

General Assembly of the ISBT

Draft Minutes of the General Assembly of the ISBT

Date: Tuesday June 25, 2019

Venue: Room Delhi, Convention Centre Basel, Basel, Switzerland

64 members attended the Assembly

1. Welcome

Martin Olsson welcomed everyone.

2. In memoriam

There was a minute of silence for the members to pay respect to Celso Bianco, President of the Society 2014-2016 and Kenji Tadokoro, CEO of the Japanese Red Cross, who passed away during the year 2018.

3. Draft Minutes of the General Assembly, Tuesday June 5, 2018 Toronto

Acceptance of the draft minutes was proposed by Cees Smit Sibinga and seconded by Miquel Lozano and approved by those present.

4. Report of ISBT President

Martin Olsson gave a report of the ISBT activities since the previous General Assembly summarizing the year 2018 to 2019; stable membership, launch of the Education App in Toronto, significant increase in ISBT Academy events (up to 27 throughout the world during the past year), Academy day at AfSBT congress in Arusha, Academy half day at ISTM congress in Kerala, International symposium on blood safety at PGIMER in Chandigarh, launch of the Young Professionals Council (their first meeting was in Toronto), increase in uptake of Affiliate membership by Regional and National Societies, signed MoU with EBA and AfSBT extending our collaborations with them in various ways, and support of Corporate Partners, arrangement is in full swing. In most cases, they are confident on ISBT to allocate the money. ISBT has also maintained official relations status with WHO for another three years; new collaboration plan signed off earlier this year. Participation in the 2018 World Blood Donor Day Global Event in Athens in Greece, participation in the Meeting of WHO Collaborating Centres and Key Implementing Partners for Blood and Transfusion Safety in Shanghai in China. The Clinical Transfusion WP has almost completed the update of the WHO Clinical use of Blood Manual, both in collaboration with WHO. Two board meetings were held in Toronto in June 2018 and in Amsterdam in November 2018. In November ISBT also started working on updating the strategic plan culminating in two strategy days outside of Basel on 19 and 20 June 2019. The new plan will be presented in Bangkok. A major challenge was identified: recruitment of successor of Judith Chapman. After a head hunting search, ISBT has been able to recruit Jenny White as the new Executive Director; she will start on April 1st, 2020. Everyone applauded Jenny White. Martin congratulated everyone for this achievement.

5. Report of the Secretary General

Gwen Clarke reported that the membership has been stable or rising over the past several years reaching a peak of 1868, approaching 2000 members. Gwen invited everyone to recruit friends and colleagues to increase the number of members in 2020 to 2020 members. Divided a little bit by region, there is a steady or rising membership in each of the other WHO regions.

In the Toronto Congress in June 2018, there were 2614 delegates including 849 exhibition staff from 94 countries; 1099 abstracts were submitted (excl. speaker abstracts): 125 were accepted for oral presentation, 875 for poster presentation, 99 abstracts were rejected, there were 65 scientific sessions held including 2 workshops and 2 breakfasts, 101 invited speakers and 81 exhibiting companies.

Another important activity of ISBT is recognizing its members. Gwen presented a list of awards and prizes from 2018 to 2019. The ISBT Presidential Award was presented to Mike Busch, Director, Vitalant Research Institute, USA. The Jean Julliard Prize was presented to Rick Kapur for his work titled Transfusion-related acute lung injury (TRALI): Identification of novel risk factors and potential therapies. The 2018 ISBT Award was presented

to: Diana Teo (Singapore), Peter Flanagan (New Zealand), and Pierre Robillard (Canada). The Developing Country Award for 2018 was presented to: Department of Transfusion Medicine, Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education & Research, Chandigarh, India. The Vox Sanguinis Best Paper Prize was presented to P.A. Steininger for his paper Change of the Metabolomic Profile during short-term Mononuclear Cell Storage. P. A. Steininger, E. F. Strasser, B. Ziehe, R. Eckstein, M. Rauh, Vox Sang. 2017; 112(2): 163-172.

