

LSBT
ANNUAL
REPORT
2017-2018

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Corporate Partners

ISBT is pleased to acknowledge the following Corporate Partners

GOLD:



The Diagnostic Specialist



Unlocking the Potential of Blood

BRONZE:



DIAGAST

ISBT Vision

The International Society of Blood Transfusion (ISBT) is a scientific society founded in 1935. ISBT has grown in to an international society where transfusion medicine professionals from across the globe come together and do the one thing they do best: share knowledge to improve the safety of blood transfusion worldwide.

Our mission

We are an international community of professionals sharing knowledge to enhance transfusion practice.

We achieve this by:

- Providing opportunities for advancing knowledge and education
- Advocacy for the welfare of blood donors and transfusion recipients

“I value the wide international reach of ISBT and enjoy being part of that large, varied and diverse community”

“Being an ISBT member, affords me great learning and sharing opportunities at congresses. ISBT Education helps me increase my knowledge and is a great source for teaching material”

“ISBT will address your challenges and help you to find solutions to your local needs”

Foreword from the President



We started the 2017/2018 financial year with ambitious plans focusing on finalising the ISBT Code of Ethics, increasing membership and ensuring added value for members, reviewing the fee structure for members, ensuring that the two congresses being held were successful, ensuring that good progress would be made in implementing the strategic objectives and strengthening our partnerships globally. When looking back at outcomes over the past 12 months compared to the goals we set ourselves, I am really proud of what we have achieved as a Society and it is through the collective efforts of the Members, ISBT staff, Board of Directors, Working Parties, Corporate and Strategic Partners that we have had another very successful year.

An important milestone was the acceptance of the revised version of the Code of Ethics by the ISBT membership in June 2017 during the General Assembly at the congress in Copenhagen. This was the culmination of about three years of work by the Standing Committee on Ethics which involved extensive consultation and a number of revisions before final endorsement by the Board of Directors and acceptance by the members. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and once again thank the Chair of the Committee, Dr Peter Flanagan and his team for their efforts. Work has already started to ensure that our members and partners are familiar with the changes, with the Code already being translated into six different languages. Going forward there will be webinars, brochures and also material available on the ISBT ePortal.

Congresses remain a key focus for ISBT and much planning went into the two regional congresses in Copenhagen, Denmark and Guangzhou, China. ISBT worked with MCI, the Local Congress Committees, and our Commercial partners to ensure ongoing innovation and added value for participants. Both Congresses were very successful with positive feedback from participants, sponsors and exhibitors. The ISBT mobile App was launched in May 2017 and all details related to the Congresses was made available and easily accessible on the App and this included live news feeds during the Congress.

Our membership has increased significantly this year compared to the previous two years which gives the Board comfort that we are on the right track with our strategic initiatives. We have reviewed our membership fees based on feedback and queries received from some members and the new fee structure will be implemented from April 2018. We do hope that this will be more equitable and affordable, especially for members from low and medium income countries. The Board also agreed to add "Allied Health Professional and Transfusion Practitioners" as a new category of membership. Staff from our Central Office in Amsterdam have done outstanding work to communicate regularly with members with weekly posts on

social media, uploading of Congress presentations on to the ePortal, webinars, journal clubs and regular e-newsletters. We recognize however that some of our members are not easily able to access this information. We are working with Multilearning on the launch of the education mobile App.

We are a Global Society and partnerships with other Organizations and Societies are a key priority. At the Congress in Copenhagen, ISBT was recognized by AABB for its global contribution to education and presented with a statuette. Additionally, we have signed an MoU with AABB to engage in our common areas of interest. Initiatives include joint AABB/ISBT sessions and exhibiting at our respective congresses. We continue to work with EBA and contributed financially to the Consensus Conference on Patient Blood Management. We have ongoing relations with WHO and the Clinical Transfusion Working Party is working closely with WHO to update the guideline on the Clinical Use of Blood. We have also engaged with the Global Blood Fund to partner on a pilot project to assist with education initiatives in Developing Countries and this will be launched in Toronto. We have also had a number of Regional Societies and Blood Services joining ISBT as Affiliate members and will continue to work with our Affiliate members to ensure international outreach through our ISBT Academy programmes. ISBT staff exhibited at the SASBT Conference in Johannesburg, the DGTI meeting in Koln, the AABB meeting in San Diego and the ISTM meeting in Lucknow.

Financially, we continue to perform well and achieved a significant surplus through robust budgeting and financial management at Board and Management level. This ensures that the ISBT Foundation and Academy continue to have sufficient funds to expand the footprint of Academy supported sessions. We have also had an increase in the number of Corporate Partners. We have engaged with all Working Parties with regards to providing financial support for projects.

The Board has been very involved in the oversight function. We reviewed the current strategic plan in Copenhagen and Guangzhou and made some minor changes which included enhancing the role of the Regional Directors and more intensive focus on developing electronic publications and guidelines.

I would like to sincerely thank the Executive Director Judith Chapman and the staff at ISBT Central Office for the excellent work and commitment over the past year. They are a small team and have done really well. I would also like to thank my fellow Board members for their valuable contribution and lastly and most importantly every one of you for your continued support of ISBT.

Ravi Reddy
President



Foreword from the Secretary General

This report covers the period April 1st, 2017 to March 31st, 2018. I am pleased to report that the ISBT had another successful year, with many encouraging achievements. We had two highly successful Regional Congresses, held in Copenhagen, Denmark and Guangzhou, Peoples' Republic of China. These Congresses respectively attracted a total of 2889 and 2045 participants. For Copenhagen, 867 accepted abstracts were presented and there were 78 exhibiting companies in 2334 square meters of exhibit space. For Guangzhou, 732 English, and 362 Chinese accepted abstracts were presented and 56 companies exhibited in the exhibition hall. We thank the Local Organising and Scientific committees as well as MCI Amsterdam for their effort and energy, which contributed much to the success of our Congresses.

Membership of the ISBT has increased, with a current total of 1868 members, 204 more than the preceding year; an excellent outcome. Most of the globe is represented. Membership activities are a major strength of the organization, with continuing growth and energy in the Academy.

Vox Sanguinis continues to be the flagship scientific journal for the Society and is well ranked among haematology and transfusion medicine journals, maintaining its standing essentially unchanged from the prior year. Its current impact factor is 2.19, a decline relative to last year, at the same time, its financial contribution to ISBT is strong and has increased somewhat. The ISBT Scientific Series is now a fully peer-reviewed electronically published journal; in addition to Congress presentations, it is featuring additional issues containing submitted papers.

The 14 Working Parties continue to be a vital component of the Society and in addition to their core programs, they have been contributing extensively to content of Congresses and Academy session. The continuing focus on younger members is increasing its momentum and success. We encourage all of you to participate actively in these activities as appropriate to your interests.

In 2017-18, the following awards were presented: The ISBT Award to Jill Story and Anne Husebekk for their tireless support of the Society, and to Kenji Tadokoro and Yong Ming Zhu for their support to ISBT; all awardees were also recognized for their contributions to transfusion medicine.

The Vox Sanguinis Best Paper Prize was presented to Dr Pratima Chaurasia, Assistant Professor The Tisch Cancer Institute, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York for her paper Epigenetic and molecular signatures of cord blood CD34+ cells treated with histone deacetylase inhibitors D. Gajzer, J. Ross, L. Winder, S. Navada, W. Zhang L. Silverman & P. Chaurasia. Vox Sang. 2016; 110(1):79-89.

The Central Office has appointed two new staff members; please extend your welcome to them. Bodine van Wingerden took on a substantive post in the new post of Stakeholder and marketing coordinator. Florine Bos replaced Monique van Dorp as ISBT's communications coordinator.

Roger Dodd
Secretary General

Board of Directors

September 2016 - June 2018

Executive Committee:

President	Vengetassen (Ravi) Reddy, South Africa
President Elect	Martin Olsson, Sweden
Senior Vice President	Erica Wood, Australia
Junior Vice President	So-Yong Kwon, Korea
Past President	Celso Bianco, USA
Secretary General	Roger Dodd, USA
Treasurer	Eric Jansen, the Netherlands

Members of the Board representing WHO Regions:

Africa	Justina Kordai Ansah, Ghana
Northern Americas	Richard Benjamin, USA
Southern Americas	Ina-Noelia Pérez-Huaynalaya, Peru
Europe	Miguel Lozano, Spain
Europe	Shubha Allard, UK
Eastern Mediterranean	Ahmad Gharehbaghian, Iran
South East Asia	Yuyun Soedarmono, Indonesia
Western Pacific	Yoke Lin Fung, Australia
Western Pacific	Che-Kit Lin, Hong Kong



Membership

2017-2018 - Membership

1. TOTAL MEMBERSHIP PER END OF MEMBERSHIP YEAR *

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
INDIVIDUAL	805	987	1205	1343	1422	2030	1680	1219	1354	1282	1617	1562	1755
AFFILIATED	27	23	23	18	22	17	16	14	17	14	13	11	17
EXEMPT	14	18	30	42	69	84	49	55	55	69	39	72	78
HONORARY	25	23	24	23	27	24	22	22	21	20	20	19	18
TOTAL:	871	1051	1282	1426	1540	2155	1767	1310	1447	1385	1689	1664	1868

* Until 2010 ISBT membership years ended on 31 December.

From 2011 on, the membership year was from 1 April until 31 March of the next year.

The membership year 2011 was a longer year, because it ran from 1 January 2011 until 31 March 2012.

2. INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP PER WHO REGION PER END OF MEMBERSHIP YEAR:

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
AFRICA	25	38	41	33	59	51	50	43	49	43	78	73	58
AMERICAS	206	220	244	267	252	287	310	287	284	261	327	270	283
EASTERN													
MEDITERRANEAN	29	55	71	77	85	127	78	47	61	57	85	116	84
EUROPE	395	474	571	597	719	819	841	566	637	587	717	672	825
SOUTH EAST ASIA	43	56	88	117	86	81	76	58	65	78	148	129	151
WESTERN PACIFIC	107	144	190	252	221	665	325	218	258	256	334	302	354
TOTAL	805	987	1205	1343	1422	2030	1680	1219	1354	1282	1617	1562	1755

Congresses

- 27th Regional Congress of The ISBT, Copenhagen, Denmark
- 28th Regional Congress of The ISBT, Guangzhou, China

The 27th Regional Congress of the International Society of Blood Transfusion in Copenhagen, Denmark June 17-21, 2017

Jørgen Georgsen & Morten Bagge Hansen



The Danish Society for Clinical Immunology (DSKI) and the Organisation of Transfusion Centres in Denmark (OTCD) had the privilege to assist the International Society of Blood Transfusion with the regional congress in Copenhagen in 2017.

Both the members of DSKI, the scientific society for transfusion medicine in Denmark, and the members of OTCD, the association of the five Danish blood centres were very active in supporting the local organizing committee with suggestions for the scientific and social programme for the congress.

It was the aim for the congress to confront participants with the frontiers of research and knowledge in transfusion medicine and related fields, to invite them to present their research for their peers, and to give them the best possibilities for professional networking with colleagues and representatives from the industry. Furthermore, we wanted all participants to have a good time in Copenhagen during the congress.

Thanks to the support of the ISBT office, the ISBT Scientific Secretary and the local Scientific Committees we think we succeeded in putting together an Academy Day and a scientific programme that fulfilled these aims

For many decades, the Nordic countries have worked together in transfusion medicine organizing Nordic



Meetings every second year. Therefore the local day was organized with participation of the Nordic countries. The day's language was English and many Non-Scandinavian delegates of the ISBT congress participated. Areas covered where new frontiers for blood bank establishments such as change from whole blood to plasma collections, ATMP, personalized transfusion medicine, and the use

of transfusion databases as well as organization models for blood services and the impact of the change in blood donor demography.

The Academy Day covered several important aspects of the transfusion chain as well as cellular therapy. All areas were presented by excellent speakers and thereby offering an opportunity for a valuable overview both for newcomers in transfusion medicine but also for the more senior segment.

The scientific programme was divided into nine tracks covering most aspects of transfusion medicine. We believe that the presentations were of very high quality. Noteworthy was the lessons learned from terror attacks in Europe, the progress in treatment of severe bleeding, and the fact that both patient blood management and donor management are moving into the evidence based sector very fast. The new challenges for blood establishments such as plasma collections and plasma management programs and ATMPs were also covered.

At the end of the congress T. Petersen from the Niels Bohr Institute took the delegates on a time journey among the stars on a space ship build on big data as an hours d'œuvre for two talks about exploring transfusion medicine by big data.

The venue for the congress was the Bella Center a few minutes by public transport from Copenhagen City. The venue had excellent opportunities for interaction between delegates and exhibitors. Also the technical support worked smoothly.

The speakers' dinner was held in the historical ceremonial hall of the Copenhagen City Hall – just opposite the Tivoli Garden. The Congress Dinner was celebrated in what used to be a slaughter house for oxen named Øksnehallen. The party was held in an informal Danish style and gave great possibilities for mingling with friends and peers. And this congress danced even more vigorously and better than congress in Vienna in 1814, we think.

Even the weather was sunny – although a bit windy.

We hope that the congress lived up to your expectations and that you all enjoyed the company of your colleagues as well as the atmosphere of Copenhagen.



From our delegates:

“The content, speakers, and topics were better than at any of the previous ISBT congresses I've attended”

“As a young researcher I really appreciate the workshops. They provide deep insights of the topics.”

“The Copenhagen congress provided me with a huge learning experience in addition to meeting people from all parts of the globe”

“It was a great pleasure for me to attend the Congress with such interesting topics and excellent organization”

Report on the 28th Regional Congress of the ISBT in Guangzhou, China November 25-28, 2017

FU Yong Shui



The 28th Regional Congress of the ISBT was held from November 25-28 at Guangzhou, a famous culture city and a splendid tourism city in Southern China.



This congress, one of the top events in transfusion medicine and service, concluded again with great success. The excellent presentations and posters from China, the Asian Pacific region and other parts of the world provided knowledge and experiences of new insights and developments. The scientific sessions were organized into 8 topics: *Management and Organization, Blood Donation, Blood Products, Transfusion Transmissible Infections, Immunohematology, Clinical Transfusion, Cellular Therapies and Clinical Immunogenetics*. The assembly of elites of blood transfusion medicine from around the world has further promoted the international exchange and cooperation among participants. The industry exhibition has bridged the gap between cutting edge innovations and practical services.

The key highlights were:

- 1472 delegates attended from 50 countries and regions
- 784 abstracts were submitted, of which 51 were accepted for oral presentation
- 645 posters were presented
- 31 talks were delivered by invited speakers
- 56 trade exhibition stands were taken up

As a tradition of ISBT congress, the event commenced with local day on November 25. Selected from 350 abstracts submitted in Chinese, 36 oral presentations demonstrated the notable progresses made in Chinese blood program in recent years. Ten winners were granted “2017 Quality Management Award of CSBT” during the opening of the local day. Plenary session in the morning, focused on Management and Education at the Blood Center, while three parallel sessions in the afternoon focused on Donor



Management and Blood Products, Transfusion Reaction, TTD and Immunohematological Serology and Clinical Transfusion, Cellular Therapies and Immunohaematological Molecular respectively.



Strong support by the Chinese Government to the congress impressed every delegate. The Deputy Minister of the National Health and Family Planning Commission of China, the Directors of Health and Family planning commission of Guangdong Province and Guangzhou city, the Deputy Mayor of Guangzhou municipal government all attended the opening ceremony of ISBT Congress on November 26 and showed warm welcome to participants worldwide. Prof. ZHU Yong Ming, the President of CSBT, and Dr. Ravi Reddy, the President of ISBT, expressed appreciations and good wishes in their addresses. Also at the opening ceremony the ISBT Awards were announced. The laureates this year are Dr. Kenji Tadokoro from Japan, and Prof. ZHU Yong Ming from China.

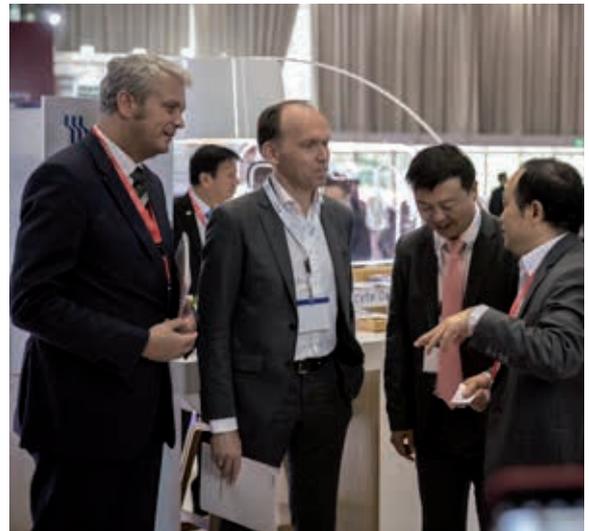
Next, the scientific program began with the Plenary Session TRALI Update, which was followed by academy session Young Donors, parallel sessions Haemovigilance-Towards Safe Blood Transfusion and Workshop How to Write A Scientific Paper/ Abstract and Get it Accepted enlightening audiences from 50 countries and regions. In the next two days, 2 Plenary Sessions, 5 Academy Sessions accompanied with 8 Parallel Sessions summarized the achievement and development of International transfusion medicine.

In addition to the informative scientific program, the delegates also enjoyed cheerful social events and profound cultures, from the show of Lion Dance at the opening, the class of Tai Chi at dawn, to the wide variety of Chinese cuisines, and dances and karaoke at the congress closing party.

On November 29 the day after the congress, some 60 delegates from different countries visited Guangzhou Blood

Center (GZBC), which is one of the top three biggest blood centers in China and a non-profit institute committed to clinical blood supply, scientific research and education related to transfusion medicine.

Finally, thanks to all the delegates, speakers, sponsors and exhibitors for their supports to ensure it was one of the most successful congresses in the field of transfusion medicine in China. We also appreciate ISBT and the organizing committee for their efforts to make all the participants enjoyed hospitality from our hosts.



ISBT Treasurer's report 2017-18



Eric Jansen,
Treasurer

Summary

This financial year was not only financially a very successful year, we had two very successful regional congresses and we welcomed many new members to our society. The total surplus was over € 270.000 and will be transferred to the ISBT Foundation.

Revenue

In 2017-18 the two regional congresses were organised in Copenhagen and Guangzhou. Both congresses were very successful in the number of attendees, the scientific level and the finances. The surplus of the Copenhagen congress was € 317.000, while the surplus of the Guangzhou congress was € 241.000. Both did much better than anticipated.

