



AfSBT e-Newsletter

Introducing the Management Team:

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- Beryl Armstrong
- Rob Wilkinson
- Swaibu Katare
- Bright Mulenga
- Molly Gondwe
- Tayou Claude
- JB Tapko
- Chrispen Dandavare

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October 2016

This month is a bumper issue with a variety of exciting news items. Our website has been revamped, so you should make a point of visiting www.afsbt.org. If you are a paid up member, try the log in function and if you cannot gain access to the members' only section, then follow the instructions on the website, by stating that you have forgotten your password. If this does not work, get in touch with Molly Gondwe by email, to assist.

AfSBT has had a fantastic offer from one of its major partners, the International Society of Blood Transfusion (ISBT), for AfSBT members to gain access to the ISBT ePortal from next year. There is an article on this, later on in this issue of the e-Newsletter.

We have conducted more training for Educators and Assessors, in Kigali, Rwanda. These courses are reported on in this issue. Additionally, the assessment of facilities is gaining momentum – there will be more news in future issues.

I gave a presentation at the World Health Organization (WHO) in Geneva, at a meeting of the Expert Committee on Biological Standardization (ECBS), as a follow-up of the Stellenbosch meeting, as re-

ported in Vol 2-1 of this newsletter. If you want to go back to that issue, just go and look on the website, under Media, Communication, AfSBT Newsletters. The presentation was on the proposed action plan that was agreed in Stellenbosch, to develop quality in blood services, via the AfSBT Step-Wise Accreditation Programme, to collaborate more closely with blood services, blood regulators and fractionators, and to start making progress on the collection and use of excess plasma in blood establishments – the challenging pathway to the fractionation of plasma to produce Plasma Derived Medicinal Products, in Africa, for Africa.

Beryl Armstrong – editor

Website www.afsbt.org

We would love your feedback by email, giving us your opinion of the new-look website, and particularly its functionality.

ISBT ePortal access for AfSBT members

In June 2014 the ISBT Academy formally launched its online learning platform, the ISBT Academy ePortal. This online environment offers a wide range of educational materials, and is freely accessible for ISBT members. The ePortal is an expanding register of materials from transfusion professionals, online journals, and ISBT congresses. It includes webcasts, learning quizzes, ePosters, abstracts, and a Guideline Library containing over 300 scientific guideline documents from 25 different countries and/or organisations. A text book and selected articles of the ISBT journals Vox Sanguinis and The Science Series are also featured on the ePortal, making the latest scientific developments available to all ISBT members. Webcasts and podcasts from the ISBT Congress in Dubai are being uploaded regularly, so make sure to visit from time to time to stay updated!

The ISBT Board of Directors recognizes the importance of the ePortal as an educational tool and how it can benefit many people working in the field of transfusion medicine in Africa. ISBT will therefore offer free access to the Academy ePortal to all members of AfSBT for a two year period commencing January 2017. Access will be easy using a specific AfSBT user name and password.

As an example of the benefit to AfSBT members, in using the ISBT ePortal, here is a link to the video by Geoff Daniels on preparing and submitting abstracts:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EFwqcbT7WIE>

AfSBT Assessors and Educators – October training courses

Two further groups of Assessors and Educators were trained in Kigali in October. This time we have a contribution relating to the Educator Training, from Dr Liliane Siransy from Côte d'Ivoire – see below:

As part of the improvement of blood safety in Africa, AfSBT organized a French course on capacity building for facilitators of education and training in blood transfusion.

This initiative was highly appreciated by the French-speaking participants. The aim of the course was to form a pool of francophone educators to support AfSBT in the implementation of the accreditation programme in Francophone blood establishments.

This programme is based on the Standards document, a reference manual which represents the minimum performance requirements. This is a comprehensive document of 45 pages with an introduction, glossary and eleven chapters covering the entire transfusion chain and respectively covering the following points: quality system, blood donors, blood collection, handling, transportation and storage, biological qualification of donations, preparation of blood products, distribution, delivery of blood products, donor Immuno-haematology analysis, haemovigilance and clinical interface, clinical transfusion requirements for accreditation and 3 tables for separation requirements, preparation and storage of blood and expiry of blood products, qualification of allogeneic donors and the records retention period.

This training took place in Kigali, capital of Rwanda, specifically Lemigo hotel in the heart of Kigali near the prestigious "Kigali Convention Centre".

Over five days, our facilitators, Dr S Katare, Mr O Ndahiriwe and Dr JP Tapko guided us through the details of the Standards document and gave us teaching techniques.

