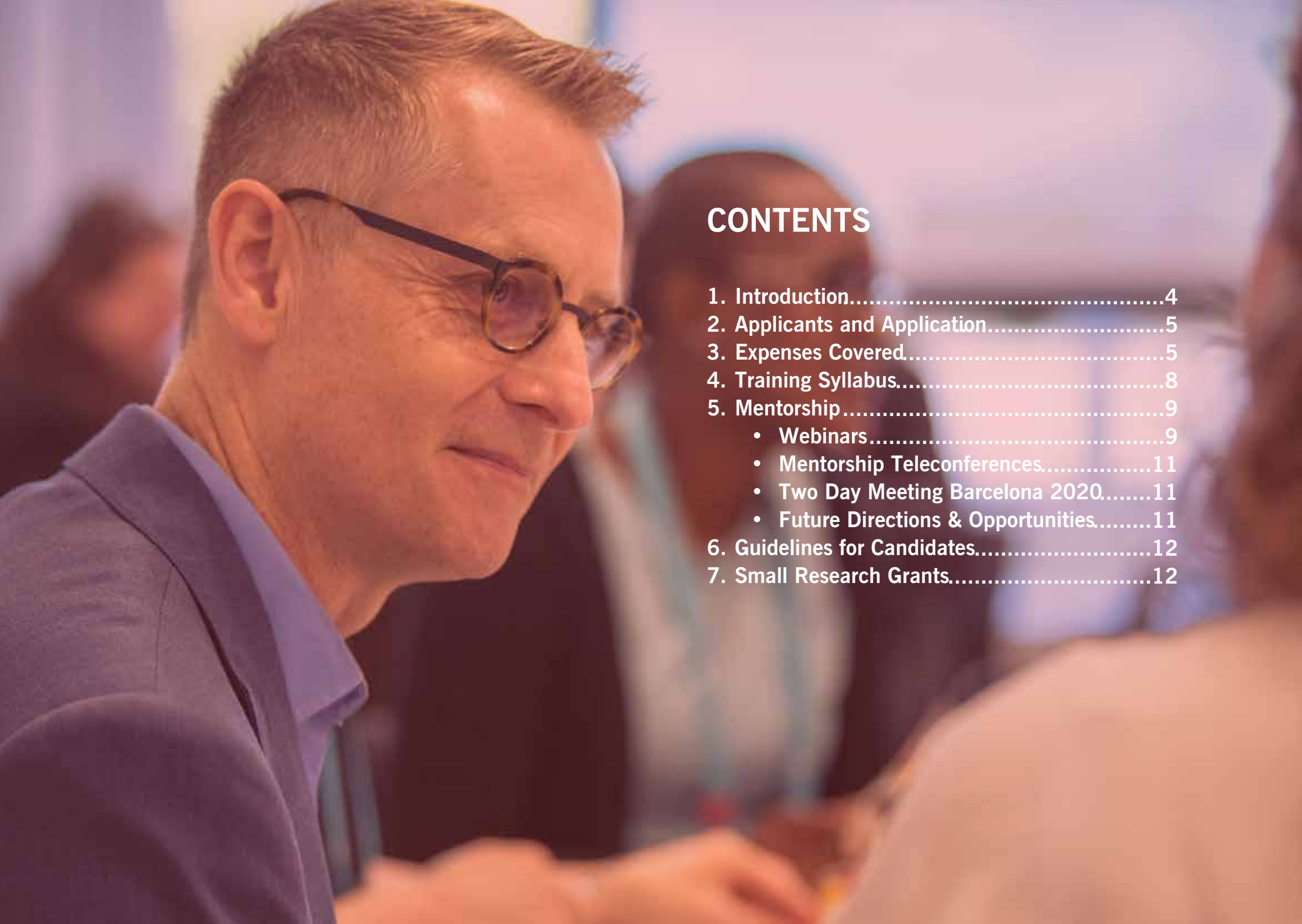
I TRY IT

ISBT TRANSFUSION RESEARCH YOUNG INVESTIGATOR TRAINING

ISBT ACADEMY



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1. Introduction

The **I TRY IT 2020 programme** is an initiative of the ISBT Academy and is led by members of the Transfusion-Transmitted Infectious Disease (TTID) and Clinical Transfusion (CT) Working Parties (WP).

