



ISBT

TTID

RESEARCH

YOUNG

INVESTIGATOR

TRAINING

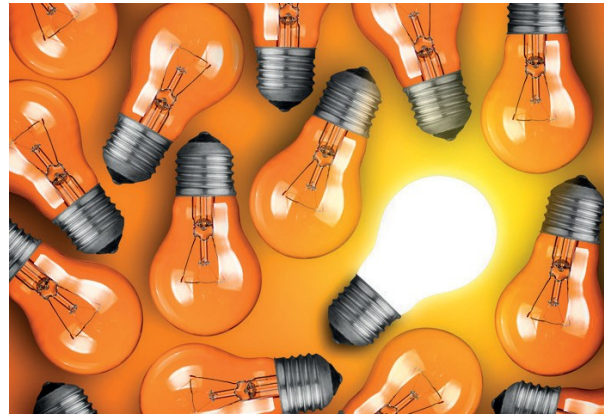
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1. Introduction

A bright idea could end up being the once-in-a-lifetime discovery. At the 33rd ISBT Congress in Seoul, the Transfusion-Transmitted Infectious Disease (TTID) Working Party (WP) discussed the development of a new initiative for young investigators. The objective is to further refine research readiness and provide an overview of key skills that will advance research ability for young investigators. The vision for the initiative is to provide participants a setting where they can discuss new ideas with TTID experts, learn principles of TTID research and scientific studies in general, and reinforce these ideas with a practical aspect focused on writing a research protocol.

Within the training program real research protocols will be drafted and potentially funded by ISBT TTID WP grants. The training program incorporates a dual lecture and practical model with in-person meetings at the ISBT Congress, eight webinars, one-on-one web-based teleconferences, homework and potential for your first self-structured and self-financed research study funded by a grant.



Research in your country can benefit transfusion medicine locally and contribute to the global body of knowledge in transfusion medicine. Returning to the beginning visual, there are many 'bright ideas' or research discoveries in the field of transfusion medicine that are waiting for young investigators. So jump in, say „I TRY IT“, and send us your research ideas, questions and applications.

Sincerely yours,

Brian Custer, Marion Vermeulen and Michael Schmidt

ISBT TTID-WP

2. Applicants and Application

You are invited to submit your application, with your research idea to the ISBT TTID working party I TRY IT Program Coordinator, Ms. Jessica Bailey through the end of 21st April 2016.

ISBT-WP-YI

Program Coordinator, Ms. Jessica Bailey

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E-mail | JBailey2@bloodsystems.org

Your application must include the following:

1. Your curriculum vitae (CV) or resume
2. A preliminary research idea or research question description not to exceed a one-sided single page, describing the TTID-related study you would like to conduct.

3. Expenses Covered

All travel and accommodation expenses will be covered by ISBT-TTID WP to attend the ISBT Dubai meeting and I TRY IT workshop. Congress registration fees, and room and board expense to attend the ISBT congress will be covered by „I TRY IT“. Travel to the congresses and room and board to support participation in I TRY IT will be covered.

4. Training Syllabus

The ISBT-TTID WP is implementing a 2nd program for young investigators in 2016, including the next ISBT international congress in Dubai. The complete syllabus will include 8 webinars starting in May and spaced throughout the months leading up to the Dubai meeting, homework, a few one-on-one teleconferences, in-person meetings at the Dubai ISBT congress meeting and for the top 3 protocols an award of grants (a maximum €5,000 each) to conduct the research.

At the end of the program, the participants will be required to present their completed research protocol in Dubai at the workshop as well to

provide a critique of another participant's protocol. The program will cover all relevant parts of the scientific process and train the participants to ask the right questions, design relevant studies, prevent mistakes and bias within the study design, do excellent experiments, analyze data to achieve high-quality results, and publish findings in the best scientific manner. The program for young investigators of the ISBT TTID WP will be structured into the following parts:

- a) Eight webinars before the ISBT regional congress in Dubai.
- b) At least two one-on-one or small group mentor teleconferences
- c) Three day workshop meeting linked to the ISBT global congress in Dubai. I TRY IT will meet before and after the congress.



a) Webinars

To develop your research idea into a research protocol, over the course of eight webinars, you will learn about general tools for scientific research. Documents and lectures can be downloaded. At the end of each lesson, small homework assignments will be completed. These will focus on parts of the research protocol. Homework will not be “busy-work” but will instead be specific parts of an overall research protocol. The homework will be reviewed by the course mentors and comments provided back to participants before the next webinar sessions.

The lectures will start in early May. The eight webinars will cover the following content.

WEBINAR 1	
TOPIC	Conceiving the Research Question and Study Hypothesis
AIM	Demonstrate where ideas for research come from
Homework	Evaluation of different research questions, developing a specific question for your protocol

WEBINAR 2	
TOPIC	Background & Significance section of a Protocol
AIM	Literature searches using PubMed and other warehouses
Homework	Working with literature programs, literature research for your project

WEBINAR 3	
TOPIC	Basics of Measurement: Variable Types, Precision and Accuracy
AIM	Learn key concepts that define how you collect good quality data
Homework	Integration of relevant aspects of measurement into your project protocol.

