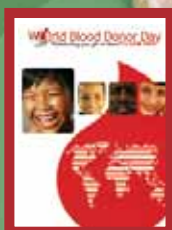




Transfusion Today

Quarterly newsletter of the international society of blood transfusion



World Blood Donor Day 14 JUNE page 7

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BLOOD DONORS and DONATION

BULLETIN TRIMESTRIEL D'INFORMATION DE LA SOCIÉTÉ INTERNATIONALE DE TRANSFUSION SANGUINE



• Certification of a Partnership, page 12



• ATHENS, Final Programme page 28

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Transfusion Today

Quarterly newsletter of the international society of blood transfusion

Editorial

Eighty percent of the world population desperately need blood: this is the priority

This issue of Transfusion Today focuses on recruitment of blood donors around the world. The diversity of problems and approaches to address the same goal: collecting enough safe blood, is quite striking. The French and Danish papers reflect the issues in areas of the world where a blood donation culture has been established for over 50 years in a context of financial affluence, developed communication, and overwhelming bureaucracy. The papers from India, Malaysia and Guinea illustrate well that, in areas where there is little culture of blood donation, money is scarce, surviving is the people's concern, being successful at convincing to give blood and eventually doing it repeatedly is an enormous challenge. It requires adaptability, inventiveness, determination and some funding to progressively shift from a hospital based replacement donor blood source to a regular panel of repeat volunteer donors.

The enormous emphasis put on blood safety by developed countries but also international organisations tends to obscure the fact that 80% of the world population desperately need blood: this is the priority. In the many countries that collect less than 5 units/1000 inhabitants, patients die for lack of blood and restricting the supply to volunteer donors for increased safety is not serving the population well.

Knowing your population, taking advantage of local, governmental or external help and applying these variety of resources to tailor a strategy adapted to the local situation are keys to a successful blood programme.

Jean-Pierre Allain
Editorial board ■

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 Photos : © Transfusion Today
 Sketches : Antoine de Chaumont
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