

Event

The 3rd International Congress on Transfusion Medicine Tehran, Iran

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The 3rd International Congress on Transfusion Medicine was organized by the High Institute for Research and Education in Transfusion Medicine (IRETM) and the Scientific Society of Blood Transfusion in Tehran, Iran on December 15–17, 2015. The World Health Organization (WHO), the International Society of Blood Transfusion (ISBT), the French Blood Establishment (L'Établissement Français du Sang; EFS), the Asian Association of Transfusion Medicine (AATM) and the European School of Transfusion Medicine (ESTM) were the main international scientific contributors. The 1st and 2nd international congresses had been held in 2007 and 2011.

The two main goals of the 3rd congress were as follows:

1. Evidence based clinical use of blood components: The importance of this issue pertains to the fact that irrational overuse of blood is one of the challenges in blood services worldwide. In other words, the administration of blood and blood products in many cases occurs without considering the scientific evidence.¹⁻³

2. Plasma derived medicines: Selection of this issue as the main theme of the congress is the reflection of the emphasis placed by policy makers on the production of plasma-derived drugs and the achievement of self-sufficiency using native plasma donors. Domestically produced plasma derived medication can help prevent the incidence of emerging diseases. The capacity of plasma collection for fractionation by the Iranian Blood Transfusion Organization (IBTO) has reached 167,500 L in 2014.⁴ The IBTO is planning to increase plasma production and reinforce self-sufficiency in plasma production.

The Congress scientific program was categorized by ten themes of Patient Blood Management, Hemovigilance, Thrombosis and Hemostasis, Hematopoietic Stem Cell Donation and Transplantation, Pediatric Transfusion, Perioperative Transfusion, Donor and Donation, Blood Safety, Immunohematology and Plasma Derived Medicines. All theme-bound topics were presented in 13 sessions in the form of 34 lectures, and 45 oral presentations and panel discussions. In addition to the oral and lecture presentations, a poster show was also held. The abstract book was published as an issue of The Archives of Iranian Medicine Journal. In addition to expert native speakers, 27 delegates and speakers attended the congress from 11 other countries including England, France, Germany, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Canada, Lithuania, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Sudan, and Bhutan.

Totally, the congress hosted some 1270 participants, of whom

970 were either physicians or experts or students or the staff from different parts of the health sector both from blood centers and medical universities across Iran.

In the opening ceremony, Dr. Ali Akbar Pourfathollah, the IBTO Managing Director and the congress president, delivered his presentation on the important achievements of the IBTO. Dr. Zali, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran Medical Council (IR-IMC), with emphasis on the management of blood transfusion and the efficient use of blood by physicians, provided valuable comments. In the ceremony, the first edition of the book “Clinical Guidelines for Blood Transfusion in Iran” was launched. These guidelines have been prepared in cooperation with the IRETM, IBTO, IRIMC, Scientific Society of Blood Transfusion, and the relevant scientific medical associations. In the event, Prof. Fereydoon Ala, the founder of Iranian Blood Transfusion Organization, was honored and appreciated (Figure).

Dr. Donat R. Spahn, Professor of anesthesiology from University Hospital Zurich, Switzerland, had two presentations in the Patient Blood Management and Perioperative Transfusion sessions. He talked about the evidence base for restrictive transfusion triggers, and the key issues in advanced bleeding care in trauma. Dr. J. P. Allain, from the Department of Hematology of the University of Cambridge, delivered his speech about the two important challenges in transfusion medicine including HTLV1&2 screening strategies and challenges in HBV detection among blood donors.

In Patient Blood Management session, Dr. Pierre François Falcou presented a lecture entitled “Medical procurement of plasma products: what are the future needs of public health?” He is the graduate of the Medicine University of Nice (France) and an independent consultant in strategy and international development for biopharmaceuticals. Dr. Peter. J.M. van den Burg, Medical Doctor from the University of Amsterdam, is the consultant of transfusion medicine and education, Sanquin Blood Supply, the Netherlands. He spoke on “The right criteria of donor selection for donor health and blood safety” and “Donor vigilance” in Donors & Donation session.

Moreover, 56 valuable speeches were delivered by Iranian colleagues including Drs. Alireza Zali, Ali Reza Salimi, Ehsan Shamsi Gooshki, Gholamreza Toogeh, Houri Rezvan, Azita Chegini, Mahtab Maghsudlu, Mr. Mostafa Moghaddam, Drs. Minoos Ahmadinejad, Sedigheh Amini, Karim Shams, Mojgan Shaiegan, Maryam Zadsar, Fariba Seighali, Azita Azarkeivan, and the other 18 were carried out by invited speakers from other countries.

Concurrent with the 3rd Congress, three educational workshops were held. A total of 31 participants took part in the workshops. Throughout these workshops, participants had the chance to develop practical skills in plasma industry, molecular HLA-typing, and voluntary blood donors’ recruitment. The workshop on blood donation recruitment was conducted as a part of WHO Collaborative

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Figure. In the 3rd International Congress on Transfusion Medicine, Prof. Fereydoun Ala, the founder of Iranian Blood Transfusion Organization, was honored and appreciated.

rating Center's activities that attracted participants from Sudan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, and Afghanistan. It should be noted that the IBTO has achieved 100% voluntary, non-remunerated blood donors since 2007.⁵ Concurrently, there was a booth space displaying the IBTO publications; moreover, an exhibition of equipment and supplies in the field of blood transfusion was set up.

At the closing ceremony, in the presence of Dr. Malekzadeh, Deputy for Research and Technology, Ministry of Health & Medical Education, the history of IBTO was presented by Dr. Mohammad Hossein Azizi; a faculty member of the Academy of Medical Sciences of Iran. Finally, the organizers of the 3rd Congress were honored, and on the occasion of the research day, the active blood transfusion researchers were recognized.

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