

Transfusion Today | Number 91, June 2012

TRANSFUSION TODAY

ISBT



The new ISBT office

Four former Presidents thoughts on ISBT

Cell and Gene Based Medicine Symposium

First International Conference of Saudi Society of Transfusion Medicine

32nd International ISBT Congress, Cancún

ISBT Statutes and By Laws

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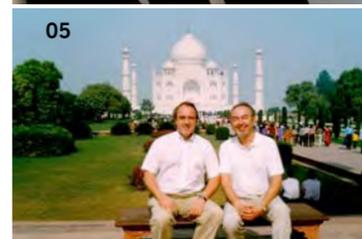
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Judith Chapman

Editorial

This issue of Transfusion Today features articles by four previous Presidents of ISBT. The idea came from Silvano Wendel our current President following the opening of the new ISBT office in Amsterdam. Those of us working at the office agree that we very much enjoy working in our new premises. You can read more about the office in From the Central Office.

I recently spent half a day with Francine Décary when we reminisced about our time together on the ISBT Board; Francine was the past President and I was the Regional Director for Western Europe. During my period on the Board we prepared the strategy for the period 2009 – 2012. The strategy for 2012 - 2015 was developed at a Board retreat in June 2011 and we shared the major points with you in the last edition of Transfusion Today. One of the goals is to establish how ISBT can retain its current members, determine how we can give added value to our members and identify a strategy for increasing recruitment. A piece of research work has recently been completed on the membership and we hope to share more information with you on the findings and how we will initiate the recommendations over the course of the year.

In the regional pages you will find reports of two meetings that the ISBT Academy has supported in the last three months. Don't forget that you can apply for ISBT Academy support for local educational events.

Preparations are almost complete for the 32nd International Congress in Cancún. Please come and visit the ISBT lounge and the ISBT stand. I hope to see many of you there.

Reflections from past Presidents

The long and rich history of the ISBT is marked by extraordinary people who contributed to the growth and professionalism of ISBT. The website, electronic newsletters and the new office are just a few examples of our progress.

ISBT could not achieve this without the strength and effort of all those people who made an enormous impact. Amongst

these people are our past Presidents, who have set the base for further development of the Society. But what are their thoughts on ISBT and how did they experience their presidency? In the focus section four past Presidents describe their thoughts and experiences of their time as ISBT President.

As ISBT President it is an honour and a pleasure to represent the Society at the various regional and international congresses which are mostly taking place in very interesting and nice cities all around the world.

One feels privileged to listen to the latest scientific developments, meet with members of different backgrounds, attend dinners and parties and sometimes enjoy the pleasure of making a tour. All the congresses mentioned hereafter were very well organised, interesting and enjoyable. However, in this brief report I have to restrict myself to some of my personal experiences.

At the 23rd International Congress in Amsterdam I was elected by the Board as President of the ISBT. Thanks to the excellent collaboration with the Secretary-General Dr. Harold Gunson, who took care for most of the policy and administrative issues, it proved to be a relative easy and interesting job. During the first Regional ISBT-congress in Seoul (South Korea) in 1995 it was suggested by a number of representatives of the Pacific Region to start the preparation of a transfusion congress in China in 1997. The past president, Dr Susan Leong, provided excellent advice and established very useful contacts with officials in China.

“One feels privileged to listen to the latest scientific developments, meet with members of different backgrounds, attend dinners and parties and sometimes enjoy the pleasure of making a tour.”



The 24th Regional congress of the ISBT, Makuhari, Japan.

Later in that year the European Regional meeting was organised in Venice (Italy) where I was asked to perform the opening of the congress from the pulpit in one of the famous historical churches. One of the tourist attractions, i.e. making a gondola trip through the canals, almost led to a serious accident when the honorary member Dr Claes Hogman, arriving by boat for the presidential dinner, almost drowned when leaving the boat upon arrival.

In March/April 1996 the ISBT was invited by the Japanese Society for Blood Transfusion to organise the International Congress in Makuhari near Tokyo (Japan). At the opening ceremony, which was attended by two members of the Imperial family, I gave a brief introduction in the Japanese language, an experience with shaking knees, which I promised myself I would never attempt again.

Following this congress a delegation of the ISBT board visited Beijing (China) to discuss the preparation of the first (regional) ISBT congress in China. This was my first visit to China and in several ways it was quite remarkable. We met for four days with Professor Cai and members of his congress organisation committee, participated in an international symposium and visited the Chinese Wall, the Forbidden City and the Summer Palace. Although it proved initially complicated to reach consensus about the congress programme, at the last day everybody was satisfied and convinced that the congress would be well organised.

During dinner at the last evening Professor Cai told me that before his retirement he was the private physician of a number of the most influential Chinese political leaders. This information gave us even more confidence that the congress would become a success, as it proved to be one year later.



Robert Beal and Walter Morgan during the 26th International Congress of the ISBT in Vienna, Austria.

After a number of years on Council, the problems facing the Society at the turn of the century were well known to me when I became President.

The present stability of ISBT owes much to the late Harold Gunson, who willingly accepted the role of Secretary General after serving a fine term as President. With the help of Bill Wagstaff as Treasurer, the fiscal ship was steadied and sanity returned.

Vienna had to be the choice for the 2000 Congress, given the notional centenary of Karl Landsteiner and the ABO blood groups. However, not everything was as straightforward as it seemed. Harold Gunson and I learned of the communicating power of the internet, when we received a heap of emails from concerned European members who wanted the Vienna Congress abandoned because of domestic Austrian politics of the time. Wolfgang Mayr, as

