



International  
Haemovigilance  
Seminar  
Virtual || 2021



International  
Haemovigilance  
Network

### **IHN Virtual mini-Seminar: Haemovigilance in Times of Covid-19, 18 March 2021**



On Thursday, 18 March 2021, the International Haemovigilance Network hosted **the first IHN Virtual mini-Seminar with the theme of Haemovigilance in times of Covid-19**. Due to COVID-19 pandemic, the IHN had to cancel the International Haemovigilance Seminar 2020, which was to have been held in Oslo Norway. The IHN Seminar Committee was pleased to offer an alternative virtual venue.

At least 368 attendees from countries over the world participated in the virtual Seminar (Afghanistan, Australia, Bahrain , Belgium, Canada, China, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Egypt, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Norway, Oman, Portugal, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Singapore, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, The Netherlands, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States of America). This demonstrates the global interest and global importance of topics relating to haemovigilance. We were very pleased to have such broad attendance, especially given the challenges of the many time zones.

Arlinke Bokhorst, President IHN, opened the mini-Seminar by welcoming all attendees. After a short introduction about the IHN, Arlinke introduced Barbee Whitaker, Chair IHN Seminar Committee, who introduced the speakers to the audience and moderated the question and answer periods.

Below you'll find the program and keynote speakers. By activating the name of the speaker, you'll find a short bio, and you may watch the recorded presentations by clicking on the presentation title. After each presentation there was time for the presenters to discuss the questions that were asked via chat function.



The first speaker was [Dr. Dragoslav Domanovic](#), with his presentation **ECDC Perspective on COVID-19 and Blood Safety**.



The second presentation was an interview with [Dr. Jannicke Mellin-Olsen](#) & [Dr. Anders Holtan](#) (both anaesthesiologists), led by [Dr. Christine Torsvik Steinsvåg](#), medical director in immunology and transfusion medicine, **The Importance of Haemovigilance: A Clinician's View**.



After a short break, the program continued with **Dr. Gustav Edgren**'s presentation about **SCANDAT: Short and long term effects of WB and apheresis donations**.

Finally, **Mary Townsend** (Chair ISBT WP on Haemovigilance) gave a short update on international haemovigilance activities and **Deirdre Fehily** (EC DG Santé, Policy Officer, SoHo Team) gave a presentation about the revision of the EU directives on blood, tissues and cells.

After these two presentations, Barbee Whitaker closed the virtual Seminar and thanked all speakers and attendees for their contributions.

A substantial number of participants gave feedback on the webinar by completing our post-Seminar survey. The results showed very high ratings, with the speakers receiving an average of 8/10. The IHN Seminar Committee will review your suggestions for future programs.



We look back on a very successful afternoon!

The next virtual mini Seminar is planned early Autumn of 2021. Please look for notifications from IHN about upcoming International Haemovigilance Seminars, virtual and in-person!

IHN Seminar Committee: Barbee Whitaker, Øystein Flesland, Pierre Tiberghien, Arlinke Bokhorst, Johanna Castren, Mikhail Menis, Ina Hjalmarsdottir, Thorbjorn Jonsson, Stephen Field, Simon Benson, Maria Antonia Escoval, Susanne Ekblom-Kullberg, Susanna Sainio, Pia Oscarsson, Helena Strøm, Betina Sørensen, Bitten Aagaard

If you would like to join the IHN Seminar Committee, please send an email to [secretariat@ihn-org.com](mailto:secretariat@ihn-org.com).