

## **General Assembly of the ISBT 2025**

**Date:** Tuesday, June 3, 2025

**Location:** MiCo Milano – Room Amber 7

**Time:** 17:30 – 18:45 CEST

### **1. Welcome**

Attendees were welcomed to the ISBT General Assembly 2025 by Pierre Tiberghien (PT), ISBT President. The ISBT Executive Committee introduced themselves. PT thanked everyone for attending and highlighted that the meeting was quorate (>2% of the membership) with 61 attendees, so the General Assembly could go ahead, and the results of the voting would be valid.

### **2. Minutes of the ISBT General Assembly 2024**

The draft minutes of the 2024 General Assembly, held in Barcelona on June 26, 2024, had been circulated by email in March and June 2025. A motion to approve the minutes was raised by Silvano Wendel and seconded by Jason Acker. The motion was accepted by the majority of members present, with no objections or amendments.

### **3. Report of ISBT President – Pierre Tiberghien**

PT started his report by highlighting ISBT's activities during 2024–2025. He noted the strengthening of collaborations with several partner organisations through Memoranda of Understanding and joint initiatives, including AABB (Association for the Advancement of Blood & Biotherapies), AfSBT (African Society of Blood Transfusion), AATM (Asian Association of Transfusion Medicine), CSBT (Chinese Society of Blood Transfusion). He also noted the important partnership with the Systematic Reviews Initiative (SRI), which provided members with updates, webinars and resources. With respect to the World Health Organization, ISBT maintained its status as a Non-State Actor for another three years, completed the 2022–2024 triennial plan and committed to a new triennial plan for 2025–2027. PT further reported on the ISBT Academy, which approved 23 applications for financial support amounting to €148,240, and organised events including ISBT Highlights in Hefei, China, and a Rare Donor Workshop in Paraguay. He announced the release of the transfusion reactions module in Spanish and French with open access, and progress on the Blood Group Allele Database, which reached its final testing phase in 2025. The President also recalled the success of the Barcelona Congress held in 2024, which gathered over 3,300 participants from 115 countries, and included an open meeting to explore the creation of a new Working Party on Basic Transfusion Biology. The new working party was subsequently approved by the ISBT Board in February 2025 and held their inaugural meeting this week during the Milan Congress. ISBT's gratitude was expressed to the fifteen Corporate Partners who supported the Society in 2024–2025.

### **4. Report of the Secretary General - Gwen Clarke (presented by the President Elect, Lin Fung)**

In the absence of the Secretary General, Gwen Clarke, who had given apologies for the meeting, the Secretary General's report was presented by the President-Elect, Lin Fung (LF).

Membership was reported to have reached 2,025 members and 32 affiliate societies/organisations, with growth observed across all WHO regions. *Vox Sanguinis* became an online-only journal from April 2024, with ISBT Working Party papers freely accessible, and showed a strong increase in the number of articles published compared to the previous year. The Assembly was informed of the awards presented in 2024, including the Vox Best Paper prize, the Judith Chapman Award, the Developing Countries Award, ISBT Awards, the Jean Julliard Prize, the Presidential Award, and the Harold Gunson Fellowships which supported 18 awardees.

#### **5. Retiring Working Party Chairpersons and Standing Committee members**

The Assembly expressed its appreciation for the service of retiring Working Party Chairpersons Arwa Al-Riyami, Suzanne Butch, Thierry Peyrard and Mary Townsend, as well as retiring Standing Committee members Eric Jansen, Imelda Bates, Peter Flanagan, and members of the Young Professionals Council: Nysa McGowan, Nikita Ou-Yang and Antoine Lewin.

#### **6. Proposed updates to ISBT statutes and by-laws**

LF then introduced the proposed revisions to the ISBT statutes and bylaws. She explained that the revisions aimed to clarify the documents, to include references to current electronic communications, and to transfer some policy details from the statutes to the bylaws, and some procedural details from the bylaws to the board manual. A motion to accept the changes to the statutes was raised by Miquel Lozano and seconded by Katerina Pavenski. The motion was approved unanimously without objections. A motion to accept the changes to the bylaws was raised by Satyam Arora and seconded by Yong Ming Zhu, and was likewise approved without objections.

#### **7. Report of the Treasurer – motion to accept financial accounts – Martin Smid**

Martin Smid (MS) presented the financial report for 2024–2025. He explained the process by which the accounts are prepared, independently reviewed and approved by the Board before being submitted to the Assembly. He highlighted that the year had been financially positive, supported by the successful Barcelona Congress, increased membership and corporate partnerships, stable costs despite inflation, and investments in ISBT programmes, resulting in a surplus of approximately €244,000. A motion to approve the financial accounts was raised by Silvano Wendel and seconded by José Eduardo Levi. The motion was accepted without objection.

#### **8. Membership fees 2026/2027**

MS proposed that membership fees for 2026–2027 remain unchanged, given the society's healthy financial position. A motion to accept this recommendation was raised by Nelson Hirokazu Tsuno and seconded by Silvano Wendel and was approved unanimously.

#### **9. Any other Business**

No other business was raised.

#### **10. Announcement of the date and location of the General Assembly**

The Assembly was informed that the next ISBT General Assembly will be held in Kuala Lumpur in June 2026.

#### **11. Close of meeting**

The President closed the meeting at 18:10 CEST, thanking the members for their participation in proposing, seconding and voting on the motions presented.