I TRY IT is a two part programme. Part 1 consists of training in Study Design and Protocol Development and part 2 consists of training in Analysing Data and Manuscript Preparation. The two parts of the programme are offered in different years. The focus of the programme in 2020 will be Study Design and Protocol Development which teaches participants how to write research protocols while developing a research project that will answer a specific research question.

The training programme uses **web-based lectures, homework, and in-person meetings linked to ISBT Congresses**. Eight to ten lectures are given as webinars, along with one-on-one web-based or teleconference meetings to discuss your specific study. These will be held in early 2020. Homework is assigned that is focused on writing the sections of a research protocol.

As part of the programme you will write a real research protocol that can be implemented in your setting. I TRY IT also meets in-person linked to **ISBT Congresses** where you will experience review and discussion of your project by others and experience peer-review as both a reviewer and reviewee. In addition, you are expected to attend the Transfusion-Transmitted Infectious Disease (TTID) or Clinical Transfusion (CP) Working Party meeting that occurs before the main congress as part of your training experience.

To facilitate conducting the research, the Study Design and Protocol Development programme concludes with the opportunity for you to apply for a small research grant to conduct your study. These research grants are competitive and awarded to the best protocols as judged by expert reviewers from the ISBT Working Parties.

RESEARCH IN YOUR COUNTRY CAN BENEFIT TRANSFUSION MEDICINE LOCALLY AND CONTRIBUTE TO THE GLOBAL BODY OF KNOWLEDGE IN TRANSFUSION MEDICINE

There are many 'bright ideas' or research discoveries in the field of transfusion medicine that are waiting for young investigators. So jump in, say "I TRY IT", and send us your applications for I TRY IT 2020 programme. More details on the programme and required application materials are provided on subsequent pages of this overview.

Sincerely yours,

the I TRY IT 2020 Mentors - Brian Custer, Marion Vermeulen, Michael Schmidt, Sheila O'Brien, Leo van de Watering, and Arwa Al Riyami.

2. Applicants and Application

You are invited to submit your application by email, with your research idea to the I TRY IT Program Coordinator, Ms. Melissa Bailey. **Applications will be accepted through January 15, 2020.**

Program Coordinator, Ms. Melissa Bailey
Phone +1 415-354-1388
E-mail: MBailey@vitalant.org

To **apply**, please provide the following:

1. A current version of your curriculum vitae (CV) or resume
    - Please be sure to list any scientific publications.
2. A preliminary research idea or research question description.
    - This overview must not exceed a one-sided single page, describing the transfusion related study you would like to conduct.

3. Expenses Covered

Travel and accommodation expenses will be paid by the ISBT Academy for you to attend the 36th ISBT International Congress in Barcelona, Spain and for you to participate in the I TRY IT in-person meeting.

Travel, congress registration fees, and room and board expenses to attend the ISBT congress will be covered. ISBT Central Office will work with you to arrange international travel. You are responsible for securing any required travel documents such as passports or visas. ISBT will assist you by providing letters of invitation, but you will have to apply and pay applicable fees yourself.

In addition, you must become a member of ISBT. ISBT membership fees are not covered by the I TRY IT programme. See the link for relevant information on the cost of membership based on your home country.

WWW.ISBTWEB.ORG/MY-ISBT/JOIN/


“IF YOU NEVER TRY
YOU’LL NEVER KNOW”

