

LSBT
ANNUAL
REPORT
2014-2015

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Corporate Partners

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Gold Partners



Foreword from the President

I am proud to present the Annual Report showing that 2014-2015 was another positive year in the history of ISBT. We continue to have outstanding congresses devoted to the science and professional education of transfusion and transplantation. During this past year, we launched an enhanced website and the ePortal, the ISBT Academy supported a large number of events, and our publications *Vox Sanguinis*, the Science Series and *Transfusion Today* extended the ISBT activities beyond congress days. Our 15 Working Parties continued to contribute to scientific research and to facilitate coordination and standardization of definitions and nomenclature for many of the areas in our field. Moreover, we were able to maintain a stable financial position in face of the challenges affecting the world economy.

Obviously, these successes were the result of dedication of many people and organizations, including our office staff, our Executive Committee and Board of Directors, our Working Party leaders, our members and our corporate partners. Martin Olsson, our Scientific Secretary has been a major contributor to the success of our congresses, organising excellent scientific programs. London will be Martin's last congress in this position. Ellen van der Schoot his successor will assume full responsibility as Scientific Secretary post the London congress.

I want to recognize our office staff for their tremendous effort and dedication. They are Judith Chapman, our Executive Director, Dianne van der Wal, our Scientific Officer, Monique van Dorp, our Communications Co-ordinator, Anne Westerink, our Office Manager and Ralph Zepeda, our Financial Consultant. I want to show appreciation to Peter Flanagan, the previous president, for making sure that the house was in order before I assumed the presidency. Major issues were resolved during his tenure, as described in previous Annual Reports.

ISBT continued to play a role as an organization in official relations with the World Health Organization (WHO) by participating in the launch of the World Blood Donor Day in Sri Lanka with an associated seminar and workshop. We joined other organizations in official relations with WHO in the development of a new initiative, Medical Products of Human Origin (MPHO). We have participated regularly in the WHO consultation on the use of convalescent plasma or plasma from survivors for the treatment of Ebola infected patients, and participated in the WHO Expert Committee on Biological Standardization. Our Hemovigilance Working Party also contributed to the preparation of the recently published WHO Aide-Mémoire on National Hemovigilance System.

ISBT was a contributor to the meeting "Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Policy Dialog and Workshop on Attaining a Safe and Sustainable Blood Supply Chain" that took place last Fall in Manila, the Philippines, and to the wrap up meeting of TRec which took place in Pretoria, South Africa in February. I feel privileged, and I am grateful for the opportunity given to me to be part of the past, present and future of this wonderful organization.

Celso Bianco
President



Foreword from the Secretary General

This report covers the period April 1st, 2014 to March 31st, 2015. I am pleased to report that the ISBT had a very successful year, with a number of important accomplishments. The highlight was a very successful International Congress, held in Seoul, the capital city of the Republic of South Korea. There was a total of 3027 attendees and there was a one-day meeting of members of the Korean societies that so ably hosted the meeting. We thank Congress President Kyou-Sup Han, Local Organising Committee Chairperson Seog-Woon Kwon, Local Scientific Committee Chairperson Hyun-Ok Kim, and Local Secretary Generals Kyoung-Un Park and So-Yong Kwon for their effort and energy which contributed do much to the success of the Congress.

During the meeting, the results of a successful and uneventful election were announced, with 2 new appointments to the ISBT Executive; Vengetessan (Ravi) Reddy as President Elect and Erica Wood as Vice President. Roger Dodd was elected Secretary General and thus remained on the Executive. Five Regional directors were elected; Ina Noelia Perez Huaynalaya (South America), Richard Benjamin (North America), Miguel Lozano (Europe), Ahmad Gharehbaghian (Eastern Mediterranean) and Che Kit Lin (Western Pacific).

The Central Office has expanded with the welcome addition of Dianne van der Wal as Scientific Officer. As her title suggests, Dianne will manage scientific issues for the Society, focusing particularly on content for the ePortal. In this context the ePortal itself has been upgraded and rebranded and is a major focus for educational offerings. In addition, the Society's main website has been redesigned and made more user-friendly and now includes a direct link to Vox Sanguinis for members. We are also pleased to note that Judith Chapman has accepted a three-year extension of her contract as CEO.

Vox Sanguinis continues to be the flagship scientific journal for the Society and has increased its impact factor to 3.303. There has also been notable progress for the ISBT Scientific Series, which is now a fully peer-reviewed electronically published journal; in addition to Congress presentations, it will also feature additional issues containing submitted papers. We thank Geoff Daniels for his editorial efforts for the Seoul issue and are pleased to report that Pieter van der Meer has been appointed as editor; Anne Eder and Denese Marks have agreed to serve as associate editors. The journal will be managed through the Central Office.

Membership remains stable, with a current total of 1385, representing 111 countries. Membership activities are a major strength of the organisation, with continuing growth and energy in the Academy, which supported 19 activities in 16 countries and, of course generated a great deal of content and direction for the ePortal.

The 15 Working Parties continue to be a vital component of the Society and, over the past year, a new Working Party on Immunohaematology has been founded and the Transfusion-transmitted Infectious Diseases Working Party has established an innovative training programme (I TRY IT) for junior investigators. A LinkedIn group for younger ISBT investigator members has also been founded. We encourage all of you to participate actively in these activities as appropriate to your interests.

In 2014-2015, the following awards and prizes were granted

The ISBT Presidential Award

Professor Dennis Yuk-Ming Lo (Hong Kong)

The ISBT Award

Zarin Barucha (India), Thailand and Japanese Red Cross Societies (Joint Award) for the Securing Safe Blood for Asia programme.

Jean Julliard Prize

E.A. Hod (USA) Red Blood cell transfusion-induced inflammation: myth or reality

The ISBT Award for Developing Countries

The National Blood Centre Myanmar

The Vox Sanguinis Best Paper Prize

Sandra Ramirez-Arcos (Canada) Bacterial growth in red blood cell units exposed to uncontrolled temperatures: challenging the 30-minute rule

Roger Dodd

Secretary General



Board of Directors

July 2012 - June 2014

Executive Committee:

President	Peter Flanagan, New Zealand
President Elect	Celso Bianco, USA
Senior Vice President	Roger Dodd, USA
Junior Vice President	Diana Teo, Singapore
Past President	Silvano Wendel, Brazil
Secretary General	Geoff Daniels, UK
Treasurer	Steve Morgan, UK

Members of the Board representing WHO Regions:

Africa	Bridon M'baya, Malawi
Northern Americas	Amalia Bravo Lindoro, Mexico
Southern Americas	Oscar Torres, Argentina
Eastern Europe	Eugene Zhiburt, Russia
Western Europe	Claudio Velati, Italy
Eastern Mediterranean	Salwa Ibrahim Hindawi, Saudi Arabia
South East Asia	Neelam Marwaha, India
Western Pacific	Erica Wood, Australia Masahiro Satake, Japan

June 2014 - June 2016

Executive Committee:

President	Celso Bianco, USA
President Elect	Vengetassen (Ravi) Reddy, South Africa
Senior Vice President	Diana Teo, Singapore
Junior Vice President	Erica Wood, Australia
Past President	Peter Flanagan, New Zealand
Secretary General	Roger Dodd, USA
Treasurer	Steve Morgan, UK

Members of the Board representing WHO Regions:

Africa	Bridon M'baya, Malawi
Northern Americas	Richard Benjamin, USA
Southern Americas	Ina-Noelia Pérez-Huaynalaya, Peru
Europe	Miguel Lozano, Spain
Europe	Claudio Velati, Italy
Eastern Mediterranean	Ahmad Gharehbaghian, Iran
South East Asia	Neelam Marwaha, India
Western Pacific	Masahiro Satake, Japan Che-Kit Lin, Hong Kong

Membership

Membership 2014 - 2015

1. TOTAL MEMBERSHIP PER END OF MEMBERSHIP YEAR *

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
INDIVIDUAL	805	987	1205	1343	1422	2030	1680	1219	1354	1282
AFFILIATED	27	23	23	18	22	17	16	14	17	14
EXEMPT	14	18	30	42	69	84	49	55	55	69
HONORARY	25	23	24	23	27	24	22	22	21	20
TOTAL:	871	1051	1282	1426	1540	2155	1767	1310	1447	1385

* * Until 2010 ISBT membership years ended on 31 December.

From 2011 on, the membership year was from 1 April until 31 March of the next year.

The membership year 2011 was a longer year, because it ran from 1 January 2011 until 31 March 2012.

2. INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP PER WHO REGION PER END OF MEMBERSHIP YEAR:

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
AFRICA	25	38	41	33	59	51	50	43	49	43
AMERICAS	206	220	244	267	252	287	310	287	284	261
EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN	29	55	71	77	85	127	78	47	61	57
EUROPE	395	474	571	597	719	819	841	566	637	587
SOUTH EAST ASIA	43	56	88	117	86	81	76	58	65	78
WESTERN PACIFIC	107	144	190	252	221	665	325	218	258	256
TOTAL	805	987	1205	1343	1422	2030	1680	1219	1354	1282

Congresses

- 33rd International Congress of the ISBT, Seoul, Korea 2014

33rd International Congress of the ISBT, Seoul, Korea 2014

Kyou-Sup Han, Congress President

The idea to host an ISBT congress came to birth among KSBT members whilst attending the 18th Regional ISBT Congress held in Hanoi in 2007. Finally after 4 years, this idea became reality when Seoul was awarded to host the 2014 International Congress at the 21st Regional ISBT Congress held in Lisbon, Portugal. After a short period of excitement, members of the Local Organising Committee including the Congress President Kyou-Sup Han, M.D., the Local Organising Committee Chairperson Seog-Woon Kwon, M.D., the Local Scientific Committee Chairperson, Hyun-Ok Kim, M.D., and the Local Secretary Generals Kyoung-Un Park, M.D. and So-Yong Kwon, M.D., soon had to realise that organising an international congress is a huge challenge with tremendous work involved!