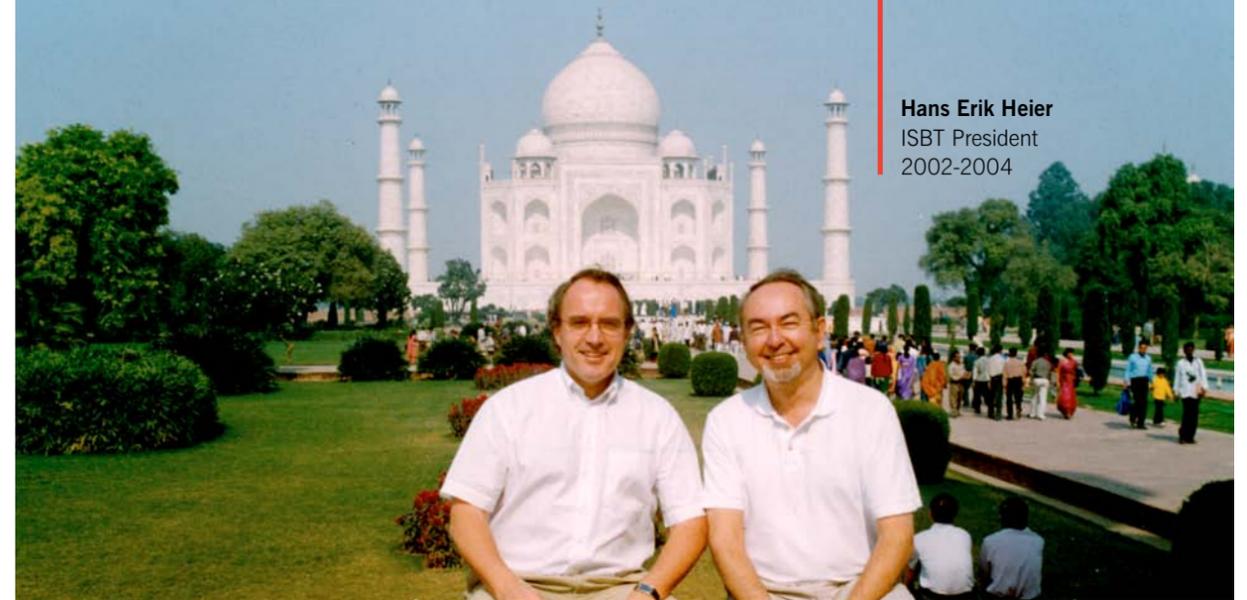
Congress President, maintained his equanimity, and the memorable Congress proceeded without incident. Politics and politicians were avoided at the opening ceremony, although we were reminded by the Rector of the University that three of Austria's four Nobel prizemen for medicine became refugees, including Landsteiner!

There are two photos of the opening ceremony of Congress 2000 which I treasure - the presentation of the first ISBT Presidential Award to the late Patrick Mollison and an award made to the late Walter Morgan, then in his hundredth year. The Council dinner (black tie of course) at the Hotel Sacher was equally unforgettable.

I place on record my great respect for Harold Gunson and his major contributions to ISBT - he made my task as President a pleasure, not a duty. Our outgoing contribution to ISBT was to persuade Paul Strengers and Geoff Lane to take on the exacting roles of Secretary General and Treasurer respectively, and the rest, as they say, is history.

My involvement with ISBT began with the 1966 Congress in wintry Sydney. I became aware then of the remarkable capacity for warm and unqualified friendship which seems to characterise those whose careers involve some aspect of the lifesaving and health preserving work of blood transfusion. I salute all those many friends who have enriched my professional career and my personal life.

"I salute all those many friends who have enriched my professional career and my personal life."



Paul Strengers and Hans Erik Heier in front of the Taj Mahal, India.

The Central Office of the ISBT in Paris collapsed in the beginning of the 1990s as a consequence of the AIDS crisis. The organisation was saved, however, mainly by the late Harold Gunson, who moved the Central Office temporarily to his home town Lancaster, UK. By the end of the millennium the Central Office moved to Amsterdam, and a new era could start.

I came into the Executive Committee as President-Elect at the Vienna Congress in 2000 and found a group strongly dedicated to revitalise the Society. The President, Paul Holland, was an inspiring leader, and a new Secretary General, Paul Strengers, started on what should become ten years of hard, committed and successful work for our Society. Our most significant move was to make a strategic plan for the period 2002-2006, aiming at strengthening the ISBT organisation and making the Society more efficient and visible. Although the plan was incomplete, I believe it proved an efficient tool for our work. The close relationship of the new Central Office with Eurocongress (now MCI-Eurocongress) in Amsterdam was established.

Vox Sanguinis and Transfusion Today became integrated parts of the ISBT umbrella organisation and available for free to members. The website was modernised, and gradually better assistance could be provided to congress organisers.

On the other hand, the BEST decided in 2004 to give up their traditional cooperation with the ISBT. Attempts at cooperation with the Haemapheresis Society and the ESTM failed, and no formal cooperation was reached with the AABB. However, these failures have not undermined the very favourable development of the ISBT during recent years. This is reflected by the steadily increasing membership, by the ability of the ISBT to engage a professional Chief Executive Officer and extend and affirm the Central Office, and by the fact that there are now usually several candidates for an ISBT leadership position. This further increases

my pride as a Scandinavian seeing a Norwegian Vice President and a Swedish Scientific Secretary among the current ISBT leadership.

At a personal level I remember the inspiring cooperation with the whole ISBT leadership, in particular Paul Strengers and Treasurer Geoff Lane, as well as with the Eurocongress staff.

As for drama, nothing exceeded the preparation of the Regional Congress in Istanbul in 2003. The congress had to be postponed 2 months on short notice because of the US invasion in Iraq. Congress President Mahmut Bayik and his crew did an enormous job and may not have received the credit they deserve for making this congress a real success. I shall always remember the opening ceremony in Istanbul as the peak of my presidency. A Turkish colleague in my department in Oslo had written an opening address for me in Turkish, and the applause from the audience when I read it, was unforgettable. My thanks also go to the organisers of the wonderful congresses in Vancouver, Delhi and Edinburgh. Such congresses will remain the key to success of the ISBT.

My thanks are due to professor Marcela Contreras and the late dr. Harold Gunson, who nominated me for ISBT presidency. My six years in the EC were filled with lots of work, some victories and some defeats, but the years will remain dear in my memory. The network I got throughout the world is invaluable. I am sure that the ISBT is currently moving in a very favourable direction.

"My six years in the EC were filled with lots of work, some victories and some defeats, but the years will remain dear in my memory."



From left to right: Francine Décary, Judith Chapman, Marcela Contreras and Kathleen Sazama.

“My time with the talking stick”

As President of the Vancouver International Congress in 2002, we introduced the talking stick which is an instrument of aboriginal democracy used by many tribes, especially those from the west coast of Canada. The talking stick is used only by leaders as a symbol of their authority. Since 2002, it has been passed around among each ISBT and Congress' President.

