium on Granulocytes and Platelets meeting on May 24, 2018, at Reehorst, The Netherlands. 55 people participated. The results of workshop 2017 were presented by Angelika Reil. Peter Höglund reported the results of the workshop in 2018.

Regulation of CD177 expression on the neutrophil surface

The new publication about the molecular background of the differential CD177 expression on neutrophils was discussed by Claudia Grabowski (Germany). To confirm these results the instruction for a multi-center study was proposed by Behnaz Bayat. A month later this instruction as PowerPoint file was forwarded to participants. Data of international collaboration for the evaluation of the CD177*787A>T mutation frequencies in the cohort of CD177-negative individuals was presented by Brigitte Flesch. Peter Höglund presented his data explaining the establishment of a Pro-LL-37 (hCAP-18) ELISA.

4. Activities during the period

The GIWP business meeting in Reehorst provided an opportunity to discuss the workshop results and also to implant the new rules and regulations to improve the future workshops. The minutes of this meeting are available on the GIWP webpage.

In additions, the presented talks in this meeting promote the members to investigate the new finding regarding CD177 regulation in their laboratories and communicate with other colleagues.

In this period, one application from Austria (Prof. Körmöczi) for participation at the IGIW was received and after discussion in the steering committee, was accepted.

5. Finances

The working party required no financial support for its activities

Haemovigilance Working Party



Kevin Land, Chairperson

1. Chairperson and committee

Chair: Kevin Land, USA

Committee:

- Secretary: Maria Antonia Escoval, Portugal
- Treasurer: Jean-Claude Faber, Luxembourg
- Donor Vigilance Coordinator: Karin Magnussen, Norway
- Recipient Vigilance Coordinator: vacant
- Past Chair: Johanna (Jo) Wiersum-Osselton, the Netherlands
Erica Wood, Australia (ex-officio, president of the International Haemovigilance Network).

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	2019	2018
Corporate Partner	5	4
Full Member	78	75
Observer	25	28
Visitor	22	22
Inactive/Mailing List Only	29	35
Total	159	164

Current Corporate vendor partners include Arnaud Reggiani and Stephane Bombard from Bio-Rad; Jerry Holmberg and Xiomei Zhu from Grifols; and Marica Cardoso from TerumoBCT.

3. Meetings and Telephone conferences

The committee held 5 teleconferences to discuss working party projects related to the validation of the Donor Haemovigilance consensus criteria and updating the TACO criteria.

The annual working meeting was held during the Toronto 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 progress on TACO definition revisions and next steps, update on TRALI definitions, and status of the paediatric HV subgroup. During the Donor Vigilance Subsection, the group discussed updates on donor iron status, globally harmonized definitions, update on joint ISBT-AABB work on standardization of Donor AE severity scoring, and possible future topics. The General Session had discussions about the meeting in Copenhagen, 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). Also, the group was informed about a new informal collaboration, called DEXTOR (Data Exchange in Transfusion, Open Resource) who is trying to help develop a standardized dictionary that local/regional terminology could be mapped to and thus help in the sharing of information.

4. Activities during the period

Recipient haemovigilance subgroup

- Continued to work on finalising TACO definition and submitting a manuscript, which was recently accepted to Lancet Haematology. Jo Wiersum (ISBT), Barbee Whitaker (AABB), and Kevin Land (ISBT/IHN) led the international group.
- A parallel group was pulled together by researchers to update the research definition of TRALI. Although not technically an HV WP project, Paula Bolton-Maggs served as liaison between the TACO revision group and the TRALI group. A manuscript has also been published and currently there is work to provide write ups of both projects in an upcoming ISBT Transfusion Today.

Donor haemovigilance subgroup

- A joint ISBT-AABB task force has been working on standardising Donor Severity reporting. Recently, an international exercise was completed. The results are pending. Hopefully, an update will be given at the 2019 meeting in Basel.

Collaboration with IT and Traceability Working Party

- The HV WP was asked to participate/comment on their project to create a formal definition of Traceability. Comments/Suggestions were sent to M Breard.

Collaboration with related organizations

- ISBT and AABB held a successful joint session featuring HV topics including TACO at the 2018 AABB meeting in Boston.

Finances

The Working Party received support to cover office costs.

Immunohaematology Working Party



Thierry Peyrard, Chairperson

1. Chairperson and committee

Chairperson:	Thierry Peyrard, France
Vice Chair:	Nicole Thornton, UK
Secretary:	Sofia Lejon Crottet, Switzerland
Treasurer:	Mostafa Moghaddam, Iran
Chair Emeritus:	Sandra Nance, USA

2. Membership information

The full Working Party membership is currently 25 ISBT members, with 16 countries represented and 5 continents (North America 3, Europe 11, Africa 2, Asia 8, and Australia 1).

3. Meetings and Telephone conferences

The official meeting of the Working Party took place on June 2nd 2018 in the afternoon (15:00-18:30). 13 members (including 4 members of the Executive Committee) attended along with three liaison members (Chair of the Working Party on Rare Donors and Co-Chairs of the Working Party on Red Cell Immunogenetics and Blood Group Terminology) and 29 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 current draft of Terms of References, review of the list of new applicants, report on past and future activities (especially an update on case studies in immunohaematology available on the ISBT Working Party website), and presentation by the members of a survey entitled “immunohaematological follow-up in pregnancy” followed by an interactive discussion. More information about the content of this meeting is available in the minutes.

Six members (Thierry Peyrard, Nicole Thornton, Sandra Nance, Mostafa Moghaddam, Jenny White and Franz Wagner) along with Margaret Keller (member of the Executive Committee of the Working Party on Red Cell Immunogenetics and Blood Group Terminology, Secretary) met in Toronto after the official Working Party Meeting, on June 3rd 2018 in the evening (18:00-23:00), to discuss about the strategic development plans of the Working Party and topics to be proposed at the Basel ISBT Congress in 2019, especially for the Academy Day program.