During the 3 years of preparation the ISBT headquarters and the local organising committee had several meetings that were not easy. But at the end, our concentrated and energetic discussions turned out to be most productive and made this congress a huge success. Highest appreciation again for their marvellous support goes to Peter Flanagan, ISBT President, and Judith Chapman, ISBT Executive Director. During the Korean day, three parallel sessions were held, attracting not only participants from the field of transfusion medicine but also many clinicians working in the field of haematology and transplantation.

Martin Olsson, ISBT Scientific Secretary, and the local scientific committee did a great job in preparing an excellent scientific programme that not only dealt with traditional topics of transfusion medicine but also hot topics like cellular therapy and clinical aspects of transfusion medicine. A total of 55 sessions were run in five tracks dealing with immunobiology of blood cells, blood safety, clinical aspects, donors & donation, and cellular therapies. 758 abstracts from 68 countries were submitted, among which 93 high quality abstracts were chosen for oral presentations and 603 for poster presentations. With 77 esteemed invited speakers presenting their cutting-edge research, all sessions were well attended and followed by lively discussions between speakers and the audience. Industry was also

well presented and participants had the opportunity to exchange their experiences and take home information about the latest developments provided by the 74 exhibitors

But a congress isn't only about science! The opening ceremony started with the traditional presentation of the talking stick to the Congress President, Prof. Kyou-Sup Han. Afterwards, participants enjoyed the serenity and the flowing movements of Seoungmu, the Buddhist monk's dance, and Pungmulnori, a Korean folk music and dance tradition. All participants were greeted with a taste of Korean cuisine at the welcome reception. During the Speakers Dinner, guests had the chance to learn about the history of Korea and the Korean alphabet. The congress party, however, was the highlight of the social events. Since the congress took place in the middle of Gangnam, the southern part of Seoul, it was a must for everybody to





learn dancing “Gangnam Style”. Participants were invited onto stage to compete for the best dancer award and soon the stage was filled with joyously dancing participants and within seconds the party hall turned into a twilight zone. What a night!

“Everything that has a beginning has an end.” But every end is a new beginning. It was a great experience and utmost pleasure working with the ISBT and hopefully this congress will remain as a pleasant memory for all participants.



Financial Summary



Steve Morgan,
Treasurer

The financial year ended 31 March 2015 saw ISBT hold its 33rd International Congress in Seoul, South Korea. The financial surplus generated allowed the society to achieve a small overall positive result of €9k. This will be donated to the ISBT Foundation in line with normal practice, for investment in key education and development projects.

At the end of March 2015, ISBT and the ISBT Foundation had healthy cash balances of €2.7m and €0.4m respectively.

Revenue

The Seoul Congress realised a financial surplus of €293k, after accounting for the fees paid to congress organiser MCI Amsterdam, and the amount shared with the local organising committee (40%).

Individual ISBT membership fees fell from €114k to €107k (after adjusting for VAT payable on fee income), reflecting in part the occurrence of one international congress in the year rather than two regional congresses.

Corporate partner fees rose from €144k to €150k, with a full year's revenue accruing from ISBT's five partners for the first time.

Royalties from the ISBT's journal Vox Sanguinis fell slightly to €229k, as did advertising income from Transfusion Today. Advertising continues to be affected by the merger of a number of global suppliers, combined with a reduction in corporate marketing budgets.

ABN Amro bank interest income also declined, affected by the bank's decision to no longer allow ISBT to benefit from two high interest bearing accounts.

Expenditure

Salary costs rose by €33k, with the full year cost of the Scientific Officer post being absorbed for the first time. ISBT's Central Office contingent of four full-time staff is now complete.

Professional fees and expenses fell markedly – limited strategic and human resources support and advice was sought in 2014-15 compared with the previous year, and the use of legal and fiscal advisors was also tightly controlled.

Promotion expenses more than trebled, from €36k to €121k, the result of investing €80k in the development of the ISBT website in line with the society's strategic plan. Travel and meetings costs rose significantly, with the addition of a meeting for the new Board and Executive held in the Netherlands as well as ISBT covering the costs of Board members to attend the Board meeting in Seoul.

Central Office Result

The positive result from the Central Office's activities of €81k was used to fund the activities of eleven of the ISBT Working Parties, and to pay for the Vox Sanguinis Best Paper Prize (€10k), the Developing Country Award (€16k), and the Jean Julliard Prize (€6k).

Steve Morgan
ISBT Treasurer

Copies of the full financial summary for 2014-15 are available from the ISBT Central Office.

Reports from ISBT Working Parties

- Working Party on Apheresis
- Working Party on Blood Supply Management
- Working Party on Cellular Therapy
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- Working Party on Quality Management
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- Working Party on Red Cell Immunogenetics and Terminology
- Working Party on Transfusion Transmitted Diseases

Working Party on Apheresis



Hans Vrieling, Chairperson

1. Chairperson and committee

Chairperson: Hans Vrieling,

Secretary: Paul Höcker, assisted by Margarete Grimus

2. Membership information

Because of more strict regulations, only ISBT members can be members of a working party. Therefore in 2014 in total, the Working party on Apheresis had registered 16 members working in the field of apheresis from 13 countries (Asia, Middle East, Europe, and the America's). Besides the professionals working in the field, the Working Party has also members representing 3 companies working in the field of apheresis.

3. Meetings and Telephone conferences

The Working Party on Apheresis held one meeting in 2014 at the ISBT meeting in Seoul (June 2014).

4. Activities during the period

- Suggestions for the scientific program for the regional meetings in London and Bali (2015) were internally discussed and presented to the scientific committee(s).
- Together with the Working Party on Granulocyte Immunobiology a scientific program was organized for the international meeting in Seoul (Monday June 2nd, 2014).

- As reported in previous years, in co-operation with European and USA professionals (physicians and nurses, from ESFH, WAA) an international course for apheresis nurses was developed in the autumn of 2012. The modular course was organized a number of times in 2014. A presentation on this topic was given at the meeting in Seoul, Korea.

5. Finances

The Working Party had no income or expenditure in 2014/15.

Working Party on Blood Supply Management



Gilles Folléa, Chairperson

1. Chairperson and committee

Chairperson: Gilles Folléa

Dr Loyiso Mpuntsha was the Chairperson up to January 2015, when she left the field of blood establishments and transfusion medicine. The Co-Chairperson, Dr Gilles Folléa, replaced her as Chairperson as of February 1st 2015. We would like to warmly thank Dr Loyiso Mpuntsha for her very effective actions in heading the WP with important achievements as parallel sessions on blood supply management (BSM) at the 32nd and 33rd International

Congresses of the ISBT (Cancun 2012, Seoul 2014) and a session on BSM on the Academy day of the 23rd Regional Congress of the ISBT (Amsterdam 2013). These sessions were accompanied by related articles in ISBT Science Series and Transfusion Today.

2. Membership information

On 8 April 2015 the WP had 20 members and 15 countries were represented.

3. Meetings and Telephone conferences

- i) On the **1st of June 2014**, at the ISBT Congress in Seoul, the Working Party held a **business meeting** attended by 6 delegates representing 5 countries:
- The communications of the Parallel session planned on June 3rd 2014 were briefly reviewed with the speakers (Wim de Kort, The Council of Europe and ISBT surveys on BSM; Stuart Chesneau, The Australian Program to reduce Blood Component wastage; Levent SA DUR, Blood Supply Management in Turkey; Loyiso Mpuntsha, Blood Supply Management in Developing Countries).
 - New Topic: Blood Component Waste Reduction – Sharing Experiences. The WP members agreed to consider this topic as relevant for being included in the BSM WP plans. The Chairperson would follow up with Mark Yazer to develop a process to address the matter.
 - Other project suggestions for the BSM WP: Patient Blood Management (PBM). The WP members agreed to establish a link between the ISBT WP on BSM and the ISBT WP on PBM. Wim de Kort was suggested and agreed to facilitate the establishment of this collaboration.
- ii) On the **30st of June 2014** a subgroup (3 members from 3 countries) of the WP held a **teleconference on Blood Product (BP) Waste Reduction**. The agreed main outcomes were as follows.
- Mark Yazer, with help from Neil Beckman, will draft a survey questionnaire to assess BP Waste and try to better understand it on a worldwide basis, and later form the basis to elaborate mitigation strategies.
 - Mark Yazer and Neil Beckman will elaborate a strategy for disseminating the survey questionnaire.

4. Activities during the period

- i) Blood Supply Management was the theme of a **parallel session** at the 33rd International Congress of the ISBT (Seoul 2014), with 4 oral communications.
- ii) **The subgroup on Blood Product (BP) Waste** designed a **survey questionnaire** to assess and calculate BP wastage rates in hospitals (from hospital blood banks to patients prior to transfusion). An online survey tool was developed. From October 2014 to March 2015, **85 completed survey responses** were received from all over the world. The online questionnaire proved to be effective in objectively measuring BP wastage in a variety of hospitals around the world. The analysis of the outcomes from the survey will help in identifying the causes of wastage, finalizing a self-assessment tool and help to reduce BP waste in hospitals, for the primary benefit of patients and donors.
- iii) **An abstract on the Blood Product Waste survey has been submitted** for the 25th Regional Congress of the ISBT (London, June 2015).

5. Finances

not applicable (no funding was required for the WP activities).

Working Party on Cellular Therapies



Mickey Koh, Chairperson

1. Chairperson and committee

Chairperson: Mickey Koh

Committee:

Peter Horn (Essen, Germany): Vice Chair

Christian Gabriel (Austria): Secretary

Reinhardt Henschler (Germany): Treasurer

2. Membership information

The mailing list consists of 35 persons including the committee. There has been a significant growth in members. When I took over this role, there were only 3 other members on the list! Representation from Europe, Asia, Africa, North America and South America is encouraging for worldwide representation. Having said that, some members have not renewed their ISBT membership and it is the priority this year to remind them to do so.

