ISBT Young Professional Council

This year, ISBT has established a new council of Young Professionals with the mission of engaging and enriching Young Transfusion Medicine Professionals to increase their ISBT membership value and participation in the Society's activities. The council maintains communication with the ISBT board, the standing committee of the ISBT Academy, and the ISBT Central Office to ensure that the needs of the Young Professionals' community are met. It also aims to influence the strategic direction of ISBT in relation to Young Professionals and their career development.

The council has a representative and members appointed by the ISBT board, Young Professionals Council, members are selected to be ISBT members in good standing, working in transfusion medicine and under 40 years of age. The term of membership is three years from time of enrollment.

Current members of the Young Professionals Council are:

- Anwa Zakeriya Al-Niaimi (chairperson)
- Tyler Hutchison (secretary)
- Yael Ji
- John-Paul Tung
- Sophie Oyaga
- Océlie Tony Nécourt

ISBT is a great society with many learning and networking opportunities for Young Professionals. Membership of the ISBT offers great opportunities for self-learning and career development, ISBT has numerous working parties in which members are welcome to join. Moreover, the annual ISBT congresses offer great opportunities for attendees to advance their knowledge, share their research and interact with the experts in the field. ISBT has many activities tailored to young professionals. For instance, during ISBT Congresses, Young Professionals breakfast sessions are organized. These sessions allow Young Professionals to interact with colleagues and have discussions pertaining to their work and the future of blood transfusion. Moreover, several workshops take place during the ISBT Congresses that are tailored towards Young Professionals. To support participation of Young Professionals at ISBT Congresses, ISBT offers yearly travel awards (Herald Gunson Fellowships) for Young Professionals. ISBT has a rich Education website that contains a lot of educational material including webcasts captured at ISBT regional and international congresses, educational eBooks, and the recording of the webinars on different transfusion-related topics. Moreover, the society recently launched a mobile app to access all ISBT Education material on iOS or Android mobile devices.

We aim to engage Young Professionals, enhance their interactions with ISBT, and raise awareness of opportunities and activities within ISBT. This will be achieved through the use of social media, the online platforms (website and forum) and contributions in Transfusion Today. Moreover, we strive to increase the existing opportunities for active participation of Young Professionals in the educational events offered by ISBT such as webinars and live journal clubs. In addition, the council aims at improving the experience of the Young Professionals at ISBT congresses and improve the value of their ISBT membership in general.

To learn more about us, kindly visit the Young Professionals Council’s webpage at http://www.isbtweb.org/about-isbt/young-professionals-council/

Transfusion practitioner networking breakfast 2018

The first Transfusion Practitioner (TP) event was held at the 29th Regional Congress of ISBT in London, 2018. Since then there have been TP networking sessions in Dubai, in 2016 and Copenhagen in 2017. The TP networking sessions are organized by the ISBT Transfusion Practitioner Steering Committee, which is a small but dynamic group of TPs from Australia, UK, the Netherlands and Canada. Each year the session is structured slightly differently with a “meet the expert” theme in London, a “speed meeting” in Dubai and a “breakfast and Q&A” session in Copenhagen. In Toronto, the session returned to a breakfast with over 100 delegates from 39 different countries registered and approx. 90 delegates attended. On arrival, delegates completed a “hello my name is” sticker with their name and something personal, e.g., a hobby and a topic of interest. Delegates were encouraged to choose a table to meet someone new. The session included a quick breakfast, grab some breakfast and find a table, a discussion period, and finally 15 minutes for networking and exchange of emails. At registration, delegates were invited to select two topics of interest (see Table 1).

Table 1. List of topics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Order of preference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clinical transfusion practice</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy and procedure development</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quality and safety (including audit)</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient blood management</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traemocytology</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change management</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lab works</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Feedback from delegates throughout the congress was positive and additional feedback was sought in a survey. A brief summary of the survey results are:

- One-third of respondents gave the event a 5 star rating
- 68% of respondents met new people
- 36% of respondents took contact information from other delegates at the event
- 33% of respondents have been in contact with other delegates since the event
- 37% of respondents plan to reach out to other delegates.

Respondent comments:

- “It was an exciting time for me and I appreciated the opportunity to attend. It was one of my conference highlights since it totally pertained to the work I do.”
- “It was well worthwhile, although a little short! I’m sure we could have gone on for a couple of hours at least, so interesting to see how others do business!”
- “It seemed like a number of people were looking at how to implement the role or embed it into their health service.”

Respondent suggestions:

- “More table-top discussions to maybe”, “Longer if it could be possible fitted in”.

Feedback will be used to plan future TP networking events. The TP Steering committee thank all those who attended the networking breakfast in Toronto. A reminder that communication can continue through the TP forum on the ISBT website; the forum is open to non-ISBT members. Also, ISBT has a special membership rate for TPs. We look forward to seeing you at the next TP networking event in Basel.

During the discussion period delegates listed two challenges on post-TP notes related to the selected discussion topic from Table 1, then they listed strategies they have, or proposed to use, to address/overcome the challenges. Delegates were encouraged to share hints for others, who may not have TP roles in place. The room was buzzing with conversation.