Gwen presented a list of 14 active Working Parties (WP) with their chairpersons. Further information about their activities can be found in the Annual Report at the ISBT website. She also showed a list with all the Academy events during the past year (use of logo and funding). She also shared a graph showing the ISBT Academy support from 2011 to 2018 including events and activities with financial support and use of logo.

Gwen presented the Standing committees: ISBT Academy, Ethics, Jean-Julliard Prize, International Scientific Advisory Committee (group of chair of the WP) and Vox Sanguinis.

Gwen asked if there were any questions; a question arose: Regarding memberships; there are so many people from Europe; what can we do to expect people from other regions? Gwen answered that the exposure offered by Academy events in other parts of the world is one avenue for success, so including members from those regions could work. She also mentioned that members are ISBT's best ambassadors in those countries with less representation. Over time, with National Societies and the active role of regional directors, we can increase the number of members across the world. Martin mentioned that the fee structure has been adjusted to attract members from all around the world. A good strategy is to be exposed to what ISBT does.

6. Treasurer's report

Eric Jansen presented the financial report and pointed out that the result seems to be decreasing. Among the financial highlights from 2018 to 2019, we see that the most important sources of income are Congresses, Corporate Partners and Vox Sanguinis.

The most important source of income is Congresses; if there are two congresses per year, ISBT gets a little bit more money; if there is one congress, the income decreases. In 2018 ISBT organised one congress (Toronto). The income from Toronto was in line with other international congresses. The number of ISBT members was stable on a high level (1.847), so was the income.

Income from Corporate Partners (CP) is becoming more significant. The Central Office is working hard on getting more CPs; so far, the number of CPs is increasing every year.

Income from Vox Sanguinis has decreased a little. The main reason is Brexit; the pound is going down, so euros are also worth less. This issue is being discussed within the Board.

Interest rates are very poor, so is our interest income. There is €500,000 in the working account so there is enough money to finance ISBT's activities. Nevertheless, the interest base is close to zero and sometimes negative. We do not know what will happen in the coming years. The total costs were a little higher (professional expenses). The outcome is a small negative result of €24.188.

Eric showed some tables and graphs and explained them. He showed the Income Statement 2018-2019 table where a difference in income between 2018 (€1.182) and 2019 (€939) was noted. He also showed an income sources 2015-2019 chart; as mentioned before, the highest income sources are Congresses, CPs, Vox Sanguinis, then membership fees and some income from advertising. The interest income is barely visible. Also the Expenditure Statement 2018-19 table was shown. The promotion expenses (website and booth at other congresses) 2018 were high. The 2019 figure was lower but is expected to be higher in the coming year. The office expenses (mostly rent) and small items, increased. Project expenditure (mainly working parties) increased. Because of the negative result there will be no donation to the Foundation this year.

A Financial Highlights (2015-2019) slide was also shown. The total income for 2018 was visibly higher; for 2019, total expenses is a little higher than the total income. A Balance Sheet at 31 March 2019 was also shown; in 2018, the total liabilities and accumulated surplus were higher than in 2019.

Eric asked if there were any questions; someone asked for which months do the financial statement apply. The period ran from April 1st, 2018 to March 31st 2019.

The financial statement was approved. The proposal was made by John Semple and seconded by Behrouz Mansouri.

7. Membership fees 2020-21

Eric Jansen proposed that the membership fee should remain unchanged for the membership year 2019/2020.

Individual membership	≤ 35 years*	36-69 years	≥ 70 years	Allied Health Professional	Transfusion Practitioner
High	60	120	90	60	60
Upper Middle	60	90	60	60	60
Lower Middle	30	60	45	30	30
Low	30	60	45	30	30

The lower fees for the Allied Health Professional and Transfusion Practitioners were introduced in the 2017-18 financial year.

