

The logo for the ISBT Lisbon 2011 congress, featuring the text 'ISBT LISBON 2011' in a stylized, outlined font.

## 21st Regional Congress of the ISBT

### 2011 Report:

### ISBT Working Party on Rare Donors

The Working Party on Rare Donors membership represents 18 countries, all Working Party members are ISBT members, attendance at Formal Working Party meetings is very strong.

#### Terms of Reference #1

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

**Actions:** Data presentations at Berlin Working Party meeting

#### Utilization information on ISBT Shipping Form.

Dr Inge van Zabern presented the German data on the ISBT Shipping Form (implemented 2007) experience to the Working Party members and guests at the 2010 Formal Meeting in Berlin. The intention of the form was to know of delays and damage to the product, accuracy of the documents, and control of the rare blood with respect to blood transfusion and patient outcome. Requested phenotype data was gathered. Most units were transported domestically with a few international. Patient outcome information was shown by a rise in hemoglobin and reviewing side effects. Units shipped: 69% surgery, 10% gastrointestinal bleeding, 9% internal medicine, oncology/hematology, with 12% unknown. There were isolated incidents of delayed shipments, non-transfusion of the units, and average rise in hemoglobin (0.8mg/dl average in 22 cases). There were no transfusion reactions. 27 of 129 units shipped were not transfused due to geographic distance and pregnant women (n=3) changed their delivery location. There were suggestions for form improvement and recommendation for communication information to accompany the form to enhance participation and information gathered. The data presented demonstrated the value of the use of the form as it was implemented in Germany. The Working Party submitted an ISBT Foundation grant proposal in 2010 for approval which was recently obtained for FY12. A Working Party Project Manager is needed to implement the study.

#### International Survey on Rare Blood Usage

An International Survey of Rare Blood Usage was conducted; the last was conducted about 10 years ago. The purpose was to review the blood usage of rare donations around the world and promote strategies to ensure adequate resources to meet future requirements. The survey was sent to 2250 Blood Centers in 191 countries. There were 283 (12.6%) replies. Many were donor centers and do not test blood in their facilities. They refer blood samples to central labs. Of the Blood Donor Centers, 174 of 230 (75.6%) screen for rare blood donors, 35 (20.1%) on an ongoing basis, 71 (40.8%) for a specific patient and 68 (39%) periodically as time allows. All had problems in supplying rare blood in the last year. Almost all (>95%) of them would like to have more information on rare blood to include technical information [140 (80.5%)], transport conditions [162(93.1%)], and testing [170 (97.7%)]. The survey will be further discussed with the Working Party for improvements.

## Terms of Reference #2

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

**Actions:** Previous publications/presentations on Rare Donor activities are posted on ISBT website as a resource for ISBT members. In addition, presentations were made at the ISBT Congress in Berlin. The formal meeting the Working Party on Rare Donors was held in Berlin where there was a great interest: 20 members and invited guests along with 5 unexpected guests attended. The Working Party welcomed 6 new members, 4 replacing members who had retired and 2 new country representatives (Spain and Iran).

Work was done to prepare for the new ISBT Website Working Party area. The new site parameters were to include Agendas and Minutes from meetings of the Working Party, Chair reports to ISBT Board, Publications in Vox Sang and Vox Sang Science Series, Photo library of WP meetings, list of WP members contact information, IBGRL reports to the Working Party, This was sent to ISBT for the Working Party on Rare Donors area. This section of the ISBT Website remains a work in progress.

The Proposed Revised Operation Principles from the ISBT Board was reviewed and an Addendum created for the Working Party on Rare Donors, as requested and was approved.

## Terms of Reference #3

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

**Actions:**

### Report of the WHO Registry activity by the International Blood Group Reference Laboratory

WHO Rare Donor Registry activity was presented at the Working Party meeting in Berlin. Twenty-five countries made requests for rare blood via internet, 18 by email with the following types needed: O<sup>h</sup>, Rh<sub>null</sub>, hr<sup>S</sup>-, hr<sup>B</sup>-, Rh:-51, S-s-U-, pp, Pk, Ko, Kp(b-), Js(b-), McLeod, Fy(a-b-), Jk(a-b-), Co(a-), Co(a-b-), Lu(a-b-), Jr(a-), Vel-, Hy-, In(b-), Lan-, Yt(a-), Ge-. The most difficult types to obtain were: Rh<sub>null</sub>, Co(a-b-), Dombrock typed units, McLeod phenotype units. IBGRL must be informed of shipment activity (until the shipment form is implemented) so as to ensure blood is available when needed.

### Strategic Member Recruitment

Strategic member recruitment has been the objective of the Executive Committee of the Working Party to ensure continued increase in the International Rare Donor Panel and also to build a network of knowledgeable members available to assist locally and globally. There are three new members, representing two new countries under review for new membership in 2011. New members, Dr Eduardo Muniz-Diaz and Mostafa Moghaddam from Spain and Iran respectively will be or have submitted their Rare Donor Lists to the WHO Rare Donor Registry. The Executive Committee of the WP is reviewing the potential of adding four additional countries in 2012

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

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Nance, MS, MT(ASCP)SBB  
Chair, ISBT Working Party for Rare Donors

# Working Party on Rare Donors



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