

INTERNATIONAL HAEMOVIGILANCE NETWORK

Winter Newsletter 2025



Dear IHN Members,

As we close out another successful year, we want to express our heartfelt gratitude for your continued support, trust, and collaboration. Your contributions have been invaluable, and we're proud to have you as part of our journey.

This festive season, we hope you find time to relax, celebrate, and create meaningful moments with your loved ones. It's a wonderful opportunity to reflect, recharge, and connect.

Looking ahead to 2026, we're excited to build on our shared achievements and continue working together. May the new year bring you health, happiness, and prosperity.

Wishing you a joyful holiday season and an inspiring start to the New Year!

IHN Board

Our newest members of the team



BETH CORBETT



I have been a Senior Business Administrator at NHS Blood and Transplant for 2 years whilst also serving another 3 at a local trust. I currently support the Associate Medical Director for the Donor and Plasma for Medicine team which has enhanced my skills as an administrator, some say that I have become a 'jack of all trades'.

I am from a town called Barnsley, based in South Yorkshire UK. I have a big love for the Hockey supporting my local team Sheffield Steelers. In my spare time I like to go walking with my partner and my 2 dogs.

✦ Get Involved We encourage members to sign up, join our workstreams, and contribute their ideas. If you're interested in becoming part of an IHN committee or taking an active role within the IHN, we'd love to hear from you—please reach out!

International Haemovigilance Symposium (IHS)

2026:



Date: 18th - 20th March 2026
Location: Hotel Quirinale - Rome,
Italy

Registrations and Abstract Submissions Now Open!

We are delighted to announce that registration and abstract submission for the 2026 International Haemovigilance Symposium are now live!


Join us in Rome, 18–20 March 2026, for this exciting global event where experts, professionals, and stakeholders will come together to share insights, exchange experiences, and explore new perspectives.
The symposium will feature:

- Key discussions on haemovigilance and transfusion safety
- Presentations from leading international experts
- Submitted abstracts highlighting audits, service improvement initiatives, educational activities, and research
- Exceptional networking opportunities in the historic city of Rome

This promises to be an event to remember—combining cutting-edge science with the chance to build lasting collaborations.

★ Call for Nominations: IHN Award & Medal ★

The International Haemovigilance Network (IHN) Award and Medal is a prestigious opportunity to celebrate excellence in haemovigilance and transfusion safety. This honour recognises individuals or teams who have made outstanding contributions to advancing patient safety, improving transfusion practices, and strengthening haemovigilance systems worldwide. We warmly invite nominations from across the global community. Whether it's pioneering research, innovative practice, or dedicated service, this award is your chance to spotlight those whose work has had a lasting impact.

 **Deadline for nominations: 30th of January 2026** Don't miss the chance to ensure deserving colleagues and teams are recognised for their achievements.

Nominations for the IHN Award should briefly outline how the candidate has made an important contribution to the advancement of haemovigilance and be accompanied by a current CV and/or list of publications.

Nominations for the IHN Medal should briefly outline how the candidate has made an important contribution to the work of IHN.

✉ Submit your nominations today and help us honour the champions of haemovigilance and transfusion safety! Email nominations to Dr Shruthi Narayan, President of IHN at shruthi.narayan@nhsbt.nhs.uk

We are delighted to share that the ISBT Academy has generously offered funding support, enabling us to sponsor three participants from low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). This support will allow them to share their valuable experiences and actively contribute to the discussions at the upcoming IHN Symposium. These will be chosen from the abstracts submitted for the conference

✉ [VISIT THE SYMPOSIUM PAGE FOR FULL DETAILS AND REGISTRATION](#)

WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU TO ROME!

IHN DATA COMMITTEE IN 2025

Chair: Jo Wiersum (retiring)

The Data Committee has welcomed new members in the past 1-2 years which will allow the longstanding older members to hand over progressively and stand down in due course. As of December 2025 we can look back on an active year, with two-monthly meetings.

The Data Committee was set up in 2016 to assist and advise the IHN Board in developing and overseeing its data management and reporting strategy. This includes collection and analysis of data by IHN, as in the former ISTAR database.

In 2025 the Data Committee continued its active participation in a collaborative study of haemovigilance system methods with the Yorkshire and Humber Patient Safety Research Collaboration and SHOT. We met with the researchers on a regular basis, and are excited by the emerging learning from the scoping literature review and in-depth interviews.

In addition, data committee members, together with experts from SHOT and TRIP are working with Prof. Vlaar's team to prepare the long-needed study to validate definitions of respiratory transfusion reactions. We hope to share more information about this in the coming weeks, with an opportunity to participate.

International haemovigilance definitions, worked on in partnership with the ISBT haemovigilance working party, have always been an important focus for IHN. The Data committee has adopted a "gap analysis" project in which it will review existing international definition sets: what is out there, what is (over) ripe for updating, what definitions should be developed for emerging topics in haemovigilance. This also aligns with our ongoing participation in the ISBT working party-led work on to develop a tool to support imputability assessment.