3. Meetings and Telephone conferences

A working party meeting was held during the ISBT congress in Seoul, July 2014. This was not entirely well represented as not all members could get to the congress—the attendance consisted of 11 persons.

The meeting concentrated on approving the bye-laws for the working party. In addition, the chair-person briefed the members on the activities of the WP as well as its role in interacting with other organisations like WBMT and AABB. It also briefed members on the current WHO project “Medical products of Human Origin” of which ISBT is part of. Discussion was made on how to complement other cellular therapies group

A tele-conference was held amongst some of the working party members Oct 2014 who are currently involved in an active working party project. This consists of Mickey Koh, Katharina Schallmoser and Thierry Burnof.

4. Activities during the period

1. Re-confirmation of office/committee bearers
2. Discussion around formal byelaws for the working party: proposed draft out by middle of 2015
3. Representation by ISBT at the AABB congress Oct 2014 in Philadelphia. Members of the working party: Mickey Koh and Reinhard Henschler were invited speakers at a session on cell therapy. Topics covered include Worldwide regulatory frameworks on cell therapy and issues involved in transportation of cell therapy products.
4. ISBT was invited to participate in an international group consisting of other cell therapy organisations and hosted by ISCT on establishing standards and definitions for mesenchymal stromal cells. This is an extremely important area due to the widespread use of MSCs in cell therapy and the vast variability in nomenclature, definitions, function. A follow up meeting is planned for the ISCT meeting in 2015.
5. ISBT continues to be well represented at the Worldwide Network for Blood and Marrow Transplantation. Mickey Koh is the representative and Peter Horn has taken over from Reinhard Henschler as the other representative. ISBT continues to contribute with regards to cell therapy, graft processing and blood banking issues in this organisation which is affiliated to WHO

6. ISBT is one of 4 organisations affiliated to WHO tasked with developing updated guidelines for the topic “Medical Products of Human Origin”. Peter Flanagan, Judith Chapman as well as Mickey Koh and Peter Horn from the working party represented ISBT at the first face to face meeting in Geneva sept 2014. This was followed by a series of teleconference calls as well as multiple reworking and edits of the document. It is currently being finalised with the aim for publication sometime in 2015
7. The working party has been working on 2 projects: serum eye drops and platelet lysates. The serum eye drops is under the purview of Peter Horn but has been progressing more slowly. The draft guidelines and scientific paper for platelet lysates is currently undergoing final revisions and will be submitted to a peer reviewed journal by May 2015. This is an unmet but critical topic in cell therapy that has really not been emphasised by other cell therapy organisations. It falls very much within the remit of this working party and within the larger ISBT organisation and should be an important contribution to the field of both traditional blood banking and cell therapy
8. A proposal has been put forward by the WP to AABB for a joint session on platelet lysates for its annual meeting in 2015
9. Daphne Thijssen-Timmer represents ISBT on the Cellular Therapy Coding and Labeling Advisory Group (CTCLAG). CTCLAG approved revised ISBT 128 nomenclature of cellular therapy products in July 2013.

5. Finances

The Working Party utilised 1040 euros during this period. This was for travel expenses for an invited representative from ISBT to participate in an international group consisting of other cell therapy organisations and hosted by ISCT on establishing standards and definitions for mesenchymal stromal cells. This was held in Paris as part of the ISCT 2014 congress and Dr Mickey Koh represented ISBT on this

Working Party on Clinical Transfusion



Cynthia So-Osman (left), Chairperson
Shubha Allard (right), Co-Chairperson

1. Chairperson and committee

Chairperson: Cynthia So-Osman
 Co-Chairperson: Shubha Allard

2. Membership information

Currently, the Clinical Transfusion Working Party has 30 members representing 17 countries from 6 continents. Since the WP Paediatrics has merged with this WP, 5 paediatricians/neonatologists have recently agreed to become new members of the WP. At the next meeting in London, they will officially join the WP. We are also promoting greater Transfusion Practitioner (TP) involvement and now have 2 TP members.

3. Meetings and Telephone conferences

Business meeting in Seoul at the international ISBT-congress Jun 2014: 11 members were present

All day interim-meeting on 16st January 2015 in Amsterdam, the Netherlands: 12 members were present in person, 3 members by telecom.

Main topics:

1. Indication codes for transfusion (Transfusion Indication Codes (TIC) subgroup)
2. Patient Blood Management (PBM subgroup)

Also: 3-5 interim conference calls for PBM and TIC subgroup

4. Activities during the period

1. Subgroup TIC (lead: Jonathan Wallis)

There was a new proposal to study blood utilisation using population-based data collection. JW proposed to take this method forward as a wider project. First step is to publish this method. Another step to gain more information regarding Transfusion Indication Codes has been to use the International Forum of Vox Sanguinis as a tool. The Vox Sanguinis Office agreed to help. During the latest Interim Business Meeting on January 16th, 2015 a set of questions was being discussed and a final set will be finalized.

Plasma survey: A new initiative was discussed regarding the clinical use of plasma. For this purpose, a survey on plasma use in hospitals will be launched with a data collection tool and an organizational survey being drafted with an aim to initiate the project in April 2015. A limited number of sites in different countries are also participating in a patient audit of plasma use.

2. Subgroup PBM (lead Cynthia So-Osman and Shubha Allard)

Two main activities were performed since the Seoul 2014 ISBT-WP meeting:

1. **PBM survey:** In order to gain more information from ISBT members regarding PBM activity, a questionnaire was developed and launched by the PBM subgroup in October 2014 (with the resources of the ISBT office) to serve as a benchmark survey on PBM on a global level. More than 200 responses were received (closed Dec 31, 2014).

II. PBM website: It was agreed that a PBM website would be developed providing ready access to resources and tools to promote PBM implementation including links to other informative websites, published papers, e-learning material and audit tools. The responses and feedback from the PBM survey above are also informing content to be developed. At the Interim Meeting Jan 16th, 2015 subheadings were agreed to be allocated between the project group members for development and upload onto the WP website.

III. Transfusion Practitioner involvement: Two new TP members are contributing to the PBM website content above and are also helping co-ordinate an ISBT TP networking meeting in London on Sun 27th Jun 2015.

5. Finances

An interim business meeting was organized. The meeting was well attended, and well received also by teleconference (Australian members, members from India and UK). Costs for travelling expenses covered by ISBT were €2,650.

Working Party on Donors and Donation



Peter Van Den Burg (left), Chairperson
Cheuk-Kwong Lee (right), Co-Chairperson

1. Chairperson and committee

Cheuk-Kwong LEE, Chair, Donors & Donation
 Peter J.M. van den Burg, Chair, Donors & Donation
 Karin Magnussen, Secretary, Donors & Donation

The working party Donor & Donations has two chairs and a secretary, in addition two co-secretaries are appointed: Marcela Garcia and Edward Lin. Since there is an cooperation with the working party hemovigilance, with respect to donor vigilance, Jo Wiersum-Osselton is guest member of the working party Donors and Donations. During the ISBT meeting in Seoul we discussed about the regular agenda issues for the WP Donors & Donations. Based on the selected issues, working party member were indicated and appointed to be owner of this topic. The topics and owners are:

Topic	Owner	Members
Donor selection criteria	Peter van Burg/ DoHeCa	Cecilia Tan Karin Magnussen
Donor complications	Lee Cheuk Wong	Lee Cheuk Wong
Donors and Iron	Karin Magnussen	Lee Cheuk Wong
Voluntary unremunerated donation	Cecilia Tan	

2. Membership information

The WP D&D has 32 members from 19 different countries.

3. Meetings and Telephone conferences

The WP D&D has met during the ISBT Seoul, 8 members were present and 4 by telecom. The WP D&D board has regular contact, by mail or by telephone.

4. Activities during the period

The WP D&D has focussed on several activities:

- Update of WP D&D members and ISBT membership. WP D&D members who were not ISBT member or did not pay their fee were contacted and were adverted to the policy to be ISBT member.
- A didactic rationale for the donor selection criteria is in preparation and will be presented during the ISBT in London.
- A didactic tool for donor complications will be prepared and discussed during the ISBT in London.
- The WP D&D requested the ISBT for a means for communication for the WP D&D.

5. Finances

The WP D&D did not have any income or expenditures in 2014.

Working Party on Global Blood Safety



Silvano Wendel, Chairperson

1. Chairperson and committee

Chair	Silvano Wendel (Brazil)
Vice-Chair	Jean Pierre Allain (UK)
Secretary	Marion Vermeulen (South Africa)
Treasurer	S Hindawi (Saudi Arabia)

At-large members – Mike Busch (USA), Roger Dodd (USA), Sue Stramer (USA), Jay Epstein (USA), Ravi Reddy (South Africa)

2. Membership information

Currently, there are a total of 51 members, representing 24 countries (see attached list).

3. Meetings and telephone conferences

For the year since the Seoul Meeting the GBS working party has met via teleconference 5 times during the 2014/2015 year.

4. Activities during the period

Since the last general meeting in Seoul, the ISBT Working Party on Global Blood Safety has acted on several issues. The first one relates to the December 2014 issue of *Transfusion Today*, where a brief report about blood safety concerning several global regions like the Mediterranean, Africa, Latin America and a special emphasis on Myanmar was published.

The organizing group, through a series of conference calls decided to embark on few key issues. The first one concerns to the revision of the current statutes and future improvements based on member's suggestions; a draft is expected to be presented by September. It was

also decided to increase the number of new members, particularly from countries that were not well represented in the membership list. Thus, we welcomed two new individual members (Costa Rica and The Netherlands) and two observers (Italy and Nigeria). In addition, we expect to engage new members in our next meeting in London next June.

