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Young professionals workshops at ISBT congresses

In 2017 ISBT introduced workshops at its congresses, the first two were titled peer reviewing scientific papers and writing a scientific paper. They were conducted by the editors of Vox Sanguinis and the ISBT Science Series. Following the establishment of the ISBT Young Professionals Council in 2018, additional workshops dedicated to young professionals of the transfusion medicine field were introduced during the congresses in Basel and Bangkok. The topics of the workshops covered many aspects relevant to young professionals, such as career development, grant writing and presenting a research idea to a panel of international leading experts. The aim of these activities was to offer young professionals opportunities to communicate with a senior expert face to face and support them with their future transfusion career.

The Workshop on "Pitch your research idea" was held during the 29th Regional Congress in Basel. The young professionals presented their primary research idea and data to the mentors. After this short presentation (pitch), there was time for a discussion and the mentors provided their suggestions. The small meeting room and the informal atmosphere made the communication easier and it gave the participants a possibility to practice their presentation skills, find inspiration and improve their research.

For the Workshop on "Career development in transfusion medicine for young professionals" that was held during the 30th Regional Congress in Bangkok, the young professionals were working in groups and used

colourful drawings to show their career development plans for the next five to ten years. The participants shared their struggles with each other and with the mentors, who then gave tips on how to overcome these issues. It was a very nice experience for the young professionals that will certainly help them with their career development.

During the "Grant application" Workshop in Bangkok ISBT congress, the senior experts shared their experience with how they became successful with grant applications but also encountered a great amount of frustration along the way. In a passionate discussion, the speakers encouraged the attendees to be persistent and to put more efforts in grant applications in order to achieve their goals.

In summary, it is highly recommended for the young generation of transfusion professionals to take part in different activities including workshops at ISBT congresses. Extensive networking, collision of thoughts and in-depth discussions will help the young professionals to develop and to make their great contributions for the improvement of transfusion medicine around the world in the near future and feel welcome in the ISBT family.

If you have any suggestions for a future young professionals workshops, please feel free to contact us: Yanli Ji jiyanli2013@163.com or Satyarn Arora satyamarora83@gmail.com. Don't forget to follow up the council news on ISBT social media account #ISBTYoungBlood and share with us your thoughts and experiences. See you in Barcelona!

