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Foreword from the President

Another fiscal year has gone (the 75th), and ISBT is more alive, dynamic and challenging than ever. As President of ISBT, it is my honor to give you all a glimpse of what has been achieved in this period. Our finances are stable and comfortable; the central office is becoming more professional, thanks to the diligence of the CEO and all Eurocongress staff; a CFO has been hired, and we are now looking for two more permanent staff members to work for ISBT.

In Berlin, last June, we had a very successful Congress, thanks to Erhard Seifried and his team, who were capable to grant ISBT with the biggest meeting in our 75 years of history. Being an old society, ISBT is now developing a project to collect and organize the most important topics of our history, and make them available to the membership. We expect to release the first topics by December 2011. A new branding and corresponding website is now available, bringing a younger and fresher air to ISBT.

Although not visible to most of ISBT members, I dedicated most of my first year together with the Secretary General and the CEO on a number of internal documents and guidelines, so that all procedures could be performed in a standardized and established pattern. Thus, we have defined the roles and duties for all Board members; provided support for a stronger ISBT Academy, more vibrant, present and active in many countries of the world, at least 12 meetings will have Academy support in the next period; new Working Parties (WP) have been implemented (Quality Management and Global Blood Safety), and a definition of a maximum period for chairing a WP is now underway, where new chairs are being elected by their peers; this will confer a continuous renovation of leadership and different activities to all WPs, so that they can continue their important activities for ISBT.

As part of our partnership plan, ISBT has now signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the African Society of Blood Transfusion (AfSBT), and AABB. It is ISBT’s intention to develop more alliances during this coming year.

In June, the Board will meet in Estoril (Portugal) in order to develop our strategic plan for 2012-2015. Long-term projects need careful planning, and that is one of the scopes of this meeting.

The success of a Society cannot be measured only by the activities of its current Board members, but also by the contribution from recently retired members of the Board. In this aspect, I’d like to thank the dedication and commitment of Shigeru Takemoto, Paul Strengers, Graciela Léon; Norman Kalmin; Richard Benjamin; Amin Al-Amiri; and Evgeny Selivanov. Together with the Board members who continued their activities in this term (Erhard Seifried, Anne Husebekk, Diana Teo, Ravi Reddy, Jean Pierre Allain, and Steve Morgan), I had the privilege and honor to count on new Board members (Roger Dodd, Geoff Daniels, Peter Flanagan, Amalia Bravo, Oscar Torres, Salwa Hindawi, Neelam Marwaha, Erika Wood and Eugene Zhiburt); without the active participation of all Board members, many of these new activities would be much more difficult to achieve. In addition, I’d like to thank the whole membership for supporting our Society. We all need your contribution, dedication and support.

Although we are a global, active and strong Society, we can only sustain our activities for the next 75 years if we think globally, with inclusion of all countries and peoples, understanding their differences and looking for the same principles and targets: a Global Blood Safety.

Silvano Wendel
Foreword from the Secretary General

It was a great pleasure and honour to me to be installed as ISBT Secretary General at the Berlin Congress in June 2010, three months into the year to be reported. I took over from an extremely active Secretary General and have attempted to maintain that level of endeavour. The main activities of the Society in 2010/11 are listed below.

• The International Congress in Berlin was the largest yet, with over 5,000 delegates and 1,000 posters. Many thanks to Erhard Seifried and his colleagues for making the congress such an overwhelming success.

• Work for the two Regional Congresses in 2011, in Lisbon, Portugal in June and in Taipei, Taiwan in November, has been ongoing during the year and ISBT is looking forward to two successful regional congresses.

• Following a bidding process, the ISBT Board awarded the 2013 Regional Congresses to Amsterdam and Kuala Lumpur. The Board also decided that the 2012 International Congress in Mexico should be located in the city of Cancún.

• In June 2011 ISBT became aware that it was being sued in the Court of Amsterdam by Ausbio, a company based in Beijing, for alleged irregularities in the voting procedures during the 2011 elections. For both an injunction and the main case the court ruled in favour of the ISBT, vindicating the actions of the ISBT Board.

• At the start of 2011 the first issue of the 100th volume of Vox Sanguinis, the journal of the ISBT, was published. This was a special issue containing reviews from experts in the field of Transfusion Science and Medicine.

• There was no increase in membership subscriptions in 2010/11. Furthermore, the end of the membership year was moved from 31 December to 30 April, thus shifting the membership year to coincide with the financial year and giving the membership three free months, for one year only.

• ISBT appointed Martin Olsson to the new post of Scientific Secretary. The Scientific Secretary will put together a Scientific Programme Committee, which will construct the scientific programmes for international and regional congresses.

• Most of the Working Parties continue to function well and several have provided the focus for editions of Transfusion Today. Two new working parties were established: the Working Party on Clinical Blood Transfusion and the Working Party on Global Blood Safety.

Finally I wish to express my thanks to my predecessor as Secretary General Paul Strengers, who filled the post for 10 years and was instrumental in creating the growing and very professional Society that the ISBT is today.

Geoff Daniels
Board of Directors 2010

Executive Committee:

**UP TO JUNE 2010**
- **PRESIDENT**
  - Erhard Seifried, Germany
- **PRESIDENT-ELECT**
  - Silvano Wendel, Brazil
- **SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT**
  - Anne Husebekk, Norway
- **JUNIOR VICE PRESIDENT**
  - Norman Kalmin, USA
- **SECRETARY GENERAL**
  - Paul Strengers, Netherlands
- **TREASURER**
  - Steve Morgan, UK
- **PAST PRESIDENT**
  - Shigeru Takamoto, Japan

**FROM JUNE 2010**
- **PRESIDENT**
  - Silvano Wendel, Brazil
- **PRESIDENT-ELECT**
  - Peter Flanagan, New Zealand
- **SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT**
  - Anne Husebekk, Norway
- **JUNIOR VICE PRESIDENT**
  - Roger Dodd, USA
- **SECRETARY GENERAL**
  - Geoff Daniels, UK
- **TREASURER**
  - Steve Morgan, UK
- **PAST PRESIDENT**
  - Erhard Seifried, Germany

Members of the Board representing WHO Regions:

**AFRICA**
- Ravi Reddy, South Africa
- Richard Benjamin, USA

**NORTH AMERICA**
- Graciela Gonzáles de Léon, Venezuela
- Evgeny Selivanov, Russia

**SOUTH AMERICA**
- Amin Al Amiri, United Arab Emirates
- Vacant
- Peter Flanagan, New Zealand
- Diana Teo, Singapore

**EASTERN EUROPE**
- Vacant
- Eugene Zhiburt, Russia

**EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN**
- Salwa Ibrahim Hindawi, Saudi Arabia
- Neelam Marwaha, India

**SOUTHEAST ASIA**
- Neelam Marwaha, India

**WESTERN PACIFIC**
- Peter Flanagan, New Zealand
- Erica Wood, Australia
- Diana Teo, Singapore

**WESTERN EUROPE**
- Jean-Pierre Allain, UK
- Jean-Pierre Allain, UK

Missing from photo: Neelam Marwaha
Membership 2010–2011

The membership year 2010 was the last year that ISBT membership will run per calendar year. Members present at the General Assembly in Berlin voted to change the membership year from a calendar year to the fiscal year. The membership year 2011 will therefore run from Jan 1 2011 to March 31, 2012 and members will receive 15 months membership for the price of 12.

From January to December 2010 membership increased; the main region of growth was from Europe, the Eastern Mediterranean and Western Pacific WHO regions.