ISBT is working very hard to create more value for our members through increasing our education offering. As a result of these efforts, we have seen an increase in membership. The income from membership fees increased to € 152.000. The royalties from Vox Sanguinis increased by € 30.000 to € 206.000. The main reason for this is an increase of the subscription revenues. It is not certain if this is an incident or will become a structural increase. ISBT is also attractive for companies working in the blood transfusion business resulting in an increase of the corporate partnership income (€ 195.000 vs € 154.000 in 2016/17)

The interest income is further diminished because of reducing interest rates.

In total the ISBT realised an increase of € 450.000 in income compared to the year 2016-17.

Expenditure

In total the expenses increased by 160.000. The costs of membership benefits increased by € 25.000. Because we organised this year 2 congresses the costs of the ePortal are higher.

The personnel expenses increased by € 70.000. This is partly due to the extra staff position we created for stakeholder relations and marketing. The objective is to create more value for our corporate partners and to engage with National Blood Transfusion Societies and Blood Services and Centres

The expenses for promotion increased to € 117.000. The ISBT is investing a lot in our website in order to increase the value for our members.

The other costs of our central office (professional, travel and other costs) did not change much this year. The amounts spent on Projects and Working Parties increased by € 25.000. In addition to the grants given to the Working Parties, the ISBT Board decided to participate with EBA and AABB in a consensus meeting for Patient Blood Management. ISBT contributed € 25.000 for this project.

Eric Jansen
ISBT Treasurer

Reports from ISBT Working Parties

- Working Party on Blood Supply Management
- Working Party on Cellular Therapy
- Working Party on Clinical Transfusion
- Working Party on Donors and Donation
- Working Party on Global Blood Safety
- Working Party on Granulocyte Immunobiology
- Working Party on Haemovigilance
- Working Party on Immunohaematology
- 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 Diseases

Blood Supply Management Working Party



Justina Ansah, Chairperson

1. Chairperson and committee

Chair: Justina Kordai Ansah, Ghana

Co-chair: Gilles Folléa, France

2. Membership information

As at 31 March 2018 the Working Party had nineteen (19) members representing fourteen (14) countries.

3. Meetings and Telephone conferences

One face-to-face business meeting of the Working Party was held in Copenhagen, at the ISBT Congress, on Sunday June 18 2017. It was attended by eleven (11) delegates representing eight (8) countries. The topics covered were as follows.

- Updated Terms of Reference (ToR), according to the operating principles for the ISBT WPs
- Updated members' list of the WP
- Link between ISBT WP on BSM and ISBT WP on PBM
- Effective cold chain management as a tool for better BSM
- Emergency supply of blood
- BSM Newsletter
- Second survey on Blood product wastage, in developing countries
- ISBT WP BSM session during the Dubai meeting (main scientific programme)
- Other project suggestions for WP BSM: Good practices in BSM
- Next meeting

Following the congress in Copenhagen, there were a series of e-mail exchanges between members of a sub-committee of the Working Party which resulted in the elaboration and finalization of a questionnaire for the blood and red cell wastage survey in developing countries, and the ISBT Central Office designed the survey in Survey Monkey, a web-based tool for answering the questions.

4. Activities during the period

The main achievements of the ISBT BSM WP during the period are as follows.

- a. a. Initial launching of a second international survey on blood product wastage on June 26 2017
 - o As all respondents in the first survey were from developed countries (Yazer MH et al. ISBT Science Series 2015; DOI: 10.1111/voxs.12236), the objective of this second survey is to investigate blood product wastage in developing countries. The results of the survey are expected to be published, and the knowledge will be used to facilitate possible improvements in order to reduce wastage and increase the availability of blood and red cells in countries with low-income and lower-middle-income economies (according to the World bank classification).
 - o The response was however poor (8 responses from 31 contacts kindly provided by the ISBT Office), necessitating the need to re-launch the survey in order to improve the response rate to ensure a better report
- b. Re-launching of the survey of the second international survey on blood wastage on February 6 2018

The ongoing work should allow the validation of the final version of the survey questionnaire and the survey monkey tool in the coming weeks.

The results of the survey are anticipated in April-May 2018. It is the hope of the ISBT WP BSM that a final draft article will be available to be presented at the Toronto Congress in June 2018 and subsequently to be submitted for publication by September/October 2018.

5. Finance

The working party required no financial support for its activities.

Working Party on Cellular Therapies



Mickey Koh, Chairperson

1. Chairperson and committee

Chairperson: Mickey Koh, UK and Singapore

Committee:

Vice Chair: Peter Horn, Germany
 Secretary: Christian Gabriel, Austria
 Treasurer: Reinhardt Henschler, Germany
 Project committee member: Thierry Burnof, Taipei

2. Membership information

The mailing list consists of 32 persons including the committee. This is a stable group of members. Representation from Europe, Asia, Africa, N America and South America making for a diverse group with worldwide representation. Nonetheless, The working party is still struggling to attract large numbers of committed members due to competing cell therapy focus in other organisations, especially those with a specific focus of cell therapy

3. Meetings and Telephone conferences

A working party meeting was held during the ISBT congress in Copenhagen, June 2017. A copy of the minutes for the meeting is attached.

The meeting was attended by industry and commercial companies for the 1st time. There was also representation by AABB at the meeting as the original purpose of the WP was a joint effort between ISBT and AABB. A point discussed was to continue with the momentum of working on projects when face to face meetings are held only in conjunction with the annual congress. The main focus of the meeting was the planning of upcoming human platelet lysate workshop to be held in Zurich March 22-23rd 2018.

Multiple tele conference calls among the organisers for the human platelet lysate workshop were subsequently held—on a fortnightly basis to discuss the scientific and logistic planning and further correspondence via email

4. Activities during the period

1. Results have been analysed for the Platelet Rich Plasma survey in collaboration with the BEST Collaborative group headed by Claudia Cohn. These results have been submitted as an abstract to the annual AABB congress 2017.
2. The office bearers of the ISBT Cellular Therapies continue to be well represented at the Worldwide Network for Blood and Marrow Transplantation. Mickey Koh is the representative and Peter Horn is the other representative. ISBT continues to contribute with regards to cell therapy, graft processing and blood banking issues in this organisation which is affiliated to WHO
3. The working party works closely with the congress scientific programme organisers and has provided input for the congress at Copenhagen and the upcoming Toronto meeting
4. Mickey Koh represented ISBT at the exosome consensus meeting that was held in Singapore 28th and 29th March 2018. This meeting was also attended by ISCT (International Society of Cell therapy) and ISEV (International Society of Extracellular Vesicles). The purpose of the meeting was to develop minimal criteria and guidelines for exosome manufacture and clinical use as this is a growing field in cellular therapy. 5. Members of the working party have been involved in a joint project with AABB and ISCT on platelet lysates

5. Human Platelet Lysate (HPL) Workshop held at Zurich 22-23rd March 2018

The main focus of the WP this year has been organising this workshop. The organising committee comprised Mickey Koh, Reinhard Henchler, Christian Gabriel, Thierry Burnof and Katharina Schallmoser.

This was a very successful meeting attended by more than 30 delegates excluding invited speakers. There was also representation by the commercial companies involved in HPL manufacture, regulators (FDA, PEI, SwissMedic) as well as by AABB. The funding for the meeting was partially supported via the 3000 euro grant from ISBT but the expenses were also helped by participant registration, company support and AABB. There was also generous logistical and venue support from the Zurich Blood service headed by Reinhard Henchler. This meeting will be reported in greater detail via manuscripts to Vox Sang and probably a report to Transfusion Today. The feedback from participants was highly favourable

The aim was to develop consensus guidelines and position statement around HPLs and the involvement of the blood services and its use in cellular therapy. This is currently in progress

6. Finances

The Working Party received financial support for a workshop on Human Platelet Lysates.



Human platelet lysate workshop participants

Working Party on Clinical Transfusion



Cynthia So-Osman (left), Chairperson

1. Chairperson and committee

Chairs: Cynthia So-Osman, the Netherlands
Vice-chair: Mark Yazer, USA

2. Membership information

Currently, the Clinical Transfusion Working Party has 50 members representing 22 countries from 6 continents. Our Transfusion Practitioners (TP) subgroup has 5 steering committee members.

Our Paediatric subgroup has 5 members and is slowly expanding.

3. Meetings and Telephone conferences

In January 2018 an interim business meeting in Amsterdam was organized. A selected group of 13 members were invited, of which two joined by teleconference. The TP group had regular monthly teleconferences. The other subgroups had 3-5 teleconferences.

4. Activities during the period

The main activities are as follows:

- 1) **PBM survey:** survey published (Vox Science Series March 2017).
- 2) **Transfusion Indication Codes:** survey for Vox Sanguinis International Forum (published) : 112: 487-494 (July 2017).

- 3) **PBM website:** A PBM website has been developed providing ready access to resources and tools to promote PBM implementation and sharing best practice between countries. Links are provided to other informative websites, published papers, e-learning material and audit tools. This website is further being developed.
- 4) **E learning module for Transfusion Certificate (collaboration with EBA):** this initiative will take more time and more financial support than expected. It was decided to start up a pilot version on Transfusion Reactions. After finalizing this part, more funding will be applied for in collaboration with the national societies.
- 5) **Transfusion Practitioner subgroup:** The third TP network meeting was organized during the Copenhagen congress, and a TP program was included in the congress program. Another TP networking meeting will be scheduled for the 2018 ISBT meeting in Toronto. Content for Transfusion Today was provided. An international TP survey was undertaken with excellent response rate, the results will be presented in Toronto.
- 6) **Paediatric subgroup:** this subgroup delivered more valuable content for the WP website and content for Transfusion Today. A Pediatric transfusion webinar was organized with good participation from different countries.
- 7) **WHO Clinical Use of Blood Handbook:** our WP is actively involved in the update of the Handbook. Teleconferences with WHO have taken place on a regular basis.

