



Theme: Innovative Connections: Enhancing the Blood Transfusion Ecosystems

MONDAY 23 MARCH 2026

07:30 – 17:00	Registration	
08:50-09:00	ISBT Academy Day - Hospital Transfusion: Better Transfusion, Better Opening remarks: Prof. Pierre Tiberghien President, European Blood Alliance	Venue: Kuiseb 1,4- Windhoek Convention Centre
09:00 -10:30	Session I: The pivotal role of the hospital blood bank Moderators: Prof. Pierre Tiberghien, Prof. Saliou Diop, Dr. Marion Vermeulen	
09:00 – 09:20	Overview of the hospital blood bank – more than just crossmatching! Ms Jenny White Executive Director, ISBT	
09:20 – 09:40	Survey results – pre-transfusion testing and interaction of laboratory and clinical areas to provide compatible and appropriate blood Dr Marion Vermeulen ISBT Regional Director Africa	
09:40 – 10:00	Optimising pre-transfusion procedures - prioritising resources and reducing risk Prof. Meghan Delaney Children’s National Hospital and George Washington University, USA	
10:00 – 10:30	Discussion Led by moderators	
10:00 – 10:30	Tea/Coffee Break	
11:00 – 13:00	Session II: Lab and clinical - managing difficult situations together – interactive Moderators: Prof. Pierre Tiberghien, Prof. Saliou Diop, Dr. Marion Vermeulen	
11:00 – 11:30	Transfusing the alloimmunized patient – interactive cases Prof. Susan Johnson & Dr. Tanya Glatt Versiti, USA / South African National Blood Service, South Africa	
11:30 – 12:00	Managing emergencies with limited blood supplies at the hospital level interactive cases	

	Dr. Caroline Hilton & Mrs Ruwayda Soeker Western Cape Blood Service, South Africa
12:00 – 12:30	Managing transfusion reactions – interactive cases Dr. Claire Armour & Mr. Israel Chipare University of the Free State, South Africa / Blood Transfusion Service of Namibia, Namibia
12:30 – 13:00	Discussion Led by moderators
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 17:00	Session III: Harnessing the power of data and people Moderators: Prof. Pierre Tiberghien, Prof. Saliou Diop, Dr. Marion Vermeulen
14:00 – 14:45	Haemovigilance – what can it do for you? Dr Shruthi Narayan Serious Hazards of Transfusion (SHOT), UK
14:45 – 15:45	How do we embed haemovigilance in the hospital settings?
Breakout group 1	English (with HV system) - What works and what doesn't? Dr. Karin van den Berg & Dr. Carla van Zyl South African National Blood Service, South Africa / Blood Transfusion Service of Namibia, Namibia
Breakout group 2	English (without HV system) - Barriers to implementation Dr. Thabiso Rapolile & Ms. Jenny White South African National Blood Service, South Africa / Executive Director, ISBT
Breakout group 3	Breakout group 3 – English (without HV system) Priorities in implementing HV Dr Shruthi Narayan / Mr Abiy Belay Ambaye Serious Hazards of Transfusion (SHOT), UK / Ethiopian Blood and Tissue Bank Service, Ethiopia
Breakout group 4	Breakout group 4 - French Implementing HV: Barriers and priorities Prof. Heather Hume, Prof. Pierre Tiberghien, & Prof. Claude Tayou Tagny Centre Hospitalière Universitaire Sainte-Justine / President, European Blood Alliance / University of Yaoundé I, Cameroon
15:45 – 16:45	Feedback and discussion Led by breakout facilitators
16:45 – 17:00	Closing remarks Dr. Marion Vermeulen ISBT Regional Director Africa
17:00 – 17:30	Congress Opening
17:00 – 17:10	Official Congress Welcome Prof. Saliou Diop President of the Africa Society for Blood Transfusion
17:10 – 17:30	Inaugural Address and Official Opening of the Congress

