

Working Party Report



1. Chairperson and committee

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Working Party on Rare Donors

2. Membership information

The Working Party on Rare Donors has 22 members from 19 countries.

3. Meetings and Telephone conferences

Number of meetings – Meets at every ISBT Congress and holds informal meetings at the ISBT Regional Congresses.

Number of people attending the business meeting – At the Working Party meeting in Cancun, 20 members attended along with seven invited guests (from Australia, Brazil, France, Japan, Singapore, USA).

Topics covered –Appreciation to retiring members with certificates, welcome to new members, review of the minutes from the last formal meeting at the ISBT Congress in Berlin, master list of blood services globally, shipping outcome form project review, rare blood leaflet, webpage data review for new inclusions, request for presentation and publication references on rare blood topics, review of countries not represented on the working party and who are involved in rare blood activities (requests, screening, shipping) and geography covered by the members of the working party, discussion on links between the working party webpage and those related to rare donor activities in several other countries (e.g., France, Germany, Spain, and IBGRL/WHO), review of Chair's report. All countries represented at the meeting gave presentations on their country's activities including the most difficult types of rare blood to find.

4. Activities during the period

Give a brief report of your activities over the year –

The Executive Committee of the Working Party reviewed countries and their rare donor activities for possible addition to the Working Party. Once a country was identified, the Executive Committee worked with contacts in that country to determine a representative for the entire country. The potential members are vetted by the Executive Committee for active work in Rare

Donor activities and ability to represent the country. This is easier in countries with a national rare donor program but dramatically more challenging in countries with regional or no organized programs. The potential new members are voted on by the current members of the Working Party. During the period 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013 representatives from the following new countries joined the working party: Canada, Italy and Singapore. The new Working Party members added their country's rare donors to the WHO International Rare Donor Panel (IRDP), fulfilling one of the Terms of Reference of the Working Party. The Executive Committee worked on making the ISBT Webpage more useful to members. A Rare Donor Leaflet was made available for use and translation into every country's language and is posted on the ISBT Webpage. The Executive Committee worked together on the topics and speakers for the ISBT Congress in Cancun. Prepared the Working Party article for Transfusion Today.

The activities of the Working Party members each year are to focus on adding rare donors to the IRDP, and ensure that they facilitate meeting the domestic and international needs of patients for rare blood. In addition, this year, the members gathered specific data for presentations at the Working Party meeting; these are posted on the Working Party webpage. The four Program participants for the ISBT Scientific Program were selected specifically to demonstrate the rare donor activities in a country with a national program, in a country with regional programs working together and a country with a developing program, concluding with a report on the IRDP managed by IBGRL in Bristol. These presentations are posted on the webpage.

Respectfully Submitted:

*Sandra J Nance
Chair, ISBT Working Party on Rare Donors*