



ANNUAL
REPORT

2020

2021

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Corporate Partners

ISBT is pleased to acknowledge the following Corporate Partners during 2020-2021



MISSION, VISION AND GOALS

The International Society of Blood Transfusion (ISBT) is a scientific society that was founded in 1935. Since that time the ISBT has grown in to an international society where transfusion medicine professionals from across the globe come together and do the one thing they do best: share knowledge to improve the safety of blood transfusion worldwide.

VISION

A world of safe and sufficient blood

MISSION

ISBT is a global community of professionals sharing knowledge to enhance transfusion practice. We do this by: Providing opportunities for advancing knowledge and education & by advocacy for the welfare of blood donors and patients.

STRATEGIC GOALS

The new goals, agreed as part of a 5-year strategic plan for 2020-2024, are designed to keep, and build upon those things we do well and to address areas where we feel we can improve.

Education & Knowledge

Be the global 'go to' organisation for transfusion medicine education, and knowledge sharing

Training and implementation of knowledge

Be the leader in transforming knowledge into practice

International outreach

Engage transfusion medicine professionals and institutions globally

Congress

Be the international congress of choice for transfusion medicine professionals

Publications

Be respected for high-quality scientific and professional publications

Digital Resources

Be a trusted 'go to' source for information and interaction in all aspects of transfusion medicine

Working parties

Support Working Party activities to achieve outputs aligned with the ISBT strategy

Governance

Be recognized for transparent and sustainable governance

Advocacy

Be the advocate for blood donors and patients



FOREWORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

It is a pleasure and a privilege to write this foreword to the ISBT Annual Report for 2020-21.

What an extraordinary year this has been! In large part due to the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, wherever we are around the world we have experienced major changes to our lives, activities and plans. Many people have been directly affected by illness, with others taking care of people in their professional roles or by caring for family and friends. Many others have experienced separation due to ‘lockdowns’ and travel disruptions. We remember with fondness and respect those we have lost during this time.

ISBT has responded to COVID-19 with provision of expertise at country level and internationally, through our Working Parties and our members’ individual and institutional networks, supported by our team in the Central Office.

We quickly developed new **COVID-19 resources** and hosted a wide range of reference materials on our website. Our educational webinars were well attended and a great way to disseminate new information as it became available. Our Working Parties took on new activities to share ideas, experiences and results, and to facilitate international cooperation in donor management, clinical and laboratory transfusion practice, and research.

These have been highly productive, including developing new collaborations and producing multiple peer-reviewed publications. I thank everyone who has contributed to these activities.

We have also seen an enormous surge of **research activity**, with remarkable mobilisation of resources for studies of the prevention and diagnosis of SARS-CoV-2 infection and the care of people with COVID-19.

Many of our members have played central roles in these activities, including research investigating the potential role of **convalescent plasma** to treat this condition, and by providing advice to policy-makers in government and other organisations. I thank you all for your amazing efforts.

It was with great disappointment that we had to cancel the in person aspects of the congresses planned for Barcelona and Milan due to the ongoing pandemic. ISBT congresses are a highlight of our society, and keenly anticipated each year!

However, it was simply not safe or possible to continue with our previous plans. I thank all the members of the local organising committees for their hard work on our behalf, and we look forward to rescheduling our congresses in those cities.

We were very pleased with the **successful ISBT congress held online** in December 2020. This could not have happened without excellent teamwork and cooperation from the ISBT Central Office team, MCI (our professional congress organiser), our Scientific Secretary and two Vice-Presidents, and all the speakers, abstract presenters, sponsors and our Corporate Partners.

But what a huge achievement! It was a great pleasure to welcome participants to this new experience for ISBT.

The program was high-quality and diverse, and there was active discussion through the platform, including an online closing party! Personal highlights for me included the virtual award presentations, the re-launch of “**Beryl’s book Introduction to Blood Transfusion: From Donor to Recipient**” and the Young Professionals “breakfast” session.

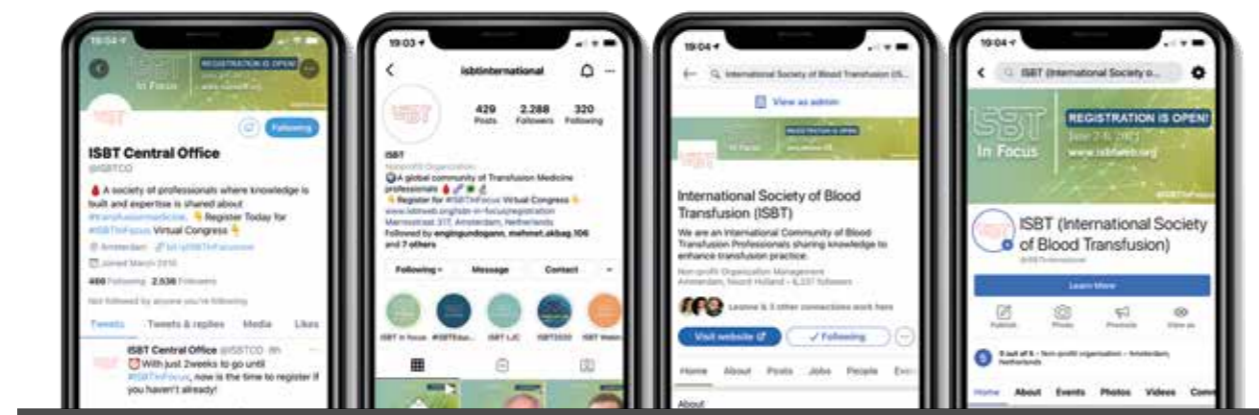
Despite the impact of COVID-19, ISBT has maintained its core program of work, even as we have learned to do some things differently. We welcomed our new Board of Directors in June 2020, who are working very productively together. I thank the previous Board for all their contributions to the work of the Society, and particularly Martin Olsson, now ISBT Past-President, for his great leadership and ongoing support. During 2021 we have been focussed on delivering on our **Strategic Plan** and adapting as needed to meet our goals in these challenging times.



FOREWORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

We are ably supported by our Executive Director, Jenny White, and our dedicated Central Office team. We thank them all – especially given the extra challenges in working from home for over a year! We are investing in our team through improved pension arrangements and will prioritise professional development opportunities as working arrangements permit in the coming year. Behind the scenes we are also investing in our operational IT platforms including for communication, education and membership management. We will see these come to fruition over the next year.

We have also expanded our social media presence, including on Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn and Facebook – so **please get in touch online!**



The ISBT Academy, Working Parties, Standing Committees, ISBT Foundation, Young Professionals Council and Transfusion Practitioners network are all actively contributing to ISBT’s success, and I encourage you to read more about them in this report. I particularly thank the chairs of these groups for their enthusiasm and leadership of the ‘engine rooms’ of the society.

Our publications are widely read and flourishing, and I thank Dana Devine as editor of Vox Sanguinis, and Pieter van der Meer, editor of ISBT Science Series, for their contributions. Dana Devine stepped down during this year, transferring Vox to the capable hands of Miquel Lozano.

We are also very grateful for the support of our Corporate Partners, whose commitments enable ISBT to continue our work on a solid foundation, and who contribute valuable scientific and technical expertise to a range of activities, including via the Working Parties.

Our many collaborations are flourishing, including via activities conducted with ISBT affiliate members, professional societies, other organisations and via our long-term partnership with the World Health Organization as a non-governmental organisation in official relations since 1955. To highlight just a few, during 2020-21 we have contributed to haemovigilance workshops in Africa in support of the African Blood Regulators Forum, and to development of educational modules on the clinical use of blood.

In this extraordinary year, we have had some new opportunities and successes, and as president I am grateful to be able to share them with you. I hope you will enjoy reading this Annual Report.



FOREWORD FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL

The unusual circumstances of the COVID 19 pandemic resulted in postponement of the usual June international congress and eventually, as the travel restrictions related to the pandemic persisted the decision was made to plan and deliver our meeting virtually.

The First Virtual Congress of the ISBT was held on December 12-16 2020.

The event was well attended with **1800 delegates from 97 countries** and featured an excellent scientific program with **40 scientific sessions** which were recorded and made available to delegates on-demand for 3 months following the congress. It also featured live Q&A sessions and moderators for most presentations ensuring that delegates had an opportunity to interact with the presenters.

The poster sessions were also a highlight and on the virtual platform these were represented by short recorded presentations by authors; **591 posters** were presented at the ISBT2020 congress.

The meeting was supported by **31 exhibitors**, including ISBT Corporate Partners who also contributed **7 satellite sessions**.

The Scientific Secretary, the ISBT academy, the ISBT office staff, planning committee members, and abstract reviewers, as well as MCI Amsterdam, contributed expertise, organization and enthusiasm leading to very innovative, successful and enjoyable congress despite our inability to travel or meet in person.

Throughout this year, the board and ISBT central office have been hard at work on fulfilling the goals of our recently established strategic plan while adjusting to our new reality of on-line mee-

tings and working from home.

Regular webinars concerning several topics related to the pandemic and many other subjects have ensured that ISBT members remained connected to one another and to the society throughout this past year.

The ISBT Advocacy and Endorsement subcommittee was developed and a policy as well as tools for evaluation of requests for endorsement were established.



**ISBT REACHED
1775 MEMBERS**

ALL REGIONS AND 106 COUNTRIES
ARE REPRESENTED
WITHIN THE SOCIETY

Vox Sanguinis had several changes over the last year. The impact factor fell very slightly from 2.364 to 2.347.

- Miquel Lozano took over as Editor in Chief early in June of 2020.

Some additional changes followed the change in editor, including addition of new Section Editors and changes to the number of issues and to journal design.

The financial contribution to ISBT by the journal remains strong.

Following the launch at ISBT2020, the ISBT Science Series published the highly anticipated revision of Beryl Armstrong's 2008 book, now entitled "**Introduction to Blood Transfusion: From Donor to Recipient**" which is available on the Wiley and ISBT website.



The 14 Working Parties continue to be an active and vital part of the Society. The working parties contribute to the content of the congresses and will have a leading role at the upcoming ISBT in Focus virtual congress in June 2021. Working party meetings were held virtually this year, with support from ISBT Central Office, ensuring that members from all over the globe were able to participate.

Open access content related to COVID-19 has been created and updated on the ISBT website throughout the year. Webinars on a wide range of topics (including COVID-19) have taken place and recordings made available on ISBT Education.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2020

Executive Committee:

- **President** Erica Wood, Australia
- **President Elect** Michael Busch, USA
- **Senior Vice President** Masja de Haas, The Netherlands
- **Junior Vice President** Yoke Lin Fung, Australia
- **Past President** Martin Olsson, Sweden
- **Secretary General** Gwen Clarke, Canada
- **Treasurer** Eric Jansen, The Netherlands

Members of the Board representing WHO Regions:

- **Africa** Shirley Owusu-Ofori, Ghana
- **Northern Americas** Mindy Goldman, Canada
- **Southern Americas** Lilian Castilho, Brazil
- **Europe** Cynthia So-Osman, The Netherlands
- **Europe** Birgit Gathof, Germany
- **Eastern Mediterranean** May Raouf, UAE
- **South East Asia** Mahrukh Getshen, Bhutan
- **Western Pacific** Denese Marks, Australia
- **Western Pacific** Veera Sekaran Nadarajan, Malaysia