It was also in 2002 that I became President-elect of ISBT. During that 2 year tenure, I was actively involved in reviewing the By Laws of the Society as well as re-formatting the Code of Ethics. I became President during the Edinburgh Congress and at the Opening Ceremony, Judith Chapman, then President of BBTS and Kathleen Sazama then-President of AABB and I announced that a new Award was being established: 'the International Woman Award in Transfusion Medicine'. The three organizations wished to acknowledge women whose cumulative record — in original research, innovative educational methods or outstanding clinical practice — demonstrated important and significant contributions to the body of medical and/or scientific knowledge or to the understanding and practice of transfusion medicine. From 2005 to 2010, five women were recognized : Dame Prof Marcela Contreras, Marion Reid, Pearl Toy, Cécile Kaplan and Nancy Heddle. The Award was cancelled in

2010 for lack of continued support from the 3 organizations. I can now say: “What a pity that this award is gone!”.

During the period 2005-2006 together with Paul Strengers, I settled into a schedule of teleconferencing every other week to maintain my awareness of the needs of the Society and identify how I could serve better. Among the many activities, I remember the last phase of the instalment of the Foundation, the follow-up of the 2006 International Congress in Macao (the hotel had yet to be built!), the decision to gather the full Board in Amsterdam for the next strategic plan which I had the pleasure of facilitating while I was past-President in 2007. As well, after the 2005 Regional Bangkok meeting (which had a huge success), I travelled to Hanoi to review the plans for the 2007 Regional meeting. In my opening address of the 2005 Regional Congress in Athens, I said that “ISBT is an organization of individuals from around the world who share a common vision: integrating scientific knowledge into their daily practice to give better treatments and hope to the patients.” I had also said with regards to the record participation to that regional congress: “ISBT is a vibrant organization, ISBT is alive, ISBT is well, ISBT is the ‘Vox Sanguinis’ to the world.” This is even more accurate today.

I have enjoyed all my years with the Executive Committee and I borrow my own words from September 2006 after I had passed the talking stick to Shigeru Takamoto: “A special thank to Paul Strengers the Secretary General who has been able to put up with me; I am also grateful to the treasurer Geoff Lane for bringing us better financial practices; and kudos to my colleagues from the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors.” I was privileged to have their support and advice.

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More than You Know



From the President



Silvano Wendel

“Dear members”

This is my last Presidential message for Transfusion Today in my term, which started in Berlin and will end in Cancún. I had the opportunity to visit countries from 4 continents (America, Africa, Asia, and Europe), representing ISBT in several meetings and conferences. Together with ISBT Academy events, our Society is now more present in every corner of the globe.

We now have a new strategic plan for the next 3 years; our financial reserves increased approximately 15% in this period; partnerships were strengthened with other Societies; more full term professionals are engaged in our new Central Office, which is now independent from any external agency, something never achieved in the long ISBT history. A new statutes draft took a considerable time from the statutes committee, chaired by Geoff Daniels, and a special session for suggestions from members has been organized in Cancún. It is important that members collaborate with us there, so their suggestions be evaluated and if pertinent, included in the new statutes, which is expected to be presented for approval in Amsterdam in 2013.

The new ISBT Award for Developing Countries had a substantial number of applications. Although many of them were highly qualified, the award was granted to Sri Lanka, which will have the public recognition from ISBT in Cancún, next July. Congratulations to all current and past professionals who devoted their skills, energy and commitment to the Sri Lanka Blood Transfusion Service. We hope that this new ISBT initiative will contribute to other Blood Transfusion Services from developing countries to continue their everlasting effort to promote blood safety in their regions.

There are still two main issues that I defined as main priorities when I took over in Berlin that are still not completely fulfilled. One is to increase our membership. This was also defined as a key issue in the current strategic plan, and during our last Board meeting, held in Montreal in April, a series of actions were recommended, which will enable ISBT not only to increase membership, but also to reach young professionals and retain them along the future years. More will be announced in Cancún. The second one is the History Department; although it was already launched last December, it is still far from the membership perception to be considered as a steady and concrete action. Despite hundreds of old documents and pictures were digitalized and now regarded as no more potentially perishable and destroyed, there is still a huge effort to catalogue them and bring to the public in a rational, orderly and easier access

format. That will still take some more months until it could be made fully available to members. Despite that, it is with great pleasure that this issue of Transfusion Today brings the memories of four Past-Presidents (Pim van Aken, Robert Beal, Hans Erik Heier and Francine Décary) with their experiences and curious facts concerning their times as ISBT Presidents. I read their testimonies with great interest. Somehow, they revisited in few pages nearly a decade of actions, problems and success from our Society.

I could not finish this column without thanking all those who helped me during these past two years. I start with the Board members, who played an important role in discussing and proposing many important points in several meetings. I'd also like to thank all ISBT members who supported me during this period; I met hundreds of people in different countries and there was always a smiling face and a sense of mutual respect. The Central Office, led by Judith Chapman and her ever growing permanent staff members (Monique, Marlies, Ralph and Saimi) has also my gratitude; please continue this way once your dedication is pivotal for ISBT. I must also thank all staff from MCI (previously EuroCongress), who helped ISBT to carry on during times of turbulent waters, and still remained as our partners when we embarked in our independent central office mission. My thanks goes also to all of my staff at the Hospital Sirio Libanes Blood Bank in Sao Paulo, Brazil, who conducted most of my normal daily activities during my long and frequent absent periods while travelling to many countries of the world. Finally, my special thanks to my three children (Fernanda, Priscilla, and Ricardo), but particularly to my beloved wife Rita, who were all deprived of my presence for many months from July 2010 to July 2012.

A new Presidential term, led by Peter Flanagan will soon begin. I am confident that the ISBT development will continue in the same pattern.

It was really my privilege and honour to serve as ISBT President. Many thanks.

Silvano Wendel
ISBT President



Geoff Daniels

I was in Montreal the weekend before I wrote this article, attending three meetings of importance to the ISBT: the annual meeting of the Vox Sanguinis Editorial Board; a meeting of the ISBT Vox Sanguinis Standing Committee, which makes the link between the ISBT Board and the Vox Sanguinis Editorial Board and is responsible for the governance of the journal; and a meeting of the ISBT Board. Some of the issues that were discussed in these meetings are described in this article.