	The Honourable Dr. Esperance Luvindao Minister of Health and Social Services, Namibia
17:30 – 19:00	Connect with the Industry: Cocktail Reception and Opening of the Trade Exhibition

TUESDAY 24 MARCH 2026			
07:30 – 17:00	Registration		
08:30 – 10:00	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> Parallel Session (1): Blood Groups Genotyping Chair: Prof. Claude Tayou Tagny & Prof. Ellen van der Schoot Venue: Kuiseb 1 </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> Parallel Session (2): Unmet Transfusion Needs — Gaps to Solutions Chair: Dr Pratap Kumar & Prof Saliou Diop Venue: Kuiseb 2 </td> </tr> </table>	Parallel Session (1): Blood Groups Genotyping Chair: Prof. Claude Tayou Tagny & Prof. Ellen van der Schoot Venue: Kuiseb 1	Parallel Session (2): Unmet Transfusion Needs — Gaps to Solutions Chair: Dr Pratap Kumar & Prof Saliou Diop Venue: Kuiseb 2
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10:00 – 10:30	Tea/Coffee Break, Poster Viewing, Exhibition		
10:30 – 12:00	Plenary Session (1): Closing the Care Gap in Africa Chair: Prof. Linda Barnes & Prof. Susan Johnson Venue: Kuiseb Room		
10:30 – 10:50	Role of Qualitative and Action Research in Africa Prof. Meghan Delaney Children's National Hospital and George Washington University, USA		
10:50 – 11:10	Equity and Access: Who Gets Blood in Africa? Prof. Saliou Diop President of the Africa Society for Blood Transfusion		
11:10 – 11:30	Namibia's First Bone Marrow Transplant: Clinical Lessons and Transfusion Implications Dr Kudakwashe Simba		

	Specialist Physician and Clinical Haematologist, Namibia	
11:30 – 11:50	Can transfusion guidelines developed in HIC be implemented in LMICs? Prof. Simon Stanworth John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford, UK	
11:50 – 12:00	Q & A Session	
12:00 – 13:30	Lunch Abbott Lunch Symposium – Venue Kuiseb 1	Lunch Roche Lunch Symposia – Venue Kuiseb 2
13:30 – 15:00	Parallel Session (3): Transfusion Medicine in Transition: Emerging Risks, Innovations, & Systems Chair: Dr Karin van den Berg & Dr Thembe Sitsila Venue: Kuiseb 1	Parallel Session (4): Haemovigilance Chair: Dr Caroline Hilton & Ms Jenny White Venue: Kuiseb 2
13:30 – 13:50	Emerging innovations from Belgian Red Cross-Flanders and their potential applicability in African transfusion ecosystems Prof. Philippe Vandekerckhove Belgian Red Cross-Flanders, Belgium	Traceability That Travels: ICCBBA & ISBT 128 for Africa’s Blood Supply Mr Eoin McGrath ICCBBA, Spain
13:50 – 14:10	Tick bite – induced alpha-gal syndrome: a potential transfusion-related allergy risk Prof. Pierre Tiberghien President, European Blood Alliance	Regulatory science support: frameworks for blood/plasma, vigilance, and product safety Dr Jens Reinhardt Paul-Ehrlich-Institute, Germany
14:10 – 14:30	When Blood Groups Change: Managing ABO and Rh Shifts After Stem Cell Therapy Dr Tanya Glatt South African National Blood Service, South Africa	Getting going with haemovigilance Dr Shruthi Narayan Serious Hazards of Transfusion (SHOT), UK
14:30 – 14:50	Building Climate-Resilient Blood Supply Systems: Adaptive Transport Strategies from Malawi (Junior Researcher) Mr Steven Bowah Malawi Blood Transfusion Service (MBTS), Ministry of Health	Evaluation of Haemovigilance Reporting in African Countries (Junior Researcher) Ms Nadia Hita Banc de Sang i Teixits (Blood and Tissue Bank of Barcelona)
14:50 – 15:00	Q & A Session	Q & A Session
15:00 – 15:30	Tea/Coffee Break, Poster Viewing, Exhibition	
15:30 – 17:00	Parallel Session (5): Alloimmunisation Chair: Prof. Meghan Delaney & Dr Faten Mofteh Venue: Kuiseb 1	Parallel Session (6): International Partners supporting transfusion in Africa Chair: Dr Claire Armour & Mr Eoin McGrath Venue: Kuiseb 2
15:30 – 15:50	Blood Group Antigen Diversity among Blood Donors and Individuals with Sickle Cell Disease Ms Caudencia Nyakundi	ERASMUS + grant: TransMedAfrica and TransMedAsia Mohammed Farouk & Dr Nandita Choudhury Africa Society for Blood Transfusion/ Bml Munjal University, India