As emphasized in the December 2014 *Transfusion Today* Editorial, a main concern during this period “was that the threat based on the previous experience with epidemic influenza, SARS and MERS-CoV affecting the safety of blood supply in several countries of the world has brought a considerable aid for medical agencies to fight against a new threat: the newly Ebola virus epidemics in Africa.” Thus, it was defined that the main topic to be discussed in the forthcoming London meeting on June 28th is an updated view about the use of convalescent whole blood or plasma collected from patients recovered from Ebola virus disease for treatment of this terrible haemorrhagic disease. Speakers from UK, France, Guinea and the WHO Central Office in Switzerland are already confirmed for discussion of this challenging threat. In addition, two more topics will be discussed in London: a) the social effect on Latin American blood donors as result of the newly emerging role of Dengue and Chikungunya viruses; b) the real feasibility of voluntary non-remunerated donors (VNRD) plasma as the only source for plasma fractionation according to local, regional or global needs, where the global data including from developing countries and the IPFA position will be brought under discussion.

5. Finances

The working party received €512 from ISBT in support of telephone conferences

Working Party on Granulocyte Immunobiology



Lin Fung, Chairperson

1. Chairperson and committee

Working Party Chair: Lin Fung (Australia)

Nomenclature Subcommittee:

Chair: Brigette FLESCH (German Red Cross Blood Service West)

Members: Ulrich Sachs (Giessen, Germany),
Masja DeHaas (Amsterdam, Netherlands),
Brian Curtis (Milwaukee, USA),
Geoff Lucas (Bristol, UK)

International Granulocyte Immunobiology Workshop

Chair: Lin Fung (University of the Sunshine Coast, Australia)

Members: Jurgen Bux (Germany)
Geoff Lucas (Bristol, UK)
Brian Curtis (Wisconsin, USA)

2. Membership information

ISBT members: 26 (estimate)
Other interested individuals: 26
Countries represented: 17

3. Activities during the period

33rd International Congress of ISBT in Seoul, Korea (June 2014)

GIWP Business Meeting

Agenda: L Fung - Welcome on Update on GIWP activities
U Sachs - HNA-3a on endothelial cells as a target for TRALI
Journey to Establishing a Neutrophil Serology Testing Service
The journey in Israel - L Bonstein
The journey in Hong Kong - Tony Yan
The journey in Israel - Croatia - M Tomicic

No of attendees: 15

B Flesch (chair of the nomenclature sub-committee) was invited to give a talk on updates in HNA nomenclature.

There was a joint Aphaeresis & Granulocyte Immunobiology Session, and L Fung gave a talk on Neutrophils in Innate Immunity.

(a) At European Symposium of Platelet and Granulocyte Immunobiology (ESPGI) (3 & 4 July 2014) Bad Homburg, Germany

Sponsored by: ISBT No. of Attendee: ~50

L Fung provided an update on GIWP activities and reviewed the ISBT –GIWP Operating Principles (OP). Details of the draft OP had been circulating electronically to all workshop participants and granulocyte interested individuals since June 2013 and the OP was listed on the ISBT-GIWP webpage on 1.1.2014. A few workshop participants had questions about the link between the International Granulocyte Workshop and the ISBT. As the time allocated to the Granulocyte meeting was unusually short as was the program of the whole symposium, these questions will be discussed at the next ESPGI meeting in 2016.

Results of the 2013 International Granulocyte Immunobiology Workshop (IGIW) was discussed.

Leendert Porcelijn stepped down from serving on the IGIW committee and was thanked for his valuable service.

The Nomenclature Subcommittee met to discuss updates of the HNA-nomenclature based on recent findings on new alleles and antigens.

(b) L Fung conducted an election by email and Brian Curtis (Blood Center of Wisconsin) was elected to replace L Porcelijn in Nov 2014.

- (c) Brigitte Flesch is leading the preparation of a manuscript HNA nomenclature update that will be submitted as soon as the most recent findings presented at the ESPGI meeting 2014 have been confirmed by the GIWP.
- (d) B Curtis organised the 2015 IGIW under the mentorship of Dr L Porcelijn.
- (e) The working party received €1348 for the period April 2014 – March 31 2015, this was used to cover international transport of serum samples for 2016 granulocyte workshop.
- (f) L Fung submitted applications to the ISBT to support a 2nd Granulocyte Practicum in Denpasar in association with the 2015 ISBT Regional Congress in Bali.

Working Party on Haemovigilance



Johanna (Jo) Wiersum-Osselton, Chairperson

1. Chairperson and committee

Chairperson: Johanna (Jo) Wiersum-Osselton

Committee:

- Maria Antonia Escoval, secretary
- Jean-Claude Faber, treasurer
- Mickey Koh, member;
- Karin Magnussen (from summer 2014)
- Peter Tomasulo, donor vigilance subgroup coordinator (till summer 2014)
- Erica Wood (ex-officio, president of the International Haemovigilance Network).

2. Membership information

As of autumn 2014 the working party had approximately 125 members and participants on the mailing list. They represent 40 countries.

3. Meetings and Telephone conferences

The annual working meeting was held during the Seoul congress; 31 members attended. Topics discussed included definitions (donor complications; transfusion-associated circulatory overload (TACO); errors and incident definitions), results of a survey on definitions for transfusion-transmitted bacterial infection, blood donor iron status, quality indicators for the transfusion chain and haemovigilance in South Korea. Attendants were also informed about areas of collaboration with WHO: progress on the WHO haemovigilance Aide-Mémoire and haemovigilance guidance document, the cross-disciplinary meeting hosted by the WHO patient safety group about developing a “minimum information model” for vigilance systems (Geneva, April 2014) and the proposal to include haemovigilance cases in the Notify Library learning database which has hitherto collected examples from vigilance reporting of organs, tissues and cells.

The committee held 3 teleconferences to discuss working party strategy and organisational matters. They provided programme suggestions and advised re the programme for the forthcoming congress (London 2015).

The membership was consulted by email regarding the and the prepublication version of the blood donation complication definitions and the draft revised TACO definition.

4. Activities during the period

Recipient haemovigilance subgroup

- updating of TACO definition: revision group convened and held two teleconferences; members of the working party contributed to validation of an advanced draft. Feedback from this will be given at the annual working party meeting in 2015.
- participation in a WHO meeting about its initiative on Medical Products of Human Origin, held in September 2014. Three committee members participated, as did the Judith Chapman and Peter Flanagan.
- Following on from the Dubai Global Consultation as well as from earlier approaches to WHO concerning the patient safety definitions, two committee members (also representing IHN) participated in a WHO meeting (1-2 April 2014) organised by the patient safety team, examining possibilities for a “Minimum Information Model” harmonising terminology and data collection between different vigilance systems including haemovigilance, radiation safety, medical devices etc.

- J. Wiersum and two other working party members attended a follow-on working meeting (February 2015) as experts for the Notify Library and assisted in developing a strategy for including haemovigilance in it.
- members of the recipient vigilance subgroup participated in an IHN meeting/webinar (25h March 2015) examining possibilities for collaboration in research.

Donor haemovigilance subgroup

- revision of the donation complication definitions was progressed in collaboration with the IHN and AABB. This work has led to the publication of a revised classification which has been endorsed by the ABO (Association of Blood Operators) group and European Blood Alliance.
- members of the donor vigilance subgroup participated in an IHN meeting/webinar (25h March 2015) examining possibilities for collaboration in research.

5. Finances

ISBT made a grant of €299 available to the Working Party for telephone conferences.

collection between different vigilance systems including haemovigilance, radiation safety, medical devices etc.

Working Party on Immunohematology



Sandra Nance, Chairperson

1. Chairperson and committee

The Interim Chair is Sandra Nance until the members elect an Executive Committee. The Members of the Working Party and their country affiliations are available on the website.

2. Membership information

The newly formed Working Party on Immunohematology has 25 members from 18 countries. The largest number of members from any one country is three. According to the draft Terms of Reference, the Working Party is interested in international representation. Over-representation of countries or organizations will be monitored by the Executive Committee of the Working Party and may be limited.

3. Meetings and Telephone conferences

The inaugural meeting in Seoul yielded much discussion of the impact this Working Party can have. A small group of ten of the attendees that were very interested in the Working Party met for two days at the ISBT Central Office. The outcome of those discussions was a draft Terms of Reference that has been submitted for review to the ISBT Central Office, response to the questionnaire for the Website, Draft survey to determine the international practices in immunohematology. Meeting at the Central Office allowed attendance by Judith Chapman for the discussion on Terms of Reference, Dianne van der Wal for the discussion of the Website and educational topics for the website. Discussions of the small group also included the Leadership of the Working Party and how to determine level of interest of ISBT members in being members of the Working Party. Contact was made with all attendees of the inaugural meeting and those responding to the announcements of the new Working Party soliciting their interest by submitting resume and paragraph of career focus in Immunohematology. All those responding with a

resume and paragraph were selected as members of the Working Party.

4. Activities during the period

At the inaugural meeting at the ISBT Congress in Seoul, there were three breakout groups that worked on London scientific programs, led by Dr Thierry Peyrard, Dr Jill Storry, and Ms Nicole Thornton. The groups worked on topics for the Working Party meeting at the 2015 regional Congress in London, Program topics for the London meeting and/or website and recommendations for Terms of Reference.

At the 2014 ISBT Congress in Seoul, there was a half day of Immunohematology topics presented within Academy Day and a separate program on Immunohematology by the Working Party. It is planned that there will be presentations in Academy Day at the 2015 Regional Congress in London.

The small group of 10 that met at the ISBT Central Office completed the Draft Terms of Reference, the process for membership and leadership, draft of survey that is being fully developed by Jennifer White, and completed the survey from ISBT on the Website.

The Executive Committee of the Working Party and the full Working Party will meet at the 2015 Regional Congress in London.

5. Finances

A funding request was submitted and granted for the small group meeting to fully develop the initiatives of the Working Party. This was the small group of 10 whose work has been detailed above. The Working Party on Immunohematology received €14,183 for the meeting held in Amsterdam in October 2014. This meeting was tremendously productive and the WP is appreciative.

