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Sociedad Española de
Transfusión Sanguínea
y Terapia Celular

TRANSFUSION SCIENCE EDUCATIONAL COURSE

7th-8th October
Sant Cugat

AGENDA

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OCTOBER 7TH

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

AUDITORIUM

10:30 – 11:00h	Transfer from hotel to Sant Cugat (optional)
11:00 – 11:45h	Arrival and registration
11:45 – 12:30h	Lunch buffet
12:30 – 12:40h	**Welcome** Albert Hernández Botey, VP Quality and Regulatory Compliance
12:40 – 13:00h	**Introduction** Miquel Lozano, MD, PhD, University of Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain - Moderator
13:00 – 14:00h	**AI-driven innovations in blood donor screening, infectious risk reduction, and RBC quality control** Paulo Pereira, PhD, Portuguese Institute of Blood and Transplantation, Lisbon, Portugal
14:00 – 15:00h	**Shaping the Bone Marrow Niche: How 3D Models Reveal Hidden Mechanisms of Hematopoiesis** Alessandra Balduini, MD, Universita di Pavia, Pavia, Italy
15:00 – 15:30h	Coffee break
15:30 – 16:30h	**SoHO Regulatory Update: What's coming for 2027** Vincenzo De Angelis, MD, ESTM, Milan, Italy
16:30 – 17:30h	**Intercepting Disease Through the Plasma Proteome** Benoit Lehallier, PhD, Sr. Director, Alkahest, San Carlos, USA
17:30 – 18:00h	**Panel Discussion and Closing Remarks** Miquel Lozano, MD, PhD - Moderator
18:15h	Transfer to hotel
20:00h	Transfer to dinner
20:30 – 22:30h	Group dinner
22:30 – 23:00h	Transfer to hotel

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OCTOBER 8TH

BLOOD TYPING SOLUTIONS

AUDITORIUM

8:15 – 9:00 h	Transfer from hotel to Sant Cugat
9:00 – 9:15 h	**Opening Remarks** Greg Denomme, PhD, moderator
9:15 – 10:15 h	**Impact of Malaria on the Evolution of Blood Groups** Greg Denomme, PhD, Medical Affairs, Grifols Diagnostic Solutions, Emeryville, USA
10:15 – 11:15 h	**Transfusion strategies and challenges in Sickle Cell Disease** Ahmed Al Bahrani, MD, QIA, Saudi Arabia
11:15 – 11:30 h	Coffee break
11:30 – 12:30 h	**CRISPR/Cas9 Gene Therapy for Sickle Cell Disease** Brad Ringeisen, PhD, Berkeley University, Berkeley, USA
12:30 – 13:30 h	Lunch buffet
13:30 – 14:30 h	**Ensuring Access to Rare Blood in a Globalized World** Lilian Castilho, PhD, UNICAMP, Campinas, Brazil
14:30 – 15:00 h	**Panel Discussion and Closing Remarks** Greg Denomme, PhD, Grifols moderator
15:15 h	Transfer to hotel/airport

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OCTOBER 8TH

NAT SESSION

SINGAPORE MEETING ROOM

8:15 – 9:00 h	Transfer from hotel to Sant Cugat
9:00 – 9:15 h	**Opening Remarks** José Eduardo Levi, PhD, moderator
9:15 – 10:15 h	**Uncovering the Plasma Virome** Peter Simmonds, PhD, Oxford University, UK
10:15 – 11:15 h	**Climate Change and Emerging Pathogens** José Eduardo Levi, PhD, Medical Affairs, Grifols Diagnostic Solutions
11:15 – 11:30 h	Coffee break
11:30 – 12:30 h	**Vaccines and Transfusion Safety** Pierre Tiberghien, MD, PhD, Université de Franche-Comté, Besançon, France
12:30 – 13:30 h	Lunch buffet
13:30 – 14:30 h	**Recent surges of Syphilis and Parvovirus: threats to blood safety?** Prof. Hans Zaaijer, MD, PhD, Sanquin Research, Amsterdam, Netherlands
14:30 – 15:00 h	**Panel Discussion and Closing Remarks** José Eduardo Levi, PhD, moderator
15:15 h	Transfer to hotel/airport

