Origin and aims of the ESTM
(European School of Transfusion Medicine)

_Umberto Rossi, Antonio Iacone_
The **ESTM** has been the result of a series of study documents and discussions on the teaching of Transfusion Medicine, originated by the **Council of Europe** (1963 and 1985) and developed by the **ISBT** and by the Italian Society of Transfusion Medicine (**SIMTI**) through its "**Symposia for European Cooperation**" following the recommendation issued at the end of the **ISBT 1st European Regional Congress in Lugano, 1989**:
Teaching of Transfusion Medicine
(U. Rossi, J.D. Cash: editors)
First SIITS-AICT Symposium for European Cooperation
Cernobbio (Italy), 1st October 1990

Voluntary blood donors Associations: present and future
(U. Rossi, V. Fresia, B. Genetet: editors)
Second SIITS-AICT Symposium for European Cooperation
Cernobbio (Italy), 6th October 1990

Teaching and education in Transfusion Medicine
(U. Rossi, J.D. Cash: editors)
Main session
of the 3rd ISBT Regional (2nd European) Congress
Prague (Czechia), 15th October 1991
Therapy with plasma and albumin: production and clinical use
(U. Rossi, W.G. Van Aken, M. Orlando: editors)
Third SIITS-AICT Symposium for European Cooperation
Rome (Italy), 6th June 1992

Mass media and blood donation
(U. Rossi, I. Cipriani, V. Fresia: editors)
Fourth SIITS-AICT Symposium for European Cooperation
Rome (Italy), 6th June 1992
Teaching of Transfusion Medicine to undergraduate medical students
(U. Rossi, H. Seyfried: editors)
Symposium of the 4th ISBT Regional (3rd European) Congress
Barcelona (Spain), 15th June 1993

Therapeutic haemapheresis
(U. Rossi, A. Bussel, M. Valbonesi: editors)
Fifth SIMTI Symposium for European Cooperation
Genova (Italy), 9th June 1995
March 1992, the ESTM was born in Milan, through the signatures of the Constitution Act and of the Statute.

The ESTM is a non-profit Association under the Italian law, managed by a Council of Administration and an Executive Committee, and guided by Scientific and Advisory Committees.

The aims of the ESTM were defined as to provide a Specialist Teaching of Transfusion Medicine (TM), of an international and European character, for specialist doctors already established from a scientific and professional standpoint, physicians, other graduates and paramedical personnel under specialist training.
How to learn Transfusion Medicine

Proceedings of the session jointly organised by:
the European School of Transfusion Medicine (ESTM),
the Israel Society of Haematology and Blood Transfusion
and the Mediterranean Blood Club - Jerusalem, 13th May 1993

Edited by:
U. Rosat
S. Bar-Shany
At medical undergraduate level

Substantial basic information on Transfusion Medicine

- urgent in most European countries
- hardly considered in University Medical curricula
- need of European proposal and harmonisation
At medical postgraduate level

1) Own speciality of Transfusion Medicine

2) Inclusion of complete and correct core information and practice about Transfusion Medicine in all curricula of surgical and medical specialities

3) Need of European proposal and harmonisation
Transfusion Medicine

as a separate speciality

at least in countries with a more developed medical organisation
1991
(ISBT European Congress, Prague)