- 8) **Epidemiology course:** a joint collaboration with the "I Try it" program of the TTID WP was initiated. Mentors from both WPs have been appointed.
- 9) **Live Journal Club:** this is a new initiative, so far three JCs have taken place.
- 10) **Presentations** from WP members were held at ESTM Belfast 2017, Panama 2017 and DGTI Cologne 2017
- 11) **Wikipedia project:** a subgroup has been formed to provide and update content for the Wikipedia website regarding Transfusion Medicine.
- 12) **NEW:** an International Forum survey on prehospital blood management is in preparation for Vox Sanguinis.
- 13) **NEW:** a WHO/ISBT proposal to perform a survey on availability of blood on World Blood donor Day 2019 is being prepared.

5. Finances

The Working Party received financial support for an interim business meeting



Lead members of the Clinical Working Party at an interim business meeting in Amsterdam, January 2018

Working Party on Donors and Donation



Peter Van Den Burg (left), Chairperson
Cheuk-Kwong Lee (right), Co-Chairperson

1. Chairperson and committee

Chairperson: Peter van den Burg, the Netherlands
 Co-Chairperson: Cheuk-Kwong Lee, Hong Kong

Committee:

Vice Chairperson: Karin Magnussen, Denmark
 Secretary: Matt Granato, USA (until 2018)

2. Membership information

The Working Party has 39 members from 20 different countries.

3. Meetings and Telephone conferences

The Working Party met during the ISBT congress in Copenhagen. The cooperation with the hemovigilance Working Party, with respect to donor vigilance, is continued and Karin Magnussen is, as chair of the donor vigilance subgroup the link pin between the two working parties.

Apart from the Copenhagen meeting, the Working Party committee has regular teleconferences.

4. Activities during the period

In 2017 the Working Party focused on several topics:

- Education. As associate partner of the European Donor Health Care (DoHeCa) project several members contributed to the development of the educational program DoHeCa. This activity is a great and important activity and ended in October 2017, the program is now piloted until April 2018. The intended start of the program DoHeCa is dependent on the educational institute that will host the program which is under study.
- The ISBT and EBA granted project in collaboration with the Syncopedia Foundation was finalized in 2016. The tutorials, questions and certificate will be implemented in 2018 as part of the ISBT Academy.
- Representatives of the working party contributed to several international congresses:
- Dutch congress in Donor Health Care, February 2017,
- DGTI congress in Köln, October 2017,
- AVIS Transfusion medicine congress in Naples, March 2017.

5. Finances

The working party required no financial support for its activities

Working Party on Global Blood Safety



Silvano Wendel, Chairperson

1. Chairperson and committee

Chairperson: Silvano Wendel, Brazil

Committee:

Vice Chair: Marion Vermeulen, South Africa

Secretary: Sandra Nance, USA

Treasurer: Salwa Hindawi, Saudi Arabia

The organizing committee is made of the executive committee and 5 other elected members, Thierry Burnouf, Neelam Marwaha, Martin Smid, Daniel Somuah and Susan Stramer. These 9 members give representation to the defined regions of ISBT, Africa, Northern Americas, Southern Americas, Europe, South East Asia.

2. Membership information

There are 47 members from 25 different countries.

3. Meetings and telephone conferences

A Working Party meeting was held at the ISBT Regional Congress in Copenhagen. The agenda included reviewing the concept and formation of the Working Party and reports from the sub groups. Throughout the year, there were telephone conference calls with the Organizing Committee and with the Working Party sub-group.

4. Activities during the period

The subgroups of the Working Party are:-

Voluntary vs. Remunerated Blood Donors (Lead - Silvano Wendel), Needs vs. Demand (Lead – Marion Vermeulen),

Plasma for Fractionation and locally prepared safe blood products (Lead – Thierry Burnouf) Harmonization (Lead- Martin Smid).

A white paper from the Plasma for fractionation and locally prepared safe blood products sub group was reviewed by the Executive Committee, presented at the Working Party Meeting in Copenhagen and approved by the Working Party for submission to the ISBT Board of Directors for endorsement. The ISBT Board reviewed and with a few requested revisions, is happy to endorse the report. The exact mechanism for release is likely Vox Sanguinis. Further discussions with the WP and Board will be held in Toronto June 2, 2018.

Additionally, a program was proposed by the WP for the ISBT Congress in Toronto which included topics and prospective speakers.

5. Finances

The Working Party received support to cover office costs.

Working Party on Granulocyte Immunobiology



Behnaz Bayat (left), Chairperson

Lin Fung (right), Retired Chairperson

1. Chairperson and committee

Chairperson: Behnaz Bayat, Germany
Lin Fung, Australia retired Dec 2017

Nomenclature Subcommittee:

Chairperson: Brigitte Flesch, Germany
Members: Brian Curtis, USA
Masja De Haas, Netherlands
Kasper Nielsen, Denmark
Ulrich Sachs, Germany

International Granulocyte Immunobiology Workshop

Chairperson: Jurgen Bux, Germany
Members: Brian Curtis, USA
Behnaz Bayat, Germany
Peter Höglund, Sweden

2. Membership information

There are 34 members from 17 countries.

3. Meetings and Telephone conferences

ISBT Copenhagen (June 2017) – 16 attendees:

Welcome & update by Chair Dr Lin Fung

Presentation by HNA Nomenclature sub-committee nominee Kasper Nielsen

Discussion of business matters

ISBT Guangzhou (Nov 2017) – 20 attendees:

Welcome & update by Chair Dr Lin Fung

HNA investigations in China by Dr Wendy Xia

Human Neutrophil Antigen Genotype Frequencies in Hong Kong by Dr Jenny Ho

4. Activities during the period

The Working Party business meeting in Copenhagen provided an opportunity for a face to face meeting and was very productive as it resolved a list of operational matters. The minutes of this meeting are available on the Working Party webpage.

A number of elections took place over this period. All elections were electronic and conducted by the ISBT office. The electronic elections were very effective.

- Geoff Lucas* stepped down from the HNA nomenclature sub-committee and Kasper Nielsen (September 2017) was elected to replace him.
- Geoff Lucas and Lin Fung both stepped down from the International Granulocyte Workshop sub-committee and Petter Höglund (April 2017) and Behnaz Bayat (Nov 2017) were elected to replace them.
- Lin Fung stepped down from her role as Chair of the GIWP and Behnaz Bayat (Dec 2017) was elected to replace.

The Working Party business meeting in Guangzhou provided an opportunity for members and interested parties in the region to gather. The two talks presented reflect the steady expansion of granulocyte immunobiology investigations in the Asia and West Pacific region.

* Our colleague Geoff Lucas, who was a principal clinical scientist within histocompatibility and immunogenetics in H&I Department, IBGRL, NHSBT Filton, Bristol, UK, passed away in September 2017. All members of the Working Party were deeply concerned. A memorial lecture will be held at the 2018 ESPGI meeting in Reehorst, The Netherlands.

5. Finances

The working party required no financial support for its activities.

Working Party on Haemovigilance



Kevin Land, Chairperson

1. Chairperson and committee

Chairperson: Kevin Land, USA

Committee:

Secretary: Maria Antonia Escoval, Portugal

Treasurer: Jean-Claude Faber, Luxembourg

Donor Vigilance

Coordinator: Karin Magnussen, Norway

Recipient Vigilance

Coordinator: vacant

Past Chair: Johanna (Jo) Wiersum-Osselton,
the Netherlands

Erica Wood, Australia

2. Membership information

At the request of the ISBT office, the mailing list was reviewed and working party attendees and contacts who are not paid-up ISBT members were asked to consider joining and were reminded that per working party TOR, they would be unable to vote unless they were members. Currently, the working party had approximately 75 members, 28 observers, 22 visitors, and approximately 35 additional mailing list contacts, representing at least 35 countries in all. Additionally, 4 vendors representatives asked to join our meeting (J Holmberg from Grifols, M Cardoso from TerumoBCT, M Popovsky from Haemonetics, and S Rico from Cerus).

3. Meetings and Telephone conferences

The committee held 6 teleconferences to discuss working party projects related to the validation of the Donor Haemovigilance consensus criteria and updating the TACO criteria.

The annual working meeting was held during the Copenhagen congress; 56 members and guests signed in. The meeting consisted of parallel recipient and donor subsections, followed by a general session. Topics for the Recipient Subsection included progress on TACO definition revisions and next steps, update on TRALI definitions, status of the paediatric HV subgroup, and a discussion and presentation on the recent ISTARE (IHN HV database) publication in Vox Sang. During the Donor Vigilance Subsection, the group discussed updates on donor iron status, globally harmonized definitions, and possible future topics. The General Session had discussions about the meeting in Dubai, feedback from the subgroup sessions, and updates from other working parties and affiliations/collaborations including IHN, WHO, TP forum, TTID, Global Blood Safety, Donors and Donation, Cellular Therapy, and IT and Traceability. A call went out for those interested in becoming coordinators for the donor and recipient subsections (meeting minutes available on the WP webpage).

