



IHN General Assembly

Tuesday 10 July 2018

9:00 – 10:30 am

Lowry Theatre, Salford, Manchester

Present:

Name	Country
IHN Board	
Erica Wood (<i>President</i>)	Australia
Paula Bolton-Maggs (<i>Secretary</i>)	United Kingdom
Arlinke Bokhorst (<i>Treasurer</i>)	Netherlands
Pierre Tiberghien	France
Martin Schipperus	Netherlands
Barbee Whitaker (<i>new board member</i>)	USA
Oystein Flesland (<i>new board member</i>)	Norway
Participants	
Bitten Aagaard Jensen (<i>via webinar</i>)	Denmark
Nigar Ertuğrul Örüç (<i>via webinar</i>)	Turkey
Zhong Liu	China
Yi Huang	China
Constantina Politis	Greece
Clive Richardson	Greece
Jose Luis Bueno	Spain
Pheello Lethola	South Africa
Francis Ledwaba	South Africa
Ivica Marić	Slovenia
Irena Bricl	Slovenia
Philippe Kolly	Switzerland
Breda Tuite	Ireland
Joyce Coughlan	Ireland
Noreena O'Brien	Ireland
Stephen Field	Ireland
Roisin Brady	Ireland
Breda Browne	Ireland
Ellen McSweeney	Ireland
Saloua Hmissi	Qatar
Badreya Mahmoud	Qatar
Mila Perez	Qatar
Naoko Goto	Japan

Rose Weatherly	USA
Srijana Rajbhandary	USA
Steve Anderson	USA
Fani Martinova	Bulgaria
Jorge Condeço	Portugal
Maria Antonia Escoval	Portugal
Dong-Tsamn Lin	Taiwan
Miodrag Palfi	Sweden
Tomislav Vuk	Croatia
Maria Ali	Pakistan
Jo Wiersum	Netherlands
Alexander Vlaar	Netherlands

1. Welcome and apologies

Erica Wood (EW) opened the meeting and welcomed all present in Manchester and on-line. Apologies were received from Akanksha Bisht (IHN Board), Kevin Land (IHN Board), Ang Ai Leen (Singapore, new IHN Board member), Jean-Claude Faber (Luxembourg, past-president) and Giuseppina Facco (Italy).

2. Approval of minutes of IHN general assembly from Copenhagen 2017.

The minutes were circulated to members prior to the meeting. There were no comments on the minutes, which were therefore accepted as a true record.

3. IHN activities:

- EW provided a **brief update on IHN governance and working arrangements:**
 - Current IHN board members were introduced.
 - The chair of the International Society of Blood Transfusion (ISBT) working party on haemovigilance (currently Dr Kevin Land) is an *ex officio* member of the IHN board, and the president of IHN is represented on the ISBT WP coordinating group.
 - Administrative support to members and the IHN board is provided by Ingrid Van Veen in the TRIP office. Please contact Ingrid with membership, website and other enquiries.
 - Several working committees have been established (see below).
- **Update on implementation of IHN strategic plan:**
 - Brief review of the development of new IHN strategic plan in 2015-16, with input from IHN members and others (survey and targeted interviews). This was endorsed by the IHN board and membership during 2016-17.
 - Mission, vision, strategic objectives and supporting “pillars” (including need for financial stability) were briefly reviewed (see slide presentation/website).
 - Committees have been established to carry out this work. Established, active committees so far are the data committee and seminar committee. The membership committee has had one meeting and will be reconvened later in 2018. Finance and research committees are planned. An Advisory Council has been initiated, to provide a mechanism for former board members to continue to be engaged with and provide advice to IHN. See below for reports.

There was an initial “expression of interest” (EOI) process for committee members. Additional volunteers are welcome.

- IHN Seminars: As part of the strategic plan, since the Paris meeting in March 2016, IHN seminars are now held every 2 years, with IHN partnering in the intervening period with other organisations to broaden the opportunities for haemovigilance activities at a wider range of conferences and seminars. Between November 2016 and June 2018, IHN participated in 12 events around the world including in Saudi Arabia, Mexico, Germany, Korea, China, Taiwan, Italy and Tanzania, and two WHO meetings (in Dammam and Shanghai).
- IHN, ISBT and AABB also co-hosted an expert meeting on TACO in Amsterdam to progress a review of the definitions and work towards a possible future consensus conference on TACO. See below under ‘collaborations’.
- Board transitions and new members: IHN thanks Dr Peter Tomasulo, who retired and stepped down from the board during 2017. Dr Erica Wood and Dr Paula Bolton-Maggs will complete their second terms and step down from the board later in 2018. The board has been planning ahead to try to ensure continuity for IHN. Following an EOI and invitation process, new board members are:
 - Dr Barbee Whitaker, USA
 - Dr Oystein Flesland, Norway
 - Dr Ai Leen Ang, Singapore

The new board members were endorsed by the General Assembly.

- **Membership**

- Current members include haemovigilance systems around the world (see map on website). Both established systems and those in development or in a pilot phase can join.
- IHN welcomes China and Taiwan as new members this year. Expression of interest have been received from Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Slovakia.
- The IHN membership committee will investigate some flexibility of future membership structure – for example, requests have been received to allow individual members or hospitals to join where the country is not already a member.

