

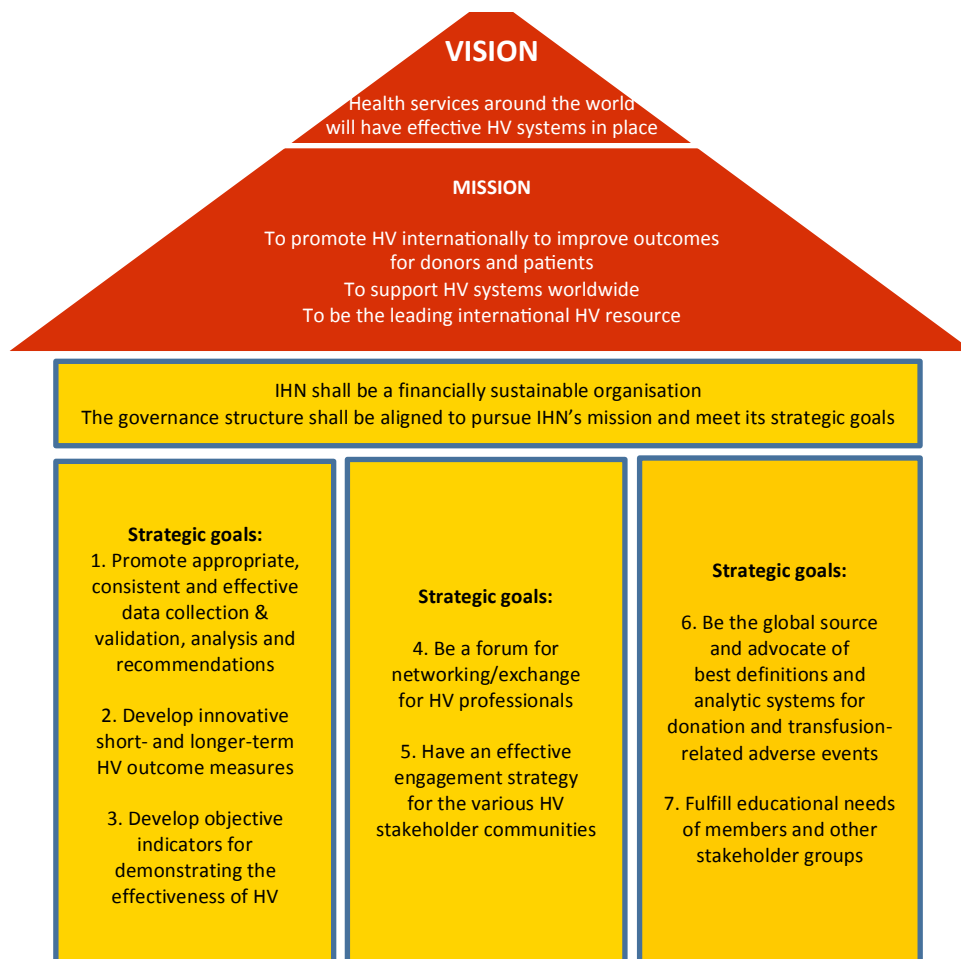
## INFORMATION ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL HAEMOVIGILANCE NETWORK (IHN) December 2016

IHN is an international organisation comprised of national or regional haemovigilance systems. It serves as a forum for sharing best practice and benchmarking of data, as well as providing a resource for existing and new haemovigilance systems. IHN was formed in 2009 from the European Haemovigilance Network (EHN), which itself was founded in 1998.

In 2015-16 IHN undertook a strategic planning activity, which resulted in an update to its vision, mission and strategic goals. From March 2016, after endorsement by the IHN General Assembly:

- **IHN's vision** is that health services around the world will have effective HV systems in place.
- **IHN's mission statements (purpose):**
  1. To promote HV internationally to improve outcomes for donors and patients
  2. To support HV systems worldwide
  3. To be the leading international HV resource
- **IHN's mission statements (organisational):**
  1. IHN shall be a financially sustainable organisation
  2. The governance structure shall be aligned to pursue IHN's mission and meet its strategic goals

**IHN's strategic goals:** In the figure below, the roof represents IHN's vision and mission, and the pillars indicate strategic goals towards fulfilling the mission. The beam represents connecting organisational structures, ensuring sustainability and feasibility.