	Kemri-wellcome Trust Research Programme, Kenya	
15:50 – 16:10	Overview of causes and impact of alloimmunisation and how it can be prevented relative to both HDN and Transfusion Prof. Ellen van der Schoot & Dr Lilian Antwi Boateng Sanquin Blood Supply, The Netherlands/ Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana	International blood strategy and activities of Belgian Red Cross-Flanders Ms Florine Fisette Belgian Red Cross–Flanders, Belgium
16:10 – 16:30	Two perspectives on the management of alloimmunisation in chronically transfused patients: LIC vs HIC Dr Priscus Mapendo & Prof. France Pirenne Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre, Tanzania/ Etablissement Français du Sang, France	Transfusion CRS Suisse Dr Soraya Amar El Dusouqui Blutspende SRK Schweiz AG, Switzerland
16:30 – 16:50	Alloimmunisation highlights from a laboratory perspective Ms Lizeka Mtebele South African National Blood Service, South Africa	From Plasma to Patients: IPFA’s Global and African Partnerships for Access to PDMPs Dr Leni von Bonsdorff International Plasma and Fractionation Association (IPFA), The Netherlands
16:50 – 17:00	Q & A Session	Q & A Session
18:00 – 19:00	General Assembly	Venue: Kuiseb 1, Congress Venue

WEDNESDAY 25 MARCH 2026

07:30 – 17:00	Registration	
08:00 – 09:00	Africa Transfusion Indaba Meeting Dr Thabiso Rapodile Venue: Kuiseb 1	
09:00 – 10:10	Parallel Session (7): Transfusion Transmissible Infections Chair: Ms Lesley Bust & Dr Solomozi Ngcobo Venue: Kuiseb 1	Parallel Session (8): Plasma fractionation – PDMP Chair : Dr Leni von Bonsdorff & Dr Jean Baptiste Tapko Venue: Kuiseb 2
09:00 – 09:20	TTIs: Back to Basics Dr Marion Vermeulen The South African National Blood Service, South Africa	Making Plasma “Fractionation-Ready”: Standards, Stability, and Supply Dr Jeh-Han Omarjee National Bioproducts Institute, South Africa
09:20 – 09:40	Local Relevance: Tailoring TTI Strategies to Epidemiology and Resources in Asia Dr Nabajyoti Choudhury Asian Association of Transfusion Medicine, India	Stepwise Options for Preparing Therapeutic Plasma Proteins from Domestic Plasma in LMICs Dr W. Martin Smid Sanquin Blood Supply, The Netherlands