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At the end of June 2010, the XXXIst International Congress of the ISBT in joint cooperation with the 43rd Congress of the German Society for Transfusion Medicine and Immunohematology (DGTI) took place in the German capital city Berlin.

In his welcome address during the opening ceremony, the German health minister Dr. Philipp Roesler, M.D., was deeply impressed by the depth and breadth of transfusion medicine and cellular therapies presented and discussed during this meeting. More than 5,100 participants from about 120 countries submitted more than 1,400 scientific abstracts for this biggest international ISBT congress ever since the foundation of ISBT in 1935.

One hundred and twenty scientific lectures and more than 1,200 poster presentations from the submitted abstracts were supplemented by additional 140 invited keynote lectures and reviews of the current state of knowledge by internationally renowned experts in the field.

In more than 100 scientific sessions chaired by 250 senior moderators, the participants were able to get a state-of-the-art overview of the whole spectrum of transfusion medicine and its neighbouring clinical and scientific fields. Debates and discussions on controversies in hemotherapy and meet-the-expert sessions offered room for active involvement besides the discussion part of each scientific session. Project meetings of almost all ISBT working parties, the Koch-Metschnikow-Forum, a Russian-German scientific cooperation and several projects co-funded by the European Union took place during the international congress. In addition, a JACIE training course as well as a training day in clinical hemotherapy for German congresses

XXXIst International Congress of the ISBT in Joint Cooperation with the 43rd Congress of the DGTI

Berlin, Germany, June 26 - July 1, 2010

Erhard Seifried
and Markus Müller
for the scientific and organizing committees

“Being a recipient of an ISBT best poster award was a great honor, and it was very rewarding that my data triggered the interest of experts in the field. To know that the results of my research may have an impact on the quality of clinical stem cell transplantation will be a great motivation for the future.”

—Congress Delegate

Continued on next page...
physicians were well attended and provided clinical and scientific updates in their respective fields. 92 companies attended the Berlin congress with about 1,500 employees and organised 17 satellite symposia and a big industrial exhibition.

To keep the overview, all scientific parallel sessions were organised in five different colour-coded streams through the whole congress. These streams were titled “ISBT academy”, a full educational programme, “from lab to patient”, “quality management”, “cell therapy” and “blood safety”.

The young investigators were attracted by two big poster walks followed by poster parties. Senior scientists served as poster chairs during the poster walks and provided a stimulating atmosphere for scientific discussion. Twelve highly endowed poster awards were given to the lucky best poster presenters during the congress banquet at the Kronprinzenpalais “Unter den Linden” in the heart of the city. All colleagues, who attended the congress banquet spent a memorable summer evening in the palais and its beautiful garden with exciting colleagues, excellent dining, fascinating artists and a swinging dance party. The speakers dinner on the roof of the “Deutsche Bundestag”, the German parliament was an additional highlight of the social programme. For the ones who ate more than initially intended, the DGTI morning run / ISBT fun run “Nothing runs without blood!” through quiet Berlin streets near the famous former race track Avus and the Grunewald offered a great opportunity to burn some calories.

The Berlin International Congress offered both a fascinating kaleidoscope of state-of-the-art transfusion medicine, hemotherapy and cellular therapies as well as a great opportunity to meet colleagues in the heart of the German capital.

We were impressed by and grateful for the attendance and the valuable scientific input into this congress by so many colleagues and participants. It was a pleasure for us to provide the platform for such an excellent scientific and social meeting in transfusion medicine. With such a huge number of enthusiastic scientists and physicians, we are confident regarding a bright future for ISBT.

“It was a great experience for me to be in the International Congress of the ISBT held at Berlin and it meant to me a lot. I was really speechless at the time of leaving. It was the first International congress. I attended. I came across different people and various scientific ideas.” — Congress Delegate
The ISBT Academy was established to support educational and training activities. Support is offered by collaboration on meeting programs followed by either use of the ISBT logo and/or financial support for an activity – workshop or seminar.

In April 2010 ISBT was invited by the Colombian Society of Blood Banks and Transfusion Medicine (ACOBASMET) to present a workshop prior to its congress in June. The workshop was dedicated to IT and automation within blood banks and transfusion medicine. The speakers at the workshop were Silvano Wendel, ISBT President, Pat Distler, Charles Munk and Janet Sampson the latter three all active members of the ISBT Working Party on IT. The audience was enthusiastic about the programme and found it very useful.

ISBT supported the ATMC8 meeting in Cairo. Silvano Wendel and Anne Husebekk contributed with several presentations and discussions in the meeting. ISBT has participated in all 8 ATMC meetings arranged so far and is regarded as a valuable partner.

ISBT ran an ISBT Academy “stream” at the XXXth International Congress of the ISBT in Berlin. This ensured there was at least one Academy session each day. The Academy stream offered young workers in the field a compact overview and education opportunity. Some sessions were given over to state of the art updates on certain topics and these were especially useful for those who wanted to refresh their knowledge. Also, a meeting between Presidents of ISBT and National Transfusion Societies was an attempt to encourage national societies to express need for support and to start collaboration on educational activities upon input from the national societies.

ISBT also supported conferences in Mexico, Latvia and the Netherlands by the use of its logo.

ISBT underlined its commitment to the Academy at its Board meeting and asked Anne Husebekk the Senior Vice President to develop a plan for the future. In September Anne Husebekk, Hans Erik Heier and Judith Chapman met to discuss the development of the Academy and collaboration with ESTM. Unfortunately, there was not possible to make a agreement about future collaboration with ESTM. ISBT regrets this outcome.

A procedure for applying for Academy events, an application form and the establishment of a review committee have been developed. ISBT has decided to discontinue the WP for Education and agreed to the establishment of a Standing committee for the ISBT Academy.

The number of Academy events to be supported in 2011/12 is already three times the number supported in 2010/11. The goal for the Academy is to be an updated and vital part of ISBT which will contribute to the education and development of transfusion medicine worldwide.
Financial Summary

ISBT had another successful year.
We again generated a positive result (before the
donation to the ISBT Foundation) while at the same
time investing in the continuing modernisation and
professionalization of the Society. Despite incurring
significantly higher costs than last year, we were
able to maintain our cash position and our equity
at about €2,300,000.

The reduction in individual membership fees
from €212,000 to €107,000 reflects the change
we made to our membership period, as well as
the method by which we recognize such fees.
Historically, our membership period has run from
January to December. In late 2010, the ISBT took
the decision to extend the 2011 calendar year
membership period by three months to March
2012 without increasing the fee. Going forward,
the membership period will run from April to
March, in line with the ISBT’s financial reporting
period. In addition, in 2010/11 the Society
began recognising membership fees over the
membership period rather than in the period in
which they are received. As a result of this change
in accounting, the Society deferred membership
revenue of €87,000 at 31 March 2011 related
to the period 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2012.
Therefore on a like-for-like basis, membership fees
remained fairly stable.

Congress revenues increased significantly this
year, as the Society recognised the results of both
the Berlin and Nagoya congresses, of €260,000
and €57,000 respectively. The Berlin congress
especially was a great success, attracting a record
number of attendees. Last year at this time we
were uncertain of the actual results from the
Nagoya congress (held in November 2009) but
were hopeful that it would show a positive result.
A year later, we can confirm the result of another
successful event.

ISBT is grateful to ICCBBA for a donation of
€14,000. This donation was used to support
the ISBT Academy one day workshop in Bogota,
Colombia on automation and information systems
in blood services.

