



AfSBT e-Newsletter



February 2016

We want to use this opportunity to tell you a little bit more about the 8th International Congress of the Africa Society for Blood Transfusion, that we are organizing in partnership with Rwanda Biomedical Center, RBC/NCBT in Kigali in Rwanda, from 31 May to 3 June 2016.

First of all, I must say that Rob Wilkinson (AfSBT Accreditation Manager and Chair, International Scientific Committee) and I took a trip to Kigali in November last year, to meet the Rwandan team, and loved the place. It is very special indeed, and as Swaibu Katare (AfSBT Education Manager, MD of the National Blood Centre in Rwanda, and Chair, Local Organising Committee) says, Rwanda is the land of a thousand hills. They don't even have a railway system – and this is quite understandable, of course. They are developing a completely novel way of delivering blood to hospitals, and you need to come to the congress to hear more about this exciting innovation.

The congress venue is Serena Hotel in Kigali, which is not far from the airport. In fact, nowhere in Kigali is very far from the airport – and the road systems are good, albeit a bit

bendy in parts to accommodate the many hills. The environment of the city of Kigali is clean and at night is well lit, with twinkling blue and red pinpoint lights on the tarred road surfaces. There are lots of small motorbikes, and often two people per bike, helmeted. There is no litter to be seen anywhere – the sidewalks and parks are clean and well-kept and there seem to be workers constantly attending to the gardens. Lots of building is going on – evidence of good economic development. There is an emphasis on work and making a contribution to a healthy and just society. Fast food outlets are not so many, and there is not a large variety of soft drinks. The local beer is really good and affordable, unlike the wine which is quite expensive.

Our congress website is up and running and all you have to do is go and visit it at www.afsbtcongress.org. With regard to the submission of **abstracts**, please do so as soon as possible, to give the Scientific Committee sufficient time to assess them, compile them and assign them to the correct place in the programme, for your maximum benefit. The format your abstract should take is carefully explained on the website, with examples of several types of submission. Once you are done, simply email your abstract to Rob Wilkinson on - robwilkinson795@gmail.com. Let him know if you and your co-authors prefer oral, poster

presentation, or either. It is important that you receive an acknowledgement from Rob, and if you do not, please email us to investigate this.

Registration is also easily done online. Enter your details as required, and you will receive a confirmatory email. If you do not, email Molly Gondwe (AfSBT Administration Officer) on nyags18@gmail.com to help you sort this out. Once you have registered, Molly will send you an invoice and if you have registered as an AfSBT member but your membership has lapsed, then your invoice will include the US\$ 40.00 membership renewal fee. **Now comes the really important part** – once you have paid your registration, go to the Accommodation tab and make a hotel booking using the booking form posted there, and email it to Mega Reservations together with your proof of payment of registration. Mega reservations have secured discounted rates for only those who have paid for their congress registration. (This precaution is necessary in order to prevent just anybody making a booking at these rates. This is why we strongly encourage you to **pay for your registration in advance**. Secondly, we prefer not to have to deal with cash transactions on site, which will take time and lead to queueing at the start of the congress.

Should you wait until your arrival to pay, you will unfortunately face a **5% penalty**.

Introducing the Management Team:

- David Mvere
- Beryl Armstrong
- Rob Wilkinson
- Swaibu Katare
- Bright Mulenga
- Molly Gondwe

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(from the editor continued)

Another word on **accommodation** – there are lots of other hotels in Kigali; the website deals only with the preferred hotels. Note that there will also be a bus service from these hotels only – go to the website and check under General info for details on when buses will be available to and from the airport, for delegates to the congress. However, if you prefer your own personal transport, the hotels listed on the website provide this for a fee, as shown on page 2 of the booking form.

The **Trade Exhibition** promises to be excellent, and we have already secured our Platinum and Gold Sponsors, as well as Silver and Bronze sponsors. Applications continue to be received. The **opening ceremony** will take place in the evening of 31 May, in the ballroom, and this official opening, by the Minister of Health in Rwanda, will be followed by the opening of the Trade Exhibition in the marquee, right next to the conference centre. Your registration fee covers your attendance at these ceremonies, as well as refreshments and snacks – and entertainment by local singer dancers.

I will continue to tell you more about the congress in the next newsletter – especially the exciting scientific programme. In the meantime, get registered, book your accommodation and send in an abstract for consideration!