- **Financial report:**

- Arlinke Bokhorst presented the report, including a statement of accounts (in Dutch) and auditor’s report.
- Positive balance of 12000 euros for the previous year, partly reflecting the move to alternate year seminars. However, IHN used some money to support the TACO and other meeting activities.
- Some members have not paid the 2017 membership fees and these are being followed up.

- **Reports from committees:**

- **Data Committee** – report from Jo Wiersum (JW) on behalf of the committee members. Meetings have focussed on how to move forward with data activities and infrastructure, including the future of the ISTAR database. Need better data capture with data validation, including severity and imputability of reactions. The outputs need to be more accessible. The group has prepared a request for a proposal for at least partial rebuild, and this will be discussed at a Database WP meeting later today. JW thanked the members for their participation.
- **Seminar Committee** – report from Barbee Whitaker (BW) on behalf of the committee members. BW thanked the members for their great support by for this meeting. The content, venue and programme are all excellent. IHN is seeking expressions of interest for the next IHN Seminar in 2020 – ideally in March. Please get in touch with BW if interested.

- **Communications and website** – Kevin Land is the chair. Members are listed on the website (see presentation/website). A new website has been developed and launched. Members are requested to check information about their HV system. Suggestions for web content, news items, updates of annual reports, etc very welcome.
- **Membership Committee** – see above. Akanksha Bisht to take over as chair.
- **Advisory Council** – Jean-Claude Faber is the current chair. No report.
- Planned new committees: finance/external relations, and research to be progressed.
- **Collaborations:**
 - **ISBT Working Party on haemovigilance:**
 - Recipient definitions – JW discussed that input on definitions e.g. including TACO is a strong point of IHN and the meetings. There will be an October meeting prior to AABB in Boston to follow up the Amsterdam expert meeting on TACO definitions development.
 - New group looking at paediatric definitions – participation welcome.
 - Donor definitions validation project underway.
 - **World Health Organization:**
 - WHO held a consultative meeting in Shanghai May 2018 and IHN participated as a “key implementing partner”. Aim is to share progress and experience to support many countries. There will be a recommendations document forthcoming.
 - WHO published updated global data in 2017, available on the WHO website
 - IHN has collaborated on guidance documents, support to developing HV systems, consultations and workshops.
 - IHN has participated in work on the NOTIFY library with expert contributions and at technical meetings. BW and EW described NOTIFY as a publicly accessible compendium of well-characterised cases. Over the last 3-4 years transfusion reactions have been added. Donor reactions not yet so well represented. It is not intended to replace HV reporting systems. Members are encouraged to look at and use the library and to enter cases etc. EW thanked those who have worked on this.
 - **European Commission stakeholder consultations:** IHN has participated in several meetings focussing on donor protection issues.
- **IHN Medal and Award** – At the closing plenary session in Manchester Paula Bolton-Maggs will be awarded the IHN medal for her contribution to IHN and Jo Wiersum will be awarded the IHN award for her overall contribution to HV.

4. Other business

- **TRALI updated definition proposals** – Alexander Vlaar attended (AV) as a special guest. He described problems with the current definition of TRALI and pTRALI, and updates on the Berlin definition of ARDS, and knowledge from preclinical, animal model and large cohort studies of risk factors (e.g. sepsis and shock). AV described the approach using a Delphi questions panel of 10 experts, of which 2 were HV representatives. They have developed draft updated definitions and would like endorsement from IHN. The IHN board has received a draft of the manuscript but has not been formally part of this process.
Discussion followed. It was noted that further consideration and consultation would be required, including how these proposed definitions would work in practice and integrate into established haemovigilance processes. Some participants noted several areas where further clarity (e.g. ‘transfused ARDs’) would be important.

- **Severity of blood donor adverse reactions** – presented by JW on behalf of Mary Townsend (MT). Definitions for donor complications were developed by IHN, ISBT and AABB (Dec. 2014) and have been widely endorsed. Only generic criteria for severe reactions are incorporated in these definitions. In the subsequent validation exercise participants classified case scenarios and optionally also rated severity. The severity assessment showed considerable variation; however use of mild/moderate/severe may have medicolegal repercussions. For this reason a severity subgroup was convened (Jan 2018) to develop additional guidance. As a general approach, the guidance is based on specific descriptors for certain common categories in combination with generic descriptors based on the US Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Events and graded 1, 2, 3 plus life-threatening (4 in CTCAE) and death. Thus a (draft) matrix with descriptors has been developed. In it the step from grade 2 to grade 3 will (it is intended) correspond to the rating of serious vs not serious for the mandatory reporting in the EU and other jurisdictions. This document with the draft matrix will be sent out with minutes of this meeting. Please respond with comments directly to MT (mtownsend@bloodsystems.org) as soon as possible.
5. **Next IHN General Assembly:** Information on the 2019 General Assembly will be provided in due course.
 6. **Close:** EW closed the meeting, thanking all participants for attending. Thanks also to Ingrid van Veen for great support to the board and members, MCI for contributions to organising the meeting, the IHN Board, IHN Committees and all IHN members.