As Data Committee chair (retiring),

I would like to thank all the members of the committee for their active involvement and work over the year.



IHN SEMINAR COMMITTEE IN 2025

Chair: Simon Benson

The Seminar Committee, with members from Australia, Denmark, Finland, Italy, Kenya, Norway, the UK, and the USA, has been very active throughout the year and at the time of writing, has met every month except July.

The focus of the seminar committee continues to be arranging twice-yearly webinars, typically held in the (northern hemisphere) spring and autumn, and the biennial IHN Symposium.

Webinars

The IHN hosted two excellent webinars this year: one in June and one in October.

Donor vigilance – 19 June 2025

Speakers:

- Dr Imad Sandid (France): Cardiac serious adverse events in blood donors
- Dr Veronica Hoad *Australia): Donor adverse events and plasma donation
- Dr Mary Townsend (USA): Long-term complications in blood donors

There were 175 attendees (out of the 541 who registered) from 25 countries. The post-meeting survey was completed by 64 attendees, and of those who answered the question, 54/58 (93%) rated the meeting as very useful (29/58) or mostly useful (25/58).

Partnering with patients is the key to safer transfusion – 21 October 2025

Speakers:

- Ms Anna Mamwell (UK): Patient perspective
- Mr Stuart Lord (UK): Optimising patient involvement in hospital transfusion practice
- Dr Shruthi Narayan (UK): Partnering with patients for safer transfusions

There were 54 attendees (out of the 87 who registered) from 23 countries. All 11 respondents to the post-meeting poll rated the meeting as either very (6/11) or mostly useful (5/11).

IHN Seminar 2026

The committee's major activity continues to be planning for the 2026 IHN Seminar. IHN has partnered with the Centro Nazionale Sangue, the Italian National Blood Centre, for its two-and-a-half-day seminar to be held in Rome, at the Hotel Quirinale, from Wednesday, 18 March to Friday, 20 March.

IHN SEMINAR COMMITTEE IN 2025 (CONTINUED)

Professional conference organisation (PCO) is being provided by ERA from Greece, who also managed the 2024 meeting in Athens.

The meeting programme is now coming together with a great selection of local and international speakers covering a varied range of topics across the broad spectrum of haemovigilance. The first half of Wednesday is aimed at Italian attendees, and accordingly, these two sessions will be in Italian. The rest of the meeting will be held in English. More details about the programme, registration, and abstract submission will be uploaded to the IHN website as they are finalised.

What else for 2026

To support its primary focus on educational sessions or activities, the committee always welcomes suggestions for topics, speakers, as well as opportunities to collaborate in haemovigilance-focused initiatives with other groups. So please feel free to reach out to me or other committee members.

In conclusion

As Chair, I would like to thank all the members of the committee for their involvement and support over the year, as the committee couldn't function without the commitment of your time and expertise all of which is entirely voluntary and greatly appreciated! A huge "thank you" to Raquel Lopez, Darren Hall and now Beth Corbett (who has just taken over from Raquel) for their assistance behind the scenes with both committee administration and hosting of the webinars!

The committee looks forward to 2026 and hopefully will see you in Rome for the IHN Seminar.



Upcoming Transfusion related events

SHOT (Serious Hazards of Transfusion)

- Wednesday 28th January - Meet the experts - Febrile, Allergic and Hypotensive Reactions (FAHR) webinar
- Friday 10th July - 2026 SHOT Symposium

ISBT (International Society of Blood Transfusion)

- Wednesday 17th December - ISBT Webinar: Artificial intelligence chatbots in Transfusion medicine: A cross- sectional study
- Wednesday 11th February - Thursday 12th February 2026 - 4th Biennial IPFA/EBA Symposium on Plasma collection and supply - Leuven, Belgium
- Monday 23rd - Thursday 26th March 2026 - The Africa Society for Blood Transfusion (AfSBT) 12th International Congress - Windhoek, Namibia
- Thursday 12th - Friday 13th March - THE MISSING LINK IN BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICES- TRANSFUSION PRACTITIONERS WORKSHOP: International Society of Blood Transfusion (ISBT) Academy Hybrid event at Cameroon
- Wednesday 23rd - Friday 25th September 2026 - DGTI 2026 - Stuttgart, Germany



Infographic for 2026



International Haemovigilance Network - Forward look 2026: Ongoing and planned projects



Imputability

Development of an imputability scoring matrix for donor complications and transfusion related safety events



Pulmonary focus

Paediatric TACO cases review
Validation of TRALI definition and harmonising reporting



Definitions

Review, update and address gaps in definitions of transfusion complications



Video

Development of a short animated educational video providing an overview of haemovigilance



AI in haemovigilance

Global survey to understand use of AI in haemovigilance activities - opportunities and challenges