Beryl Armstrong – editor

Advice on Funding for congress attendance

- ◆ Contact commercial companies that do business with your relevant department. This request should not compromise your ethical conduct and should be in line with your local regulations. One way is to request a letter of support from your superiors.
- ◆ Apply to non-governmental organizations for funding support. Please remember to show how your institution will benefit, through sharing of information and other options.
- ◆ Encourage your superiors to have a special fund for educational grants that support staff who wish to showcase their work and therefore promote the institution nationally, regionally and internationally.

Benefits of AfSBT Membership

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

Includes honorary members

- ◆ Entitled to vote during general meetings of AfSBT
- ◆ E-newsletters are emailed monthly
- ◆ Email notification when *Africa Sanguine* is released online
- ◆ Online access to full contents of *Africa Sanguine*
- ◆ Online access to educational materials
- ◆ On e-mailing list of news related to the field of blood transfusion

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Blood Services in Africa / Scientific organisations in Africa – benefits include:

- ◆ Networking with transfusion leaders in Africa, through attendance at meetings and also through the website.
- ◆ Helping to keep abreast with developments and thus avoiding duplication of effort and the waste of valuable resources.
- ◆ AfSBT is able to provide technical experts with a good understanding of the blood transfusion field in Africa.
- ◆ Provides a forum for determining needs in terms of training and technical assistance in African countries.
- ◆ Provides credibility when advocating for better and safer transfusion practices; and when advocating for funding to implement solutions.
- ◆ Provides an opportunity for mentoring and developing promising young scientists in the field.
- ◆ Provides an opportunity to participate in the setting of "Standards of Practice" and thus increase quality, safety and access to blood components.
- ◆ Keep up to date with changes to Standards, and policies such as the Code of Ethics.
- ◆ Preferential benefits to exhibit at congresses.
- ◆ Representative member pays the discounted member registration fee for AfSBT congresses.
- ◆ Representative member has a vote during annual general meetings of AfSBT.
- ◆ E-newsletters are emailed monthly.
- ◆ These members are listed in *Africa Sanguine* and on the website.
- ◆ There are links on the AfSBT website to their own website.
- ◆ *Africa Sanguine* is emailed on publication.

CORPORATE MEMBERS

Commercial companies – benefits include:

- ◆ E-newsletters are emailed monthly
- ◆ These members are listed in *Africa Sanguine* and on the website
- ◆ There are links on the AfSBT website to their own website
- ◆ *Africa Sanguine* is emailed on publication

AFFILIATE MEMBERS

These are overseas not for profit organisations engaged in work similar to that of AfSBT. The organisation and AfSBT have a reciprocal relationship that does not involve fees. The organisations benefit from exchange of educational / scientific information about programmes. They are given special consideration for exhibiting at congresses. Benefits are:

Benefits of AfSBT Membership

- ◆ E-newsletters are emailed monthly
- ◆ These members are listed in *Africa Sanguine* and on the website
- ◆ There are links on the AfSBT website to their own website
- ◆ *Africa Sanguine* is emailed on publication

General information applicable to all members

- ◆ Membership fees are reviewed every two years, by the AfSBT board, and members are advised by email of fees applicable.
- ◆ Fees, that are relevant during the year of an AfSBT congress, remain the same for the following year, so that individual members are able to pay for two years whilst at the congress. This facility is in place to assist individuals from countries from which it is difficult to do bank transfers.
- ◆ The year of membership runs according to calendar year. Fees paid during the year apply only to that year of payment.
- ◆ Membership fees must be paid in full and bank charges borne by the member and not by AfSBT.
- ◆ Lapsed members do not enjoy the benefits applicable to members in good standing. However, lapsed members - who pay their annual fee, are reinstated without the need for back payments to cover years during which their status was lapsed.

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS – annual membership fee

Honorary members do not pay membership fees

Individual membership fee – African countries:	\$ 40.00
Individual membership fee – overseas countries:	\$ 60.00 (from next renewal of membership)
Fee review date by AfSBT Board of Directors:	November 2017

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Blood Services in Africa / Scientific organisations in Africa

Associate membership fee – African countries:	\$ 250.00
Associate membership fee – overseas countries:	\$ 400.00 (from next renewal of membership)
Fee review date by AfSBT Board of Directors:	November 2017

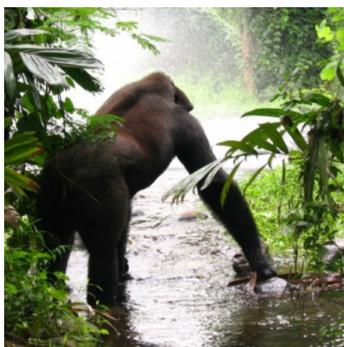
CORPORATE MEMBERS

Commercial companies

Corporate membership fee:	\$ 1000.00
Fee review date by AfSBT Board of Directors:	November 2017

AFFILIATE MEMBERS

Affiliate members are so categorised by mutual agreement between AfSBT and the prospective organisation. Affiliate Membership does not attract a fee.



