

REPORTS FROM THE WORKING PARTIES

Working Party on Rare Blood Donors

Chairperson – Sandra Nance



Achievements

- Publication of Donors with a rare phenol (geno) type Vox Sang 2008

Terms of Reference #1

To develop guidelines for standardisation of listing, labeling, shipping, testing and reimbursement for rare donors blood
Actions: Re-established contact with donor and patient facilities outside the membership of the Working Party on Rare Blood Donors who indicated on a 2004 survey that they had an interest or activity in procurement of rare donor red cells. New questionnaire responses are in progress to ascertain how rare donors are found and used in these other countries.

Terms of Reference #2

To provide a resource for providing ongoing information on matters related to rare blood
Actions: New publications and presentations on Rare Blood Donors activities have been published and also posted on the ISBT website in 2008 as a resource for ISBT members. These include the new Rare Blood Donor article that the Working Party collaborated on for the 2008 issue of Transfusion Today and the forum, Donors with a rare pheno (geno) type (published in Vox Sanguinis (2008) 95: 236-253. Additionally, a videotape on the Working Party for Rare Blood Donors was sponsored by the German Rare Donor Society and is posted on the website

Terms of Reference #3

To develop and extend the liaison with the International Blood Group Reference Laboratory (currently in Bristol, England), and thus assist blood services internationally to be aware of, and contribute to, the WHO International Donor Panel
Actions: At the informal meeting of the Working Party at the ISBT Regional Congress in Cairo, it was resolved that the IBGRL would contact its members to remind them to update their rare donor lists with the WHO International Donor Panel as these have not been updated for some years. In 2008, new members were added to the Working Party and extended our reach to two new countries, Finland and India. Retiring members from France, Brazil and Germany were replaced. The new members are: Heli Tankanen (Finland), France Noizat-Pirenne (France), Philippe Rouger (France), Rita Fontao-Wendel (Brazil), Erwin Andreas Scharberg (Germany) and K.Vasantha (India).