The Vox Sanguinis Editorial Board meeting was the first chaired by the new Editor-in Chief, Dana Devine, who has been in that post for just 4 months. The retired Editor-in Chief, Wolfgang Mayr, remains on both the Editorial Board and the Standing Committee as an adviser to provide continuity. Vox Sanguinis continues to flourish. The impact factor in 2010, the most recent year to be published, showed a substantial increase from 2009, putting Vox Sanguinis roughly on a par with Transfusion, the other leading journal in the field. Impact factor is a ratio of the papers in a journal that are cited in published articles to the total number of papers published and, although it is flawed, impact factor is generally considered to represent the quality of a journal. All of the Vox Sanguinis sub-editors consider that the quality of the papers being accepted for publication in Vox continues to increase.

A less positive note related to the ISBT Science Series, the journal that publishes reviews submitted by the invited speakers at ISBT congresses. Last year an application for the Science Series to be included in Medline was unsuccessful. Only Medline listed journals can be accessed on Pubmed, the Medline search engine, or are indexed by ISI (Institute for Scientific Information) and can receive an impact factor. The main reasons given for the rejection were that Science Series papers are not peer-reviewed, that the Science Series is not published at regular intervals, and that authors and topics are selected on the basis of a scientific conference and not by an editorial board. The Vox Sanguinis Standing Committee considered that the Science Series is still a valuable publication. Consequently they will explore ways in which it might be changed to satisfy the demands of Medline. It is not possible to get articles peer-reviewed under the current format, as there would not be time between inviting congress speakers and the requirements for peer-reviewed publication before the conference, so perhaps a new structure for the Science Series is required.

The ISBT Board discussed a draft of the new statutes. There will be another meeting of the writing group at the end of May and we plan to have a draft available for display on the ISBT website by the middle of June, so that those members who are interested can comment on them, either by contacting me or by coming to a discussion meeting to be arranged at the International Congress in Cancún.

Last June the ISBT Board spent two weeks developing a new strategic plan for the Society. One aspect of the new strategy was to pay more attention to increasing and maintaining membership, partly by providing improved services. Consequently, the Society commissioned consultants to carry out research and produce a report based on the following objectives: to establish how the ISBT can retain its current membership; to consider how the ISBT can give added value services to its members; to clarify who is the target membership within the wider field of transfusion medicine; and to identify a strategy for increasing recruitment. A very thorough and thought-provoking report was produced and, although the Board did not have time to do it justice in Montreal, it will become a template for increasing, broadening, and enhancing the benefits of ISBT membership.

Since my last article in Transfusion Today, the ISBT Central Office has moved into new premises in Amsterdam, which were officially opened by the ISBT President, Silvano Wendel, in March. For the first time in its history, ISBT has fully independent office accommodation. The new offices are attractively decorated and spacious enough to accommodate Board and other meetings. They will serve the Society well for many years to come. By time this issue of Transfusion Today is distributed, the Mexico Congress will be almost upon us. If you can make it to Cancún, I look forward to seeing you there.

Geoff Daniels
ISBT Secretary-General



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The new ISBT office



On March 12, 2012, the official opening date of the new ISBT office I had worked as the ISBT Executive Director for 3 years and 3 months.

When I moved from London to Amsterdam to take up the Executive Director's position I found myself with a small office within the offices of MCI our Professional Congress Organiser. In fact this was a good arrangement; this was a brand new job for me and for ISBT, a new country with a new language, many things were different and I was not aware of how the Dutch business system worked. I am extremely grateful to MCI for giving ISBT the space and to Sophie Hamburger who was my trusty assistant for the three years and who helped me through the intricacies of the Dutch ways of working, understanding the Dutch culture and the Dutch language.

I was very aware that the time would come to move out of MCI's office space but that needed to be at the right time. This came in mid 2011 when we started to grow the staff, firstly our finance consultant, then our communications co-ordinator and then someone to work on the history project and a student to help out with the research on the strategy. The office became overcrowded and we had to arrange when we would be in so that there was desk and computer space for everyone.

Our search for a new office began in July, 2011. Sophie and I must have looked at 12 vacant offices in various areas of Amsterdam, many of which were depressing, unsuitable or just too small. However we saw two that were promising and these comprised the final shortlist. The four ISBT office staff visited both premises and then sat over cups of coffee working out which one we wanted to move to. The choice was not so difficult and was unanimous. The space in Marnixstraat was a former school, the

rooms are large, with very high ceilings and tall windows so the space is light and gives a lot of energy.

We were starting from scratch; a large empty office space and no desks, chairs, cabinets etc. Gielissen who arrange all the logistics for our congress exhibitions and prepare the signage etc. offered to advise us with regard to the internal decoration and we had some helpful advice from an office supplies company with regard to desks and office chairs and how to lay out the office. Now we have an amazing space with white walls and red panels on three walls in the main office and one in the meeting room. On one of the red panels in the main office we have a large image of red blood cells with the ISBT logo superimposed and in the meeting room a large map of the world again with the ISBT logo. It is a real investment for ISBT and gives us the space to grow as necessary.

We moved in on Feb 10 and on March 12 the office was officially opened by Silvano Wendel, ISBT President. About 40 people attended the opening, our guests were shown around and drinks and snacks were served. The highlight was a large 12 piece magnetic jigsaw of the ISBT logo. We handed out the pieces and asked our guests to put them together on a magnetic board. Everyone signed their name on the jigsaw and wrote a message. The jigsaw will soon be framed and hanging on one of the office walls.

We have a meeting room which accommodates about 20 people so if you would like to hold a small meeting in Amsterdam please contact us. If you are ever visiting Amsterdam please come and see us, we are easily accessible from the city centre.

Ladies and gentlemen, distinguished ISBT members,

dear ISBT Board members, distinguished colleagues and friends.

For more than 75 years, ISBT had 3 previous offices: Paris, Manchester and Amsterdam. The common factor was that in all these places, the Central Office was dependent of an external agency.

In Paris, we were part of CNTS.

In Manchester, ISBT was Prof. Harold Gunson's own house.

In Amsterdam, for the past 11 years, we were located within the EuroCongress/MCI premises.

Although in the past this situation was quite understandable and there is nothing to regret, criticize or complain, as soon as I took over the Presidency in Berlin, I defined as one of my priorities to have a Central Office completely independent of any external agency. In other words, that ISBT should be located in its own place.

The first time I mentioned it to Judith Chapman as soon as I took over, she manifested some concerns, because of the fact that there were only two staff in the office; the possibility was considered feasible

when the staff numbers began to grow. I think that this was also the reaction for some of the Executive members. Anyway, I think that gradually we all became convinced that it was time to move.