09:40 – 10:00	Pathogen reduction is a cost-effective and reliable method to reduce the incidence of TTIs: Debate Prof. Claude Tayou Tagny & Prof. John Pitman National Blood Transfusion Service, Cameroon/Cerus Corporation, USA	Scaling up VNRD plasma supply for fractionation: the case of Belgium Prof. Philippe Vandekerckhove Belgian Red Cross-Flanders, Belgium
10:00 – 10:10	Q & A Session	Q & A Session
10:10 – 10:30	Tea/Coffee Break, Poster Viewing, Exhibition	
10:30 – 12:00	Plenary Session (2): Ethics, Equity and Access Chair: Mr Israel Chipare & Dr Karin van den Berg	Venue: Kuiseb Room
10:30 – 10:50	Informed Consent, Autonomy, and Cultural Realities in Blood Donation and Transfusion Dr Thabiso Rapolile South African National Blood Services, South Africa	
10:50 – 11:10	Ethics of Plasma and Reimbursement of Plasma Donors in Africa Mr Ravi Reddy South African National Blood Services, South Africa	
11:10 – 11:30	Building African Readiness for Cellular Therapy: Infrastructure, Regulation, and Ethics – an international perspective Prof. Mickey Koh St. George's Hospital and Medical School, UK	
11:30 – 11:50	International Funding for Blood Transfusion in Africa – Still Going or Gone? Prof. Quentin Eichbaum Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center, USA	
11:50 – 12:00	Q & A Session	
12:00 – 13:30	Lunch Bio-Rad Laboratories Lunch Symposia Venue Kuiseb 2	
13:30 – 15:00	Parallel Session (9): Engaging Communities & Donors to Strengthen Blood Systems Chair: Prof. Philippe Vandekerckhove & Dr W. Martin Smid Venue: Kuiseb 1	Parallel Session (10): Understanding, Retaining and Valuing Blood Donors Chair: Dr Nabajyoti Choudhury & Mr Ravi Reddy Venue: Kuiseb 2
13:30 – 13:50	Community-Healthcare facility collaborations to increase blood donation Prof. Linda Barnes Linda S Barnes Consulting, South Africa	Donor deferral patterns in Africa Dr Jean Baptiste Tapko Africa Society for Blood Transfusion
13:50 – 14:10	Community-Facility Transfusion Committees—lessons learned in Kenya	Recognition & Rewards: What Really Motivates Repeat Donors in Namibia?

	Dr Pratap Kumar Global Business School for Health, UK	Ms Zita Tobin Blood Transfusion Service of Namibia, Namibia
14:10 – 14:30	How to optimise donations from women? Dr Caroline Wesonga Wangamati Coalition of Blood for Africa (COBA), Kenya	The Pain and Gain: SANBS' Journey to a Digital Donor System Ms Renetha van der Walt South African National Blood Services, South Africa
14:30 – 14:50	Strengthening Community–Facility Partnerships to Improve Safe Blood Access in Kenya: Pre-Implementation Findings from Community-Facility Transfusion Committees (CFTCs) (Junior Researcher) Ms Cindy Makanga Strathmore University, Kenya	Donor care and management, an international kaleidoscope' Dr Peter van den Burg Sanquin Blood Supply, The Netherlands
14:50 – 15:00	Q & A Session	Q & A Session
15:00 – 15:30	Tea/Coffee Break, Poster Viewing, Exhibition	
15:30 – 17:00	Parallel Session (11): Safe, Sufficient & High-Quality Blood Systems in Africa Chair: Dr Jens & Prof. Pierre Tiberghien Venue: Kuiseb 1	Parallel Session (12): Emerging Researchers Chair: Dr Claire Armour (Barrett) & Dr Peter van den Burg Venue: Kuiseb 2
15:30 – 15:50	Availability, Quality & Safety of Blood Products in the WHO African Region Dr Roland Niyibizi World Health Organization Regional Office for Africa (WHO AFRO)	Red Blood Cell Exchange Transfusion in Sickle Cell Patients in Kenya: Patient Characteristics, Experiences and Outcomes (Junior Researcher) Dr Helen Karinge University of Nairobi, Kenya
15:50 – 16:10	Balancing safety & sufficiency in the blood supply and the effective use of PBM Dr Karin van den Berg South African National Blood Services, South Africa	Transforming Blood Bank Efficiency: A Lean Approach Using Ten Human Waste Principles to Improve Operational Performance (Junior Researcher) Mr Arno Sierbrits Western Cape Blood Service, South Africa
16:10 – 16:30	AfSBT standards and accreditation: Improving Blood Quality in Africa Dr Mohammed Farouk Africa Society for Blood Transfusion	Social representation and retention of voluntary, regular and non-remunerated blood donors in a blood bank in the West Cameroon region. (Junior Researcher) Dr Armelle A. Dongmo Tchemeza Yaoundé Central Hospital, Cameroon
16:30 – 16:50	Implementation of the World Health Organization's Blood System Self-Assessment (BSS) Tool Dr Ashenafi Tazebew Amare Ethiopian Blood and Tissue Bank Service, Ethiopia	First comprehensive molecular characterization of serological D-negative blood donors in Senegal, West Africa: unveiling the molecular diversity beyond serology (Junior Researcher) Dr Oumar Kane