WE HAD MEMBERS ACROSS THE GLOBE

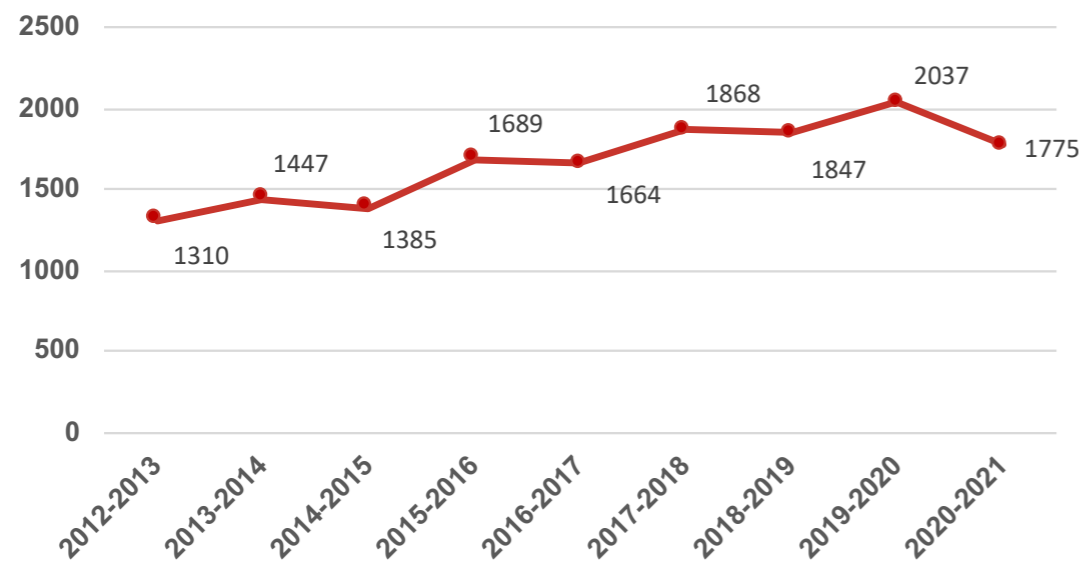


ISBT MEMBERSHIP 2012 – 2021

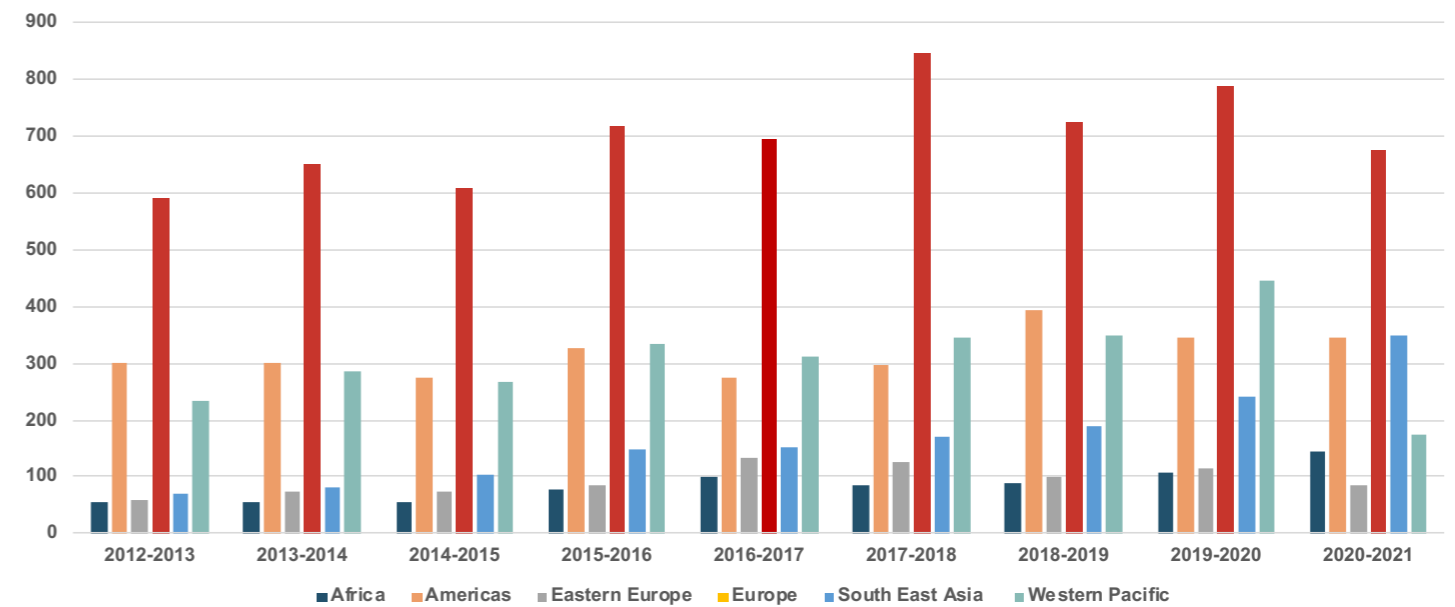
1775 members from 106 countries

• AFRICA	144
• AMERICAS	346
• EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN	86
• EUROPE	677
• SOUTH EAST ASIA	349
• WESTERN PACIFIC	173

Total Members



Regions



YOUNG PROFESSIONALS COUNCIL



MEETINGS ARE HELD MONTHLY, a typical meeting includes the following:

- REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES
- NEW INITIATIVES
- UPDATES ON CURRENT INITIATIVES
- OTHER BUSINESS
- NEXT BUSINESS
- ATTENDANCE

ACTIVITIES DURING THE PERIOD

This year marks the third year for the **Young Professional Council (YPC)** and its first year as a Standing Committee within ISBT. To start things off we welcomed **Lilian** and **Syeldy** as new members and kicked off a major initiative to survey the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on young professionals in blood transfusion worldwide, which has been submitted in abstract form to ISBT In Focus.

- MONTHLY RECORDED VIDEOS
- QUARTERLY PUBLICATIONS WITHIN TRANSFUSION TODAY
- MONTHLY LIVE JOURNAL CLUBS
- WEEKLY POSTS ON SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS

The monthly recorded videos often highlight activities of interest for young transfusion professionals or stories from other young professionals. Live Journal Clubs are arranged by YPC members and typically pair a junior and senior researcher as they review the featured publication of interest and answer questions from those participating.

We have moved closer to implementing the mentorship programme by soliciting mentors from the Working Parties as well as receiving a number of applications from mentees. After a year delay the Vox Editor Project is also seeing some promising activity as is the Vox cover re-design effort which the YPC is also participating in.

The YPC continues to partner with the Central Office to facilitate congress events as well. For ISBT2020 the YPC hosted **a virtual reception, a networking breakfast, and ISBT's recurring fun run**. Surveys were also organized by the YPC following the congress to receive feedback on the breakfast, which was resoundingly positive as evidenced by a rating of **4.6/5 by delegates completing the post congress MCI survey**.



This past year the YPC has also facilitated applications from young professionals to a committee for ICTMG guideline preparation. The YPC has also been active in piloting the **E-Learning** and Forum platforms.



Satyam Arora



Syeldy Langi Sasongko



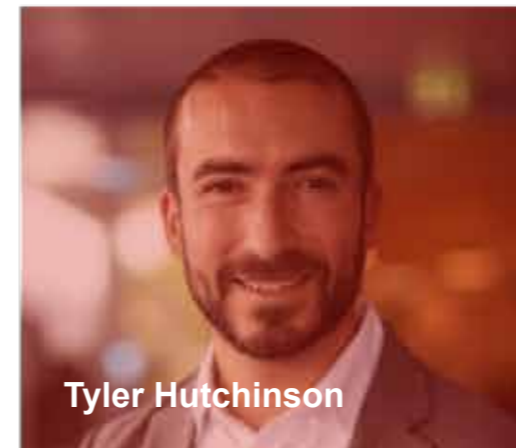
Arwa Al-Riyami



Yanli Ji



John-Paul Tung



Tyler Hutchinson



Carla Dinardo



Lilian Antwi Boateng



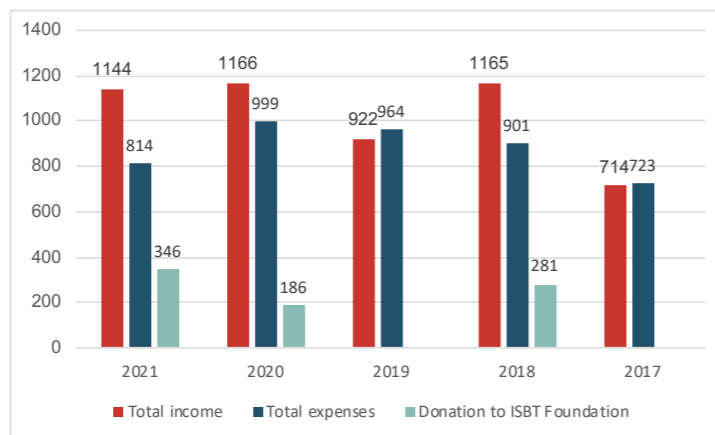
FINANCIAL SUMMARY

This financial year was difficult because of the COVID-19 crisis. We were not able to hold the 36th International congress in Barcelona in June as planned, and after initial postponement of the face-to-face congress to December, it was subsequently transformed to **ISBT2020**.

Thanks to MCI, we had a comprehensive congress insurance in case the congress had to be cancelled. This included coverage for a pandemic and ISBT has been able to recover most of the costs already made for the face-to-face congress in Barcelona.

The virtual congress was a great success as an event and also financially. The **total income of the ISBT was on about the same level as in 2019-20**, which is remarkable for a year with only one congress.

The total costs to ISBT for activities of the society were reduced because of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on international meetings and travel.



The financial result, before the donation to the ISBT Foundation, was again very positive €342.000. The fiscal status of the ISBT in conjunction with the yearly donation to the ISBT Foundation will be discussed with our tax consultants. This performance is unlikely to be repeated in 2021-22 as it is no longer possible to insure against the pandemic which continues to impact on ISBT activity.

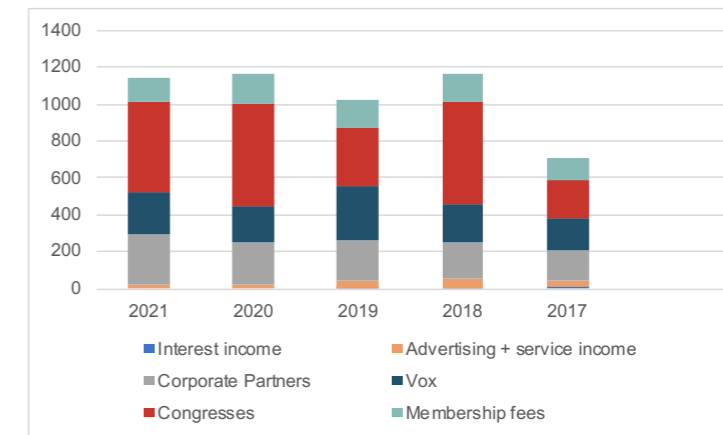
REVENUE The largest revenue source, despite the cancelled congress in Barcelona, still stems from the congresses. Many sponsors of the Barcelona congress participated in the virtual ISBT2020 congress in December and this congress had a **positive result of €420.000**.

The ISBT submitted a claim to its insurance provider for the lost profits from

cancelling the Barcelona congress which was ultimately settled for **€188.000**.

Total membership income declined to €135.000 due to a reduction in the number of members, from a peak in 2019-20, due to the impact of the pandemic on members and the lack of a face to face congress in June 2020. Attending congresses remains an important reason for becoming a member of the ISBT. The incomes from the Vox Sanguinis (231.000) from Corporate Partners (**€272.500**) increased, so the total income in 2021 was stable at a high level of **€1.157.000**.

EXPENDITURES The pandemic was responsible for driving all ISBT activities on-line and reducing total costs. There were no congresses or meetings with physical attendance of the ISBT, which together with the cancellation of the Barcelona congress contributed to lower promotion costs (- €40.000), lower travel costs (- €115.000) and lower costs of membership benefits (- €33.000).



In the strategic plan one of the important items is education and developing e-Learning. This fiscal year **an educational officer started for a term of 2 years**. We also introduced a pension scheme for our staff that is comparable to most health care organisations in The Netherlands. These items led to an increase of the personnel expenses (+ €65.000).

The contributions to ISBT Working Parties was much lower (- €45.000) compared to the budget as most Working Parties moved to Zoom meetings instead of face-to-face meetings.

The total costs (€814.000) were €186.000 less than in fiscal year 2019-20.

CONCLUSION: THE COST CONTROL IS STILL ON A HIGH LEVEL WITH MANY THANKS TO THE NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ISBT2020 CONGRESS REPORT

It was a great pleasure to welcome participants to the **ISBT2020 congress**, held entirely on-line for the first time ever due to the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic.

IN 2020, WE HAD TO LEARN TO DO MANY THINGS DIFFERENTLY – AND THAT INCLUDED CONGRESSES!

Our plans for a meeting in Barcelona, and the hard work of the **Spanish National Transfusion Society (SETS)** and the local organising committee under the leadership of Dr Cardenas and Dr Muniz Diaz, were up-ended by the pandemic, but we thank them for their enormous efforts in supporting ISBT and we hope to return to Barcelona in the future.

We opened the on-line congress with a ceremony that included presentation of the ISBT Awards to Dr Dana Devine, Dr Susan Stramer and Ms Judith Chapman, for their significant contributions to transfusion medicine and science and to ISBT over many years.

- The Vox Sanguinis Best Paper Prize was presented to Dr Carl McDonald on behalf of his team of co-authors.
- The ISBT Award for Developing Countries was accepted by Dr Sanjiv Nandani on behalf of his team at the Life Blood Centre, Gujarat, India. Congratulations to all of them!



Two highlights were:

- ISBT Presidential Award lecture by Dr Anneke Brand
- Jean Julliard Prize lecture by Dr Angelo D'Alessandro

I thank all the invited speakers and abstract presenters for their outstanding work, and the session moderators for keeping everyone on track and engaged in the new on-line environment. Other sessions included an on-line networking session for our young professionals. This lively event provided opportunities for a number of people attending their first ISBT congress to meet up and feel welcome. We also welcomed this year's Harold Gunson Fellows – doctors and scientists under the age of 40 with an abstract accepted for the scientific program. Congratulations to you all! The congress finished with a fun on-line party in the ISBT Topia World, which was a new experience for many.

Following the live meeting, ISBT2020 was available to delegates **“on-demand” until March 31, 2020.**

There are so many people to thank, without whom this meeting would not have happened:

- Our Scientific Secretary, Dr John Semple, delivered an excellent scientific program, and our two Vice-Presidents Dr Masja de Haas and Dr Lin Fung led the first-class ISBT Academy program.
- Jenny White, our Executive Director, and the ISBT Central Office Team worked so hard for months behind the scenes, and during the congress, including welcoming visitors to the ISBT virtual booth.
- Naud Becker, Diane Zaleski, Iris Dikkers and their whole team at MCI, our congress partners, did a wonderful job as we planned and delivered this marvellous event.
- We appreciate the great support and contributions of our 31 exhibitors, and their teams from around the world.

In closing, I want to acknowledge the many friends and colleagues who have been affected by the pandemic, and to think of all those who are suffering at this time. I hope better days are ahead. I look forward to seeing you on-line – or in person somewhere in the world – during 2021.

