

Newsire No. 24

November 2008

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Goodbye!

After almost eight years I am leaving the Scheme to take up the post of Executive Director at the International Society of Blood Transfusion in Amsterdam. I have enjoyed the 'almost' eight years. It has been very rewarding to see how the Scheme has grown and developed and how you have all continued to participate. So thank you for your contribution to the Scheme's success.

Highlights for me include:-

- The addition of platelets
- Northern Ireland and Wales participating
- Three software upgrades
- Naming VANESA
- The VANESA training programme
- Open meetings and Regional Road Shows
- Obtaining KTP funding for research work on demand forecasting
- Licensing the software to Americas Blood Centres



I hope that all participants have found the information that the Scheme provides has helped them to ensure improvements in their blood inventory management. I wish the Scheme all the best for the future. In the meantime I leave you with the view from the window of my new office in Amsterdam!

BSMS Staff Update

BSMS Manager - Sue Cotton

Sue Cotton has been offered, and accepted, a secondment as Blood Stocks Management Scheme Manager. She will take up this role from Monday 17th November 2008. Sue has worked in the field of blood transfusion for the whole of her career. She joined NHSBT in 2001 as a Hospital Liaison Manager in the Sheffield region. Prior to this appointment, Sue worked as a senior biomedical scientist in the transfusion laboratory at Kings Mill Hospital. Sue's work experience has equipped her with an in depth knowledge of supply chain issues and experience of building and maintaining successful partnerships within hospitals and NHSBT. We wish Sue much success in her new role.

BSMS Data Analyst - Alastair Rushworth

Hi, I'm Alastair and I've just finished an MSc in Statistics at the University of Sheffield. I did my first degree in Maths at Aberdeen University, which is also my hometown. When I'm not doing statistics I'll usually be bicycle racing or climbing up things. I am currently doing work on platelet usage categories, preparing the next Inventory Practice Survey and will be working on the blood group frequency survey. I am hoping to be able to make a difference in the BSMS as part of pursuing a career in applying statistics.



Data Transparency



Following extensive sounding of participants and discussion at the BSMS steering group it was decided to go ahead with data transparency. A letter was sent out to hospitals with the 2007/8 annual report in mid October. Hospitals were asked to respond if they did not want their data to be shared with other participants. To date there are only five hospitals that have decided not to share their data. If there is a problem for you in sharing your data please contact the BSMS office as soon as possible.

Initially data sharing will be available on a regional basis in December. VANESA will have to be adapted before data can be shared nationally. The BSMS team hope that you will all find value in the move to data transparency.

Blood Group Frequencies in the Hospital Population

The disproportionate levels of issue of O Neg compared to the frequency in the general population has led to the audit of O Neg and some work around trying to reduce the level of O Neg red cell issues.

Some hospitals have carried out a survey of the frequency of different blood groups in the hospital population and there has been wide variation in results with group O Neg having a frequency as high as 12% in some hospitals and as low as 8% in others.

The Scheme is asking for hospitals to volunteer to take part in a survey of the frequency of blood groups in the hospital population. The survey will be based on a retrospective analysis of the blood groups of patients during the period October 2007 to September 2008. We require you to send the BSMS absolute number for patients and the eight different blood groups. Some patients will have multiple visits and therefore multiple groups - to ensure accuracy each patient should only be counted once.

The figures are relatively easy to extract from most hospital blood transfusion laboratory computer systems. Absolute numbers should be sent in the required format to bsms@nbs.nhs.uk. (See the November IPS mailing).

Americas Blood Centres

ABC Licenses Software that Fosters Partnership between Blood Centers and Hospitals for Better Inventory Management



"Blood centres in the US and abroad are facing the challenge of replacing an aging donor population even as the need for red cells and platelets increases. At the same time, hospitals continue to pressure blood centres to cut their service fees for blood components while wondering how they might use less blood without risking patients lives. Americas Blood Centres this month took a major step in helping to meet this challenge by signing a licensing agreements with NHSBT for a software system that will give its members a way to partner with their hospitals customers to improve blood component management."

The above is a quotation from Americas Blood Centre's September 26th newsletter. We are very excited by this development and there are already spin offs as NHSBT is looking at the online blood ordering system that ABC have built into their data warehouse.

Demand Forecasting

Joanna Dobbin, our Knowledge Transfer Partnership Associate, has been visiting hospitals around the country interviewing lab managers, transfusion practitioners and consultant haematologists, discussing potential indicators of blood use. The outcome of these interviews will be to produce a list of causal factors that can be monitored by the NBS in order to improve their forecasting capabilities. In addition to this work Joanna is working with Alastair on new models for demand forecasting.

BSMS 2009

Details of the 2009 Open Meeting will be available in the New Year. The theme will be on the demand for blood and demand forecasting with an emphasis on how hospitals can contribute to effective planning.