- Proposal of a recommended minimum European curriculum

- Discussed, amended and defined before and during the plenary session on Teaching and education in Transfusion Medicine
### Scheme of the Structure and Articulation of the Proposed European Curriculum of Postgraduate Teaching of Transfusion Medicine and of Its Connections with Other Neighbouring Specialities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>General Haematology (4 yrs)</th>
<th>Transfusion Medicine (5 yrs)</th>
<th>Immunology (4 yrs)</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Examination</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Specialist Diploma of:</td>
<td>Clinical Haematology</td>
<td>Blood Transfusion Practice</td>
<td></td>
<td>Diploma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Internal Medical</td>
<td>Laboratory Haematology</td>
<td>Immunology and Immunohaematology</td>
<td></td>
<td>second and final</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Surgery</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>also Immunohaematology</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Obstetrics</td>
<td>?</td>
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<td>- Paediatrics</td>
<td>?</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Anaesthesiology</td>
<td>?</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Laboratory Medicine</td>
<td>?</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Clinical Chemistry</td>
<td>?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Clinical Haematology</td>
<td>Immunohematology and Basic Blood Transfusion</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Laboratory Medicine</td>
<td>Haematology (clinical and laboratory)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Microbiology (4 yrs)</td>
<td>Haematology (clinical and laboratory)</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Clinical Chemistry (4 yrs)</td>
<td>Haematology (clinical and laboratory)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Morbid Anatomy (4 yrs)</td>
<td>Clinical Medicine</td>
<td>Allergy and Clinical Immunology</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Microbiology (4 yrs)</td>
<td>Clinical Medicine</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>also Haematology</td>
<td>also clinical medicine</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>also General Laboratory Medicine</td>
<td>more Laboratory Medicine than Clinical Medicine</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>also General Laboratory Medicine</td>
<td>Clinical Medicine</td>
<td>more Laboratory Medicine (or Haematology or Immunology)</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>also General Laboratory Medicine</td>
<td>General Laboratory Haematology</td>
<td>also General Laboratory Medicine and Clinical Medicine</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 yr Junior hospital practice or 2 yrs general practitioner training (according to recent 86/457/EEC Directive)

6 yrs undergraduate medical training

- Basic Medical Experience

Undergraduate Medical Training

* experience in internal medicine, emergency medicine, intensive care, paediatrics, dialysis, surgery, obstetrics and other medical and surgical specialities
Transfusion Medicine specialist: (1)

- "the specialist in Transfusion Medicine is a medically qualified person, having a thorough knowledge and sound experience of clinical medicine and laboratory medicine, having achieved a specific training in general haematology, immunology and blood transfusion practice, who is capable to ensure a maximum of efficacy and safety - for the donor and for the recipient - for any procedure of blood transfusion,"
Transfusion Medicine specialist: (2)

- who is responsible for the planning and organisation of the collection, preparation, storage, distribution and optimal use of blood and blood products under a controlled scheme of quality assurance, who can assist and advise on any diagnostic and therapeutic problem of patients requiring transfusion,
Transfusion Medicine specialist: (3)

- who is actively participating in research and development and who is able and willing to teach Transfusion Medicine further to doctors, medical students and any other collaborating professionals."
The European School of Transfusion Medicine (ESTM) is a free non-profit Association, guided by European Scientific and Advisory Committees and managed by a Council of Administration and its Executive Committee.

The ESTM was founded in 1992 by 12 Italian transfusion specialists (9 present members of the Board and 3 past-Presidents of the SIHTS-AILT = Italian Society of Immunohematology and Blood Transfusion).
Transfusion Medicine
in Paediatric Haematology

Proceedings of the ESTM residential course
Moscow (Russia), 7th September 1992

Edited by:
U. Rossi, A.A.M. Todd
Transfusion Medicine
in clinical practice in the year 2000

Proceedings of the ESTM residential course
Barcelona (Spain), 12th June 1993

Edited by:
U. Rossi, W.G. Van Aken, C. Martín-Vega
Transfusion Medicine in clinical practice in the year 2000

Proceedings of the educational course of the 4th ISBT Regional (3rd European) Congress

Barcelona (Spain), 12th June 1993

Edited by:
U. Rossi, W.G. Van Aken, C. Martin Vega
Teaching of Transfusion Medicine to undergraduate medical students

Proceedings of the symposium of the 4th ISBT Regional (3rd European) Congress - Barcelona, 15th June 1993

Edited by:
U. Rossi
H. Sevfried
Widespread ignorance of basic principles of clinical transfusion practice often due to low basic knowledge of Transfusion Medicine in most European Universities
The proposal of a distance-learning pluriennial specialisation course, leading to a **European specialist diploma of Transfusion Medicine**, has been discussed and approved by the ESTM Scientific Committee, and is waiting to find the way to overcome the many obstacles to this achievement. In the meantime, a coordinated **network of European educational centres** is being implemented.
The quality of clinical transfusion practice in Europe: a basic step to haemovigilance and transfusion safety