So, the changing concept matured. And after a few months, a monument was found. This is situated at Marnixstraat 317, Amsterdam. I was in Brazil when Judith proposed this place, and could only have a glimpse of it by photos. However, I felt that this would be the right place where ISBT could build its future. Immediately, I accepted the challenge proposed by Judith and together with Geoff Daniels, we brought the concept to the Board. Since then, we supported her with all additional requests in order to make this place a dazzling and respectable Central Office. Whoever visits there must pay attention to the very high ceilings and big windows from this building. When I saw them for the first time, I finally



realized the concept of light that is so vivid and present in Vermeer's pictures. This is the light of The Netherlands; unique, different and remarkable, even when there are cold and grey days outside.

Perhaps the office might be too big for our activities and needs now, but if we consider that less than 2 years ago we had only Judith and Sophie Hamburger as staff members and today we count with Judith, Monique, Marlies, Ralph and Saimi working with us, one can realize that the space will soon be completely filled. And we certainly will have more things to develop and to present to our members in the next few years.

So, we are actually investing in the future of ISBT and our membership. This will be our new home for decades. I am really grateful for all those who in the past helped to contribute to the ISBT success;

dozens of people who cannot be forgotten at all. Some of them are here today. They all have contributed to our glory and history. I am also thankful to all ISBT staff members, led by Judith Chapman. Naturally, without the full support of the Board members, some of them present here today, this vision could not come true.

My dear and esteemed friends; please make this place as our official ISBT place from now on. This house belongs to all of us. Enjoy it!

Thanks,
Silvano Wendel
ISBT President



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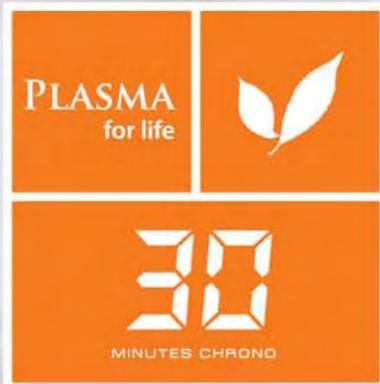
From ISBT Central Office

Revision of the ISBT Statutes

The current Statutes were developed when ISBT moved its headquarters to Amsterdam over ten years ago. A number of issues have been identified with them over the years and around three years ago the Board decided to undertake a formal revision of the Statutes.

A committee was established to undertake the review which has also been supported by legal advice from the ISBT notary and lawyer. A final draft has now been developed and will be submitted to a formal consultation process before being submitted to the General Assembly in Amsterdam 2013 for approval.

A draft will be available on the members only section of the ISBT website from mid June. We will notify you when it has been posted. A session has been arranged at the 32nd International Congress of the ISBT in Cancún which will provide all members with the opportunity for open discussion on a number of key issues arising from the review. You are warmly invited to attend the session if you are planning to be present at the congress in Cancún. If you will not be in Cancún you are welcome to send comments on the draft to geoff.daniels@nhsbt.nhs.uk.



Membership Renewals

The membership year of 2012/2013 started on April 1, 2012. Thank you to all members who already have renewed their membership.

You can easily renew your membership via: www.isbtweb.org/membership. After logging in, the payment page is displayed where you can proceed with your payment. To ensure a smooth payment, please make sure that your address details and your date of birth are complete and correct. The deadline for renewing the ISBT Membership is on June 30, 2012. If the membership has not been renewed after this date, the ISBT Membership will automatically be terminated. Here is a short overview about fees and membership type information.

A reduced fee for members from the low and medium developed index countries, included in the UN Development Programme (UNDP), remains in place for the membership year of 2012/2013.

Being an ISBT member, you will benefit from the following perks:

- Free access to the exclusive membership part of the ISBT website which includes the membership directory and important specified documentation prepared by the ISBT Working Parties;
- A significantly reduced registration fee at ISBT Congresses;
- A free copy of the Society's Scientific Journal "Vox Sanguinis";
- A free copy of the ISBT Science Series, which includes state of the art articles on a number of different aspects of Transfusion Medicine;
- A free copy of "Transfusion Today", ISBT's quarterly magazine;
- Our monthly E-newsletter with updates on ISBT's activities;
- Information on activities of the 'ISBT Academy of Transfusion Medicine', which supports educational courses and symposia worldwide.

Membership year 2012/2013

	35 years and under*	up to 69 years	70 years and over
Very High and High HDI	€55,00	€ 105,00	€ 95,00
Medium HDI	€55,00	€ 75,00	€ 70,00
Low HDI	€55,00	€ 55,00	€ 45,00

* For the 35 years and under fee a copy of your passport photo page is required. Please send one copy to: membership@isbtweb.org

Please note that if you have been granted the 35 years and under fee, you will have online access only to Transfusion Today and Vox Sanguinis.

February 2012-April 2012

Welcome to our new members

Africa

- **ERITREA:** Yifde Amlak Tesfamariam Baraki
- **SOUTH AFRICA:** Greg Bellairs

Americas

- **ARGENTINA:** Antonio Archilla
- **BRAZIL:** Robson Carlos Reis, Caroline Borges, Flavia Givisiez, Tatiana Pereira, Vanessa Sieiro
- **CANADA:** Mark Krause, Jean De Serres, Dusanka D'Atri
- **COSTA RICA:** Erna Melendez
- **USA:** Karafa Badjie, Sonia Bakkour, Roberta Bruhn, Jane Callan, Tanguy Chau, Brian Curtis, Jay Epstein Lauro Guerra Jr, Margaret Keller, Kevin Land, Shalaka Patel, Whitney Steele

Eastern Mediterranean

- **EGYPT:** Mervat El Ansary
- **LEBANON:** Georges Jaalouk
- **PAKISTAN:** Saleem Ahmed Khan

Europe

- **BULGARIA:** Sonya Dzhevizova-Amalieva
- **FRANCE:** Azzedine Assal
- **GERMANY:** Kai Hourfar, Anke Friedetzky
- **ISRAEL:** Aharon Weinstein
- **ITALY:** Barbara Sala, Elena Zito, Mario Occhipinti, Luca Pierelli, Alberto Talarico, Silvia Ferrari
- **NETHERLANDS:** Johanna Van der Bom, Wim de Kort, Veronique Voorn
- **NORWAY:** Kjersti Nafstad, Brita Hermundstad
- **POLAND:** Piotr Grabarczyk

