

## Collaborative programmes

### Scientific Meetings of National Societies

Prospects and achievements of Transfusion Medicine teaching and education have been discussed in scientific Meetings of National Societies (Czech Republic, 1993, 1994 and 1998; Israel, 1993; Germany, 1993; Turkey, 1993 and 2000; Portugal, 1994; Italy, 1996 and 2006; Slovakia, 1997; Macedonia, 2000; Ukraine, 2000; Croatia, 2002; Serbia, 2002; Bulgaria, 2004 and 2009; Libya, 2007; Iran, 2007), of the ISBT (Taipei, 1999; Vienna, 2000; Shanghai, 2001; Istanbul, 2003), of the ISH (Cuba, 2001; Santiago, 2003), and of NATO (Istanbul, 1994; The Hague, 1998; Lisboa, 1998; Washington, 2000).

### Latin-America

After the good success of the “Iberian” courses (started in 1996), and after the ESTM joint courses in Argentina (2001), Brazil (2002, 2005) and Peru (2010), the possibility of establishment of a Latin-American ESTM-like initiative is currently being discussed.

### ISBT Working Group on Paediatric Transfusion Medicine

Contacts are kept with the ISBT Working Group (the idea of which was born during the ESTM course in Napoli in November 2003), in view of a future course on promotion of specific European guidelines.

### ATMC

Collaboration has continued, since its very beginning in 2004, within the Steering Group of the ATMC (Arabic Transfusion Medicine courses) initiative, the ESTM being present at nearly all ATMC courses so far, resulting in a common wish of tighter collaboration for joint activities.

### Scout Organisations

After distribution to national scout organisations in every European country of an updated Directory of contact persons and addresses of all donors Institutions (prepared by the ESTM Secretariat and sent to the European Scout Headquarters), work on the scouts/donation project has started in 2005, with the elaboration of short questionnaires to be made available to any European scout groups wishing to analyse the existing prevalence of blood donors among scouts before beginning the promotional campaign for blood donation, for a better evaluation of its results. Interest has been shown by Colleagues involved in ATMC courses, for a promotion of the project in the Eastern-Mediterranean Region.

### Association “Birthing Together: Israeli-Palestinian hospital on the border”

At a meeting in Vienna (in November 2006), the ESTM has taken part (its President becoming an ordinary member) in the constitution in Europe of the Association “Birthing Together: Israeli-Palestinian hospital on the border”, aiming to help building up a maternity hospital on the border of the Gaza Strip, where training of the future staff of the Blood Bank through the ESTM has been envisaged.

## **XII International Symposium on Blood Substitutes (Parma, August 2009)**

A fruitful collaboration has started in 2007, at the occasion of an ESTM course, with the University of Parma (Institute of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Prof. Andrea Mozzarelli), on the transmission of knowledge concerning haemoglobin-based oxygen carriers. At the occasion of the XII International Symposium on Blood Substitutes (Parma, August 2009), the ESTM helped moderating a roundtable discussion on the collaboration between researchers and blood donors, with the participation of Italian blood donor Organisations, transfusion specialists and clinicians.

### **Transfusion Today**

An on-going collaboration on educational issues has been developed with the ISBT Bulletin "Transfusion Today".