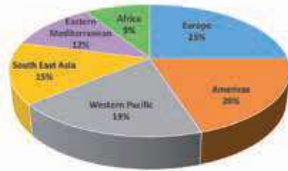




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Figure 1: Geographical distribution (%) of the 362 Young Professional ISBT members in 2017/18



Current status and opportunities for Young Professionals in ISBT

This article is written by the inaugural ISBT Young Professionals Council, which commenced in 2018 (bit.ly/ISBTYPC). Our aim is to increase the value of ISBT membership and to promote active participation of the Young Professionals (≤ 35 years old) in the Society's activities. With this in mind, it is important to have an understanding of the current Young Professionals' involvement in the society and what activities are already available.

How many ISBT members are Young Professionals and where are they based?

In 2017/18, 362 or 21% of the 1,731 ISBT members were aged <35, and therefore considered Young Professionals. The 362 Young Professional members were from all around the world, with Europe, the Americas and the Western Pacific the most heavily represented regions based upon WHO's regional classifications (Figure 1).

Opportunities for Young Professionals at ISBT congresses There are several activities available for Young Professionals at ISBT Congresses:

- The Harold Gunson Fellowship is a travel grant for young researchers (≤ 40 years old) to attend an ISBT International or Regional Congress. Twenty-five Fellowships were awarded at the Toronto International Congress.
- There are special Young Investigators sessions at ISBT congresses. In Toronto, 215 (22%) of the 992 abstracts selected for presentations were submitted by Young Professionals. Six abstracts were selected for the Young Investigators session, 27 abstracts selected for oral presentations in other sessions, and 182 abstracts selected for poster presentations.
- The Young Investigators breakfast session allows younger members to meet and talk with transfusion medicine experts about the challenges and joys of research. In Toronto, 42 Young Professionals registered for this session.
- There are workshops designed for Young Professionals during ISBT congresses. At the upcoming Congress in Basel three workshops will be organised.

Other opportunities for ISBT Young Professionals

There are further opportunities for ISBT Young Professional members outside of ISBT congresses:

- The I TRY IT Program is a two year Transfusion Research Training program for Young Professionals. Participants learn how to develop research protocols and how to write a manuscript. The programme consists of a number of web-based lessons, combined with in-person meetings at ISBT congresses.
- Each month an ISBT webinar on various Transfusion Medicine topics is organised. During these live events attendees are able to ask questions and discuss the topic.
- Every two months the ISBT holds an online Live Journal Club where scientific articles are discussed by experts. ISBT members can ask questions and discuss the article.
- There is also the ISBT Forum available for all ISBT members. There are several specific forums available, including one for Young Professionals.

The ISBT Webinars, Live Journal Clubs and the ISBT Forum are freely accessible. Moreover, recordings of past ISBT webinars and Live Journal Club sessions are available on ISBT Education.

What is next?

Every three months an ISBT Webinar will be dedicated to Young Professionals. The topic of the webinar will help the professional development of Young Professionals and the session will be co-hosted by a member of the council. There will be a "speed dating" session at the Basel congress to facilitate further interaction between Young Professionals and experienced ISBT members. Further ideas for activities or ways to improve the experience of ISBT Young Professional members are welcome and can be communicated to myself (jtung@redcrossblood.org.au) or other council members (bit.ly/ISBTYPC). Further ideas for activities or ways to improve the experience of Young Professional ISBT members are welcome and can be communicated to myself (jtung@redcrossblood.org.au) or other council members (e-mail addresses of the ISBT Young Professional Council members are listed on the ISBT website). Young members are also invited to share with us their thoughts and activities within the ISBT society through the different social media channels using #ISBTYoungBlood.