ISBT invested in its Academy with several
Academy events being supported by the Society
as reported by Anne Husebekk. Transfusion Today
continues to develop; five ISBT Working Parties
contributed to the Focus pages during the course
of the year. In our ongoing efforts to further profes-
sionalize the organization, we invested €33,000
in upgrading our membership database as well as
installing a new accounting system that is directly
connected to the database. These investments will
help us manage the growing number of members
and improve our control over the ISBT’s finances.

Of course, the year was not without itschal-
lenge. Financial and time resources were spent
resolving a dispute over our 2010 elections. We
were pleased that the dispute was finally settled
in our favour however legal fees cost the Society
€59,000.

In summary, the Society’s financial position
remains strong. We believe that we have sufficient
resources to fund our future plans and look
forward to continuing to improve our services to
members, and to support all those who have an
interest in the Society’s mission.

Copies of the 2010-11 full financial summary are
available from the ISBT Central Office.
Reports from ISBT Working Parties

• Working Party on Apheresis
• Working Party on Blood Supply Management
• Working Party on Donors and Donation
• Working Party on Clinical Transfusion
• Working Party on Granulocyte Immunobiology
• Working Party on Information Technology
• Working Party on Platelet Immunobiology
• Working Party on Quality management
• Working Party on Rare Donors
• Working Party on Red Cell Immunogenetics and Terminology
• Working Party on Transfusion Transmitted Infectious Diseases
ISBT Working Party on Apheresis

In the period April 2010 – March 2010, a meeting was organized on June 27, 2010 in Berlin (XXXIst ISBT International Congress). About twenty-four participants were present, including nine persons from four manufacturing industries (Caridian, Fenwal, Haemonetics and Scinomed) and H. Vrielink, P. Hoecker, M. Grimus.

Presentations:
- Apheresis in the USA – a few thoughts: Zbigniew “Ziggy” M. Szczepiorkowski, New Hampshire, US
- Specific benefits of Single Donor Platelet for emerging health care systems: Mark A. Popovsky, Boston, US
- Apheresis Procedures: Jay B. Brooks, San Antonio, Texas, US
- Apheresis in Indonesia: Teguh Triyono, Indonesia

Specifically apheresis in developing countries was discussed, e.g. economics, achievement of single donor platelets by apheresis, training and education (physicians and nurses).

Another point of discussion was the recently published ASFA guidelines on therapeutic apheresis. Preferably this guideline should be a world wide guideline.

The main tasks decided on included:
- How to spread single donor apheresis?
- Co-work with ASFA to complete Guidelines
- Develop Bylaws

Future Meetings:
ISBT LISBOA (June 2011); ISBT Taipei (Nov. 2011); ISBT Mexico (July 2012).

Topics in an open discussion included:
- Cooperation with other Societies
- Guidelines
- Apheresis in emerging countries (educational sessions, training…)
- Apheresis in other departments: (Nephrology, Haematology, Pediatrics…)
- Centralisation/Decentralisation (Small centers/ specialized centers)
- Bylaws

Set up a “Closed Section” in the ISBT Website “WP on Apheresis” for discussions (Password necessary)
ISBT Working Party on Blood Supply Management

**Historical background**

The Working Party on Blood Supply Management (WP-BSM) started around 2005 chaired by Judith Chapman, focusing on collecting information on blood and platelets, clarification of concepts such as “collected” and “issued,” and soon realized that practices are different in different areas (Europe different from Japan/China). From 2008 Francine Décary (CEO of Haema-Quebec) took over chairing of the WP and challenges of commitment were experienced.

In the interim period up to 2010 an Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Blood Donor Management made progress in reviving the work of the WP-BSM lead by Gilles Follea as the Chairperson and focused on:

- 2008 Terms of Reference and Objectives
- Inter-current new data and information
- A report on status of work was done in October 2010
- Proposed a revised name which was accepted by the ISBT as the WP-BSM
- Formulated a study outline and had membership, the majority was from European organizations.

The revival of the WP-BSM started with the appointment of the current Chairperson Loyiso Mpuntsha and Deputy Chairperson Gilles Follea at the end of 2010.

**Activities:**

a) A confirmatory teleconference was held on the 15th of February 2011, chaired by Loyiso Mpuntsha with Judith Chapman, and Gilles Follea in attendance. The meeting agreed to work on reviewing the Terms of Reference, inviting membership for broader international representation, drafting an action plan.

b) The Terms of Reference (TOR) and Action Plan documents have been developed as drafts to be agreed upon in a teleconference scheduled for the 12th of May 2011.

**The TOR:**

- Composition – got to 13 members including the Chairperson and Co-Chairperson. There would be no Treasurer or Secretary,
- Chairperson: Loyiso Mpuntsha – CEO of South African National Blood Service; Co-Chairperson: Gilles Follea – Executive Director of European Blood Alliance,
- Term period for Chairperson/s and Working Party members: 3 years per term and two terms to be served,
- The intention to have a broad representation of the different world regions and contexts was met,
- Quarterly teleconferences/ meetings
- This amount of €3000 will be used as a Contingency Fund that can be sourced from the ISBT as per need or project. A specific bid would be put through for the purpose,
- Quarterly teleconference costs will be covered by the ISBT Treasury
- Meeting rooms at ISBT and WHO (such as GCBS meetings) are to be arranged at no extra cost to the WP.

Continued on next page...
**Action Plan:**

a) A Survey that can be adapted and aligned to every country, checked against the WHO survey on technical aspects, include an assessment of real (versus perceived) patient needs.

b) The exploration of IT system/s that can be used in the work of Management of Blood Supply. In this regard various systems can be looked at, some benchmarks done and knowledge shared so that countries can optimize for their specific situations.

c) Blood Supply Management in times of shortages. Sharing of strategies that and experiences and alignment to perceived versus real shortage.

d) Dealing with minority populations as a consequence of migration.

c) A second meeting of the Working Party is scheduled for the 19th of June 2011 during the ISBT congress to be held in Lisbon, Portugal.

**Membership**

A list of the members of the Working Party can be found on the ISBT website.
Apologies were received from three members, with fifteen members attending the meeting.

After much discussion it was agreed by all that the following “hot topics” should be addressed by the working party over the next 2 year period:

a) Challenges regarding recognition, incentives and rewards including free medical treatment for blood donors as an incentive

b) Successful educational programmes to be posted on the website to be shared with membership
c) Domaine Manual to be reviewed by the working party and to be used as a recommended reference for ISBT membership
d) Donor vigilance, particularly haemoglobin deferrals

The following issues were given priority, with the following outcomes:

1. A task team was formed to address low haemoglobins in regular voluntary blood donors, particularly in the youth, under the leadership of Jo Wiersun and in collaboration with the ISBT WP on Haemovigilance. This topic will be discussed and guidelines finalized in the next working party meeting in Portugal in June 2011.

2. A task team was formed to address issues related to “recognition versus incentives” under the leadership of Pip Hetzel. This topic will be discussed and guidelines finalized in the next working party meeting in Portugal in June 2011.

3. Cecilia Tan developed a concept paper on altruism/volunteerism with regard to voluntary non-remunerated blood donation (VNRBD) and after perusal and comment by WP members, this has been posted on the ISBT website.

4. Diane de Coning developed a basic questionnaire to go to ISBT membership re each member country’s status re VNRBD. This has been finalised for distribution to ISBT membership

5. Patricia Knox circulated a draft of “guidelines for donor acceptance” for perusal and comment by WP members. This topic will be discussed and guidelines finalized in the next working party meeting in Portugal in June 2011

6. Diane de Coning developed a fact sheet on the WP for Donors and Donation. This has been circulated to all working party members for their input and comment, and sent to ISBT members and will be posted on the ISBT website.

