

# Working Party on Platelet Immunobiology

Chairs: Nelson H. Tsuno (Tokyo, Japan) & Ulrich J. Sachs (Giessen, Germany)



**Ulrich J. Sachs, MD, PhD**  
Institute for Clinical Immunology and  
Transfusion Medicine  
Justus Liebig University  
Langhansstr. 7  
35392 Giessen, Germany  
e ulrich.sachs@med.uni-giessen.de

**Nelson H. Tsuno, MD, PhD**  
Kanto-Koshinetsu Block Blood Center  
Japanese Red Cross  
Tokyo, Japan  
e h-tsun@kts.bbc.jrc.or.jp

May 2019

## PIWP Newsletter

Dear colleagues and friends:

As you are all aware, the PIWP will not have a formal Business Meeting this year. Those of you attending the 29<sup>th</sup> Regional Congress of the ISBT in Basel, Switzerland, will also have recognized that no Scientific Meeting of our working party has been scheduled. However, a number of other activities are ongoing, and your participation is required to get them finalized!

### **New members**

Two new laboratories have joined the PIWP: National Health Service Blood & Transplant, Filton, Bristol, United Kingdom, with Anthony Poles; and the Thrombocyte and Haemostasis Laboratory at the Finnish Red Cross, Helsinki, Finland, with Satu Kärkkäinen.

### **New HPA nomenclature database**

Brian Curtis, who chairs our Subcommittee on Quality, and people from *Versiti* in Milwaukee, WI, USA have made great efforts in setting up a new HPA nomenclature database which shall soon start to become available under [versiti.org/plateletantigens](https://www.ebi.ac.uk/ipd/hpa/). We will link it to our ISBT webpage once it becomes available. EBI/NHS B&T will most likely turn down their website (<https://www.ebi.ac.uk/ipd/hpa/>). It has not been updated for several years. The new database will represent the official database for the human platelet antigen nomenclature, and its content will be under full control of the PIWP.

### **Glycoprotein IV (CD36): HPA-36? [action required!]**

Nelson, Brian and I have discussed whether or not to include CD36 as an antigen in the HPA database. In contrast to other HPAs, the absence of the whole protein from the cell surface (and not an amino acid exchange or partial deletion) triggers immunization, so that *isoantibodies* and not *alloantibodies sensu strictu* are

responsible for the clinical effects related to anti-CD36 induced FNAIT. Refer to Curtis BR *et al*, Transfusion 2002;42(9):1173-1179 for a collection of instructive cases. CD36 is a major target antigen in Asians. We have reached HPA-35 in our database right now, and we could make CD36 become HPA-36. Please feel free to tell us your thoughts and ideas about this issue.

### **Our website [action required!]**

The ISBT Board of Directors has suggested that all Working Parties should present a "How Do I" and a "Case Study" on their website. The PIWP was asked to publish its "How Do I" by May 2019, and the case study by January 2020. We need volunteers for this! Please contact Uli if you are interested in preparing a "How Do I" or a Case Report.

"How do I": 10-15 powerpoint slides about "my approach" on for instance How do I approach and obtain informed consent from the patients, How do I say something to a patient ahead of surgery, How do I prepare for accreditation etc... content that is hard to find in textbooks but might exist already.

Case Studies: Case studies are great teaching tools to demonstrate the application of a concept to actual situations. The Immunohematology Case Studies are popular formats for small and large group meetings; they give the opportunity to study cases that the participants may not see often but should be able to identify and to learn new practical approaches that may be used in their institution. All Working Parties are requested to prepare one Case Study.

### **Upcoming Meetings [action required!]**

The PIWP will organize a Session during the 30<sup>th</sup> Regional Congress of the ISBT in Bangkok, Thailand (November 16-19, 2019). As part of that, the results from the platelet training course in Tokyo will be discussed. Please feel free to contact Nelson should you have any questions or comments.

The PIWP will also organize a Joint Session with the WP for Granulocytes during the 36<sup>th</sup> International ISBT Conference in Barcelona, Spain (June 6-10, 2020). Nelson, myself, and Dr Behnaz Bayat from the Granulocyte WP have identified two topics of interest: (1) CD36, a relevant antigen on platelets and leukocytes; and (2) Platelets and leukocytes in TRALI - players or bystanders? Please contact Uli if you have further suggestions.

### **Next international quality scheme [action required!]**

The International Platelet Immunology Workshop will be distributed by Eduardo Muniz-Diaz from Barcelona, Spain. The quality part of the Workshop will include DNA typing and platelet serology. No scientific question was brought up so far; if you have a scientific issue that you would either like to learn or like to spread through the Platelet Immunology Workshop, please email Brian (BRCurtis@versiti.org).

With warm regards

*Nelson H. Tsuno & Ulrich J. Sachs*