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MIQUEL LOZANO, MD, PHD

Universitat de, Barcelona, Spain

Dr. Miquel Lozano is a hematologist. Currently he is Hemotherapy Section Head at the department of Hemotherapy and Hemostasis at the Clínic University Hospital, and Associate Professor of Medicine at the University of Barcelona, in Barcelona, Spain. He is currently President-elect of the World Apheresis Association and member of the board of the European Society for Haemapheresis. He is an honorary member of the Biomedical Excellence for Safer Transfusion (BEST) Collaborative since 2019. In the past he has been, President of the European Society for Haemapheresis from 2014 to 2022, European Regional Director of the ISBT Board between 2014 and 2018 and chair of the AABB Press Editorial Board between 2008 and 2018. Since June 2020 is the Editor-in-Chief of Vox Sanguinis, the official journal of the International Society of Blood Transfusion. He is the author or co-author of over 350 papers, monographs and book chapters dealing with topics related to Transfusion Medicine, Cellular Therapies, Apheresis, and Hemostasis.

PAULO PEREIRA, PHD

Portuguese Institute of Blood
and Transplantation, Lisboa, Portugal

Dr. Pereira Is a research postdoctoral fellow and is head of R&D and an EMA Expert at the institute. He has extensive experience in medical laboratory science and quality management within blood establishments. He has been invited to speak at seminars and professional meetings across Europe, South America, and Africa. As a research and development collaborator, he has worked with In Vitro Diagnostic Medical Device (IVD-MD) agencies, including the European Medicines Agency (EMA), focusing on performance assessment for both quantitative measurements and qualitative examinations. He is a member of the Consensus Council of the Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI) and has contributed to the development of several guidelines under CLSI and Eurachem/CITAC. Dr. Pereira also has an extensive portfolio of scientific publications. From 2000 to 2018, he served as the National Quality Manager at the Portuguese Institute of Blood and Transplantation (IPST), where he transitioned in 2018 to his current role as Head of Research and Development.

ALESSANDRA BALDUINI, MD

Universita di Pavia, Pavia, Italy

Dr. Balduini has a broad background in hematology, with specific training and expertise in hematopoietic stem cell biology and the clinical aspects of platelet-related disorders. Before establishing my research group in 2007, I served as a staff physician in the Laboratory of Clinical Biochemistry at the IRCCS San Matteo Foundation and the University of Pavia, Italy. In 2005-2006, I was a Visiting Professor at Dana Farber Cancer Institute at Harvard Medical School. Since 2007, I have led a research group with a cross-institutional presence at the Department of Molecular Medicine at the University of Pavia and the Department of Biomedical Engineering at Tufts University, USA. The aim of our program is to integrate biological and bioengineering approaches to study hematopoiesis and the bone marrow microenvironment. My research is centered on understanding how various components of the bone marrow niche regulate platelet production. In 2011, I developed a bioengineered 3D model of human bone marrow using porous silk, which effectively mimics the physiology of the living bone marrow environment. This model was further refined in 2015 and 2017, allowing us to generate functional platelets ex vivo, offering potential clinical applications in blood component production. By 2021, we had demonstrated that this advanced tissue system could also be utilized as a novel tool for investigating pathological mechanisms in human platelet production and evaluating drug efficacy. In 2024, my group generated a silk bioink as new approach to mimic the viscosity of the native bone marrow environment. In 2025, we used a modified silk scaffold to generate red blood cells in vitro from human hematopoietic progenitor cells. Recently, our company, Silk4B, was incorporated with the support of the European Innovation Council.

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VINCENZO DE ANGELIS, MD

European School of Transfusion Medicine, Milan, Italy

Dr. Vincenzo De Angelis Dr. De Angelis graduated in Medicine, Padua University School of Medicine, 1981. Specialty Diploma in Haematology (Padua University, 1984) and Clinical Biology (Padua University, 1988). Since 1982, he has been working in different Italian Transfusion Services (Pordenone General Hospital, Aviano National Research Cancer Institute, Trieste University Hospital, Udine University Hospital). He acted as Director at the Italian National Blood Centre, Ministry of Health, the Italian Competent Authority on blood from 2020 (August) to 2025 (June). He also acted as Chairperson (2023) and Vice-Chairperson (2024) of the CD-P-TS at the EDQM (Council of Europe, Strasbourg) and member of the Executive Board of the European Blood Alliance (EBA - 2024-2025). At present he is President of the European School of Transfusion Medicine (ESTM). He is also a member of the ISBT Working Parties on Clinical Transfusion and Donors and Donations. Author or co-Author of more than 150 publications (chapters on books, articles, abstracts) on different aspects of transfusion medicine.