7. The Domain Manual has been circulated to WP members for perusal for possible use by ISBT membership


9. The WP is awaiting Martinis George’s brief on the Greek Educational Programme for publication of the ISBT website.

10. Sylvie Daigneault is working on a “Donors and Donation” terminology glossary to be posted on the ISBT website.

11. Peter Carolan from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, drafted a brief on the Club 25 concept for publication on the ISBT website

In conclusion, the last 12 months have been a very productive time for the Working Party on Donors and Donation, with very positive outcomes.
Several task groups were agreed.

1. Comparative surveys of the use of blood between regions and countries. Leader J Wallis. UK.
   **Aim:**
   a) To develop a list of indications for transfusion based on both the general and disease/procedural indications.
   b) Using this list to develop robust and easily used methods for comparing use of blood according to various indications between countries/regions/hospitals normalised for a standard population age and sex mix. Learning how your use differs from others may help direct efforts to optimise blood use.

2. Develop a library of papers and guidelines in the field of managing massive transfusion. Leader Jay Brookes. USA. Aim: Provide a resource of use to members especially in countries with developing health services. This may help improve management of massive transfusion.


4. International audit of transfusion for certain common surgical procedures. Leader Willy Murphy, Ireland. Aim: Measure differences in transfusion thresholds and blood use in different countries.


Terms of reference were also agreed with a general statement of intent “To foster good clinical transfusion practice in all nations through education, audit and scientifically conducted studies.”

Clinicians with an interest in the clinical aspects of transfusion are welcome to join by contacting the chair or secretary.

Jonathan Wallis (UK) is current chair and Hans Eric Heier (Norway) agreed to act as secretary for the first meeting only. Claire Barrett from Bloemfontein, S. Africa has now taken over these duties.

Jonathan.wallis@nuth.nhs.uk
Clairelbarrett@gmail.com

Following the Berlin meeting the group has had several teleconferences and will hold a meeting in Lisbon at the Regional ISBT Congress.

An inaugural meeting of interested parties was held during ISBT in Berlin. Thirteen persons from eleven countries attended.
Results of the 2009 (organised by Dr. Angelika Reil of Hagen, Germany) and 2010 (organised by Dr. Geoff Lucas and Matthew Hopkins of NHSBT, Bristol, UK) QA programs were discussed. The International Granulocyte Immunobiology Workshop (IGIW) steering committee presented a draft of IGIW Principles, which was discussed and accepted. The following two top granulocyte abstracts became oral presentations:

- Sachs U. et al Pathogenesis of TRALI due to HLA class II antibodies
- Hirayama F. et al Use of cell lines expressing HNA antigens for granulocyte antibody detection

An attendance of over 100 attendees at the granulocyte session on the morning after the gala dinner was evidence for the strong interest in the granulocyte immunobiology in Beaune. This may signal the need for an additional granulocyte session in future meetings.

International Granulocyte Immunobiology Workshop (IGIW)

IGIW is an informal association of granulocyte immunology reference laboratories which are scientifically active and perform comprehensive and high standard diagnostics as shown by successful participation in the annual Quality Assessment Exercises (QAE) of the IGIW. Members of the IGIW who are also ISBT members make up the ISBT Working Party on Granulocyte Immunobiology. The IGIW is independent from the ISBT and is “chaired” by an elected four member steering committee. Together the IGIW and ISBT Working Party on Granulocyte Immunobiology have been able to promote international best practise and research in granulocyte Immunobiology.

For the past 15 years, Juergen Bux has been the Chairperson of the ISBT Working Party on Granulocyte Immunobiology as well being on the IGIW Steering Committee. At the Beaune meeting, Bux decided to step down from being the Chair of the ISBT Working Party on Granulocyte Immunobiology but remains on the Steering Committee. Bux is leader, an educator, a model researcher and mentor to the granulocyte community. He has successfully established various granulocyte reference laboratories and most recently was pivotal in characterising the complex HNA-3a. This group and the international granulocyte community will always be grateful for his leadership and dedication. Lin Fung from Australia was elected as the new Chairperson of the ISBT Working Party on Granulocyte Immunobiology.

At the Beaune meeting it was agreed that elections for the Steering Committee would proceed, that each IGIW participating laboratory had a single vote and that the vote would be conducted electronically. There were 5 nominations and the electronic election was kindly organised by Ulrich Sachs (Giessen, Germany). Juergen Bux, Lin Fung, Geoff Lucas and Leendert Porcelijn were elected to the Steering Committee.
10th International Granulocyte Immunobiology Workshop (IGIW)

A total of 14 granulocyte immunobiology reference laboratories from Australia, France (x2), Germany (x3), Japan, Netherlands, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States (x2) participated in this QAE program. Results from the serology section demonstrated an improved standard of antibody detection and identification. The target score of 100% for genotyping was achieved by 11 participants. The 3 labs which did not achieve this score were encouraged to review their performance with a designated reference lab.

An electronic worksheet was introduced in this workshop and it was generally well received. As a result this format will continue to be utilised in future workshops. There was also a non-assessed section for the detection of quinine dependent granulocyte-specific antibodies. Seven of the nine labs that participated in this section confirmed the presence of quinine dependent granulocyte-specific antibodies.
1. SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS OF WPIT FOR THE PERIOD APRIL 2010–MARCH 2011

- Publication of “ISBT – Guidelines for the use of RFID Technology in Transfusion Medicine” version 1 (Vox Sanguinis April 2010) [1].
- Active Task Forces: Validation TF, RFID TF and Interface TF. Validation TF was inactivated and preparations to start up the Traceability TF undertaken.

2. SUMMARY OF THE ACTIVITIES OF WPIT FOR THE PERIOD APRIL 2010–MARCH 2011

The majority of the WPIT activities were undertaken by the active task forces (TF) and the WPIT Executive Committee.

VALIDATION TF led by Janet Sampson and Robin Nozick and with more than 20 members discussed its future direction in autumn 2010. Over the last few years they had achieved a lot, particularly with the publication of the ISBT Guidelines for Validation of Automated Systems in Blood Establishments, but also through collaborating with the Standing Committee on Education so that validation (and IT) will not be overlooked regarding the development of e-learning training packages which ISBT may develop in the future. As the medium term objectives for the Validation Task Force were completed it was the time for the limited resources to be redirected. The enthusiastic commitment and valuable contributions of all Validation Task Force members and its leaders were warmly thanked and the members encouraged to become actively involved with the activities of the other WPIT groups. Janet Sampson remained as an active member of the Executive Committee and continued monitoring the development in the field in order to inform when a need to reactivate the Task Force would emerge.

RFID TF led by Ralf Knels and Rodeina Davis published the RFID guideline [1]. The TF had about 20 active members and held one meeting. The future direction was focused in finding solutions for open issues in introducing RFID in transfusion medicine and seeking information on trials and solutions of RFID implementations.

INTERFACE TF Linda Lodge from NHS National Services Scotland was nominated as the new Chairperson in June 2010 as Pia Bruce withdrew from the position. Paul Ashford continued as the co-chair. The TF continued to develop future interfacing guidelines and planned a pilot project. A draft of a first guideline version was discussed in June 2010. The TF had about 15 active members.

