

Meeting of the Presidents of the National Societies

Date: Sunday June 28, 2015

Venue: Excel Convention and Exhibition Centre, London



Notes from Meeting

Present:

Celso Bianco	ISBT (in the chair)
Roger Dodd	ISBT
Judith Chapman	ISBT
Erica Wood	ISBT & ANZSBT
Lynn Uhl	AABB
Vijith Gunasekera	AATM
Marija Borosak	ANZSBT
Oscar Torres	Argentinian Society
Gabriela Dabusti	Argentinian Society
Mario Muon	Associação Portuguesa de Imunohemoterapia
Dimas Tadu Covas	Brazilian Association
Date Langhi	Brazilian Association
Martin Bruce	BBTS
Gwen Clarke	Canadian Society for Transfusion Medicine
Maria Dolores Nieto	Ecuador Association
Neelam Marwaha	Indian Society of Transfusion Medicine
Sally Lam	Malaysian Blood Transfusion Society
Angel Guerra	Mexican Association of Transfusion Medicine
Lydia Blanco	Spanish Society of Blood Transfusion
Eduardo Muniz Dias	Spanish Society of Blood Transfusion
Jill Storry	Swedish Society of Blood Transfusion
Hasan Abbas Zaheer	Pakistan Society
Usman Waheed	Pakistan Society
Eugene Zhiburt	Russian Transfusionist's Association
Gürol Emekdas	Blood Banks and Transfusion Society of Turkey
Nusret Nuri Solaz	Blood Banks and Transfusion Society of Turkey
Claudio Velati	Italian Society of Blood Transfusion
Fang-Yek Chu	Taiwan Society of Blood Transfusion

1. Welcome

Celso Bianco welcomed everyone to the meeting. He explained that the Presidents of the National Societies meeting was introduced with the aim of a good conversation regarding each of our Societies work and our mission of improving transfusion medicine. He hoped that ISBT will be able to do more to ensure more frequent interaction.

2. ISBT Activities

Judith Chapman gave a presentation on ISBT activities that had taken place during the year. ISBT launched a new website in February and at the same time the ISBT Academy ePortal was

renewed. The ePortal includes presentations from congresses with associated learning quizzes, abstracts, ePosters, e books and the library of guidelines. The content is divided up into 11 topic areas. The ISBT Academy supported 19 events covering a range of topics across the globe including symposia, one day meetings and wet workshops. As a WHO NGO ISBT has participated in various WHO activities including World Blood Donor Day, the development of a report on Medical Products of Human Origin, the Expert Committee on Biological Standardisation and work carried out on collecting and using convalescent plasma from recovering Ebola patients. ISBT has also been involved with TRec, a European Union funded project on research in transfusion medicine in Africa. The Working Parties continue to be active and contribute to the Society. The Central Office staff established a Young Investigators LinkedIn forum which is proving to be a great success. At least 40 young investigators will meet for a breakfast session during the congress. The ISBT Board met for a two day strategy retreat before the congress when a new strategy for the next four years was developed together with a new mission statement. The mission statement is underpinned by six domains each with its own vision and associated activities.

3. ISBT Affiliate membership

Roger Dodd, (RD) outlined work that was being carried out on reviewing and renewing ISBT Affiliate membership. Reaching out to National Societies is seen by as ISBT as being important and is included in the strategic plan for 2016 – 2018. ISBT is keen to have more National Societies as Affiliate members but realised that Affiliate membership offered little in return for the fee paid. The Board were of the opinion that Affiliate membership should benefit both parties. Under RD's leadership ISBT is developing a new offering. A list of potential benefits was sent to the current Affiliate members for comment. Following feedback a paper was prepared and presented to the ISBT Board at its meeting prior to the congress. Discussion took place around the membership benefits e.g. reduced price membership of ISBT, access to the ISBT ePortal, Working Party material and ISBT publications etc. for the members of Affiliate societies. RD had been asked to do some further work on the benefits taking into account the financial effect on ISBT. RD was keen to hear the opinions of the National Societies.

Action: National Societies to contact RD regarding Affiliate membership proposals

4. Brief update from participants

Nusrat Solas (Turkish Society) brought with him some brochures on the Blood Banks and Transfusion Society of Turkey and the Turkish Blood Foundation. They will organise a workshop in Turkey in December. He commented that he found ISBT congresses highly scientific but missed informal social events like concerts and visits to the theatre.

Neelam Marwaha (Indian Society of Transfusion Medicine) appreciated the joint sessions that they had been able to run at their national congress in association with the ISBT Academy. She enquired about the proposed Affiliate member programme sharing that for many societies members had a life membership. Thus if any of the proposed benefits involved a reduced fee for members the cost would have to be borne by the Society rather than the member. She asked RD to take this into consideration when revising the Affiliate member benefits.

Hasan Zaheer (Pakistan Society and the Asia Association of Transfusion Medicine) also thanked ISBT for its support of the Pakistan Society's one day meetings. The 2015 AATM conference will be held in Islamabad in October and he invited those present to attend.

Gabriela Dabusti (Argentinian Association) stated that they would be prepared to translate material. They have an annual conference and invite neighbouring countries to attend.

Eugene Zhiburt (Russian Transfusionist's Association) shared that they make educational activities on an annual basis with the help of the ISBT Academy. They have had some excellent speakers

covering a range of topics. He proposed a National Societies research network. This proposal had come out of a meeting of Russian anaesthetists he had attended where he found out about an international study 'Assessment of the worldwide burden of critical illness the Intensive Care Over Nations' (ICON).

[http://www.researchgate.net/publication/261749688_Assessment_of_the_worldwide_burden_of_critical_illness_the_Intensive_Care_Over_Nations_\(ICON\)_audit](http://www.researchgate.net/publication/261749688_Assessment_of_the_worldwide_burden_of_critical_illness_the_Intensive_Care_Over_Nations_(ICON)_audit)

Sally Lam (Malaysian Society) reported that the Malaysian Society will hold their 7th conference in Kuala Lumpur September 11 – 13.

Eduardo Muniz Dias (Spanish Society) mentioned that he had attended some excellent Working Party (WP) meetings and asked about the involvement of the WPs in the congress scientific programme. JC responded that the WPs are involved as they are asked for proposals for topics and speakers and at the international congresses each has the opportunity to organise a session to showcase their WP. RD also mentioned that the WPs are encouraged to submit articles to Transfusion Today and material for the ePortal.

Claudio Velati (Italian Society) believed that the National Presidents meeting is really useful but suggested the meeting should be more proactive. He mentioned that it would be useful for ISBT Working Party documents to be sent around the National Societies for comment. Jill Storry responded as the Chair of the ISBT Terminology WP and agreed that this would be a good idea and might also help in finding representation on WPs for countries that are not represented. It was also suggested to have a National Societies area on the ISBT website.

Action: JC to send WP documents around the National Societies as appropriate.

Erica Wood (ANZSBT and ISBT Vice President) mentioned the Transfusion Practitioners (TP) breakfast that had taken place that morning. She said there was an energetic buzz around the room. TPs have mainly a nursing or medical scientists background, in Australia they have good support but in some countries there is no support network. She believed that ISBT could play a useful role as a support network and we should encourage TPs to join.

Nusrat Solas responded that in Turkey transfusion nurses have been in place for quite some time and have their own meeting. Some courses are also being organised for transfusion practitioners.

Action: National Societies to send ISBT the name and email address of any TP that they consider would be interested in the TP group.

5. Closure

Celso thanked everyone for attending the meeting and for their comments and suggestions. He hoped the congress would be of benefit to them. ISBT looks forward to meeting everyone again in Dubai in June 2016.