ESTM residential course

Skopje (Macedonia), 10th-14th September 2008

Coordinators:
S. Bakalova, M. Blagoevska, J. Barbara, U. Rossi
MAIN TOPICS tackled in the 86 courses - 1

Promotion of voluntary blood donation
Detection and prevention of TTI
Blood safety and transfusion risks
Emergency Transfusion Medicine
Autotransfusion
Haemapheresis
Quality assurance and quality management
Immunohaematology and immunogenetics
Transplant immunology
MAIN TOPICS tackled in the 86 courses - 2

Laboratory haematology
Diagnostics of haemostasis
Haemotherapy
Optimal use of blood
Clinical transfusion practice
Transfusion in Obstetrics
Transfusion in Paediatrics and Neonatology
Blood-sparing medicine and surgery
Haemovigilance
Prospects of Transfusion Medicine
The Transfusion Medicine “Iberian courses” initiative: a critical analysis of 16 years educational dedication


(* ESTM President, Milano, Italy; ** Barcelona, Spain; *** Lisboa, Portugal)
ESTM courses and initiatives, in the last years, have been increasingly taking place in Eastern European countries, touching so far Russia, Czechia, Slovenia, Croatia, Estonia, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Ukraine, Bulgaria, Serbia, Latvia, Albania and Macedonia.
“Balkan-European” courses and work meeting organised since 2001

- Sarajevo, 2001 (1st “Balkan-European” course)
- Lecce, 2002 (“Balkan-European” work meeting)
- Sofia, 2002 (2nd “Balkan-European” course)
- Belgrade, 2003 (3rd “Balkan-European” course)
- Antalya, 2004 (4th “Balkan-European” course)
- Tirana, 2005 (5th “Balkan-European” course)
- Skopie, 2008 (6th “Balkan-European” course)
- Tirana, 2009 (7th “Balkan-European” course)
- Tirana, 2010 (8th “Balkan-European” course)
- Tirana, 2011 (9th “Balkan-European” course)
Tradition of Balkan-European courses continuing with 3 courses in Tirana

- First (2009)
  Transfusion safety: from the donor to the patient

- Second (2010)
  Transfusion efficacy: the relevance of hospitals and clinicians

- Third (2011)
  Transfusion Medicine: development in Albania and in Europe
The future of blood safety, 
a challenge for the whole Europe: 
*how can international regulations be implemented all over*

ESTM residential course
Sarajevo (Bosnia-Herzegovina), 25-28 October 2001
(1st “Balkan-European” course)

*Coordinators:*
J.A.J. Barbara, M. Blagoevska, M. Haračić, U. Rossi
Present and future problems of Transfusion Medicine in South-Eastern Europe

ESTM residential course
Lecce (Italy), 5-6 June 2002

Coordinators:
U. Rossi, G. Aprili
The contribution of clinical medicine to blood safety

ESTM residential course

Belgrade (Serbia), 9-11 October 2003

*Coordinators:*
L. Walterová, V. Kretschmer, G. Bogdanović, U. Rossi
Transfusion treatment of thalassaemia and other chronic anaemias

Proceedings of the ESTM/ITSS residential course
Antalya (Turkey), 20-25 April 2004

Edited by:
M. Bayik, D. Canatan, C. Politis, U. Rossi
The essential contribution of Clinical Medicine to blood safety

ESTM residential course

Tirana (Albania), 1-5 October 2005

Coordinators:
J. Koistinen, V. Hafner, A. Gjata, U. Rossi
The quality of clinical transfusion practice in Europe: a basic step to haemovigilance and transfusion safety

ESTM residential course

Skopje (Macedonia), 10\textsuperscript{th}-14\textsuperscript{th} September 2008

\textit{Coordinators:}\n\hspace{1em}S. Bakalova, M. Blagoevska, J. Barbara, U. Rossi
Transfusion safety: from the donor to the patient
ESTM residential course
Tirana (Albania), 4-8 March 2009

Coordinators:
J. Koistinen, A. Massaro, I. Qendro Seferi, V. Durro, E. Nastas
Transfusion efficacy: 
the relevance of hospitals and clinicians