A 2-day meeting of the full Executive Committee along with one member (Jenny White) was organised in Paris, France, in January 2019 (January 31st and February 1st). This was a highly productive meeting, especially dedicated to writing the final version of the Terms of References and to a follow-up work on current actions and future projects of the Working Party, including a thorough review of all potential new applicants.

4. Activities during the period

- a) Publication of cases studies in immunohaematology on the ISBT Website. Each working party member is requested to propose a case study, for education purpose (a case study template was developed and made available by the Working Party Executive Committee). Sandy Nance followed up the schedule of volunteer authors for 2018 and a new schedule for 2019 was established at the Working Party meeting in Toronto. 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 in 2017 and 3 in 2018, available for ISBT members exclusively. Several other case studies are currently under review and expected to be published online by June 2019.

- b) Finalisation of the Working Party Terms of Reference, published online in February 2019 on the ISBT Working Party website, in order to plan the voting process for new applicants, to be scheduled before the Basel ISBT Congress in June 2019
- c) Contribution to the ISBT Community Forum (submission of one topic open to discussion and debate: Antibody screening versus serological crossmatch).
- d) Additional publications in the Immunohematology 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) 29th Regional Congress of the ISBT, Basel, Switzerland, June 2019: Building and proposal of a session for the ISBT Academy Day, with potential speakers' names, entitled "Transfusion challenges in patients with sickle cell disease". The session's theme was accepted as such, along with all suggested presentations and most proposed speakers.

5. Finances

The Working Party received funding for an interim business meeting

Information Technology Working Party



Pat Distler, Chairperson

1. Chairperson and committee

Executive Committee:

Chair:	Pat Distler, USA
Vice Chair:	Goudar Shankar, USA
Secretary:	Mónica Freire, USA
Validation Task Force Chair:	Jan-Willem Andriessen, the Netherlands
Traceability Task Force Chair:	Michael Breard, USA
RFID Task Force Chair:	Wayne Bolton, Australia
Interface Task Force Chair:	Linda Lodge, UK
ICCBBA TAG Representative:	Mario Muon, Portugal

2. Membership information

There are 40 voting members from the following countries: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Ethiopia, Finland, France, India, Norway, Pakistan, Portugal, Singapore, Spain, Switzerland, the Netherlands, UK, USA, and Zimbabwe.

3. Meetings and Telephone conferences

There were 6 conference calls (1 for Traceability Task Force, 2 for the Interface Task Force, 1 for the Assembly, and 2 for the Executive Committee). There were six face-to-face meetings during the Toronto meeting (Traceability, Validation, RFID, and Interface Task Forces, plus the Assembly and Executive Committee Task Forces). There were two face-to-face meetings in Amsterdam in October 2018 (Validation and Traceability Task Forces).

4. Activities during the period

- 1. Interface Task Force:** This task force worked on the issue of how the Interface Standard would be maintained and further developed. There was correspondence with the ISBT Board on this issue, but as yet no resolution.
- 2. RFID Task Force:** The chair of the task force moved from Lynne Briggs (USA) to Wayne Bolton (Australia). During the meeting in Toronto, why RFID is not “catching on” was discussed. The most cogent response seemed to be: “I have many urgent problems that I must solve as an IT leader. Bar codes work fine for me so there is little incentive for me to invest my time and resources in solving a problem that doesn’t really exist. Although RFID may bring some efficiencies that bar codes do not provide, it is not enough of an improvement to move RFID to the top of my queue.” It also seemed that those most interested in RFID for blood centers/transfusion services may be the vendors selling the solutions. The task force needs to further discuss whether it should continue at this time given the apparent lack of enthusiasm from some blood centers and transfusion services.

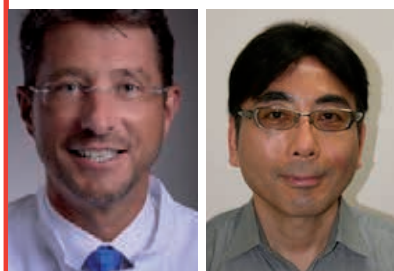
3. Traceability: This task force is working on a guidance document to help members determine appropriate policies for traceability. The group has written 4 sections for this guidance (Introduction & scope, data migration, traceability audits, and archiving).

4. Validation: The task force is updating a 2010 guidance on validation. The major changes will include a greater emphasis on qualification of infrastructure. The group has written or updated the following sections of the guidance: Backup and restore, change control, disaster recovery, fixes and updates, IT infrastructure components, periodic review, qualification of virtual computerized systems, and supplier qualification.

5. Finances

The Working Party received funding for an interim business meeting

Platelet Immunobiology Working Party



Ulrich J. Sachs (left)
Nelson H. Tsuno (right), Chairpersons

1. Chairperson and committee

Chairpersons: Ulrich J. Sachs, Germany and Nelson H. Tsuno, Japan.

2. Membership information

The committee currently has 26 active members representing 15 countries from the Americas, Europe, Asia, and Australia.

3. Meetings and Telephone conferences

A business meeting was held during the ISBT Congress in Toronto, Canada, on June 1st, 2018, with 19 attendees. Three new subcommittees were installed: Asian Regional Platelet Working Party, Subcommittee on Clinical Guidance, and Subcommittee on Quality.

4. Activities during the period

The Working Party as a whole has restructured the homepage. A list of all members is available there.

The Asian Regional Platelet Working Party, chaired by Nelson H. Tsuno and Ulrich J. Sachs, organized a platelet training course in Tokyo on March 16-17, which was held together with Hitoshi Okazaki (Tokyo, Japan) and the Japanese Platelet and Granulocyte Workshop, and co-sponsored by the ISBT. Thirtyseven people from 18 institutions in 9 Asian countries participated. The practicum covered MAIPA technology and the platelet

immunofluorescence test. The lectures covered the importance of CD36 in Asia, MAIPA pitfalls, detection of HPA-3 alloantibodies, and drug-dependent and autoantibody detection methods. The Asian Regional Platelet Working Party will organize a bi-annual regional workshops, and has installed a local organizing committee with Yongshui Fu (Guangzhou, China), Park Kyoung Un (Seoul, South Korea), Hitoshi Okazaki (Tokyo, Japan), and Pawinee Kupatawintu (Bangkok, Thailand).