TRACEABILITY TF Michael Breard from AABB Consultancy, USA was invited to start up this new task force in cooperation with the Haemovigilance WP. A draft mandate was discussed and plans for the first meeting to take place during the ISBT 2011 Congress in Lisbon were undertaken.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE held four meetings to implement the Assembly 2010 meeting decisions, to follow up the progress of the task forces and, among other issues, to develop the IT-related programme for the ISBT Congresses. The Executive Committee members were Pia Bruce (Chairperson), Paul Ashford (Treasurer), Ralf Knels (Secretary), Janet Sampson, Rodeina Davis, Judith Chapman and Mario Muon. Michael Breard was invited as a new member to start up the Traceability Task Force. Charles Munk withdrew in June 2010.

THE WPIT ASSEMBLY met on 27 June 2010. The Assembly approved the presented By-Laws Draft version and endorsed the terms of Executive Committee Members. It was agreed that the second 4-year-term started from this decision to all current EC-members. Linda Lodge, the new Chairperson of Interface TF was added to the EC-members and in her case this is the first term.

References
Reports from ISBT Working Parties

ISBT Working Party on Platelet Immunobiology

Chairperson Cécile Kaplan-Gouet

During the meeting in Berlin and since that time, the Working Party on Platelet Immunobiology (PIWP) was very busy.

Publications


- Transfusion Today. March 2011, N°86
  In this issue the PIWP has contributed with 3 manuscripts entitles; Platelet Immunology investigation in Alloimmune thrombocytopenia towards a standardization of the methods, 3D modelling, a tool to provide new insight into the platelet alloimmune response, and non invasive fetal platelet genotyping.

Platelet International Workshops

- The 15th International Workshop Organized by Institute for Clinical Immunology and Transfusion Medicine, Justus Liebig University. Sentot Santoso (Chair) and Ulrich Sachs (Secretary), in co-operation with the Institute for Transfusion Medicine, University of Rostock (Volker Kiefel) with the help of Gregor Bein, and Hartmut Kroll (Dessau) Germany.
  The report concerning this workshop will be submitted for publication in Vox Sanguinis.

  The specific objectives defined for this workshop were:
  - circulating autoantibody detection
  - anti HPA-1a alloantibody detection and titration
  - anti HPA-3 alloantibody detection
  - HPA genotyping (HPA-1 to -5 and 15, and -6 and -9 if done in the laboratory).

  The reagents were sent to Giessen and then prepared and shipped to the participants during fall season.

  Thirty-seven laboratories were registered representing twenty-four countries. Thirty laboratories return results

Conclusions:

- Instability of reagents
- Reference sera needed for titration standardization
- Standardization of platelet preparation for testing to be discussed
- Genotyping should take into account rare mutation
- Distribution of rare reagents may be a problem if short of samples.

Continued on next page...
• The First Asian Platelet Workshop
The Platelet Immunology Workshop, consisting of two parts, the serological testing of anti-HPA/HLA sera and the HPA genotyping, will be performed.

**Part A (Serology session)**
MPHA kits (Beckman) will be provided to the labs, as well as the monoclonal antibodies for MAIPA, and the test sera. The sera/plasma may contain antibodies against: HPA-1, HPA-5, Naka, HLA class I, HPA+HLA class I. The labs should identify these antibody specificities by the use of their own platelets panel, which includes homozygous HPA-1aa, HPA-1bb, HPA-5aa, HPA-5bb platelets as well as Naka negative platelets. The organizing committee will help providing typed platelets for laboratories that have difficulties to establish their own platelets panel. The methods suggested by the organizing committee for the serological testing are MAIPA and MPHA, but in addition, labs can use other methodologies.

**Part B (Genotyping session)**
DNA samples will be distributed, and the labs will be tested for their skills to genotype HPA-1, -2, -3, -4, -5, -6, -15 and -9. The genotyping of HPA-9 is not mandatory. Based on these results, labs will be able to develop the own platelet panels, which can be used for the serology session;

The Workshop results will be presented during the 22nd Regional Congress of the ISBT in Taiwan. Further details can be found on the Working Party page on the ISBT website.

**International Meetings**
The XIth European Symposium on Platelet and Granulocyte Immunobiology was held in Beaune, France, in October 2010 with 300 delegates coming from more than 30 countries. Among the conclusion for future collaborative networks was a suggestion for implementation of screening for neonatal alloimmune genotyping, standardization of maternal alloantibody titration in order to develop non invasive strategies for antenatal management.

**HPA nomenclature**
The ISBT Platelet Working Party was deeply involved in Platelet Nomenclature and new platelet antigens are now included in the HPA nomenclature.
ISBT Working Party on Quality Management

At the International Congress of the ISBT in Berlin, the first meeting of the ISBT Working Party on Quality Management took place and 23 people from 15 countries were present while 14 people who had shown interest, were not able to come.

Paul Strengers, who had taken the initiative to start this Working Party, welcomed all and the first part of the meeting was devoted to a brainstorming on the potential goals of the Working Party, on the expectations of the participants, and on the achievements to be accomplished in the near future. All participated in the exchange of information on quality and on GMP being essential for blood establishments in order to produce efficacious and safe blood products in an organised and robust way. It was felt that the global forum of the actual collectors of blood and producers of blood products, which ISBT represents, is the best place in order to set standards on GMP and to educate on quality in blood establishments, worldwide. Further, the ISBT Academy could assist in the development of education and training programmes, and the ISBT Science Series could be used as a relatively non-expensive tool for producing education material. Of course all agreed that the Working Party should not duplicate existing documents and should work as efficiently as possible.

Agreement was reached on the following aims:
1. Defining Quality systems
2. Education / Training in the field of quality management
3. Communication and collaboration with different organizations with the aim of promoting quality in transfusion medicine
4. Quality indicators (measuring quality) decision supportive
5. Data base related to implementation of QMSs all over the world—information on website
6. Highlight differences among various standards regulating the field of transfusion medicine
7. Harmonisation of definitions related to quality management
8. Sharing information on global level
9. Minimum quality standards for blood transfusion services
10. Benchmarking
11. Support the countries to reach the optimal quality level
12. Risk areas/Risk management
13. Inspection guide

Continued on next page...
It was felt as important that a data base should be drafted on progress in quality management and Christian Seidl suggested utilising for this purpose the questionnaire that had been used in the EUBIS project before. All agreed and at the next meeting, the first data collected will be presented. Tom Vuk explained the need for the use of quality parameters in order to create effective tools for gathering information which could be used to compare improvements in the quality management process. Based on the surveys, the Working Party will define the priority of activities. Cooperation on quality management with the WHO was felt as essential because the WHO Member States had adopted in May 2010 in the World Health Assembly the Resolution on the Availability, Quality and Safety of Blood. Paul Strengers was informed that WHO would appreciate to get assistance from experts from ISBT in training programmes on quality management. It was further welcomed by all that the Council of Europe/EDQM had shown interest in collaboration with the Working Party. It was suggested to investigate with these tools the process for building effectively the quality management in blood establishments in the near future.

Due to the different levels of quality management in blood establishments in the world and the need for education, successful efforts were made to organise at the ISBT Regional Congress Europe in Lisbon in 2011 an ISBT Academy Symposium on Quality Management for which the members of the Working Party have drafted the programme. In summary, the initiative was welcomed, the first ideas were put into action, and the work has started.
Reports from ISBT Working Parties

ISBT Working Party on Rare Donors

The Working Party on Rare Donors membership represents 18 countries, all Working Party members are ISBT members, attendance at Formal Working Party meetings is very strong.