ESTM residential course

Tirana (Albania), 3-7 March 2010

Coordinators:

J. Koistinen, A. Massaro, I. Qendro Seferi, V. Durro, A. Godo
Transfusion Medicine: development in Albania and in Europe
ESTM residential course
Tirana (Albania), 16-20 March 2011

Coordinators:
J. Koistinen, A. Massaro, I. Qendro Seferi, V. Durro, A. Godo
Medicina Trasfusional en/em Pediatria - Transfusión/Transfusão autóloga

Conferencias/Lições del/do curso residencial ibérico de la/da ESTM

Lisboa (Portugal), 3-5 de Octubre/Outubro de 1996

Editado por:
C. Martín-Vega, G. de Sousa
Inmunohematología/immunohematología de eritrocitos, leucocitos y/e plaquetas

Conferencias/Lições del/do curso residencial ibérico de la/da ESTM

Barcelona (Spain), 27-29 de Noviembre/Novembro de 1998

Editado por:
C. Martín-Vega, G. de Sousa
Calidad/Qualidade en/em Medicina Transfusional

Conferencias/Lições del/do curso residencial ibérico de la/da ESTM

Lisboa (Portugal), 17-19 de Marzo/Março de 2001

Editado por:
C. Martín-Vega, G. de Sousa
Hemovigilancia/Hemovigilância

Curso Residencial Ibérico
organizado en cooperación con:
Asociación Española de Hematología y Hemoterapia (AEHH),
Sociedad Española de Transfusión Sanguínea (SETS),
Associação Portuguesa de Imuno-Hemoterapia (APIH)

Barcelona (España), 19-21 de Marzo/Março 2004

Edited by:
C. Martín-Vega, G. de Sousa, E. Muñiz-Díaz
Controversias y cuestiones emergentes en Medicina Transfusional

Controvérsias e questões emergentes em Medicina Transfusional

Curso residencial de la E STM

Lisboa (Portugal),
31 de Octubre/Outubro - 2 de Noviembre/Novembro de 2008

Editado por:
C. Martín-Vega, G. de Sousa, E. Muñiz-Díaz, A.P. Sousa
Inmunohematología y gestación / Imunohematologia e gestação

Conferencias/Lições del/do curso residencial ibérico de la/da ESTM

Barcelona (España), 30 de Marzo/Março - 1 de/d' Abril de 2012

Editado por:

E. Muñiz-Diaz, C. Martín Vega, A. P. Sousa, G. de Sousa
Sociedad Española de Transfusión Sanguínea y Terapia Celular
Seguridad en Medicina Transfusional

Conferencias del curso de la ESTM
organizado en cooperación con la
Asociación Argentina de Hemoterapia
e Inmunhematología

Buenos Aires (Argentina), 4 de Septiembre de 2001

Editado por:
S. Wendel, O.W. Torres
Segurança transfusional no século XXI: desafios para a América Latina

ESTM residential course
Itaparica-Bahia (Brazil), 30 May-1 June 2002

Coordinators:
L. Amorim, J. Rosenblit, O. Torres, M.C. De Samaniego
Contribuição da Medicina Clínica a segurança transfusional

ESTM residential course

Rio de Janeiro (Brazil), 6 November 2005

Coordinators:
L. Amorim, U. Rossi
Aspectos fundamentales en la práctica de la Medicina Transfusional

Curso residencial de la ESTM

Lima (Perú), 22-26 de Septiembre 2010

Editado por:
J.M. Cárdenas, M. Delgado Burga, O.W. Torres
Desarrollo “paralelo”

Latino-Américano:

ESTM ? = “enzima catalítico”
Acting somehow as a “catalytic enzyme” -as the ESTM has sometimes been labelled!- does require a substrate not only human, but of political and financial resources often not available or discouragingly scarce.
After the courses in **Argentina** (2001), and **Brazil** (2002), the possibility of establishment of a **Latin-American ESTM-like initiative** is currently being discussed.
Medicina Transfusional de Latino-América y de Europa

ingual para todos:

¿sueño? → ¡realidad!
Puente:
más amplio y seguro

Medicina Transfusional:
mejor para todos
ESTM y América Latina:
¿Un puente hacia el futuro?