4. Activities during the period

Recipient haemovigilance subgroup

- Continues to work on updating of TACO definition: revision group held 5 teleconferences. During the year, the membership continued participating in revising and validating the TACO reporting criteria. Jo Wiersum (ISBT/IHN), Barbee Whitaker (AABB), and Kevin Land (ISBT) led international efforts to analyse responses from the validation exercise, culminating in a November meeting at the ISBT offices in Amsterdam. The meeting was graciously hosted by Judith Chapman and her staff and jointly funded by ISBT, IHN, and AABB.

Selected experts from around the world participated in person or via telephone to a) review the validation material, b) summarize the current state of TACO research, and c) determine if there was sufficient data and interest in pursuing a consensus conference on TACO definitions. Ultimately, it was decided that a “state of the science” or a “state of the research” conference would be most relevant instead of a true consensus conference, especially if it included the whole spectrum of transfusion related respiratory complications - including TAD and TRALI - and not just TACO, since part of understanding what TACO is includes discussions about what it is not (see separate meeting minutes). The team is having ongoing discussions about the final TACO criteria based on results from the recent validation exercise and comparing the results with current SHOT cases. A follow-up meeting is being set up at 2018 ISBT meeting in Toronto.

- A parallel group was pulled together by researchers to update the research definition of TRALI. Although not technically an HV WP project, Paula Bolton-Maggs is serving as liaison between the TACO revision group and the TRALI group.

Donor haemovigilance subgroup

- Donor HV case validation project was completed with statistical help from AABB beginning in the middle of the year. A group was identified to write the manuscript, which is expected to be completed in early 2018. The cases and answers are available on both the ISBT and AABB websites.

Collaboration with IT and Traceability Working Party

- The HV WP was asked to participate/comment on their project to create a formal definition of Traceability. Comments/Suggestions were sent to M Breard.

Collaboration with related organizations

- ISBT and AABB are planning joint sessions featuring HV topics including TACO at the 2018 AABB meeting in Boston.

Finances

The Working Party received support to cover office costs.

Working Party on Immunohaematology



Thierry Peyrard, Chairperson

1. Chairperson and committee

Chairperson: Thierry Peyrard, France

Committee:

Vice Chairperson: Nicole Thornton, United Kingdom

Secretary: Sofia Lejon Crottet, Switzerland

Treasurer: Mostafa Moghaddam, Iran

Chair Emeritus: Sandra Nance, United States

2. Membership information

The full Working Party membership is currently 25 ISBT members, with 16 countries represented and 5 continents (North America 3, Europe 11, Africa 2, Asia 8, and Australia 1).

3. Meetings and Telephone conferences

The official meeting of the Working Party took place on September 17th 2017. 14 Working Party members attended along with one liaison member (Chair of the Working Party on Rare Donors) and 22 guests. The programme aroused strong interest and participation from the attendees.

All members and guests were introduced the meeting agenda covered the following topics: review of the Terms of References, list of new applicants, report on past and future activities (especially an update on case studies in immunohaematology available on the ISBT Working Party website), and presentation by the members of two surveys on immunohaematological practices.

Six members (Thierry Peyrard, Nicole Thornton, Sandra Nance, Mostafa Moghaddam, Jenny White and Franz Wagner) met in Copenhagen after the official Working Party Meeting, on June 17th 2017 (18:00-23:00), to discuss topics to be proposed for the Toronto ISBT Congress in 2018, both for the Academy Day program and a joint Rare Donor/Red Cell Immunogenetics and Blood Group

Terminology/Immunohaematology session (as per requested from the ISBT Central Office).

4. Activities during the period

The major activities during the period were as follows (for more completeness and details, please see the minutes of the Copenhagen Working Party meeting):

- a) Two international surveys were developed by Thierry Peyrard, Nicole Thornton and Sandra Nance in May 2017 and sent to all Working Party Members prior to the Copenhagen meeting: (i) How do we screen and manage weak and partial D's in patients?; (ii) Reagent red blood cells used in antibody screening panels. All attending members presented their data to the Working Party delegates. As this raised a real interest and exciting discussions from all delegates, a publication, in an "International Forum" format for example, is to be considered in the near future.
- b) Publication of cases studies in immunohaematology on the ISBT Website. Each working party member is requested to propose a case study, for education purpose (a case study template was developed by the Working Party Executive Committee). Sandra Nance followed up the schedule of volunteer authors for 2017 and a new schedule for 2018 was established at the Working Party meeting in Copenhagen. All case studies submitted are systematically reviewed by Sandra Nance, Thierry Peyrard and Nicole Thornton, before publication on the ISBT Website. Eight case studies were submitted in 2017 and are available online, for ISBT members exclusively.
- c) Submission of manuscripts to the Immunohaematology Journal about the presentations of the Workshop on the Clinical Significance of Red Blood Cell Alloantibodies held at the ISBT Congress in Dubai, September 2016.

- d) Contribution to the ISBT Community Forum, newly available space for educating, sharing and learning on the ISBT Website. As of today for the Immunohaematology forum, there are 4 topics with a total of 18 replies and 397 views.
- e) Development in August and September 2017 of the final program of the Academy Day Immunohaematology session and the Rare Donor/Red Cell Immunogenetics and Blood Group Terminology/Immunohaematology Working Parties joint session, scheduled at the 2018 ISBT Congress in Toronto, by Christine Lomas-Francis (Chair of the Working Party on Rare Donors), Jill Storry (Chair of the Working Party on Red Cell Immunogenetics and Blood Group Terminology) and Thierry Peyrard.

5. Finances

The working party required no financial support for its activities



Immunohaematology Working Party meeting in Copenhagen, June 2017.

Working Party on Information Technology



Pat Distler, Chairperson

1. Chairperson and committee

Chairperson: Pat Distler, USA

Committee:

Vice Chairperson: Goudar Shankar, USA

Secretary: Mónica Freire, USA

Validation Task Force Chair: Jan-Willem Andriessen,
The Netherlands

Traceability Task Force Chair: Michael Breard, USA

RFID Task Force Chair: Lynne Briggs, USA

Co-Chair: Wayne Bolton, Australia

Interface Task Force Chair: Linda Lodge, UK, Past Chair:
Ralf Knels, Germany

ICCBBA TAG Representative: Mario Muon, Portugal

2. Membership information

There are 46 voting members from the following countries: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, India, Norway, Pakistan, Portugal, Singapore, Spain, Switzerland, The Netherlands, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States, and Zimbabwe.

3. Meetings and Telephone conferences

Face-to-Face: There were two days of meetings during the Copenhagen congress. Three of the task forces (Traceability, Validation and Interface Standard) met, as well as the full committee and the executive committee. There were 12 conference calls (3 for the executive committee, 1 for the full working party, 2 for the traceability task force, 1 for RFID task force, 1 for the interface task force, and 4 for the validation task force).

4. Activities during the period

Interface Task Force:

During the face-to-face meeting in Copenhagen, the Interface task force reviewed and updated the IBT1000 and IBT2000 Tables. These tables define how data will appear in the standardized interface.

Since the meeting in Copenhagen, the group focused on identifying the amount of effort and processes needed to ensure that the interface standard can be maintained once adopted. There is concern within the working party that if interface maintenance is to rely on volunteers, we have to identify a way to encourage and secure input from additional members to ensure support for the interface standard can be guaranteed longer term. Progress in terms of adding to the interface standard reference tables was intentionally slowed as it is felt that an understanding of how these tables will be maintained is needed to ensure the future of the standard and justify the effort to continue development and standardisation to the next level. The working party will give further consideration to how new, active task force members can be secured to help maintain the interface standard going forward. When this has been worked out, the group will return to developing additional entries for the interface standard reference tables.

RFID Task Force:

The RFID working party continued to assess the state of the use of RFID in transfusion medicine in order to (1) determine what updates to the existing standard are needed and (2) identify barriers to use of this technology. The research is divided into (1) a review of solutions currently available specifically within transfusion medicine and/or plasma industry and (2) a literature review of the use of RFID in healthcare (where and why adopted or not) including which RFID technologies (active/passive, UHF/

HF) are being adopted. RFID solution vendors presented their solutions to the WPIT during a conference call. Basic literature reviews confirmed that overall adoption of RFID in healthcare has been slow, with several core questions or findings repeating themselves:

1. On the issue of cost, a recurring question was: Where does RFID add significant value over barcodes?
2. RFID coupled with cloud-based solutions are more appealing because they avoid large infrastructure investments and play into the larger Internet of Things data gathering
3. Having a quantifiable or major problem to solve is needed to justify adding RFID solutions into a cost-conscious healthcare market. For example, the U.S. healthcare has renewed interest in RFID because of drug/pharma traceability requirements.

Traceability Task Force:

The Traceability Task Force (TTF) had a productive working meeting at the ISBT Regional Congress in Copenhagen. There were good discussions regarding traceability and the challenges of putting together a guideline that would be helpful to the diverse membership of ISBT. Reasons for historically slow progress of this project were discussed and the current team members committed themselves to becoming actively involved.

The first goal was to agree on a definition of traceability and this was finalized in Fall 2017. Having that as a guideline, the group is now progressing on data collection related to international regulatory and standards requirements so that it can meet or address traceability requirements for the “masses”. A document development procedure for submitting the various assigned parts of the guideline was also developed.