Terms of Reference #1
To develop guidelines for standardization of listing, labeling, shipping, testing and reimbursement for rare donors blood

Actions: Data presentations at Berlin Working Party meeting

Utilization information on ISBT Shipping Form
Inge van Zabern presented the German data on the ISBT Shipping Form (implemented 2007) experience to the Working Party members and guests at the 2010 Formal Meeting in Berlin. The intention of the form was to know of delays and damage to the product, accuracy of the documents, and control of the rare blood with respect to blood transfusion and patient outcome. Requested phenotype data was gathered. Most units were transported domestically with a few international. Patient outcome information was shown by a rise in hemoglobin and reviewing side effects. Units shipped: 69% surgery, 10% gastrointestinal bleeding, 9% internal medicine, oncology/hematology, with 12% unknown. There were isolated incidents of delayed shipments, non-transfusion of the units, and average rise in hemoglobin (0.8mg/dl average in 22 cases). There were no transfusion reactions. 27 of 129 units shipped were not transfused due to geographic distance and pregnant women (n=3) changed their delivery location. There were suggestions for form improvement and recommendation for communication information to accompany the form to enhance participation and information gathered. The data presented demonstrated the value of the use of the form as it was implemented in Germany. The Working Party submitted an ISBT Foundation grant proposal in 2010 for approval which was recently obtained for FY12. A Working Party Project Manager is needed to implement the study.

International Survey on Rare Blood Usage
An International Survey of Rare Blood Usage was conducted; the last was conducted about 10 years ago. The purpose was to review the blood usage of rare donations around the world and promote strategies to ensure adequate resources to meet future requirements. The survey was sent to 2250 Blood Centers in 191 countries. There were 283 (12.6%) replies. Many were donor centers and do not test blood in their facilities. They refer blood samples to central labs. Of the Blood Donor Centers, 174 of 230 (75.6%) screen for rare blood donors, 35 (20.1%) on an ongoing basis, 71 (40.8%) for a specific patient and 68 (39%) periodically as time allows. All had problems in supplying rare blood in the last year. Almost all (>95%) of them would like to have more information on rare blood to include technical information [140 (80.5%)], transport conditions [162(93.1%)], and testing [170 (97.7%)]. The survey will be further discussed with the Working Party for improvements.

Terms of Reference #2
To provide a resource for providing ongoing information on matters related to rare blood

Actions: Previous publications/presentations on Rare Donor activities are posted on ISBT website as a resource for ISBT members. In addition, presentations were made at the
ISBT Congress in Berlin. The formal meeting the Working Party on Rare Donors was held in Berlin where there was a great interest: 20 members and invited guests along with 5 unexpected guests attended. The Working Party welcomed 6 new members, 4 replacing members who had retired and 2 new country representatives (Spain and Iran).

Work was done to prepare for the new ISBT Website Working Party area. The new site parameters were to include Agendas and Minutes from meetings of the Working Party, Chair reports to ISBT Board, Publications in Vox Sang and Vox Sang Science Series, Photo library of WP meetings, list of WP members contact information, IBGRL reports to the Working Party. This was sent to ISBT for the Working Party on Rare Donors area. This section of the ISBT Website remains a work in progress.

The Proposed Revised Operation Principles from the ISBT Board was reviewed and an Addendum created for the Working Party on Rare Donors, as requested and was approved.

**Terms of Reference #3**

*To develop and extend the liaison with the International Blood Group Reference Laboratory (Bristol, England), and thus assist blood services internationally to be aware of, and contribute to, the WHO International Donor Panel*

**Actions:**

**Report of the WHO Registry activity by the International Blood Group Reference Laboratory**

WHO Rare Donor Registry activity was presented at the Working Party meeting in Berlin. Twenty-five countries made requests for rare blood via internet, 18 by email with the following types needed: Oh, Rhnull, hrS-, hrB-, Rh-51, S-s-U-, pp, Pk, Ko, Kp(b-), Js(b-), McLeod, Fy(a-b-), Jk(a-b-), Co(a-), Co(a-b-), Lu(a-b-), Jr(a-), Vel-, Hy-, In(b-), Lan-, Yt(a-), Ge-. The most difficult types to obtain were: Rhnull, Co(a-b-), Dombrock typed units, McLeod phenotype units. IBGRL must be informed of shipment activity (until the shipment form is implemented) so as to ensure blood is available when needed.

**Strategic Member Recruitment**

Strategic member recruitment has been the objective of the Executive Committee of the Working Party to ensure continued increase in the International Rare Donor Panel and also to build a network of knowledgeable members available to assist locally and globally. There are three new members, representing two new countries under review for new membership in 2011. New members, Eduardo Muniz-Diaz and Mostafa Moghaddam from Spain and Iran respectively will be or have submitted their Rare Donor Lists to the WHO Rare Donor Registry. The Executive Committee of the WP is reviewing the potential of adding four additional countries in 2012.

The ISBT Working Party on Rare Donors is a vibrant Working Party with enthusiastic members working through international channels to ensure patients with rare blood needs are able to be transfused. A list of members can be found on the ISBT website.
Reports from ISBT Working Parties

ISBT Working Party on Red Cell Immunogenetics and Blood Group Terminology

The working party met on Saturday 26th June 2010 at the ICC, Berlin. It was a productive meeting attended by 15 of the 21 working party members, the results of which are summarised in the report published on-line in Vox Sanguinis on March 14th, 2011 [1].

To summarise blood group antigen status briefly; a total of 14 new blood group antigens were added to 10 of the 30 current blood group systems and one antigen (FY4) was made obsolete. A new Collection containing the six MNS-related carbohydrate antigens was created. A new antigen, PX2 was added to Collection 209, from which the Pk antigen was moved to the P blood group system, renamed P1PK. This brings the current total of recognized blood group antigens to 328, of which 284 are contained within the 30 blood groups systems. New blood group antigens are summarised in Table 1 on the following page.

Geoff Daniels reported that a workshop on Blood Group Molecular Genotyping involving 50 laboratories took place in April and May. A feedback meeting took place the same day at the ICC, Berlin and a report of the workshop has been drafted and should be published later this year.

Marijke Overbeeke and Pertti Sistonen retired from the Working Party and we thank them for their lengthy service. Three new members were elected: Masja de Haas (Amsterdam, The Netherlands); Catherine Hyland (Queensland, Australia); Nuria Nogues (Barcelona, Spain). Geoff Daniels announced that he would retire as chair of the working party to take on the position of ISBT Secretary General and Jill Storry was elected as the incoming chair by an e-mail ballot following the ISBT Congress.

Current projects include 1) the transition of the working party website from its current home on the IBGRL website to the ISBT website. This is very much in progress and we hope to have it completed by the Lisbon meeting; 2) overview of the allele nomenclature guidelines. The proposed guidelines put forward by the subcommittee were approved in Berlin however, we encourage all members involved in blood group genotype analysis to read them, test the nomenclature system in their respective laboratories and give us your feedback. It is important that the nomenclature system is useful and conveys the required information within the clinical laboratory.

Continued on next page...
As always, the working party values input from the ISBT membership and all involved in blood group genetics and immunohaematology. Please do not hesitate to contact me or one of the other members with questions and comments. The working party membership list can be found on the website.

Reference

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Table 1 New blood group antigens added to blood group systems (A) and Collections (B).
# Moved from collection 209 to the renamed P1PK blood group.
Reports from ISBT Working Parties

ISBT Working Party on Transfusion Transmitted Infectious Diseases

The Working Party on Transfusion Transmitted Infectious Diseases (WP TTID) held its Annual Meeting in Berlin on 26 and 27 June 2010. Attendance was very high at the Subgroup Meetings as well as the General Assembly since many interested participants of the ISBT congress joined as guest listeners.

