



ANNUAL
REPORT

2021

2022

TABLE OF CONTENTS

• Mission, vision and goals	3	• Platelet Immunobiology Working Party	26
• Foreword from the President	4	• Quality Management Working Party	27
• Foreword from the Secretary General	6	• Rare Donor Working Party	29
• Board of Directors	7	• Red Cell Immunogenetics and Blood Group Terminology Working Party	30
• Membership 2020-2021	8	• Transfusion Transmitted Diseases Working Party	32
• Report from the Young Professionals Council	9	• Reports from ISBT Standing Committees	35
• Financial Summary	10	• ISBT Standing Committee of the ISBT Academy	36
• Congresses	11	• ISBT Standing Committee on Ethics	39
• Reports from ISBT Working Parties	12	• ISBT Standing Committee on Jean Julliard Prize	40
• Blood Supply Management Working Party	13	• ISBT Standing Committee of Vox Sanguinis	42
• Cellular Therapy Working Party	15	• Report from Vox Sanguinis	43
• Clinical Transfusion Working Party	16	• Report from the ISBT Science Series	45
• Donors and Donation Working Party	18	• Report from ISBT Foundation	47
• Global Blood Safety Working Party	19	• ISBT Award and Prizes	48
• Granulocyte Immunobiology Working Party	21		
• Haemovigilance Working Party	22		
• Immunohaematology Working Party	24		
• Information Technology Working Party	25		

Corporate Partners

ISBT is pleased to acknowledge the following Corporate Partners during 2021-2022.



MISSION, VISION AND GOALS

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

VISION

A world of safe and sufficient blood

MISSION

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

STRATEGIC GOALS

The new goals, agreed as part of a 5-year strategic plan for 2020-2024, are designed to keep, and build upon those things we do well and to address areas where we feel we can improve.

Education and Knowledge

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

Training and implementation of knowledge

Be the leader in transforming knowledge into practice

International outreach

Engage transfusion medicine professionals and institutions globally

Congress

Be the international congress of choice for transfusion medicine professionals

Publications

Be respected for high-quality scientific and professional publications

Digital Resources

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

Working parties

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

Governance

Be recognized for transparent and sustainable governance

Advocacy

Be the advocate for blood donors and patients

FOREWORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

It is a great pleasure to share with you the Annual Report of the International Society of Blood Transfusion for 2021-22. I hope you will enjoy reading about how, in spite of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and other challenges, we are continuing ISBT's scientific and educational mission around the world.

Over the past year, we have shared ideas, undertaken a wide range of activities, strengthened existing collaborations and established new ones, and supported each other on COVID-and non-COVID related matters. Our Board, Standing Committees, Working Parties, Transfusion Practitioners network, Young Professionals Council, content providers, editorial groups and reviewers, trainers and educators, clinicians, scientists, and researchers, have been very active, supported by our Central Office team. It's impossible to cover all of the Society's activities in this foreword, but you can read more about the work in this [report](#), including information on changes to our member communications and our **scientific publications** during the reporting period.

ISBT celebrated **World Blood Donor Day**, 14 June 2021, this year held in Rome, Italy and shared online around the world. ISBT is a society in official relations with the World Health Organization since 1955. We were pleased to support WHO, the Ministry of Health and the National Blood Center in Italy in recognising the contributions of volunteer blood donors: without blood donors, there would be no transfusions for patients who need them!

ISBT supports the implementation of the WHO [Action framework to advance universal access to safe, effective and quality-assured blood products 2020–2023](#). As part of this engagement, members of the ISBT Clinical Transfusion Working Party worked with WHO to publish [Educational modules on the clinical use of blood](#), and members of the ISBT Haemovigilance Working Party have contributed to workshops and development of tools and resources for implementation of haemovigilance systems.

Additional highlights from the Working Parties during the past year included a very successful three-day workshop organised by the ISBT Working Party on Global Blood Safety.

Stepwise access to safe plasma proteins in resource-constrained countries featured speakers from ISBT, WHO, the International Plasma and Fractionation Association, World Federation of Hemophilia and IPOPI patient organisations, and others, including government, industry, hospital and blood service representatives. Coordinated by the Central Office team, this major online event attracted over **500 attendees**.



Plasma-derived medicinal products workshop 2021

ISBT continues to support other educational events internationally through the **ISBT Academy**. Please do consider applying for Academy support for your workshop, seminar or course. It was also exciting to see the establishment of a new **Working Party on Blood Components**, to “promote best practice, monitor trends and emerging new practices, facilitate improvements and raise awareness of blood component manufacturing and research.”

ISBT maintains strong connections with national and regional professional societies, blood services, educational institutions, academic networks, industry and other organisations. This year, we worked with these groups and our [corporate and strategic partners](#) on a number of important activities, summarised in the report. We also developed a new collaboration with the [Systematic Reviews Initiative, through the Transfusion Evidence Library](#) to provide a quarterly series of targeted evidence summaries on different themes, with participation from ISBT members.

It was with great regret that we were unable to hold our planned congresses in Brisbane and Kuala Lumpur. However, it was simply not possible to continue with our plans for in person meetings, bearing in mind the safety of our members, staff, guests and exhibitors, the ongoing travel disruptions, and the inability of many working in healthcare and science to leave their posts during a global health emergency. I thank all the members of the local organising

Erica Wood



FOREWORD FROM THE PRESIDENT



Erica Wood

committees in the planned host countries for their hard work on our behalf, and we look forward to rescheduling our congresses there in the future.

We were very pleased with the success of the virtual 2021 ISBT In Focus congress, and at the time of writing are looking forward to our **2022 virtual congress**. Although the 'learning curve' in transitioning to the virtual environment over the past two years has been steep, we have been well supported by our congress partner MCI, our Central Office team, and our speakers, moderators, abstract presenters and participants. What felt like new ways of online interaction two years ago are now routine, and while we do very much miss seeing each other in person, in some aspects these virtual meetings provide even greater opportunity for access to our educational and scientific programs for attendees from all around the world.

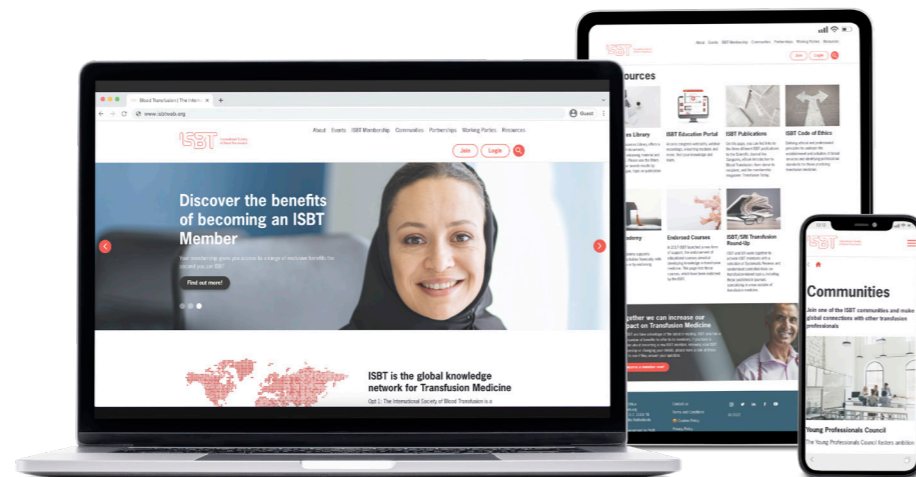
Thanks to our ISBT Scientific Secretary, **Professor John Semple**, who completes his term this year, for overseeing the congress programs, along with the two Vice-Presidents responsible for the Academy content. John will be succeeded by **Professor Jason Acker**. We thank John for his service to ISBT, and welcome Jason to his new role and wish him every success.

Internally, it has been another year of intense activity at ISBT. Along with enabling the many activities described in this annual report, we have implemented an integrated new platform to replace our management systems for membership, finance and communications, and a **new ISBT website**. This is a major investment which will improve working arrangements for the Central Office and our members and supporters.

I'm sure you will agree the new website looks wonderful. It will support our e-learning program, including our popular live journal clubs and webinars, and permit greater functionality for Working Party and other member activities, both formal and informal. We are active on social media, connecting ISBT worldwide via **Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn and Facebook**, so please make use of these resources and communication tools.

This report summarises the ideas and efforts of many people. On behalf of ISBT, I thank our **Executive Director Ms Jenny White and our entire Central Office team**, our members who serve on the ISBT Board helping to implement our strategic plan, on Standing Committees, the ISBT Foundation, as Chairs and members of Working Parties, and Professor Miquel Lozano and the editorial board and staff of Vox Sanguinis. ISBT greatly appreciates the partnerships with our Affiliate Members, and the scientific input and funding support from our Corporate Partners and our congress sponsors and exhibitors, which enable us to maintain our solid financial position and support the activities described in the report.

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





Gwen Clarke

FOREWORD FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL

The COVID 19 pandemic once again disrupted our plans for in person conferences in 2021. The planned European congress in June was converted to ISBT In Focus and held in June 2021. The unique format included one day each hosted by different working parties adding up to **16 interactive sessions** which were repeated during the day, so 32 in total. It ensured on demand and live sessions in various time zones allowing for maximal participation by members and attendees.

The event **ISBT in Focus 2021** was well attended with **1008 delegates from 77 countries** and featured an excellent scientific program with 9 scientific sessions which were repeated so 18 in total. These were recorded and made available to delegates on-demand for 3 months following the congress.

The poster and abstract sessions were also available on the virtual platform. 285 posters were presented at the ISBT In Focus Congress.

The meeting was supported by **21 exhibitors**, including ISBT Corporate Partners who also contributed 7 Satellite sessions and 2 product demos of 10 minutes.

The Scientific Secretary, the ISBT academy the ISBT office staff, planning committee members and abstract reviewers as well as MCI Amsterdam contributed expertise, organization and enthusiasm leading to a second unique and innovative Congress despite our inability to travel or meet in person for another year.

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

Extensive work on the new website went on through much of the year culminating in the recent launch of our new updated and user- friendly website in March.

Discussions regarding the **ISBT Advocacy and Endorsement subcommittee** have continued with plans to adopt the items contained in this work within the terms of reference of the Ethics Subcommittee of the ISBT.

ISBT REACHED 1456 MEMBERS

ALL REGIONS AND 96 COUNTRIES ARE REPRESENTED WITHIN THE SOCIETY

Vox Sanguinis continued to evolve over the course of 2021 under the editorial leadership of Dr. Miquel Lozano. The format and cover were updated along with an increase in the number of pages per issue and the number of issues per year.

After 15 years the on-line journal ISBT Science Series came to an end following the planned retirement of the long-standing Editor-in-chief, **Dr. Pieter Van der Meer**.

The Science Series was merged with Vox Sanguinis following the November 2021 edition. All article submissions after June of 2021 were redirected for consideration of publication by Vox Sanguinis. Two new sections were added to Vox following the merge with ISBT Science Series under the leadership of former ISBT Science Series section editors Nelson Tsuno for the Patient Blood Management Section, and Claudia Cohn for the new Haemovigilance section. The full list of Vox Sanguinis updates can be found on the journal website.

Copies of articles published in the **Science series** during its 15 year history remain available for access through the [ISBT](#) and Wiley [websites](#) respectively.

The financial contribution to ISBT by the journal remains strong.



The first set of chapters of the **WHO Educational Modules on Clinical Use of Blood**, developed in collaboration with the ISBT Clinical Transfusion Working Party was published online by [WHO](#) and is also available through the [ISBT resource library](#).



Gwen Clarke

FOREWORD FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL

The **14 Working Parties** continue to be an active and vital part of the Society. For 2021 WP input was crucial to the success of the 'In Focus' format of the virtual congress for 2021. WP meetings were once again held virtually for 2021, with support from the ISBT office, ensuring that members from all over the globe were able to participate.

A new working party, the 15th, was also initiated in 2021: The working party for **Blood Components**, chaired by **Denese Marks** had its first meeting in 2021 with plans to develop guidance, standards and operating procedures as well as organising and coordinating educational sessions and collaborating with other working parties.

Online elections for several board positions including President Elect, Vice President and Secretary General as well as Regional Directors are underway currently with the new board of directors to be introduced at the virtual General Assembly on June 7, 2022, at 14:00 CEST.

The following award recipients were honoured in 2021:

The Vox Best Paper Prize (2020): N. S. Mangalmurti: RAGE interacts with the necroptotic protein RIPK3 and mediates transfusion-induced danger signal release. Faust H, Lam LM, Hotz MJ, Qing D, Mangalmurti NS. Vox Sang 2020;115: 729-34.