- **ROMANIA:** Aurel Marc Andrei Rosin, Olivia-Ligia Burta
- **RUSSIA:** Dmitriy Likhonin
- **UNITED KINGDOM:** Neil Beckman, Katy Davison, Stephen Bassey

South East Asia

- **INDIA:** Snehalata Gupte, Maitrey Gajjar, Ravneet Kaur Bedi, Dheeraj Khetan
- **THAILAND:** Amornrat Romphruk

Western Pacific

- **AUSTRALIA:** Jacqui Caulfield, Rhonda Hosken, Quirine O'Loughlin, Linley Bielby, Helen Faddy, Sarah Pincott
- **CHINA:** Qing Chen, Hong Lin
- **SINGAPORE:** Sherlee Choliluddin
- **SOUTH KOREA:** Myung Han Kim, Seon Ho Lee, Yun Ji Hong

ISBT CANCUN 2012

July 7-12, 2012

www.isbtweb.org/mexico

2012

July 5

SHOT Symposium 2012 to launch the latest Annual SHOT Report
Manchester, UK
<http://www.shotuk.org/>

August 23

41st Annual Scientific Meeting
Amsterdam, The Netherlands
<https://iseh.site-ym.com/>

September 26-28

British Blood Transfusion Society 30th Annual Conference
Harrogate, UK
<https://www.bbts.org.uk/>

October 6-9

22nd International Congress on Thrombosis
Nice, France
<http://www.geyseco.es/mltd2012/>

October 25-26

3rd Pan-European Conference on Haemoglobinopathies and Rare Anaemias
Limassol, Cyprus
<http://www.thalassaemia.org.cy/>

October 29 – November 1

HAA / APSTH 2012 Melbourne Convention Exhibition Centre
haa@fcconventions.com.au

Young Investigators Breakfast Session

Monday July 9, 2012

If you are a scientific /medical researcher and under 35 years of age you can join the Young Investigators (YI) breakfast session.

You will be able to discuss your work with your peers and expert mentors and receive valuable feedback.

The session will be held at the beach restaurant in the Fiesta Americana Grand Coral Hotel which is located immediately opposite the Cancún Convention Centre.

To take part, you need to complete and submit the form which is available at isbtweb.org/mexico.

The Cancún Convention Centre

The Cancún Convention Centre is conveniently located across the street of the hotels Fiesta Americana Grand Coral, Krystal, Dreams and Hyatt Regency and at walking distance of many shops and restaurants of all kinds of food and for different budgets.

The Cancún Convention Centre has four levels; the first two will host the industry exhibition and the third and fourth floors will be used for the academic sessions.

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*This product has not been approved for sale or use in the United States of America



From ISBT Central Office



Cancún Congress App

Cancún Tours

For those who would like to explore Cancún before or after the congress we hand-picked interesting tours in the Cancún area.

Nichupté Lagoon System

This lagoon system is formed by three principal bodies of water; an enormous lagoon, and two appendages. The Nichupté Lagoon is located on the opposite side of the island from the Caribbean Sea.

Reef

The Mesoamerican Reef is the Atlantic Ocean's largest coral reef with a stretch of almost 700 miles. This reef is home to over 65 species of stony coral and more than 500 species of fish —among them the "Mammoth Whale Shark", the largest fish in the world.

Archaeological sites

Archaeological sites are scattered through Cancún. Visit the Hotel Zone between Nichupte Lagoon and Playa Delfines and you will find El Rey which is an ancient Mayan city that developed during the Post-Classic period — between 1200 and 1521.

As a congress attendee you will benefit from our specially designed mobile app for the 32nd International Congress. This app runs on Apple, Blackberry Web Enabled and Android mobile devices.

With this app you will always be on top of the latest developments with our real time alerts. And the greatest thing of this app is that you control it by using the built in easy to use management tool. Synchronize your session of choice into your agenda and receive a notification before a session of your preference starts.

Also you have access to all submitted abstracts, overview of speakers, interactive floor plans, information on exhibitors and news feeds. And you do not need to worry about being on- or offline. Because once you have downloaded the initial app, there is no need to be online to use it*.

**Please note that without online access the app cannot synchronize to ensure you have the latest update.*

Automated platelet pooling implemented

in Russia

On March 13-15 the theoretical and practical seminar called "Modern methods of the pooling of platelets integration" took place. The seminar was held at Blood Bank no2 "Sanguis" in Ekaterinburg.



Platelet workshop Russia, 2012.

On March 13-15 the theoretical and practical seminar called "Modern methods of the pool of platelets integration" took place. The seminar was held at Blood Bank no2 "Sanguis" in Ekaterinburg.

The heads and specialists of the Blood Service establishments from Moscow, St Petersburg, Tumen, Ufa and Sverdlovsk Region participated in the seminar.

During the seminar different facets of the advantages and disadvantages of modern methods of the pool of platelets integration (apheresis technologies, integration of the pool of platelets from buffy coat) were analyzed.

As the demand for platelets is increasing, different ways of developing a technology for donor platelet banking were determined. The Blood Bank "Sanguis" shared its experience on the practical usage of Russia's first Automated Centrifuge and Separator Integration of the pool of platelets from the buffy coat as well as apheresis technologies on donor pool of platelets banking.

The meeting between the colleagues and transfusionists on the Ural land traditionally took place in a warm and friendly atmosphere.

Highlights of the First International Conference of Saudi Society of Transfusion Medicine

Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia



First International Scientific Conference of the Saudi Society of Transfusion Medicine

March 5-8, 2012 the Saudi Society of Transfusion Medicine (SSTM) had its first international scientific conference at the Intercontinental Hotel, Jeddah in collaboration with the International Society of Blood Transfusion (ISBT), the World Health Organization (WHO), the American Association of Blood Banking (AABB), the World Federation of Haemophilia and King Abdulaziz University (KAU), Jeddah.

More than thirty international, regional, and national speakers participated in this conference. A total of fifteen scientific sessions and two workshops were held in four days.

The society has recognized the work of Professor Soad Sajeni, Mr. Abdullah Aldrees from Saudi Arabia, Dr Nabila Metwalli from WHO and Dr. Gamal Gabra from UK. These four well-known figures in Transfusion Medicine are building a solid base for fellow colleagues in the field of Transfusion Medicine in Saudi Arabia and the rest of the whole region.