In accordance with the WP TTID Terms of Reference, the General Assembly re-elected Celso Bianco as the Individual Members Representative to the Organizing Committee. John Saldanha was elected as the Corporate Members Representative. He is replacing Kurt Roth, whose valuable contributions and commitment to the Organizing Committee were greatly appreciated. The General Assembly in Berlin featured for the first time a Corporate Members Session. This session is intended to provide valuable insights into the industry’s point of views and shall be part of all future Annual Meetings. A social event was organised providing a perfect occasion for an informal get together of all WP TTID members.

During its regular teleconferences the Organizing Committee elaborated the idea of a general reporting procedure to increase transparency and communication within the WP TTID. Reports on ongoing Working Party activities shall be delivered every 6 months. Therefore the input of all Subgroup Coordinators is vital.

The WP TTID is dedicated to provide resources for innovative projects from which transfusion medical science and industry can equally profit. The Organizing Committee has drafted an outline of the submission, review and funding process, including a project funding request form. The draft was presented to the General Assembly in Berlin for further review and comments.

The WP TTID published a number of articles in the September 2010 issue of Transfusion Today. The activities of the WP TTID subgroups are summarised below:

1. **Subgroup on Bacteria**

   The International Validation Study on Blood Transfusion Bacteria Standards was completed. The results were presented to the General Assembly and at a poster presentation during the ISBT congress in Berlin. A collaboration with the ISBT Working Party on Hemovigilance on the clinical symptoms of transfusion-transmitted bacterial infections was established.
2. Subgroup on Cost Utility Analysis (CUA)
   Regular teleconferences were held and a 16 page Excel based CUA model was completed. The cost-utility web interface and its WP TTID user interface was presented to the General Assembly.

3. Subgroup on Epidemiology and Surveillance
   A survey for donor selection criteria in different countries is being developed to compare donor selection criteria and to compare these criteria with factors that may have an influence on their appropriateness in that country. A manuscript on the surveillance of transfusion transmitted infectious diseases was drafted for review by WP TTID members.

4. Subgroup on HBV Safety
   Several HBV studies were published. Yield samples that are collected from around the world are being evaluated to study the mechanism of OBI occurrence and the infectivity of OBI by transfusion.

5. Subgroup on Parasites
   A survey on transfusion transmitted parasites was completed, including epidemiology, policies to mitigate transfusion risk, testing and public health perceptions in different countries.

6. Subgroup on Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies
   A Questionnaire of the International Forum of Vox Sanguinis which will be devoted to Prion Removal is being developed. The current position on the evaluation of serological vCJD assays was presented to the General Assembly.

7. Subgroup on Virology
   An international survey on NAT testing of blood donations was developed and sent to experts worldwide. The survey results were presented to the General Assembly and a poster was exhibited during the ISBT congress in Berlin. In addition, it is going to be published soon as an International Forum in Vox Sanguinis.
Reports from ISBT Standing committees

- ISBT Standing Committee on Education
- ISBT Standing Committee on Ethics
- ISBT Standing Committee on Vox Sanguinis
The Standing Committee on Education met at the international meeting of the ISBT in Berlin in June 2010 to develop, discuss, agree and propose to the ISBT Board, support for the following projects:

- Proposal for publishing Introduction to Leadership and Management Skills
- Proposal for development of ISBT on-line education

When the ISBT Board met in February 2011, publications were discussed. The Board recognised that ISBT has no established mechanism for the development and publication of individual books or other “one-off” works and therefore there was a general agreement that a publications committee should be established. Further work needs to take place and the issue will be discussed again in June 2011. The Board had a wide-ranging discussion on the matter of books, pamphlets, etc., including distribution. It is very unlikely that in future ISBT will give books away for free. Once the committee has been established the proposed book would go for consideration by this committee.

With regard to e-learning, ISBT felt that it was important to consider most carefully how and if e-learning would be taken forward. No decision will be made in this regard until after the strategic review session planned to take place at the Regional ISBT meeting in Portugal in June 2011.

The ISBT Board also discussed the work of the Standing Committee on Education in relation to the ISBT Academy and made the decision that the Standing Committee on Education should be dissolved. Members of the Standing Committee on Education were invited to express an interest in membership of the Standing Committee of the ISBT Academy, bearing in mind that not all members of the Education Committee would be able to join the new Standing Committee.

Therefore, this is the last report of the ISBT Standing Committee on Education. Its members are sincerely thanked for their input and efforts over the years.

Beryl Armstrong
Secretary
This year, the Board of Directors requested that the Committee draft a position paper on blood doping. More specifically, the Committee had to answer several questions amongst which: whether the ISBT Code of Ethics should be amended to cover blood doping specifically and what should be done in a situation where a director or member is allegedly involved in blood doping. The committee submitted the paper to the Board in the spring of 2010. It found that the Code of Ethics covers and forbids situations where a director or member would be involved in such activities. However, in order to fairly take measures against a director or member in such situations, this needed to be specifically set out. The Committee thus recommended that the General Assembly formally adopt a resolution condemning blood doping while specifying that several provisions of the Code of Ethics prohibit it. Such a resolution was adopted by the General Assembly in Berlin in June 2010.

Furthermore, the Standing Committee on Ethics recommended that the Board of Directors adopt a Code of Conduct to specifically set out their obligations. The Board has accepted to consider such a Code and asked the Committee to draft one which was done during the year. The Code is currently under review by the Board of Directors and is expected to be adopted shortly.

The Standing Committee on Ethics is chaired by Smaranda Ghibu, Vice-president, Legal Affairs at Hema-Québec. Peter Flanagan National Medical Director at New Zealand Blood Services and ISBT President-elect and Georges Andreu, Institut National de la transfusion sanguine also sit on the Committee.
The Standing Committee is chaired by the ISBT Secretary General. Consequently, Geoff Daniels took over from Paul Strengers as chair in June 2010 and we would like to thank Paul for his work on this committee over many years. Other current members of the committee are Steve Morgan, Dana Devine, and Roger Dodd. Many thanks to Shigeru Takamoto, who completed his term on the committee in June 2010. The Vox Sanguinis Editor-in-Chief, representatives from the publishers, Wiley-Blackwell, and the ISBT are invited to attend Standing Committee meetings.

At the beginning of 2011 the 100th volume of Vox Sanguinis was published, and this was celebrated with a special issue containing 16 reviews on a variety of topics related to transfusion medicine. In addition, to commemorate this anniversary, Vox Sanguinis has a new cover.

Vox Sanguinis gives a prize to the best paper published in the previous year awarded at the next ISBT Congress. Papers are nominated by the editors and the winner is selected by the Jean Julliard Committee. The prize was awarded at the Berlin congress for a paper by Shanwell et al. on post-transfusion mortality among recipients of ABO-compatible but non-identical plasma.

A new contract with Wiley-Blackwell to publish Vox Sanguinis was signed in Berlin in June 2010.

Vox Sanguinis continues to be a successful journal. In 2009 it had an impact factor of 2.6, ranking it 29th of 61 journals in the haematology category. In addition, Vox Sanguinis continues to provide a lucrative source of funding to the ISBT.
ISBT Partners

World Blood Donor Day 2010
World Blood Donor Day 2010

The World Blood Donor Day (WBDD) global event for 2010 was hosted in Barcelona by the Catalan Federation of Blood Donors, the Spanish Federation of Blood Donors, the Bank of Blood and Tissues, the Spanish Ministry of Health and Social Policy and the Health Department of the Government of Catalonia.