I look forward to interacting with many of you at the upcoming Virtual Congress of ISBT, and Virtual General Assembly in June, and even more to seeing many of you in person at a future congress.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2020 - 2022

Executive Committee:

- **President** Erica Wood, Australia
- **President Elect** Michael Busch, USA
- **Senior Vice President** Masja de Haas, The Netherlands
- **Junior Vice President** Yoke Lin Fung, Australia
- **Past President** Martin Olsson, Sweden
- **Secretary General** Gwen Clarke, Canada
- **Treasurer** Eric Jansen, The Netherlands

Members of the Board representing WHO Regions:

- **Africa** Shirley Owusu-Ofori, Ghana
- **Northern Americas** Mindy Goldman, Canada
- **Southern Americas** Lilian Castilho, Brazil
- **Europe** Cynthia So-Osman, The Netherlands
- **Europe** Birgit Gathof, Germany
- **Eastern Mediterranean** May Raouf, UAE
- **South East Asia** Mahrukh Getshen, Bhutan
- **Western Pacific** Denese Marks, Australia
- **Western Pacific** Veera Sekaran Nadarajan, Malaysia



WE HAD MEMBERS ACROSS THE GLOBE

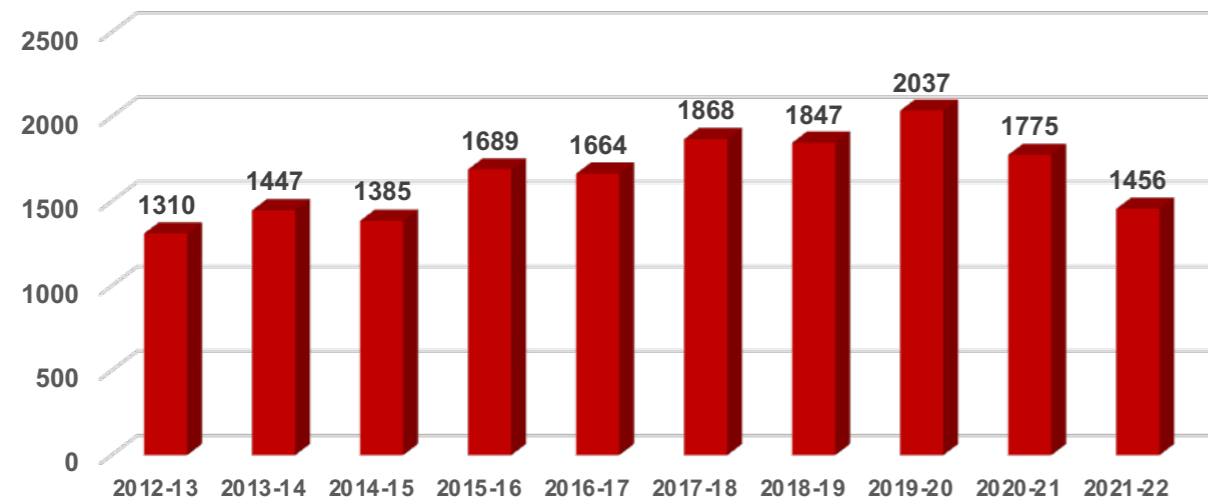


ISBT MEMBERSHIP 2012 – 2022

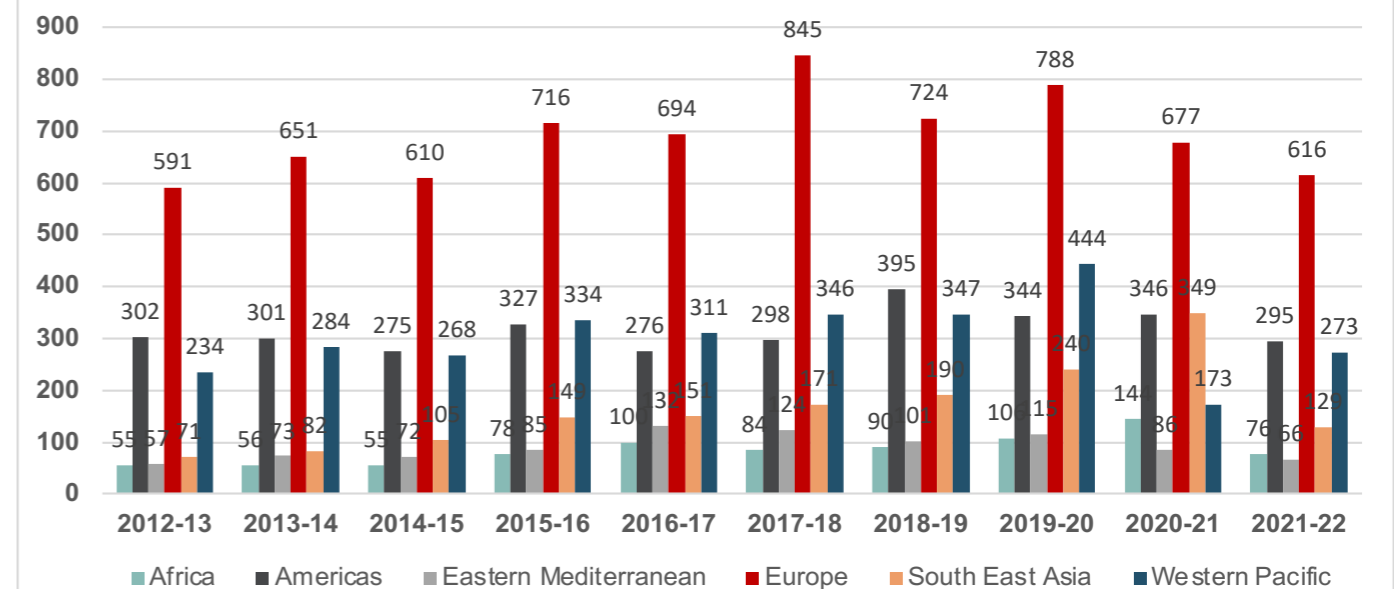
1456 members from 103 countries

• AFRICA	76
• AMERICAS	295
• EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN	66
• EUROPE	616
• SOUTH EAST ASIA	129
• WESTERN PACIFIC	273

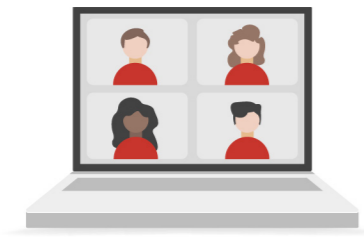
Total Members



Regions



YOUNG PROFESSIONALS COUNCIL



MEETINGS AND TELEPHONE CONFERENCES ARE HELD MONTHLY, a typical meeting includes the following:

- REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES
- NEW INITIATIVES
- UPDATES ON CURRENT INITIATIVES
- OTHER BUSINESS
- NEXT BUSINESS
- ATTENDANCE

ACTIVITIES DURING THE PERIOD

The **Young Professional Council (YPC)** started its fourth year by welcoming new members **Eunike (Nysa) McGowan** and **Jian Ou-Yang** as representatives of the **Western Pacific region**. One of the most active areas for the YPC continues to be **social media updates**.

This includes quarterly publications within Transfusion Today, monthly recorded videos, monthly Live Journal Clubs, a Career Spotlight interview with Linley Bielby and weekly posts on social media platforms. The monthly recorded videos often highlight activities of interest for young transfusion professionals or stories from other young professionals.

The monthly live journal clubs are arranged by YPC members and typically pair a junior and senior researcher as they review the featured publication of interest and answer questions from those participating.

This year has also been exciting for the YPC since, as a group, our paper **Psychological impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on young professionals in blood banks and transfusion services: A global cross-sectional survey** was published in **Vox Sanguinis (Jan 2022)**. This year the YPC has also helped in the completion of **Vox Editor Project** as well as the **Vox cover re-design** effort. Furthermore, Vox Sanguinis also launched its first **Vox Sanguinis Young Professional Reviewer Programme** which one of our council members participated in as well.

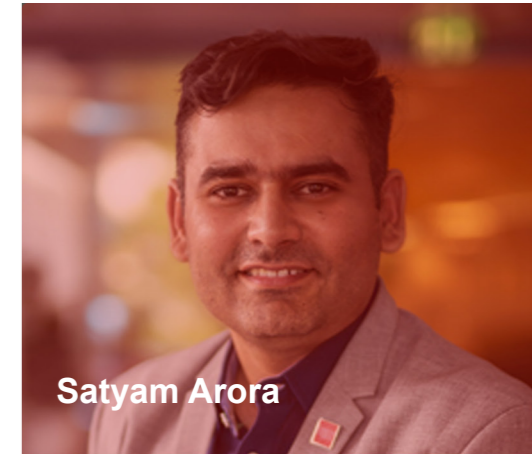
The YPC continues to partner with the Central Office to facilitate congress events. For the ISBT In Focus Virtual Congress, the YPC hosted two virtual networking events, of which the Breakfast event garnered the **highest number of participants** in congress history.

Publications

- **ISBT Young Professional Council. Psychological impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on young professionals in blood banks and transfusion services: A global cross-sectional survey.** Al-Riyami AZ, Masser B, Herczenik E, Arora S, Boateng LA, Dinardo CL, Hutchinson T, Ji Y, Langi Sasongko S, Tung JP, Panchatcharam SM; Vox Sang. 2022

Transfusion Today:

- **The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on young professionals in blood bank and transfusion services** by Arwa Z. Al Riyami
- **Joining the ISBT Young Professionals Community** by Eunike (Nysa) McGowan



Satyam Arora



Syeldy Langi Sasongko



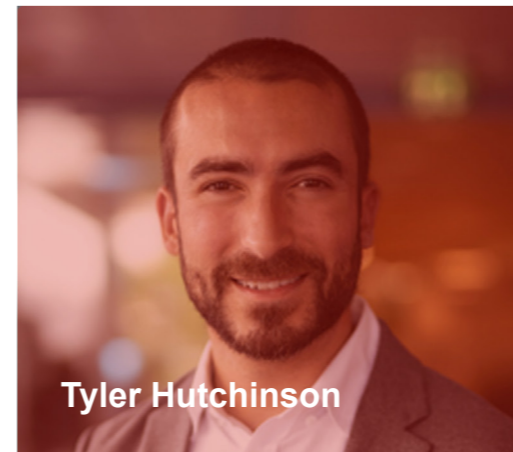
Arwa Al-Riyami



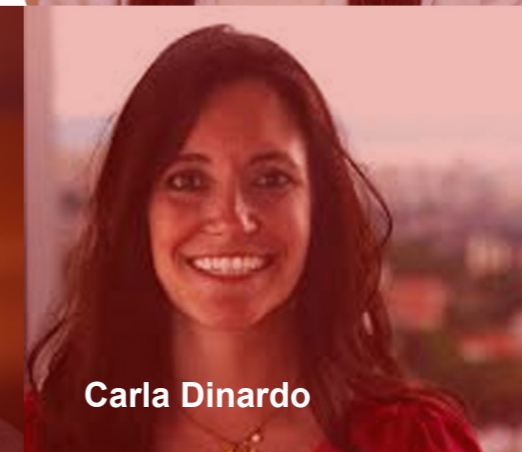
Eunike (Nysa) McGowan



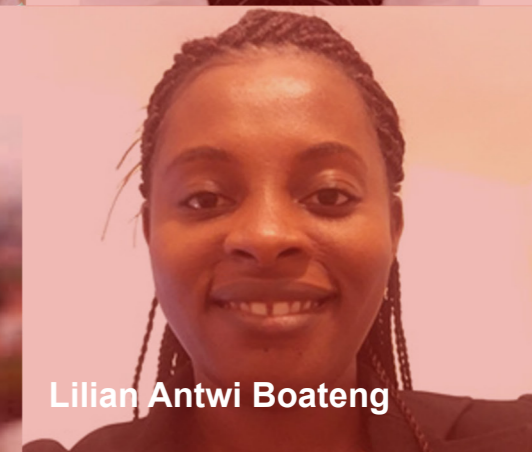
Jian Ou-Yang



Tyler Hutchinson



Carla Dinardo



Lilian Antwi Boateng



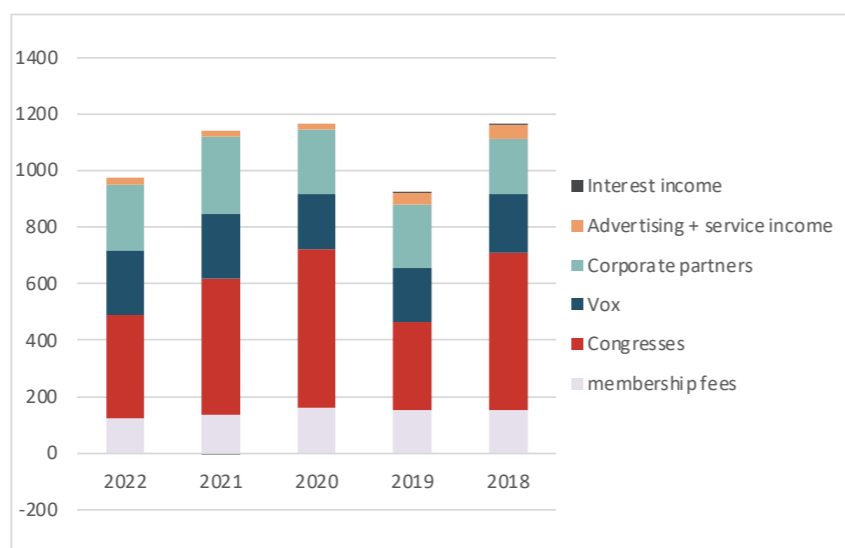
Eric Jansen

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

COVID-19 was still with us for much of the past year and for that reason we weren't able to organise the planned face to face Regional Congresses in Milan and Brisbane.

As in 2020 we turned the Milan Congress into a virtual congress that again proved to be successful. While we were very pleased with the result, we did not believe a second virtual congress in the same year would be as well received. As a result, we did not replace the Brisbane congress with a virtual congress.

The total income from congresses is for these reasons lower than budgeted. The other income from membership fees, Vox Sanguinis royalties and corporate partnerships did not change much in 2021-2022. **The total income of the ISBT was €160.000 lower.**

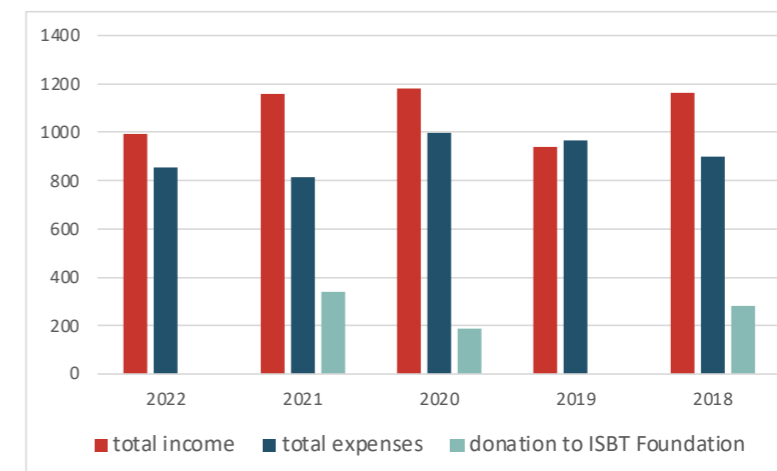


As in 2020-21 the total costs of the ISBT remained low in comparison to pre COVID-19 years. Due to COVID-19, all Board and WP meetings were organised virtually, so we had no travel cost. Activity around the world was also fairly limited and as such, the amount spent on projects and activities was also less than in previous years.

