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Newsletter February 2021

Welcome

This is the first newsletter of the **Neonatal Transfusion Network (NTN)**, an interdisciplinary and international research network established in 2020. The goal of the NTN is **to improve neonatal transfusion practice through clinical and translational research studies, training a new generation of neonatal transfusion experts, and promoting dissemination and implementation of the most recent evidence into clinical practice.** The NTN is currently led by a Steering Board with expertise in neonatology, transfusion medicine, epidemiology and hematology. The board is complemented by a young investigator group, consisting of 2 trainees (Alexandra Scrivens, Nora-Johanna Reibel) and 3 PhD students (Lisanne Heeger, Nina Houben, Hilde van der Staaij). But most importantly, the network consists over over 100 members from 31 countries who work together on this important topic. The NTN focuses on Europe, but is open to collaborations outside of Europe. Our ultimate goal is to build a strong collaboration in the field and focus not only on research but also on implementation of research findings into clinical practice, to improve the outcome of neonates worldwide.



Organizations that have endorsed the NTN COST proposal



Christof Dame
Prof. Neonatology
Berlin, Germany



Enrico Lopriore
Prof. Neonatology
Leiden, the Netherlands



Helen New
MD PhD, Pediatric
Haematologist
London, UK



Karin Fijnvandraat
Prof. Pediatric Hematology
Amsterdam,
the Netherlands



Simon Stanworth
Prof. Hematology,
Oxford, UK



Charles Roehr
Neonatologist,
Ass. Prof. Pediatrics
Oxford, UK



Emöke Deschmann
MD PhD,
Neonatologist
Stockholm, Sweden



Anske van der Bom
Prof. Epidemiology
Leiden,
the Netherlands



Suzanne Fustolo-Gunnink
MD PhD, Epidemiologist
Amsterdam,
the Netherlands

Agenda for the first half of 2021

Analysis of the NICU survey and draft of manuscript, submitting abstract to JENS

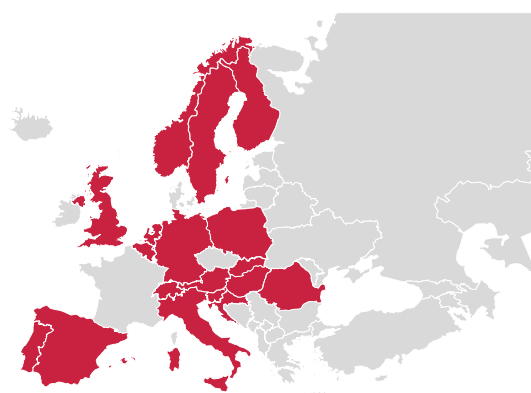
Design of point prevalence study

Design of transfusion specialists survey

Result of submitted grants (COST, Sanquin)

Start of designing a strategic research agenda: identifying main targets for future research projects

Online meeting for all network members



NICU survey national coordinators

Austria, Francesco Cardona
Belgium, Filip Cools
Finland, Ulla Sankilampi
Germany, Christof Dame
Hungary, Miklós Szabó
Italy, Stefano Ghirardello
Malta, Ryan Farrugia
the Netherlands, Suzanne Fustolo-Gunnink
Norway, Kristin Brække
Poland, Tomasz Szczapa
Portugal, Henrique Soares
Romania, Gabriela Zaharie
Slovenia, Jana Lozar Krivec
Slovakia, Katarina Matasova
Spain, Marta Aguar
Sweden, Emöke Deschmann
Switzerland, Tobias Mühlbacher
the United Kingdom, Alexandra Scrivens

Transfusion survey among NICUs in Europe

We completed datacollection for our first study: a neonatal transfusion survey in Europe. 18 countries participated with 350 units. We would like to thank all participants, and especially the national coordinators who worked with us to distribute the survey to the target NICU's and obtain good response rates. The steering board will collaborate with the national coordinators to finalize the analysis plan, check the data for errors and write a manuscript. We plan to submit these results to the Joint European Societies for Neonatal Research conference (JENS) in May.

Funding

We obtained grants for a point prevalence study (see next page) from:

- the European Society for Pediatric Research (ESPR)
- the European Blood Alliance (EBA)
- Sanquin Blood Supply Foundation (the Netherlands).

We submitted another Sanquin grant proposal (results due in March) to complete the financial support needed for the point prevalence study. We also submitted a COST grant proposal (results due in May) to further develop and professionalize the NTN.



Plans for 2021

We will draft and perform another **survey, targeting transfusion specialists**, to obtain more detailed information about the products that are being used for neonates in Europe.

We have also planned a **point prevalence study**, to obtain more detailed patient data on use of neonatal transfusions in Europe. This is an observational, prospective study in which participating NICUs collect data online for a short period of time (± 6 weeks). We plan to draft a protocol and start setting up this study in 2021.

An important next step will be the development of a **Strategic Research Agenda**, as mentioned in the COST proposal. This will be a collaborative effort to choose two clinical and two translational research questions that we will focus on in the next few years, based on existing evidence, available resources and expertise, etc. Everyone will be asked to provide input for this project.

Lastly, we plan to establish a **parent/patient group** to provide valuable input for the upcoming projects.

Questions?

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Colofon

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