

UPDATE FOR IHN MEMBERS, DECEMBER 2016

Please circulate this update to other IHN participants in your country and forward to others who may be interested.

1. IHN SEMINAR 2017 – in partnership with DGTI, Cologne, October 2017

In line with IHN's strategic plan, IHN now proposes to hold an international seminar in every second year. In the other years, IHN will partner with national haemovigilance systems or professional organisations in their educational or scientific meetings. This offers opportunities for IHN to participate in haemovigilance activities in more countries around the world, and to support, and be supported by, a broader range of haemovigilance organisations. The intention is to strengthen international collaborations.

**In 2017, IHN will participate in the DGTI meeting in Cologne, Germany from 24-27 October.
IHN warmly thanks DGTI for this invitation.**

Calls for **expression of interest for hosting the 2018 congress** will follow shortly, coordinated by the new IHN Seminar committee. Thank you for considering whether your organisation/country might be interested in hosting the 2018 meeting.

2. PROGRESS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC GOALS

In 2015-16 IHN undertook a strategic planning activity. Thanks to all members and others who contributed. The updated vision, mission and strategic goals were endorsed by the IHN General Assembly in March 2016. A summary of the current IHN strategy and goals is attached to this message.

Activities to support implementation of the strategy include **establishment of a number of new committees**. We thank everyone who expressed interest in participating. Inaugural membership of the committees is listed below. Additional opportunities will arise as these groups begin their project work.

IHN Data Committee

This committee develops and implements IHN's data strategic plan, oversees the IHN system/database (currently ISTARE), analyses and reports data, and manages requests for use of IHN data.

Chair: Jo Wiersum (Netherlands)

Members: Peter Tomasulo (USA), Constantina Politis (Greece – IHN database working group representative), Giuseppina Facco (Italy), Naoko Goto (Japan), Elissavet Grouzi (Greece)

Board liaison: Kevin Land (USA)

IHN Seminar Committee

This committee plans, arranges and implements IHN seminars to share information, enable networking and to meet the needs of IHN members and others working in haemovigilance internationally.

Chair: Peter Tomasulo, USA (interim chair)

Members: Barbee Whitaker (USA), Micheline Lambermont (Belgium), Maria Antonia Escoval (Portugal), Brigitte Keller-Stanislawski (Germany – liaison 2017 seminar), Birgit Gathof (Germany – liaison 2017 seminar)

Board liaison: Kevin Land, USA

Co-opted: Sophie Hamburger, MCI International, Netherlands

IHN Communications and Website Committee

This committee develops and implements IHN's communications plan, oversees the IHN website, coordinates an annual report on IHN activities, and serves as the point of contact for other communications issues.

Chair: Kevin Land, USA (interim chair)

Members: Jorge Condeço (Portugal), Hyun-jung Jo (Korea), Hasan Zaheer (Pakistan), Nicholas Saadeh (Netherlands) and one position under discussion

Board liaison: Kevin Land, USA

Co-opted: Sophie Hamburger, MCI International, Netherlands

Membership Committee

This committee will develop and implement IHN's membership plan as part of a successful future operating model for the organisation.

Chair: Erica Wood (interim chair, to hand over to Akanksha Bisht, India)

Members: Tomislav Vuk (Croatia), Hema Mistry (UK), Eduardo Muniz Diaz (Spain), Pierre Robillard (Canada)

Board liaison: Paula Bolton-Maggs (UK) and Akanksha Bisht (India)