Consequently, the Board decided to take this savings opportunity to invest in a **new website** and other related applications designed to improve our members' experience including the development of the e-Learning modules of the ISBT Academy. Despite the significant investment, total costs in 2022-21 stayed on the same level as in 2021-20 which was roughly €100.000 lower than in the two years before the pandemic. Historically, the Board's aim has

been to maintain a sufficient amount of accumulated surplus (often referred to as capital) to ensure the Society is able to fulfil its obligations as well as have the financial wherewithal to weather financial challenges. The challenges the Society confronted over last 2 years were unprecedented. The uncertainty we faced in almost every aspect of our operations made the decision-making process (both short-term and long-term) extremely difficult. Despite having operated in such an environment, we are very pleased to have maintained a **capital position of €2.6m** while at the same time having contributed **€479k to the Foundation** of the ISBT over the last two years.

Looking forward, we are optimistic about the opportunities the ISBT has to improve transfusion safety worldwide. As we establish our long-term goals in this area, we are looking at the most efficient way to finance the ISBT's growth in order to meet these goals. The ISBT currently have an agreement with the Dutch tax authorities that allows the ISBT not to pay income taxes as long as the annual result is contributed to the Foundation of the ISBT.



While this arrangement has served the ISBT well in the past, it limits our ability to invest in the projects and activities we believe are necessary to achieve our aims. We'll therefore be exploring opportunities to change this arrangement in a way that will provide ISBT with greater financial flexibility.

With the lifting of COVID-19 measures around the world, we expect far more face to face activities next year. Despite not having a physical congress this year, we expect the cost of increased face to face activities will likely result in a financial loss next year. Nonetheless, we are confident that over the next few years the investments we make together with the change to our tax agreement will ultimately improve an already strong financial position and allow the ISBT to better serve its members and the transfusion community.

ISBT IN FOCUS CONGRESS REPORT

The scientific sessions were a big success at the **ISBT virtual In Focus Congress**. We put our minds together and we believe presented a unique In Focus experience for this meeting. We first want to personally thank Lin Fung (co-vice president ISBT), Jenny White, Eszter Herczenik from ISBT Central Office and Iris Dikkers from MCI for their great devotion and helping us to put this meeting together.

The scientific aspect of the program started with an exciting virally-focused plenary session which was highlighted by a talk from the 2020 Nobel laureate, Harvey Alter. Then each day after, specific themes were focused on including Immunohematology, Platelet and Granulocyte Immunology, Blood products and Cellular therapies, TTID, Clinical and Adverse events, Supporting safe transfusions, Strategic management and the last was dedicated to donors and donation to celebrate the World Health Organization's World Donor Day on the 14th of June.

All the themes were followed by a moderator-led panel discussion and there were also very well attended abstract oral sessions. In addition, each day had related working party-led interactive sessions with polling and live question and answers. Based on the many positive comments, it was clear that most people enjoyed the scientific content of the In Focus meeting.



In all conferences, the ISBT Academy aims to deliver interactive educational sessions to provide people with a state-of-the-art overview on the progress made on certain topics. In our transfusion medicine value chain going from donor to recipient, there is lot of innovation ongoing, and at many different levels. Importantly, many people involved in ISBTs working parties are continuously giving great input in international study groups to improve the daily practice in low-and medium resource countries.

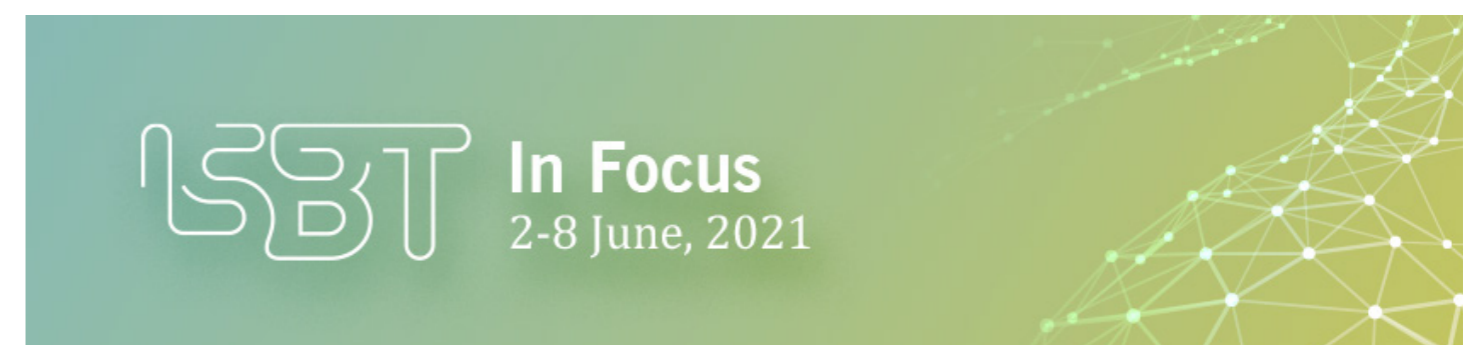
It was a huge challenge to cover everything in a compact virtual conference, but we think, the selection made together with the working parties was a great success. If we asked people how they experienced the virtual ISBT2020 meeting, most comments were positive, but some suggested that it is difficult to be in sessions for hours and that the direct interaction is most missed.

In the design of ISBT In Focus, we scheduled **innovation, education and interaction** in the one day sessions; and, to make it possible for all in the world to attend, we repeated the sessions twice a day. It was lovely to see how the members of the Working Parties had lots of ideas for topics and for creating interactive sessions. It was also clear that the dedication of the speakers and session moderators simply made the ISBT In Focus meeting excellent. Very well thought educational presentations were delivered and live panel discussions were done to try and mimic a live meeting.

Moreover, many people took some time from their holiday to contribute to a session, or were working very early or very late, or joined the sessions during work.

In the meantime, we learned a lot on how to connect with people in the virtual world. We are sure that you picked up some interesting sessions and were inspired by the new knowledge you got, by the enthusiasm of the speakers and their dedication to move their topic or ideas further! There was too much to follow during this one-week of ISBT In Focus, so it is of value that sessions could be watched on demand until the end of August.

Of course, we are very much looking forward to face-to-face meetings again not only because there is no obstacle to asking questions to the experts, but because there will be a free exchange of ideas on science and innovation.



REPORTS FROM ISBT WORKING PARTIES

- Blood Supply Management Working Party
- Blood Components 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 COMPONENTS WORKING PARTY

Chairperson and committee:

Leadership

Chairperson: Denese Marks (Australia)

Vice-chair: Dana Devine (Canada)

Secretary: Lacey Johnson (Australia)

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

Membership information

The WP currently has **15 members** representing **11 different countries** around the globe.

Meetings and telephone conferences

Core members of the working party have been meeting every 4 to 6 weeks to plan activities for 2022.

Activities during the period

- The working party was established in November 2021.
- The working party is currently preparing presentations for the upcoming ISBT 2022 Congress, where the working party will be introduced.



Denese Marks

BLOOD SUPPLY MANAGEMENT WORKING PARTY

Chairperson and committee

Chairperson: Justina K. Ansah (Ghana)

Co-chairperson: Position vacant.

Membership information

As at 31 March 2022, the Working Party (WP) had **19 members** representing **13 countries**.

Meetings and E-mail exchanges

One **digital meeting** via Zoom was held on Tuesday 22 June 2021, just before the ISBT In Focus virtual Congress in June 2021. The meeting was attended by **10 delegates** representing **8 countries**.

The topics covered include:

- Survey on “Best practice for reducing out-dating of platelets and red cell” carried out in 2020: Update and next steps
- Contributions from WPs (“How-Do-I”, “case studies”, ISBT forum post, webinar)
- Blood Supply Management (BSM) WP Newsletter
- BSM WP Audits
- Other project suggestions for the BSM WP: Good practices in BSM
- Nominations for WP Co-chair

Prior to the virtual ISBT In Focus Congress, there was a series of e-mail exchanges between the Chairperson and members with respect to communications from the ISBT Central Office for contributions to webinars, follow-up on individual and group tasks.

Activities during the period

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

1. ISBT Education Webinar

An Education Webinar took place on 25 August 2021, at 3pm CEST as follows:

Title: “**Blood Centre aspects in supporting Low titre group O Whole Blood (LTOWB) program in the hospitals**”



Speakers:

- **Mark Yazer** - Clinical use of LTOWB
- **Eilat Shinar** - How was LTOWB implemented in Israel?
- **Torum Oveland Apelseeth** - How was LTOWB implemented in Israel?
- **Pampee P. Young** - A summary of Pampee's recent paper in Transfusion about D-LTOWB

The webinar was greatly successful and participation was very good.



Justina Ansah

BLOOD SUPPLY MANAGEMENT WORKING PARTY

2. Contribution to virtual ISBT in Focus Congress.

- **Young Professionals Networking Session**

A session titled ISBT Young Professional Networking (YPN) virtual meeting at the In Focus Congress took place on June 02 2021, 12.15 CEST.

The BSM break out session was moderated by Justina Ansah

This session aimed to offer young professionals the possibility to “meet” fellow young professionals as well as experts from their field of interest in an informal way.

- **Interactive session organized by ISBT Global Blood Safety (GBS) WP**

An interactive session organized by the ISBT GBS WP, themed: “Donor availability in low resource environment, how can we deal with the challenges?” took place on 08 June 2021.

The session was moderated by Martin Smid, Chair of GBS WP and Co-chaired by Justina Ansah, Chair of BSM WP

- **Contribution to planning of virtual ISBT Congress June 2022**

The WP helped to plan and suggest speakers for the BSM Scientific session scheduled to take place virtually in June 2022

- **BSM WP page on New ISBT Website**

A subcommittee was put together to review contents in the previous webpage and subsequently update and populate working party page on the new ISBT website

- **Ongoing work by the ISBT BSM WP**

- The WP is developing a concept for a periodic Newsletter for WP members
- The 2020 survey regarding “Best practice for reducing out-dating of platelets and red cell” is being worked on towards a publication, to be submitted to Vox Sanguinis or ISBT Science series
- A survey is being designed on lessons learnt in the area of Blood Supply Management during the COVID-19 Pandemic
- A webinar in respect of tools for production, planning and stock management is underway.



Justina Ansah

CELLULAR THERAPY WORKING PARTY

Chairperson and committee

Chairperson: Mickey Koh (United Kingdom/Singapore)

Committee:

Vice Chair: Christian Gabriel (Austria)

Secretary: Reinhardt Henschler (Germany)

Treasurer: Thierry Burnouf (Taiwan/France)

Subcommittee chair on Platelet Lysates: Katharina Schallmoser (Austria)

Subcommittee chair on Serum eyedrops: Denese Marks (Australia)

Membership information

The working party consists of **27 members** including the committee. The numbers have remained largely steady. We have members who join and then also become inactive after a while.

Overall, this is expected as the working party sits slightly outside mainstream Transfusion Medicine. There continues to be **worldwide representation** including from Europe, Asia, Africa, North America, South America and Australia. Interest is periodically generated depending on projects involved.

Meetings and telephone conferences

This continues to be a difficult year due to COVID-19. No in person meeting was held and the ISBT congress was fully virtual.

Monthly zoom based meetings were held by the committee as the serum eyedrops workshop due to be held in Vienna had to be postponed again for the 3rd time due to COVID-19. There was initial optimism to hold this workshop in 2021 but the repeated waves of COVID-19 and COVID-19 variants have prevented that from happening.

The monthly meetings were a mixture of budgets for the workshop and the evolving situation of companies less keen to offer sponsorship as well as revising the workshop scientific programme again due to the changing circumstances of speakers. All of this proved challenging and sometimes frustrating.

Activities during the period

The WP activities included:

1. Mickey Koh and Peter Horn continued to **represent ISBT at the Worldwide Network for Blood and Marrow Transplantation (WBMT)**. The group continues its project on “Unproven Cell Therapies”, a position document for WHO.
2. The Working party helped to **review abstracts for the ISBT In Focus session**. Mickey Koh chaired a session during this ISBT in Focus meeting: Blood Products & Cellular Therapies - New questions on old problems. Another Cellular therapies committee member Thierry Burnouf was an invited speaker. Mickey Koh and Reinhardt Henschler also conducted a well received and interactive session on CAR-T therapy.
3. ISBT, via the cellular therapies committee continues to have **representation on CTCLAG**, a technical advisory group under ICCBBA. Mickey Koh represents ISBT for this.
4. The Committee have continued to **update the working party page on the ISBT website**.
5. Mickey Koh contributed to a **paper in Vox Sanguinis (May 2021): International Forum on Transfusion Practices in Haematopoietic Stem-Cell Transplantation**:
6. **Reengaged with the AABB Biotherapies Working Party** and had 2 meetings with the chairperson (C Celluzzi) on possible joint projects.
7. Ongoing work to plan for the postponed eyedrops workshop in Vienna: recouping costs and logistic planning.



Mickey Koh

CLINICAL TRANSFUSION WORKING PARTY

Chairperson and committee:

Leadership

Chairperson: Arwa Z. Al-Riyami (Oman)

Vice-chair: Mark Yazer (USA)

Secretary: Satyam Arora (India)

Committee members-subgroup leads

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

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

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

Clinical apheresis: Hans Vrielink (the Netherlands), Katerina Pavenski (Canada)

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

Haemoglobinopathies: Ratti Ram Sharma, Kamini Khillan (India)

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

Social Media: Soumya Das (India)

Membership information

The WP has **76 members** representing **26 countries** around the globe, and with 12 new members including **8 Young Professionals**.

Meetings and telephone conferences

The WP had **two virtual meetings** in June 2021 and March 2022.