U. Rossi *, C. Martin-Vega **
(* Milano, Italia; ** Barcelona, España)
Help has been given to the similar educational initiative of “ATMC” (Arabic-speaking Transfusion Medicine Courses), developed since 2004 (Egypt, Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Syria)
Widely different situations existing in today's Europe
Basic requirements for acceptable safety of blood donation and Transfusion Medicine in all countries of Europe
1) "Transfusion Medicine" specialists?

2) Minimum core of Transfusion Medicine competence
   - general practitioners
     - doctors
     - hospital specialist
     - nurses
     - technicians

3) National voluntary blood donation system with consideration of donors medical care
4) Feeling of belonging not only to national, but also to international (European) medical (transfusion) community

5) Proper cultural approach to blood safety and risk management

6) Widespread application of "quality" principles in the national quality management of Transfusion Medicine
Ethically unacceptable aspects of clinical transfusion practice:

- **under-transfusion**
  due to justified fear of unsafe blood

- **uncritical mis-transfusion**
  due to incorrect clinical criteria
Nearly all medical and transfusion problems in Europe need to be addressed

• *not only* by *national measures*

• *but also* by a *common, “transversal”, regional approach*
Educational action “from the bottom”, in a friendly collegial atmosphere of mutual help, sharing experiences, trying to generate a feeling of belonging to a European Transfusion Medicine community.
One should avoid causing hidden resentment, in "receivers", against the kind of initiatives often taken by Western and International Organisations, when money is given more generously to real or so-called experts rather than being kept for the real needs of the country.
It is essential that, in any team, both "experts" from "high-income" and "receivers" from "low-income" countries should feel **equally engaged** and **responsible for common success**. Money and expertise alone do **not** automatically guarantee any positive outcome, unless **long-lasting human commitment** is present.
More generally, the **ESTM experience** has allowed to fully appreciate that "**transfusing medical science into medical practice**" is the real present challenge of Transfusion Medicine all over Europe, and should be felt as a **common responsibility** for anyone involved in European Transfusion Medicine.
The activities of the ESTM in the last few years have been oriented towards a more full appreciation of the paramount importance of the contribution of clinical medicine to blood safety.
Clinical responsibilities of Transfusion Medicine - 1

- Clinical background
- Understanding clinical problems
- Collegial responsibility of clinical decisions on transfusion
- Haemostaseology
- Follow-up of outpatients under oral anticoagulant treatment
- Role in transplantation (peripheral stem-cell and cord blood collection and storage)
Clinical responsibilities of Transfusion Medicine - 2

- Therapeutic haemapheresis
- Medical selection and care of regular voluntary blood donors
- Blood collection for auto-transfusion
- Productive haemapheresis
- Best clinical use of blood components by hospital clinicians
Responsibilities of clinicians towards Transfusion Medicine

- Phasing out replacement donations
- Actively participating to Hospital Transfusion Committees
- Offering social and medical authority to publicly promote voluntary donation
- Contributing to scientifically clarify some medical misconceptions hindering safe blood self-sufficiency
The European situation of clinical transfusion practice

- Blood-sparing medicine and surgery

- Basic requirements for an effective haemovigilance

- Contribution of Clinical Medicine to blood safety
Risk of an increasingly diverging quality of Transfusion Medicine in Europe

- education
- political awareness
- human dedication
The basis (quickly!) before the top of the pyramid!
Education to "quality management"

being

• fairly independent from financial resources
• rather addressed to human behaviour

can be considered

an adequate common tool
to progress towards blood safety
Basic concepts
inspiring quality management (1)

- results depending on all members of the system
- distribution of jobs according to individual role and ability
- clear definition of roles, integrated in a general frame
- awareness of personal responsibility, at different levels, under a higher coordination
Basic concepts
inspiring quality management (2)

- common desire of improvement
- understanding of advantages of written documentation
- feeling of the need of personal continuous improvement
- awareness of the need of training to increase personal abilities
- involvement of all members to look for and find out "non-conformities", and to report, correct and prevent them
Basic concepts
inspiring quality management (3)

- increased mutual knowledge and improved personal relationships
- easier acceptance of a shared discipline
- improvement of relationships with "customers"
- gratification for being recognised as "essential" to the system
- personal satisfaction and pride to belong to a "quality" system
Most "quality concepts"
are already included
in transfusion working concepts
The main forms of teaching, learning and training practised in Transfusion Medicine correspond to the learning requirements imposed by quality systems.
Quality before haemovigilance?