VIRTUAL CONGRESS #ISBT2020
The 36th International Congress of the ISBT
December 12 - 16, 2020

ISBT
2020

REPORTS FROM ISBT WORKING PARTIES

- Blood Supply Management Working Party
- Cellular Therapy Working Party
- Clinical Transfusion Working Party
- Donors and Donation Working Party
- Global Blood Safety Working Party
- Granulocyte Immunobiology Working Party
- Haemovigilance Working Party
- Immunohaematology Working Party
- Information Technology Working Party
- Platelet Immunobiology Working Party
- Quality Management Working Party
- Rare Donor Working Party
- Red Cell Immunogenetics and Blood Group Terminology Working Party
- Transfusion Transmitted Diseases Working Party



BLOOD SUPPLY MANAGEMENT WORKING PARTY

Chairperson and committee

Chairperson: Justina K. Ansah (CEO National Blood Service, Ghana)
Co-chairperson: Gilles Folléa (SFTS, French Blood Transfusion Society, France)

Membership information

As at 31 March, 2021 the WP had **17 members** representing **11 countries**.

Meetings and E-mail exchanges

One **digital meeting** via Zoom was held on Thursday 10 December, 2020, just before the virtual Barcelona Congress in December 2020. It was attended by **13 delegates** representing **9 countries**.

The topics covered were as follows:

- Survey on Best Practice for Reducing out-dating of platelets and Red cell - Update and next steps
- ISBT WP BSM scientific session during December 2020 virtual congress
- Contributions from WPs (“How-Do-I”, “case studies”, ISBT forum post, webinar)
- BSM Newsletter
- WP BSM Audits
- Other project suggestions for the WP BSM: Good practices in BSM
- Next Meeting

Prior to the virtual ISBT2020 congress, there were a series of e-mail exchanges between members of a sub-committee of the ISBT BSM WP who worked on and finalized a survey identifying best practices in the supply chain management of Red Cells and Platelets (high availability; low risks of shortages; and low risks of outdated).

In addition, there were e-mail exchanges between the Chairperson and members with respect to communications from the ISBT Central Office for contributions to webinars, volunteering to mentor young professionals (YPs) etc.

Activities during the period

The main achievements of the ISBT BSM WP during the period were as follows:

1. Completion of Survey on best practices in Blood Supply Chain Management by Blood Services.

The survey on “Best practice for reducing out-dating of platelets and red cell” was completed. The completed questionnaires were analysed and results reported accordingly.

It is the hope of the ISBT BSM WP that a final draft article will be available to be submitted for publication in the second quarter 2021/2022.

2. Scientific session on BSM during the December ISBT2020 congress with 2 oral presentations during the main scientific programme.

The scientific session took place on 13 December, 2020. The title, presenters and topics are as follows:

Title: Improving the Blood Supply Chain of Blood and Components

Session Moderator: Justina Ansah

Presenters and topics

- Eric Jansen: “Results of survey on best practice for “reducing out-dating of platelets and red cell”
- Greg Wilkie: “Approach to reducing/minimizing expiry of blood and components in Australia”

The presentations were followed by a panel discussion. The session was well-attended. In addition, it was satisfactorily-rated and appreciated.

3. BSM Breakout session at the virtual ISBT Young Professionals (YPs) Breakfast Network during the December ISBT2020 congress.

A BSM breakout session was included in the ISBT Young Professionals virtual breakfast network which took place on Sunday December 13, 2020 at 7:45 AM CET.



BLOOD SUPPLY MANAGEMENT WORKING PARTY

The BSM break out session was moderated by Justina Ansah.

The opportunity offered the YPs a moment for them to chat with experts/mentors in the field in an informal way. The session was successful and some YPs agreed to join the ISBT WP BSM.

4. ISBT Education Webinar

An Education Webinar titled took place on 24 April, 2020 at 3pm CEST as follows:

Title: “Singapore’s experience on maintaining blood supply and keeping our donors and staff safe in the COVID-19 pandemic”

Speaker: Dr. Kam Wooi Seong, Director for Donor Management, Blood Services Group, Health Sciences Authority, Singapore

The webinar was greatly successful and timely coming in the early days of the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic and its profound effect on blood services, and particularly collections.



CELLULAR THERAPY WORKING PARTY

Chairperson and committee

Chairperson: Mickey Koh (United Kingdom/Singapore)

Committee:

Vice Chair: Christian Gabriel (Austria)

Secretary: Reinhardt Henschler (Germany)

Treasurer: Thierry Burnouf (Taiwan/France)

Subcommittee chair on Platelet Lysates: Katharina Schallmoser (Austria)

Subcommittee chair on Serum eyedrops: Denese Marks (Australia)

Membership information

The mailing list consists of **32 members** including the committee. The numbers have remained largely steady and not a huge number. We have members who also become inactive after a while. Overall, this is expected as the Working Party sits slightly outside mainstream Transfusion Medicine.

There continues to be worldwide representation including from **Europe, Asia, Africa, North America, South America and Australia.**

Meetings and telephone conferences

This has been an exceptional year due to COVID-19.

No in-person meeting was held as the ISBT congress became fully virtual.

Multiple Zoom based and telephone meetings were held by the committee as the serum eyedrops workshop due to be held in Vienna had to be postponed due to COVID-19.

The meetings committee who are the workshop organisers had to organise refund of costs to speakers and also to liaise with the venue/catering/flights to reschedule.

We also discussed suitable dates for rescheduling of the workshop and also started preparations for it to be a mixture of remote and physical meeting.

Activities during the period

The main achievements of the ISBT Supply Management WP during the period were as follows:

1. Presented an ISBT sponsored webinar on serum eyedrops.

This was done by Christian Gabriel.

2. Mickey Koh and Peter Horn continue to represent ISBT at the World-wide Network for Blood and Marrow Transplantation (WBMT).

The group continues its project on “Unproven Cell Therapies”, a position document for WHO.

3. The Working Party helped to plan and suggest speakers for the cellular therapies track at the ISBT Barcelona meeting 2020.

4. The Committee have started to update and populate the Working Party page on the ISBT website.

5. A paper was published which was a joint paper from several organisations involved in cellular therapies (AABB, ISBT, EBMT, WMDA, JACIE, WBMT).

The title of the paper published in Transfusion is: “Adverse event reporting for cellular therapy products: current status and future directions.

6. The Working Party also contributed to this paper initiated from ISBT and published in Vox Sanguinis: International Forum on Transfusion Practices in HSCT.

7. The WP also contributed to a paper published in Cytotherapy: Nanofiltration of growth media supplemented with HPL for pathogen free xeno free expansion of mesenchymal stromal cells.

8. Ongoing work to plan for the postponed eyedrops workshop in Vienna: recouping costs and logistic planning.



CLINICAL TRANSFUSION WORKING PARTY

Chairperson and committee

Chair: Cynthia So-Osman, Consultant in Haematology and Transfusion Medicine, (The Netherlands)

Vice-chair: Mark Yazer, Consultant Pathology, (USA)

Secretary: Arwa Al Riyami, Consultant Hematopathology, (Oman)

Membership information

The WP had one business meeting in January 2021 (virtual meeting in replacement of the planned face-to-face interim business meeting in Amsterdam), which was held in two sessions throughout the day, in order to allow members from different parts of the world to join.

All subgroup leads were represented, a total of **30 members** joined all together.

- The Transfusion Practitioners group had regular monthly teleconferences.
- The other subgroups had 1-5 teleconferences.
- The newly installed convalescent plasma working group started from April 1, 2020 with weekly virtual meetings until May 28, 2020 (9x), and switched to monthly meetings from June 2020 to March 2021 (10x).

Activities during the period

Due to the consequences of the pandemic a couple of initiatives were put on hold:

- Wikipedia project.
- A WHO/ISBT proposal to perform a survey on worldwide availability of blood on World Blood donor Day 2020 is being prepared.
- Clinical Apheresis subgroup: this new subgroup will recruit members and will be participating in all ongoing projects where clinical apheresis is involved.
- E-learning International Forum/survey: work was initiated early 2020, but with the start of the pandemic, this was temporarily put on hold.

Ongoing activities:

- PBM website: this website provides ready access to resources and tools to promote PBM implementation and sharing best practice between countries. This website is further being updated with new resources added and others being updated at a slow pace.
- E-learning module for Transfusion Certificate (collaboration with EBA): an interactive case-based e-learning module on Adverse Transfusion Reactions has been finalized in March 2021 and launched on the ISBT website. This module is EBAH-accredited and received funding from ISBT and EBA
- Transfusion Practitioner subgroup:

The TP group was very active on social media, with support from the ISBT office. TP pages and Blood Transfusion Committee page were updated on the website. Group representation from non-western countries is slowly expanding. The group contributed to the update of the ISBT book "Introduction to Blood transfusion; from Donor to Recipient" that was launched at the ISBT2020 virtual congress. Translation of the Wikipedia pages about the TP role into French & Dutch. Steering Group members were active in own local & national virtual education sessions and meetings. A survey on TP activities was published (1).
- Paediatric subgroup: the Pediatric subgroup lead was handed over by Gemma Crighton to Ruchika Goel. The Pediatric PBM survey is ready and will be piloted before dissemination.
- WHO Clinical Use of Blood Handbook: this project is in its final stage, but has been delayed. It is planned that in 2021 all chapters will be finalized and placed as digital modules on the ISBT website.
- I TRY IT programme: a joint collaboration with the "I TRY IT" programme of the TTID WP was continued for the third year. Two members from the Clinical WP stayed on as Mentors in the program.
- The Live Journal Clubs (LJCs): Live Journal Clubs were continued with participation of young professionals arranged through the ISBT Young Professional Council.

CLINICAL TRANSFUSION WORKING PARTY

- Collaboration with ICTMG: Since a memorandum of understanding between ISBT and ICTMG was signed in March 2020, several activities were launched:

1. A Live Journal Club.
2. An invitation of YP to the ICTMG activities.
3. An ICTMG survey was distributed to ISBT members in low and middle income countries.
4. A LJC/webinar on the hemoglobinopathy ICTMG guidelines was presented along with a discussion of the AGREE II tool used to appraise and evaluate clinical guidelines, and how these guidelines can and can't be applied in different WHO regions.

This had a good attendance and feedback. More than 40 YPs expressed interest in joining ICTMG: 7 of which joined the group after reviewing their applications.

5. A presentation and a poster were presented at ISBT2020 virtual congress on a systematic review on platelet transfusion guidelines, followed by a publication (2).
- Use of social media: the Twitter hashtag: **#ISBTClinical** was selected to be used to refer to the social media posts made by the WP. However, no regular posts were done yet.

New initiatives

A convalescent plasma-working group was established on April 1, 2020, overarching the different WPs within ISBT and other societies outside ISBT, to bring together dedicated transfusion professionals to share information on the use of convalescent plasma for COVID-19 patients.

Through the ISBT, AABB and WHO network more than 35 participants from six continents were included. Several burning questions were addressed and discussed. Young professionals were also welcomed to participate.

This collaboration resulted in 5 publications, and projects are still ongoing. (3-7)

Publications

1. **A survey of transfusion practitioners in international society of blood transfusion member countries.** Amanpreet Singh Dhesi, Rachel Moss, Rozemarijn Deelen, Clare O'Reilly & Linley Bielby Vox Sang (2020) 115, 200–210..doi: 10.1111/vox.12882
2. **Quality of evidence-based guidelines for platelet transfusion and use: A systematic review.** Al-Riyami, Arwa Z., et al. Transfusion 61.3 (2021): 948-958.
3. **Guidance for the procurement of COVID-19 convalescent plasma: differences between high- and low-middle-income countries.** Bloch EM, Goel R, Wendel S, Burnouf T, Al-Riyami AZ, Ang AL, DeAngelis V, Dumont LJ, Land K, Lee CK, Oreh A, Patidar G, Spitalnik SL, Vermeulen M, Hindawi S, Van den Berg K, Tiberghien P, Vrielink H, Young P, Devine D, So-Osman C. Vox Sang. 2020 Jun 13;10.1111/vox.12970. doi: 10.1111/vox.12970
4. **Clinical use of Convalescent Plasma in the COVID-19 pandemic: a transfusion-focussed gap analysis with recommendations for future research priorities.** Al-Riyami AZ, Schäfer R, van den Berg K, Bloch EM, Estcourt LJ, Goel R, Hindawi S, Josephson CD, Land K, McQuilten ZK, Spitalnik SL, Wood EM, Devine DV, So-Osman C. Vox Sang. 2020 Jun 15. doi: 10.1111/vox.12973
5. **ABO blood group and COVID-19: a review on behalf of the ISBT COVID-19 working group.** Goel R, Bloch EM, Pirenne F, Al-Riyami AZ, Crowe E, Dau L, Land K, Townsend M, Jecko T, Rahimi-Levene N, Patidar G, Josephson CD, Arora S, Vermeulen M, Vrielink H, Montemayor C, Oreh A, Hindawi S, van den Berg K, Serrano K, So-Osman C, Wood E, Devine DV, Spitalnik SL; ISBT COVID-19 Working Group. Vox Sang. 2021 Feb 12. doi: 10.1111/vox.13076.
6. **Understanding the role of therapeutic plasma exchange in COVID-19: preliminary guidance and practices.** Patidar GK, Land KJ, Vrielink H, Rahimi-Levene N, Dann EJ, Al-Humaidan H, Spitalnik SL, Dhiman Y, So-Osman C, Hindawi SI. Vox Sang. 2021 Mar 17. doi: 10.1111/vox.13067
7. **Lessons learned in the collection of convalescent plasma during the COVID-19 pandemic.** Silvano Wendel, Kevin Land, Dana V. Devine, James Daly, Renée Bazin, Pierre Tiberghien, Cheuk-Kwong Lee, Satyam Arora, Gopal Patidar, Kamini Khillan, Martin Smid, Hans Vrielink, Adaeze Oreh, Arwa Z. Al-Riyami, Salwa Hindawi, Marion Vermeulen, Vernon Louw, Thierry Burnouf, Evan Bloch, Ruchika Goel, Mary Townsend & Cynthia So-Osman. Vox Sang 2021 March 27. Doi: 10.1111/vox.13096.



