



**To the Colleagues responsible for international cooperation
in training in Transfusion Medicine in European countries**

Milano, 6/4/2008

Dear Colleagues and friends,

In September 2008 (10-14) an ESTM residential course shall take place, in Macedonia, on "*The quality of clinical transfusion practice: a basic step to haemovigilance and transfusion safety*".

This course will be the 6th (after the previous ones in Sarajevo, Sofia, Belgrade, Antalya and Tirana) of the series of "Balkan-European" courses, aiming at an increasing integration of Transfusion Medicine in the South-Eastern European countries.

During this course a roundtable has been planned on "*International cooperation in training in Transfusion Medicine: what has happened so far in Europe?*": the purpose is to assemble some useful information (both from "*receiving*" and "*offering*" countries or institutions) on initiatives of help and cooperation in the field of voluntary blood donation and Transfusion Medicine, in general, and with particular emphasis on promotion, training and education. Information on past, present and planned programmes/duration and importance of the cooperation actions will be reported.

You are therefore cordially invited to draw a short report (1 to 6 pages) of (1) what your country or institution has done and/or planned so far to help the development of other countries, and (2) of what kind of support your country has received and/or is going to receive from other countries and institutions.

The reports shall be published in the Proceedings of the ESTM course, and should be received by the ESTM Secretariat (in electronic form) before the 31st May 2008.

A copy of the Proceedings shall be available for each reporter.

Your participation to the roundtable and to the course shall be also highly appreciated.

I hope that your efforts may be rewarded by achieving a satisfactory amount of relevant information, which will be useful for the improvement of our future European cooperation.

Please don't hesitate to write me for any clarification or further details you may require.

An answer confirming your wish to participate shall be greatly appreciated.

Thank you.

Kindest regards,
yours sincerely

Umberto Rossi



The quality of clinical transfusion practice in Europe: a basic step to haemovigilance and transfusion safety

(Coordinators: S. Bakalova, M. Blagoevska, J. Barbara, U. Rossi)

Residential Course
Skopje (Macedonia), 10 - 14 September 2008

Wednesday, 10/9/2008

Evening: Arrival to the Hotel

(Dinner)

Thursday, 11/9/2008

Morning: Introduction.

European Union Directives and quality systems for Blood Transfusion Services

8,30- 9,30	<i>Opening of the course</i> (Coordinators). <i>Introduction. Presentation of participants</i>	
9,30-10,00	Quality today: the health system approach to improving blood service performance (V. Hafner)	
10,00-10,20	Quality of donor selection (J. M. Cardenas)	
10,20-10,40	Quality of blood collection and processing of blood components (T. Vuk)	10,40
Coffee-break		
11,10-11,30	Quality of laboratory testing for infectious agents (J. Barbara)	
11,30-11,50	Quality of laboratory testing in immunohaematology (N. Masharova, T. Makarovska)	
11,50-12,10	Quality of clinical transfusion practice (A. Mijovic)	
12,10-12,30	Quality of Transfusion Services organisation (S. Bakalova)	
12,30-13,00	<i>Discussion</i>	13,00
Lunch		

Thursday, 11/9/2008

Afternoon: Guidelines on the clinical use of blood components and their alternatives

14,00-14,30	Clinical appropriateness of transfusion therapy: regulatory requirements and guidelines (V. Hafner)	
14,30-15,00	Pre-transfusion diagnostic orientation (A. Mijovic)	
15,00-15,30	Perioperative haemostaseological diagnostics (V. Kretschmer)	
15,30-16,00	Blood sparing as an essential aspect of Transfusion Medicine (M. Starbova)	16,00
Coffee-break		
16,30-17,00	A rational approach of using blood and blood products in resuscitation of severe injured patients (M. Soljakova)	
17,00-17,30	Risks of delayed or absent/insufficient transfusion (A. Lienhart)	
17,30-18,00	What to do about clinical guidelines? (J.M. Cardenas)	
18,00-18,30	3 national reports	
18,30-19,00	<i>Discussion</i>	20,00
Dinner		

Friday, 12/9/2008

Morning: Role of hospitals and clinicians in monitoring the clinical use of blood

8,30- 9,00	The role of hospital clinicians and nurses in the optimal use of blood components (J. M. Cardenas) (<i>European Union's Directives and Council of Europe's Recommendations</i>)	
9,00- 9,30	Microbial risks of transfusion: practical steps to safety (J. Barbara)	
9,30-10,00	Quality management in the hospital (V. Kretschmer)	
10,00-10,20	Management of errors: the Croatian experience (T. Vuk)	
10,20-10,40	Cord blood banking: the Croatian experience (B. Golubic)	10,40
Coffee-break		
11,10-11,40	Quality of transfusion in patients with stem-cell transfusion (A. Mijovic, P. Gerasimova)	
11,40-12,40	6 national reports	
12,40-13,00	<i>Discussion</i>	13,00
Lunch		

Friday, 12/9/2008**Afternoon: Responsibilities of transfusion and clinical specialists
for the "quality" of haemovigilance**

14,00-14,30	The European Haemovigilance Network (EHN) (M. Potocnik)	
14,30-15,00	Basic clinical and organisational requirements for an effective haemovigilance (U. Rossi)	
15,00-15,30	Reporting severe adverse reactions and events in donors and patients (S. Bakalova) (<i>European Union's Directives and Council of Europe's Recommendations on traceability</i>)	
15,30-16,00	<i>Discussion</i>	16,00
Coffee-break		
16,30-17,30	6 national reports	
17,30-18,30	<i>Panel discussion: "Haemovigilance as a final stage in the path to optimal blood transfusion" (J. M. Cardenas)</i> (30' - Haemovigilance in Spain, in Slovenia and in Greece; 30' - Open discussion)	20,00
Dinner		

Saturday, 13/9/2008**Morning: Responsibilities of transfusion and clinical specialists
for the "quality" of transfusion safety**

8,30- 9,00	Immunohaematological basis for blood transfusion: blood grouping, antibody screening, compatibility testing (V. Kretschmer)	
9,00- 9,30	Safety issues in blood administration: the management of transfusion reactions (L. Walterova)	
9,30-10,00	Hospital Transfusion Committees as transfusion safety guardians? (F. Martinova)	
10,00-10,30	<i>Discussion: "Questions and answers session" (J. Barbara)</i>	10,30
Coffee-break		
11,00-13,00	<i>Round table: "International cooperation in training in Transfusion Medicine: what has happened so far in Europe?" (C. Hossenlopp, U. Rossi)</i>	13,00
Lunch		

Saturday, 13/9/2008**Afternoon: Hospital, national and European education
to build "quality" into haemovigilance and transfusion safety**

14,00-14,30	The help by a National professional Society in the development of a haemovigilance system (B. Golubic)	
14,30-15,00	3 national reports	
15,00-16,00	"Transversal" analysis of some aspects of the contribution of clinical medicine to transfusion safety in South-Eastern Europe (S. Bakalova)	16,00
Coffee-break		
16,30-17,00	Developing a modern National Albanian policy for Transfusion Medicine (I. Seferi)	
17,00-17,30	Basic requirements for an effective European education in Transfusion Medicine: the ESTM experience (U. Rossi)	
17,30-18,00	<i>Discussion</i>	
18,00-18,30	<i>Closing remarks. Conclusion of the course</i>	20,30
Social Dinner		

Sunday, 14/9/2008**Morning: Departure from the Hotel**