

INTERNATIONAL HAEMOVIGILANCE NETWORK



IHN Forward Together Workshop – Thank You and What’s Next

Thank you to all members who took the time to respond to the recent IHN Forward Together survey. Your feedback was invaluable in shaping the next steps for our network.

Building on this input, a focused workshop was held with the IHN Board and Committee Leadership, including past Presidents, to reflect on the feedback and agree on future priorities. The discussion was thoughtful, constructive, and firmly centred on strengthening IHN for its members.

A number of key action areas were identified, with a strong emphasis on enhancing the value and benefits of IHN membership; improving website content and usability; and ensuring easier access to resources for member countries. The group also explored opportunities for greater collaboration with other professional bodies and highlighted the need for more frequent communication and improved visibility of ongoing and planned projects.

These actions aim to support wider member engagement, greater participation, and a stronger, more connected IHN community. Further updates will be shared as this work progresses.



International Haemovigilance Symposium 2026:

Since the last newsletter and the IHN webinar in October 2025, the IHN Seminar Committee's focus has been the 2026 IHN Symposium in Rome.

After around 18 months of planning, the IHN Symposium finally took place from Wednesday, 18 March to Friday, 20 March. The meeting was held at Rome's beautiful and historic Quirinale Hotel. Initial feedback indicates the meeting was well received by attendees.

Key meeting statistics

Over the three days of the meeting, there were:

- 9 sessions
- 44 speakers/moderators
- 4 oral presentations and 36 posters selected from submitted abstracts
- 157 registrants from 34 countries

An overview of the feedback received will be covered in a future newsletter, initial feedback has been overwhelmingly positive.

The IHN Board and Seminar Committee are extremely grateful to the ISBT Academy for providing financial support for the symposium. We gratefully acknowledge the valuable support which enabled participation from speakers representing low- and middle-income countries, enriching the conference programme with diverse perspectives and experiences, and enhancing both participation and visibility of the important work being undertaken in these settings. We are sincerely appreciative of this contribution. An article highlighting the symposium is currently being prepared for Transfusion Today.

Publication of abstracts

IHN is working with Blood Transfusion, the official journal of SIMTI (Italian Society of Transfusion Medicine and Immunohematology) and SETS (Spanish Society of Blood Transfusion) to have the seminar abstracts published in the journal.



Thank you

Message from IHN President and Chair of the Seminar Committee

Delivering an event of this scale is always a collective effort, and we are deeply grateful to all those who contributed to making the IHN Symposium 2026 such a success. On behalf of the Seminar Committee and Board, we would like to extend our sincere thanks to the Centro Nazionale Sangue (CNS) for their valued support and collaboration. In particular, we are immensely appreciative of Livia Cannata, Anna Palmieri, Ivan Denaro, and Tonino Sofia for their outstanding work as the local organising committee. The complexity of managing the logistics and administration of a meeting of this nature cannot be overstated, and their dedication was truly exceptional.

We were also fortunate to benefit from the expertise of our professional conference organisers, ERA, with special thanks to Alexandros Terzis and Nefeli Mastorakou for their excellent support throughout. We are equally grateful to Beth Corbett, Juliana Morgado Khan and Darren Hall for their essential administrative assistance.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all speakers, moderators, and participants for their valuable contributions and engaging discussions, which fostered meaningful shared learning and made the event such a rewarding experience for all involved.

We would also like to recognise the members of the Seminar Committee and Board, with particular thanks to Barbee Whitaker, whose experience, guidance, and thoughtful input were invaluable throughout the planning and delivery of the symposium. If we have not mentioned anyone by name, please know that your contributions are equally appreciated and valued.

We are delighted to extend our heartfelt congratulations to the recipients of the IHN Award and Medal, announced and presented at the IHN Symposium. The IHN Award was presented to Dr Barbee Whitaker and the SHOT team (UK haemovigilance scheme), recognising their outstanding contributions. The IHN Medal was awarded to Dr Øystein Flesland in recognition of his significant contributions to haemovigilance and IHN activities. On behalf of the global haemovigilance community, we offer our warmest congratulations to all the winners for their dedication, leadership, and impactful work.

Simon Benson, Chair of the Seminar Committee and Dr Shruthi Narayan, IHN President



Webinars in 2026

We are pleased to share that a webinar is being planned in June to celebrate World Blood Donor Day. Further details will be released on the IHN website soon, so please do keep an eye out. The webinar will also feature presentations from the recipients of the IHN Award and Medal.

Looking ahead to the autumn, we will be organising a virtual workshop focused on optimising learning from haemovigilance reports, aligned with World Patient Safety Day celebrations. Stay tuned for more information on both events.

Membership of the committees

On behalf of the Committee Chairs and Board, we would like to extend our sincere thanks to all those who generously contribute their time, expertise, and experience to support haemovigilance work and activities through the IHN. Your commitment is fundamental to advancing learning, collaboration, and best practice across our global community. A new committee is being established to focus on enhancing IHN membership and strengthening support for members. Further details will be shared in due course.

As membership of the Committees is voluntary and requires a significant commitment of time and expertise, we are always seeking to appoint new members. This is also an opportunity to broaden our international representation and bring in diverse perspectives.

We warmly encourage anyone with an interest in contributing to haemovigilance and shaping the work of the IHN to come forward and express their interest in joining the Data and Seminar Committees. Your involvement can make a meaningful impact—please do get in touch with us to learn more.

Recent haemovigilance publications of note

[Tracing the gaps: A global snapshot](https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1111/vox.70262?msocid=30b23eb206186f03148d29ab07726e62) (results from the recent global traceability survey)

[https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1111/vox.70262?](https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1111/vox.70262?msocid=30b23eb206186f03148d29ab07726e62)

[msocid=30b23eb206186f03148d29ab07726e62](https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1111/vox.70262?msocid=30b23eb206186f03148d29ab07726e62)

Rosa V, Patridar P, Whitaker B et al.

[Ethical dilemmas in the use of artificial intelligence in transfusion medicine.](#)

Jansen N, Seheult et al.

First published: 17 February 2026

[Use of artificial intelligence and big data in transfusion medicine: An exploratory assessment of status in the Eastern Mediterranean and North Africa region.](#)

Arwa Z. Al-Riyami et al.

First published: 19 October 2025

[Use of artificial intelligence in transfusion medicine practice, education and research: A mixed methodology study.](#)

Arwa Z. Al-Riyami et al.

First published: 15 February 2026

Upcoming Transfusion related events

SHOT (Serious Hazards of Transfusion)

- Thursday 27th May NTLM Advisory Group - Business Continuity Webinar
- Thursday 28th May - Friday 29th May - Scotland 2026 Annual Conference
- Tuesday 2nd June - North East and Yorkshire RTC Patient Education Event
- Tuesday 23rd June - BHNOG Conference 2026
- Friday 10th July - 2026 SHOT Symposium

ISBT (International Society of Blood Transfusion)

- Wednesday 27th May - Friday 29th May - International Alloimmune Conference on HDFN - Netherlands
- Saturday 20th June - Wednesday ISBT Congress 2026 - Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- Wednesday 23rd - Friday 25th September 2026 - DGTI 2026 - Stuttgart, Germany.



Thank You to Our Blood Donors

We extend our deepest thanks to each and every one of our incredible blood donors. Your generosity and compassion make a life-saving difference every single day.

By choosing to donate, you are giving more than just blood—you are giving hope, strength, and a second chance to those who need it most. Your selfless act helps patients and their families through some of the most challenging moments of their lives.

We are truly grateful for your kindness and commitment. Because of you, lives are saved, and communities are made stronger.

Thank you for being a hero.