DONORS AND DONATION WORKING PARTY

Chairperson and committee

Chair: Karin Magnussen (Norway)

Secretary: Eva-Maria Merz (The Netherlands)

Membership information

The Working Party currently has **47 members**, representing **32 different countries** around the globe.

Meetings and Telephone conferences

- 20/04/2020 Webinar “Blood collection in Europe during SARS-CoV-2”
Aim of the webinar: To present and discuss challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic on blood donors, blood banks, blood supply.
- 11/08/2020 ISBT Webinar on “COVID-19’s impact on Blood Supply in developing countries”.
Aim of the webinar: To reflect on SARS – CoV-2 (Corona) challenges faced by the blood donors and the blood transfusion services in in developing and resource restricted countries.
- 11/12/2020 WP Business meeting
Aim of the meeting: To catch up and discuss ongoing and new projects.
- Presentations:
 - Plasma donor vigilance (Hans Vrielink)
 - Blood units - definitions, size, quantity? (Ellen McSweeney and Jean-Yves Py)
 - Iron research (chaired by Christian Erikstrup)

Activities during the period

- The WP organized the business meetings, several webinars.
- We have started issuing newsletters.
- We have suggested themes and presenters for the WP Donors and Donations day at the coming virtual congress- ISBT In Focus and started preparations for the coming workshops and business meeting.



GLOBAL BLOOD SAFETY WORKING PARTY

Chairperson and committee

Chair: Martin Smid (The Netherlands)

Organizing Committee

Vice-chair: Silvano Wendel (Brazil)

Secretary: Thierry Burnouf (Taiwan)

Treasurer: Susan Stramer (USA)

At-large

Jay Epstein (USA)

Neelam Marwala (India)

Claude Tayou (Cameroon)

Lesley Bust (South Africa)

Jean-Claude Faber (Luxemburg)

Membership information

The Working Party has a total of **50 members**, representing **25 different countries** around the globe.

Meetings and Telephone conferences

Five teleconferences were held from April to December as well as an online business meeting on January 27 that included two presentations about WHO position and efforts to improve the situation in the low resource environment. Since then the organizing committee had organized two teleconferences

Activities during the period

In the first year of the pandemic in June 2020 the Working Party organized **on-line elections for all positions of the organizing committee**.

We welcomed **4 new members** and at the same time thanks are owed to Hany Kamel, Yetmgeta Abdellah, Cees Smit Sibinga and Daniel Somuah who were part of the previous organizing committee. During the on-line ISBT2020 congress in December the first WP GBS showcase was organized on the issue of supply of safe plasma products in low resource setting. The programme comprised of presentations given on WHO led efforts for improvement and case studies from two countries, Thailand and Egypt.

The WP activities are divided into **four subgroups** that organized their teleconferences separately:

The four subgroups are Harmonization and Standards (3 teleconferences); Plasma for fractionation and locally produced viral inactivated cryoprecipitate (regular teleconferences for organizing a workshop and follow-up on writing activities).

The subgroups Voluntary vs replacement donation and Transfusion need vs demand have not been active in the reporting period.

With the start of the pandemic the subgroup “locally produced viral inactivated cryoprecipitate and plasma for fractionation” took the initiative to publish guidance documents on COVID-19 Convalescent plasma (CCP) and a publication in Vox Sanguinis. This was followed by a guidance document on CCP for LMIC in English, French, Spanish and Portuguese and publications in Vox Sanguinis, Africa Sanguine and NP Vaccines. During the year WP members contributed also to the ISBT COVID-19 working group that published a number of articles to provide analysis and impact of the COVID-19 crisis on the collection of convalescent plasma on the organization of blood establishments. Further the subgroup continued with the preparations for a workshop Stepwise Access to Safe Plasma Proteins in Resource-Constrained Countries: Local Production & Pathways to Fractionation to be held in September 2021.

The progress of the subgroup of Harmonization in 2020 led to finalizing the development of a survey questionnaire on policies and practices for TTID testing. The goal of the project is to **describe the global range of established requirements and recommendations for TTID testing** and to interpret the rationale for variability of those policies and practices in an educational publication. In March 2020, the draft survey was shared with members of the WP GBS and WP TTID for inputs. With assistance from Jenny White and Central Office, the survey was converted into electronic (digital) format. The strategy for the dissemination was shared with ISBT Board Members. The distribution is pending the selection of global representation. Members of the harmonization subgroup are invited to help with analysis of the anticipated survey responses and development of the publication.

Activities of the subgroups Voluntary vs replacement donation and the Transfusion need vs. demand are on-hold for the moment searching for volunteers to lead them.



GLOBAL BLOOD SAFETY WORKING PARTY

WP GBS has produced the following guidance documents and publications

- [Points to consider in the preparation and transfusion of COVID-19 convalescent plasma.](#)
- [Points to consider in the preparation and transfusion of COVID-19 convalescent plasma in low- and middle income countries.](#)

Publications

- 1. Points to consider in the preparation and transfusion of COVID-19 convalescent plasma. Epstein J and Burnouf T.**

Vox Sanguinis (2020) 115; 485-487; doi: 10.1111/vox.12939

- 2. Use of COVID-19 convalescent plasma in low- and middle- income countries: a call for ethical principles and the assurance of quality and safety. Epstein J, Smid WM, Wendel S, Somuah D and Burnouf T.**

Vox Sanguinis (2021) 116; 13-14; doi: 10.1111/vox.12964

- 3. Points to consider in the preparation and transfusion of COVID-19 convalescent plasma in low- and middle income countries. Smid WM, Burnouf T, Epstein J, Kamel H, Smit-Sibinga C, Somuah D, Stramer S and Wendel S.**

Africa Sanguine 2020; 22(2): 11-13 doi: 104314/asan.v22i1.6

- 4. Éléments à prendre en compte dans la preparation et la transfusion du plasma de personnes guéries du COVID-19 dans les pays à Faibles ou Meyens Revenus. Smid WM, Burnouf T, Epstein J, Kamel H, Smit-Sibinga C, Somuah D, Stramer S and Wendel S.**

Africa Sanguine 2020; 22(2): 11-13 doi: 104314/asan.v22i2.3

- 5. Sources of guidance on collection and use of COVID-19 convalescent plasma especially relevant to low- and middle- income countries. Epstein J, Burnouf T and Smid WM on behalf of the ISBT WP GBS.**

Africa Sanguine 2020; 22(2): 11-13 doi: 104314/asan.v22i2.3

- 6. NP Vaccines**

Plasma-based COVID-19 treatments in low- and middle-income countries and the risk of transfusion-transmitted infections. Epstein J, Smid WM, Wendel S, Somuah D and Burnouf T.

Npj vaccines (2020) 5: 103 doi: 10.1038/s41541-020-00256-6



GRANULOCYTE IMMUNOBIOLOGY WORKING PARTY

Chairperson, committee and members

Chair: Behnaz Bayat (Liebig University Giessen, Germany)

Nomenclature Sub-committee:

Chair: Brigitte Flesch (German Red Cross Blood Service West)

Members:

Brian Curtis (USA)

Masja De Haas (Netherlands)

Kasper Nielsen (Denmark)

Ulrich Sachs (Germany)

International Granulocyte Immunobiology Workshop Sub-committee

Chair: Behnaz Bayat (Liebig University Giessen, Germany)

Members: Jürgen Bux (Germany)

Brian Curtis (USA) Behnaz Bayat (Germany)

Peter Höglund (Sweden)

Membership information

The Working Party has a total of **35 members**, representing **18 different countries** around the globe.

Meetings and Telephone conferences

1. ISBT virtual meeting Barcelona (11/12/2020) – 83 Attendees:

- Presentations: - Granulocyte Immunology workshop report by Behnaz Bayat
- Lineage specific function of neutrophil antigen CD177 in tumor micro environment by Weizhou Chang, department of pathology, immunology and laboratory medicine, college of Medicine, University of Florida.
- Production of recombinant humanized monoclonal anti-human neutrophil antigens (HNAs) antibodies by Mika Matsushashi, Kanto-Koshinetsu Block Blood Center, Japanese Red Cross, Tokyo, Japan.
- Antibodies against human neutrophil antigens in non-transfused women with red blood cell alloimmunisation induced by pregnancy by Elyse Mo-

ritz, Department of Clinical Oncology and Research, Federal University of Sao Paulo (UNIFESP).

Report of this meeting is now available in Transfusion Today number 126, March 2021.

2. ISBT virtual working party meeting (11/12/2020) – 13 attendees:

- Announcement of vacant positions in granulocyte working party sub-committees.
- Organizing the next granulocyte workshop 2021 (material and dates). -Discussion on organizing an educational platform.
- Organizing a serum bank.

3. ISBT granulocyte immunology working party meeting (1/12/2020) – 6 attendees:

- Discussion on HNA nomenclature and necessary adaptation by Brigitte Flesch.

Activities during the period

Brigitte Flesch the GIWP nomenclature subcommittee chairperson updated the HNAs nomenclature and discussed it in working party for suggestions.

Behnaz Bayat organized the 19th **International Granulocyte Immunology Workshop** with 18 participants from 14 countries. The workshop results from each participant were evaluated, and the final report was provided. In workshop sub-committee, Jürgen Bux and Peter Höglund stepped down from the international granulocyte workshop sub-committee.

We would like to thank both colleagues who made remarkable contribution in the field of granulocyte immunology and wish them further success. In nomenclature sub-committee, Brigitte Flesch, Ulrich Sachs and Masja De Haas have finished their 2X 4 years duration.

The five vacant positions in granulocyte immunology Working Party were announced and three persons nominated themselves for these open positions. The election finished in April 23 and new members will be introduced accordingly. A request for membership for the workshop was received in workshop subcommittee, were evaluated and approved.

HAEMOVIGILANCE WORKING PARTY

Chairperson and committee

Chairperson: Mary Townsend

Committee:

Secretary: Gopal Patidar

Donor Vigilance Coordinator: Shruthi Narayan

Recipient Vigilance Coordinator: Gopal Patidar

Past Chair: Kevin Land

Membership information

Currently, the working party has representation from at least **37 unique countries** and is made up as follows:

Membership Type	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Corporate Partner (observer)	6	7	5	4	0
Full Member	88	76	78	75	80
Observer	20	25	25	28	15
Visitor	20	21	22	22	0
Total Active	133	129	130	129	95

Representatives of ISBT Corporate Partners:

Representative	Corporate Partner
Geralyn Meny	Grifols
Ghislain Mourmsi	Grifols
Jerry Holmberg	Grifols
Isobelle Galeon	Terumo BCT
Marcia Cardoso	Terumo BCT
Stephane Bombard	Bio-Rad

Meetings and E-mail exchanges

The committee held a few teleconferences to plan for the WP meeting in association with the December 2020 congress and to set priorities for 2021.

The annual working meeting was held prior to the ISBT2020 congress. The meeting was held in conjunction with the IHN General Assembly, which boosted attendance considerably over the 2019 WP meeting; **73 members and guests signed in.**

The meeting consisted of a general welcome and introduction by Mary Townsend, followed by the IHN General Assembly conducted by Arlinke Bokhorst (President of IHN). The HV WP session started with our General Session, with presentations from our partners and collaborators including representatives from WHO, Clinical Safety WP and Cellular Therapy WP. Jay Epstein representing WHO described the Joint WHO/ISBT Workshop on hemovigilance in Africa. Topics for the Donor Subsection included publication updates on the new Donor Adverse Events Severity Grading Tool and results of the WP survey to establish priority projects. Donor HV priorities include measures to mitigate needle related injuries and development of Imputability guidelines like the Severity Grading guidelines. During the Recipient Vigilance Subsection, the group discussed the results of the WP Survey relative to priorities for recipient HV including inclusion of delayed transfusion reactions in Recipient HV definitions and bringing clarity to the Terrible “Ts” of Transfusion (TRALI, TACO, TAD).

Teleconferences are planned to prepare for the HV WP meeting to be held in conjunction with the 2021 congress.

Activities during the period

Collaborative Projects with WHO and ISBT HV WP.

The ISBT HV Working Party was pleased to be invited to participate as collaborators in the WHO/African Blood Regulators Forum four half-day virtual workshop on Hemovigilance October 20-23, 2020. The workshop was part of the African Medicines Regulatory Harmonization Initiative. The ISBT Academy funded pilot training exercises for the workshop.



HAEMOVIGILANCE WORKING PARTY

The WS was planned by WHO in collaboration with a group of HV SMEs including the ISBT HV WP, IHN, EFS, ICCBBA, EC, US FDA, PEI and Project Notify.

The meeting consisted of four half-days sessions covering wide ranging HV topics such establishing a national HV system, developing a positive culture toward safety reporting and targeted topics such as adverse events in the transfusion and donation settings.

The meeting was held on-site in both Burundi and Zambia, as well as on-line to over **200 participants** in **13 countries**. The meetings were conducted in both English and French, including the slide presentations that were translated in advance, live translation of discussions and recordings for future reference. There was a heavy emphasis on the use of case studies, and each day ended with a moderated open panel discussion.

The WS should serve as a template for additional WS for other African countries and potentially other countries establishing or extending HV programs. All program slides and reference materials were distributed to on-site participants as flash drives, eliminating the need for internet access, as well as on the Notify Library website.

Potential outcomes of the WS include using the WS as a template for WS in other countries. In addition, a WHO collaborative project to collect and develop HV tools was a spinoff of the meeting; all HV tools will be placed in a repository that can be widely accessed.