All subgroup leads were represented. In addition, the subgroups had their meetings monthly (TP), 5 (Education), 4 (Apheresis), 3 (Social Media), 2 (PBM) and 1 (paediatrics)

The COVID-19 convalescent plasma WP, initially started April, 2020 with weekly virtual meetings, continued with monthly meetings to date (26 in total).

Activities during the period

1. Structure of WP

- Reformation of the subgroup leadership with the inclusion of YPs as co-chairs
- Two new subgroups were formed; Social media & Haemoglobinopathy

2. Completed activities

- Application of new ISBT procedure for the election of the chair/vice-chair/secretary
- Design of an electronic WP membership application with the ISBT office
- Update of the WP website
- ISBT Transfusion Reaction E-learning module (collaboration with EBA): the module was launched in March 2021. This module is EBAH-accredited and free of access.
- TM E-learning/online education survey is completed, and an abstract has been accepted at the ISBT virtual 2022.
- Publication of the WHO Educational Modules on Clinical Use of Blood with participation from several members of the WP and editorial coordination by Mark Yazer
- Continuation of social media posts of the TP subgroup and the initiation of the posts of other WP subgroups
- A Journal Club on PEXIVAS by the clinical apheresis subgroup
- A joined webinar with ICTMG (Dec. 2021) on platelet use guidelines (Al-Riyami, Arwa Z., et al. Quality of evidence-based guidelines for platelet transfusion and use: A systematic review. *Transfusion* 61.3 (2021): 948-958).
- I TRY IT (2021/2022); supervision of a full cohort of 8 participants in a joined collaboration with the TTID and immunohematology WPs. Two members of the WP are participating as mentors in the program for the last four years (Leo Van De Watering and Arwa Al Riyami). The scope was on writing research protocols of TTID, Clinical Transfusion, and immunohematology research ideas.

3. Ongoing activities

- **Education & TP subgroup: An international forum on TM e-learning/online education for hospital nurses**
- **Education**
 - A systematic scoping review of e-learning/online education
 - Promoting the transfusion reaction module via social media
 - Review of feedback of participants in the transfusion reaction module



Arwa Al-Riyami

CLINICAL TRANSFUSION WORKING PARTY

for further improvement

- **PBM**
 - Birgit Gathof handed over the PBM subgroup leadership to Katerina Pavinski
 - Updating any outdated PBM guidelines is ongoing. This website provides ready access to resources and tools to promote PBM implementation and share best practice between countries.
 - Updating the PBM subgroup page with objectives and activities.
- **Clinical Apheresis**
 - Designing a survey on apheresis practices to be administered to ISBT members
 - Updating and enriching the apheresis resources on the ISBT webpage
 - Assist with editing of Wikipedia pages
- **Transfusion Practitioners**
 - Work on social media posts and podcasts
- **Paediatrics**
 - Current opinion in paediatric transfusion in Vox Sanguinis
 - Vox Sanguinis International Forum on neonatal and paediatric transfusion
 - Update of the TAXICAB guidelines
 - Collaboration with ICTMG for massive transfusion Guideline
- **Social media**
 - Social media posts for the WP on the ISBT social media channels
- **I TRY IT**
 - Preparation for I TRY IT for 2022/2023
- **Wikipedia**
 - Updates of the Wikipedia pages on clinical transfusion (especially hemoglobinopathy and paediatric topics)

4. Other activities

- **The COVID-19 convalescent plasma WP has resulted in a total of 8 publications. Additional six projects are ongoing.**
- **Transfusion Today and Journal clubs**
 - Total of two Transfusion today articles were published (WP leadership, TP)

- Two Webinars/Live Journal clubs (ICTMG/ISBT, Apheresis)
- **Planning for WP Contributions to ISBT 2022 virtual congress, including:**
 - Sessions
 - Clinical Transfusion
 - Transfusion Practitioner
 - Meet the expert
 - Abstracts accepted
 - E-learning in Transfusion Medicine; A cross sectional Survey of Utilization.

Publications

- International Society of Blood Transfusion survey of experiences of blood banks and transfusion services during the COVID-19 pandemic. Arwa Z. Al-Riyami et.al, Vox Sang. 2022, Mar 8. doi: 10.1111/vox.13256.
- Improvement of transfusion practice and reduction in red blood cell utilization in Belgian hospitals: Results of a national survey and benchmarking. Jana Vanden Broeck et al. Vox Sang. 2022; 117.2: 259-267
- International Forum on the Collection and Use of COVID-19 Convalescent Plasma: Protocols, Challenges and Lessons Learned. Arwa Z. Al-Riyami et al. Vox Sang. 2021 Nov;116(10):1117-1135
- Lessons learned in the collection of convalescent plasma during the COVID-19 pandemic. Silvano Wendel et.al. Vox Sang. 2021; 116.8 (2021): 872-879
- ABO Blood Group and COVID-19: A Review on behalf of the ISBT COVID-19 Working Group. Ruchika Goel et al. Vox Sang 2021; 116.8 (2021): 849-861
- Clinical use of Convalescent Plasma in the COVID-19 pandemic; a transfusion-focussed gap analysis with recommendations for future research priorities. Arwa Z. Al-Riyami et al. Vox Sang 2021; 116.1: 88-98
- Guidance for the Procurement of COVID-19 Convalescent Plasma: Differences between High and Low-Middle Income Countries. Bloch EM et.al. Vox Sang 2021; 116.1: 18-35.
- Understanding the role of therapeutic plasma exchange in COVID-19: preliminary guidance and practices. Patidar GK et al. Vox Sang. 2021 Aug;116(7):798-807

Book Chapters

WHO Educational Modules on Clinical Use of Blood;

- Chapter 2. Anaemia ; Cynthia So-Osman, Manish S. Patel and Jeffrey L. Carson
- Chapter 3. Collection, testing and storage of blood products; Vincenzo de Angelis and Dr Massimo La Raja
- Chapter 4. Clinical transfusion procedures; Gwen Clarke, Arwa Z. Al-Riyami and Dr David Roxby
- Chapter 9. Implementing a hospital-based patient blood management programme; Rachel Moss , Linley Bielby, Clare O'Reilly , Dr Louise Sherliker, Jana Vanden Broeck and Dr Jonathan H. Waters.

Transfusion Today, December 2021

- Rachel Moss, Linley Bielby, TP, MDT, PBM, TxP: what are these, and how are they important for patient safety
- Arwa Al-Riyami, Mark Yazer, Satyam Arora, ISBT Clinical Transfusion Working Party



Arwa Al-Riyami

DONORS AND DONATION WORKING PARTY

Chairperson and committee

Chairperson: Karin Magnussen (Norway)

Secretary: Eva-Maria Merz (The Netherlands)

Membership information

The Working Party currently has **48 members**, representing **32 different countries** around the globe.

Meetings and Telephone conferences

Chair and secretary have had monthly Skype meetings to discuss ideas and plans.

Since March 21, the committee send regular newsletters to the members of the working party in order to keep in contact, inform them about WP related issues and news from science and practice. So far there have been sent three newsletters (March, May and December). See below for an example:

- [Newsletter 1](#)
- [Newsletter 2](#)

The working party had a Business meeting in July 2021 on Zoom (during the 2021 ISBT In Focus) to catch up and discuss ongoing and new projects.

Presentations

Report + discussion group Blood unit size (Ellen McSweney and Jean-Yves Py)

Conclusion was that the subject is surprisingly complex and that the Board needs to specify the question

Challenges in Mexico to create a safe and sufficient VNRBD blood supply (Juan Cisneros)

Mindy Goldman tells us about herself and the board, and how we can collaborate.

Agreed that a coming meeting needs to be physical and that zoom meeting may be arranged in case of specific needs

In April 2022 Eva and Karin had a face to face meeting, where WPDD and the coming face to face congress in Gothenburg, Sweden 2023 were discussed.

Activities during the period

The WP organized the business meeting and issued newsletters. The WP have suggested themes and presenters for the WP Donors and Donations day at the coming Virtual Congress- ISBT 2022 and we are preparing the coming workshops and business meeting.



Karin Magnussen

GLOBAL BLOOD SAFETY WORKING PARTY



Martin Smid

Chairperson and committee

Chair: Martin Smid (The Netherlands)

Organizing Committee

Vice-chair: Silvano Wendel (Brazil)

Secretary: Thierry Burnouf (Taiwan)

Treasurer: Susan Stramer (USA)

At-large

Jay Epstein (USA)

Neelam Marwala (India)

Claude Tayou (Cameroon)

Lesley Bust (South Africa)

Jean-Claude Faber (Luxemburg)

Membership information

The WP has a total of close to **50 members** from **25 different countries**.

Meetings and Telephone conferences

Seven teleconferences of the organizing committee were held from April 2021 to March 2022 and an online business meeting is scheduled for April 28, 2022 that will include a presentation about lessons learned from COVID-19 pandemic.

Activities during the period

The WP GBS organized for the **first time a “show case” session during the online ISBT InFocus congress** (June 2-8, 2021): “Donor availability in the low resource environment, how can we deal with the challenges?” There were two presentations about challenges in Africa by Claude Tayou and the success achieving voluntary donation of Sri Lanka by Laksman Edirisinghe, followed by a panel discussion.

The WP activities are divided into four subgroups that organized their teleconferences separately: The most active two subgroups have been Locally produced viral inactivated cryoprecipitate and plasma for fractionation (which had weekly teleconferences to organize a workshop and follow-up activities)

and Harmonization and Standards. The subgroups Voluntary vs replacement donation and Transfusion need vs demand have not been active in the reporting period. Both subgroups are expected to resume activities as a new lead has been identified.

During the second year of the pandemic, the subgroup Locally produced viral inactivated cryoprecipitate and plasma for fractionation organized a **three-day ISBT workshop: Stepwise Access to Safe Plasma Proteins in Resource-Constrained Countries: Local Production & Pathways to Fractionation**, with presentations by key stakeholders: WHO, WFH, IPOPI, FIODS, IPFA, PPTA, blood organizations and industry actors and suppliers.



The workshop was organized online with efficient practical support of the ISBT central office. With approximately **900 unique registrants**, approximately 450 daily attendees, most from LMIC, and interactive discussions, the workshop was a great success.

The follow-up focused on publishing the report in Vox Sanguinis in March 2022, and an ongoing effort to build an international coalition of key stakeholders supporting pilot projects in LMIC for improved access to safe plasma proteins through local production, in line with the WHO guidance on increasing supplies of plasma-derived medicinal products in low- and middle-income countries through fractionation of domestic plasma. Accordingly, the subgroup has now initiated a pilot project at NBTC Dakar, Senegal, for the on-site production of pathogen-reduced cryoprecipitate.

GLOBAL BLOOD SAFETY WORKING PARTY



Martin Smid

The subgroup Harmonization and Standards finalized a survey questionnaire on policies and practices for TTID testing. The goal is to describe the global range of established requirements and recommendations for TTID testing and to interpret the rationale for variability of those policies and practices in an educational publication. The strategy for the dissemination with global representation was prepared within ISBT. After finalization, the questionnaire has been distributed through the ISBT central office to country representatives. Members of the Harmonization subgroup are invited to help with analysis of the anticipated survey responses and development of the publication.

During the year, several WP members also contributed very actively to the ISBT COVID-19 working group that published several articles to provide analysis and impact of the COVID-19 crisis on the collection of convalescent plasma on the organization of blood establishments.

Publications

1. [Workshop handbook](#)

2. [GBS Publications:](#)

Stepwise access to safe plasma proteins in resource-constrained countries: Local production and pathways to fractionation—Report of an International Society of Blood Transfusion Workshop Thierry Burnouf, Jay Epstein, Jean-Claude Faber, Martin Smid. Vox Sang: 2022; published online.

3. Donor availability in the low resources environment, how can we deal with the challenges?

Meeting report of the session organized by the ISBT Working party Global Blood Safety Session on World Blood Donor Day during the ISBT In Focus online congress, June 14th, 2021. Africa Sanguine (In Press)

W. Martin Smid, Justina Kordai Ansah, Claude Tayou-Tagny, Laksman Edirisinghe, Ananda Gunasekera, Shirley Owusu-Ofori, Ashley Duits.

Joint WP publications

1. International Society of Blood Transfusion survey of experiences of blood banks and transfusion services during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Al-Riyami AZ, Burnouf T, Wood EM, Devine DV, Oreh A, Oveland Apelseth T, et al. Vox Sanguinis, 2022; doi:10.1111/vox.13256

2. International Forum on the Collection and Use of COVID-19 Convalescent Plasma: Protocols, Challenges and Lessons Learned: Summary

Al-Riyami AZ, Burnouf T, Yazer M, Triulzi D, Kumas LT, Sagdur L, et al. Vox Sang 2021; 116(10): 1117–1135

3. International Forum on the collection and use of COVID-19 convalescent plasma: Responses

Al-Riyami AZ, Burnouf T, Yazer M, Triulzi D, Kumas LT, Sagdur L, et al. Vox Sanguinis, 2021; 116(10): e71–e120.

4. Guidance for the procurement of COVID-19 convalescent plasma: differences between high- and low-middle-income countries.

E. M. Bloch, R. Goel, S. Wendel, T. Burnouf, A. Z. Al-Riyami, A. L. Ang, et al. Vox Sang 2021; 116: 18-35

5. Lessons learned in the collection of convalescent plasma during the COVID-19 pandemic.

S. Wendel, K. Land, D. V. Devine, J. Daly, R. Bazin, P. Tiberghien, et al. Vox Sang 2021 116(8):872-879

GRANULOCYTE IMMUNOBIOLOGY WORKING PARTY

Chairperson, committee and members

Chairperson: Behnaz Bayat (Germany)

Nomenclature Subcommittee:

Torsten Schulze (Germany), Kasper Nielsen (Denmark), Masja De Haas (Netherlands), Elyze Moritz (Brazil)

Workshop Subcommittee:

Brian Curtis (USA), Behnaz Bayat (Germany), Nelson Tsuno (Japan)

Membership information

The Working Party has a total of **36 members**, representing **18 different** countries around the globe.