A Subcommittee on Quality in Platelet Immunology was established and is chaired by Brian Curtis (Milwaukee, WI, USA). It actively supports the Working Party in the preparation and release of recommendations on platelet testing and is also be actively involved in the preparation, execution and evaluation of the biannual Platelet Immunology Workshop.

A Subcommittee on Clinical Guidance in Platelet Immunology was established, which is chaired by Tamam Bakchoul (Tuebingen, Germany). It will develop diagnostic and clinical pathways and recommendations for areas in which immunological platelet disorders affect patient care. It is currently harmonizing an international recommendation for the diagnosis of fetal-neonatal alloimmune thrombocytopenia (FNAIT).

5. Finances

The Working Party received financial support for a platelet workshop.

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

18 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 Members:

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

Cooperating Partners:

International Plasma Fractionation Association (IPFA)
EuBIS Academy

3. Meetings and telephone conferences

Business Meeting at the ISBT conference in Toronto with the following topics:

- Working Group on Harmonisation of Definitions
- Status report – Quality Indicators
- Update on Training – Seminar ISBT Academy Award in Vietnam / ISBT regional congress in Guangzhou
- Project on Error and Event Management

Election of chairman of the working party by the members. 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 released March 2018 (Tomislav Vuk) and the subgroup harmonization of definitions (Lesley Bust). For the extended version the following reference sources have been used:

- EuBIS Academy
- ISBT Haemovigilance Working Party
- AABB Standards of Practice
- AfSBT Standards of Practice
- WHO Documents

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 to be organised during the ISBT conference in Bangkok, Thailand. This training seminar will be organised in cooperation with the EuBIS Academy and IPFA. 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.

Preparing reports related to the activity of the working party that have been published in the April Issue of Transfusion Today 2018.

Co-operation with WP-Global Blood Safety (Martin Schmid und Silvano Wendel) with support mail/cross-references in the design of a Survey on Global Blood Safety .

Organising the Working Party session during the Academy Day of the 35th International Congress of the ISBT, Toronto, June 2- 6, 2018 with the title: 'Quality management - more pro's than con's'.

- The principles of data collection and analysis in achieving an effective quality management system in blood establishments
- GMP in collection practices of blood components and source plasma for fractionation – the IPFA experience.
- Self-inspection and audits based on GMP and GPG preparing for regulatory inspections – the EuBIS experience.
- 'Building Quality Awareness in Developing Countries'. – The African Society of Blood Transfusion (AFSBT)

Activities related to the ISBT website for education (project on quality indicators):

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

Articles published in the ISBT Science Series.

- Self-Inspection and classification of non-compliances. Qiu Y, Vuk T, Bust L, Strengers P, Seidl C. ISBT Science Series (2018), p1-5, version accepted 9.11.2017 Article ID: VOXS12402, Article DOI: 10.1111/voxs.12402, Internal Article ID: 14782794 ISBT Science Series 2018
- Quality monitoring and risk assessment in blood transfusion services. Vuk T, Qiu Y, Bust L, Strengers P, Seidl C. ISBT Science Series (2018), Article ID: VOXS12418 Article DOI: 10.1111/voxs.12418 Internal Article ID: 14993411 revised version accepted 16. January 2018

5. Finances

The Working Party received support to cover office costs.

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 32 members representing 24 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 WHO International Rare Donor Panel (IRDP).

3. Meetings and Telephone conferences

A meeting of the WPRD was held at the 35th International Congress of the ISBT in Toronto in 2018. Twenty-five members (or their delegates), fourteen guests and industry representatives from Grifols and Immucor attended. Meeting topics included, but were not limited to, ways to increase community awareness of the form for international reporting of outcomes in patients receiving incompatible transfusions so as to collect valuable clinical data and the possibility of developing a centralized data base; challenges associated with the transportation of rare blood (especially for international shipments) and survey results of the use of

international couriers. Suggestions for topics for the ISBT Academy and the ISBT Forum were discussed. A report on the activities and condition of the IRDP was presented, followed by discussion about the proposed upgrade of the IRDP web page and the procedure for initiating an international rare blood search. Also discussed were web page updates with presentations and publications on rare blood topics, and a review of countries who are involved in rare blood activities but are not represented on the working party. Short presentations were made by all members regarding the acceptability of frozen/thawed red blood cells to fulfil rare blood needs with a focus on the methods used to freeze and recover the red cells, as well as the related quality control and regulatory requirements. 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 Toronto meeting, a forum to exchange information between those who freeze, thaw and ship units was initiated, and contact information was shared. The "Antibody Identification Card for Patients" was finalized and is now posted on the WP web page. Six WP members contributed articles to the June 2018 edition of *Transfusion Today* which focused on different aspects of the provision of rare blood. In addition, the activities of the WP members each year are to focus on adding rare donors to the IRDP, and to facilitate that the domestic and international needs of patients for rare blood are met.

5. Finances

The Working Party required no financial support for its activities

Red Cell Immunogenetics and Blood Group Terminology Working Party



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

1. Chairperson and committee

Chairpersons: Christoph Gassner, Switzerland,
Catherine Hyland, Australia

Committee

Vice Chair and

Board Liaison: Lilian Castilho, Brazil

Secretary: Margaret Keller, USA

Treasurer: Thierry Peyrard, France

Other positions:

Sub-Committee Frederik Banch Clausen, Denmark

Past Chair Jill Storry, Sweden

2. Membership information

The Red Cell Immunogenetics and Blood Group Terminology Working Party (WP) comprises 25 members, representing 14 countries.

New Members

Frederik Banch Clausen was elected as a member of the WP in April 2018. He has expressed a specific interest in setting up a subsection of the WP to focus on cell-free DNA (cfDNA) testing with regard to blood group antigen prediction. This decision was taken following the recommendation by the ISBT board of directors that such a section would be best placed in this WP. The membership was in agreement with this proposition.