Validation Task Force:

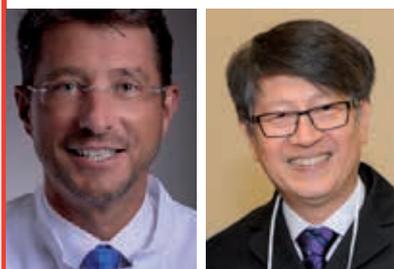
The activities of the Validation Task Force over the past year have mainly been focused on how to give shape to the new guideline. The group examined whether it was better to write an entirely new guideline or edit the existing IT validation guideline. For the time being, the TF has decided that the existing guideline will be amended because there is a risk of ambiguity arising from the existence of two guidelines.

In addition, a number of objectives have been identified which will be included in the guideline. This has become an extensive list of more than 15 items. Each member of the task force took one or more of these subjects to develop. This process is still ongoing, the first drafts of sections have been received.

5. Finances

The Working Party received support to cover office costs.

Working Party on Platelet Immunobiology



Ulrich J. Sachs (left), Chairperson
Sentot Santoso (right), Former Chairperson

1. Chairperson and committee

Chairperson: Ulrich J. Sachs, Germany;
 Sentot Santoso, Germany (retired
 September 2017)

Co-Chairperson: Nelson H. Tsuno, Japan

2. Membership information

The committee currently has 22 active members representing 16 countries from the Americas, Europe, Asia, and Australia.

3. Meetings and Telephone conferences

The committee did not hold any meetings or telephone conferences in 2017. However, the committee members discussed new structures proposed by the chairpersons via email and agreed to install two sub-committees from 2018 on.

4. Activities during the period

Education and Training:

A wet workshop on the clinical and laboratory diagnosis of bleeding disorders caused by platelet alloantibodies was organized during the 28th Regional Congress of the ISBT in Guangzhou, China (November 2017). It was held in cooperation with the Guangzhou Blood Center as an one-day training on platelet alloantibody characterization, clinical case reports and laboratory evaluation, and was very well attended.

International Material Exchange:

The bi-annual platelet workshop for the period of 2017/2018 was organized by Lucie Richard, Saint-Laurent, Québec, Canada. 40 laboratories expressed their interest in participation. Results of the workshop are to be presented during the 2018 ISBT Congress.

Organisation:

From 2018 on, a Subcommittee on Quality in Platelet Immunology and a subcommittee on Clinical Guidance in Platelet Immunology will be introduced to actively support the working party.

5. Finances

The Working Party received financial support for a platelet workshop in Guangzhou, China

Working Party on Quality Management



Christian Seidl, Chairperson

1. Chairperson and committee

Chairperson: Christian Seidl, Germany
 Co-Chairpersons: Tomislav Vluk, Croatia
 Paul Strengers, the Netherlands
 Lesley Bust, South Africa

2. Membership information

16 members from 14 countries: Belgium, China, Croatia, Egypt, France, Germany, India, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Romania, Russia, South Africa, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United States of America.

3. Meetings and telephone conferences

Business Meeting at the ISBT conference in Copenhagen with the following topics:

- Working Group on Harmonisation of Definitions
- Status report – Quality Indicators
- Update on Training – Seminar ISBT Academy Award in Vietnam / ISBT regional congress in Guangzhou
- Project on Error and Event Management

Several telephone conferences / e-mails between the board members on the topics presented and articles to be written (see below) on the activities performed by the working party.

4. Activities during the period

The activities of the Working Party are based on the Working party subgroups: The subgroup quality management and training (Christian Seidl), the subgroup quality indicators, revised list of quality indicators to be released March 2018 (Tomislav Vuk) and the subgroup harmonization of definitions (Lesley Bust).

Yan Qui, self inspection and Christian Seidl, quality

management, both contributed to an Academy day session on quality management during the Guangzhou regional congress

The Working Party has prepared articles related to the activity of the working party to be published in the March 2018 issue of Transfusion Today:

- Summary report from the ISBT Developing Country Award – NIHBT, Seminar and Training Workshop referring to GMP, Hanoi, March 2016, Christian Seidl
- The Challenges of Quality Management in Resource-limited Countries, Lesley Bust
- Quality monitoring in transfusion medicine – the importance of quality indicators, Tomislav Vuk
- The ISBT Survey on quality management system requirements and inspection standards. Christian Seidl

Two papers have been submitted to the ISBT Science Series.

- Self-Inspection and classification of non-compliances. Qiu Y, Vuk T, Bust L, Strengers P, Seidl C. ISBT Science Series (2018), p1-5, version accepted 9.11.2017 Article ID: VOXS12402, Article DOI: 10.1111/voxs.12402, Internal Article ID: 14782794 ISBT Science Series Vox Sanguinis, 2018
- Quality monitoring and risk assessment in blood transfusion services. Vuk T, Qiu Y, Bust L, Strengers P, Seidl C. ISBT Science Series (2018), Vox Sanguinis, Article ID: VOXS12418 Article DOI: 10.1111/voxs.12418 Internal Article ID: 14993411 revised version accepted 16. January 2018

5. Finances

The Working Party received support to cover office costs.

Working Party on Rare Donors



Christine Lomas-Francis, Chairperson

1. Chairperson and committee

Chairperson: Christine Lomas-Francis, USA

Committee:

Vice Chairperson: Erwin A. Scharberg, Germany

Secretary: Vered Yahalom, Israel

Treasurer: Inna Sareneva, Finland

IBGRL liaison: Nicole Thornton, UK

Past Chairperson: Sandra Nance, USA

2. Membership information

The Working Party has 30 members representing 23 countries. All members are actively involved in their respective country's rare donor programmes.

Working Party members are required to be ISBT members and to share the rare donor list (by phenotype) from their country with the International Blood Group Reference Laboratory (IBGRL) who manages the WHO International Rare Donor Panel (IRDP).

3. Meetings and Telephone conferences

A meeting of the Working Party was held at the 27th Regional Congress of the ISBT in Copenhagen in 2017. Twenty-four members (or their delegates), eighteen guests and industry representatives from Bio-Rad, Grifols and Immucor attended.

Meeting topics included, but were not limited to, updates on creating an international rare donor card; patient antibody identification card and notification letters for donors and patients with rare blood types; ways to

increase community awareness of the form for international reporting of outcomes in patients receiving incompatible transfusions so as to collect valuable clinical data and the possibility of developing a centralized data base; approaches to ensure that the transportation of rare blood (especially for international shipments) is expedited similar to the transportation of organs. A report on the activities and condition of the IRDP was presented and was followed by discussion related to the expansion of the IRDP database by adding new countries to the WPRD. Short presentations were made by members regarding the volume and frequency of using their frozen blood inventory to fulfil rare blood needs and experiences were shared regarding the use of deglycerolyzed red cells for neonatal exchange transfusion. E-mail communication connected members throughout the year and provided an easy and effective way to seek advice and information.

4. Activities during the period

Following on from the Copenhagen meeting, WP members participated in a survey regarding experiences with international courier services. The international rare donor card template is now posted on the WP page on the ISBT website and is available to all. Preparation of the patient antibody identification card and notification letters for donors and patients with rare blood types is nearing completion. Several WP members are currently preparing articles for Transfusion Today.

5. Finances

The Working Party required no financial support for its activities

Working Party on Red Cell Immunogenetics and Blood Group Terminology



Jill Storry, Chairperson

1. Chairperson and committee

Chairperson: Jill Storry, Sweden

Committee:

Vice Chairperson: Lilian Castilho, Brazil

Treasurer: Christine Lomas Francis, USA

Secretary: Connie Westhoff, USA

2. Membership information

There are currently 20 members from 13 different countries in the Working Party, and a further four candidates from four countries (three countries new to the WP) are currently under consideration by electronic vote.

3. Meetings and Telephone conferences

A general meeting was held at the Regional ISBT meeting in Copenhagen, June 2017 and was attended by 15 members and 21 guests (that included two corporate representatives). As always, new blood group antigens were discussed and approved. The discussion on membership criteria that was started in Dubai was concluded: the election of new members was moved to an anonymous electronic vote that was planned in time for the 2018 meeting and current candidates were asked to provide a statement of interest in addition to their curriculum vitae. The continuing work of the WP with the LRG consortium was reviewed by the LRG coordinator Dr. Aoife McMahon. This collaboration has continued throughout the year with WP members and colleagues from the International Red Cell Genomics Consortium. Where appropriate, Skype meetings and telephone calls have been held members to discuss specific nomenclature or other business relating to the WP.

4. Activities during the period

The WP has continued to update allele nomenclature tables, and to work with the LRG consortium. A report of the proceedings of the Dubai and Copenhagen meetings has been drafted with the aim of publishing in ISBT Science Series during 2018. A proposal to the ISBT board for a new WP for cell free DNA technology has led to the approval by the WP members of a new subsection on cfDNA, the structure of which will be discussed in Toronto.

5. Finances

The working party required no financial support for its activities

Working Party on Transfusion Transmitted Infectious Diseases



Michael P. Busch, Chairperson

1. Chairperson and committee

Chairperson: Michael Busch, USA

Committee:

Vice Chairperson: Clive Seed, Australia

Secretary: Brian Custer, USA

Treasurer: Marion Vermeulen, South Africa

Corporate Members

Representative: Stefan Reichenberg, Germany

Individual Members

Representatives: Magdy El Ekiaby, Egypt and Carl McDonald, UK

2. Membership information

The WP-TTID has 168 members (including 43 corporate members) from 44 countries. The WP consists of 6 Subgroups, coordinators listed below.