Under the slogan “new blood for the world,” 2010 was dedicated to young donors. Barcelona developed a three point strategy.

1. Youth activism by means of culture, leisure and values under the phrase ‘Barcelona is full blooded’
2. Scientific dissemination and innovation through an international scientific seminar and workshops at the Bank of Blood and Tissues about blood donation and together with the WHO and International Federation of the Societies of Red Cross and Red Crescent a training workshop on ‘Achieving 100% Voluntary Non-Remunerated Blood Donation for priority countries in Europe and Central Asia
3. A digital dynamism to promote blood donation among young people via social networks

Many events took place during the course of the year to underpin this strategy these included audio visual campaigns (TV and radio), a meeting with the Spanish ministry of health, a campaign launch in conjunction with Barcelona football club and participation in local events.

The celebrations around WBDD on June 14th started on June 13 with the participation of around 700 people in a human blood drop mosaic. This was followed by displays by groups of Castellers (human towers) from Catalonia and a rock concert attended by more than 3,000 people. A dinner was held for the visiting VIP’s at the Pedralbes Palace. On June 14 a reception was held for visiting VIPs at the Barcelona City Hall followed by an institutional ceremony attended by 1,000 people made up of representatives from government and health authorities, and local, national and international institutions and associations of blood donors. Representatives from the four founding organisations of WBDD, WHO, FIODS, IFRC were present and gave speeches of endorsement and assisted in the presentation of awards to many blood donors. Finally the World Blood Donor Day baton was passed to Buenos Aires the host city for 2011.

World Blood Donor Day 2010 was a great success. The hosts are to be congratulated on their efforts and ingenuity in promoting 100% Voluntary Non-Remunerated Blood Donation particularly amongst young people.
ISBT Awards, Prizes & Honorary Membership

• ISBT Presidential Award
• Jean Julliard Prize
• The ISBT Award
• ISBT Honorary Membership
• Vox Sanguinis Prize
ISBT Awards, Prizes & Honorary Membership

Jean Julliard Prize
The Jean Julliard Prize was established in memory of the first Secretary General of the ISBT. It is reserved for applicants less than 40 years of age in recognition of recently completed work on blood transfusion medicine and science.

The 20th prize was awarded to Mark Looney, University of California, San Francisco, USA for his paper “The Immunobiology of Transfusion-Related Acute Lung Injury (TRALI).”

ISBT Presidential Award
The ISBT Presidential Award was awarded to Professor Paul Engelfriet.

Paul Engelfriet started his career at the Central Laboratory of the Netherlands Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service (CLB) in Amsterdam in 1959 when he was appointed Head of the Department of Immunohaematology. In 1965 he became the head of the Military Blood Transfusion Service. He remained at CLB until he retired in 1992. In 1977 he was appointed Professor of Immunohaematology at the University of Amsterdam. In 1966 he wrote his thesis; cytotoxic antibodies against leukocytes. He is well known for his scientific work on the HLA system, red cell autoantibodies and auto immune haemolytic anaemia, the ADCC test for the prediction of HDN and his work on the detection of platelet antibodies. He retired with over 300 publications and three awards. Paul Engelfriet was the the Editor in Chief of Vox Sanguinis from 1977–1996.

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The ISBT Award
The ISBT award is granted for an outstanding contribution to the educational aspects of blood transfusion and transfusion medicine.

The ISBT Award was presented to Wolfgang Mayr and Claudine Hossenlopp.

Wolfgang Mayr (1, at right) is Director of the University Clinic for Blood Group Serology and Transfusion Medicine at the Medical University of Vienna and Medical Counsellor for Transfusion Medicine, at the Austrian Red Cross. Wolfgang Mayr was the organiser of the 26th International Congress of the ISBT in 2000 in Vienna. He is a member of the editorial board of several publications; Human Immunology, Forensic Sciences International: Genetics and Minerva Biotechnologica. He has held the position of Editor in Chief of Vox Sanguinis since 2003.

Claudine Hossenlopp (2) has held positions with the National Institute of Blood Transfusion (INTS) in Paris as project manager for Europe and more recently as Deputy Director, at the International Affairs Dept. of the National Blood Service (EFS). Claudine had a long history of involvement with the ISBT. From 1980 – 1991 Claudine was the Executive Officer of ISBT when ISBT was based in Paris. She then moved to become a consultant to ISBT. From July 2004 – December 2009 Claudine was Editor in Chief of Transfusion Today, the ISBT’s quarterly magazine.
ISBT Honorary Membership

ISBT Honorary membership is conferred to any person who has made himself or herself very useful to the Society or who has made a valuable contribution to the field of blood transfusion, blood transfusion medicine or science or related disciplines, either for the Society or in general.

ISBT Honorary membership was granted to Dame Marcela Contreras, Francine Decary, Hans Erik Heier and Paul Strengers.

Dame Marcela Contreras (1, at right) is Professor of Transfusion Medicine at the Royal Free University College Medical Schools at the University of London. She is also chairman of Blood Transfusion International, a voluntary organisation for the assessment of blood services in the developing world. Professor Contreras has held positions as President of the British Blood Transfusion Society, President of the section of Pathology, Royal Society of Medicine and Editor in Chief of Vox Sanguinis until 2003. She was President of ISBT from 1996 – 1998.

Francine Décary (2, at right) is President and Chief Executive Officer of Héma –Québec. Dr. Decary has worked in Transfusion Services for the Red Cross for 20 years and at various positions in both research and management at the Transfusion Centres in Montreal and Ottawa. Dr Decary is also Secretary of the Board of Directors of Americas Blood Centres. She was President of ISBT from 2004 – 2006.

Hans-Eric Heier (3, at right) is Professor of Transfusion Medicine in the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Oslo and Consultant and Section Leader in blood donation and transfusion medicine at the Department of Immunology with the Blood Bank of Oslo and the Oslo University Hospital. Professor Heier has held the position of Chairman of the Norwegian Society of Immunology and Transfusion Medicine and is currently Chairman of the Scientific Committee of the European School of Transfusion Medicine. He was President of the ISBT from 2002 – 2004.

Paul Strengers (4) is Director Medical Affairs and Product Development at Sanquin, Division of Plasma Products in Amsterdam and CAF-DCF in Brussels, Belgium. He is Past-President of the International Haemovigilance Network, Vice-Chairman of the Expert Committee on Biological Standardisation, section Blood, of the WHO, Member of the Executive Board of the International Plasma Fractionation Association, and Fellow at the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Medicine of the Royal College of Physicians, UK. Paul has just completed 10 years as Secretary General of ISBT and prior to this two years as Regional Councillor.

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Vox Sanguinis Prize
Vox Sanguinis has granted a scientific award, the Vox Sanguinis Best Paper Prize, for the best original article published per calendar year in Vox Sanguinis.

The Vox Sanguinis Prize for 2010 was granted to A Shanwell, Stockholm, Sweden for the paper “Post-transfusion mortality among recipients of ABO-compatible but non-identical plasma” by Shanwell A, Andersson TM, Rostgaard K, Edgren G, Hjalgrim H, Norda R, Melbye M, Nyrén O, Reilly M. 
Post-transfusion mortality among recipients of ABO-compatible but non-identical plasma.
Vox Sang. 2009 May;96(4):316-23