BENOIT LEHALLILER, PHD

Alkahest, San Carlos, USA

Benoit Lehallier, PhD, is head of data science at Alkahest Inc., where he uses cutting-edge proteomics to understand the cause of diseases and to identify new drug targets and early biomarkers. Before joining Alkahest, Dr. Lehallier was a faculty member in the department of neurology at Stanford, where he led research on the molecular changes associated with normal and abnormal aging. Benoit is the Principal Investigator of Chronos, a transformative program mapping the molecular landscape of aging and disease over time. With more than 100 million proteomic samples from over 6 million individuals, Chronos is the largest effort of its kind, designed to intercept disease before it strikes and accelerate the path to preventative medicine.

GREGORY DENOMME, PHD

Medical Affairs, Grifols Diagnostic, Emeryville, USA

Dr. Denomme is a clinical and academic-trained scientist. He has medical laboratory science certification in immunohematology.

He obtained a doctorate in microbiology and immunology, and completed postdoctoral fellowships in Pathology and Molecular Medicine and in Platelet Immunology.Past academic appointments include Associate Professor, Laboratory Medicine & Pathobiology, University of Toronto, and Senior Investigator, Versiti Blood Research Institute, Milwaukee. Dr. Denomme recently transitioned from Laboratory Director to Director of Medical Affairs at Grifols Diagnostic Solutions. His interests integrate blood group genetics and immunohematology into the study of immune-mediated hemolytic disorders.

He is a reviewer for medical journals such as the New England Journal of Medicine, Blood, Pediatric Blood & Cancer and the British Journal of Haematology for which he is an associate editor. Dr. Bussel has acted as Primary Investigator and Co-Investigator for many research trials in ITP and has presented both nationally and internationally on topics related to his specialty. Dr Bussel has received a number of named lectureships. He is the recipient of several prestigious awards including sharing the King Faisal Prize for Medicine in 2012 and receiving the clinical translational Henry Stratton award from the American Society of Hematology in 2023.

AHMED AL BAHRANI, MD, QIA

Consultant, Pathology (Hematology) and Transfusion Medicine. Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine. King Fahad Specialist Hospital-Dammam

Dr. Al-Bahrani obtained his medical degree from King Faisal University, College of Medicine, Dammam in 1992. He had fellowship from the King Saud University in Pathology (Hematology), Riyadh in 1999. Also, He completed his Clinical Fellowship from McMaster University, Hamilton, Canada in Transfusion Medicine and Stem Cell Transplantation in 2010. Dr. Al Bahrani is qualified in Apheresis from the American Society for clinical Pathology. He has been working in King Fahad Specialist Hospital-Dammam since 2005. King Fahad Specialist Hospital Dammam (KFSHD) is a JCI, CAP, CBAHI and AABB accredited, tertiary care hospital situated in Dammam & committed to serve the specialized healthcare needs of the Eastern Province in Saudi Arabia mainly oncology, hematology, stem cell and solid organ transplantation. Dr. Al Bahrani is CBAHI surveyor, Board member at Saudi Society for blood disorder and held many positions in MOH hospitals and he is member of several society and association (AABB, ASFA, ISBT, EBMT, SSBD, SSTM, SSBMT etc.) in addition to many national and international publications and presentations.

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BRAD RINGEISEN, PHD

Innovative Genomics Institute, University of California, Berkeley, USA

Brad Ringeisen is the Executive Director of the Innovative Genomics Institute (IGI), founded by Jennifer Doudna in 2015 on the University of California, Berkeley campus. The mission of the IGI is to bridge revolutionary gene editing tool development to affordable and accessible solutions in human health and climate. Brad is a physical chemist with a Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, a pioneer in the field of live cell printing, and an experienced administrator of scientific research and product development. Before joining the IGI, Brad was Director of the Biological Technologies Office at DARPA, where he managed a division working at the cutting edges of biology, physical sciences and engineering. Prior to DARPA, Brad ran his own research group at the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory as the head of the Bioenergy and Biofabrication Section.