**The IHN Board** provides strategic direction and oversees IHN activities on behalf of its members. Current members of the Board are:

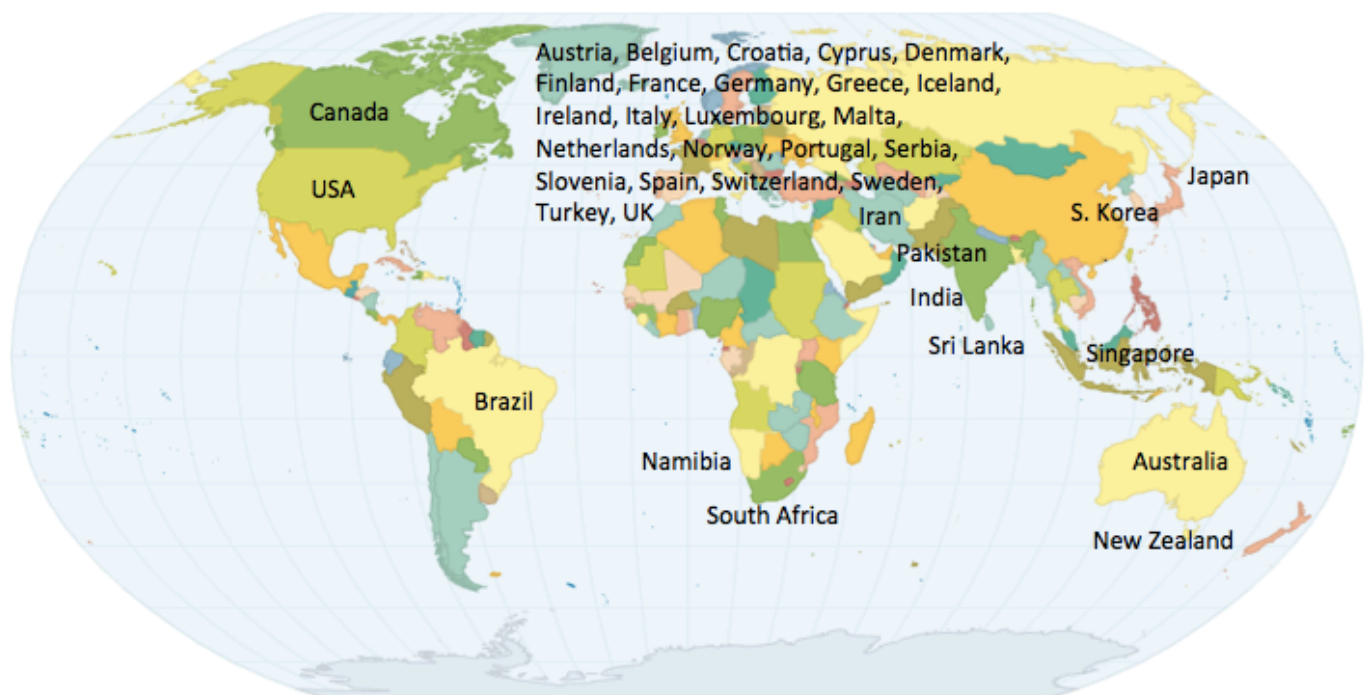
- President: Dr Erica Wood, Australia (2012-2015 and 2016-2018), [president@ihn-org.com](mailto:president@ihn-org.com)
- Secretary: Dr Paula Bolton-Maggs, UK (2012-2015 and 2016-2018), [secretary@ihn-org.com](mailto:secretary@ihn-org.com)
- Treasurer: Dr M. Schipperus, Netherlands (2013-2016 and 2017-2019), [treasurer@ihn-org.com](mailto:treasurer@ihn-org.com)
- Member: Dr Peter Tomasulo USA (2014-2017, will be eligible for reappointment)
- Member: Dr Pierre Tiberghien, France (2016-2019, will be eligible for a second term)
- Member: Dr Akanksha Bisht, India (2016-2019, will be eligible for a second term)
- ISBT representative (chair of the ISBT Working Party on Haemovigilance): Dr Kevin Land

Past-presidents of IHN are Dr Jean Claude Faber, Dr René RP de Vries, and Dr Paul Strengers.

### Membership

Historically, IHN has operated on an *institutional membership model*, whereby national, operational haemovigilance systems are members of IHN. These organisations join IHN on behalf of their country, with a nominated person who is usually the head (director, president) of the national haemovigilance system of that country being the official contact person (OCP) for IHN. The OCP or delegate represents the member system at the IHN General Assembly, held in conjunction with the IHN Seminar (see below) and receives correspondence from IHN for dissemination in their country.

IHN membership at December 2016



IHN welcomes new members. Countries with haemovigilance systems in place who are not yet members may and should send an enquiry to the IHN office using the application form for IHN membership.