Since the ISBT congress in Toronto, two new members, William (Bill) Lane and Åsa Hellberg, have been elected into the Terminology WP in accordance with the Terms of Reference. Bill has combined expertise within molecular pathology, transfusion medicine and (bio)informatics; Åsa brings combined expertise in blood group immunogenetics and in the emerging field of cell-free DNA technologies for fetal blood group typing.

3. Meetings and Telephone conferences

- a. The Business Meeting was held at the 35th ISBT International Congress in Toronto with 21 members attending. Topics included the election of Co-chairs and new committee members as well as acceptance of new blood group antigens.
- b. A Blood Group Genomics workshop meeting was held in at the ISBT Office/Sanguin in Amsterdam December 10-12, 2018. It was attended by 10 WP members and 3 invited guests. Topics covered
 - 1) the structure of a Database to Table all the Blood Group alleles and
 - 2) the current allele naming (nomenclature) system.
- c. Six formal email reports to all WP members:
 - i. One summary update before the workshop advising of plans
 - ii. One after the workshop providing detailed summary of workshop
 - iii. One advising of seven step plan to revise Tables
 - iv. Individual Tables sent to respective Table owners for update
 - v. Request for feedback on a proposal regarding Blood Group System assignments
 - vi. Report on the result for new assignments.
- d. Emails/telephone calls to members as required e.g. from workshop
- e. Weekly telephone calls between Co-Chairs on above topics

4. Activities during the period

Harmonisation with International Genomic Groups:

An active project to harmonise all Blood Group Genes with the LRG was established by the Past Chair, Jill Storry who continued to liaise with the LRG on behalf of the WP.

Business Meeting:

A report of the proceedings of the meeting in Toronto was included in a report prepared by Jill Storry et al and which has now been published in the journal *Vox Sanguinis*: January 2019 Pages 95-102. Volume 114, Issue 1.

The report shows that the current total of blood group antigens recognized by the ISBT is 360, of which 322 are clustered within 36 blood group systems.

The conclusion of the meeting saw the Chair hand over from Jill Storry to the new Co-Chairs Catherine Hyland and Christoph Gassner. A sincere vote of thanks was given to Jill for her contribution to the WP as Chair over the last 8 years.

Blood Group Genomics Workshop:

The activities from the Blood Group Genomics Workshop meeting, referred to above, are now providing a road map to guide the way forward. A Protocol approved by the attendees is attached to this report.

Briefly, activities included expert presentations from attendees on an "ideal" ISBT Blood Group team groups prepared a list of template headings for the "Tables" that would link with a database. The need for a standard format, and additional information e.g. frequency for different populations, clinical significance, original literature references, gene bank "accession" numbers was noted.

Activities also included talks on the blood group allele naming system (referred to as "Star Alleles") and how to adapt this terminology to the expected rapid numerical growth in allele reports in the future. This was a very lively debate with regard to representing the diverse and complex array of blood group alleles in structural, descriptive and alignment formats.

Finally, two 'breakout groups' mapped the way forward, defining pathways for two 'Projects' as follows:

1. Project 1: Review / reformat existing Blood Group Tables: including preparing the Tables with the template format to link with a future database.
2. Project 2: Build a database: It is recommended that the database is prepared by a volunteer project leader.

Update of the Blood Group System Assignments

The list for contact persons assigned to each Blood Group System has recently been updated. Each Blood Group System and the two Transcription Factors currently listed under the Blood Group Allele Tables are now covered by a responsible Terminology WP committee member. New assignments are going to be updated within April 2019 on the Terminology WP homepage.

Acknowledgements – The Co-Chairs thank the Board for supporting these endeavours. The Co-chairs also wish to thank the Executive Director, Judith Chapman and all the ISBT office staff. We are very appreciative of the support and advice that Judith and the ISBT office are providing. Finally we would like to thank all the Working Party Members. It is a pleasure and exciting to work with everyone.

5. Finances

The Working Party received funding for a meeting of experts to discuss terminology databases and needs.

Transfusion Transmitted Infectious Diseases Working Party



Michael P. Busch, Chairperson

1. Chairperson and committee

Chair:	Michael Busch, USA:
Vice Chair:	Clive Seed, Australia:
Secretary:	Brian Custer, USA:
Treasurer:	Marian Vermeulen, South Africa:
Corporate Member Representative:	Stefan Reichenberg, Germany:
Individual Member Representative:	Magdy El Ekiaby, Egypt:
	and Carl McDonald, UK

2. Membership information

Our membership brings together scientific experts, company representatives and members from leading institutions in the fields of blood safety and infectious diseases. The WP-TTID has 168 members (including 43 corporate members) from 44 countries. The WP consists of five subgroups with coordinators listed below:

1. Surveillance, Risk Assessment and Policy (SRAP)
Coordinators: Sheila O'Brien, Brian Custer
2. Virology
Coordinators: Jose Levi, Helen Faddy
3. Bacteria
Coordinators: Sandra Ramirez, Carl McDonald
4. Parasites
Coordinators: David Leiby, Evan Bloch, Silvano Wendel
5. TSE (merged into SRAP effective January 2019)
Coordinators: Luisa Gregori, Whitney Steele

3. Activities during the period

SRAP Subgroup

The focus of SRAP is methodology for mathematical modelling of risk, and application of surveillance and risk assessment to policy formulation. Surveillance data

(donor, patient and general population) are fundamental to quantitative risk assessment and evidence based policy formulation. Quantitative risk assessment aims to estimate as accurately as possible the probability of an event occurring (such as releasing an infectious unit of blood into inventory). A SRAP team is currently evaluating mathematical models to predict HIV risk after reducing the deferral period for male-to-male sex to 1 year. Following the change of deferral period in England and Canada with more than a year observation, the model can be validated by comparing predicted with actual incidence. The team is modifying the model to predict risk for shorter deferral periods, and other strategies: alternative risk questioning (e.g. not asking about male-to-male [MSM] history) or removing the MSM criteria with plasma product quarantine and retest or with use of pathogen reduction technology.