The training was organized around the following 4 points:

- Reading and understanding eleven chapters of the AfSBT Standards. Many fruitful discussions and recommendations allowed a better understanding of the standard requirements of AfSBT.
- Organization of practical exercises such as teaching techniques through presentations: this was a very interesting and stressful exercise; each presenter had to put himself in the skin of a trainer and presented a piece of the norm trying to comply with the presentation rules and techniques.
- Visit and audit of Butare blood centre, located 2.5 hours' drive from Kigali: it was a pleasant exit through the hills and winding roads of Rwanda to reach the CRTS Butare. We found an organized centre and highly motivated staff already following the AfSBT Standards in their practices. The return trip in Rwandan rain did not stop us from stopping to visit the installation of a drone for issuing emergency blood products. It should be noted that Rwanda is a global pioneer in the distribution of blood products using drone technology.
- Evaluation of candidates: Participants showed a strong interest in this session, and were fully involved in the various activities and successfully completed the course. They are now potentially identifiable to assist in training in Francophone area institutions participating in AfSBT certification or accreditation.

In conclusion, we welcomed with great enthusiasm the presence of Mr Mvere for the closing of the course, helpful tips from Dr Tapko and thank the organizers for this French innovation that we enjoyed and that will certainly bring more fruit to the implementation of this accreditation programme.



Audit at the Butare site



Departure from Lemigo Hotel – going to the Butare branch

Photos – Educator Training in Kigali in October 2016



Participants and trainers in the gardens of the Hotel Lemigo:

Front Row: L-R: Dr Sawadogo Salam (Burkina Faso), David Mvere (AfSBT MD), Prof Chaabane Manel (Tunisia), Dr Liliane Siransy (Ivory Coast), Ateba Simon Noel (Cameroun), Dr Swaibu Katare (AfSBT Education Manager-Anglophone), Dr Amadou Diarra (Mali), Dr Jean-Baptiste Tapko (AfSBT Education Manager-Francophone). Back Row: L-R: Appannah Chitanand (Mauritius), Gilles Adjane (Togo), Olivier Ndahiriwe



Participants and Staff at the Butare branch, after the audit



Participants during a visit to the genocide memorial



Two of the participants – representatives from Tunisia (left) and Ivory Coast (right – & author of the article above)

Assessor training in October – photos



Caption by Dr Katare: We completed the training for Assessors very late – around 7:30 p.m., so I couldn't take pictures. However, the day before, we were at the Rwamagana Regional Center for Blood Transfusion and took pictures with the staff there. People are mixed up so it's difficult to identify the training participants from NCBT staff. Participants were: Dr Andy Numbi NGOY (DRC), David ESSIBEN (Cameroon), Ablam AMEYISSA (Togo), Prof Anani LUDOVIC (Benin), and Dr Daniel YAO (Ivory Coast).

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AfsBT is making a Positive Difference to National Blood Programmes in Africa

Upcoming events



ASLM congress: <http://aslm2016.org/>

The third biennial international conference of the African Society for Laboratory Medicine (ASLM) will convene in Cape Town, South Africa from 3-8 December 2016.

IPFA: <http://www.ipfa.nl/events/ipfa-asia-pacific-workshop-on-plasma-quality-and-supply-yogyakarta-indonesia-march-2017>: Technological, regulatory and organizational tools to produce plasma for fractionation:
2-3 March 2017, Yogyakarta, Indonesia

IPFA/PEI 24th International Workshop on "Surveillance and Screening of Blood-borne Pathogens" 16-17 May 2017, Zagreb, Croatia: <http://www.ipfa.nl/events/ipfa-pei-24-international-workshop-zagreb>

IPFA/BCA 3rd Global Symposium on The Future for Blood and Plasma Donations, 11-12 September 2017, Atlanta, GA, USA: <http://www.ipfa.nl/events/ipfa-bca-3-global-symposium-on-the-future-for-blood-and-plasma-donations-2017-usa>

ISBT: 27th Regional Congress in Copenhagen, Denmark: 17-21 June 2017: <http://www.isbtweb.org/copenhagen/>

ISBT: 28th Regional Congress in Guangzhou, China: 25-28 November 2017

****Check the AfsBT website, at www.afsbt.org for more news items and alerts****

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Like us on Facebook

https://www.facebook.com/afsbt/?ref=aymt_homepage_panel

Why not go to Facebook to access photos and news of other blood services in Africa? All you need to do, in the Facebook search screen, is to type in the name of the country, followed by the words blood service. There is a wealth of information to be found.

Last word

This is a good link to one of the finest publications ever, in the field of blood transfusion.

<http://wellcomelibrary.org/collections/digital-collections/makers-of-modern-genetics/digitised-archives/robert-race-ruth-sanger/> click on digitised book: Blood Groups on Man: Race and Sanger
<http://wellcomelibrary.org/item/b18023964#?m=0&cv=79&c=0&s=0&z=-0.3089%2C0.7062%2C1.5411%2C0.8448>