WEBINAR 4	
TOPIC	Introduction to Statistics and Estimating Sample Size & Power
AIM	How to analyze data and assess if your project is feasible
Homework	Power or sample size calculation for your project



WEBINAR 5	
TOPIC	Overview of Study Designs Observational Study Designs (case series, cohort, case-control), Randomized Designs
AIM	To learn about the correct study design for each scientific question
Homework	Assessing study designs, your project study design

WEBINAR 7	
TOPIC	Data Validity, Cause and Effect, Issues of Bias
AIM	Pitfalls and mistakes that can lead to erroneous findings compared to causal relationships
Homework	Write relevant sections of your protocol that address these topics.

WEBINAR 6	
TOPIC	Designing Studies of Medical Tests, including Sensitivity and Specificity
AIM	Learn important points that are specific to medical tests and regulations
Homework	Analyze published data, integration of the knowledge to your project

WEBINAR 8	
TOPIC	Research Ethics, Data Management, Quality Control, and “Big Data”
AIM	Key considerations that are required for human protections and best practices
Homework	Write relevant sections of your protocol that address these topics.

b) Mentorship Teleconferences

Each participant will be assigned a primary and secondary mentor. This small group, or in one-on-one meetings, will connect at least twice throughout the duration of the course using teleconference, Skype or face time. In the first teleconference, we will review with the participant the content of the first three webinars and review how to formulate scientific research questions, which is germane for the candidates as well as for ISBT, especially for TTID. We will work with you to develop research questions that can be answered in a relatively short research time periods, in a period of 3 or fewer years, and also explore topics that can be worked on for one's entire life. These interactions will help to guide the development of the protocol. The second mentorship teleconference will be used to help decide on your study design and to complete your sample size or power estimation. The webinars will be used to refine the participant's research project to include other key aspects of study design and protocol writing. A draft protocol will be completed by the beginning of the congress in Dubai. The protocol will be discussed during the ISBT meeting Dubai 2016 in a three day meeting planned to take place before and after the congress.





c) Three Day Meeting Dubai 2016

Each delegate will be invited to join the ISBT TTID WP meeting prior to the conference as an observer where they will have the opportunity to hear the latest research in the area of TTI screening in blood transfusion.

We will meet for two days before the congress and for one day after the congress. The workshop will be separated into two parts and will combine education in current state-of-the-art knowledge of TTID, donor screening, pathogen inactivation and presentation of all participants' developing protocols. Each project will be discussed extensively by all participants, which will be good training in improving the quality of projects through peer-review.

All protocols will be peer reviewed by one of your fellow participants during the workshop. Constructive critiques will be provided. All participants can make the changes they agree with and submit a final study protocol after the workshop. Submitted protocols will be reviewed by an external panel.

During the three-day meeting, there will also be a short overview course on writing scientific manuscripts. We can't cover this in detail, but we

can provide solid pointers for making manuscript writing easier.

Syllabus of the writing mini-workshop:

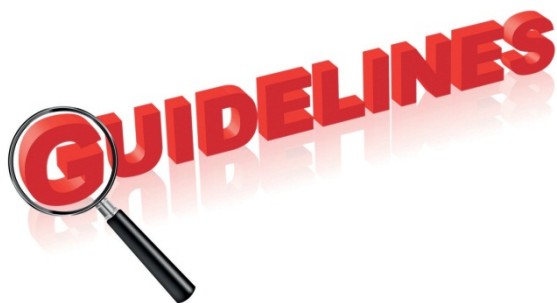
1. Data Analysis
2. Results Reporting, Creation of Tables and Figures, Results Section
3. Materials and Methods, Introduction Sections
4. How to Contextualize the Ideas, Discussion Section

d) Future Directions & Opportunities

Experts from ISBT will also inform the participants about other local opportunities for national and international grants. The objective of the workshop is, on the one hand, to give people an overview about current topics and knowledge of TTID research projects and to stimulate their own ideas for further questions and studies, and on the other hand, to support science and develop young scientists' research careers.

5. Guidelines for Candidates

Candidates should work in a blood transfusion service or in a hospital based blood bank. Existing scientific research experience is fine, but not mandatory. Participation is open to all kinds of scientific and health professionals (physicians, nurses, biologists, chemists, microbiologists, technicians, etc.). A previous publication will be fine but is also not mandatory. Candidates should preferably be from the Middle East or Africa however it is also not mandatory. Candidates must either be an ISBT member or willing to become an ISBT member if their application is successful. I TRY IT will not be able to pay your ISBT membership fee. The I TRY IT program will be conducted in English.



6. Credit Points and Certification



Candidates of the I TRY IT program will achieve points for all parts of the program listed in the table below. At the end of the program they will receive a certificate of completion from the ISBT following a successful participation in the training course with at least 80 learning credit points (80% of the maximum of 100 LCP). Submission of a complete protocol is required to receive certification of completion.

If participants have less than 80 LCPs they will receive a letter indicating participation.

Learning credit points (LCP)	
Webinar (3 LCP for each)	24 LCP
Homework (3 LCP for each)	24 LCP
Participation one on one	6 LCP
Participation Dubai	24 LCP
Complete protocol	22 LCP
Total LCPs	100 LCP

7. Grants

The TTID WP will award a maximum three grants of € 5,000 each to the best protocols among those who submit final protocols. Projects that are funded will also require a close-out report upon completion of the research. The required reporting format will be consistent with the manuscript writing outline we will cover during the workshop. The objective of ISBT is for these projects, once completed, to be presented at future congresses and published in peer-reviewed journals.



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