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## Africa Sanguine

Commemorative issue to honour the 10th Anniversary of the  
formation of the Africa Society for Blood Transfusion



Editor's note  
December 2007

COMMEMORATING 10 YEARS  
OF THE SOCIETY

The AfSBT was formed during the meeting on HIV/AIDS in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, in 1997. During that inaugural meeting Mr David Mvere of Zimbabwe was elected the first President. At the meeting he made a request that this new Society should support the publication of a scientific journal. The journal is of course, *Africa Sanguine*.

In 2007, the AfSBT and *Africa Sanguine* turned 10 years old. How quickly the time has passed; how busy we have all been as professionals in this fascinating and worthwhile field of ours, blood transfusion.

After a decade, perhaps the time has come for us to ask ourselves:

**What is the status of blood safety in my country?  
How have things changed, what are our success stories,  
and what are the problems that continue to challenge us  
and give us focus going forward?**

There are so many countries in Africa. We would like to hear every country's report. However, if every country responds now, by submitting answers to these questions, there will be far too much material for one issue of this journal! I have had a very good initial response, and those countries not featured in this issue, are most welcome, and greatly encouraged, to submit their stories for publication in the next two issues of the journal, planned for 2008.

In honour of the Africa Society for Blood Transfusion reaching its 10<sup>th</sup> birthday, this issue of the journal has been made to look different and special; it is called a *Commemorative Issue*, and the usual red colour on the cover of the journal has been turned to gold. It will stand out prominently on our desks, as a reminder of the importance of communication, and to remind us of the passage of time and the efforts we have made and will continue to make, to improve patient care by improving the safety of our blood supplies. It will also remind us of the value of blood donors. The achievement of 100% voluntary non-remunerated blood donation is surely a goal and ongoing challenge for all of us.

As an indication of progress, and to coincide with our ten year milestone, *Africa Sanguine* takes on a sub editor. We are most fortunate to have enrolled the services of Leesha Raman to assist me in the regular publication of this journal. We also plan to update the Scientific and Publications committee. AfSBT members, who are good communicators and are interested in being part of this committee, should contact me.

The terms of reference for members of the Scientific and Publications committee are in line with the mission and objectives of the AfSBT and are as follows:

- To contribute to the advancement of knowledge in the field of blood transfusion
- To facilitate the exchange of information relating to blood transfusion
- To provide individual input, or the input from colleagues, on a regular basis into *Africa Sanguine*
- To make comment on articles for publication in the journal, as and when required by the editor
- To maintain regular electronic contact with the editor

And so we have reached the end of 2007. By the time your copy of the journal reaches you, 2008 will have begun. May it be a satisfying year for you, both professionally and within your families, and may you have the strength and health to continue tirelessly in your quest to provide sufficient safe blood to all who need it – that they may enjoy life abundantly.

Beryl Armstrong

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