



Africa Sanguine

CONTENTS December 2011

FRENCH EDITOR'S NOTE	1
<i>Written by: Dr Claude Tayou-Tagny (newly appointed French Editor)</i>	

SCIENTIFIC ARTICLES

MEETING STABILITY AND CONTINUITY OF THE BLOOD SUPPLY OVER THE YEAR: A UNIQUE APPROACH COMBINING THE LIAISON ROLE OF SCHOOL TEACHERS WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMUNITY RESOURCE PERSONS – could the Uganda experience serve as an example for other African countries?	3
<i>Los APM, Mugisha W, Ayikanying M, Mutegombwa SM, Kyeyune-Bwabazaire D, Smid WM</i>	

POTASSIUM LOAD OF STORED BLOOD FOR INTRA-OPERATIVE TRANSFUSION	7
<i>Desalu I, Adesiyun A, Ogun HA, Adesida AA, Kushimo OT</i>	

BLOOD SAFETY AND ADEQUACY IN MAURITIUS: knowledge, attitude, and practice survey in a small island nation	12
<i>Thumaiah P, Sonoo J, Lan Cheong Wah MF</i>	

ISOLATED IgM ANTI-HBc ANTIBODY AND CURRENT ESTIMATES OF SOME INFECTIOUS DISEASE MARKERS among blood donors in the semi-arid region of Nigeria	17
<i>Jeremiah ZA, Idris H, Ajayi BB, Ezimah ACU, Malah MB, Baba MM</i>	

REVIEWS

SEVERE VASOVAGAL REACTION NECESSITATING INTUBATION OF A BLOOD DONOR: case report and literature review	22
<i>Adeyemo TA, Akanmu AS, Adediran A, Oloko KO, Okubadejo NU</i> <i>Presented at AfsBT ECOWAS Conference: 29-30 March 2011</i>	

REVIEW OF STRATEGIES FOR SCREENING BLOOD DONORS FOR HEPATITIS B VIRUS MARKERS: need for increasing sensitivity of detecting early infection in Nigeria	27
<i>Kuliya-Gwarzo A, Sama'ila AA</i>	

BIORISK MANAGEMENT: a relatively new concept for blood services	32
<i>Chama D</i>	

AfsBT NEWS IN BRIEF	33
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- 6th AfsBT Congress: Mauritius 2012
- AfsBT Membership Committee established
- Step-Wise Accreditation Programme update
- Scientific and Publications Committee re-constituted; French Editor appointed

EDUCATION SECTION

BLOOD GROUP SYSTEMS	35
<i>Smart E, Armstrong B (reprinted from Introduction to Blood Transfusion Technology)</i> <i>(Published in ISBT Science Series – reprinted with permission)</i>	

AfsBT EDUCATION COMMITTEE UPDATE	57
<i>Knox P</i>	

GENERAL INFORMATION	58
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- List of New members
- Corporate and Support members
- AfsBT Board; various committee members
- Contribution guidelines – instructions to authors
- Application/renewal/updating forms for Membership

Editor's note

December 2011

So quickly, another year draws to a close. It has been very busy and a landmark year for the AfsBT, as we are now registered as a non profit company. This was a lengthy process and at last it is done. Our registration number appears on the cover of this journal, and on our updated letterheads.

Once more, we have very interesting scientific contributions, some of which have been peer reviewed. We are going to concentrate on formalizing this process over the next year as well as starting the procedure for making the journal indexed. This will mean that information becomes accessible via internet search engines.

This issue publishes various scientific articles; one describes the Ugandan experience using school teachers in liaison with community resource persons for successful blood donor recruitment, and sufficiency of blood supply. Another, from Nigeria, presents a case study of a severe reaction to blood donation, together with a literature review on the subject. This information was presented at the AfsBT ECOWAS Conference: 29-30 March 2011. Also from Nigeria, a contribution related to potassium load in stored blood and its effects on patients. An article from Mauritius analyses an interesting knowledge/ attitude/ practice survey on donors. Another paper describes isolated IgM anti-HBc and current estimates of TTIs in the semi-arid region of Nigeria.

Several reviews add value to this issue. The first addresses strategies for screening donors for Hepatitis B markers; the second discusses the concept of biorisk management.

In the Education Section, the next chapter of the publication in the ISBT Science Series – *Introduction to Blood Transfusion Technology* – is reprinted for educational purposes; this time the chapter on blood group systems. The recently formed AfsBT Education Committee has been doing excellent work in helping to distribute educational materials, Dr Knox, the chair, describes the successful outcome of a large dissemination project; made possible only with the help of funders.

This issue brings you some news in brief about the congress next year, planned to take place from 4-8 June 2012 in Mauritius, and gives an update of the step-wise accreditation project. We are also pleased to announce that a membership committee has been formed, to sustain and boost membership of the AfsBT. There is general information on AfsBT committees.

As Editor, the most exciting event for me is the appointment of a French Editor, Dr Claude Tayou Tagny, to handle all the French aspects of the journal. I have already been working with Claude and he has brought much value not only to the journal, but to the Society as a whole. See inside for the Editor's Note in French and English, from Dr Tayou Tagny.

As the year draws to a close, the AfsBT thanks its new and renewing members most sincerely for their support, and its corporate and support members for their confidence in the ability of this Society to help show the way to making blood safer in Africa.

Here are some words from a poem about sharing. We all know that when we share our healthy blood with patients in need, we strengthen them; when we share our resources, knowledge and skills with colleagues we strengthen them. Sharing does not diminish us; it raises us to new heights.

When We Share (poet unknown)

When we share laughter, there's twice the fun;
When we share success, we surpass what we've done.
When we share problems, there's half the pain;
When we share tears, a rainbow follows rain.
When we share dreams, they become more real;
When we share concerns, it's our hearts we reveal.
And what draws us closer and makes us all care,
Is not what we have, but the things that we share.

Enjoy and share your Journal. Go well this festive season, and return to meet 2012 with zest!