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Young Professional activities at the 29th regional congress of the ISBT Basel, Switzerland 22-26 June 2019

The 29th Regional Congress of the ISBT in Basel provided yet another opportunity for young professionals to share their research experience, advance their knowledge and network with other participants from all around the world. The ISBT Young Professionals Council (YPC) has been busy preparing for dedicated young professional activities for the congress and presented its report of achievements (since its establishment in 2018) as well as plans for the future to the ISBT Board. The congress featured many activities tailored for young professionals aiming at enhancing their experience during the congress. The congress program had information about the young professional activities on a dedicated page on the congress book as well as on the website. Professional development



This year, 137 (18.9%) of total 724 submitted abstracts were from young professionals. Out of these, 27 were awarded with an oral presentation, 94 were selected for poster presentation and 16 were rejected. These figures are similar to last year's Toronto congress where a total of 215 (22%) abstracts were submitted by young professionals. The Basel abstracts are published as a special issue of journal Vox Sanguinis (volume 114, Issue S1, 2019). Members of the ISBT Board and the Young Professionals Council had the opportunity to meet and congratulate this year's 13 Harold Gunson fellowship winners during the Harold Gunson lunch. During the congress, there were three workshops on topics relevant to young attendees: the "Fundamentals of Good Grant Writing" by Imelda Bates, "How to Improve Your Scientific Writing" by Bob van der Laaken and "Pitch your research idea" by Henrik Ullum, Ellen van der Schoot and Jill Story.

Networking and Social Activities

The congress venue featured a "Young Professional Space" for the Young Professionals Council members to enable them to meet

and interact with young professionals attending the congress. The council members made themselves available at this dedicated booth during lunch and coffee breaks throughout the congress. Specially designed pins were also given to the young professionals. During the opening of the Exhibition on Sunday, the Young Professionals reception was held with drinks and snacks.

Also, it was the very time that "Young Investigator Speed-Dating" event was organized, where young attendees could sign up to have a short talk (speed date) with a representatives of the ISBT Board, Young Professionals Council, the ISBT Academy, the ISBT Working Parties and the Vox Sanguinis Editorial Board. The aim of this session was to increase the awareness of different ISBT activities. The attendees had discussions on the functions of each representative within ISBT, and the different opportunities for YPs within the society.

In line with previous congresses, the young investigators had a networking breakfast to enable them to meet and network with mentors and different transfusion medicine experts. The Council members also participated at the early morning ISBT run alongside the Rhine River, which made the Basel congress unforgettable. In addition, live updates on the various activities during the congress were given on diverse social media utilizing the hashtag #ISBTYoungBlood.

Follow the Council's hashtag #ISBTYoungBlood on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn for updates on the council activities. Your participation and engagement matters!

"Sometimes the most ordinary things could be made extraordinary, simply by doing them with the right people" - Nickolas Sparks