Projects:

1. MSM Risk Modelling: A hybrid model of the English and Canadian models had been developed, and this year the manuscript was completed and submitted to Vox Sanguinis. Risk estimates for a 3 month MSM deferral in Canada were finalized early in the year, and used in the Canadian submission to change the MSM deferral to 3 months (outcome pending). A draft manuscript has been prepared. A new researcher at Héma-Québec (Antoine Lewin) received a grant to carry out modelling to estimate risk with relaxed MSM criteria and pathogen reduced products. He is not yet an ISBT member, but is working with the modelling team as the project can be aligned with the work. Funding was received for face-to-face meeting to coincide with the 2019 and 2020 ISBT meetings.
2. Parasitology sub-group collaboration: Two manuscripts were accepted for publication.
3. Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies: This work

group has become part of SRAP.

4. Virology sub-group collaboration: SRAP has been involved in discussion with the Virology sub-group on a NAT survey which is still in the development stages.
5. Hepatitis B Virus Project: data from different countries is still being collected on hepatitis B incidence for the purpose of modelling transient antigenaemia.
6. Cost-utility Analysis Webtool: This tool was designed to assess costs and consequences of different blood screening interventions for HIV, HBV, and HCV. This TTID-funded tool continues to be used, and in particular is being used as a part of the University of Groningen international training in blood safety policy. Currently, there are 12 registered users of the tool.

Virology Subgroup

The Virology Subgroup focuses on viral agents that may be transmitted by blood transfusion. Although great advances have been accomplished in relation to the “classic” viral triad HBV-HCV-HIV, risk remains in particular settings or for emerging issues, and for viruses that have more recently been shown to be transfusion-transmitted. The Subgroup holds regular conference calls to identify new project ideas and discuss progress on research activities, including: a) HBV vaccine breakthrough infections among blood donors; b) an update on NAT practices worldwide; and c) a review of international practices for eye drops and other autologous plasma products. Other areas that may be investigated include a review of emerging infectious disease management practices globally, and whether there is a need to maintain anti-HCV with implementation of ID NAT.

Bacteria Subgroup

The Bacteria Subgroup (BS) undertakes activities focused on the enhancement of blood safety and dissemination of knowledge on new developments. Currently, the BS is coordinating three projects:

- 1) generation of a repository of bacterial strains for Red Blood Cells; experimental work has been finalized and an abstract has been submitted for presentation at the 2019 ISBT Congress; 2) production of a repository of bacterial strains for platelet concentrates in a lyophilized format (Bioballs); the work plan is in progress and the study is targeted to start in the spring of 2019; and, 3) studying the effect on the quality and safety of thawed plasma upon room temperature excursions; experimental work has been finalized and an abstract has been submitted for presentation at the 2019 ISBT Congress. The BS publication initiatives for 2018-2019 comprised 1) a Congress Report summarizing the presentations given during the Meeting of the TTID WP associated to the 2017 ISBT Congress (Copenhagen), which is in press in the ISBT Sciences Series; and, 2) three reviews on key bacterial issues to be submitted to Vox Sanguinis for sequential publication.

Parasite Subgroup

The Parasite Subgroup strives to further research related to TTPs, conducts reviews of current practices and policies with regular updates of any innovation or development to mitigate risk of TTPs. The Subgroup conducts quarterly calls to review progress and brainstorm new ideas. More frequent communication is guided by the individual members related to ongoing projects. In addition, updating of the Subgroup's activities is conducted annually or biannually at ISBT congresses. During the past year the Subgroup published an international survey on the impact of parasitic infections in the January issue of Vox Sang (2019;114:17-27) and collaborated with the SRAP Subgroup on a manuscript investigating malaria policy in non-endemic countries (in press, Blood Transfusion). Currently the Subgroup is pursuing two projects, 1) an evaluation of *Trypanosoma cruzi* mitigation strategies in non-endemic countries, and 2) the potential impact of newly developed assays for malaria testing.

Publications

1. Leiby DA, O'Brien SF, Wendel S, Nguyen ML, Delage G, Devare SG, Hardiman A, Nakhasi HL, Sauleda S, Bloch EM. International study on the impact of parasitic infections: frequency of transmission and current mitigation strategies. *Vox Sanguinis* 2018;114:17-27.
2. O'Brien SF, Ward S, Gallian P, Fabra C, Pillonel J, Kitchen AD, Davison K, Seed CR, Delage G, Steele WR, Leiby DA. Malaria blood safety policy in five non-endemic countries: A retrospective comparison through the lens of the risk based decision making framework. 2019 Blood Transfusion in press
3. Davison KL, Gregoire Y, Germain M, Custer B, O'Brien SF, Steele WR, Pillonel J, Seed CR. Changing the deferral for men who have sex with men – an improved model to estimate HIV risk submitted

5. Finances

The Working party received financial support for a meeting and two projects.



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
Gwen Clarke, Canada
Lilian Castilho, Brazil
Veera Nadarajan, Malaysia
Jenny White, UK
Maha Badawi, Saudi Arabia
Rajendra Chaudhary, India

During the period of this report Erica Wood (ISBT Senior Vice-president, Australia) and Salwa Hindawi (Saudi Arabia) 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.

Maha Badawi (Saudi Arabia) was 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 John Semple, ISBT Scientific Secretary, and Geoff Daniels, Chair of the ISBT Foundation Board.

2. Meetings and Telephone conferences

The academy Standing Committee met in person at the Toronto international congress in June 2018. The following topics were addressed:

- ISBT Strategic Plan (focus on education)
- Update on ISBT Academy activities including Academy events and ISBT e-portal

- 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 Basel (June 2019) and Bangkok (November 2019)
- Proposal for a Academy editorial/publication committee

Other activities were conducted by e-mail and teleconference.

3. Activities during the period

Support for educational events: Applications for Academy support increased tremendously 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.