IHN Advisory Council

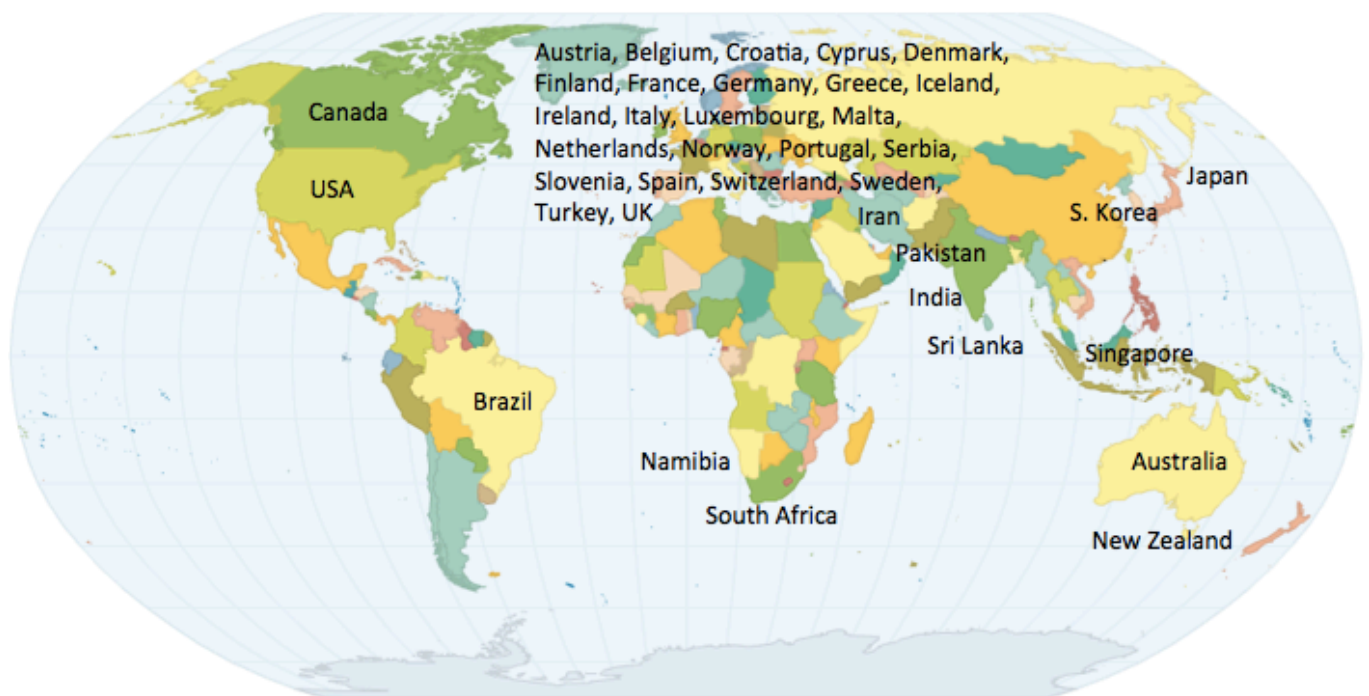
The Advisory Council will provide advice to the IHN Board on the strategic direction of the organisation. The Chair is the immediate past-president of IHN, so the inaugural chair of this group will be Jean-Claude Faber (Luxembourg). Members will include the current president, past presidents and other former board members.

The next groups to be established will be the new **finance and external relations, research, and nominations committees**.

3. MEMBERSHIP

We welcome our new member, Cyprus. Dr Stala Kioupi, Medical Officer at the Cyprus Ministry of Health, is the official contact person.

Current members are pictured on the map below:



4. ISTARE (International Surveillance of Transfusion-Associated Reactions and Events)

A call for 2015 data for submission to ISTARE will be issued shortly.

The ISTARE group was represented by Prof Dina Politis with an oral abstract presentation at the ISBT Congress in Dubai: ISTARE data 2006–2014 on recipients: Variation between countries in the incidence and imputability of transfusion reactions.

Congratulations to the ISTARE working group on the recent publication in *Vox Sanguinis*:

Politis C, Wiersum JC, Richardson C, Robillard P, Jorgensen J, Renaudier P, Faber JC, Wood EM. The International Haemovigilance Network database for the surveillance of adverse reactions and events in donors and recipients of blood components: technical issues and results. *Vox Sanguinis* 2016 Nov;111(4):409-417.

5. WEBSITE

The IHN website: www.ihn-org.com does not meet the organisation's current needs. The website is being redeveloped under the supervision of the communications and website committee. IHN will be seeking member input to content for the website, including updates from national haemovigilance systems. A call for your input will be made in early 2017.

6. COLLABORATIONS

IHN continues to collaborate with the **ISBT haemovigilance working party** in the domain of **haemovigilance definitions**. As you are probably aware, a revision of the ISBT/IHN definition for transfusion-associated circulatory overload (TACO) was launched in 2013 at the request of members. Draft revised TACO reporting criteria are now available on the ISBT (and AABB) websites for comment until the end of January 2017:

(http://www.isbtweb.org/fileadmin/user_upload/Working_parties/WP_on_Haemovigilance/TACO_reporting_criteria_draft_Nov_2016.pdf). The revision group invites you to circulate this information as widely as possible.

IHN participated in developing the recently published **WHO Guide to establishing a national haemovigilance system**, to supplement the WHO *Aide-Mémoire on haemovigilance, published in 2015*. Both documents are available at: <http://www.who.int/bloodsafety/haemovigilance>.

IHN was represented by Dr Peter Tomasulo at the recent **WHO Regional Consultation on Haemovigilance**, held in Amman, Jordan, on 4-5 December 2016, and organised by the WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean. Representatives from 22 countries and partner organisations participated to review the successes and challenges of establishing and/or strengthening national haemovigilance systems in the region, and to develop recommendations and priorities for action. One important discussion point was on the need for and uptake in the region of standard international definitions for both donor and recipient haemovigilance. IHN will continue to work with ISBT and AABB on updating the existing international definitions and evaluating their utility for developing countries.

More information, including formal recommendations from the consultation, will be available from WHO in the near future.

IHN was represented by Dr Jo Wiersum at the **NOTIFY technical meeting**, held in Rome, Italy, on 28-29 November 2016. Approximately 40 participants including representatives of WHO, the European Commission, CNT (National Transplant Centre, Italy) and technical experts from Europe and elsewhere were present for updates on a range of NOTIFY activities. Work continues on taxonomy of blood-related events and expert reviews of clinical complications related to transfusion.

Thank you for your support of IHN during 2016.

The IHN Board wishes you a happy holiday season and wonderful New Year,
and looks forward to your participation in IHN activities in 2017.