IMMUNOHAEMATOLOGY WORKING PARTY

Chairperson and committee

Chair: Thierry Peyrard (France)

Vice Chair: Nicole Thornton (United Kingdom)

Secretary: Sofia Lejon Crottet (Switzerland)

Treasurer: Mostafa Moghaddam (Iran)

Chair Emeritus: Sandra Nance (USA)

Membership information

The Working Party has a total of **38 members**, representing **21 different countries** and **5 continents** (North America 7, South America 1, Europe 15, Africa 1, Asia 12, and Oceania 2).

Meetings and Telephone conferences

Due to several reasons and in first place the COVID-19 pandemics, the official meeting of the Working Party, which was supposed to be held before March 31, 2021, could not be organized. It is planned to take place in late May/early June 2021, before the 31st regional ISBT virtual congress.

Activities during the period

- **Publication of cases studies in immunohaematology on the ISBT website.**

Each WP member is requested to propose case studies, for education purpose (a case study template was developed and made available by the WP Executive Committee).

The WP guests and representatives of Corporate Partners are also encouraged to submit case studies. Sandra Nance followed up the schedule of volunteer authors for 2020/2021. All case studies submitted are systematically reviewed by Sandra Nance, Thierry Peyrard and Nicole Thornton, before publication on the ISBT website. Six case studies were published online in 2020, available for ISBT members exclusively. Seven other case studies have been just reviewed and are expected to be shortly published online.

As of today, **over 40 cases studies** have been published online since 2016.

- **Publication in Transfusion Today Journal:** Peyrard T. Blood groups and cancer. *Transfusion Today* 2020;124:4-5

- **Election of new ISBT members**

An election with an electronic vote was organized in September 2020 with the helpful support of the ISBT Central Office. There were **4 new applicants** who were all elected, with an official membership starting from the next WP formal meeting (to be held before the virtual 36th international congress in June 2021).

- **Designation of a Young Professional Representative**

Each WP was requested to propose a young professional representative to become a member. We suggested the name of Cécile Toly-Ndour (France) who finished her term in June 2020 as the representative of Europe in the ISBT YPs Council.

- **Virtual 36th International Congress of the ISBT (ISBT2020), December 2020**

The Executive Committee of the WP proposed and built the program of a Master Class entitled “The art of solving complex cases in immunohaematology”. This session, initially scheduled in June 2020 in Barcelona, had to be cancelled. It was estimated that the virtual status of the Congress postponed to December 2020 (due to the COVID-19 pandemic) would be incompatible with the necessary interactivity of such an event.

- **Preparation for virtual 31st Regional ISBT Congress of the ISBT (ISBT In Focus), June 2021**

The WP Chair and Vice-Chair actively have begun building of the program of the “**Red Cell Immunohaematology themed day**”, scheduled on June 3, 2021, with three lectures and two live interactive workshops entitled “Positive antibody screen - what next?! Case studies on everyday antibody identification” and “Opening the toolbox to solve complex cases in reference laboratories”.



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY WORKING PARTY

Chairperson and committee

Chair: Michael Breard (USA)

Vice Chair: Goudar Shankar (USA)

Secretary: Monica Freire (USA)

Validation Task Force: Jan-Willem Andriessen (The Netherlands)

RFID Task Force Chair: Wayne Bolton (Australia)

ICCBBA TAG Representative: Mario Muon (Portugal)

Membership information

The IT WP has **79 members from 22 countries**. Michael Breard resigned as IT WP Chair in March 2021, due to work commitments, and elections for a new Chair are underway.

Meetings and Telephone conferences

The Traceability Task Force (TTF) participated in one conference call during this time period and Michael Breard presented the TTF Guideline status at the ISBT2020 virtual meeting in December 2020. The VTF had 2 conference calls during this time period and Jan-Willem also presented the VTF Guideline status at ISBT2020. Both the TTF Guideline and the VTF Guideline are still moving forward, but face-to-face meetings would speed them along.

Activities during the period

The period of March 2020 to April 2021 was a dissimulation period due to COVID-19, the lack of a face-to-face meeting also prevented valuable meeting time for the WPIT/VTF/TTF.

PLATELET IMMUNOBIOLOGY WORKING PARTY

Chairperson and committee

Chairs: Ulrich J Sach (Germany) and Nelson Tsuno (Japan)

Membership information

In the International WP, there are **25 labs from 18 countries** represented, and in addition, in the Asia Regional WP, there are **19 labs from 10 countries** represented.

Meetings and Telephone conferences

The business meeting of the ISBT Platelet Immunobiology WP was held on December 17 2020, with **57 attendees from 22 countries**.

- Dr Nuria, Dr Carmen and Dr Eduardo (Spain) presented on the results of the wet workshop, which will be summarized in a paper soon.
- John Sample (ISBT, Sweden) and Lilach Bonstein (Israel) proposed the organization of the European Symposium on Platelet and Granulocyte Immunobiology (ESPGI), all virtually, in 2021 in Israel, and participants were requested to send comments and suggestions.
- Brian Curtis (US) briefly presented on the new website about Platelet Immunology, and recommended the members to check the website and register new HPAs when discovered.
- Maria Therese presented on the “How do I quantify anti-HPA-1a antibodies” (available at the ISBT Platelet WP website) and requested participants to send new proposals to the chairs. Lucie presented on the case of a FNAIT due to CD36 antibody in a patient of African origin (also available at the ISBT Platelet WP website).
- Nelson (Chair) proposed a study to evaluate CD36 monoclonal antibodies to be applied in MAIPA and PFIT. Information will be provided soon.
- Daisuke Takahashi (Japan) proposed a study to evaluate on the clinical significance of HLA antibodies in the pathophysiology of FNAIT. Participants can send their antisera containing HLA antibodies to Daisuke for the analysis.

Activities during the period

A wet **workshop** was organized during 2020 by the Immunohematology laboratory **Banc de Sang i Teixits (BST) Barcelona**, represented by Dr Núria Nogués, Dr Carmen Canals and Dr Eduardo Muñoz-Díaz.

Dr Brian Curtis (lead of the Working Party Subcommittee for Quality) provided advice on the content of the Workshop. Dr Curtis, Dr Rachel Peterman (France) and other members also kindly provided serum and/or DNA samples. A total of 25 laboratories participated in this 20th edition of the International Platelet Immunology Workshop, and 24 returned their results. The Workshop consisted of 4 exercises, including 2 EQA exercises and one optional exercise. In general, good concordance was obtained among the participants for the EQA exercises.





QUALITY MANAGEMENT WORKING PARTY

Chairperson and committee

Chair: Christian Seidl (Germany)

Co-Chairs: Tomislav Vuk (Croatia), Paul Strengers (The Netherlands),

Lesley Bust (South Africa)

Membership information

20 members from 16 countries: Algeria, Belgium, Canada, China, Croatia, Egypt, France, Germany, India, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Romania, Russia, South Africa, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United States of America.

New Member organisation 2018-2020:

- Chinese Society for Blood Transfusion CSBT (Zhengrong Zou), Shanghai, China
- Diagnostic Accreditation Programme (Susanna Darnel, ART), Vancouver, Canada
- National Blood Agency – MoH (Aziza Hammadi), Algiers, Algeria
- ISTM Quality special interest group (Nidhi Bhatnagar), Ahmedabad, India
- EU | FH Public Health Education and Prevention (Gesine Weckmann) Rostock, Germany

Cooperating Partners:

- International Plasma Fractionation Association (IPFA)
- EuBIS Academy

Meetings and Telephone conferences

Zoom meeting with Working Party Members during the ISBT congress on December 11, 2020 with the main topics on:

- Status report – Project on Quality Indicator and Harmonisation
- Update on QM Survey and Training
- Developing ‘virtual’ educational content by transforming the GMP/GPG Seminar ISBT ‘Face-to-Face’ into a concept for “Virtual Training”

The meeting had representatives from three ISBT Corporate Partners, Abbott, Bio-Rad and Grifols as attending as observers.

Activities during the period

1. First launch of an Zoom-Seminar at the virtual congress ISBT2020

‘GMP/GP standards and their implication for the safety of blood and blood components’

Training seminar and workshop organised by the ISBT WP on Quality Management supported by the EuBIS Academy in cooperation with IPFA.

The training required pre-registration in order to send training hand-out to all participants. In total more than N=40 participants were registered for the workshop, which took place on December 14.

The trainer team consisted of: Christian Seidl, Yan Qiu, Paul Strengers, Tomislav Vuk, Jose Manuel Cardenas.

The seminar was introduced by **three lectures** on the topics:

- GP/GMP requirements for substances of human origin (SoHO)
- Quality monitoring and assessment in blood establishments
- Benefits of human blood and plasma, and the manufacture and supply of medicines derived from human plasma.

Followed by an exercise on a ‘real life case’ giving a Non-compliance. The trainees were asked to perform a classification including risk assessment based on the training hand-outs and their own experience in quality management.

2. Zoom-Seminar (on-line version)

In order to fulfill the demand for an online version of the GMP/GPG seminar, the ISBT office organised a special cut-version (taking into account data protection and personal rights) that was placed in the ISBT2020 congress on-demand platform.

3. Finalisation of the “Common references on Definitions”

The Board of the ISBT Quality Working Party has initiated a project to standardise the definitions commonly used in blood and tissue establi-



QUALITY MANAGEMENT WORKING PARTY

shments around the world. A working group was established to work on this project with the aim of providing simple, unambiguous definitions that can be applied in a standardised way.

Common references available internationally have been consulted in drafting a list of definitions relating to quality management and these references are quoted in the document. Definitions have been adapted from the original sources in some instances.

The resulting list of definitions is not prescriptive but is meant to serve as a recommendation for establishments that choose to use them. It is understood, however, that establishments in some countries are obliged to follow national legislation and terminology.

It is the intention of the IGBT Quality Working Party to periodically review the list of definitions and perform updates when required so feedback from interested parties is welcome. IGBT Quality Working Party Board for this project:

- Christian Seidl (Germany)
- Tomislav Vuk (Croatia)
- Paul Strengers (IPFA, The Netherlands)
- Lesley Bust (AfSBT, Sout Africa)

Additional Participants in Working Group on Definitions:

- Jean Claude Faber (Belgium)
- Sibel Eldemir (Turkey)
- Yan Qui (China)
- Guy Rautmann (Europe, EDQM)
- Nigar Ertugrul Öruc (Turkey)
- Wade Atkins (USA)

The finalisation of the common reference will be in 2021 with an extended circulation to members of the Working Party.

4. Mentors volunteered for the IGBT's young professionals are:

- Europe, America Arabia and Africa: Christian Seidl
- Asian Pacific New Zealand, Australia: Yan Qiu

5. Webinar – Future Zoom Seminars: Principles of GPG and GMP for blood and blood components - Christian Seidl together with the trainer team are currently in preparation for the upcoming IGBT virtual congress in June 2021

6. How do I: Topic: Perform self-inspection – will be developed and validated by Christian Seidl, Lesley Bust, Yan Qiu and Paul Strengers.



RARE DONORS WORKING PARTY

Chairperson and committee

Chair: Christine Lomas-Francis (USA)

Vice-Chair: Erwin A. Scharberg (Germany)

Secretary: Vered Yahalom (Israel)

Treasurer: Inna Sareneva (Finland)

IBGRL liaison: Nicole Thornton (United Kingdom)

Past Chair: Sandra Nance (USA)

Membership information

The Working Party on Rare Donors has **33 members** representing **25 countries**. All members are actively involved in their respective country's rare donor programmes and are required to share the rare donor list from their country with the International Blood Group Reference Laboratory (IBGRL) who manages the International Rare Donor Panel (IRDP).

Meetings and Telephone conferences

The first virtual business meeting of the WPRD was held on December 2020. This was in lieu of the in-person meeting at the cancelled 2020 Barcelona congress. **25 members and 12 guests**, including industry representatives from Grifols and Quotient, attended.

Meeting topics included but were not limited to the following:

- Discussion on and support of mentoring programmes such as mentoring of working party members from countries with newly established or developing rare donor programmes. ISBT Young Professionals Mentorship programme; ISBT YPs Initiative.
- Countries that are involved in rare blood activities but are not represented on the WPRD were reviewed with regard to possible future membership.
- A report on the IRDP activities provided an update on the final phase of construction and functionality of the new IRDP website, including the ability for contributors to independently register their rare donors thereby easing the burden on IBGRL staff.
- Various education-related topics were discussed, including current and

future contributions by the WPRD to ISBT Education, congresses and the ISBT community forum.

- Plans for a “refresh” of the WPRD ISBT website page was discussed.
- The 2020 European Union guidelines for rare blood importation were reviewed with regard to the desire for rare blood to have the same status as organs for transplantation.
- Experiences of additional challenges to meet rare blood needs during the Corona pandemic were discussed.

E-mail communication connected members throughout the year and provided an easy and effective way to seek information and advice about techniques and to search for rare blood.

The executive committee communicated by e-mail and met virtually for the planning of the business meeting and educational activities.

Activities during the period

- ISBT2020 virtual meeting: members of the WPRD organized and presented a session entitled “**Ethical and medical perspectives related to transfusion, or lack of, rare blood.**”
- The WPRD also was represented at the session “Strategies and obstacles in establishing a solid donor supply.” A poster presentation “Where in the world are rare donors: a working party on rare donors survey” highlighted data provided by WP members and received a “Top Poster” award.
- The December issue of the ISBT Education News included a **case study**, prepared by a WP member, on the international collaboration of sourcing extremely rare blood for a young child in need of transfusion support during cancer treatment.
- In February 2021, the **European Blood Alliance** presented a virtual workshop “Rare Blood Provision” that was spread out over 3 afternoons. Eight members of the WPRD spoke and interacted with participants in break-out sessions. Several WPRD members were also actively involved in the organization of the workshop.

