

## Minutes

XXXIVth Meeting of the Biomedical Excellence for Safer Transfusion Collaborative  
Dana Point, CA, USA  
18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> October 2007

*These minutes summarise presentations and discussions at the full BEST meeting on October 19 as well as a synopsis of team meetings held immediately beforehand.*

*Additional details of studies can be obtained from team leaders. All slide presentations can be found on the website.*

### *Welcome and apologies.*

Lorna Williamson opened the meeting with a welcome to new members and guests, and gave apologies from a number of BEST members who had not been able to attend. She thanked Gill Cook and Eileen Seloghie for all their efforts in making the meeting run so smoothly. Members were reminded to return Conflict of Interest forms to Gill Cook and to notify her of any changes to contact details.

### *Membership.*

As many members were going straight from BEST to AABB, the BEST Executive had met the day before. LW was therefore able to report some changes to the membership agreed by the Executive. Regrettably, due to work pressures, Hermann Eichler has requested to stand down as co-team leader for Cellular Therapies, but the Exec was pleased to hear that he will continue as a full member of the team. Dr Onder Arslan from Turkey has accepted one of the vacant Associate Member slots, and will be based in Clinical Studies. He had presented work on haemoglobin dosing to BEST in Barcelona. To accommodate Dr Arslan, Joe Sweeney has kindly agreed to move to Transfusion Safety, but will remain also an active member of Clinical Studies. There remain associate member vacancies in Transfusion Safety and Cellular Therapies, and the team leaders will be actively trying to fill those, bearing in mind the wish to extend the areas of the world from which BEST members are drawn.

LW was pleased to report that Dr Neelam Dhingra from the World Health Organisation has accepted an Honorary membership, although was unable to attend this meeting. John Hess has active links with WHO through the Global Collaborative for Blood Safety. The Exec had also discussed the possibility of offering Honorary Membership to a regulator from Europe, given the considerable value of having Jaro Vostal as an Honorary member. LW will pursue further.

Amongst manufacturing members, Byron Selman has replaced Sam Wortham from Pall. Sam has been a long standing supporter of BEST, and LW had written to him to thank him and to wish him a happy retirement. BEST Exec had also discussed the wish to have more manufacturing members from the cellular therapies area, and the team leaders will give some thought to this.

### *Distribution of BEST papers.*

The Exec had agreed that it was timely to revisit the issue of the best way to distribute papers for BEST, given the growth of Internet access since this was last discussed.

The question was 'Should we continue to circulate the BEST book (perhaps as an option) or should members be asked to download the papers from the website?.'

Arguments in favour of electronic distribution only were:-

- the excellence of the website
- universal access to the Internet amongst potential and honorary members
- cost of producing and distributing the BEST book
- weight in luggage

- environmental concerns
- papers have to be sent as electronic files to the printers anyway.

Arguments in favour of offering the BEST book, at least as an alternative were:-

- tradition
- not all members had administrative support to print off papers
- members might only print off their own team's papers and thus be less well informed about what the other teams are doing.

A vote was taken, which showed overwhelming support for electronic distribution only. This will be enacted from BEST XXXV onwards. It was agreed that the travel information was useful, and this would continue to be provided.

#### *Puzzler*

John Hess presented the BEST Puzzler, which had a decidedly military theme (see website for solution). The prize was presented to Adonis Stassinopoulos. JH was thanked for providing such an interesting and challenging Puzzler, although the number of entries was disappointing. There was overwhelming support for continuing the Puzzler.

#### *Finance*

As Jim Aubuchon had departed for AABB, members were referred to financial report in the BEST book. There was approximately \$200k in the bank, with (nearly) all dues paid for 2007. Invoices for 2008 would be sent out shortly.

#### *Scott Murphy Lecture*

This was given by Dr Garth Utter, Assistant Professor-in Residence, Department of Surgery, University of California at Berkeley on the subject of 'Post-transfusion microchimerism'. This was a fascinating lecture and LW presented Dr Utter with a souvenir plaque to mark the occasion.

#### *New studies*

LW confirmed that the following studies, proposed at BEST XXXIV, had been ratified by the Executive Committee:

- Haemoglobin measurement of blood units to matched patients (Tor Hervig #43)
- Questionnaire on ABO incompatible platelets (Lozano #44)
- Guidelines for reporting trials in transfusion medicine (Heddle #45)
- Transfusion reaction survey (Dzik, Heddle #46)

#### *Future meetings.*

BEST XXXV will be held in Magdelene College, Cambridge UK, on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> April, 2008.

*Post-meeting note: BEST dinner will be held in Lucy Cavendish College, Cambridge.* It was noted that the British Society for Haematology meeting would follow from 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> April in Glasgow, a 1-hour plane ride from Stansted Airport (30 mins from Cambridge).

BEST XXXVI in Autumn 2008 will be held in Montreal, Canada prior to AABB.

BEST XXXVII, Spring 2009. There was much discussion about 3 possible locations- Dublin, Lisbon and Cracow (Poland). A vote was taken, with Cracow a clear winner. Dates of these 2 meetings will be confirmed.

BEST XXXVII Autumn 2009- AABB is scheduled to be held in New Orleans. A decision on whether to hold BEST in collaboration with this meeting will be taken later.

Lorna Williamson closed the meeting by thanking everyone for their support in producing an excellent meeting, and wished every safe travel home.