Can the future progress of European haemovigilance be based on the already existing "quality" behaviours and on a previously implemented quality-based transfusion management system?
Haemovigilance based on quality: a challenge for scientific and professional engagement
Haemovigilance

is a **further** tool for **further** progress,

**NOT**

an **initial** tool for **basic** safety

that should be obtained by **quality management**!
• **Clinical** quality control in Transfusion Medicine?

• or **only** quality control of
  - test results
  and
  - blood components?
Clinical medicine, in order to provide patients with the safest possible blood, has much more to give than to receive, to do than to wait, to care for than to expect from
Competent and effective professional interaction between Transfusion Medicine and clinical specialists
Prof. Cazal, Council of Europe, 1983:

“to assure "Homo Europaeus"
of the same security as regards transfusion-
the same transfusion rights and duties-
wherever he lived and travelled”
Sviluppo della Medicina Trasfusionale in Albania verso standard europei di qualità

Programma triennale di “gemellaggi” con Centri Trasfusionali italiani, basato su stages di formazione professionale in Italia, corsi residenziali e corsi di formazione in Albania, e partecipazione di medici albanesi a corsi residenziali ESTM in Europa.
Transfusion treatment of thalassaemia and other chronic anaemias

Proceedings of the ESTM/ITSS residential course
Antalya (Turkey), 20-25 April 2004

Edited by:
M. Bayik, D. Canatan, C. Politis, U. Rossi
The essential contribution of Clinical Medicine to blood safety

ESTM residential course

Tirana (Albania), 1-5 October 2005

Coordinators:
J. Koistinen, V. Hafner, A. Gjata, U. Rossi
Transfusion safety: from the donor to the patient

ESTM residential course
Tirana (Albania), 4-8 March 2009

Coordinators:
J. Koistinen, A. Massaro, I. Qendor Seferi, V. Durro, E. Nastas
Therapeutic haemapheresis

ESTM residential course

Genova (Italy), 16-18 November 1996

Coordinators:
M. Valvonesi, P. Höcker
Practical workshop on techniques in haemapheresis
ESTM residential course
Paris (France), 10-13 September 1997

Coordinators:
A. Bussel, P. Höcker, V. Krestchmer, A. Robinson
Progressi scientifici e tecnologici
in Medicina Trasfusionale
Proceedings of the ESTM residential course
Roma (Italy), 20\textsuperscript{th} – 23\textsuperscript{rd} November 1997

\textit{Edited by:}
A. Iacone, U. Rossi
Therapeutic haemapheresis -
Diagnosis and transfusion treatment of emergencies in haemostatic disorders

Proceedings of the ESTM residential course
Prague (Czech Republic), 12 - 15 November 1998

Edited by:
P. Höcker, L. Walterová
Present and future problems of Transfusion Medicine in South-Eastern Europe

ESTM residential course
Lecce (Italy), 5-6 June 2002

*Coordinators:*
U. Rossi, G. Aprili
The essential contribution of Clinical Medicine to blood safety

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Tirana (Albania), 1-5 October 2005

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J. Koistinen, V. Hafner, A. Gjata, U. Rossi
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the relevance of hospitals and clinicians

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Tirana (Albania), 3-7 March 2010

Coordinators:

J. Koistinen, A. Massaro, I. Qendro Seferi, V. Durro, A. Godo
Transfusion Medicine: development in Albania and in Europe
ESTM residential course
Tirana (Albania), 16-20 March 2011