RED CELL IMMUNOGENETICS AND BLOOD GROUP TERMINOLOGY WORKING PARTY

Chairperson and committee

Co-Chairs: Catherine Hyland and Christoph Gassner

Secretary: Margaret Keller

Treasurer: Thierry Peyrard

Blood Group Allele Database Project Leader: William Joseph Lane

The RCI & BGT Working Party welcomed **3 new members** over the last year bringing the total membership to **27**. The new members are Nick Gleadall, Peter Ligthart and Barbera Veldhuisen.

One member, Masja de Haas, resigned and we thank Masja for her past contributions and ongoing support.

Meetings and Telephone conferences

Due to the global pandemic, all 2020 meetings took place on a virtual basis via Zoom.

There were two official Virtual Business Meetings, the first held on September 29, 2020 and the second on December 10, 2020. The content of each Business Meeting pivots round submissions received to officially recognize new Blood Group Antigens and Blood Group Systems.

Despite obvious time zone issues it was pleasing to see all our members, Corporate Partners and 'affiliated' ISBT delegates.

In addition to these two formal meetings a number of smaller focused Workshops/ Sub-group meetings were held:

- **Genomics Workshop**, held on December 9, 2020, which was the fifth to be held since inaugurated in 2018. The content of Genomics Workshops is designed to address informal aspects of Blood Group Polymorphisms and to discuss proposals to be voted upon in the course of Business Meetings.

This particular workshop focussed on quality needs for reporting genetic based blood group data presented by Jill Storry. Attendees were also presented with a prototype Blood Group Allele Data Base by Bill Lane.

- **cfDNA Subgroup Meeting**, on March 23, 2021, which addresses the business of non-invasive prenatal testing for fetal blood groups by testing cell free (fetal) DNA.

This meeting was chaired by Frederik Banch-Clausen and supported by WP members as well as affiliates with special interests in this topic.

- **RH Filling Gaps Workshop**, on December 11, 2020. Other, physical "Filling Gaps Workshops" were cancelled, due to the ongoing Corona-crisis. "Filling Gaps Workshops" are carried out in order to expand and refine data sets in tables.
- Finally, there was the "**First Blood Group DataBase (BG DB) Steering Committee Meeting**" held on March 26, 2021.

Activities during the period


The 2020/2021 reporting period introduced us all to the benefits of virtual conferences and at the same time made us realise the importance of face-to-face meetings.

Although there have already been Business Meetings with simultaneous reports of three new Blood Group Systems to be reported within one Meeting (Cancun 2012), the report of **five new Blood Group Systems within one single year** is unique. CTL2, PEL, MAM, EMM, and ABCC1 were reported in the course of the 1st and 2nd virtual Business Meetings, respectively. Additionally, reports of new Blood Group Antigens exceeded the number of 10.

After the first upload to the ISBT website of **12 Blood Group Allele Tables** in the new "project-2" format in March 2020, newly including GenBank Accession Numbers, rs-ID numbers, and citations for every antigen/allele, another 9 Tables in the new format were uploaded in October 2020.



RED CELL IMMUNOGENETICS AND BLOOD GROUP TERMINOLOGY WORKING PARTY



These new look Blood Group Allele Tables prepare for the expansion of blood group genomics and genetic testing, noting these tables provide a definitive link between genotype and blood group phenotype. Still, 26 Tables of the current total of 46 Tables require further update at the time of this report (April 2021).

The cfDNA subgroup, under Frederik with WP members and affiliates, prepared a manuscript with **recommendations for fetal RhD NIPT blood group genotyping** which will contribute to the guidelines for laboratories establishing these special blood group tests.

Most importantly, an elaborated prototype of the **first Blood Group Database (BG DB)** has been presented by Bill Lane during scientific lectures (e.g. joint meeting AABB/ISBT, San Antonio, USA in 2019) and in a variety of informal meetings to the members of the WP. A recent meeting of the BG DB Steering Committee delivered further needs for the documentation, cost-evaluation and functionality for the future BG DB.

Finally, the Table content of the Blood Group Systems, RH (i.e RHD) and MNS, needs further dedication in view of their extreme genetic complexity.

The Co-Chairs thank all the members and the ISBT office for ongoing support and help with all the many WP activities over the last year.

TRANSFUSION TRANSMITTED INFECTIOUS DISEASES WORKING PARTY

Chairperson and committee

Chair: Chair: Brian Custer, (USA)

Vice Chair: Sheila O'Brien, (Canada)

Corporate Member Representative: Marion Lanteri, (USA)

Individual Member Representatives: Marion Vermeulen, (South Africa) and Michael Schmidt, (Germany)

There are four subgroups of the TTID WP: Bacteria, Parasites, Surveillance, Risk Assessment and Policy (SRAP), and Virology.

Subgroup coordinators

Bacteria: Sandra Ramirez-Arcos, (Canada) and Carl McDonald, (UK)

Parasites: Evan Bloch, (USA), Steven Drews, (Canada), Silvano Wendel, (Brazil)

SRAP: Sheila O'Brien, (Canada), Katy Davison, (UK)

Virology: Helen Faddy, (Australia), Daniel Candotti, (France)

Past Chair: Sandra Nance (USA)

Membership information

The purpose of the TTID WP is to understand infectious diseases in transfusion, including conducting research and assessments that contribute to increasing the safety of the blood supply across jurisdictions.

Members interface with ECDC, CDC, WHO, AABB, and many other global and national groups and NGOs. The TTID WP includes international experts from a range of disciplines who:

1. Gather, analyse and review relevant data
2. Develop and coordinate international studies
3. Publish scientific reports
4. Actively contribute to policy discussions, including advocacy for blood safety interventions in all regions of the world.

The TTID WP has different levels of membership: Corporate Members (CM), Honorary Members (HM), Individual Members (IM), Institutional Liaisons (IL) and Observers (O).

For the annual reporting period 2020-2021, TTID had **123 members** (19 CM, 2 HM, 72 IM, 9 IL, and 20 O) **from 32 countries**.

Meetings and Telephone conferences

TTID Organising Committee (OC) Meetings

- Wednesday, November 11, 2020 7:30 am to 8:00 am PST
- Thursday, January 14, 2021 7:00 am to 8:00 am PST
- Thursday, March 4, 2021 7:00 am to 8:00 am PST

Each subgroup holds quarterly conference calls/virtual meetings to provide updates on current work. In the first quarter of 2021, quarterly calls were replaced by virtual meetings of each subgroup in which all TTID members were invited to participate. Topics covered in the overall annual meeting and each subgroup meeting are detailed below.

TTID Annual Meeting

Tuesday, February 2, 2021 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm UTC

- Plenary Talks: SARS-CoV-2 and blood safety in 2021
 - Update on the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic and blood safety (Mike Busch)
 - Review of clinical studies of CCP (Marion Lanteri)
- Presentation by Evan Bloch – Parasites
- Presentation by Sandra Ramirez-Arcos – Bacteria
- Presentation by Daniel Candotti – Virology
- Presentation by Sheila O'Brien – Surveillance Risk Assessment and Policy

SRAP Sub-group Breakout Mtg:

Wednesday, February 24, 2021 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm UTC

- Men who have Sex with Men
 - Presentation by Antoine Lewin (Canada) – Risk Modelling
 - Presentation by Katy Davison (United Kingdom) – Proposed Individual Risk Assessment (FAIR)
 - Presentation by Thijs van de Laar (Netherlands) – Proposed Individual Risk Assessment in the Netherlands
- COVID-19

TRANSFUSION TRANSMITTED INFECTIOUS DISEASES WORKING PARTY



- Presentation by Sahar Saeed (Canada) – Seroprevalence Studies (SRAP/Virology Collaboration)
- Do blood services have a role in supporting public health policy?

Bacteria Sub-group Breakout Mtg:

February 26, 2021 3:00 am to 6:00 pm UTC

- Presentation by Carl McDonald (UK) - Ongoing studies of the Bacteria Subgroup
- Presentation by Michel Garcia (Columbia) - Colombian study to determine incidence of bacterial contamination in platelets
- Presentation by Jennifer Bearne (UK) - Study with Staphylococcus aureus isolates
- Presentation by Dirk de Korte (the Netherlands) - Septic transfusion cases involving platelets with false negative cultures or with positive culture results obtained after platelet transfusion
- Presentation by Peter Bringmann / Thea Lu (USA) - Bacterial enumeration of whole platelet bags to extend platelet storage to 7 days

Virology Sub-group Breakout Mtg:

March 11, 2021 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm UTC

- SARS-COV2: serological assay performance
 - Presentation by Boris Hogema (the Netherlands) - Performance of different antibody EIAs: results from testing serial samples spanning 9 months of follow-up
 - Presentation by Claude Tayou-Tagny (Cameroon) - Impact of SARS-CoV2 epidemic in African donors and blood supply, including a brief presentation of a collaborative multi-centre seroprevalence study in 6 sub-Saharan countries
- SARS-COV2: RNAemia in different countries
 - Presentation by Pierre Cappy (France) - RNAemia in blood donors' post-transfusion; potential infectivity; lookback/traceback investigations
 - Presentation by Mars Stone and Sonia Bakkour (USA) - SARS-COV2 RNAemia in USA blood donors

- SARS-COV2: Clinical & diagnostic relevance of variants
 - Presentation by Ines Ushiro-Lumb (UK) - SARS-CoV2 variants in the UK
 - Presentation by Silvano Wendel (Brazil) - SARS-CoV2 variants in Brazil
- The unforgotten 'other' viruses
 - Presentation by Marcia Cardoso (Belgium) - HEV transmission through red blood cell transfusion
 - Presentation by Daniel Candotti (France) - Third generation sequencing and viral infection surveillance in blood donors

Activities during the period

TTID is involved in many activities related to each of the subgroups. Our primary path for demonstrating productivity is through publications. These are listed by subgroup.

Parasites

Drews SJ, Spencer BR, Wendel S, Bloch EM for the International Society of Blood Transfusion TTID Working Party Parasite Subgroup. Filariasis and transfusion associated risk: a literature review. Vox Sang. (submitted)

SRAP

1. O'Brien SF, Lieshout-Krikke R, Lewin A, Erikstrup C, Steele WR, Uzicanin S, Custer B. Research initiatives of blood services worldwide in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Vox Sang 2021;116:296-304.
2. Lewin A, Leishout-Krikke R, Erikstrup C, Steele WR, Fady H, Uzicanin S, Drews SJ, Saeed S, Custer B, O'Brien SF. An international survey of anti-SARS-CoV-2 assays and seroprevalence estimates from blood component providers 2021 Vox Sang (In press)
3. Saeed S, Lewin A, Leishout-Krikke R, O'Brien SF. COVID-19: Blood centers rise to the occasion and lead seroprevalence studies. Transfusion Today 2020 December 10-11.
4. Houle-Aubé E, Lewin A, O'Brien SF, Grégoire Y, Pillonel J, Steele WR, Custer B, Davison KL, Germain M, Seed CR, Camirand Lemyre F. HIV residual risk in Canada for apheresis source plasma donation without deferral for men who have sex with men Vox Sang (submitted)



TRANSFUSION TRANSMITTED INFECTIOUS DISEASES WORKING PARTY

Virology

No specific TTID publications in 2020.

Bacteria

1. Prax M, Spindler-Raffel E, McDonald CP, Bearne J, Satake M, Kozakai M, Rojo J, Hanschmann KO, Lambrecht B, Grundmann U, O'Flaherty N, Klimek A, Bekeredjian-Ding I, Gathof BS, Störmer M, Süßner S, Renke C, Lee CK, Knabbe C, Vollmer T, Keil SD, Shipps ME, Wagner SJ, Jentsch U, Mpumlwana X, Cloutier M, Bringmann P, Lu T, Ramirez-Arcos S, Kou Y, Krut O; ISBT Transfusion-Transmitted Infectious Diseases Working Party, Subgroup on Bacteria. Establishment of Transfusion-Relevant Bacteria Reference Strains for Red Blood Cells. Vox Sang. 2020
2. Annals of Blood Special Issue: 4 Papers accepted at the time of this report and 3 Papers submitted.

REPORTS FROM ISBT STANDING COMMITTEES

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

ISBT STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE ISBT ACADEMY

Chairperson and committee:

Chair: Masja de Haas (The Netherlands)

Co-Chairperson: Lin Fung (Australia)

Members:

Shirley Owusu (Ghana)

Lani Lieberman (Canada)

Imelda Bates (United Kingdom)

Lilian Castilho (Brazil)

Veera Nadarajan (Malaysia)

Maha Badawi (Saudi Arabia)

Ratti Ram Sharma (India)

During the period of this report no members completed their terms on the Academy Standing Committee.

The Academy Standing Committee is supported by:



Meetings and Telephone conferences

The Academy Standing Committee met with virtual meetings on September 3 and November 10 in 2020 and on February 2 in 2021. This was the first year that the meetings were all virtual and not related to face-to-face congresses; the meetings also did not coincide with the ISBT2020 virtual congress.

The following topics were addressed:

- Update on ISBT Strategy plan 2019-2022
- Update on ISBT Academy activities including Academy events and ISBT Education

- Update on Academy publication committee activities, with a special focus on the e-book “**Introduction to Blood Transfusion; from Donor to Recipient**”
- Discussions about the educational materials available on ISBT Education
- Discussions about the evaluation process of applications for Academy support of educational events

Activities during the period

In 2020, we updated the Terms of Reference for the Standing Committee and the policies for the evaluation process of the applications for Academy Support. We incorporated a review by regional directors, if an event was planned in their region, to provide feedback on the required budget and to create awareness that this event was planned to be organised.