Meetings and Telephone conferences

Interactive session at ISBT In Focus – June 2021:

Welcome & update by Chair Behnaz Bayat

- Neutrophil Immunobiology - how childhood immune neutropenia are investigated
- Definition for autoimmune neutropenia
- The standard diagnostic tools
- Autoimmune neutropenia (infancy)
- Alloimmune neutropenia
- Drug dependent neutropenia

Activities during the period

As Suggested by Dr. Lin Fung and Dr. Behnaz Bayat, a **Global Survey** was distributed to all workshop members and laboratories who do the neutrophil serology or HNA genotyping activities all over the world. The result of this study will be published in 2022.

“**How do I do**” presentation: in collaboration with Dr. Nelson Tsuno, the standard protocol for the **Granulocyte Immune Fluorescence Test (GIFT)**, one of the main diagnostic tests was animated and posted on the ISBT website.



Behnaz Bayat

HAEMOVIGILANCE WORKING PARTY

Chairperson and committee

Chairperson: Mary Townsend

Committee:

Secretary: Gopal Patidar

Donor Vigilance Coordinator: Shruthi Narayan

Recipient Vigilance Coordinator: Gopal Patidar

Past Chair: Kevin Land

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	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Corporate Partner (observer)	7	6	7	5	4	0
Full Member	91	88	76	78	75	80
Observer	20	20	25	25	28	15
Visitor	21	20	21	22	22	0
Total Active	139	133	129	130	129	95

Meetings and e-mail exchanges

The committee held a few teleconferences to plan for the WP in association with the 2021 congress and to set priorities for 2022

The annual working meeting was held June 10, 2021 in conjunction with the 2021 Milan ISBT In Focus meeting. Because of the Virtual format, the Recipient and Donor subsections did not meet separately. The General Session had discussions about the meeting in Virtual meeting in Barcelona. Dr. Christine Cserti-Gazdewich, Assistant Professor, University of Toronto discussed the TADPOL Study (Transfusion-Associated Dyspnea: Prospective Observation and

Laboratory Assessment, and provided different aspect to identify and categorize transfusion associated respiratory reactions. Reports from the subgroup sessions, and updates from other working parties and affiliations/collaborations including ISBT Board of Directors, IHN, WHO, Clinical Transfusion, Pediatric subgroup of Clinical Transfusion, TTID, Global Blood Safety, Donors and Donation, Cellular Therapy, and IT and Traceability. A call went out for those interested in becoming involved in the Imputability project.

Activities during the period

- Introduction of **HV WP Newsletter** - Over the period from March, 2021 through May, 2022, four newsletters were published and shared in the Hemovigilance WP section of the ISBT webpage.
- Participation in Workshop on establishment of a national hemovigilance system three half-day virtual workshop November 10-12, 2021; the workshop was held on-site in Eswatini and Mauritius.
- Participation in an almost 18-month collaboration with IHN and the WHO to develop a **virtual library of documents for use by organizations in developing a new HV system or enhancing an existing program**. The documents will be housed on the ISBT HV WP section of the website. This section of the HV WP webpage will NOT be restricted to ISBT members or members of the WP; by design and by agreement with WHO, the tools and resources will be available to anyone looking for such resources. The documents will be managed by a new subcommittee of the WP made up of volunteers and young professionals. This subcommittee will be tasked with periodic review of existing document for accuracy and continued relevance, and links, to assure they are still current. The group will actively recruit and identify additional tools and review those new tools for inclusion in the library.
- A **webinar** is planned to demonstrate access to and use of the Tools and Resources in the virtual library.
- The WP has planned **two sessions for the 2022 Virtual Congress**, including a combined session with the Pediatrics subcommittee of the Clinical Therapy WP, on pediatric HV.



Mary Townsend

IMMUNOHAEMATOLOGY WORKING PARTY

Chairperson and committee

Chair: Thierry Peyrard (France)

Vice Chair: Nicole Thornton (United Kingdom)

Secretary: Sofia Lejon Crottet (Switzerland)

Treasurer: Mostafa Moghaddam (Iran)

Chair Emeritus: Sandra Nance (USA)

Membership information

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

Meetings and Telephone conferences

Due to COVID-19, the official meeting of the Working Party, which was supposed to be held before March 31st 2022, could not be organized. It is planned to take place in as soon as possible following the ISBT 2022 virtual congress.

Discussions were held with ISBT central office regarding a plan to provide continuity in the working party and to ensure that every postholder in the secretariat does not change at the same time in 2023.

Activities during the period

The Working Party Chair and Vice-Chair built the program of the “Red Cell Immunohaematology themed day”.

This took place on June 3rd 2021 with three lectures and two live interactive workshops entitled “Positive antibody screen - what next?! Case studies on everyday antibody identification” and “Opening the toolbox to solve complex cases in reference laboratories”.

These sessions were all well attended. The live sessions took place over two time zones and succeeded in attracting a lot of interaction from the audience.



Thierry Peyrard

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY WORKING PARTY

Chairperson and committee

Chairperson: Suzanne Butch (USA)

Vice Chair: Goudar Shankar (USA)

Secretary: Open

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

Traceability Task Force: Paul Ashford (United Kingdom)/Suzanne Butch (USA)

RFID Task Force Chair: Wayne Bolton (Australia)

ICCBBA TAG Representative: Mario Muon (Portugal)

Membership information

At present there are **35 voting members**, 12 Observers and 4 Appointed Observers from **18 countries**.

Meetings and Telephone conferences

A conference call was held in November. There were no face to face meeting held. To facilitate meeting the goals of the Working Party, it was agreed to schedule quarterly video conference calls in addition to communication via email.

Activities during the period

- A **new chair**, Suzanne Butch (USA) began leading the Working party in July. During the November conference call the Working party reviewed and updated the Terms of Reference and expanded the work to include information technology associated with all medical products of human origin.
- The **Validation Task Force** has been meeting monthly over the past year to finalize the revision to the Validation Guidelines. The revised document is being readied for submission.
- A **Traceability Task Force** was created to write an initial guideline for ensuring traceability of blood and products of human origin. A manuscript is expected to be completed by the end of 2022.
- The **RFID Task Force** is continuing to monitor the use of RFID. A revision of the initial guidelines will be taken up in 2022.



Suzanne Butch

PLATELET IMMUNOBIOLOGY WORKING PARTY

Chairperson and committee

Chairperson: Brian Curtis

Membership information

The Platelet Immunology Working Party (PIWP) currently has **28 lab members representing 19 countries**. In addition, there are 3 new labs from 3 different countries with membership pending.

Meetings and Telephone conferences

The PIWP held a Zoom meeting October 7, 2021 with Brian Curtis (USA), Jenny White (ISBT), Nelson Tsuno (Japan), Nuria Nogues (Spain) to plan the 2022 PIWP International Platelet Immunology Workshop.

The PIWP chair held a Zoom meeting with Nurul Munira Yahya (Malaysia) to discuss coordination of the 2022 PIWP International Platelet Immunology Workshop.

The PIWP Chair held Zoom meetings (2021 and 2022) with ISBT officials to discuss possible ways to strengthen and optimize the processes for conducting international workshops

Activities during the period

PIWP International Workshop samples were shipped by the organizing committee:

National Blood Centre, Malaysia

- Nurul Munira Yahya
- Nor Hafizah Ahmad
- Rozi Hanisa Musa
- Syazana Akmal Sharifuddin
- Nor Afiqah Nordin
- Nang Pah Nik Ibrahim
- Norliza Ibrahim
- Azizan Amran
- Muhammad Rashidi Rozani

Malaysian Blood Transfusion Society

- Sally Lam Tsuey Peng
- Wan Nor Azma Wan Salleh

Samples consisted of 3 sera for HPA antibody detection and 3 DNA for HPA genotyping. Samples were kindly provided by the Platelet & Neutrophil Immunology Lab, Versiti, Milwaukee, WI, USA. Workshop results have been received, and they are being reviewed. A full report of the results will be presented at the June 2022 Business Meeting.

Furthermore, the WP Terms of Reference (ToR) were updated and posted on the ISBT website in 2022.



Brian Curtis

QUALITY MANAGEMENT WORKING PARTY

Chairperson and committee

Chairperson: Christian Seidl (Germany)

Co-Chairs: Tomislav Vuk (Croatia), Yan Qiu (China)

Lesley Bust (South Africa)

Membership information

34 members from **21 countries**: Belgium, Canada, Cameroon, China, Croatia, Egypt, France, Finland, Germany, Greece, India, Maroc, The Netherlands, Romania, Russia, South Africa, Sweden, Turkey, United Arab Emirates UAE, Ukraine, United States of America.

New Member organisation 2018-2021:

- Chinese Society for Blood Transfusion CSBT (Zhengrong Zou), Shanghai, China
- Diagnostic Accreditation Programme (Susanna Darnel, ART), Vancouver, Canada
- ISTM Quality special interest group (Nidhi Bhatnagar), Ahmedabad, India
- EU | FH Public Health Education and Prevention (Gesine Weckmann)
- Rostock, Germany
- Health Education and Research Organization (HERO) (Beukou Fonkou Hygin Steve) Cameroon
- Dept. Transfusion Medicine & Haematology, NIMHANS (Vijay Kumawat), Bengaluru, India
- Blood Bank Takhasousi Habib Hospital, (Ahmed Yousef M. Almudayni), Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
- Cooperating Partners: EuBIS Academy

Meetings and Telephone conferences

Zoom Board meetings (Telco/e-mailing) on the WP party scopes and projects, with the main topics on:

- Project on Quality Indicator and Harmonisation
- Revision of the Definition Guide
- Developing 'virtual' educational content by transforming the GMP/GPG Seminar ISBT 'Face-to-Face' into a concept for "Virtual Training"

Activities during the period

1. **Zoom-Seminar at the virtual congress ISBT In Focus "GMP/GP standards and their implication for the safety of blood and blood components" Training seminar and workshop organised by the ISBT WP on Quality Management supported by the EuBIS Academy.** In total more than 130 participants (76 morning and 55 afternoon session) participated in the workshops, which took place on June 7th 2021.

The trainer team consisted of: Christian Seidl, Yan Qiu, Paul Stengers, Tomislav Vuk, Fewzi Teskrat and Jose Manuel Cardenas.

The seminar was introduced by lectures on the topics:

- Essentials of GP/GMP for blood and blood components
 - Quality risk management in blood establishments – the role of quality indicators.
 - and Classification of non-compliances based on Inspection case studies ('How do I') with polling questions. The trainees were asked to perform classification including risk assessment based on the training hand-outs and their own experience in quality management.
2. **'Virtual' Lecture on 'Best practice and common regulatory systems in Europe for blood establishments' during the Annual Meeting of the Chinese Society of Blood Transfusion – 'Comparison of practice' on invitation by the Management Committee in December (21st) 2021.**

This activity was supported by the translation of Guide and Manual on Quality Management and Inspection into Chinese (coordinated by Yan Qiu). Christian Seidl together with the trainer team and board are currently in preparation for a virtual training session in 2022 for the upcoming meeting of the Chinese Society for Blood Transfusion.



Christian Seidl

QUALITY MANAGEMENT WORKING PARTY

3. Revision of the “Common references on Definitions”

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

The resulting list of definitions is not prescriptive but is meant to serve as a recommendation for establishments that choose to use them. It is understood, however, that establishments in some countries are obliged to follow national legislation and terminology.

It is the intention of the ISBT Quality Working Party to periodically review the list of definitions and perform updates when required so feedback from interested parties is welcome.

ISBT Quality Working Party Board for this project:

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

Additional Participants in Working Group on Definitions:

- Sibel Eldemir (Turkey)
- Yan Qiu (China)
- Nigar Ertugrul Öruc (Turkey)
- Paul Strengers (The Netherlands)
- Wade Atkins (USA)

4. Mentors volunteered for the ISBT’s young professionals are:

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

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



Christian Seidl

RARE DONORS WORKING PARTY

Chairperson and committee

Chair: Christine Lomas-Francis (USA)

Vice-Chair: Erwin A. Scharberg (Germany)

Secretary: Vered Yahalom (Israel)

Treasurer: Inna Sareneva (Finland)

IBGRL liaison: Nicole Thornton (United Kingdom)

Past Chair: Sandra Nance (USA)

Membership information

The Working Party on Rare Donors (WPRD) has **36 members** representing **27 countries**. The WPRD was joined by **4 new members**:

- Sofia Lejon Crottet (Switzerland)
- Paula Andrea Gaviria Garcia (Colombia; a country not previously represented)
- Margaret Keller (USA)
- Swati Kulkarni (India).

Hein Hustinx (Switzerland) retired at the end of 2021. We thank Hein for his many years of service to the WPRD and to patients requiring rare blood.

All members are actively involved in their respective country's rare donor programmes and as outlined in the Terms of Reference for the WPRD, are required to share the rare donor list from their country with the International Blood Group Reference Laboratory (IBGRL) who manages the International Rare Donor Panel (IRDP).

Meetings and Telephone conferences

An official business meeting of the WPRD did not take place during this period.

E-mail communication connected members throughout the year and provided an easy and effective way to seek information and advice about techniques, such as the storage of frozen rare red cell units, and to search for rare blood. The executive committee also communicated by e-mail.