A. Subgroup on Bacteria

Coordinators: Sandra Ramirez, Carl McDonald

B. Subgroup on Parasites

Coordinators: David Leiby, Evan Bloch, Silvano Wendel

C. Subgroup on Surveillance, Risk Assessment and Policy (SRAP)

Coordinators: Sheila O'Brien, Brian Custer

D. Subgroup on TSE

Coordinators: Luisa Gregori, Whitney Steele

E. Subgroup on Virology

Coordinators: Jose Levi, Helen Faddy,

F. ISBT TTID Research Young Investigator Training (I TRY IT)

Coordinators: Brian Custer, Marion Vermeulen, Sheila O'Brien, Michael Schmidt,

3. Meetings and Telephone conferences

The 2017 Annual Meeting was held in Copenhagen, Denmark on June 17, with a total of 98 participants.

A modified meeting structure was used with Subgroup sessions integrated into the Working Party General Assembly. Topics included Chairman, Secretary and Financial Reports and subgroup updates: 1) Bacteria; 2) Parasites, 3) SRAP; 4) TSE and 5) Virology. The assembly ended with a general discussion session, including Corporate Members' feedback. Meeting presentations can be viewed online at: <http://www.isbtweb.org/working-parties/transfusion-transmitted-infectious-diseases/> The Organizing Committee convened 3 teleconferences, partly with the Subgroup Coordinators. Main topics discussed were: meeting planning, member recruitment, funding procedures, projects, Working Party Travel Awards and discussion of the I TRY IT program and its' transition to the ISBT Academy. Most subgroups organized quarterly conference calls to discuss ongoing and future projects, and manuscript development.

4. Activities during the period

Bacteria Subgroup

Currently, the BS is coordinating a study aimed at generating a repository of bacterial strains for Red Blood Cells (RBCs). These standardized bacterial strains will be used for growth kinetic studies and the validation of detection and pathogen inactivation technologies in RBCs. Frozen stocks of six candidate bacteria, which have shown ability to proliferate in RBCs, have been prepared for the study.

A second study being coordinated focuses on determining the effect on the safety of thawed plasma upon room temperature excursions. The study aims at providing evidence to support individual exposures of thawed plasma to room temperature for up to 60 minutes during 5-day storage at 1-6 °C. In-vitro quality and bacterial growth experiments will be conducted in 2018.

Parasite Subgroup

The Subgroup conducts quarterly calls to review progress and brainstorm new ideas. More frequent communication is guided by the individual members related to ongoing projects. In addition, updating of the Subgroup's activities is conducted annually or biannually at ISBT congresses. Projects that have been conducted over the past two years include (1) a pilot serosurvey of *Babesia microti* in Chinese blood donors (2) completion of an international parasite survey to compare practice for the major TTPs and (3) an evaluation of *T. cruzi* mitigation in non-endemic countries.

SRAP Subgroup

The SRAP subgroup focuses on research methodology using surveillance and population data to assess infectious disease risks and implications for policy.

A SRAP team is currently evaluating mathematical models to predict HIV risk after reducing the deferral period for male-to-male sex to 1 year. Following the change of deferral period in England and Canada with more than a year observation, the model can be validated by comparing predicted with actual incidence. The team is modifying the model to predict risk for shorter deferral periods, and other strategies: alternative risk questioning (e.g. not asking about male-to-male [MSM] history) or removing the MSM criteria with plasma product quarantine and retest or with use of pathogen reduction technology.

Virology Subgroup

The Subgroup holds regular conference calls to identify new project ideas and discuss progress on research activities, including: a) HBV vaccine breakthrough infections among blood donors; b) an update on NAT practices worldwide; and c) a review of international practices for eye drops and other autologous plasma products.

5. Finances

The Working party received financial support for the I TRYIT programme, a meeting and office costs.

Reports from ISBT Standing Committees

- ISBT Standing Committee of the ISBT Academy
- ISBT Standing Committee on Ethics
- ISBT Standing Committee Jean Julliard Prize
- ISBT Standing Committee of Vox Sanguinis

Standing Committee of the ISBT Academy



Erica Wood (left), Chairperson

So Yong Kwon (right), Co-Chairperson

1. Chairperson and committee

Chairperson: Erica Wood, Australia

Co-Chairperson: So Yong Kwon, Korea

Members:

Lilian Maria de Castilho, Brazil

Rajendra Chaudhary, India

Judith Chapman, the Netherlands

Gwen Clarke, Canada

Salwa Hindawi, Saudi Arabia

Shirley Owusu Ofori, Ghana

Veera Sekaran Nadarajan, Malaysia

Jenny White, UK

The Academy Standing Committee is supported by ISBT Scientific Officer Eszter Herczenik, and ISBT Executive Director Judith Chapman, and works closely with Ellen van der Schoot, ISBT Scientific Secretary, Roger Dodd, ISBT Secretary General and Geoff Daniels, Chair of the ISBT Foundation Board.

2. Meetings and Telephone conferences

The Academy Standing Committee met in person at the Copenhagen regional congress in June 2017.

The following topics were addressed – see below for more details.

- ISBT Strategic Plan (focus on education issues).
- ISBT e-Portal: update from Eszter Herczenik.
- Feedback from the ISBT Academy Day and scientific sessions at recent and the current congress.
- Preparations for Academy Days and scientific sessions at upcoming congresses.
- Working Party contributions to the monthly webinar series and wikipedia project.
- I TRY IT program expansion.

Other activities were conducted by email and teleconference.

3. Activities during the period

Support for educational events: The Academy supported a total of 19 educational events across the regions, through financial support and/or use of the ISBT logo (see table below). These included both repeat support (for events which have previously been supported), and new events. Organisers of seminars, workshops and other educational and scientific are encouraged to apply for Academy support.

The streamlined process for application and review (two application deadlines per year (April 1 and October 1) is working well. This gives more time for preparation and review of applications, and enhances the robustness of the process, with constructive feedback provided to applicants. Effective processes to capture feedback from participants at ISBT Academy-supported events are a priority.

Transfusion medicine-related **educational courses** can also apply for ISBT support, using defined criteria available on the website. Three courses are now endorsed by ISBT. More information is available at: <http://www.isbtweb.org/knowledge-education/endorsed-courses>

The recently introduced ISBT **journal club** (organised by the clinical practice WP) and the ongoing **webinars** have been well attended and well received. The intention is that all Working Parties will contribute content, and suggestions for topics and speakers are welcome.

Academy Days at ISBT congresses: The Academy Day at the Copenhagen congress and Academy sessions at the Guangzhou congress were both well attended. The programs included a range of topics relevant to an international audience, and a number of new, young speakers participated. Several of the sessions were interactive, and feedback was positive.

Plans for future Academy Days will continue to include opportunities for more interactive presentations, some shorter presentations (to permit more participation and discussion) and scheduled panel discussions, audience participation, questions and answers, voting, etc.

Academy e-Portal: this continues to be very popular. New material from congresses and other activities is constantly added. Uptake of the material available for Affiliate members appears to be working well.

I TRY IT: this highly successful course run for young investigators some years by the WP on TTID will be further supported and developed under the auspices of the Academy to enable wider access. The first expansion will be to include participation from the clinical practice WP.

Wikipedia project: The opportunity for ISBT to contribute to developing or updating wikipedia pages relating to transfusion was first raised by the clinical WP. It was agreed that the content was broader than simply the clinical domain, so additional contributors from ISBT Working Parties and others will also participate to develop this international resource.



Participants of the ISBT Academy Workshop on Blood Screening and Biosafety in Islamabad, Pakistan, January 2018.

Standing Committee on Ethics



Peter Flanagan, Chairperson

1. Chairperson and committee

Chairperson: Peter Flanagan, New Zealand

Committee:

Western Pacific: Peter Flanagan and Chi Kit Lin, Hong Kong

Africa: Justina Ansah, Ghana

Americas: Celso Bianco and Roger Dodd, USA

Europe: Gilles Follea and Guy Rautmann, France

East Asia: Neelam Marwaha, India

Eastern Mediterranean: Hasan Abbas Zaheer, Pakistan

Yetmgeta Abdella from WHO Geneva also participated in SCE activities during the year.

2. Meetings and Telephone conferences

Meetings took place by e-mail and teleconference during the year

3. Activities during the period

The main activity of the committee during the year related to the revision of the code of Ethics. A draft version of the Code was released for consultation in March 2017. Responses were reviewed in early May and a final draft developed. This was presented and endorsed by the General Assembly held during the Copenhagen Congress in June 2017. A copy of the updated Code is available on the society website at <http://www.isbtweb.org/about-isbt/code-of-ethics/>.

ISBT Standing Committee Jean Julliard Prize



Celso Bianco, Chairperson

1. Chairperson and Committee

Chairperson: Celso Bianco, USA

Members:

Lilian Castilho, Brazil

Lin Fung, Australia

Mindy Goldman, Canada

Michael Schmidt, Germany

Che-Kit Lin, Hong Kong

2. Meetings and Telephone conferences

All activities were performed using electronic communication (e-mails).

3. Activities during the period

The Jean-Julliard Prize Committee was responsible for managing the selection of the Jean Julliard Prize and the Vox Sanguinis Best Paper Award.

4. Jean Julliard Prize

ISBT received 9 applications that fulfilled the criteria established for the Prize. The members of the Committee voted individually for the candidate that best fitted the criteria established for the Prize. The winner was Rick Kapur, MD, PhD, MSc. From the Division of Hematology and Transfusion Medicine, Lund University, BMC C14, Klinikgatan 26, 221 84, Sweden.

