



Introducing the Management Team:

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AfSBT e-Newsletter



April 2017

World Malaria Day is an international observance commemorated every year on 25 April. Globally, 3.3 billion people in 106

countries are at risk of malaria. We all recognize that malaria is a formidable enemy in Africa. It impacts on us as blood bankers – malaria can lead to severe anaemia, for which red blood cell transfusions may be required to restore health. There are other commemorative days in April that deserve mention here: April 7 is World Health Day, and April 17 is World Haemophilia Day,

And the day that you read this is the first day of the rest of your life! Wow! May it be appreciated, and may some portion of it be spent in the service of those whose quality of life is improved by blood transfusion.

Beryl Armstrong – editor

Joint newsletter – AfSBT-ISBT

AfSBT and ISBT sent out their first joint newsletter related to blood transfusion research in March. The aim of the quarterly newsletter is to stimulate interest in blood transfusion-related research and maintain interest in the Blood Transfusion Research network in sub-Saharan Africa.

***** see attachment *****

Are you involved in blood transfusion-related research in Africa and would you like to share your story with others? Please send us an email to science@isbtweb.org so that we can contact you about your story.

Access to ISBT e-Portal by those with individual AfSBT membership

The ISBT Academy e-Learning portal (ePortal) is a rich source of content of congress webcasts, quizzes, interviews, guidelines, webinar recordings, ePosters and scientific papers.

The ISBT e-Portal will be made accessible to all AfSBT individual members. If you have challenges with access kindly send an email detailing your problem to science@isbtweb.org.

UGANDA BTS STAFF BENCHMARK IN RWANDA

The Uganda Blood Transfusion Services (UBTS) is participating in the AfSBT Step-wise Accreditation Programme. To maximize preparations for a successful formal assessment, a team of 10 staff from UBTS made a one week visit to Rwanda Blood Services from 23-29 April 2017, in a bid to benchmark against a fully accredited Blood Service. The study tour, organized by AfSBT, was the first of its kind since Rwanda's recent attainment of AfSBT Step 3 (full) accreditation.

The team consisted of the Rwanda Quality Manager, members of the quality team, Laboratory Manager, members of the laboratory team, Head of Blood Donor Management, members from the donor management team, Manager of the Supply Chain and the Human Resources Manager.

The main objectives of the visit were:

1. Accomplishment of the remaining gaps in documentation, blood donor management, collection of blood, laboratory management, testing, component preparation and storage and transportation in preparation for step 1 and 2 of the AfSBT Step-wise Accreditation Programme.
2. Identification of new opportunities related to an accredited blood bank facility.
3. To study the haemovigilance and clinical interface scheme.
4. To enhance leadership and mentorship skills.
5. To focus on the basics of blood donor management as a key line department.
6. Exposure to fresh perspectives, ideas and approaches in implementing AfSBT standards.
7. Development of a culture of quality.

The visit was facilitated by Dr Swaibu KATARE, Head of the Rwanda Blood Transfusion Services and AfSBT Education Manager in charge of Anglophone countries, assisted by Olivier NDAHIRIWE (Quality Manager of the Rwanda BTS and AfSBT Educator), Dr Thomas MUYOMBO (Head of donor recruitment & retention), Patrick LUMUMBA (Head of Laboratory Operations) and Jules KAMUGUNGA, all from the Rwanda BTS.

At the end of the one week study tour, participants appreciated the following:

Major outcomes

- ◆ The UBTS team committed to implementing the acquired knowledge and to motivate other staff back home.
- ◆ Attained knowledge in the required documentation per section/department.
- ◆ Ideas pertaining to the flow of work in blood bank system.
- ◆ Overall management of staff, work schedules, planning, types of reporting and communication format.
- ◆ Clear ideas on how to approach every AfSBT standard.
- ◆ The quality team appreciated the mentorship and the high level of QMS implementation of Rwanda Blood Bank.
- ◆ The quality team achieved professional development in QMS.
- ◆ The quality team learnt that commitment is key to the success of the QMS.
- ◆ The quality team learnt the role of managers in the implementation of the QMS
- ◆ Learnt the advantages of instituting a culture of quality; e.g. minimum supervision, cost effectiveness and efficiency.

Participants extended a special vote of gratitude and appreciation to the management of AfSBT, CDC, UBTS and Rwanda Blood Transfusion Service for organizing and hosting the UBTS team to learn from this experience.

The team recommends that mentorship and benchmarking continues for other enrolling /implementing countries and that this kind of study tour be incorporated into the agenda for participants in the AfSBT accreditation programme.



Photos: Uganda BTS in Kigali



Group photo showing Collaborating Centre



Training sessions at the Collaborating Centre in Kigali, Rwanda



Group photo in front of the AFSBT Collaborating Centre on the closing day

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

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Upcoming events



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>

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

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>

The National Center of Blood Transfusion and Hematology, in partnership with the Moroccan Society of Blood Transfusion, organizes the 11th Arab Blood Transfusion Congress: Marrakech 10-12 October 2017. Main theme: Ethics and Blood Safety - <http://www.smts.ma/>. The scientific conference, with the participation of researchers and specialists in various disciplines of blood transfusion from Arab countries and other countries of the world, aims to highlight the status of research and management in blood transfusion and to update research exchanges, and to promote the transfer of technological and managerial expertise. The programme plans to include plenary sessions, brief oral and poster communications, symposia and working meetings of committees. For further information and participation, email smtsmaroc@gmail.com

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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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.