Working Party on Information Technology



Ralf Knels, Chairperson

1. Chairperson and committee (TF = Task Force)

Chairperson: Ralf Knels (Chairperson RFID TF)

Executive Committee:

Treasurer	Paul Ashford
Vacant Chairperson Traceability TF	
Secretary and Vice chairperson RFID TF	Lynne Briggs
Past Chairperson	Pia Bruce
Representative ISBT-Board	Judith Chapman
Vice Chairperson Standard Interface TF	Shankar Goudar
Vice Chairperson Standard Interface TF	Teresa Knutsen
Chairperson Standard Interface TF	Linda Lodge
	Mario Muon

2. Membership information

92 members from 18 countries

3. Meetings and Telephone conferences

No meetings in 2014 except for Interface TF (see report)
no telephone conferences in 2014 of EC

4. Activities during the period

No activities except in Interface TF (see report)

5. Finances

No incomes or expenses in 2014

WPIT Interface Taskforce Report 2014 – 2015

Meetings held during reporting period:

4 teleconference meetings

1 face to face

Notes from all meetings are posted on the ISBT website

Activities and progress:

HL7 message segments to be used for the interface standard have been identified and agreed. The data structure for the standard is in draft.

ICCBBA have agreed to act as custodians of the database reference tables that will be used to insert the standard requirements in to the HL7 interface standard.

The message structure proposal was presented to the Seoul meeting and encouraging feedback received.

An event list has been defined and reviewed and is now being trialled in the next stage of definition.

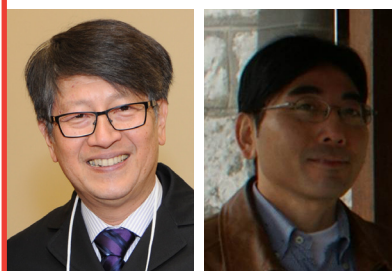
Using the event list the taskforce decided to take the interface design to the next stage by selecting blood weigh mixer machines and virology analysers to define the data identifiers for each of these machine types. This work is currently at the definition review stage.

Immediate future plans:

A 2 day face to face meeting has been arranged for April 2015 in an attempt to finalise the data identifier definitions for the selected machine types.

The target is to complete this work for presentation at the London 2015 meeting

Working Party on Platelet Immunobiology



Sentot Santoso (left), Chairperson

Nelson H. Tsuno (right), Co-Chairperson

1. Chairperson and committee

Chairperson: Sentot Santoso
Co-Chairperson: Nelson H. Tsuno

2. Membership information

Members of the International Platelet Immunobiology Working Party (IPIWP)

Australia (2 labs, 2 persons), Brazil (1 lab, 1 person), Canada (2 labs, 2 persons), China (3 labs, 3 persons), Croatia (1 lab, 1 person), Denmark (1 lab, 1 person), Finland (1 lab, 1 person), France (2 labs, 2 persons), Germany (4 labs, 5 persons), Israel (1 lab, 1 person), Japan (1 lab, 2 persons), Norway (1 lab, 1 person), South Korea (1 lab, 1 person), Spain (1 lab, 2 persons), Sweden (1 lab, 1 person), The Netherlands (1 lab, 1 person), US (2 labs, 2 persons)

Participants of the Workshop (but not IPIWP members)
Australia (1 lab, 1 person), Austria (1 lab, 2 persons), France (2 labs, 2 persons), Poland (1 lab, 1 person), Slovenia (1 lab, 1 person), UK (1 lab, 1 person)

3. Meetings and Telephone conferences

June 2014: Meeting during the 33rd ISBT meeting in Seoul, South Korea

Number of participants: 30 persons?

Topics: Workshops, Collaborative studies

July 2014: Meeting during the XIIIth European Symposium on Platelet and Granulocyte Immunobiology in Bad Homburg, Germany

Number of participants: 30 persons?

Topics: Workshops, Collaborative studies

4. Activities during the period

The 17th Workshop of the International Platelet Immunobiology Working Party of the ISBT was organized prior to the 33rd International Meeting of the ISBT in Seoul, South Korea. Thirty-three labs from Australia, Europe, North and South Americas and Asia participated of this workshop, which was organized by the group from the University of Tokyo, Japan. Five exercises on serology and 1 exercise on genotyping (5 samples) were provided, and the results returned by the participants by middle of May 2014 were analyzed, and presented in Seoul on June 1, 2014, in the PIWP workshop meeting. Furthermore, the results of the collaborative study on the frequency of CD36-negative individuals in different Asian countries conducted in 2013 were presented and discussed in this meeting.

Since most labs from Europe, North and South Americas were not able to attend the meeting in Seoul, another workshop meeting was organized in July 3, 2014, during the XIIIth European Symposium on Platelet and Granulocyte Immunobiology, in Bad Homburg, Germany (President: Dr. Sentot Santoso). In this meeting, the results of the 17th Workshop were discussed in more detail. Furthermore, the possibility of collaborative studies concerning the role of HLA antibodies on the mechanism of foetal/neonatal alloimmune thrombocytopenia has been discussed.

5. Finances

Funding for the 17th Workshop was provided by the organizer (University of Tokyo, Japan) and by the participating laboratories. The working party had no administrative expenditures that were paid for by the ISBT.

Working Party on Quality Management



Paul Strengers, Chairperson

1. Chairperson and committee

Chairperson	Paul Strengers (The Netherlands)
Co-Chairs:	Christian Seidl (Germany) Tomislav Vuk (Croatia) Lesley Bust (South Africa)

Committee members*:

Jan Ceulemans, BRC-Flanders (Belgium)
Alina Dobrota, Regional Blood Centre (Romania)
Yan QIU, Beijing RCBC (China)
Dorotea Sarlija, CITM (Croatia)
Leslie Sobaga, EFS (France)
Nigar Ertugul (Turkey)
Faten Mofteh, (Egypt)
May Raouf, BTS (UAE)
Shimian Zou, ARC (USA)
Stephanie Agoston, Sanquin (The Netherlands)

Cooperating partners*:

Marie Laure Hequet (EDQM)
Jean Claude Faber (IHN)
Gilles Folea (EBA)

2. Membership information

17 members from 12 countries

Since the foundation of the WP-QM there have been fluctuating numbers of participants to the WP-meetings. The WP-QM board has therefore decided, to revise the list of members based on the presence and availability to contribute to the WP.

From June 2015 application for membership can be sent via e-mail to the chair of the WP. The working party seeks to have a limited number of active members which can be

supplemented by 'associated members' and for reasons of 'survey' with 'cooperating partners' (institutions).

3. Meetings and telephone conferences

- a. Meeting Working Party QM – 33rd ISBT congress Seoul, June 1 2014.
- b. Telephone conference/ e-mails of the board members (ad hoc). Topics based on the development and harmonisation of the list of Quality Indicators and the list of survey participants.
- 3.3 Meeting of the Board, 11th of April 2015. Topics: finalisation of the QI survey and preparing the survey on the internet. This QI-survey will comprise 17 questions.
- 3.4 Send-out on the information on the Survey Monkey end of May 2015. First return analysis to be discussed during the WP-QM-meeting in London.
- 3.5 Preparing the topics for the meeting of the Working Party at the 34th ISBR congress in London, Sunday the 28th of June 2015.

4. Activities during the period

- Academy Session on Quality Management at the 33rd ISBT congress in Seoul 2014.
- Survey on quality management (ISBT Survey Monkey Platform).
- Developing of Quality Indicators, actual Version 3.0 (restricted to 10 quality indicators). This version has been cross-checked with the ISBT Working Party on Haemovigilance (WP-HV) (refer to the Working Party on Quality Management web page on the ISBT website).

- Establishing a quality indicator survey (to be launched in May 2015).
- Extending the list of potential contributors to the WP-Survey platform. This list includes contacts from institutions representing national systems (refer to Addendum 2).
- Collaboration with WP Haemovigilance on the project „Quality indicators in Haemovigilance“ has been pursued and results should be presented during the ISBR meeting in London.
- The Error Classification Project has been continued in developing a version 2 of criteria for classification. Version 2 will be the platform to further fine-tune the definition of denominators. (work in progress).
- 2 Publications have been submitted to Vox Sanguinis (publication in progress).

Co-operative activities with the following organisations:
Council of Europe (EDQM) represented by Marie Laure Hequet.

International Haemovigilance Network (IHN) represented by Jean Claude Faber.

5. Finances

Expenditures: Monthly rates for Survey Monkey platform at 29,90 € (year overall = 358,80 €).

Please visit the ISBT website for the addendum.

Working Party on Rare Donors



Christine Lomas-Francis, Chairperson

1. Chairperson and committee

Chairperson: Christine Lomas-Francis

Members of the Executive Committee

- Vice-Chair: Erwin A. Scharberg
- Secretary: Vered Yahalom
- Treasurer: Inna Sareneva
- Past Chair: Sandra Nance

2. Membership information

The Working Party has 29 members representing 23 countries. There were five new Working Party members in 2014, one replacing a retiring member, one an additional representative for an active country and three representing new joining countries (Australia, Belgium and Denmark). Dr. K Vasantha (India) and Dr. I von Zabern (Germany) retired from the Working Party.

Working Party members are required to be ISBT members and to share the rare donor list (by phenotype) from their country with the International Blood Group Reference Laboratory (IBGRL) who manages the WHO International Rare Donor Panel (IRDP).

3. Meetings and Telephone conferences

A formal meeting for the Working Party on Rare Donors was held at the 33rd International Congress of the ISBT in Seoul in 2014. 23 members (or their delegates) and 4 guests attended. The meeting topics included revisions for the template for international reporting of outcomes in patients receiving incompatible transfusions, new items on the Working Party webpage, a report by the IBGRL on the WHO IRDP, creating an international rare donor card, enlarging the International Rare Donor Panel database by adding new countries to the Working Party, and updating the list by current members. Working Party members reported on Rare Donor programs in their respective countries. E-mail communication connects members throughout the year.