Transfusion medicine-related educational courses can also apply for ISBT support, using defined criteria available on the website. Four courses are now 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. To have a wider outreach to our Spanish speaking membership, a webinar presented in Spanish by Miquel Lozano was held in February 2019. 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 Toronto 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 Basel and Bangkok 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.

ISBT Education: Formerly known as Academy e-Portal, continues to be very popular. 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 highly successful and popular course first initiated by the Transfusion-Transmitted Infectious Disease Working Party has expanded to include participation from the Clinical Transfusion Working Party. Web-based lectures, homework, and in-person meetings linked to ISBT Congresses are used to teach participants how to design studies and develop research protocols and to analyze data and prepare manuscripts.

ISBT Academy Publication Committee: Recently, the ISBT Academy Publication Committee was established as part of taking forward the ISBT strategic plan. The intention is for the committee to oversee the materials that are currently available on the ISBT Education on behalf of the ISBT Academy. The Committee is chaired by Mindy Goldman with Gwen Clarke, So-Yong Kwon, Masja de Haas, Veera Sekaran Nadarajan, Arwas Al-Riyami, Linley Bielby, Miquel Lozano, Judith Chapman, and Eszter Herczenik acting as members. The first project will be updating the Blood Transfusion Technology e-book written by Beryl Armstrong and first published in 2008. It is the most downloaded document from ISBT Education. The Committee has invited volunteers to review and refresh the current content. Other future activities may include translating some of the most relevant and/or popular materials on ISBT Education into key languages spoken by our membership.

Standing Committee on Ethics



Peter Flanagan, Chairperson

1. Chairperson and committee

Chairperson: Peter Flanagan, New Zealand

Members

*Shubha Allard, UK
Justina Ansah, Ghana
Roger Dodd, USA
*Minday Goldman, Canada
**Che Kit Lin, Hong Kong
Neelam Marwaha, India
Guy Rautmann, France
Hasan Abbas Zaheer, Pakistan

*Member to July 2018

**Member from July 2018

2. Meetings and Telephone conferences

The Committee met face to face during the Congress in Toronto. Subsequent work has been carried out by e-mail. A further face to face meeting is planned for June 2019 in Basel.

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. The review commenced at the face to face meeting of the committee held in Toronto. A draft document was subsequently developed and circulated for comment to members of the Committee. This will be discussed further during the meeting planned for the Basel Congress with the intention of developing a further draft for review by the Board at its meeting at the Bangkok Congress in November 2019.

ISBT Standing Committee Jean Julliard Prize



Ravi Reddy, Chairperson

1. Chairperson and Committee

Chairperson: Ravi Reddy, South Africa
Lilian Castilho, Brazil
Lin Fung, Australia
Mindy Goldman, Canada
Miguel Lozano, Spain
Michael Schmidt, Germany

2. Meetings and Telephone conferences

There were no meetings or teleconferences. There was e-mail communication from the Chairperson with regards to the confirmation of membership of individual members to the Committee for 2019. All members agreed to serve on the Committee for 2019. There was also e-mail communication between the Chairperson and members with regard to the Vox Sanguinis Best Paper prize

3. Activities during the period

This year the Standing Committee was responsible for selecting the recipient of the Vox Sanguinis Best Paper prize. The Editorial Board of the journal, Vox Sanguinis, submitted 8 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 by Möller M, Hellberg Å, Olsson ML. Thorough analysis of unorthodox ABO deletions called by the 1000 Genomes project. Vox Sanguinis 2018;113:185-197. The prize will be awarded at the ISBT Congress in Basel, in June 2019

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)

Past membership:

Roger Dodd, USA (Chair) up to the May 2018 meeting

Geoff Daniels, UK (ISBT member) up to September 2018 meeting

2. Meetings and Telephone conferences

Meetings in 2018/19: Two meetings were held by teleconference and one email exchange for an editorial board decision was undertaken.

May 28th 2018 Teleconference meeting

This regular annual meeting of the Vox Sanguinis Standing committee was held by teleconference with Roger Dodd as chair. Items discussed included a financial summary of the 2017 year end which showed an overall increase in subscription revenues. The publishers report indicated increased institutional sales of the journals, and increased article downloads over the previous year, by 12%. However, the impact factor fell to 2.192, a decrease for the third consecutive year. The number of open access articles increased. There was a discussion of potential remedies

for the decline in the impact factor. The report of the editor in chief highlighted the number of papers published for 2017 (99) and the rejection rate (70%) which was stable compared to the previous year. The increase in number of review articles published (8 in 2017) was discussed as well as the decision not to include short reports.

A report of a survey regarding Vox Sanguinis circulated to authors, readers and a general audience in April 2018 was discussed. Highlights of the survey included author recommendations that the impact factor, journal reputation and journal audience impacted their decisions regarding where to submit papers. Authors who were dissatisfied complained about length of the review process or the lack of review, in some cases. Readers were positive about the topic mix. Greater than 30% indicated they preferred hard copies of the journal and comments included using author first name and a comment/request for more articles related to blood group serology.

A discussion of the Vox Best Paper prize followed. Unfortunately, the prize winners were unable to attend the opening ceremony to collect the prize. The committee members indicated that in subsequent years, if authors are unable to attend to receive the prize, the prize would be awarded to the next most highly ranked paper instead. September 24th, 2018 Teleconference meeting This meeting was called to discuss a proposed list of editorial advisors for the Vox Sanguinis Science Series journal.

The Background on the development of the editorial advisory board relates to the Vox Science series application for Medline Indexing. The report of the Literature Selection Technical Review Committee at the time of the application (06/22/2017) indicated that the editorial board was very small (3 members) and despite the international focus

of the journal, lacked an international presence amongst the editors. This was a weak point of the overall technical review.

In response, the editorial board selected a draft list of editorial board advisors with varying transfusion medicine expertise and from a wide variety of regions. These suggested board members were forwarded to the Vox Sanguinis Standing Committee for review and discuss

The SC agreed that the list had excellent geographic scope but recommended addition of members with expertise in immunohematology, blood components, blood donors and cellular therapies as well as clinical hematology. The SC also noted a gap in advisors from China and South East Asia. Several individuals with the requisite expertise and from the countries recommended were provided to the Editor for consideration.