In 2020, Geoff Simon was appointed by the ISBT as Educational Officer to design a series of e-learning modules based on the e-book Introduction to Blood Transfusion; from Donor to Recipient.

In 2020, there were 6 successful applications for financial support of an educational activity. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, 8 other applications were postponed.

Support for educational events:

Applications for Academy support was low this year, due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The Academy supported a total of 6 educational events across the regions, through financial support and/or use of the ISBT logo. These included both a number of repeat support (for events which have been supported in previous years (3), and new events (3). Organizers of seminars, workshops and other educational and scientific events are encouraged to apply for Academy support.

The streamlined process for application and review (two application deadlines per year, April 1 and October 1) is working well. This gives more time for preparation and review of applications, and enhances the robustness of the process, with constructive feedback provided to applicants. Effective processes to capture feedback from participants at ISBT Academy-supported events are a priority.



ISBT STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE ISBT ACADEMY

Applications were from the following regions: **3 Africa 50%, 1 Eastern Mediterranean 16%, and 2 Western Pacific 33%**. The Academy Standing Committee strongly feels that the financial support given to resource limited countries helps to improve transfusion education in their regions. For this purpose, more information on the meeting and of the applicant organisation are requested upfront.

Transfusion medicine-related educational courses can also apply for ISBT endorsement, using defined criteria available on the website. Four formal educational courses are now endorsed by ISBT. [More information](#)

Live Journal Clubs, organized by the Clinical Transfusion Working Party, and the ongoing webinars have been well attended and well received. This year, ISBT was very active in organising webinars, with a series centered around COVID-19. Also ISBT corporate partners organised well attended webinars. The young professionals continued with active contributions.

ISBT was very keen this year to publish COVID-19-related aspects for the transfusion chain on the website. The Working Parties worked together to enable shared opinions on different topics related for example to collection of **COVID-19 convalescent plasma**.

All Working Parties were invited to contribute content and suggestions for topics and speakers welcomed for the virtual conferences we organised this year.

Academy days at ISBT congresses:

The Academy Day program of the virtual ISBT2020 meeting was integrated with scientific sessions that were well attended. The program included a range of topics relevant to an international audience, and a number of new, young speakers participated. We planned two more educational focused sessions. One was on the development of guidelines, in line with our collaboration with ICTMG.

The other on prevention of RhD immunisation, highlighting the work of the World Wide Initiative on RhD eradication, an initiative endorsed by ISBT.

Finally, we worked with WHO, to provide more information on their activities to improve world wide availability of safe blood.

I TRY IT

2020 was the 5th year since the establishment of the I TRY IT programme. The programme aims to train young investigators to develop skills in conducting research. In 2020 six mentors were participating in the programme involving mentors of the Clinical Transfusion and TTID Working Party:

- Brian Custer (USA)
- Marion Vermeulen (South Africa)
- Michael Schmidt (Germany)
- Sheila O'Brian (Canada)
- Leo van de Watering (The Netherlands)
- Arwa Al-Riyami (Oman)

In 2021, the organisers are planning to recruit two more mentors to expand the expertise as well as demographic reach of the programme.

The I TRY IT programme remains popular within young investigators, and 40 applications were received for the limited number of places on the programme.

ISBT Academy Publication Committee

The first project of the ISBT Academy Publication Committee, chaired by **Mindy Goldman (Canada)**, was to update the Introduction to **Blood Transfusion Technology e-book**, which was originally written by Beryl Armstrong, Robert Wilkinson, Elizabeth Smart, Jonathan Hardwick and Leesha Raman, and published by ISBT in 2008. The committee allocated experts for each e-book chapter to review and refresh the original content.

Together with the chair of the committee, the original authors reviewed the updated chapters. The e-book was renamed: **Introduction to Blood Transfusion: from Donor to Recipient**, and launched as a special edition of the ISBT Science Series during the ISBT2020 virtual congress in December 2020. Hard copies will be ordered and distributed on demand in the 2021 membership year.

ISBT STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE ISBT ACADEMY

ISBT Highlight Days

The very first ISBT Highlight Day was on November 6, 2019 during the ABHH meeting held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. In 2020-21, face to face meetings were not possible but a joint ABHH/ISBT session was held on-line at the **ABHH virtual congress** in November 2020.

A virtual highlights meeting “**ISBT Summer Highlights**” was held on-line in June 2020. In the coming year we will continue to look for opportunities to work with societies to increase the exposure of ISBT at regional meetings.



ISBT Education

New materials from congresses, ISBT webinars and Live Journal Clubs as well as other activities are constantly added to the website. Uptake of the material available for affiliate members is working well. An important target of the Academy is to provide e-learning courses.

The **Clinical Transfusion Working Party** together with European Blood Alliance (EBA) **prepared a case-based interactive module on Transfusion Reactions**, which was successfully launched in March 2021.

The module is freely available also for non-ISBT members on ISBT Education and is accredited by EBAH.

Other e-learning courses are planned to be delivered this year and will be based on the e-book and be linked with other available material on the website.

The ISBT central office is working to support all activities of the Academy, and projects are underway to improve the appearance and the navigation of the website and to optimally support the learners we want to attract.



ISBT STANDING COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

Chairperson and committee:

Chair: Peter Flanagan (New Zealand)

Shubha Allard (United Kingdom)

Justina Ansah (Ghana)

Roger Dodd (USA)

Mindy Goldman (Canada)

Neelam Marwaha (India)

Guy Rautmann (France)

Meetings and Telephone conferences

No meetings took place during the year.

Activities during the period

The SCE completed its work on the development of a new Conflict of Interest policy during 2019. The SCE addresses issues at the request of the ISBT Board. No new requests have been received and hence the committee did not meet during the year.

ISBT STANDING COMMITTEE **JEAN JULLIARD PRIZE**

Chairperson and committee:

Chair: Martin Olsson: (Chairperson)

Outgoing committee Chair: (Ravi Reddy) and committee members, Lilian Castilho, Lin Fung, Mindy Goldman, and Michael Schmidt have served two terms and are standing down. Miquel Lozano has also stood down due to his appointment as Vox Sanguinis Editor-in-Chief.

Meetings and Telephone conferences

No meetings have taken place but there has been e-mail communication regarding the **Vox Sanguinis Best Paper Prize 2020** and to recruit new committee members for 2021-23.

Activities during the period

Both the Jean Julliard Prize 2020 and Vox Sanguinis best paper prize 2019 were awarded at the digital congress ISBT2020 in December 2020.

The process of selecting the recipient of the Vox Sanguinis Best Paper prize 2020 was started with the editorial committee of the journal, Vox Sanguinis submitting five nominations. The prize will be awarded at the ISBT In Focus virtual meeting in June 2021.



Jean Julliard Prize 2020
Angelo D'Alessandro



VOX SANGUINIS STANDING COMMITTEE

Chairperson and committee:

Chair: Gwen Clarke (Canada)

Committee:

Diana Teo, ISBT Member (Singapore)

Lin Fung, ISBT Member (Australia)

Eric Jansen, ISBT Member (The Netherlands)

Dana Devine, Canada (Vox Editor in Chief; non-voting member); transitioning in June 2020 to Miquel Lozano, (Spain) who became the Editor-in-Chief for Vox Sanguinis following a 6-month overlap with the outgoing E-i-C)

Pieter van der Meer, Editor-in-Chief, ISBT Science Series (The Netherlands)

Erica Wood, ISBT President – observer (Australia)

Claire Dowbekin, observer from Wiley, publisher

Jenny White, ISBT Executive Director - observer

Meetings and Telephone conferences

Annual Meeting on May 4, 2020

Introductions of new members took place along with thanks to the outgoing Editor-in-Chief, Dana Devine:

- Claire Dowbekin
- Miquel Lozano
- Jenny White

Business discussed included a report from Wiley (publishers report). There was an update on print run delays that occurred due to COVID-19 pandemic related staffing and transportation failures.

A report from the outgoing and incoming editors was provided and included discussion of content, review articles and article acceptance rates and criteria. There was discussion of additional journal editorial board transitions that would accompany the change in editor.

New section editors were recommended and accepted and a change in editorial assistance with transition to using the Wiley editorial office were described. An update on activities and publications of the ISBT Science Series was provided by Peter Van der Meer including publication of the book Introduction to Blood Transfusion; from Donor to Recipient, plans for themed issues and the anticipated results of a resubmission for Medline indexing.

Jenny White provided an update from the ISBT board perspective and the possibility of a survey of readers to determine the need for ongoing print copies of the journal was discussed.

October 5, 2020

Updates provided by the Chair included announcement of a new section editor for the Science Series, a slight decline in the impact factor for Vox Sanguinis (Vox) compared to the prior year and the announcement of the resignation of Pieter Van Der Meer, Editor of the ISBT Science Series (in 2021).

PvDM also provided information regarding the negative outcome of Medline indexing application and the committee discussed the reasons provided by reviewers for this denial. There was discussion of potential options for the ISBT Science Series in light of the decision and a plan to develop an options analysis was made. The committee agreed to send a letter to the Medline review board describing our experience with the process and providing recommendations for a more transparent and objective review.

ML described the early transition of the editorial office and some problems arising from many changes to Vox that occurred in a short time. (change in editorial assistance and change in production site for Vox as well as change in E-i-C).

There was discussion of some planned updates to Vox including an expanded page length (approved by the standing committee) and a plan for a subcommittee to discuss page and cover redesign.

A publisher's report was provided and included an overview of the readiness for transition to Open Access (OA) for the ISBT journals. At this time, it was concluded, a complete transition would not be feasible. The committee agreed that this same issue should be reviewed regularly (annually) at a Vox Sanguinis Standing Committee meeting.

VOX SANGUINIS STANDING COMMITTEE

The ISBT Executive Director provided a report including some suggestions around potential revisions to the content and format of Transfusion Today.

January 2021

There was a discussion of plans for the Science Series following completion of the term for the current Editor-in-Chief. Results of ISBT Board discussions regarding the ISBT Science Series were reviewed and accepted by the standing committee. Changes to the Vox section editors, with addition of 2 new section editors - and to the editorial board were discussed. PVdM will join the editorial board following his resignation as E-i-C.

The editorial assistance in place through Wiley has not been successful and many issues related to editorial review have arisen. Considering these problems a plan to hire an editorial assistant through ISBT has been pursued and a suitable candidate selected for this role. In addition, in discussion with Wiley, a change to the publication site will be made.

The plans for new cover design, page layout and a decision regarding addition of coloured illustrations were also discussed.

A mentorship programme involving the Vox section editors and interested members of the Young Professional council was described and a decision to describe the programme in a future Transfusion Today article was also made.

An update on the publication of the book Introduction to “**Blood Transfusion: from Donor to Recipient**” in the ISBT Science Series was provided, including the option of making a full length (as well as chapter length) PDF available.

The subject of a new contract with Wiley was discussed. The new contract will be required by the end of 2021 and work on the content and changes is to begin prior to the next Vox Sanguinis Committee meeting.

Activities during the period:

Activities of the Vox SC over the 2020– 2021 year have included a change in editorial assistance for the journal with a transition from editorial support by the Wiley editorial office to a new editorial assistant employed by the ISBT. Three new section editors have been appointed to the journal, one to replace a retiring section editor and two others to lead new sections of the journal. The Wiley production and printing site for the journal has also transitioned to a new one.

The Wiley representative on the Vox SC has changed. Claire Dowbekin has joined the SC She oversees the publication of Vox and has assisted in the transition of the editorial office, the publication site and has provided updates on the progress and feasibility of more open access articles for the journals as well as regular updates on journal metrics. Currently Claire is working with the ISBT ED on updates to the contract which will be finalized in 2021.

The ISBT Science Series application for Medline indexing was once again denied. The ISBT Science Series Editor signalled his intention to move on from his editorial position and has agreed to become a member of the editorial board.

A mentorship programme for Young Professional (YPs) was planned wherein interested YP ISBT members will be paired with a Vox section editor to learn about the peer review process.

In June of 2020 the IF for 2019 for Vox was released and had decreased slightly from **2.364 to 2.347**.

Several updates to Vox were planned and will be realized in the next year. These updates include:

- Changes to the cover and page layout
- An increased number of issues per year
- Addition of coloured illustrations to accompany some review articles and a provision of accepted ISBT Working Party articles as free to read.



VOX SANGUINIS REPORT

Editor and Editorial Board

During this last year the Editor-in-Chief for Vox Sanguinis has changed. **Dana Devine**, after a remarkable 10 years of service to the journal, has been replaced by **Miquel Lozano** (Spain) who officially took office on July 1, 2020.

Changes to the Editorial Board have also occurred. Rebecca Cardigan, who was Editor of the section Blood Component Collection and Production, asked to step down. To replace her as editor of this section, Denese C. Marks (Australia) was appointed. To manage the International Forum section, left vacant by the appointment of Miquel Lozano as E-i-C, Nancy Dunbar (USA) was selected. A new section has also been created, Donors and Donations, and Katja van den Hurk (The Netherlands) was appointed as Editor for this.

Clive Seed (Australia), Jill Storry (Sweden), Zbigniew Szczepiorkowski (USA), Pierre Tiberghien (France), and Leo van de Watering (The Netherlands) continued as Editors of their respective sections. The Section Editors are assisted by Doug Huestis, who provides writing support to improve manuscripts.

During the first half of 2020, Terry Holliday performed the role of technical editor for the journal, but she asked to step down at the same time as Dana. Maria Davie, with previous experience in publishing, was hired as a part-time technical editor in February and since then has been providing this service to the full satisfaction not only of the E-i-C and editorial board but also the authors. The production office and the typesetter were also changed in March 2021.