Activities during the period

1. ISBT in Focus 2021 Virtual meeting (June 2021): Members of the WPRD organized and presented interactive sessions entitled **“What’s in your freezer? How to establish, maintain and use a frozen RBC inventory.”** The live programme, which involved seven members of the WPRD, was presented twice to cover all time zones and included audience participation through live polling questions. After each session there was an opportunity for attendees to enter a post-session discussion room for an informal unmoderated discussion.
2. ISBT Education, Corporate Partner Educational Webinar (November 2021): two members of the WPRD presented on the topic: **“International, National and Regional Rare Donor Programs: A treasure of collaboration”**.
3. A proposal for an educational session for the 37th International congress of the ISBT (June 2022) was accepted by the congress organizing committee. Three WPRD members will be presenting in the session entitled **“Anticipating the need for rare blood”**.
4. Throughout the year, several members of the WPRD held virtual meetings with the newest member from India (Swati Kulkarni) and her team in Mumbai to answer questions and make suggestions regarding the establishing of a National Rare Donor Programme.
5. A survey was sent to members of the WPRD regarding different aspects of the various rare donor programmes. The gathered information was presented in an abstract entitled **“Rare donor programs across the globe. Where are they and what do they look like: Survey of countries in the ISBT working party on rare donors.”** That was selected for oral presentation at ISBT 2022.



Christine Lomas-Francis

RED CELL IMMUNOGENETICS AND BLOOD GROUP TERMINOLOGY WORKING PARTY

Chairperson and committee

Co-Chairs: Catherine Hyland and Christoph Gassner

Secretary: Margaret Keller

Treasurer: Thierry Peyrard

Blood Group Allele Database Project Leader: William Joseph Lane

Membership information

The RCI & BGT Working Party (WP) did not welcome any new members last year and the total number remained unchanged at 27. There are 6 new candidates whose admission is expected to be voted upon in the 2021/2022 financial year.

The 4-year term of Co-chairs Catherine Hyland and Christoph Gassner, and the functions of Secretary Margaret Keller and Treasurer Thierry Peyrard and an 8-year term of Vice-chair Lilian Castilho, all functions of the Executive Committee of our Working Party, will come to an end in June 2022. Catherine and Christoph have decided to apply for another co-chairship.

Meetings and Telephone conferences

We have held two business meetings, the 3rd and 4th virtual business meetings, in June and December 2021. The 5th virtual business meeting is currently planned for end of May/beginning of June 2022. At present, the WP lists a total of 43 blood group systems, still unchanged for the year 2020/2021. However, in 2021/2022, a total of 4 new antigens were described within the existing blood group systems bringing a new total of 347 antigens. A further 33 antigens remain within the 200, 700 and 901 series of unclassified antigens with unresolved genetic basis. The 5th virtual business meeting planned for the end of May, beginning of June 2022 may still change the numbers mentioned above.

Activities during the period

1. Blood Group Allele Table updates

Since May 2021, IT expert Harald Obergasser (non-member) has been

assisting the Working Party in the update, administration, and curation of the blood group allele tables with his 0.5 full time equivalent being funded by the ISBT. He is supervised by the two Co-Chairs Catherine Hyland and Christoph Gassner and his working place is located at the Private University in the Principality of Liechtenstein working together with Christoph.

At the time of writing, tables for 32 of 43 blood group systems plus 2 tables for regulatory transcription factors are now available in the latest format, including citations, GenBank Accession and SNP ID (“rs”) numbers. The completed Tables are shown in Figure 1 and coloured green. The Table also shows when new updates have occurred. Just a note for the complex RhD blood group. The previously separate tables for the different Rh phenotypes have now been merged into a single RHD table version, which alone already contains more than 400 alleles.

Now “only” the tables for most (7 of the 8), blood grouping systems based on carbohydrate antigens (so far, SID is the only Carbohydrate system with an allele table available in “project-2” format), along with MNS, LW, JR, and LAN are missing. For most of these, we still expect a final upload in the 2021/2022 financial year, so next year the tables for ABO and MNS, which are also extremely complex, will be the conclusion of this work.

2. Other Projects and Activities:

In addition to the regular business meetings, several virtual meetings were held on various topics, all of them with different participants.

In March 2022, the WP Executive Committee discussed the new ISBT website and in particular the WP’s website. It was decided that the content and navigation need to be revised (work in progress). At the same time, Silvano Wendel gratefully agreed to fundamentally edit the terms of reference (TOR) of the WP (proposal almost finished).

Throughout 2021 and 2022, three virtual workshops on carbohydrate blood group systems were held and a partial new allele designation was decided.



Catherine Hyland and Christoph Gassner

RED CELL IMMUNOGENETICS AND BLOOD GROUP TERMINOLOGY WORKING PARTY

3. Database

Co-chairs, Bill Lane, Nick Gleadall and Harald Obergasser intensively worked together with the ISBT officials to manage hand over of Database Prototype prepared by WP member, Bill Lane. The transfer contract is under negotiation and will give the ISBT full ownership of the database. When complete, steering committee members will reconvene to plan the next phase of the project. The implementation plan has been written, to be executed commencing 2022.

Publications

1. A manuscript with recommendations for **fetal RhD NIPT blood group genotyping** which will contribute to the guidelines for laboratories establishing these special blood group tests was published in Vox Sanguinis (Vox Sang. 2022 Feb;117(2):157-165. doi: 10.1111/vox.13172. Epub 2021 Jun 21.)
2. Another manuscript planned for submission to Vox Sanguinis is in preparation; this manuscript will report on the **outcomes from all four Business Meetings held between 2019 to June 2021**. The report will provide and update on new blood group systems and antigens.

We would like to give a special thank you to our members for all their continued hard work, expertise, and patience, in updating all the blood group tables and preparing for a future-look electronic data base.

A special thank you also to Jenny and all the office ISBT staff for their support in progressing these changes over this the last year.



TRANSFUSION TRANSMITTED INFECTIOUS DISEASES WORKING PARTY

Chairperson and committee

Chair: Brian Custer (USA)

Vice Chair: Sheila O'Brien (Canada)

Corporate Member Representative: Marion Lanteri (USA)

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

Subgroup coordinators:

Bacteria: Sandra Ramirez-Arcos (Canada), Carl McDonald (UK)

Parasites: Evan Bloch (USA), Steven Drews (Canada), Silvano Wendel (Brazil)

SRAP: Sheila O'Brien (Canada), Katy Davison (UK)

Virology: Helen Faddy (Australia), Daniel Candotti (France)

Membership information

The purpose of TTID is to understand infectious diseases in transfusion, including conducting research and assessments that contribute to increasing the safety of the blood supply across jurisdictions. Members interface with ECDC, CDC, WHO, AABB, and many other global and national groups and NGOs. The TTID WP includes international experts from a range of disciplines who:

1. Gather, analyse and review relevant data,
2. Develop and coordinate international studies,
3. Publish scientific reports,
4. Actively contribute to policy discussions, including advocacy for blood safety interventions in all regions of the world.

There are four subgroups of TTID: bacteria, parasites, surveillance, risk assessment and policy (SRAP), and virology.

Per our current Terms of Reference (TOR), last updated in 2016, TTID has different levels of membership: Corporate Members (CM), Honorary Members

(HM), Individual Members (IM), Institutional Liaisons (IL) and Observers (O). For the annual reporting period 2021-2022, TTID had 154 members (21 CM, 2 HM, 87 IM, 9 IL, and 19 O) from 32 countries. This was an increase of 31 compared to last year.

Meetings and Telephone conferences

During this reporting period, the TTID WP OC Committee convened two teleconferences and many ad hoc email discussions regarding TTID, our WP TOR, and membership questions.

Each subgroup holds quarterly conference calls/virtual meetings to provide updates on current work and to plan future activities. In the first quarter of 2021, quarterly calls were replaced by virtual meetings of each subgroup using Zoom or other software platforms when necessary. All TTID members are invited to participate in subgroup meetings.

Activities during the period

Without being able to meet in person at the Kuala Lumpur congress, the TTID WP annual business meeting and subgroup meetings will also be held as virtual meetings.

Topics planned to be covered are provided below. A summary of the activities of each subgroup in last year follows. Subgroup meetings will be held in the month of May 2022 to provide an opportunity for more detailed discussion of each of the subgroup's current work.

TTID members frequently present on TTID topics and subgroup activities at national and international meetings. The list of these presentations is too extensive to include in this annual report.

TTID Annual Business Meeting (April 25, 2022 – Planned Agenda provided)

1. Introductions, update on WP, overview of agenda and plans for separate subgroup meetings (Brian Custer)
2. Keynote speaker - Penny Moore, Ph.D., "Characterizing immunity to SARS-CoV-2 in South Africa"
3. Subgroup activities in the last year (10 minutes each)



Brian Custer



Brian Custer

TRANSFUSION TRANSMITTED INFECTIOUS DISEASES WORKING PARTY

- Virology (Helen Faddy / Daniel Candotti)
- Surveillance Risk Assessment and Policy (Sheila O'Brien)
- Bacteria (Carl McDonald)
- Parasites (Steven Drews)

4. Review of TOR (Brian Custer)

5. Other business:

Mentorship by TTID members and engaging developing countries (Brian Custer and all)

Subgroup on Bacteria

There are 31 TTID WP Individual Members whose primary affiliation is the Bacteria Subgroup. Over the course of the last year, there have been no changes to leadership or oversight of the bacterial subgroup. Completed and in progress activities are listed:

Bacterial growth in platelet components inoculated with lyophilized stocks (BIOBALLS) of Staphylococcus aureus and Klebsiella pneumoniae (lead Marcel Prax). Testing by participant sites has been completed and additional stability work has been performed by the PEI.

Bacterial growth in cold-stored platelets (Sandra Ramirez). Five of the 8 participant laboratories have completed experimental work and the overall project is continuing.

Survey for monitoring of environmental contamination (Sandra Ramirez). A working group drafted a survey that is being tested by a small group of participants and will be further developed in 2022.

Colombian study to evaluate the incidence of bacterial contamination in platelet components (Michel Garcia). This project has not started due to a requirement by the participant clinic to have an insurance policy. Therefore, the study is being refined changing the scope from active to passive surveillance.

Subgroup on Parasites

There are 9 TTID WP Individual Members whose primary affiliation is the Parasites Subgroup. Over the course of the last year, there have been no

changes to leadership or oversight of the parasites subgroup. Participation in the parasites subgroup from all membership levels of TTID has grown over the past two years (approximately 20 members) but attendance of individual calls has varied considerably (~10-15), with collaborators from other subgroups participating on an ad hoc basis. Completed and in progress activities are listed:

A molecular surveillance study of Babesia in Tyrol, Austria (lead Evan Bloch). Molecular screening for Babesia was conducted of blood donors (n~8000) for Babesia in Tyrol (Western Austria). The study, sponsored by Roche, was conducted in collaboration with Central Institute for Blood Transfusion and Immunology (Austria) and Bavarian Red Cross (Germany). The study was completed in 2021 and a manuscript is pending decision at Transfusion at time of this report.

Climate change and parasitic risk to the blood supply: a review and gap analysis (lead Steven Drews). Evaluation of the interplay of vectors, parasites incidence and climate change and the potential impact on blood transfusion safety

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

There are 27 TTID WP Individual Members whose primary affiliation is the SRAP subgroup. Over the course of the last year, there have been no changes to leadership or oversight of the SRAP subgroup. Participation in the SRAP Subgroup from all membership levels of TTID has grown over the past two years. Completed and in progress activities are listed:

HIV Residual Risk Modelling for Apheresis Plasma Donation (lead Eliana Aube). The aim of this project was to model the Canadian residual risk of HIV-positive source plasma incorporating pathogen inactivation (PI) under no MSM deferral scenarios for apheresis plasma donations. The work was published in Vox Sang in 2021

SARS-CoV-2 Seroprevalence Studies (lead Sahar Saeed) This project aimed to review severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 seroprevalence studies conducted among blood donors to investigate methodological biases and provide guidance for future research. The work was published in Vox Sang in 2021.



Brian Custer

TRANSFUSION TRANSMITTED INFECTIOUS DISEASES WORKING PARTY

Survey of Public Health Research Activities (lead Antoine Lewin). This project aims to assess the role of the blood services in public health research initiatives. The survey asks about the use data and samples from blood donors, and the partnerships between organisations. Survey was sent to ISBT TTID WP membership and others on 19 Jan 2022. Plan to submit for publication in a public health journal in 2022. Findings will also be used to inform the subgroup's project 'Public-Health-Research-Toolkit'. Next steps are to follow-up with a more in-depth review for activities in specific countries.

Public Health Toolkit (lead Connie Higgs, Roche). This project aims to create a toolkit as a framework to enable researchers and/or blood centres to increase the role blood donor data can play in public health research and surveillance, and to help gain commitment and funding from various agencies for new research. There are 7 workstreams producing components of the toolkit, each one has made some progress:

- fact-based documents about donor centre infrastructure with types of data available
- the public health research survey
- methods to assess and mitigate bias
- examples of success
- methods to communicate the value of blood donors in PH research
- template to support emerging outbreaks
- methods to rapidly develop and implement studies

The working group plans to finalise output in Spring 2022 and will ensure there is a strategy to keep it up to date.

Subgroup on Virology

There are 25 TTID WP Individual Members whose primary affiliation is the virology subgroup. Over the course of the last year, there have been no changes to leadership or oversight of the virology subgroup. Participation in the subgroup from all membership levels of TTID has remained steady over the last year. Completed and in progress activities are listed:

HBV breakthroughs in vaccinated blood donors (lead Daniel Candotti). Project delayed due to COVID pandemic and INTS activity transfer to IMRB

(D Candotti) but progressing with identification and inclusion of samples from France, Switzerland, Poland, and China. HBV variants were sequenced and S genes cloned in expression vectors. In vitro preliminary functional analysis of S variants identified two unexpected cases of impaired S proteins secretion. Ethical approval and import authorization are in progress to get access to South African samples but administrative procedures in France are delayed due to the laboratory transfer.

NAT survey 10 years later International Forum on NAT: understanding usage and yield 20 years on from first implementation (leads Helen Faddy and Carla Osiowy). The survey was finalized and circulated in May 2021. Through international collaboration, the results from over 10 million donations have been obtained as of December 2021. A reminder to complete the survey will be sent in early 2022.

New projects developed/initiated in 2021: Monitoring viral variability (joint project Candotti, Faddy, and Drews). Extension of the ISBT in-focus workshop about interests and situations with respect to monitoring viral variability in blood donors to try to promote this surveillance.

