



**Working Party on  
Transfusion Transmitted Infectious Diseases**

**WP-TTID Subgroup on Virology  
Management Report**

**ISBT WP - TTID Annual Meeting**

**3 September 2006**

**Cape Town, South Africa**



## **Working Party on Transfusion Transmitted Infectious Diseases**

Members of the Subgroup on Virology are:

- Mike Busch and Kurt Roth – Coordinators
- Marcia Cardoso (MacoPharma)
- Jay Epstein (FDA)
- Ray Goodrich (Gambro BCT)
- Anthony Hardiman (Ortho Clinical Diagnostics)
- Nico Lelie (Chiron)
- Micha Nübling (PEI)
- Ana Padilla (WHO)
- John Saldanha (Roche)
- Gerald Schochetman (Abbott)



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### Global Sample Repository

The establishment of an international sample repository based on a web-based inventory system was the main objective of the *Subgroup on Virology* during the last year.

The *Subgroup on Virology, Surveys and HBV Safety* joined together for a meeting in Washington on March 7th 2006. The organisational structure and further specifications of the sample repository were discussed during this meeting. It was agreed that the repository is going to be a virtual one with decentralized sample storage to reduce costs. The focus of the repository should initially lay on one agent (HBV) and specific scientific questions. Sample numbers need to be reduced to those that are NAT positive. It has to be classified in advance who the providers are and who the customers are.



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The repository would be a platform for blood banks, laboratories, and regulatory authorities that could contribute information regarding existing sample repositories as well as update the repository with newly acquired and archived samples from specific categories of infected and control donors. This global sample repository would support the development and execution of studies conducted by the Working Party TTID. Moreover, it would enable interested parties to access also specific kinds of samples for research, development or clinical trial use worldwide.



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In the meantime, different offers of supporting the repository have already been received:

- Collaboration with the *National Reference Laboratory Australia*, which administers a sample repository, may be a future option for providing essential knowledge on organizational issues and a software for administrating the data.
- The *British National Institute for Biological Standards and Control* offered its isolates to be listed in the database once it is up and running.



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A further project of the *Subgroup on Virology* is the development of methods comparing the cost effectiveness of blood safety interventions in different countries. The main object is an analysis of current infectious disease screens using a uniform set of methods, assumptions, and models which will permit the direct comparison of the risks, benefits, and cost of blood supply screening using each specific intervention, overall for each pathogen, and in total for the full spectrum of pathogens for which screening is in place or could be implemented. An evaluation of current blood supply screening interventions will allow consumers of the information to understand the total amount healthcare systems in different countries spend on blood supply safety relative to the health gain achieved. This proposal will be introduced in detail by Mike Busch.