This initiative was extremely successful through positive interaction between international and national speakers leading to the advancement of knowledge for transfusion medicine among scientific

participants from the different medical fields. The topics discussed involved blood donation quality and safety, transfusion transmitted infections updates, clinical practice, updates on stem cell therapy and emergency planning. One of the most important sessions was the National Blood Transfusion Services and Plasma Fractionation to reach self-sufficiency.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is planning to have plasma fractionation facilities to cover the requirement for the Kingdom and the whole region. Its aim is self-sufficient plasma products which are safe and available for the patient when required at a reasonable cost.

The two workshops covered the quality, risk management and training for AABB assessors. The recommendations from this conference are as follows:

- The need to have local guidelines and policies based on local experience, researches, and audit of practice.
- The need for improved communication between blood transfusions services and different health specialties for better use of blood components and their products.
- The need for increasing volunteer blood donors through further interaction with the community and media towards improving safety and quality of blood transfusion.
- The need to put in place a national haemovigilance system and to have disaster preparation which should be included in the National Disaster Plan.
- Education and training programs for staff and specialists involved in the blood transfusion sequence towards a better clinical practice and secure blood for patients' requiring blood transfusions

Perspectives in Cell- and Gene-Based Medicines

The Role of Transfusion Medicine and Hemotherapy, Meeting Report



During the opening ceremony, from left to right: Prof. Andreas Zeiher and Prof. Hubert Serve (executive board of the LOEWE Center for Cell-and Gene Therapy Frankfurt), Prof. Hildegard Büning (president of the German Society for Gene Therapy), Prof. Peter Hanfland (president of the Foundation Hemotherapy-Research), and Prof. Stefanie Dimmeler, Dr. Manuel Grez and Prof. Erhard Seifried (congress organizers).

From March 15th to March 17th 2012 the interdisciplinary conference brought together international experts and a broad audience from the field of gene- and cell-based therapies. The growing role of transfusion medicine specialists in the generation of cell- and gene-based therapies was a special focus of the meeting program. The educational program on hematopoietic stem cells, which was supported by the ISBT Academy, introduced many of the younger physicians and scientists to the multiple roles of our specialty in the burgeoning area of cell- and gene-based therapies.

Under the generic title “Perspectives in Cell- and Gene-Based Medicines”, the German Society of Gene Therapy (DG-GT), the recently founded LOEWE Center of Excellence in Cell and Gene Therapy Frankfurt (CGT-Frankfurt), and the

Foundation for Haemotherapy Research (Stiftung Hämotherapie-Forschung) jointly hosted more than 50 highly recognized international experts in the field, who discussed new developments in and expectations for cell- and gene-based medicines as treatments for a wide variety of diseases. Lively discussions between world experts and the 420 participants accompanied the 100 oral and 130 poster presentations, many of which were held by emerging young scientists. The organizers, Prof. Dr. Erhard Seifried, Prof. Dr. Stefanie Dimmeler, and Dr. Manuel Grez, highlighted in their welcome addresses how the combination of both fields, gene- and cell therapy, offers excellent perspectives for improving the treatment of a host of diseases and represents an important basis for regenerative medicine. Prof. Dr. Peter Hanfland, president of the “Foundation Hemotherapy Research”, reminded the audience how the medical specialty of Transfusion Medicine

is predestined to link together basic sciences, genetic and cellular engineering and technology and individual treatment of patients in different clinics on the other. The meeting was co-sponsored by the German Society of Transfusion Medicine (DGTI) and the ISBT.

The three-day scientific program touched a broad spectrum of topics including: Advances in gene therapy for haemophilia, cellular plasticity, cell-based therapeutics, hematopoietic und cardiac gene therapy, genome engineering and repair, iPS, reprogramming and hematopoiesis, clonality in normal and aberrant regeneration, modulating vector-cell interactions, virotherapy and cancer gene therapy, genetic, metabolic and acquired disorders, regenerative medicine, and cellular immune modulation. In addition, the meeting included a satellite session on regulatory issues related to the production and processing of cell and gene-based

products for medical application according to the current legislation as well as three ISBT Academy educational sessions on hematopoietic stem cells. Introduced by Prof. Dr. Anne Husebekk the educational program gave an overview on hematopoietic stem cell biology, on the criteria and procedures to finding the right donor, and on hematopoietic stem cell transplantation and graft manipulation. Up to 100 mostly junior scientists and physicians followed the presentations and participated in vivid discussions.

Afghanistan's Minister of Public Health, Suraya Dalil, MD, MPH encourages Afghans to donate blood

On March 31st, the Embassy of Canada hosted its first-ever blood drive in support of the Afghanistan National Blood Safety and Transfusion Services . The drive was a great success and resulted in 100 units of blood donated to help the needy patients in Afghanistan.

Volunteers from the Kabul community, the Embassy of Canada, the Canadian Program Support Unit and the international community joined together to donate blood to help Afghans in need. Afghanistan's Minister of Public Health, Suraya Dalil, MD, MPH and Canada's Chargé d'affaires for Afghanistan, Shelley Whiting, were among the group of VIP donors who took part in this blood drive. "I would like to ask the Afghan people who are eligible to donate and who do not have any health problems to participate in the blood collection drive and with this safe many lives of our fellow Afghan citizens who are ill or injured and fighting for their lives." said the Minister Suraya Dalil MD, MPH. The Minister of Public Health is one of the regular voluntary blood donors who donates frequently and also greatly supports the National Transfusion Program.

"Donating blood is very safe and takes less than 20 minutes." said Chargé d'affaires Shelley Whiting. "It

Ahmad Masoud Rahmani
National Director, Afghanistan National Blood Safety and Transfusion Services
Ministry of Public Health, Kabul



Afghanistan's Minister of Health Suraya Dalil (left) and Ahmad Masoud Rahmani (white coat). Canadian Chargé d'affaires Shelley Whiting donating blood.

is also a tangible way in which Canadians, Afghans and the international community can reach out a helping hand."

Alison Riddle, MSc First Secretary (Development): "We believe that the first-ever Embassy of Canada blood drive benefitting the Afghan population was a great success and resulted in many units of blood donated to help Afghans. We are hoping to repeat this experience later this summer." The blood drive event is going to be held on a regular basis at the Embassy of Canada. The next blood drive event will be held at the US Embassy.