LILIAN CASTILHO, PHD

UNICAMP Campinas, Brazil

Dr. Castilho is a Professor at the University of Campinas (UNICAMP), Brazil and serves as Senior Scientist at the Red Cell Research Laboratory and Director of the Molecular Immunohematology Laboratory at Hemocentro-Unicamp. She holds a Master's, Ph.D., with post-doctorate training in molecular immunohematology and with an extensive expertise in immunohematology, blood group genetics, and red cell serology. Her research focuses on translating laboratory and molecular findings into clinical practice, particularly to improve care for sickle cell patients and prevent red cell alloimmunization and hemolytic transfusion reactions. Dr. Castilho is also deeply engaged in education, mentoring, and international collaboration, contributing to worldwide advancements in transfusion medicine.

JOSÉ EDUARDO LEVI, PHD

Medical Affairs, Grifols Diagnostic, São Paulo, Brazil

Dr. José Eduardo Levi studied Biological Sciences at the University of São Paulo (USP), Brazil. In 2000 he was awarded his PhD in Virology from the same university. He is currently the Latin America Regional Director of the International Society of Blood Transfusion and also a member of its Working Party on Transfusion-Transmitted Infectious Diseases. He worked as a researcher for 30 years at the Tropical Medicine Institute (USP) having published more than 200 peer-reviewed articles on TTID and Human Papillomaviruses. He is currently the Medical Affairs Director of Grifols Diagnostic for Donor Screening.

PETER SIMMONDS BM, PHD, FRCPATH, FRS(E)

University of Oxford, Oxford, UK

Peter Simmonds, FRSE, is Professor of Virology at the Nuffield Department of Medicine, University of Oxford, internationally recognized for his pioneering work in virus genetics, evolution, and pathogenesis. His research has significantly advanced understanding of RNA virus genome structure and its role in innate immune activation, influencing both diagnostic virology and vaccine development. He currently leads the NIHR-funded Blood Transfusion Research Unit (BTRU) programme on transfusion-transmitted infections, a £3.8M initiative addressing global health risks. He also contributes to the development of a human volunteer model for HCV vaccine testing, supported by Open Philanthropy. Professor Simmonds chairs the ICTV Flaviviridae Study Group and serves on the Executive Committee of the International Committee for Taxonomy of Viruses, where he has spearheaded new classification frameworks for emerging viruses. His contributions have earned him the Alouyhan Prize for Medical Research, the Fleming Lectureship, and election as Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. With over three decades of leadership in molecular virology, his work continues to shape international standards in virus taxonomy, clinical diagnostics, and public health policy.

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PIERRE TIBERGHIEN, MD, PHD

Université de Franche-Comté,
Besançon, France

Dr. Pierre Tiberghien has a clinical background in hematology, He is currently Professor of medicine (Immunology) at the Marie and Louis Pasteur University in Besançon (France) and senior advisor for European and international medical and scientific affairs at the French transfusion public service, Etablissement Français du Sang, in Paris. He is currently President of the European Blood Alliance (EBA) and President of. the International Society of Blood Transfusion (ISBT)

HANS ZAAIJER, MD, PHD

Sanquin Research, Amsterdam, Netherlands

Dr H.L. Zaaijer has been named Professor of Blood-Transmitted Infections at the University of Amsterdam's Faculty of Medicine (AMC-UvA). He has specialised in blood-transmitted infections since 1992. In addition to infections transmitted through blood transfusions, blood products and transplants, his work includes: infections transmitted from mother to child during childbirth, infections acquired by healthcare staff in needle accidents and infections in operative patients acquired from an infected surgeon. The meticulous prevention of blood-transmitted infections remains of great importance to his work. Amongst other achievements over the course of his career, Dr. Zaaijer helped draw up national guidelines for the prevention of iatrogenic hepatitis B, the handling of needle accidents, the screening of blood donors and the screening of organ and tissue donors. With imported infections such as dengue, West Nile fever and Chikungunya and zoonotic infections such as vCJD, Q fever and hepatitis E becoming increasingly relevant in terms of blood safety, Dr. Zaaijer's work also extends to these types of infectious diseases. In the near future, he will extend the scope of his activities to research on occult infection with the hepatitis B virus and decision-making processes with regard to the spread of infections and blood safety. Dr. Zaaijer has served as head of the 'Blood-transmitted Infections' department at Sanquin Research since 2008. He has worked at the AMC's Clinical Virology department as a physician-microbiologist since 2003. Prior to this time, he worked as a physician-microbiologist at the Virology sub-laboratory of the VUmc's Medical Microbiology and Infection Prevention department. Dr. Zaaijer serves as chairman of the National Commission for the Prevention of Iatrogenic Hepatitis and HIV, and member of the Health Council's Committee on the Future of the National Immunisation Programme.

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