Achievements: a questionnaire was developed and distributed. Data are currently collected (20 responses). A reminder will be circulated early 2022. A manuscript, based on survey responses, will be compiled on behalf of subgroup.

Review of viral confirmatory testing and future donor eligibility (lead Susan Galel, Roche). Project aims to help blood suppliers to develop policies for donor eligibility and reinstatement for donors with discrepant or non-reactive results. A publication will be prepared with experts from around the world providing evidence supporting policies and algorithms used. The study will focus on HIV and HCV in the first instance, and on HBV later. Potential participants have been identified and successfully contacted. Kick-off early 2022.

HDV prevalence in HBV-infected donors from Dalian, China and in a multicenter cohort of fully characterized donors with occult HBV infection (lead X. Deng). Ongoing pilot study to investigate the epidemiology of HDV in HBV-positive blood donors in a high endemic context and to evaluate if HDV may participate to the occult HBV phenotype.



Brian Custer

TRANSFUSION TRANSMITTED INFECTIOUS DISEASES WORKING PARTY

TTID is involved in many activities related to each of the subgroups. Our primary path for demonstrating productivity is through presentations and publications. Publications are grouped by Subgroup.

Completed manuscripts/publications

Bacteria

1. Ramirez-Arcos S, et al. Challenging the 30-minute rule for thawed plasma. *Vox Sang*. 2021 Aug 4. doi: 10.1111/vox.13189. 2021. Online ahead of print.
2. Prax M, et al. Establishment of Transfusion-Relevant Bacteria Reference Strains for Red Blood Cells *Vox Sang*; 2021. 116:692-701.

In development:

3. Three reviews on bacterial testing and pathogen reduction of platelets. The papers are in different stages of review/acceptance in *Vox Sanguinis* and will be published in 2022.
4. Special Series of the *Annals of Blood*, which includes 9 manuscripts and an editorial, will be published in 2022.

Parasites

1. Drews SJ, Spencer BR, Wendel S, Bloch EM; International Society of Blood Transfusion TTID Working Party Parasite Subgroup. Filariasis and transfusion-associated risk: a literature review. *Vox Sang*. 2021 Aug;116(7):741-754. doi: 10.1111/vox.13073. Epub 2021 Jan 25. PMID: 33491765.
2. Crowder LA, Wendel S, Bloch EM, O'Brien SF, Delage G, Sauleda S, Leiby DA for the WP-TTID Subgroup on Parasites. International Survey of Strategies to Mitigate Transfusion-Transmitted *Trypanosoma cruzi* in Non-Endemic Countries, 2016-2018. *Vox Sanguinis* 2021
3. Drews SJ. Why blood operators need to plan for climate change: A proposal. *Transfusion Today* 2022.

Subgroup on SRAP

1. O'Brien SF, Lieshout-Krikke R, Lewin A, Erikstrup C, Steele WR, Uzicanin S, Custer B. Research initiatives of blood services worldwide in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. *Vox Sang* 2021;116;296-304.
2. *Lewin A, Leishout-Krikke R, Erikstrup C, Steele WR, Fady H, Uzicanin S, Drews SJ, Saeed S, Custer B, O'Brien SF. An international survey of anti-SARS-CoV-2 assays and seroprevalence estimates from blood component providers *Vox Sang*. 2021 Oct;116(9):946-954.
3. Saeed S, Lewin A, Leishout-Krikke R, O'Brien SF. COVID-19: Blood centers rise to the occasion and lead seroprevalence studies. *Transfusion Today* 2020 December:10-11.
4. Aubé E, Lewin A, O'Brien SF, Grégoire Y, Pilonel J, Steele WR, Custer B, Davison KL, Germain M, Seed CR, Camirand Lemyre F; Surveillance, Risk Assessment and Policy Subgroup of the ISBT Transfusion Transmitted Infectious Diseases Working Party. HIV residual risk in Canada for apheresis source plasma donation without deferral for men who have sex with men. *Vox Sang*. 2021 Jul 15. doi: 10.1111/vox.13176. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 34268781.
5. * Saeed S, Uzicanin S, Lewin A, Lieshout-Krikke R, Faddy H, Erikstrup C, Osiowy C, Seed CR, Steele WR, Davison K, Custer B, O'Brien SF; Surveillance Risk Assessment and Policy (SRAP) Sub-group of the Transfusion Transmitted Infectious Diseases Working Party of the International Society of Blood Transfusion. Current challenges of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 seroprevalence studies among blood donors: A scoping review. *Vox Sang*. 2021 Dec 3. doi: 10.1111/vox.13221. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 34862614.
6. Lewin A, Davison K, O'Brien SF. The evolving role of blood suppliers in public health – Pre-COVID-19 and beyond. *Transfusion Today* – in press

* Reflects joint work of SRAP and Virology Subgroups



Brian Custer

TRANSFUSION TRANSMITTED INFECTIOUS DISEASES WORKING PARTY

Subgroup on Virology

1. Chen J, Liu B, Tang X, Zheng X, Lu J, Zhang L, Wang W, Candotti D, Fu Y, Allain JP, Li C, Li L, Li T. Role of core protein mutations in the development of occult HBV infection. *J Hepatol* 2021;74:1303-1314.
2. Candotti D, Tagny-Tayou C, Laperche S. Challenges in transfusion-transmitted infection screening in Sub-Saharan Africa. *Transfus Clin Biol* 2021;28:163-170.
3. Cappy P, Boizeau L, Candotti D, Caparros R, Lucas Q, Garrabe E, Martinaud C, Le Cam S, Gallian P, Morel P, Pillonel J, Laperche S. Effectiveness of the HCV blood screening strategy through eighteen years of surveillance of HCV infection in blood donors in France. *Blood Transfus* 2021. doi: 10.2450/2021.0032-21.

REPORTS FROM ISBT STANDING COMMITTEES

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

ISBT STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE ISBT ACADEMY

Chairperson and committee:

Chairperson: Masja de Haas (The Netherlands)

Co-Chairperson: Lin Fung (Australia)

Members:

Shirley Owusu (Ghana)

Lani Lieberman (Canada)

Imelda Bates (United Kingdom)

Lilian Castilho (Brazil)

Veera Nadarajan (Malaysia)

Maha Badawi (Saudi Arabia)

Ratti Ram Sharma (India)

During the period of this report, no members finished their terms on the Academy Standing Committee.

The Academy Standing Committee is supported by:



Meetings and Telephone conferences

The Academy Standing Committee met virtually.

The following topics were addressed:

- Update on ISBT Academy activities including Academy events and ISBT Education
- Update on Academy publication committee activities, with a special focus on the e-book
- Discussions about the educational materials available on ISBT Education

- Discussions about the evaluation process of applications for Academy support of educational events

On request of ISBT's Executive committee, a meeting was held with the chair, co-chair, the Scientific Officer Eszter Herczenik, ISBT Executive Director Jenny White and ISBT Executive Support Jeannette Nader. The discussion focussed on the limitations of being able to reconcile expenditure of the granted budget with the item requested for in the original Academy application. It was concluded that The Academy's policy will be modified to specify that all successful applicants must provide a report that includes next to the already requested summary on the ability of the educational event to meet its aims, attendance numbers and participant feedback, a summary reconciling actual expenses (with receipts) with items requested for in the original application. The Academy will review and assess these reports. Applications with unsatisfactory reports will be prevented from future funding request.

Activities during the period

In 2020, we have updated the policies for the evaluation process of the applications for Academy Support. A new item was added, requiring a review by regional directors to judge the budget on estimated costs, since those can differ importantly between regions. Based on the input of the regional directors, budget costs were reviewed for all financial applications.

Support for educational events:

In 2021, there were 12 applications for financial support of an educational activity, of which 3 were re-reviewed and had been postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Applications for Academy support totalled €50,311.52 this financial year. The Academy supported applications from Pakistan, India, Peru, Tanzania and Tunis to organise educational meetings, and had one application from Australia for travel grants to allow learners from low-resource countries to attend their meeting (with a high educational character and content). There were 2 requests to use a the ISBT logo.



Masja de Haas

ISBT STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE ISBT ACADEMY



Masja de Haas

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

The Academy Standing Committee strongly feels that the financial support given to resource-limited countries helps to improve transfusion education in their regions and should be made accessible for as many learners possible. To create awareness for certain events, it can also be helpful for Regional Directors to know what educational event the Academy has supported in their region.

Transfusion medicine-related educational courses can also apply for ISBT support, using defined criteria available on the [website](#).

Due to the COVID-19 restrictions this year, organised webinars were very-well attended. The workshop on plasma-derived medicinal products, in particular, had high attendance numbers.

Academy days at ISBT congresses:

The Academy Day program of the virtual ISBT2021-in-focus meeting was integrated in topic-centred days. This meeting was organised with two different starting times a day, to make live attendance possible for many in the world. The program included a range of topics relevant to an international audience, and several new, young speakers participated. All Working Parties were invited to contribute content. Many members of the Working Parties put lots of efforts in the programme to make it inspiring and informative, with the result that many sessions were very well received and appreciated by ISBT members and conference participants.

ISBT Highlight day:

One ISBT Highlight Day events was organised together with our HEMO of the ABHH meeting, in Brazil with the aim to interact with International as well as National faculty. The very first ISBT Highlight Day was on November 6, 2019 during the ABHH meeting that was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. In the coming year we will continue to look for opportunities to work with societies

to increase the exposure of ISBT at regional meetings.

I TRY IT:

2021 was the 6th year since the establishment of the I TRY IT program. The program aims to train young investigators to develop skills in conducting research. In 2021, again, six mentors participated in the program from the Clinical Transfusion and TTID Working Party: Brian Custer (USA), Marion Vermeulen (South Africa), Michael Schmidt (Germany), Sheila O'Brian (Canada), Leo van de Watering (The Netherlands), and Arwa Al-Riyami (Oman). The I TRY IT programme remains popular within young investigators as 6 applications were received for the program.

ISBT Academy Publication Committee:

In December 2020, the first project of the ISBT Academy Publication Committee was successfully completed. This was chaired by Mindy Goldman (Canada) and has led to the publication of the e-book "Introduction to Blood Transfusion: from donor to recipient" in June 2021. It was planned also to distribute hard copies, but due to COVID-19 pandemic situation, this has not yet been executed.

ISBT Education:

In 2020, Geoff Simon was appointed by the ISBT as Educational Officer to design a series of e-learning modules based on the topic areas of the e-book "Introduction to Blood Transfusion: from donor to recipient." In 2021, and this work is progressing according to an agreed schedule.

Other developments in 2021:

The website was redesigned in 2021. This huge undertaking of ISBT's central office will also push the use of ISBT Education. An important target of the Academy is to provide e-learning courses.

Since the offering of Multilearning, our contracted partner to develop and publish e-learning material, was not in line with our user requirement specifications, we continued our search for a new partner. In 2021, the D2L - Brightspace-learning platform was reviewed and judged acceptable in meeting our requirements for learning and costs. The change in e-learning platform provider will be pursued in 2022.

ISBT STANDING COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

Chairperson and committee:

Chairperson: Peter Flanagan (New Zealand)

Shubha Allard (United Kingdom)

Justina Ansah (Ghana)

Roger Dodd (USA, retired March 2022)

Mindy Goldman (Canada)

Neelam Marwaha (India, retired March 2022)

Guy Rautmann (France, retired March 2022)

Peter Flanagan has signalled his intention to stand down as Chair of the SCE at the end of the current year. He has agreed to stay on as a member for 12 months to assist towards a smooth handover.

Discussions are on-going with the Central Office to identify new members for the SCE to ensure that the requirements in the Terms of Reference are met.

Meetings and Telephone conferences

No meetings took place during the year.

Activities during the period

In October 2021, the Central Office sought advice on the possible role of the SCE in relation to the ISBT Policy for Endorsement and Advocacy. This has been agreed in principle and discussions are on-going to determine appropriate processes for management of these issues.

Review of the Terms of Reference

These are reviewed every two years. A recommendation has been forwarded to the Central Office to support three-year terms for members of the SCE (it is currently two years). This change recognises that the activities of the SCE are infrequent, and the longer membership period will enable better continuity of involvement in the issues considered by the SCE.



Peter Flanagan

ISBT STANDING COMMITTEE **JEAN JULLIARD PRIZE**

Chairperson and committee:

Martin Olsson (Chairperson)

The following new committee members were proposed by the Chair and approved by the Executive Committee during the Spring of 2021: Steven Spitalnik (USA), Katerina Pavenski (Canada), Thierry Burnouf (Taiwan), Masja de Haas (Netherlands), Faten Moftah (Egypt). The goal was achieved to form a gender-balanced and geographically diverse committee, which covers a broad range of topics in the field of transfusion medicine.

Meetings and Telephone conferences

During the year, four 1-hour Zoom meetings were held. Detailed minutes were captured for all meetings by Jeannette Nader but the main purpose of each meeting is summarized below:

- June 7: First meeting of the committee since the task of appointing the Vox Sanguinis Best Paper Prize 2020 was undertaken via e-mail due to limited time and availability. The Terms of Reference for the committee were reviewed. Also, potential improvements of the selection procedures for both prizes were discussed and agreed. Finally, planning for the upcoming 2022 Jean Julliard Prize selection was agreed.
- November 24: A review of all **ISBT awards** opened the meeting, followed by a closer look at the rules and timeline for the review of candidates for the Jean Julliard Prize 2022. The score sheet previously used was revised. Finally, a timeline was set also for the Vox Sanguinis Best Paper Prize 2021.
- Feb 4: The main point was to discuss the scores submitted by committee members regarding the Jean Julliard Prize 2022 candidates. The committee agreed to appoint a winner. Thereafter, the review process was scrutinized, and some clarifications and improvements were made, both to the website and wording of the rules.
- March 22: At this meeting, the scores submitted by the committee members regarding the Vox Sanguinis Best Paper Prize 2021 were discussed. A winner was appointed. Thereafter, the process was reviewed, including the Conflict-of-Interest policy, and improvements were suggested.

