



**International
Haemovigilance
Network**

IHN General Assembly

Sunday, 23 June 2019

11:30 – 12:30 CET

**Congress Center Basel MCH Messe Messeplatz 21
Boston 1**

1. Welcome and apologies

Martin Schipperus (MS) opened the meeting. One apology was received. Ellen McSweeney attended on behalf of Stephen Field.

2. Approval of minutes of IHN general assembly from Manchester 2018.

The minutes as circulated were adopted without change.

3. Board update

- Board transitions
MS succeeded Erica Wood as president on 1 January 2019. He acknowledged the work of Erica Wood, who will support the Board for one year as Past President.
- In the updated strategic plan (2016) new committees were set up to take forward the IHN objectives. Several of these committees need to be strengthened: please contact the IHN secretariat if you are interested in contributing to the work of the Network in a committee role.
- Administrative support for IHN is provided by Ms Ingrid van Veen (at the TRIP office, NL) who can be reached for membership enquiries etc. at secretariat@ihn-org.com.

4. IHN Membership

The membership structure is under review as the Board is seeking to actively involve individual participants and strengthen its collaboration with the ISBT haemovigilance working party and other relevant working parties.

5. Financial report 2018

Arlinke Bokhorst (AGB) presented the report, including a statement of accounts (in Dutch) and auditor's report.

There was a negative result of €15,914 in 2018 owing to financial loss on the Manchester Seminar because of relatively low number of registrants, and clearing of outstanding longer term negative balance in to the MCI (congress agency) IHS account which has now been permanently closed. The secretariat actively contacts members with outstanding annual membership fees, to minimise the writing off of such debts. The current membership fee structure allows for five years of reduced fees

when a low income country joins the Network; the possibility of a stepwise gradual increase after this period will be considered by the Board.

The 2019 and 2020 budgets reserve €5000 annually towards the seminar which is held every other year. Each year a sum is available for co-badging sessions or events held by member organisations, the sum being larger in years without a seminar (€6000 and €3000 respectively).

The financial report and budget were accepted.

Constantina Politis (CP) mentioned a forthcoming workshop in Greece (April/May 2020) where there could be a possibility of co-badging by IHN.

6. Reports from Committees

- Seminar Committee

Barbee Whitaker (BW) reported that there is a possibility of organising the 2020 seminar in Scandinavia but there is not yet a definite proposal. In line with the strategic plan, IHN is open to co-badging events in seminar years and particularly in the in-between years.

Call for expressions of interest:

If you are interested in hosting a seminar in the forthcoming years (2020-2024) or wish to request co-badging, send an email to BW via secretariat@ihn-org.com. Please note that it generally requires over a year from the start of planning until the date of the seminar. Most of the work of organising the seminar is done by the seminar committee but input from the local organisers will be needed for local information, and their participation in the programme committee is encouraged. A proposal from a region rather than a single country could also be suitable. Updated guidelines for countries considering hosting a seminar will be published on the website.

- Communications and Website Committee

AGB explained that the website has been transferred to a different platform where it can now be managed by IHN, as opposed to the former dependency on MCI. At present the content is rudimentary. A member-only part is envisaged.

Please check the website content about your system and inform the secretariat if any changes are needed. New members of the committee are needed: please volunteer if you are interested in improving IHN's communications.

- Data Committee

Jo Wiersum (JW) presented a report on the Data Committee. As reported last year, the committee's "Strengths and weaknesses" document about the current ISTARE data collection tool was been endorsed in principle by the Board, including a proposal to rebuild the database as the current design is now 10 years old and the desired improvements cannot be incorporated in the present data tables. However we are not sure what approach to data collection is most appropriate, nor what data outputs will best serve the IHN member systems. For this reason the Board has requested the ISTARE working group to suspend the data collection and first clarify what data activity we should be doing. The Data Committee intends to survey the IHN members and participants to establish where people's needs and expectations lie. Concerning the ISTARE data freeze, discussion ensued:

- CP and Clive Richardson objected to the "lock" and suggested continuing the data collection in the meantime.
- Jean-Claude Faber stressed the importance of the ISTARE data to members.
- Øystein Flesland indicated that Norway reports to the EU, Council of Europe (EDQM) and WHO but not to ISTARE. Currently "nothing" comes out of the EU data; not enough comes out of ISTARE to justify the work.

- Srijana Rajbhandary shared the AABB experience: the AABB patient safety organisation has ceased to collect data in order to focus on the definitions; its members can continue to participate in (CDC) data collection.
- AGB remarked that the present data do not give answers to current questions. When the way forward is clear it will not be difficult to ask systems to retrospectively provide 2017 data along with the next year's data.

At CP's suggestion OCPs were invited to vote by raising hands: 3 OCPs or persons representing OCPs voted for continuation of data collection, 10 were in support of the freeze.

JW thanked all who have contributed to the ISTARE data collection over the years, and reminded everyone about the possibility of requesting ISTARE data for analyses (secretariat@ihn-org.com; see information on the website).

- **Research Committee**

Pierre Tiberghien reported that HV is also moving forward – examples are the return of whole blood in certain situations, as well as new outcomes and safety measures. The research committee needs more members: please consider offering to join the research committee.

7. Collaborations

- **ISBT Haemovigilance working party**

Kevin Land described the collaborative work on the TACO definition revision, which was presented at the Manchester seminar. IHN co-organised a pre-congress State of the Research meeting in Boston focused round the TACO and TRALI definitions. The IHN-ISBT-AABB group has now validated and published the TACO revision (J. Wiersum-Osselton et al, Lancet Haematology).

The updated definitions for complications of blood donation have been validated (K. Land et al, Transfusion 2018, vol. 58 (11); 2589). Following this, work on a tool to support severity assessment of donor reactions has been taken forward by a group led by Mary Townsend. The concepts of this were introduced at the Manchester General Assembly. Validation of the tool has been undertaken and the tool is currently being finalised.

- **IHN support for national and regional meetings, WHO and other meetings**

In accordance with the strategic plan, IHN has participated in and co-badged several national and regional events each year in 2017-9. IHN and ISBT working party members have supported WHO in developing guidance documents, as well as contributing to the Notify Library (www.notifylibrary.org).

- **European collaboration**

IHN was invited to meet Commission representatives and give a stakeholder presentation on haemovigilance priorities in the ongoing evaluation of the EU blood, tissue and cell legislation. The importance of both donor vigilance and monitoring in the clinical domain was stressed.

9. IHN Medal and Award: nominations for these prizes (for 2020) can be sent to the Secretariat.

10. Other business

Close. MS thanked all those who attended and closed the meeting at 12.45.