4. Activities during the period

Working Party members investigated and reported on their activities of their National Rare Donor Programs: the number of active rare donors, the number of rare units shipped (2012 to 2014), unfilled requests, known incompatible transfusions and special local challenges. This information was compiled by Working Party members for publication in a special issue of the journal *Immunohematology* in 2015 that is focussing on Rare Donor Programs. Also currently in press is a manuscript entitled "International Rare Donor Panels: A Review" to be published in *Vox Sanguinis*. At the 33rd International Congress of the ISBT in Seoul in 2014, Working Party members organized and presented a session in the Scientific Program on Donors/Donations entitled "Immunohematologically Complex Patients and their Blood Needs". Transfusion practices in Africa, The Americas, Asia, China and Europe, as they relate to provision of rare blood, were presented. Other activities included further revision of the template for Outcome of Incompatible Transfusion form for future posting on the webpage to provide a means to record transfusion outcomes when incompatible red cells are transfused due to lack of suitable blood (particularly as related to lacking high-prevalence antigens) as the global information about clinical relevance of some antibodies is limited. The Working Party members were requested to present the form to members of national rare donor programs, to collect reports at the national level and communicate the information to the Working Party. Working Party members were requested to notify the WHO IRDP liaison of any international blood shipments.

5. Finances

A grant for €3000 was made available to the Working Party for the financial year April 2014 - March 2015. This was not utilized.

Working Party on Red Cell Immunogenetics and Terminology



Jill J. Storry, Chairperson

1. Chairperson and committee

Chairperson: Jill R. Storry
Vice-Chair: Lilian Castilho

Committee

- Qing Chen
- Geoff L. Daniels
- Masja de Haas
- Greg Denomme
- Bill (W)A Flegel
- Christoph Gassner
- Catherine Hyland,
- Margaret Keller
- Christine Lomas Francis (Treasurer)
- Joann M. Moulds
- Nuria Nogues
- Dr Martin L Olsson
- Thierry Peyrard
- C. Ellen van der Schoot
- Yoshihiko Tani
- Nicole Thornton
- Franz Wagner
- Silvano Wendel
- Connie M. Westhoff (Secretary)
- Vered Yahalom

2. Membership information

The current committee consists of 22 members representing 13 countries. Dr LC Yu resigned from the WP, and three new members: Qing Chen (Nanjing, China), Margaret Keller (Philadelphia, USA) and Nicole Thornton (Bristol, UK) were elected to the WP at the meeting in Seoul.

3. Meetings and Telephone conferences

The Working Party held a half-day meeting in conjunction with the International meeting of the ISBT in Seoul, 2014. The meeting was well attended, with 14 of 20 members and 14 guests. Reports of changes to blood group systems, collections and series were discussed, and two new blood group systems ratified. We also continued to discuss blood group allele nomenclature and how to move forward with this project. No telephone conferences were held.

4. Activities during the period

A very successful Molecular genotyping workshop was held again, this time in collaboration with NEQAS (BLP) Ltd, UK. NEQAS coordinated sending out the samples, collecting and reporting the data. The results were reported at the meeting in Seoul as part of the educational program and have been posted on the ISBT website. Fifty-five laboratories registered, of which 52 returned results. This was organized as a pre-pilot scheme by NEQAS, and despite the same price structure as previous workshops, it generated sufficient profit to offer another exercise, which will be sent out to interested participants in 2015.

We have continued to update the various blood group systems as information becomes available. Members have continued to collect information on new blood group alleles, antigens and systems and have been active at various conferences.

5. Finances

No finances to report.

Working Party on Transfusion Transmitted Diseases



Michael P. Busch, Chairperson

1. Chairperson and committee

Chairperson: Michael P. Busch
 Secretary: Emma Castro
 Treasurer: Ravi Reddy

Corporate Members Representative
 Anthony Hardiman

Individual Members Representative
 Magdy El Ekiaby

Past Chair / Advisory Member:
 Silvano Wendel

Oversight Committee Chair:

Roger Dodd

2. Membership information

Our membership brings together scientific experts, company representatives and members from leading institutions in the fields of blood safety and infectious diseases. The WP-TTID has 118 members (including observers and 15 corporate members) from 34 countries.

3. Meetings and Telephone conferences

The Annual Meeting was held in Seoul, South Korea in May 2014 with a total of 80 participants. A new meeting structure was conducted with the Subgroup Sessions integrated into the General Assembly. Topics included Chairman, Secretary and Financial Reports and WP-TTID Subgroups updates: 1) Bacteria; 2) Parasites, 3) Surveillance, Risk Assessment +Policy (SRAP); 4) TSE and 5) Virology. The assembly ended with a general discussion session, including Corporate Members' feedback. The agenda focused on infections and key TTID policy and

testing issues in the Asia-Pacific region, including a special presentation on TTIDs in Korea. A follow-up lunch meeting with the Organizing Committee and Corporate Sponsors was also convened and was very productive with a strong recommendation to increase training and mentoring of scientists interested in TTIDs – this led to development of the I TRY IT program led by Brian Custer, Marion Vermeulen and Michael Schmidt. Ongoing and new WP-TTID initiatives and membership were also discussed. Meeting agendas and presentations can be viewed online at: <http://www.isbtweb.org/nc/working-parties/transfusion-transmitted-infectious-disease/>.

The Organizing Committee convened 6 teleconferences, partly with the Subgroup Coordinators. Main topics discussed were: meeting planning, member recruitment, funding procedures, projects, WP-TTID Travel Awards and the launch of the I TRY IT program (see below). The Corporate Members held 2 conference calls discussing: new observer status for companies, optimization of subgroups' structure, general WP-TTID output and increasing meeting frequency. Most subgroups also organized individual conference calls to discuss ongoing projects and future initiatives, and the bacterial subgroup convened an in-person meeting linked to the 2014 AABB Meeting in Philadelphia.

4. Activities during the period

Three WP-TTID Travel Awards were granted for the Seoul meeting to Yu Liu, Satyam Arora and Rajesh Sonani. An Oversight Committee, composed of ISBT board members, was formed to evaluate projects for funding and review overall WP budget issues to assure fair and appropriate allocation of resources. Major projects funded in 2014/2015 include the CUA webtool and its maintenance,

bacterial subgroup studies, and launch of the I TRY IT and MSM modeling programs.

Each Subgroup met regularly by teleconference and reported the following activities:

A. Subgroup on Bacteria

Coordinators: Carl McDonald, Richard Benjamin

The group met face-to-face as part of the TTID meeting in Seoul in May 2014 and again at a meeting held in conjunction with AABB in Philadelphia in October 2014. The latter meeting was attended by ~25 bacterial workgroup members and an expanded group of observers. Regular teleconferences were held between the workgroup chairs and the organizer of the WHO-ISBT study. We report the following additional activities:

WHO-ISBT WP-TTID International Validation Study, Phase 2: Eva Spindler-Raffel (PEI)

This study has been completed and was reviewed in Philadelphia with the participants. It will be presented at ISBT London and a paper is in preparation. 11 candidate strains were characterized to enlarge the 1st WHO International Reference Repository for Platelet Transfusion-relevant Bacterial Strains.

Survey of bacterial culture practices: Sandra Ramirez-Arcos, A Survey Monkey has been and submitted to representatives of blood banks in Latin America regarding strategies used for bacterial testing. Data will be presented at ISBT London.

International survey on definitions and practices in prevention and management of transfusion-transmitted bacterial infections: Erica Wood. A revised manuscript is being considered by Vox Sanguinis.

Validation studies of Pathogen Inactivation using the WHO-ISBT Platelet Transfusion-relevant Bacterial Strains. A pilot study is underway at the American Red Cross using the reference strains to validate the interval between platelet collection and the performance of pathogen inactivation. Data will be presented at ISBT London.

B. Subgroup on Parasites

Coordinators: David Leiby, Hira Nakhasi

During the past year, the Subgroup on Parasites (SoP) focused on 1) data analysis from a survey designed to determine the impact of parasitic agents on transfusion practices in ISBT member countries, and 2) an examination of malaria policy in five non-endemic countries in collaboration with SRAP. The SoP held one conference call to identify projects going forward. Participation in the SoP remains constant at 8 to 10 members, with collaborators from other Subgroups participating on an ad hoc basis.

An abstract describing the parasite survey was submitted and accepted for an oral presentation at the Seoul International Congress (presented by Dr. Nakhasi). Data analyses are nearly complete with a draft manuscript expected at or near the time of the London Meeting. The completed manuscript will be submitted to Vox as an International Forum. It is anticipated that the survey will result in tangential analyses and topics for further investigation. As described in the SRAP Report, the SoP collaborated on an analysis of malaria policy in five non-endemic countries, with a primary focus on deferral vs. testing policies. The completed manuscript was recently accepted for publication in Transfusion Medicine Reviews. Projects identified for 2015 include: 1) an international seroprevalence and assay survey for Babesia spp., 2) a Trypanosoma cruzi survey on epidemiology and testing strategies in non-endemic countries (similar to the project with SRAP), and 3) an evaluation of T. cruzi parasite lineages and their impact on infectivity.

C. Subgroup on Surveillance, Risk Assessment and Policy

Coordinators: Sheila O'Brien, Brian Custer, Clive Seed

In 2014, SRAP discussions focussed on policy review/development for malaria and deferral for men having sex with men(MSM). The sub-group held one conference call to identify and prioritise projects and was active at the the Seoul International Congress including presentations at the full TTD-WP meeting and during the congress. Membership has remained stable with 13 members of the WP TTID identifying SRAP as their primary sub-group. Current Projects include: 1) Comparison of Epidemiologic Data and Policy to Address Imported Malaria Risk. This joint project with the Parasitology sub-group, compiled, compared and analyzed data on travel patterns and imported malaria with a focus on deferral versus selective testing policies. Manuscript under consideration by Transfusion Medicine Reviews and an abstract submitted to ISBT. 2) Cost-Utility of Blood Safety Screening.