4. Training Syllabus

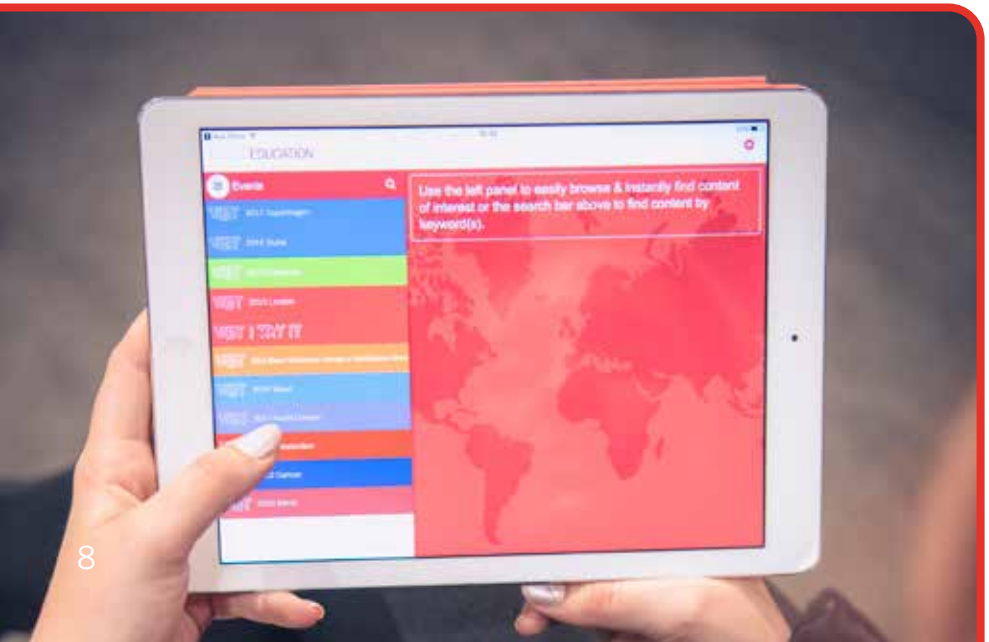
The ISBT Academy is holding a 6th edition of the program for young investigators in 2020. The course syllabus is available from Ms. Melissa Bailey. The complete syllabus will include 10 webinars starting in March and will be spaced throughout the months leading up to the Barcelona meeting. Attendance at lectures, completed homework assignments, participation in one-on-one teleconferences, and at the in-person meetings at the Barcelona ISBT Congress are required.

In Barcelona on the first day that we meet you will present your completed research protocol at the workshop. We will also meet for a half-day following the congress and at that time you will provide a critique of another participant's protocol.

The program will cover all relevant parts of the scientific process and train participants to ask the right questions, design relevant studies, prevent mistakes and bias within the study design, and plan experiments correctly. In part 2 of the programme (not offered in 2020) we will teach you to analyse data to obtain high-quality results, and how to write a manuscript so that you can publish findings in the best scientific manner. The 2020 program for young investigators of the ISBT Academy will be structured into the following parts:

1. Ten lectures by webinar before the ISBT regional congress in Barcelona, each focused on different aspects of a research protocol.

2. A two day workshop meeting linked to the ISBT Global congress in Barcelona. I TRY IT will be held one day before and after the congress.



5. Mentorship

a) Webinars

To develop your research idea into a research protocol, over the course of 10 web lectures, you will learn about general tools for scientific research. Documents including the course presentations and recorded lectures can be downloaded. At the end of each lecture, homework assignments will be completed. These will focus on parts of the research protocol. Homework will not be "busywork" but will instead be specific parts of an overall research protocol. The homework will be reviewed by the course mentors and comments provided back to participants before the next webinar sessions.

The lectures will start in February 2020. The webinars will cover the following content. **Note that all times below are Coordinated Universal Time**. You will need to convert this to your local time::

LECTURE/ LECTURER	DATE	TOPIC	HOMEWORK DUE
Brian Custer	12 February 2020 at 15:00 UTC	1. Protocol outline 2. Conceiving the research question and study hypothesis	19 February 2020
Arwa Al Riyami	26 February 2020 at 15:00 UTC	1. Background and significance section of a protocol 2. Literature search and references	4 March 2020
Marion Vermeulen	11 March 2020 at 15:00 UTC	Basics of measurement: variable types, precision and accuracy	18 March 2020
Leo van de Watering	25 March 2020 at 15:00 UTC	Estimating Sample Size & Power	3 April 2020

