

AFRICA SOCIETY FOR BLOOD TRANSFUSION RESEARCH INITIATIVES

AfSBT recognize the importance of research in order to enhance evidence-based practices for blood services in Africa. In 2008, the AfSBT Board appointed the AfSBT Research Coordinator, Mr Tonderai Mapako from Zimbabwe, the AfSBT Research Co-ordinator. A Research and Ethics Committee was established and its membership is as follows:

- Tonderai Mapako: (AfSBT Research Coordinator and Chair)
- Karin van den Berg (South Africa): SADC Regional Research Coordinator
- Paul Mainuka (Uganda): EAC Regional Research Coordinator
- PO Olatunji (Nigeria): ECOWAS Regional Research Coordinator
- Ndakala David (RD Congo): RAFTS Regional Research Coordinator

The Board also approves the AfSBT Research Policy as a guiding document on managing and coordinating research efforts. The Board continues to explore mechanisms for promoting research as complementary to AfSBT scientific congresses and publications in the scientific journal, *Africa Sanguine*.

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

Mombasa Research Workshop (2008) – Summary

The aim of the workshop was for key stakeholders in blood services in sub-Saharan Africa to develop an agreed research agenda to close gaps in the evidence needed to improve the supply and safety of blood for transfusion. The research agenda focuses primarily on obtaining high quality information about existing services and their effectiveness in order to target areas where interventions will have maximum impact. Participants confirmed that there is limited and uncoordinated research expertise within the blood services in sub-Saharan Africa and this deficit will need to be addressed urgently as the research agenda is translated into action. A workshop report was circulated to all participants. A summary of the report was published in *Africa Sanguine* 2008, Vol 11-2. [pdf link]

Blood Transfusion Research Network

AfSBT, in collaboration with the T-REC consortium and ISBT, is currently developing a network of individuals with an interest in blood transfusion research in sub-Saharan Africa. The aims of this network are to achieve the following:

- Map current research activity
- Build consensus around research priorities for blood transfusion
- Facilitate communication, sharing of knowledge and collaboration between researchers

T-REC Consortium meetings

Strengthening Transfusion Research Capacity in Africa: 31 July 2014 [pdf link]

Workshop report: 7th AfSBT Congress, Victoria Falls

Workshop on blood transfusion research in sub-Saharan Africa: 24-25 Feb 2015 [pdf link]

Workshop report: Pretoria, South Africa