The Editorial Board enjoys an effective partnership with our publisher **Wiley**, personalized by our publishing manager Claire Dowbekin, who has been instrumental in steering Vox Sanguinis successfully through the different changes that we have had to implement. It was agreed with Claire that all the papers published by ISBT Working Parties will be published “free to read” (similar to an open-access article but still retaining some rights). Also, all reviews published in Vox will be in the category “free to read”.

The policy of fast publication of **papers related to COVID-19** as “free to read” still continues.

Meetings and Telephone conferences

Due to the cancellation of the ISBT congress in Barcelona as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic, the usual face-to-face meeting of the Editorial Board was replaced by a virtual meeting in June.

During the meeting, the performance of the journal in 2019 and various editorial policies were reviewed. The transition process regarding the E-i-C position and the changes in the Editorial Board membership were presented and discussed.

Activities during the period

Vox Sanguinis metrics refer to the year’s volume. Up until 2020, each year Vox Sanguinis published a total of **800 article pages in 8 issues**. For 2021 it was decided to increase the number of pages to 1,000 in 10 issues, with a view to publishing 1,200 pages in 12 issues by 2022. One of the extra issues published in 2021 was a donor-themed issue, “**From donor motivation to donor vigilance**”, published in March.

In 2020, volume 115, the journal published 115 articles. In 2020, 419 manuscripts were submitted to Vox Sanguinis, an increase of 40% compared with 2019. This increase, seen also in other journals in our subject area, can probably be attributed to the pandemic. Of the submitted papers, 304 were rejected, giving an acceptance rate of 27% in 2020. It is expected that with the increased number of pages the acceptance rate will be increased in 2021. Of those papers published, 25 were open access, an increase of 47% compared with 2019.

Papers were received from all regions of the world, with the majority of submissions coming from Asia and Europe. Papers published in 2020 came from Europe, North America, Latin America, Africa, Asia and Australia/New Zealand, reflecting the international nature of our contributors. However, marked differences among countries exist; 90% of the papers received from Australia and 80% from the Netherlands were published, whilst the rate was much lower for papers received from some other parts of the world.



VOX SANGUINIS REPORT

Some changes have been introduced in the journal in this last year. After analysing the number of citations of the short reports published in recent years, it was decided to reintroduce this category of manuscripts in the journal.

A new format for the references of the manuscripts has also been introduced. The idea was to simplify the formatting of the references as much as possible, so the Vancouver style with all the parts of the reference in plain text was introduced in early 2020. The Instructions to Authors have been updated to gather all the changes that have been introduced.

In order to standardize the format of the papers published and to facilitate the work of the reviewer, the flow of articles has been changed. The EiC reviews all the submitted papers; if the paper is considered worthy of review it is sent to Maria Davie, the Technical Editor, who checks that the papers adhere to the instructions to authors. If necessary, she sends the paper back to the authors, asking them to make the appropriate changes.

An editorial was published in August 2020, commemorating **50 years since the publication of the first International Forum. Since 1970, 159 International Forum papers have been published.**

An ad hoc committee has been created, with representation from the Editorial Board, the Vox Standing Committee, the ISBT Executive Director and the Young Professionals Council, to decide on two important changes that have now been approved for the journal: the page layout and the cover.



ISBT SCIENCE SERIES REPORT

The ISBT Science Series publishes peer-reviewed original papers, letters and reviews, as well as ISBT WP progress reports.

Papers have a confinement with respect to the topic or due to its geography, to distinguish papers from those submitted to Vox Sanguinis. **Denese Marks** (Australian Red Cross Lifeblood) stepped down as editor, and we want to thank her for all the work she did for the journal.

Current editors:

- Claudia Cohn (University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN, since 2017)
- Nelson Tsuno (Japanese Red Cross, since 2020)
- Pieter van der Meer, editor-in-chief (Sanquin Blood Bank, The Netherlands, since 2015)
- Editorial assistance is provided by Eszter Herczenik.

This year saw an increase in the number of original papers, caused by about **30 COVID-19 related papers**. The number of congress papers saw a decline, a trend that has been ongoing for the last couple of years. We have made a number of efforts in the past to increase the turnout (personalized emails, only ask selected speakers, deadline before or after the actual meeting), but we received only 7 manuscripts out of 31 invited speakers for the virtual ISBT2020 meeting.

In May 2021, a themed issue will appear on Donor Motivation. Of the 11 papers we received, 10 were ultimately accepted for publication.

The rejection rate was about 50%, the majority of which were immediate rejects. This percentage is in line with previous years.

The attempt to become Medline-indexed in 2020, was not successful.

The next steps will be determined in 2021.





ISBT SCIENCE SERIES REPORT

Manuscript Rejection Rates 2020

Total Original Manuscripts submitted, Jan 1 – Dec 31	97
Total Original Manuscripts without a final decision on April 21, 2021	2
Total Original Manuscripts included in Accept/Reject calculations	95
Total Rejects	50 (52%)
Total Immediate Rejects	36 (38%)
Total Rejects after review	14 (15%)
Revision expired, withdrawn	4 (4%)
Total Accepted	41 (43%)
Total Congress Manuscripts submitted Jan 1 - Dec 31	10*
Total Original Manuscripts without a final decision	2
Total Original Manuscripts included in Accept/Reject calculations	8
Total Rejects	0 (0%)
Total Immediate Rejects	0 (0%)
Total Rejects after review	0 (0%)
Revision expired	0 (0%)
Total Accepted	8 (100%)

*2020: Part of Bangkok (3) and all Barcelona congress papers (7) combined

Manuscript Rejection Rates 2016-2019

	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total Original Manuscripts submitted, Jan 1 – Dec 31	54	43	36	45
Total Original Manuscripts without a final decision	0	2	2	2
Total Original Manuscripts included in Accept/Reject calculations	54	41	32	43
Total Rejects	36 (67%)	21 (51%)	6 (19%)	17 (40%)
Total Immediate Rejects	26(48%)	14 (34%)	2 (6%)	8 (19%)
Total Rejects after review	10 (19%)	7 (17%)	4 (13%)	9 (21%)
Revision expired	1 (2%)	1 (2%)	2 (6%)	2 (5%)
Total Accepted	17 (31%)	19 (46%)	24 (67%)	24 (56%)
Total Congress Manuscripts submitted Jan 1 - Dec 31	43*	65*	23*	38*
Total Original Manuscripts without a final decision	0	0	0	2
Total Original Manuscripts included in Accept/Reject calculations	43	65	23	36
Total Rejects	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	2 (9%)	0 (0%)
Total Immediate Rejects	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (4%)	0 (0%)
Total Rejects after review	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (4%)	0 (0%)
Revision expired	2 (5%)	6 (9%)	1 (4%)	2 (6%)
Total Accepted	41 (95%)	59 (91%)	20 (87%)	34 (94%)

*2016: Dubai congress papers only; 2017: Copenhagen and Guangzhou congress papers combined; 2018: Toronto congress papers only; 2019: Basel and Bangkok congress papers combined



FOUNDATION OF ISBT

The core objective of the Foundation of the International Society of Blood Transfusion is to **support research and education initiatives related to Transfusion Medicine globally**, with a specific focus on Developing Countries. The Foundation is registered as a charity in The Netherlands and its only source of funding is from the International Society of Blood Transfusion.

The Foundation is managed by a Board of Directors comprising two elected ISBT members:

- Secretary General of ISBT, **Gwen Clarke**
- Treasurer of ISBT, **Eric Jansen**
- Senior Vice President of ISBT, who also serves as Chairperson of the Standing Committee of the ISBT Academy, **Masja De Haas**

Geoff Daniels and Martin Gorham retired from the Board in the 2020/21 financial year. Ravi Reddy and So Yong Kwon were elected to serve on the Board. The Board wishes to thank Geoff and Martin for their service.

The Foundation delegates the operational activities related to the receipt of applications for funding, adjudicating of applications and approval of grants up to €5,000 to the ISBT Academy Standing Committee assisted by staff from ISBT Central Office. Any application in excess of €5,000 is referred to the Foundation Board for final approval.

The Board met in November and the key matters discussed included:

- a review of the financial status
- an update of the applications received and funding granted
- as reviewing governance related to the awarding of grants and ensuring recipients account for the funds spent and provide feedback

The COVID-19 pandemic, and various levels of restrictions in most countries, severely impacted on the ability to have face to face meetings. As a result the number of applications received and funding granted was lower than previous years. Seventeen applications were initially received. Of these eight were postponed, three were rejected and only six applications were funded. Funding was provided for three workshops in **Africa**, two meetings in **Malaysia** and one meeting in **Pakistan**.

ISBT AWARD AND PRIZES

- Presidential Award
- Jean Julliard Award
- Developing Country Award
- The ISBT Award
- Vox Sanguinis Best Paper Prize 2019

PRIZE AND AWARD WINNERS 2020

ISBT PRESIDENTIAL AWARD: ANNEKE BRAND



Anneke is recognised for her work related to many areas of transfusion medicine including her pioneering work in the field of prevention of immunisation caused by blood transfusions. She investigated centrifugation and filtration leukoreduced blood components for treatment of hemato-oncology patients, and showed that alloimmunization could be diminished or even prevented when using leukoreduced blood components (Eernisse & Brand, Exp Hematol 1981). She also showed that cytomegalovirus transmission could completely be prevented when all components were leukoreduced. With Leo van de Watering, she evaluated the logistics and cost effectiveness of leukoreduction in a number of randomized clinical trials. Since then, “universal” leukoreduction of all cellular blood components has become an accepted practice in many countries.

These developments have greatly improved the quality of life, as well as chances of survival for hemato-oncological patients. In 1994 together with Fred Valkenburg, she founded the cord blood bank in Leiden. She has co-authored more than 350 papers and to this date is a well respected specialist in transfusion medicine.

The Presidential Award is given by the Foundation Transfusion Medicine.



THE JEAN JULLIARD PRIZE FOR YOUNG SCIENTISTS 40 YEARS AND UNDER: ANGELO D'ALESSANDRO

Angelo D'Alessandro (age 35), PhD is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics, University of Colorado Denver – Anschutz Medical Campus. He is also the founder and director of the Metabolomics Core of the School of Medicine and Colorado Cancer Center. He received his PhD at the Tuscia University (Italy) under the aegis of the Italian National Blood Center. His postdoctoral career focused on Mass Spectrometry-based Omics technologies at Bruker Daltonics (Bremen, Germany), Cancer Metabolism at the Beatson Institute for Cancer Center (Vousden Lab - Glasgow, Scotland) and Metabolomics in Transfusion Medicine at the University of Colorado Denver (Aurora, USA).

He has published over 235 papers in peer-reviewed scientific journals.



THE ISBT DEVELOPING COUNTRY AWARD 2020: THE LIFE BLOOD CENTRE, GUJARAT, INDIA

Dr. Sanjiv Nandani M.D. Pathologist, is the head of the centre. The review committee recognised the outstanding work that the department undertakes to provide safe, high-quality and stable blood supply to support 30,000 patients in the region. The ISBT Award for Developing Countries is awarded to a Blood Service/Centre or a Department of Transfusion medicine within a medical institution from a Developing Country that has made a significant contribution in strengthening Blood Transfusion Practice within the Country.

ISBT AWARDS 2020

The ISBT Award is granted to persons who have made a significant contribution to transfusion medicine and science, particularly in an educational aspect. The decision to grant the ISBT Award is the privilege of the ISBT Executive Committee, following nominations by the whole ISBT board. Three ISBT Awards were given in 2020, and were presented to the recipients during the opening ceremony at ISBT2020.

Dana Devine



For her service as the **Editor-in-Chief of Vox Sanguinis** from 2012-2020, and also for her contributions to the ISBT congresses and community over many years, including leading the scientific organizing committee for the Vancouver ISBT meeting. The Executive also recognised her leadership in research, her outstanding **contribution as an educator and mentor**, and her commitment to sharing knowledge that has impacted on best practice and development of blood systems worldwide.

Susan Stramer



For her long-standing and active **service to the ISBT Working Party on transfusion-transmitted infectious diseases** (TTID), and her contribution to the ISBT Working Party on Global Blood Safety. The Executive also recognised her **extensive research into virology and TTID**, that has helped to inform national and international policy, practice and education to improve the safety of blood supplies around the world. In her leading position in the field during many years, she has served as a role model for a new generation of TTID scientists.

Judith Chapman



For her exceptional service to ISBT, both as **ISBT Executive Director** and in other roles prior to her appointment as ED in 2009, including acting as Vice President from 2006-2008, founding the blood supply working party and being an active member of the platelet immunobiology and granulocyte working parties.

Judith led and transformed the Society over her 11 years as ED, **establishing the ISBT Central Office in Amsterdam**, engaging the membership and expanding ISBT activities beyond the annual congress, not least the successful ISBT Academy, which has continued to improve ISBT's educational offering to its members.

Judith has overseen governance of the society and formalised excellent working relationships with many global partners including other professional societies, NGOs and ISBT's Corporate Partners.

Vox Sanguinis Best Paper Prize 2019



Carl McDonald

The Vox Sanguinis Best Paper prize was awarded to Carl McDonald for the manuscript "Extending the 30 minute rule for red cell units – investigation of the bacterial risk of 60 minute exposures to ambient temperature" by Kate Aplin, Tyrone Pitt, Jennifer Allen, Anjana Roy, Katrina Tidey, Joanne Ball, Carl Peter McDonald. Vox Sanguinis (2019) 114, 189–197.



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