LECTURE/ LECTURER	DATE	TOPIC	HOMEWORK DUE
Sheila O'Brien	8 April 2020 at 15:00 UTC	Study Design Part 1: Overview of study designs observational study designs (case series, cohort, case control) randomized designs	15 April 2020
Michael Schmidt	22 April 2020 at 15:00 UTC	Study Design Part 2: Designing studies of medical tests, including sensitivity and specificity, Large data base studies	29 April 2020
Leo van de Watering	6 May 2020 at 15:00 UTC	Data validity, cause and effect, issues of bias	13 May 2020
Brian Custer	13 May 2020 at 15:00 UTC	Data management, preparation for analysis & introduction to statistical analyses	20 May 2020
Sheila O'Brien	27 May 2020 at 15:00 UTC	Development of research questionnaires and data collection instruments	3 June 2020
Marion Vermeulen	3 June 2020 at 15:00 UTC	Research ethics, budget	10 June 2020

b) Mentorship Teleconferences

Each participant will be assigned a primary and secondary mentor. This small group, or by one-on-one meetings, will connect at least twice throughout the duration of the course using teleconference, web-based meetings, or face time applications. We will work with you to develop research questions that can be answered in a relatively short research time period, meaning in a period of 3 or fewer years from start to manuscript submission, and also explore topics that can be worked on for one's entire life.

These interactions will help to guide the development of your protocol. Mentorship teleconferences with you to help you define the research question and study design, and to complete your sample size or power estimation are planned. The lectures and webinars will be used to refine each participant's research project to include other key aspects of study design and protocol writing. A draft protocol will be completed by the beginning of the congress in Barcelona.

c) Two Day Meeting Barcelona 2020

Each participant will be invited to join the ISBT TTID or CT WP meetings that take place prior to the start of the Congress as an observer where you will have the opportunity to hear the latest transfusion research in the area of TTID or CT, depending on your research interests.

There will be two approximately one-day I TRY IT meetings in Barcelona. During the first meeting, before the ISBT congress, you will meet your colleagues and mentors and present your study to your colleagues. You will be given one of your fellow participant's protocols for review in preparation for the second in-person meeting/workshop after the Congress. All protocols will be peer reviewed during the workshop. Constructive critiques will be provided. All participants can make the changes they agree with based on the peer reviewer comments and submit a final study protocol after the workshop. **A final version of the protocol following revisions after the critique is necessary to receive the ISBT I TRY IT Certificate of Participation**. For those who are interested in the small grants, your protocols will be reviewed by an external panel

d) Future Directions & Opportunities

Experts from ISBT will also discuss with the I TRY IT participants about other local opportunities for national and international research programmes and grants funding opportunities. The objective of the time together in Barcelona is to give participants exposure to current topics and knowledge of TTID and CT research projects, to stimulate participants' own ideas for further research and studies, and to support science and develop research careers.

6. Guidelines for Candidates

Candidates should work in a blood transfusion service or in a hospital based blood bank. Previous scientific research experience is fine, but not mandatory. Participation is open to all types of scientific and health professionals (physicians, nurses, biologists, chemists, microbiologists, technicians, etc.). Candidates should preferably be from Eastern Europe, Central Asia and North Africa, however this is also not mandatory. Applications are welcomed from other locations, but preference will be given to Eastern Europe, Central Asia and North African applicants. Candidates must either be an ISBT member or willing to become an ISBT member if their application is successful. I TRY IT will not be able to pay your ISBT membership fee (see Section 3). The I TRY IT program will be conducted in English.

7. Small Research Grants

The ISBT Academy will award a maximum of three grants of € 5,000 each to the best protocols among those who submit final protocols. Projects that are funded will also require an interim and close-out report upon completion of the research. The required reporting format will be consistent with the manuscript writing outline we will cover during the workshop. The objective of ISBT is for these projects, once completed, to be presented at future congresses and published in peer-reviewed journals.

Remember in future years we will offer training in Analysing Data and Manuscript Preparation to help you to learn this part of the scientific research process also. This part of the programme is open to anyone who has completed a research study, but not yet published the findings. It is a perfect follow-up to the work completed after you have collected data based on the protocol you developed during I TRY IT Study Design and Protocol Development.

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