Coordinators:
J. Koistinen, A. Massaro, I. Qendro Seferi, V. Durro, A. Godo
Immunogenetic aspects of blood transfusion and bone marrow transplantation

Proceedings of the ESTM residential course
Ljubljana (Slovenia), 27-29 May 1999

Edited by:
M. Bohinječ
Organisational, technical and clinical aspects of cord blood banking

ESTM residential course

Pescara (Italy), 11-15 November 2009

Coordinators:
A. Iacone, J. Garcia, P. Wernet, T. Bonfini, P. Rebulla
Collaboration with already existing active Institutions (ISBT, Council of Europe, WHO, IFRCRCS, FIODS/IFBDO, European Union) always felt as a driving concept.
Regional integration of Transfusion Medicine in South-Eastern Europe: the ESTM contribution and experience

Rossi U.*, Bakalova S.**, Burta O.L.***, Dobrota A.M..****

(* ESTM President, Milano, Italy;  
** National Centre of Transfusion Medicine, Sofia, Bulgaria;  
*** Blood Transfusion Centre, Oradea, Romania;  
**** Regional Blood Transfusion Service, Constanta, Romania)
Transfusion Medicine
regional education in medical emergencies:
the ESTM experience

Rossi U.*, Cárdenas J.M.**

(* ESTM President, Milano, Italy;  
** ESTM Secretary, San Sebastián, Spain)
Roundtable

“International co-operation in training in Transfusion Medicine: what has happened so far in Europe?”

Skopje, October 2008
Blood sparing through timely diagnosis and proper treatment of anaemia: preventive “erythrovigilance”!

Rossi U.*, Bakalova S.**, Qendro I.***, Rossini S.****

(* ESTM President, Milano, Italy;  
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Anaemia in “surgical” patients

• a risk factor for mortality and morbidity in surgical patients

• previously undiagnosed anaemia relatively common in elective surgical patients

• prevalence of anaemia in surgical patients varies widely - from 5% to 76% - depending on the definition of anaemia used
Optimal general principle

*Red cell-containing components should* not be used

to treat *anaemias* that can be corrected

*with specific medications*
Main conclusive key-points of NATA guidelines

- pre-operative anaemia is a serious but treatable condition
- pre-operative haemoglobin measurement (28 days) should allow time for treatment
- abnormalities should be investigated and treated before operation
A proper pre-operative “erythrovigilance”?  
*A proposal for an adequate organisation*

- **pre-operative anaemia:**
  - diagnosis, evaluation and treatment, so far a *frequently neglected* medical need

- **clinical advantage** of careful diagnosis and timely therapy:
  - treatment-induced erythropoiesis *effective before* surgery
  - improved Hb level greatly *limits the need* for pre-operative blood transfusions
  - reducing post-operative depression of erythropoiesis

- **pre-operatively** stimulated erythropoiesis
  - keeping active *also* in the *post-operative* period
Essential target

In every hospital, higher awareness of relevance of early discovery and proper treatment of any kind of pre-operative anaemia
Preventive “erythrovigilance”

Clinical results certainly higher than required professional and organisational engagement
blood is too important
in our life
to be left only to others!
Help has been given to the similar educational initiative of “ATMC” (Arabic-speaking Transfusion Medicine Courses), developed since 2004 (Egypt, Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Syria)
ACADEMIC TRAINING PROGRAMMES IN TRANSFUSION MEDICINE IN EUROPE

Damiano Castelli MD PhD, Lugano (Switzerland)
ACADEMIC TRAINING PROGRAMMES IN TRANSFUSION MEDICINE IN EUROPE

In collaboration with:
ESTM, European school of transfusion medicine.
UEMS, European union of medical specialists,
  (section of biopathology, commission of haematology and transfusion medicine)

Based on information obtained (spring 2005) from representatives of national TM Societies, from colleagues involved in the field of TM and from a consensus meeting held on July 2004 in Riga (Latvia) during an ESTM residential course.
Appropriate use of plasma products

ESTM residential course

Zagreb (Croatia), 14-18 November 2012

Coordinators:

H.E. Heier, T. Burnouf, V. De Angelis, M. El Ekiaby
Thank you!

(www.estm.info)