The Afghan team were practicing together with the expert team from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and CPSU resulting in an excellent advocacy for the city which was a great opportunity. Having these blood drives in collaboration with foreign societies is helping us to fulfill the serious need for Rh(-)blood groups - as these blood groups are very rare among Afghans - as well as building public trust for our country among the Afghan society. The donated blood will supply many hospitals in Kabul and other areas of Afghanistan and help save the lives of trauma victims, surgical patients and adults and children with life-threatening blood diseases.

Norma Pimentel Campuzano
Director of the Potosí Regional Blood Bank

Development of Transfusion Medicine in Potosí - Bolivia

Since 1996 Bolivia has a National Blood Bank Regulation in order to organize Transfusion Medicine and ensure safe blood transfusion therapy the country. Until May 2002 there were 60% replacement blood donors and 40% paid donors. In addition blood units were not fractionated, Transfusion Transmitted Infection (TTI) testing and Immunohematological testing did not receive periodical quality control and blood transfusion therapy was determined without any clinical criteria.

In May 2002, a special programme called "Voluntary Blood Donation" was created for the Regional Blood Bank of Potosí at Hospital Daniel Bracamonte funded by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). This programme contains thorough training in different areas of Blood Banking and Transfusion Medicine for doctors, biochemists, nurses and technicians and quality policy guidelines. These were successfully implemented. We proudly present our results after almost 10 years of hard work:

- 50% of voluntary blood donation, no paid blood donation;
- 100% of whole blood is processed in blood components;
- 100% of units are tested for TTI.

The Regional Blood Bank of Potosí participates in both National (INLASA) and International (PNCQ-Brazil) Quality Control Programmes for TTI.

Our doctors are responsible for training professionals with other specialties in different areas of Blood Banking and Transfusion Medicine in order to improve transfusion therapy.

With 150 hospital beds, the Blood Bank covers the necessities of transfusion therapy and even other centres from the Potosí Department.

For all the reasons mentioned above, we are convinced that we have made a 180 degree turn in 10 years in terms of Transfusion Medicine safety in Potosí. The Organización Panamericana de la Salud (OPS) have recognised our massive improvement and honoured us for our Bolivian achievement.

We are pleased to say that the citizens of Potosí have access to safe blood components of high quality and that we comply with the national and international regulations.

New Board of the Bolivian Society of Immunohematology and Transfusion Medicine

On March 18th the first Board of the Bolivian Society of Immunohematology and Transfusion Medicine (SOBIMET) was elected at Sucre City, which is the constitutional capital of Bolivia. SOBIMET is a non-profit civil and scientific Society where professionals in the field of Immuno

hematology and Transfusion Medicine are promoting, coordinating, supporting and developing the academic and scientific activities. The main focus of SOBIMET's Board is the development of Immunohematology and Transfusion Medicine in Bolivia according to the international standards with the needs and possibilities of Bolivia kept in mind and maintaining and developing a close relationship with international scientific organisations.

During the election Dr. Oscar Walter Torres received the status of "Foreign Honorary Member" because of his continuous contribution to human resources training in Transfusion Medicine in Bolivia.

The Slovenian National Congress of Transfusion Medicine and Haematology

April 12 – 14, Terme Olimia, Slovenia

The Slovenian Association for Transfusion Medicine was co-organizer of the 4th National Congress together with the Slovenian Haematology Association. This 3 day event was organised in Terme Olimia in Podčetrtek April 12 - 14, 2012.

The congress was combined with the congress of Nurses in Haemato-oncology and the congress of Laboratory workers in Haematology and Transfusion services. There were 270 registered participants in total for these meetings.

The Slovenian Association for Transfusion Medicine was founded 48 years ago. This society is part of the Slovenian Medical Association. All physicians who are employed in blood transfusion services are members of the Slovenian Association for Transfusion Medicine. Currently, 49 active members have joined the society.

During the congress experts had the opportunity to present their projects and innovations. Numerous topics were discussed at the meeting from blood procurement and donor management, novel diagnostic procedures and case reports in immuno-haematology to achievements in haemovigilance. Cellular therapy became a reality and the role of transfusion medicine in transplantation of cells, tissues and organs was highlighted.

We appreciated a concept of twin lectures, where the clinicians presented the innovations in diagnostics and treatment of specific diseases and the expert in transfusion medicine discussed the aspects of the latest technologies in the production of blood components and novel treatment with blood products. An example of such twin presentation is "Long-term effects stem cell transplantation in heart failure" combined with the promotion of "Collection of stem cells in patients with heart failure". There were many examples of good cooperation between clinicians and blood banks such as "Clinical pathway as a tool of cooperation between hospital blood bank and hospital clinical departments".



Former President of the ISBT, prof. Erhard Seifried at the Slovenian National Congress of Transfusion Medicine and Haematology

Also, there was a session called "Rational Management of Transfusion Services". This session was particularly beneficial to blood transfusion establishments and national authorities as a roadmap toward cost reduction. Different strategies for rationalisation in blood supply and improving clinical use of blood products were recognised. The use of telemedicine for supporting 24/7 blood supply was promoted. The delegates were informed about future perspectives in transfusion medicine as well as transfusion medicine as a crossroad between personalised and depersonalised medicine. The meeting has featured local and international speakers with participation from Germany, United Kingdom, Luxembourg, Switzerland and France. We are honoured that for

the first time ISBT supported the congress. Former President of the ISBT, prof. Erhard Seifried talked about ISBT as an international organisation, the value of being an ISBT member and the achievements of the ISBT Working Parties.

We feel that a congress is also an opportunity to give homage to experts and colleagues. Therefore the Slovenian Association for Transfusion Medicine awarded 6 colleagues for their many years of dedicated and selfless work and their contributions to the progress of transfusion medicine as a science and as a service.

The commercial sector supported the congress through satellite symposia and more than 20 exhibition booths.

The meetings are scheduled twice a year, two days each. An international congress is organised every four years.

Hosting congresses is a great opportunity to show achievements and the development of transfusion medicine in our country.

The organisers of the 4th Slovenian Transfusion Congress are satisfied with the success of the meeting, the interest of delegates and fruitful exchange of knowledge and experiences.

"Numerous topics were discussed at the meeting from blood procurement and donor management, novel diagnostic procedures and case reports in immuno-haematology to achievements in haemovigilance."

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To learn more about Octapharma, please visit our booth 22 at the ISBT Congress in Cancun, Mexico and join us for our symposium on Monday, July 9th at 12:15 – 13:45h in room Cozumel 3&4.

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