The cost-utility analysis webtool is being used on two multinational projects which will evolve into manuscripts. In addition, the methodology for calculating cost-utility has been changed from disability adjusted life years (DALYs) to quality adjusted life years (QALYs). A methodological manuscript describing the tool is in preparation. The new model interface will be released in Spring 2015. 3) MSM risk modelling. This project seeks to review existing MSM risk models in search of an optimal approach to underpin risk assessments in support of changing MSM deferrals. A project team (predominantly SRAP members) has been convened and met twice with a face to face meeting planned in July – during the London ISBT meeting. Proposed Projects for 2014-15 include: 1) MSM policy and epidemiology international comparison 2) development of an e-learning module for TTI-risk and cost-effectiveness modelling.

D. Subgroup on TSE

Coordinators: Joliette Coste, Luisa Gregori

In 2014, the TSE subgroup agreed to develop two topics: to review and summarize the literature on experimental and epidemiological data on transmissibility of Alzheimer's disease and sporadic CJD (sCJD) by blood transfusion. At a conference call, it was decided to first address the issue of infectivity in sCJD blood. This decision was based, in part, on a recent publication showing evidence of infectivity transmission from plasma of sCJD-infected patients to transgenic mice. The members split into two groups based on individual's expertise, one group reviewed evidence for sCJD transmissions by animal bioassays and the other group was to review the literature for epidemiological reports. The subgroup coordinator, Joliette Coste, left in Nov 2014 and two new members joined the TSE subgroup, Gary Mallinson and Patricia Hewitt. We are currently reorganizing the group but the decision was made to continue with the project already started. Next we will complete the review of the epidemiological and experimental published data on the topic with the goal of reporting the results including a critical evaluation of the data at the future meeting, with a planned manuscript.

E. Subgroup on Virology

Coordinators: Syria Laperche, Susan Stramer, Jean-Pierre Allain

In 2014, the HBV safety collaborative group received and characterized samples from Burkina Faso (40), Slovenia (7), Croatia (10), Spain (2), Poland (40). Three difficult cases of OBI transmission by transfusion were resolved. In total, 9 people were trained on HBV molecular biology techniques in the Cambridge lab for periods ranging from a week to a year: 6 from China, 1 from Italy, 1 from Poland, 1 from Switzerland.

Two external quality assessment surveys (EQAS) in transfusion centres of sub-Saharan Africa were completed in Francophone (17 countries) and Anglophone (12 countries) Africa and plans for additional EQA operations including a larger number of African countries are ongoing. A large sample repository from 6 Francophone African countries is also being developed.

Sessions developed at the Seoul meeting were focused on HEV including international perspectives on the need for interventions. On-going studies in China on HBV OBI and vaccine breakthrough infections were also discussed, as well as the emergence of chikungunya virus (CHIKV) in the Caribbean, ongoing epidemics of CHIKV in SE Asia and Zika virus in French Polynesia, all of which are triggering a combination of interventions including deferral, NAT and pathogen inactivation.

New initiatives include a follow-up NAT survey updating the Vox 2012 publication; the new survey will update NAT testing for HCV, HIV and HBV (to include rates of OBI, vaccine breakthrough) but also will focus on

emerging agents such as West Nile virus, dengue viruses, CHIKV, HEV, and others agents specific to a given locale. Also, a "Blood Transfusion Center Network" will be discussed (based on the highly successful HBV safety collaborative group) which will target epidemiology and molecular characterization of emerging agents and include international virtual sample repositories; HEV will be the first target.

F. ISBT TTID Research Young Investigator Training (I TRY IT)

Coordinators: Brian Custer, Marion Vermeulen, Michael Schmidt

In 2014, a new program was developed to provide training in research protocol and manuscript writing to young investigators with interest in TTID. The I TRY IT program was developed following the meeting in Seoul and approved by the TTID WP Organizing and Oversight Committees. The program was also discussed with the ISBT Academy directors to ensure it did not overlap with other training initiatives. This program is being led by Marion Vermuelen, Michael Schmidt, and Brian Custer. The program will consist of online lecturers/webinars and two in-person meetings. Each participant will learn the essential components of a research protocol and be required to write a research protocol focused on a TTID. Approaches for peer-review and constructive critique of other's proposals will also be developed. In-person I TRY IT meetings will be linked to two regional congresses in 2015 (London and Bali). Applicants from developing country settings were encouraged to apply. Over 30 applicants expressed interest in the eight available positions. The TTID is supporting travel to and other expenses for the two in-person meetings for the eight accepted applicants. As a result of the high level of interest a small number of observer positions have been offered, allowing additional participants in the online and in-person meetings for persons able to fund participation through mechanisms other than TTID. The training will start in April 2015 with ongoing mentorship planned for the next year.

Publications:

For a list of publications from the Working Party please check the ISBT website.

5. Finances

The working party received income of € 20 000 from Corporate partners during the financial year 2014-2015. Novartis, Gen Probe, Bio-Rad and Roche each contributed € 5 000 each towards their ISBT TTID Working Party membership. Eight other corporate partners made payment of membership fees in the 2013 – 2014 financial year and this is therefore not reflected in the current year's report. Total expenditure was € 44 259 and this comprised:

- Costs associated with the ISBT conference in Seoul (€ 23 663) for meeting rooms, meals and reimbursement of individual members
- Grants for individuals to attend the ISBT meeting (€ 5 759)
- Administrative assistant, office expenses, shipping costs and Bank charges (€ 11 735)
- Support of the SRAP web tool (€ 3 102)

From 1 April 2015 payment of corporate membership fees will be aligned to the ISBT financial year so that all income will be reflected in the current financial year.

Reports from ISBT Standing Committees

- ISBT Standing Committee of the ISBT Academy
- ISBT Standing Committee on Ethics
- ISBT Standing Committee Jean Julliard Prize
- ISBT Standing Committee of Vox Sanguinis

Standing Committee of the ISBT Academy



Diana Teo (left), Chairperson

1. Chairperson and committee

Chairperson: Diana Teo
Vice-Chairperson: Erica Wood

Committee

- Beryl Armstrong
- Peter van den Burg
- Judith Chapman
- Ahmad Gharehbaghian
- Mindy Goldman
- Salwa Hindawi
- So Yong Kwon
- Graciela Leon
- Neelam Marwaha
- Martin Olsson
- Kenji Tadokoro
- Eugene Zhiburt

During this period, Dr Ahmad Gharehbaghian and Dr Kenji Tadokoro retired from the Committee, and Dr Salwa Hindawi and Dr So Yong Kwon joined as new members. We would like to express our appreciation to Dr Gharehbaghian and Dr Tadokoro for their sterling contributions towards the work of the Academy, and to welcome Dr Hindawi and Dr Kwon into the Committee.

2. Meetings and Telephone conferences

The Standing Committee met at the 33rd International Congress of the ISBT, Seoul. The meeting was attended by nine members, and co-chaired by Roger Dodd as the outgoing Chairperson and Diana Teo as the incoming Chairperson.

Also present were: Dianne van der Wal, recently appointed Scientific Officer at ISBT; Celso Bianco, ISBT President; and Geoff Daniels, ISBT Foundation Board Chairperson.

The following topics were discussed: Academy activities during the year including the educational events supported; the Academy Days held in Amsterdam and Kuala Lumpur,

and the programme for the forthcoming Academy Day in London; proposals to streamline the application process for Academy support; the Academy ePortal and plans for enhancements; and an update on the ISBT Foundation. The Standing Committee conducted the rest of its on-going business over the year through email.

3. Activities during the period

The Standing Committee evaluated and made recommendations on proposals for Academy support of educational events. The Academy supported a total of 19 educational events over the year across the regions, through financial support and/or use of the ISBT logo. The Standing Committee, in its role as the Advisory Committee to the Foundation, also reviewed a project proposal from Malawi for Foundation funding. In view of the increasing number of proposals, the process for application and review was streamlined to two application deadlines a year (April 1 and October 1) and information provided to applicants revised and made clearer.

The Academy ePortal was officially launched at the International Congress in Seoul. Over the year, it was enhanced to be more user friendly, with a new landing page and topic-based structure. Access to the Academy ePortal for members was also improved with the launch of the new revamped ISBT website in February 2015. The number of people accessing the ePortal content continued to increase. A total of 2,376 unique users accessed the ePortal over 5,068 sessions between March 30, 2014 to March 31, 2015. More than 50% were new users. The Academy will continue to work with the Working Parties to expand and improve on the range and content in the ePortal. The appointment of the ISBT Scientific Officer will help to continue the momentum of improvements. Dianne has been gathering new content, and assigning the ePortal contents into topics such that searching for information is now much easier.

ISBT Standing Committee Jean Julliard Prize



Peter Flanagan, Chairperson

1. Chairperson and Committee

Chairperson: Peter Flanagan

Members

- Jean-Pierre Allain
- Richard Benjamin
- Jo Ann Moulds
- Henk Reesink
- Kenji Tadokoro
- Yong Ming Zhu

2. Meetings and Telephone conferences

All activities were performed using electronic communication (e-mails).

3. Activities during the period

The Jean-Julliard Prize Committee is responsible for managing the selection of the Jean Julliard Prize and the Vox Sanguinis Best Paper Award. The Jean Julliard Prize is only awarded in those years when an international congress is made and so no award will be made in 2015.

Nominations for the Vox Sanguinis Best Paper Prize are made by the editorial committee of the journal. The Jean Julliard Prize Committee received 7 nominations for the best paper in 2014. The overall standard was good. The prize was awarded to the manuscript titled 'Deletion of the RUNX1 binding site in the erythroid cell-specific regulatory element of the ABO gene in two individuals with the Am phenotype' by Y.Takahashi, K Isa, R Sano, T Nakajima, R Kubo, K Takahashi, Y Kominato, H Tsuneyama, K Ogasawara and M Uchikawa from Japan.

The prize will be presented during the opening session of the London Congress.