Activities during the period

The **Vox Sanguinis Best Paper Prize 2020** was given to the original article "**RAGE interacts with the necroptotic protein RIPK3 and mediates transfusion-induced danger signal release**" with **Hilary Faust** as first author. This prize was awarded at the digital ISBT In Focus virtual meeting in June 2021.

The **Vox Sanguinis Best Paper Prize 2021** was given to the original article "**Blood donation by men who have sex with men: using evidence to change policy**" with **Katy L. Davison** as first author. It will be awarded during the Virtual ISBT 2022 congress in June 2022.

Finally, **Prof. Alexander Vlaar** was appointed as winner of the **Jean Juilliard Prize 2022** for his contribution "**Transfusion-associated circulatory overload - A Breathtaking Syndrome.**" This will also be awarded during the Virtual ISBT 2022 congress in June 2022.



Martin Olsson

VOX SANGUINIS STANDING COMMITTEE

Chairperson and committee:

Chairperson: Gwen Clarke (Canada)

Committee:

Diana Teo (Singapore, ISBT member)

Lin Fung (Australia, ISBT member; board member),

Eric Jansen (The Netherlands, ISBT Treasurer)

Miquel Lozano (Spain, Editor in Chief for Vox Sanguinis; non-voting member)

Pieter van der Meer (The Netherlands, Editor in Chief, ISBT Science Series)

Erica Wood (Australia, ISBT President – observer)

Claire Dowbekin (observer from Wiley, publisher)

Jenny White (ISBT Executive Director - observer)

Meetings and Telephone conferences

Annual Meeting on April 19, 2021 (Zoom Video Call)

Business included a publisher's report from Claire Dowbekin, the Wiley representative. Claire reported an increase in Vox Sanguinis downloads over the preceding year; an increase in library use of the journal; a decrease in turn-around time between submission of an article and the date of print; and an overall increase in the manuscripts submitted. Discussion of the number of open-access (OA) articles, their country of origin as well as the global reach of the journal followed.

It was noted that the rejection rate is very high, and that this might be mitigated by plans to increase the page length and to publish the journal monthly beginning in 2022. Claire also noted plans for a change to the publication site and publication editor for Vox anticipated in the 2021-2022 fiscal year.

The Science Series was also reported to have had an increase in library access and downloads and an improvement in the manuscript turn-around time.

The financial report was discussed, and it was noted that although subscription revenue declined, OA deals have increased and that this increase in OA financing has offset the decreased subscription revenue.

M. Lozano provided a report as editor-in-chief and noted plans for a new layout of the papers in the journal with a new font and colour scheme including coloured tables and some artist rendered colour figures. A new cover design was also in development.

With the planned closure of the Science Series, its section editors were transitioned to relevant sections on the Vox Sanguinis editorial team. P. Van der Meer will join the Vox Sanguinis editorial board following his tenure as the editor-in-chief of the Science Series.

M. Lozano also reported on the very popular and successful **Young Professional mentoring program with the Vox Section editors**. This program included didactic lectures and practical training with a section editor culminating in submission of a review to be commented on by the relevant section editor. The Young Professionals participating were granted a certificate of accomplishment upon completion.

P. van der Meer reported on the Science Series confirming the completion of submissions and acceptance for the last issues of the Science Series.

J. White provided an update to the group from the ISBT. This included plans to complete a new contract with Wiley, plans for social media communications regarding journal articles and the selection of key items from articles, by their authors, for use in ISBT social media channels.

June 9, 2021 (Zoom Video Call)

This meeting concentrated on a detailed review of proposed changes to the Wiley/ISBT contract.

The committee also discussed the ISBT board decision to postpone any decision on an option to publish Vox Sanguinis online only.



Gwen Clarke

VOX SANGUINIS STANDING COMMITTEE



Gwen Clarke

The board had conveyed to the Vox Standing Committee that prior to any decision regarding an online publication option that a renewed member survey should be undertaken as well as an assessment of the impact of online only on the reputation, impact factor and manuscript submissions.

This is especially important as no other Wiley Hematology journals have made the move to online only. The Standing Committee agreed to continue to study this issue including review of other journals that have made this transition.

November 22, 2021 (Zoom video call)

Final contract changes were reviewed and agreed. There was a detailed discussion of sponsor pages, which are short articles to be submitted by corporate partners. Provision for these sponsor pages is covered in the contract; however, details related to the content and format will be overseen by the editorial board and the IGBT office.

These pages provide a potential opportunity for a new corporate partner benefit and the group agreed to further explore this option with interested corporate partners.

A new Vox Sanguinis app was described along with the decision to send the **electronic table of contents** to all IGBT members beginning in January 2022. Plans for promotion of review articles and the regular inclusion of author highlights to IGBT social media channels were described.

Preliminary plans for a member survey to explore the possibility of an online option for Vox Sanguinis were discussed.

Activities during the period:

Activities of the Vox SC over the 2020– 2021 year have included a Activities of the Vox Sanguinis Standing Committee (Vox SC) over the 2021- 2022 year have included a focus on a renewed contract between Wiley and IGBT for 2022 - 2026 (signed in December 2021) for continued publication of Vox Sanguinis.

Many of the changes planned during the prior year were implemented including **format and cover changes**, changes to the sections and section editors at the journal, and an **increase in page length and publication frequency**.

The end of 2021 marked the end of the Science Series publication, and the Standing Committee wishes to express its **gratitude to Pieter van der Meer** for his long and expert service to the Society and to the **Science Series**. Articles published in the Science Series remain available through the IGBT and Wiley websites.

Continued discussions around increase open access content and the possibility of moving Vox Sanguinis to an online journal occurred during the year.

The IGBT office worked with the Vox editorial team and authors to ensure that **key articles are highlighted through social media campaigns**.



Miquel Lozano

VOX SANGUINIS REPORT

Editor and Editorial Board

During the last year there have been changes to the Vox Sanguinis Editorial Board. In January 2022 two new sections were created, namely, **Haemovigilance**, led by Claudia S. Cohn (Minneapolis, USA) and **Patient Blood Management**, managed by Nelson H. Tsuno (Tokyo, Japan).

The existing sections continue to be overseen by the same Editors: Donors and Donations: Katja van den Hurk; Blood Component Collection and Production: Denese Marks; Transfusion-transmitted Disease and its Prevention: Clive Seed; Immunohaematology and Immunogenetics: Jill R. Storry; Transfusion Medicine and New Therapies: Pierre Tiberghien; Cellular Therapies: Ziggy M. Szczepiorkowski; Reviews: Leo van de Watering and Ziggy M. Szczepiorkowski; and International Forum: Nancy M. Dunbar. Miquel Lozano is occupying the position of Editor-in-Chief (EiC).

However, probably the biggest change to the Vox Sanguinis Editorial team was the **expansion of the Editorial Board** to include a further **26 professionals** from **23 different countries** across Europe, Africa, Asia, and North and South America.

Many of the new Editorial Board members had previously served on the Editorial Board for the ISBT Science Series. The new Board also includes past EiCs of Vox (Prof. Dame Marcela Contreras, Prof. Wolfgang R. Mayr and Prof. Dana Devine), as well as Pieter van der Meer, the previous EiC of the ISBT Science Series

Maria Davie continues as technical editor, to the full satisfaction of the EiC, the Editorial Board and the authors. She has ensured the **high typographical quality** and the standardization of the papers published by the journal. Claire Dowbekin has continued as Journal Publishing Manager at Wiley, and has been instrumental in the various changes that have been made to the journal during this time.

Among these, we can highlight the elimination of the colour charge, a fee previously applied by Wiley for printing figures and graphs in colour. In addition, review articles published in Vox will be made **free to read** in order to facilitate access to them for all interested readers.

Meetings and Telephone conferences

As a face-to-face ISBT meeting could not be held in 2021 due to the pandemic, a virtual meeting of the Editorial Board was held on 17th June 2021. Then, on 9th September 2021, another virtual meeting was held between the Section Editors, EiC and the Publishing Manager at Wiley to discuss the impact factor strategy for the journal.

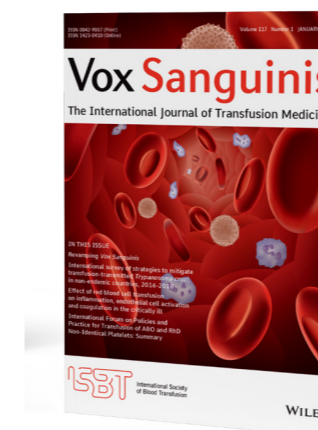
An interim virtual meeting was organized for the 26th January 2021. On this day, a two-part meeting was held, with the first part attended by the core Editorial Board, and members of the expanded Editorial Board joining in for the second part. The aim of this meeting was to present the recent changes made to the Journal and to introduce the new members of the Board.

Activities during the period

Vox Sanguinis metrics refer to the volume of a given year. In 2021, Vox Sanguinis published **10 issues** with a total of approximately 1,000 pages, featuring 150 articles. In 2021, we received **382 manuscripts**, a reduction of 8.6% compared with 2020, resulting in an acceptance rate of 39.2%. This acceptance rate was 44% higher than in 2020. In 2021, 408,915 articles were downloaded from the Vox Sanguinis website, which represents the **highest number ever** and an increase of 38.2% in comparison to 2020. In 2022, one issue per month will be published, with an increase in the number of pages that will allow us to reduce the time between acceptance and publication to **3 months**.

In January 2022, after 11 years of using the classic red and white cover, we introduced a **new front cover** for the Journal, which was chosen by the ad hoc committee created in 2021 and which depicts the three types of blood cell in circulation, on a red background.

A new article layout was also introduced, with headings in red font, and with red shading in the background of the abstract and in the tables, which we think will promote ease of reading. The journal logo has also changed; now the word that is set in red is **“Sanguinis”** and not “Vox” because, we reasoned,





Miquel Lozano

VOX SANGUINIS REPORT

this is exactly as it is in reality.

Starting also in January 2022, a colour illustration, free of charge to the authors, will be added to those review articles that cover a suitable topic.

Starting also in January 2022, a colour illustration, free of charge to the authors, will be added to those review articles that cover a suitable topic.

In order to improve the visibility of articles published in the Journal, in coordination with the Vox Sanguinis Standing Committee, it was decided to make the table of contents for each issue of Vox available to all ISBT members. Articles could then be clicked on directly from there.

We have also added a new **“Highlights” section** to the published articles, in which the main findings of the paper are summarized in three bullet points. This is very useful for disseminating our articles through social media, which the ISBT office is currently doing.

Lastly, in order to facilitate reference formatting by the authors when using the reference management software EndNote, a template with the new format for Vox Sanguinis references has been created which can now be downloaded from the software manufacturer’s website.

ISBT SCIENCE SERIES REPORT

The ISBT Science Series published peer-reviewed original papers, letters and reviews, as well as ISBT working party progress reports. Papers were limited to the topic or due to its geography, to distinguish papers from those submitted to Vox Sanguinis.

In **2021**, the editors were Claudia Cohn (University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN, since 2017), Nelson Tsuno (Japanese Red Cross, since 2020) and Pieter van der Meer, editor-in-chief (Sanquin Blood Bank, The Netherlands, since 2015). Editorial assistance was provided by Eszter Herczenik.

In **2020**, an unsuccessful attempt was made to have the journal Medline-indexed. A major item appeared to be the perceived overlap with Vox Sanguinis. Therefore, it was decided that the ISBT Science Series would **merge with Vox Sanguinis**. The ability to submit papers ended in June 2021. In total, four issues appeared totaling **356 pages**. There was a themed issue on **Donor Behavior** with Tanya Davison as guest editor.

The abstracts of **ISBT In Focus virtual congress** were published in a separate issue.

Claudia Cohn and Nelson Tsuno were appointed as section editors for Vox Sanguinis. The editorial board was moved to Vox Sanguinis, and Pieter van der Meer became member of this board.

Pieter van der Meer



FOUNDATION OF ISBT

The core objective of the Foundation of the International Society of Blood Transfusion is to **support research and education initiatives** related to Transfusion Medicine globally, with a specific focus on **Developing Countries**. The Foundation is registered as a charity in the Netherlands and its only source of funding is from the International Society of Blood Transfusion.

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

The Board did not have any face-to-face meetings in the 2021/2022 financial year, mainly due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Correspondence among the Board members was primarily done electronically and related to the consideration and approval of applications greater than €5000. Applications for funding for €5000 and below are considered and approved or rejected by the **ISBT Academy Standing Committee**.

There were **12 applications** for funding received during the financial year. Nine of the applications were for funding less than Euro 5 000 and were approved by the ISBT Academy Standing Committee.

Three applications were received for funding in excess of €5000. These were from:

- **Safe Blood for Africa** for financial support for a “Training in Clinical Research for Transfusion Services in Africa course in Tunisia.”
- **National Blood Transfusion Service in Tanzania** for financial support of a face-to-face workshop “To Finalise and Disseminate a Haemovigilance Framework to Blood Safety Stakeholders in Tanzania.”
- **Northern Zone Blood Transfusion Center (NZBTC) of Tanzania** for financial support for a “Haemovigilance Workshop in Tanzania.”

The Board members approved the above three applications. A total of **€55,291.52** was approved for disbursement for the 12 applications.



Ravi Reddy

ISBT AWARD AND PRIZES

- Vox Sanguinis Best Paper Prize 2020

ISBT AWARDS 2021

Vox Sanguinis Best Paper Prize 2021



The Vox Sanguinis Best Paper Prize 2021 was awarded for the original article **“RAGE interacts with the necroptotic protein RIPK3 and mediates transfusion-induced danger signal release”** with Hilary Faust as first author.

This prize was presented to the submitting author Nilam S. Mangalmurti at the digital ISBT In Focus Virtual Meeting in June 2021.



ISBT Central Office
Marnixstraat 317
1016 TB, Amsterdam
The Netherlands
www.isbtweb.org