The Editor has subsequently updated the SC chair with information indicating that ten individuals have accepted an advisory role with two additional invitations outstanding. The role of the advisory committee will be:

- Promote the journal, for example by suggesting it for publication to fellow authors/colleagues
- have an advisory role in the direction of the journal
- perform occasional reviews within their area of expertise
- participate in teleconferences, and/or short meetings associated with the ISBT congress

Correspondence: Email correspondence between the VSC membership took place in January and February 2019. The Editor of Vox Sanguinis indicated that the expected retirement of Jim Aubuchon, a long- time section editor was imminent, and recommended selection of Pierre Tiberghien as section editor. The members of the SC confirmed agreement with this recommendation by email, and Pierre has begun his Section Editor role.

3. Activities during the period

Activities of the Vox Sanguinis SC over the 2018 2019 year have included appointment of two new members (G Clarke – Chair and Lin Fung) and the departure of Roger Dodd and Geoff Daniels from the committee.

Discussions with the Vox Editorial board continued with respect to initiatives to improve the impact factor (IF) of the journal. In June 2018 the IF was 2.107. A number of initiatives to improve the impact factor were proposed by the editorial board. In addition, initiatives to expand the editorial advisors to The Vox Sanguinis Science series continued (see above).

Wiley raised the possibility of an increase in the article publication charge for Vox Sanguinis open access articles. This initiative was put on hold for this year pending potential changes to the content related to improving the IF. In addition, Wiley has provided information on a country wide contractual arrangement with Germany related to charges for publishing and 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, Leo van de Watering. Dr. AuBuchon has announced his retirement from the board of Vox Sanguinis 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 and our production editor Kristine Dela Rea.

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 2018, the editorial board met in Toronto in June to review the performance of the journal in 2017 and to review various editorial policies. Topics discussed included strategies 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 2018, volume 113, the journal published

99 papers, the same number as 2017. Another 155 papers were rejected for an acceptance rate of 38% in 2018. Papers were received from all regions of the world with the majority of submissions coming from Europe and Asia. Papers published in 2018 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 Perspective, which is intended to provide commentary around 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 the near future, ISBT members can look forward to 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 2018, we focused on getting the journal in shape for Medline-indexing. We can reapply in 2020. Our score improved from 3.00 in 2011 to 3.25 in 2017, while 3.75 is the minimum required to be Medline indexed. We addressed the following items that were brought forward by the Medline committee:

- Relatively few papers published per year: in order to increase the number of papers, we decided to have a special issue themed around “Blood donor research”. Eva-Maria Merz (Sanquin Blood Supply, the Netherlands) was guest editor, and this effort resulted in 11 original submission and 10 accepted papers (plus an editorial).
- Review process not well described in Instructions for Authors: the Author Guidelines were updated. At the same time, the lay out was changed so that papers would be formatted correctly, and would be submitted in the correct category. This seems to have worked well.

- Ethics policies not consistently followed: the Ethics policies were amended, based on Vox’ 2019 update. Since the ISBT Science Series mostly publishes studies that have waived ethics approval, some wording was added explaining what type of studies have waived consent. Also, the paragraph on Informed Consent was amended, as the Committee had specific comments on this.
- Editorial board quality, size and composition: The Editorial Board has an advisory role, and does not handle manuscripts. Twelve accepted their position on the Board, with a nice geographic spread.

Submissions, page counts, issue information

The ISBT Science Series appears regularly, with four issues per year. In 2018 there were two congress issues (Copenhagen part II, Guanzhou), one regular issue with original research papers, and one themed issue on Donor Studies. This is going to be the same pattern for 2019 (two congress issues for Toronto and Basel, respectively, one with original research, and one themed issue).

Starting 2017, congress papers are published in regular issues rather than supplements. This boosts our overall page count, since pages in supplemental issues do not count towards the overall page count. These changes hopefully satisfy the “relatively few papers” comment of the Medline committee.

The number of original submissions remains low, 36 in 2018. We still depend on papers transferred from Vox Sanguinis to the ISBT Science Series, 13 of these original papers (36%) were transferred in. This percentage is

lower than in previous years, when 50 to 60% of the papers were transferred in. The main reason for the lower percentage of transferred papers is that there was a themed issue with a relatively high number of invited original papers. For 2019, a themed issue is planned around transfusion of whole blood, with Mark Yazer (University of Pittsburgh, PA) as guest editor.

Peer review, acceptance rates

All manuscripts, including congress reviews, are subject to peer review. About two-third of the original papers are accepted after review, and this acceptance rate shows an increase compared to previous years. Again, this is due to the themed issue with a high acceptance rate of invited original papers. Overall, the absolute number of submissions was lower than before, but the invited original papers had a very high acceptance rate, which resulted in a slight increase in accepted original papers, from 19 in 2017 to 24 in 2018. Of the accepted papers in 2018, the average handling time was 69 days from submission to final acceptance, and 109 days from submission and early online publication. 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. There were 2 rejections, one because it was submitted way after the final deadline, the other for the many inaccuracies in the manuscript. One author did not resubmit their paper after peer review.

Social media campaign

Regularly, papers of the ISBT Science Series are highlighted in Facebook and Twitter posts. With the appearance of the themed issue on Donor Studies, there was an orchestrated social media campaign to promote interest for the ISBT Science Series. The campaign itself was successful. Thousands of people were reached through Facebook and Twitter, dozens of people liked or shared the posts, and actually did lead to people going to the journal website (measured as bitly clicks). This has led to hundreds of downloads in the first months after publication alone.

Evaluation of 2018, plans for 2019

In all, most goals that were set for 2018 were met. In 2019, we will make the necessary preparations to make the ISBT Science Series ready for Medline application in 2020. We will continue trying to increase the number of original manuscripts, so that we actually fill the 200 pages intended for original manuscripts. A topic needs to be identified for the themed issue of 2020, for this, we will use the input of the editorial board. We will further explore ways to strengthen the ISBT Science Series “brand”, amongst others by using social media platforms.