This membership model distinguishes IHN from the International Society of Blood Transfusion (ISBT), with which IHN collaborates closely on many activities. *Individual* ISBT members may be members of the ISBT Working Party on Haemovigilance. Individuals working in haemovigilance from member countries, or individuals who are active

in haemovigilance in countries which are not yet members, are free to participate in all aspects of IHN as individual participants.

The membership model of IHN is currently being reviewed to ensure it meets the needs of IHN and its members into the future.

### **Membership fees**

An annual fee is payable, calculated using a part fixed fee for all members, and part variable fee related to the size of the blood sector in the member country (based on blood collections by blood services in that country).

### **IHN Seminar**

IHN symposia are held to share experience, data, and new research, and as a networking forum. The Seminars are open to all interested organisations and individuals.

Further information is available from the IHN Seminar website: [www.ihs-seminar.org](http://www.ihs-seminar.org).

In 2017, IHN will participate in the DGTI Congress in Cologne in October.

Previous EHN/IHN Seminars:

Bordeaux, France, 1997	Frankfurt, Germany, 2008
Lyon, France, 1998	Rome, Italy, 2009
Montpellier, France, 2000	Dubrovnik, Croatia, 2010
Athens, Greece, 2001	Amsterdam, Netherlands, 2011
Amsterdam, Netherlands, 2003	Montreal, Canada, 2012
Zurich, Switzerland, 2004	Brussels, Belgium, 2013
London, UK, 2005	Barcelona, Spain, 2014
Porto, Portugal, 2006	Paris, France, 2016
Dublin, Ireland, 2007	

### **ISTARE (International Surveillance of Transfusion-Associated Reactions and Events)**

ISTARE is an international collaborative activity to collect, analyse and share data for the purposes of quality assurance and benchmarking. ISTARE is presently hosted by SKAE, the Greek national haemovigilance system, with technical support provided by Steficon Ltd of Athens.

Aggregate data on donor and recipient events are submitted by participating haemovigilance systems to an online, password-protected database. The results are reported to participating systems and presented at scientific meetings in a non-identifying manner for review and discussion. From 2006-2014 a total of 149 national sets of annual aggregated data were received, covering 171.3 million blood components issued.

Current members of the ISTARE Working Group are:

- Constantina Politis, Greece
- Jo Wiersum, The Netherlands
- Clive Richardson, Greece
- Pierre Robillard, Canada
- Philippe Renaudier, France
- Maria Antonia Escoval, Portugal
- Jean Claude Faber, Luxembourg

As part of the strategic planning process, IHN will review its work with ISTARE to ensure that IHN can:

- Receive, store and analyse data on donors, patients, donations, transfusions, technologies used, incidents and adverse events from member systems, and
- Promote use of consistent consensus definitions and specifications, assist countries by providing easily accessible benchmarking information, and be a resource for members wishing to undertake analysis of their own data or international data.

- Utilize rigorously collected data to recommend broad interventions to reduce donor and recipient adverse events.

A new data committee incorporating the work of ISTARÉ has been established to be responsible for development of systems needed to optimise data collection, to address questions being raised by clinicians, HV organisations and others (e.g. ministries of health) and for analyses and for publishing reports.

### **IHN Award and Medal**

From 2010 the IHN award has been presented to a person or organisation who/that has made an important scientific or clinical contribution to the advancement of haemovigilance. The award consists of a certificate, a trophy and a financial token, and was made possible by a generous gift of Professor Erhard Seifried. It is presented at the IHN Seminar, at which the awardee delivers a plenary presentation.

Since 2011 a special medal (showing a lion as the symbol for vigilance) is granted to a person who has made an extraordinary contribution to the work of IHN.

Calls for nominations for the IHN Award and IHN Medal are made by the IHN Board ahead of the IHN Seminars.

Pictured below, the IHN Award trophy (L) and IHN Medal (R):



### **Website**

The IHN website: [www.ihn-org.com](http://www.ihn-org.com) contains IHN contact information, IHN statutes, and resources on haemovigilance. As at December 2016 the website is being redeveloped but remains operational.

### **Collaborations**

IHN works closely with the ISBT (for example, on definitions of adverse events and reactions), and the World Health Organization (for example, on the WHO Global Consultation on Haemovigilance in 2012, and the WHO Aide-Mémoire on Haemovigilance, published in 2015, available at [www.who.int/bloodsafety/am\\_National\\_Haemovigilance\\_System.pdf](http://www.who.int/bloodsafety/am_National_Haemovigilance_System.pdf)), and other national and international organisations, including blood services, hospitals, academia and industry interested in haemovigilance and blood safety.