5. Vox Sanguinis Best Paper

Nominations for the Vox Sanguinis Best Paper Prize are made by the editorial committee of the journal. The Jean Julliard Prize Committee received 6 nominations for the best paper in 2016. The committee determined that the award should go to the manuscript titled Epigenetic and molecular signatures of cord blood CD34 cells treated with histone deacetylase inhibitors. D. Gajzer, Ross J, Winder L, Navada S, Zhang W, Silverman L, Chaurasia P. Vox Sang. 2016; 110(1):79-89.

Standing Committee of Vox Sanguinis



Roger Dodd, Chairperson

1. Chairperson and committee

Chairperson: Roger Dodd, USA

Committee:

Geoff Daniels, UK

Eric Jansen, the Netherlands

Diana Teo, Singapore

Dana Devine, Canada

2. Meetings and Telephone conferences

The Committee meets at least once a year, in person or by telephone conference. Representatives from Wiley-Blackwell (the publisher) and the ISBT President are invited to participate in Standing Committee meetings. The Standing Committee met on May 25th, 2017.

The Committee also met by telephone primarily to discuss the Vox Sanguinis budget on January 10th, 2018.

3. Activities during the period

The financial report as of May 2017 indicated an expected decline in the ISBT share of profits, the situation improved to a share of €175,673 by the end of December, 2017. The 2018-19 budget anticipates a similar income for ISBT.

In the May meeting, the Editor-in-Chief reported that 113 papers had been published in 2016 and that the acceptance rate was 26%. It is anticipated that there will be an increase in the number of reviews to be published.

The Publisher reported a strong year for institutional sales of over 5000, mainly in the basis of purchase of contracts for multiple journals. The 2015 impact factor was 2.656. with a value of 2.19 for 2016. Vox retained its third-place ranking relative to other journal of transfusion medicine.

The ISBT Science series continues to operate as a peer-reviewed journal, publishing Congress presentations and independent papers. However, an application for indexing by PubMed was not successful.

The Vox Sanguinis Best Paper Prize was awarded to Dr. Pratima Chaurasia, Assistant Professor, the Tisch Cancer Institute, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York for her paper: "Epigenetic and molecular signatures of cord blood CD34+ cells treated with histone deacetylase inhibitors" D. Gajzer, J. Ross, L. Winder, S. Navada, W. Zhang L. Silverman & P. Chaurasia. Vox Sang. 2016; 110(1):79-89.

ISBT Foundation



Geoff Daniels, Chairperson

The objectives of the ISBT Foundation are to enhance transfusion medicine by expanding knowledge and education on blood transfusion medicine, transfusion science, blood banking and related disciplines, and by supporting the objectives of the ISBT. The Foundation was initially established in 2006, but was reconstituted in 2013 with a new Board and a major focus on education in transfusion-related fields, especially in the developing world. This is achieved primarily by providing financial support to the ISBT Academy, which facilitates the educational activities of the Society.

The Foundation is managed by a Board of Directors comprising the Secretary General of ISBT (currently Roger Dodd), the Treasurer of ISBT (Eric Jansen), and the Chairperson of the Standing Committee of the ISBT Academy (Erica Wood), plus two other ISBT members elected by the Board of ISBT (Geoff Daniels and Martin Gorham). The Chair of the Foundation Board is Geoff Daniels, Vice-Chair is Martin Gorham, Secretary is Roger Dodd, and Treasurer is Eric Jansen. None of the Board members receives any remuneration; all are volunteers interested in the provision of safe blood supply for patients. The Foundation is advised by the ISBT Academy Standing Committee, which reviews applications for financial support for educational purposes.

The Foundation is registered as a charity in the Netherlands. The Foundation's primary source of funding is the annual net result of the ISBT. To ensure effective governance and to comply with Dutch law, the Foundation complies with statutes approved by the Foundation Board in 2014.

During the 2017/18 financial year the Foundation has provided financial support for conferences and other educational meetings and events, including travel grants and delegate funding. These were provided to the Arab Transfusion Medicine Forum, Armenian Hematology Society, Asian Association of Transfusion Medicine, Bosnian Association of Hematology, Education Course for Leadership of Blood Services, European Blood Alliance, Indian Society for Transfusion Medicine, Mexican Association of Blood Transfusion, Ministry of Health Kazakstan, National Blood Service Ghana, Pakistan Society of Blood Transfusion, Sociedad Panamena, and South African National Blood Transfusion Congress. In addition, support was provided towards an innovative project on educating Mexican school-children, and hence their parents, in the importance of donating blood.

ISBT Award and Prizes

- ISBT Award

ISBT Award

Awarded at each congress to persons who have contributed significantly to transfusion medicine and science, mainly in educational aspects. The decision to grant the ISBT Award is made by the members of the Executive Committee and is presented at an ISBT congress.

Anne Husebekk

Anne Husebekk, rector of the University of Tromsø, Norway.

Anne is cited for her role as Vice President of the ISBT Board, 2008-12. Her special accomplishment was to oversee the establishment and early implementation of the ISBT Academy, as the first Chair of its Standing Committee. She supported and fostered the ISBT's educational efforts and introduced a structure and function which is continuing to provide educational programs and opportunities worldwide. The tenets and structures that she introduced are still very much in force and her program has helped to educate many over the years across the globe.



Jill Storry

Jill Storry

Jill Storry, Assoc. Professor, Div. Hematology & Transfusion Medicine, Dept of Laboratory Medicine, Lund University, Sweden.

Jill is cited for her long standing contribution as chairperson of the ISBT Working Party on blood group terminology and immunogenetics and her participation in the ISBT rare donor working party. She has spoken at numerous ISBT congresses and has also contributed reviews and original articles to Vox Sanguinis and the ISBT Science series. She is well recognised for her education and research contributions in blood transfusion.

Kenji Tadokoro

Kenji Tadokoro was appointed Chief Executive Officer for the Blood Service of the Japanese Red Cross in 2014 and retained this position until illness led him to retire early in 2017.

Kenji is cited for his bold leadership of the Japanese Red Cross Blood Service in improving blood safety in Japan, his development of the haemovigilance programme, his promotion of safe blood transfusion practice and his involvement in convening the Japanese and Thai Red Cross and Red Crescent symposia in Asia.

**Yong Ming Zhu**

Yong Ming Zhu, Director of the WHO Collaborating Centre for Blood Transfusion services in Shanghai, China and President of the Chinese Society of Blood Transfusion.

Yong Ming is cited for his extensive contribution to transfusion medicine education and development of blood transfusion services in China and for his initiation of the National Educational Course for Blood Service Leaders which commenced in 2008 and which recently completed its 11th course.

In Memorium



Pim van Aken

On March 6, 2018, Pim van Aken - former member of the ISBT Council, former member of the Editorial Board of Vox Sanguinis, former ISBT President and Honorary Member of ISBT - passed away at the age of 81. Pim, a man with many talents, has devoted his time and work to hemostasis and coagulation, blood transfusion and transfusion science, the combination of vascular medicine and internal medicine, and initiatives for safe blood and plasma in LMIC.

After his thesis on 'Platelets aggregation and RES function' and his specialization in internal medicine, he worked as a Research Fellow of the Ontario Heart Foundation at the McMaster University in Hamilton, Canada. In 1976, he became in Amsterdam Head of the Department of Cardiology and Internal Medicine of the Academic Medical Center (AMC) and staff member of the Central Laboratory of the Netherlands Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service (CLB) with the focus on clinical and experimental research of thrombosis and atherosclerosis. Later, he became Medical Director of CLB and Professor of Internal Medicine at the Technical University of The Netherlands, two functions which he combined with his clinical practice in internal medicine at the AMC. His main interest in CLB was coagulation and molecular biology. By being professionally active in internal medicine and his great commitment to patients who were dependent on blood and plasma products, he contributed to the best possible solutions, also in difficult periods. He played an important role in the AIDS-HIV period in the 1980's and due to his openness and transparent attitude, the Dutch hemophilia community was quite happy with his approach. For new and emerging risks in the blood supply, he investigated, together with others, the medical risks and potential methods to address these serious problems.

He was the initiator of the first Dutch Blood Transfusion Consensus Conference, which was the first in the world, with the objective to set rules for an evidence-based patient-directed clinical blood transfusion policy. Together with Dr. Jussi Leikola, he was the founder of the European Plasma Fractionation Association in 1990 and the European Blood Alliance in 1998, both effective in binding and helping European stakeholders on the drafting of regulations and declining the risks of emerging infections. He defended strongly the principle of the not-for-profit blood supply and the voluntary non-remunerated blood donation. The Council of Europe and World Health Organization, in particular the WHO-Expert Committee on Biological Standardization, had the benefit from his knowledge and expertise. Both in the Netherlands as abroad he was a member of a great number of councils and advisory boards such as the Dutch National Health Council and the UK National Blood Service's Research Review Committee.

In 1994, he was the President of the International ISBT Congress in Amsterdam, and after the congress he became the Chairman of the Foundation Transfusion Medicine which is responsible for the bi-annual ISBT Presidential Award for a scientist who has made a significant contribution to blood transfusion science or a related field.

Pim had the peculiar talent to give his opinion clearly, compact and direct without evoking polarization and without excluding compromises at a later stage. He had a sound feeling for quality of people who he could help or with whom he could reach the best results. His mark was his energy and purpose, not for personal gain or recognition, but for improving the human condition. And always with a smile and a kind word.

Pim was as Peter Flanagan said and I quote: "a giant in his field and always a gentleman". We will miss him dearly.

Written by: Paul Strengers

