



## AfSBT e-Newsletter



**September 2016**

This was a prestigious month for our Society! At the international congress of the Interna-

tional Society of Blood Transfusion (ISBT) in Dubai, one of our Directors on the AfSBT Board, Ravi Reddy, assumed the position of President. Congratulations Ravi, on bringing this great honour to AfSBT. Secondly, Justina Ansah, Vice President of the ECOWAS region of AfSBT, took up the position of ISBT Director, African Region. Thirdly, yours truly received the ISBT award. One of the reasons for the award was my membership of the ISBT

Academy Standing Committee. I retired from this committee last year, and was replaced by Shirley Owusu-Ofori. More news and photos follow further down the pages of this issue.

*Beryl Armstrong - editor*

## Yes! More training: AfSBT Assessors and Educators

Two further groups of Assessors and Educators will be trained in Kigali in October. Each course runs for a week. These two courses will be conducted in French for participants from Francophone countries. One of the participants of an earlier course, **Dr Josephine Githaiga**, sent us this feedback on the training she received in Kigali in September:

*The person who has not travelled widely thinks his or her mother is the best cook. To broaden our vision, delegates from the Kenya National Blood Transfusion Service visited the Blood Transfusion Service of Namibia in July 2016. From the structure of their building, to the warm welcome at the door, the status of their achievements over the years was evident. You don't have to ask if they have achieved AfSBT Step 3 Accreditation; the institution speaks for itself. The systems in place, the well-equipped facility, the zeal for work from each employee puts your mind in a perspective of where you want your institution to be.*

*I was among the people who were invited to attend the AfSBT Educator training in Rwanda. We were provided with a great depth of knowledge and groomed to perfection as educators. The course materials were comprehensive and presented in a way whereby every trainee gained a deeper understanding and insight on AfSBT standards, on how to prepare and conduct training as well as assessment. There was no doubt that Rob Wilkinson and Swaibu Katare knew what they were talking about. Their technical expertise was reflected in the areas of the course and by who we became by the end of the 5 days. For every destination, there is a direction; I strongly believe AfSBT is the direction to our destinations in upgrading blood transfusion services across Africa. The flag bearers (educators and assessors) for AfSBT have been trained and well-polished. Now it is time for Africa to wake up as a whole and smell the coffee, and take blood transfusion to a greater level.*

### Management Team:

- David Mvere
- Mervyn Burton
- Beryl Armstrong
- Rob Wilkinson
- Swaibu Katare
- Jean-Baptiste Tapko
- Chrispen Dandavare
- Claude Tayou Tagny
- Lesley Bust
- Bright Mulenga

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## Photos – Educator and Assessor Training in Kigali in September 2016

**Educators: Left-Right**

- Akinloye Oyetunde (Nigeria)
- Osman Kargbo (Sierra Leone)
- Swaibu Katare (Facilitator, Rwanda)
- Rob Wilkinson (Facilitator, South Africa)
- Farouk Mohammed (Egypt)
- Mavis Okyere (Ghana)
- Josephine Githaiga (Kenya)
- Olivier Ndahiriwe (Rwanda)
- Rashad Mahmoud (Sudan)



**Assessors: Left-Right**

- Chancellor Kafere (Zimbabwe)
- Glynis Bowie (South Africa)
- David Chama (Zambia)
- Rob Wilkinson (Facilitator, South Africa)
- Swaibu Katare (Facilitator, Rwanda)
- Michael Qualls (CDC-Atlanta, USA)
- Olivier Ndahiriwe (Rwanda)
- John Balyima Lelo (Tanzania)
- Oscar Mwashuyua (Tanzania)



Educators in session



Assessor group at RCBT-Karongi, Western Rwanda

## Dubai congress – highlighting Africa’s contributions



**President 2016-2018:**  
Ravi Reddy



**Regional Director: Africa**  
2016-2020: Justina Ansah



**ISBT Academy Standing Committee**

Shirley Owusu-Ofori, representing Africa  
Shirley is a Transfusion Medicine Senior Specialist and Head of Transfusion Medicine Unit of the Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital in Kumasi, Ghana. She is a member of AfsBT, AABB and ISBT and an active researcher with over 45 peer-reviewed publications. She received the ISBT Award for Developing Countries - Runner up Award Individual for 2012 and 2014 consecutively.

