



Introducing the Management Team:

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Inside this issue:

- From the Editor's desk 1
- Bid Announcement 2
- Upcoming events 3
- Contact us 3

AfSBT e-Newsletter



March 2016

Time flies when there is plenty to do, which has been the case in our preparations for the 8th AfSBT International Congress, being planned in partnership with the Rwanda Biomedical Center, RBC/NCBT in Kigali.

In the February issue I gave you some information about Kigali and the Serena hotel as the venue for the congress. I also explained about AfSBT having secured favourable rates for accommodation at partner hotels. All the details about these hotels, and the special rates (which apply **only** to paid up, registered delegates), are to be found on the congress website www.afsbtcongress.org.

To tell you a little bit about the exciting scientific programme, I need to start with the first day of the congress, 31 May. This day will be devoted to the **ISBT Academy Day**, sponsored by the International Society of Blood Transfusion, and focusing on **Research and the Junior - Scientist**. We will have speakers from African countries, and from overseas. The lead will be taken by Dr Imelda Bates and Oliver Hassall, and the day will be co-chaired by Judith Chapman, Executive Director of ISBT, who will also give a presentation on "Young Investigators", the T-REC

database and the ISBT - Academy ePortal. The day will include a **workshop** on the practical aspects of carrying out research, and in the afternoon, a talk on ethics. For those who attend the day (which is open to ALL registered delegates) and remain until the close, there will be a lucky draw prize!

We have already booked two breakfast sessions for the early mornings of 1 and 2 June, and two lunchtime symposia for 1 and 2 June. The details will be posted online over the next few weeks. Delegates will also have two opportunities to visit the blood center across the road from the Serena.

For the main auditoriums – **plenary and concurrent sessions** – there will be dual projection of slides, in English and in French. Session moderators will be fluent in one or other language (or both languages) and the presenter will give the talk in the language of their choice. After the presentation, questions will be taken from the floor, in either language and the moderators will be used as translators if required.

Posters will be displayed in the foyer adjoining the main auditorium (called the ballroom) and there will therefore be ample opportunity to study them. We will not have a formal presentation format for posters, but authors will be available for discussion, particularly during the afternoon of 2 June, when an hour will be

dedicated to posters. The scientific committee will be judging the posters and there will be a prize for the best English language poster, and the best French language poster.

The programme book will contain the outline of both scientific and social programmes, and details regarding the opening and closing ceremonies. It will also include general information of importance to delegates, and a synopsis of each sponsor and exhibitor, with prominence being given to our premium sponsors, including but not limited to:

Platinum: Roche Diagnostics
Gold: Abbott, Terumo BCT, Ilex
Silver: SSEM Mthembu, B Medical Systems
Bronze: MAK-system, Bio-Rad, FRESINIUS-Kabi – and more to come...

Delegate bags will be made available to all fully paid - delegates (but excludes exhibitors, daily registrants and accompanying persons), and will contain the programme book and a USB flash drive with all abstracts loaded. The abstracts will also be available on line, on the AfSBT website which can be downloaded as required. The Serena has free Wi-Fi throughout the complex.

The **social programme** is also something to look forward to – the opening ceremony in the evening of 31 May, followed by the opening of the Trade Exhibition with snacks and drinks, and then on 2 June,

(- continued)

the gala dinner at the Serena. Your registration fee includes these social events – note that for the gala dinner you are encouraged – as has become the custom at AfsBT congresses, to showcase the traditional dress of your home country.

Helping throughout the congress will be a team of ushers provided by our delightful congress organizer, Mr Celestin Makuza. They will be easy to identify as wearing the beautiful dresses of Rwanda, in the colours of the national flag.

Beryl Armstrong – editor

BID ANNOUNCEMENT

SUCCESSFUL BID FOR 9th INTERNATIONAL BLOOD TRANSFUSION CONGRESS OF AfsBT: 2018

The bids to host the 2018 congress were considered, and assessed by each member of a committee which was selected by the AfsBT Board to consider the bids. There was consensus among all evaluators that the 2018 congress bid should be awarded to **TANZANIA**. We look forward to seeing you all in **ARUSHA** in two years' time.

IPFA, CAPE TOWN - memories



“Be ashamed to die un-
til you have won some
victory for humanity “
Horace Mann



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

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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 will soon become active: www.afsbtcongress.org

IPFA/PEI 23rd International Workshop "Surveillance and Screening of Blood Borne Pathogens"
| 25 - 26 May 2016 | Lisbon, Portugal

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

****Check the AfSBT website, at www.afsbt.org for more news items and alerts****

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*"A wise person will always find
a way"*

Tanzanian proverb