Another proposal is to create the possibility of a two-year membership with no discount offered. This is because sometimes it is hard to pay in some countries or it is better to request sponsorship for 2 years. The motion for the acceptance of the membership fees and the introduction of a two year membership fee for members and affiliate members was proposed by Paul Strengers and seconded by Rudolf Schwabe and was agreed by those present.

John Semple asked for membership for trainees. Martin said that there is none. Asked if ISBT really needs one; it is already covered by age and it is more inclusive. The conclusion was to keep it the way it is. The Young Professional's (YP) age is up to 35, but for the Young Professionals Council, the age is extended to 40. Someone asked if YP could be up to 40. Martin said that the decision on the age of the Council members was made because leading the YP council requires more experience.

8. Report from the Young Professional Council (YPC)

Arwa Al Riyami presented the Young Professional Council's report. They met for the first time in Toronto 2018 at the Congress; they have been meeting monthly by telephone conference calls since then. They are working with the ISBT office to build the YPC webpage. They have a total of 7 members representing different WHO regions. Arwa asked the ISBT office to provide metrics on the number of YP representing the society as well as their involvement with different activities.

From August to November, they were in the planning stage (Meetings, ToR review, Council webpage, Metrics, Initiatives). In December, they started working on the Young Professional's Social Media with the #ISBTYoungBlood (hashtags, weekly posts, raising awareness and videos posts); there is a weekly post on social media about different activities. The YPC also posted videos of members of the council speaking of experience to bring closer link with YP. From December to February, they ran the YP survey which was promoted through social media and reminders were sent; with the result, the strategy could be modified. The YPC is also working on Transfusion Today with a contribution every 3 months to increase the awareness of the society -December (YP Council), March (YP current status & opportunities), June (YP Survey)-. The schedule of topics will be available in the coming months. From February to May, they worked on other initiatives: 8th Anatolian Days, Career Development webinars, ISBT Instagram. Participation at Live JC on a monthly basis starting in July, Council annual report. And from February to June, they were getting prepared for the Congress in Basel (Tailored social media & email promotion, New social activities for YP Registration forms, YP page on congress book, YP page on congress website). Arwa presented a summary of the YP activities at the Congress in Basel: YP booth, YP drinks and snacks, YP networking breakfast, Young Investigators scientific sessions,

YP speed dating event, ISBT Run, three workshops, a YP page on the Congress book (page 6) and a YP page on the Congress website.

The new chairperson starting now is Satyam Arora who will be leading for the coming year.

There were a couple of questions; Peter Flanagan asked where the YPC fits into the organization. Martin answered that the Board uses the YP's input as an advisory council on YP issues. Peter asked if the YPC is included in the statutes. He suggested that if it isn't, it should be. Martin agree that this was a good observation.

9. ISBT Strategic plan 2019 – 2024

The Board had a 2-day meeting in Bad Bubendorf to draw up the next strategic plan. More information will be available at the Bangkok Congress.

ISBT didn't have a vision statement before but came up with a new one during the strategy days: "*A world of safe blood*". It will be added to the ISBT logo. The mission statement was revised:

"ISBT is the global community of professionals promoting evidence-based transfusion medicine: Providing an arena for advancing science and sharing knowledge, Transforming theory into practice by facilitating education and training, and Advocating for the welfare of blood donors and safe patient outcomes".

A number of strategy domains and goals were identified: Education, Training and Implementation of knowledge, International Outreach, Congresses, Publications, Working Parties, Governance, Advocacy, and Digital Resources.

10. Presentation of certificates to retiring Working Party Chairpersons

Certificates were presented to Patricia Distler and Silvano Wendel. Neither were present so certificates will be sent to them. Martin thanked them for their contribution.

11. Announcement of the date of the next General Assembly

Tuesday June 9th, 2020, Barcelona

12. Any other business

There was no other business.

13. Close of meeting

Martin thanked the members present for attending and closed the meeting.