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 (currently 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). The Chair of the Foundation Board is Geoff Daniels, Vice-Chair is Martin Gorham, Secretary is Gwen Clarke, and Treasurer is Eric Jansen. None of the Board members receives any remuneration; all are volunteers interested in the provision of safe blood supply for patients. The Foundation is advised by the ISBT Academy Standing Committee, which reviews applications for financial support for educational purposes.

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 2018/19 financial year the Foundation has provided financial support for conferences and other educational meetings and events, including travel grants and delegate funding. These were provided to the Indian Society of Transfusion Medicine, Charitable Blood Safety Education and Research Trust of Chandigarh, Malaysian Society of Haematology, Sanquin, Korea Society of Blood Transfusion, ANZSBT, Asociacion de Hemoterapia de Guatemala, Pakistan Society for Blood Transfusion, Hong Kong Association of Blood Transfusion, Asia Conference, Association of Blood Services Ukraine, AABB, Al-Shira Blood Bank Foundation, International Haemovigilance, Indonesian Association of Transfusion Medicine, Kazakstan BTS, and ABSU.

ISBT Award and Prizes

- The ISBT Presidential Award
- The Jean Julliard Prize
- The Developing Country Award
- The ISBT Award

ISBT Awards and Prizes

ISBT Presidential Award: Mike Busch

Director of Vitalant Research Institute. Mike publishes prolifically, and is well-known for his innovative and productive research. He is an acknowledged national leader in laboratory issues as they apply to transfusion-transmitted diseases. He has advanced the general knowledge of viral dynamics and virus-host interactions, and has been instrumental in bringing nucleic acid technology (NAT) to practical application.

The Presidential Award is given by the Foundation Transfusion Medicine.



The Jean Julliard Prize for young scientists 40 years and under: Rick Kapur

Postdoctoral fellow at Lund University in the laboratory of John Semple. The prize was awarded for Ricks work titled Transfusion-related acute lung injury (TRALI): Identification of novel risk factors and potential therapies. Prior to moving to Lund in 2017 Rick was a postdoctoral fellow with Canadian Blood Services, Toronto in the Platelet Immunobiology Group at the Keenan Research Centre for Biomedical Sciences, St Michaels Hospital. Rick gained his PhD whilst working at the Department of Experimental Immunohaematology at Sanquin Research Laboratory, Amsterdam Medical Centre.

The ISBT Developing Country Award 2018: Department of Transfusion Medicine, Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education & Research, Chandigarh, India.

Dr Neelam Marwaha is the Professor and Head of Department. The review committee recognised the outstanding work that the department was carrying out in terms of collection and testing as well as promoting haemovigilance. The significant progress that the department has made was also noted. The ISBT Award for Developing Countries is awarded to a Blood Service/Centre or a Department of Transfusion medicine within a medical institution from a Developing Country that has made a significant contribution in strengthening Blood Transfusion Practice within the Country.

There were two highly commended entries; The Paediatric Blood Center of the Philippine Children’s Medical Center and the Rwanda National Centre for Blood Transfusion.



ISBT Award



Peter Flanagan, National Medical Director, New Zealand Blood Service and honorary associate clinical professor in the Department of Molecular Medicine and Pathology, Auckland University

For initiating and completing the review and revision of the ISBT Code of Ethics with its subsequent acceptance by the ISBT General Assembly in 2017 and for his further work related to increasing awareness of the revised code internationally.

Pierre Robillard Medical Director, Hema Quebec, Canada

For his leadership in haemovigilance and transfusion medicine in Canada and internationally and the development of international standard definitions of adverse transfusion reactions and adverse donation events.



Diana Teo, Chairman of the Professional Board at the Singapore Health Sciences Authority and Senior Consultant at the Blood Services Group at Health Sciences Authority

For her leadership of the ISBT Academy from 2012 – 2016 and especially related to the initiation and launch of the ISBT Academy ePortal. The ePortal has a rich variety of educational material and is the recognized learning platform of the Society.

In Memoriam



Celso Bianco

Celso Bianco MD, ISBT President 2014 - 2016, passed away on 16 August 2018 in Bethesda, Maryland, after a long illness. He will be remembered by all of us for his many and varied contributions to transfusion medicine, not only in the United States, but globally.

Celso graduated from the Medical School of Sao Paulo with an MD degree in 1966 and completed an internal medicine residency at the Hospital Sao Paulo in 1968. He moved to the United States in 1969. Celso entered the blood community in 1982 at the Lindsley F. Kimball Research Institute of the New York Blood Center, eventually being appointed as the center's Executive Vice President for Medical Affairs. Celso subsequently joined the headquarters of America's Blood Centers. He was ABC's President in 1999-2000 and its Executive Vice President 2000-2012, when he retired.

Celso served the U.S. Food and Drug Administration formally as a member of its Blood Products Advisory Committee from 2008-12. He was a member of the Department of Health and Human Services Advisory Committee on Blood Safety and Availability from 2002-06 where he was an early champion of risk-based decision making. Celso was a prominent member of the International Society of Blood Transfusion, serving on the Board of Directors and becoming the society's President for 2014-16. His knowledge, skills and personality benefitted the Society and its membership no end. His service was recognized through an honorary membership of the Society.

Through his entire expatriate professional career, he never lost a deep love for his homeland, traveling often to Brazil to participate in their debates about the best ways to fulfill our fundamental mission—supporting delivery of the best possible care to the patients we serve. His continuing relationship with Brazil included organising a "Best of the ISBT" day at the ABBH congress in 2016.

Through his humanity and empathy, Celso was seen as a peacemaker. He always had a creative resolution for problems. He had a zest for life, and the capacity to draw his friends and colleagues into that enthusiasm. His passing will leave an unfillable void in our profession, but his accomplishments, warmth and humanity will be cherished in our memories.

Written by Roger Dodd and Louis Katz