Standing Committee on Ethics



Smaranda Ghibu

1. Chairperson and committee

The Committee was re-established last year and the Board proceeded with the nominations of the members. Smaranda Ghibu was appointed as Chairperson. The members of the committee are:

Name	WHO Region
Smaranda Ghibu	Americas (USA/Canada)
Peter Flanagan	Western Pacific
Gilles Follea	Europe
Roger Dodd	Americas (USA/Canada)
Hasan Abbas Zaheer	Eastern Mediterranean
Neelam Marwaha	South East Asia
Che Kit Lin	Western Pacific
Loyiso Mpuntsha	Africa
Oscar Torres	Americas (Latin America)

2. Meetings and Telephone conferences

A meeting was held on June 3rd, 2014 in Seoul, Korea during the annual ISBT Congress.

3. Activities during the period

The Board of Directors requested that the Committee proceed to the revision of the Code of Ethics. The first meeting of the members of the committee took place during the ISBT Congress in Seoul on June, 2014. The board issued the following key elements of the review:

A - The code is clear and unambiguous and that the audience is clearly identified. In particular it should be clear which statements are general in nature and which are directed specifically at practitioners in the field and members of the Society.

B - The primary responsibility of Blood Services to provide appropriate products for patients should be clearly identified and be the starting point for the revised code.

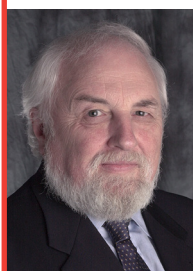
C - The commitment to Voluntary Non-Remunerated Donation as the preferred and most appropriate source of blood and plasma should be retained.

D - Consideration should be given to including a statement on blood doping in line with the resolution adopted by the General Assembly held in Berlin in 2010.

Keeping these key directives in mind, the Committee initiated the review. At its meeting, the Committee discussed and determined the scope and structure of the Code. The chair, in collaboration with Dr Flanagan, has worked on proposed wording since the Seoul meeting.

A first draft of the new Code will be presented at the London meeting in June 2015 to the Committee to initiate the discussions on the specific topics covered therein.

Standing Committee of Vox Sanguinis



Roger Dodd, Chairperson

Vox Sanguinis is the primary scientific journal of the ISBT. The Editorial Board of Vox Sanguinis is responsible for editorial policy, whereas the Standing Committee is responsible for governance of the journal and functions as an interface between the Editorial Board and the Society.

1. Chairperson and committee

Chairperson: Roger Dodd

Committee:

- Geoff Daniels
- Steve Morgan
- Diana Teo
- Dana Devine

2. Meetings and Telephone conferences

The Committee meets at least once a year, in person or by telephone conference. Representatives from Wiley-Blackwell (the publisher) and the ISBT President are invited to participate in Standing Committee meetings. The Standing Committee met on April 3rd, 2014.

An annual prize is awarded for the best paper published in Vox Sanguinis. Papers are nominated by the editors and the winner is selected by the Jean Julliard Committee. In 2014, the prize was awarded in Seoul. The winners were: S. Ramirez-Arcos, H. Perkins, Y. Kou, C. Mastronardi, D. Kumaran, M. Taha, Q.-L. Yi, N. McLaughlin, E. Kahwash, and J. Acker from Canadian Blood Services for their paper "Bacterial growth in red blood cell units exposed to uncontrolled temperatures: challenging the 30-minute rule", Vox Sanguinis 2003;105:100-107.

The financial report indicated that, for 2013, income was slightly up from 2012, with a significant return to ISBT. Wiley reported that the renewal rate for subscriptions to Vox was 94%, following a broad industry trend. The total number of manuscripts published in 2013 was 89, an increase over 2012. The publisher agreed to an additional 10 pages in the 2014 issues. The impact factor remains constant. Improved formatting for electronic versions

of papers now allows access by mobile devices. At the meeting, plans for the further development of the ISBT Science Series were discussed: the major issues were conversion to a fully electronic version, the introduction of peer review, the introduction of issues outside Congresses and a decision to seek an editor and associate editors. Until such appointment, Geoff Daniels continued to edit the journal. Subsequently, in early 2015, Pieter van der Meer was appointed Editor and Anne Eder and Denese Marks agreed to serve as associate editors. Additional issues will contain submitted manuscripts, some of which may be referred from submissions to Vox Sanguinis. Ultimately, it is anticipated that Science Series will be recognized by Medline and indexed in PubMed.

Wiley initiated a telephone call in November to discuss 2014 budget adjustments and the anticipated budget for 2015 with ISBT. Income for the two years is expected to decline somewhat from 2013. Over the coming year, the contract with Wiley comes up for renewal

ISBT Foundation



Geoff Daniels, Chairperson

The objectives of the ISBT Foundation are to enhance transfusion medicine by expanding knowledge and education on blood transfusion medicine, transfusion science, blood banking and related disciplines, and by supporting the objectives of the ISBT. The Foundation was initially established in 2006, but was reconstituted in 2013 with a new Board and a major focus on education in transfusion-related fields, especially in the developing world. This is achieved primarily by providing financial support to the ISBT Academy, which facilitates the educational activities of the Society.

The Foundation is managed by a Board of Directors comprising the Secretary General of ISBT (currently Roger Dodd), the Treasurer of ISBT (Steve Morgan), and the Chairperson of the Standing Committee of the ISBT Academy (Diana Teo), plus two other ISBT members elected by the Board of ISBT (Geoff Daniels and Martin Gorham). The Chair of the Foundation Board is Geoff Daniels, Vice-Chair is Martin Gorham, Secretary is Roger Dodd, and Treasurer is Steve Morgan. None of the Board members receives any remuneration; all are volunteers interested in the provision of safe blood supply for patients. The Foundation is advised by the ISBT Academy Standing Committee, which reviews applications for financial support for educational purposes.

To ensure effective governance and to comply with Dutch law, the Foundation requires statutes and a new set of statutes were approved by the Foundation Board at their meeting in Seoul in June 2014.

During the 2014/15 financial year the Foundation has provided financial support for a number of meetings, including those of the African Society for Blood Transfusion, Indian Immunohaematology Initiative, Arab Transfusion Medicine Forum, Asian Association of Transfusion Medicine, and the 16th International Haemovigilance Seminar, plus meetings and courses in Pakistan, Russia, Saudi Arabia, and Iran. It also provided financial support for ISBT provision of the webcast of the 33rd International Congress.

ISBT Award and Prizes

- The ISBT Presidential Award
- The ISBT Award
- Jean Julliard Award
- The Vox Sanguinis Best Paper Prize

The ISBT Presidential Award

The ISBT Presidential Award was instituted at the initiative of the Foundation Transfusion Medicine in Amsterdam. The Award is granted to a senior person who has made eminent contributions to transfusion medicine or a related field through basic or applied research, the practice of transfusion therapy or through significant educational and/or service contributions to the field.



Professor Dennis Yuk-Ming Lo (Hong Kong)

Professor Lo is the Li Ka Shing Professor of Medicine and the Professor of Chemical Pathology at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. He made the breakthrough discovery of detecting fetal DNA in maternal plasma and has developed diagnostic tools for fetal disease markers including blood groups that are now being used in nation-wide screening programmes for RhD detection in RhD negative pregnant women, as well as to optimise treatment of blood-group-immunised women. In addition, he was the first to sequence the whole fetal genome from maternal plasma. In addition to being a first-class scientist, Professor Lo is also an excellent speaker who is well-known for his inspiring and pedagogic lectures. Professor Lo has published over 300 peer-reviewed research articles, reviews and books. He has received a number of prestigious awards.

The ISBT Award

The ISBT Award is granted to a person who, or an organisation which contributes or has contributed in an outstanding way to education in blood transfusion or transfusion medicine science.

Zarin Barucha (India) cited for outstanding contributions to the field of blood transfusion services in India and countries of the WHO South-East region over five decades and helping the region to achieve significant improvements in the technical and quality management aspects of the Blood Transfusion Services.



Thailand and Japanese Red Cross Societies (Joint Award) cited for the Securing Safe Blood for Asia programme recognising that the programme brings together representatives from national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies in the Asia region at symposia which provide the opportunity for those involved in developing blood services in the region to discuss common concerns and achievements in a supportive environment.

Jean Julliard Prize

The Jean Julliard Prize recognises clinicians or scientists who are less than 40 years of age and have a noteworthy portfolio of recent published work contributing to advances in transfusion medicine.

E.A. Hod (USA) for his work 'Red Blood cell transfusion-induced inflammation: myth or reality'

Dr Hod works as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Pathology and Cell Biology, Division of Transfusion Medicine and Stem Cell Therapy at the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University. He is also Director at the Center for Advanced Laboratory Medicine. His translational research using cell culture models, mouse models, and human subjects focuses on the effect of modulating iron status on innate immune mechanisms. His interests also include other outcomes of red cell transfusion such as alloimmunization and thrombosis and how iron availability affects biofilm formation by microbial pathogens.



The ISBT Award for Developing Countries

The Award was created out of the vision of Erhard Seifried during his presidency of ISBT. The award enables Blood Services and/or Centres and individuals from low or medium human development index countries to attend an International Congress of the ISBT, organise an education symposium and/or potential short scholarship to visit a centre of excellence.

Awarded to the National Blood Centre Myanmar. Dr Thida Aung collected the award on behalf of the Centre.



Vox Sanguinis Best Paper Prize

Vox Sanguinis has granted a scientific award, the Vox Sanguinis Best Paper Prize, for the best original article published per calendar year in Vox Sanguinis. The 2014 award is given to Sandra Ramirez-Arcos Canadian Blood Services, Ottawa, Canada for the paper Bacterial growth in red blood cell units exposed to uncontrolled temperatures: challenging the 30-minute rule.

S. Ramirez-Arcos, H. Perkins, Y. Kou, C. Mastronardi, D. Kumaran, M. Taha, Q.-L. Yi, N. McLaughlin, E. Kahwash, Y. Lin, J. Acker Vox Sang 105:2, 100 - 107