## Dubai congress - ISBT Awards



ISBT has a long tradition to grant the ISBT Award to persons who have contributed significantly to transfusion medicine and science, mainly in educational aspects. It is interesting to note previous winners of this award, as shown below, and that the honour has been given to others from Africa –

**Jean Emmanuel** and **Diane de Coning**

The decision to grant the ISBT Award is the privilege of the ISBT Executive Committee. Beryl was cited for her active role in furthering the mission and objectives of ISBT in respect to education; her membership of the Education and Academy committees, her editorship of the popular Science Series book **Introduction to Blood Transfusion Technology** and her organisation and promotion of the ISBT Academy days at the AfSBT congresses in 2012, 2014 and 2016. Her responsibilities for the overall direction and implementation of the Step Wise Accreditation Programme and Education programme and her role as Programmes Director for AfSBT are also recognized.

2016: Beryl Armstrong (see above) and Steve Morgan (UK), who served as Treasurer of ISBT for 8 years, safeguarding the Society's financial status during the global financial crisis

2015: Imelda Bates (UK), Martin Olsson (Sweden)

2014: Zarin Barucha (India), Thailand and Japanese Red Cross Societies (Joint Award) for Securing Safe Blood for Asia

2013: Cees van der Poel (Netherlands), Henk Reesink (Netherlands), Cecilia Tan (Singapore), Che-Kit Lin (Hong Kong)

2012: Joyce Poole (UK), Marion Reid (USA) and Héctor Rodríguez Moyado (Mexico)

2011: Marie Lin (Taiwan), John Moulds (USA) and Bill Wagstaff (UK)

2010: Claudine Hossenlopp (France) and Wolfgang Mayr (Austria)

**2009:** Gamal Gabra (UK), **Jean Emmanuel (Zimbabwe)**, Yasmin Ayob (Malaysia) and Shinji Yuasa (Japan)

2008: Jean Claude Faber (Luxemburg) and Masaru Shimizu (Japan)

2007: The Expert Committee on Blood Transfusion and Immunohematology and the Select Committee of Experts on Quality Assurance in Blood Transfusion Services of the Council of Europe

**2006:** Brian McClelland (UK) and **Diane de Coning (South Africa)**

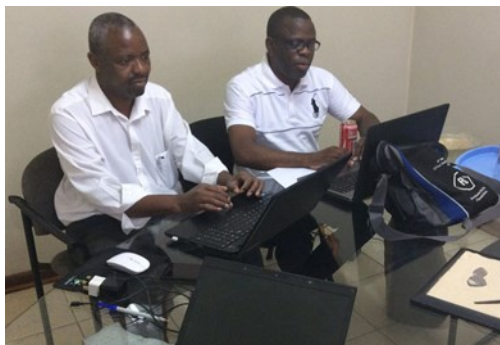
2005: Geoff Daniels (UK) and John Barbara (UK)

2004: Dame Professor Marcela Contreras (UK)

2002: Umberto Rossi (Italy) and Imelda Bromilow (Switzerland)

## Website Training

Bright Mulenga has spent time with our website hosting company, Cyberplex, to be trained in uploading and administering certain aspects of the website. Here he is in their offices in Harare, Zimbabwe:



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## Staff meetings in Zambia

The AfsBT Management Office is now fully staffed and as a result we held a meeting in Lusaka for induction, including a strategy review. It was a great opportunity for us all to interact and learn a bit more about each other and the functions and tasks ahead, in a

relaxed way and natural environment. The new team, some of whom are part-timers, is shown in the photo below, from left to right: Rob Wilkinson (Accreditation Manager, retiring 31 March 2017), Mervyn Burton (Finance Director), Claude Tayou Tagny (Accreditation Manager – Francophone), Chrispen Dandavare (Accreditation Manager – Anglophone), Jean-Baptiste Tapko (Education Manager – Francophone), Lesley Bust (Quality Systems Manager), Beryl Armstrong (Communications & Marketing Manager), Molly Gondwe (Administration Officer), Swaibu Katare (Education Manager – Anglophone), David Mvere (Managing Director) and Bright Mulenga (Website Officer). **What a formidable TEAM – a force to be reckoned with!**

## Upcoming events



**AABB Annual Meeting:** <http://www.aabb.org/annual-meeting/pages/default.aspx>  
22-25 October 2016: Orlando, Florida USA

**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>

*See attached press releases from IPFA, in English language only*

## Contact us

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Bright Mulenga: Website Officer

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## Like us on Facebook

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.

<https://www.facebook.com/afsbt/>