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10 Eden Road, Pinetown, 3610.  
Private Bag X9043, Pinetown, 3600,  
South Africa.

Telephone: (+27) 031 719 6789  
Fax: (+27) 031 708 5614  
Orders Fax: (+27) 031 708 5618  
Toll Free orders: 0800 33 2833  
E-mail: [info@nbi-kzn.org.za](mailto:info@nbi-kzn.org.za)  
Website: [www.nbi-kzn.org.za](http://www.nbi-kzn.org.za)



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**AFRICA SOCIETY FOR BLOOD TRANSFUSION**  
Headquarters: [www.afsbt.org](http://www.afsbt.org)  
National Blood Transfusion Service  
Harare, Zimbabwe  
Email: [nbts@africaonline.co.zw](mailto:nbts@africaonline.co.zw)  
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## Africa Sanguine

### CONTENTS July 2008

**An Individual View of AfsBT Achievements** ..... 1  
Mary W. Kariithi, Country Representative,  
Africa Society for Blood Transfusion, Kenya

**Message from the Executive Council, AfsBT, delivered at  
2<sup>nd</sup> Colloquium on Organization of Blood Transfusion for  
Francophone Network, Hammamet, Tunisia  
16-17 May 2008** ..... 3  
David Chama, Anglophone Councillor and Country  
Representative, Africa Society for Blood Transfusion, Zambia

**SHORT REPORT IN ENGLISH:  
2<sup>nd</sup> Colloquium sur l'organisation de la transfusion sanguine  
dans les pays d'Afrique Francophone, Sol Azur Hotel,  
Hammamet, Tunisia: 16-17 May 2008** ..... 4  
Report by David Chama: Proxy to the Executive during the  
Congress, on behalf of the President and Secretary General,  
Africa Society for Blood Transfusion

### ARTICLES: BLOOD SAFETY IN MY COUNTRY

**Blood Transfusion in Algeria:  
Achievements and Prospects** ..... 5  
Kamal Kezzal, Nadjat Benchehida, Soror Senoussaoui, Kahina  
Souami, Nassima Bouzid, Nadhira Kaouadji, Souad Benchehida  
National Blood Agency, Algeria

**Profile of National Blood Transfusion Service: Mauritius** ... 8  
Janaki Sonoo, National Blood Transfusion Service, Mauritius  
*Reprinted with permission from Transfusion Today*

### COUNTRY FEATURES

**Issues in the Mobilisation of Youths  
for Blood Donation in Africa** ..... 11  
Adewuyi, J.O., Olawumi, H.O.  
University of Ilorin Teaching Hospital, Nigeria

**Human Platelet Antigen (HPA) 1-5 and -15  
frequencies in South African blood donors** ..... 15  
Foxcroft ZK, Schlebusch CM, South Africa  
*Reprinted with permission (poster presentation at ISBT International meeting, Macao)*

**Pattern of blood donation in a Nigerian tertiary hospital:  
The way forward** ..... 19  
Kotila TR, Fasola FA, University of Ibadan, Nigeria

### QUALITY IN BLOOD TRANSFUSION

**Quality Management Briefs; Personnel Management** ..... 22  
David Chama, Zambia

### EDUCATION IN BLOOD TRANSFUSION

**ISBT Publication: Introduction to Blood Transfusion  
Technology** ..... 24  
Beryl Armstrong, Jonathan Hardwick, Leesha Raman,  
Elizabeth Smart (South Africa) and Rob Wilkinson (Namibia)

**WEBSITE NEWS** ..... 25  
President: Prof. Anthon Heyns

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**5<sup>th</sup> International AfsBT Scientific Conference,**  
in collaboration with IFRCRCS Club 25 and  
Health Promotion Colloquium 24-27 June 2009  
**Theme: Meeting the needs for blood in Africa** ..... 26

### GENERAL INFORMATION

- Office bearers of the AfsBT
- Distribution
- Contribution guidelines
- Application/renewal/updating forms for Membership

### Editor's note July 2008

World Blood Donor Day was celebrated again this year, on the birth date of Karl Landsteiner: 14 June. Articles on country activities are encouraged, and should be submitted for consideration to the Editor, so that they may be printed in the next issue of the journal.

This issue of the journal brings you another batch of country reports – blood safety challenges and successes over the decade of existence of the Africa Society for Blood Transfusion. This issue also brings you several interesting articles where professionals report on their work in blood transfusion in their countries.

Regular features such as Quality, upcoming events and news from AfsBT councillors, add much value to the publication and contributions are encouraged.

The XXX<sup>th</sup> International Congress of the ISBT was held in Macao from 7-12 June 2008. We have secured permission from the ISBT and authors working in Africa, to publish their presentations at the Congress, in our Journal. Several more presentations from this Congress will be published in the next issue of the Journal due to appear later this year.

*Transfusion Today*, the newsletter of the ISBT, has given us permission to reprint an interesting article from Mauritius. Ongoing collaboration between the editors of *Africa Sanguine* and *Transfusion Today* and the exchange of information and articles will enrich both publications.

Two new members have been invited to join the Scientific and Publications committee of the AfsBT, and their input will add value to the journal. They are Dr Justina Ansah, Director, National Blood Transfusion Service, Ghana; and Dr André Loua, Directeur, Centre National de Transfusion Sanguine, République de Guinée. It is hoped that committee members will in future play a more active role in our journal, and that they will encourage others to submit articles.

It must be noted that opinions expressed in articles published are not necessarily the opinion of the AfsBT, and that readers are invited to send letters to the editor with comments on articles that interest them. Such comments may stimulate lively debate. Dear member, this is your publication; take an active interest and play a role in becoming part of it!

Work on the website of the AfsBT is ongoing, under the guidance of our President, Prof. Anthon Heyns. An update of activities is given in the journal. Dr Peter Kataaha, Director, National Blood Transfusion Service, Uganda, has agreed to become the webmaster after his retirement later this year.

Finally, information on a new publication, *Introduction to Blood Transfusion Technology*, is provided in this issue. This book should be a valuable guide for all students studying blood transfusion technology, and it is hoped that it will play a useful role in the education and training of professionals in the field, and in so doing, lead to improvements in blood safety.

Beryl Armstrong