“It does not matter how slowly you go as long as you do not stop”

Confucius

Voting at General Assembly of Members – Kigali

As a member in good standing, you will have received notification that the positions as follows are falling vacant:

- ◆ President Elect – must be from a French speaking country as the Presidency alternates between English and French speaking countries every two years. Our retiring President is Dr Tapko from Cameroon and our incoming President is Dr Muyinda from Zambia.
- ◆ Vice President, EAC region
- ◆ Vice President, ECCAS
- ◆ Vice President, SADC region – to replace Dr Muyinda who cannot be both President and VP SADC .

For more details on this, and how to nominate someone, go to the website at www.afsbt.org.

The voting will take place at the time of the General Assembly at the congress in Kigali. If you are a member in good standing but are unable to attend the congress, you may use a proxy vote. A form with instructions will be made available on the website.

For your information, the **TERMS of REFERENCE** in broad terms, for AfSBT board of directors, are given below:

AfSBT PRESIDENT-ELECT:

The President Elect will become President of the Society when the term of the current President ends and shall perform all duties normally allocated to the office of Deputy Chairperson of the Board.

AfSBT VICE PRESIDENTS (VPs):

A VP is the Chairperson of a Regional Committee of the Society, and an ex officio (non-executive) member of the AfSBT Board of Directors. The VP has a term of office of two (2) years and may serve for two (2) additional terms, as long as he/she holds the office, title or designation which qualifies them as such. By definition, Region means an aggregate of members of the Society in any area demarcated by the Board geographically, politically or by virtue of language. A Regional - Committee means a Committee which oversees the affairs of a Region.

In summary, the powers and functions of the Board are as follows:

The Board shall direct the affairs of the Society. The functions of the Board shall include, but are not limited to:

- ◆ Providing oversight to the management office
- ◆ Policy direction, review and approval of policies
- ◆ Approval of the budgets and financial reports
- ◆ Development and review of the Strategic Plan of the Society
- ◆ Delegating authority to the Managing Director

The Board shall report to the members of the Society regarding the affairs of the Society as and when appropriate.

All Directors of the Board shall be individual members, in good standing, of the Society.

Competencies of the Directors of the AfSBT Board include the following:

- ◆ Ready access to email and the internet
- ◆ Good communication skills
- ◆ In-depth knowledge of the management of a blood service
- ◆ Prepared to travel to meetings for which expenses are reimbursed
- ◆ Good international contacts
- ◆ Prepared to devote a minimum of two (2) hours a week to AfSBT business
- ◆ Advocacy by promoting the mission of the Society, its strategic objectives of education and accreditation, to Health authorities and other stakeholders at national and regional level
- ◆ Promote the Society's journals, newsletters and congresses among peers and other stakeholders

AfSBT is making a Positive Difference to National Blood Programmes in Africa

**AFRICA SOCIETY
FOR BLOOD
TRANSFUSION**

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Upcoming events



Biennial congress of Africa Society for Blood Transfusion

8th International Congress of AfSBT: **Kigali, Rwanda: 31 May – 3 June 2016**

Theme: **Safe and Sustainable Blood Services in Africa – where do we stand?**

The congress website is now active: www.afsbtcongress.org

IPFA/PEI 23rd International Workshop on "Surveillance and Screening of Blood Borne Pathogens"

25 - 26 May 2016 - Lisbon, Portugal

<http://www.ipfa.nl/events/ipfa-pei-23-international-workshop-lisbon>

International Bursary Opportunity: -BBTS Princess of Wales International Bursary is open to individuals working outside the UK – for more information, go to www.bbts.org.uk/whatwedo - **deadline 31 May 2016**

Contact us

Use the email address: nyags18@gmail.com

David Mvere: Managing Director

Beryl Armstrong: Programmes Director and editor, AfSBT Newsletter

Rob Wilkinson: Accreditation Manager

Swaibu Katere: Education Manager

Bright Mulenga: Website Officer

Molly Gondwe: Administration Officer



Like us on Facebook

Visit us on Facebook and send us a post that is shared with other blood bankers.

<https://www.facebook.com/afsbt/>

*“However difficult life may seem,
there is always something you can
do and succeed at “*
Stephen Hawking