		National Blood Transfusion Centre of Dakar, Dakar, Senegal
16:50 – 17:00	Q & A Session	Q & A Session
18:30 - 23:00	“Enhancing the Blood and Transfusion Ecosystems” Business Partners Meeting and Dinner Venue: Droombos	

THURSDAY 26 MARCH 2026

08:30 – 10:00	Parallel Session (13): Opportunities for Transfusion in Africa Chair : Prof. France Pirenne & Dr Soraya Amar Venue: Kuiseb 1	Parallel Session (14): Sustainable Blood Systems/Establishments Chair: Dr Carla van Zyl & Dr Shruthi Narayan Venue: Kuiseb 2
08:30 – 08:50	The Blood Research and Enhanced Training against HIV in South Africa (BREATH-SA) Program: Building Clinical Research Capacity Prof Edward Murphy University Of California San Francisco, USA	Framework to advance universal access to safe, effective and quality-assured blood products in the WHO African Region (2026–2030) Dr. Edith Andrews Annan World Health Organization Regional Office for Africa (WHO AFRO)
08:50 – 09:10	Platelet Production & Sustainability in Resource-Constrained Settings: Shared Experiences & Lessons Learned Sr Judith Sinvula, Ms Susan Elabort, & Prof. Saliou Diop Blood Transfusion Service of Namibia, Namibia/ Uganda Blood Transfusion Services, Uganda/ Africa Society for Blood Transfusion	Inappropriate donor deferral – are we not creating our own shortages Dr Karin van den Berg South African National Blood Services, South Africa
09:10 – 09:30		Building a Sustainable Blood Transfusion Service in Namibia Mr Israel Chipare Blood Transfusion Service of Namibia, Namibia
09:30 – 09:50	Developing High-Impact Capacity Building: Outcomes of a Competency-Based Train-the-Trainers Program for Transfusion Medicine in Asia Dr Nandita Choudhury BML Munjal University, India	Sustainable Quality Improvement (SusQI) for Blood Establishments Ms Lesley Bust Africa Society for Blood Transfusion
09:50 – 10:00	Q & A Session	Q & A Session
10:00 – 10:30	Tea/Coffee Break, Poster Viewing, Exhibition	
10:30 – 12:30	Plenary Session (3): People, Policy and Practice — Strengthening Transfusion Systems Chair: Prof Quentin Eichbaum & Prof. Mickey Koh Venue: Kuiseb Room	
10:30 – 10:50	Ensuring Safe Blood: Namibia’s Legislative and Regulatory Framework Mr Penda Ithindi Executive Director of the Ministry of Health and Social Services, Namibia	
10:50 – 11:10	Implementation Science - Tackling Barriers to Change in Transfusion Practice Prof. Pierre Tiberghien	

	International Society for Blood Transfusion President, France
11:10 – 11:30	Developing and Empowering People Ms Jenny White International Society for Blood Transfusion
11:30 – 11:50	Human Capital as the Foundation of Safe and Sustainable Transfusion in Africa Dr Faten Mofteh Global Medical Consultant, Blood Transfusion Medicine Expert, Egypt
11:50 – 12:00	Q & A Session
12:00 – 12:30	Closing