

**WBDD 2010 SCIENTIFIC SEMINAR
BLOOD AND TISSUE BANK**
15 and 16 June 2010

- **Symposium 1: Making better use of blood components**

Dr. Arturo Pereira made an analysis of the current consumption of blood components and future forecasts, and of the need for whole blood transfusions in the treatment of uncontrolled acute haemorrhage (accidents, disasters).

Dr. Brian McClelland outlined the principles that need to be followed for optimal blood use:

- Transfuse the right units,
- to the right patient,
- at the right time,
- in the right way,
- and in accordance with the appropriate guidelines.

- **Symposium 2: Transfusion of hematopoietic progenitors**

Professor Alejandro Madrigal highlighted the current and future importance of umbilical cord blood banking, as this multiplies the possibility of compatible haematopoietic progenitors for patients requiring a transplant. He also outlined new therapeutic applications in cell therapy.

The studies of Dr. Guillermo Sanz reveal that, until recently, transplants with haematopoietic progenitors from cord blood were reserved exclusively for paediatric patients. However, they have been shown to be just as effective as the traditional sources of haematopoietic progenitors in the transplant of adult patients with haematological malignancies.

Dr. Joan Garcia described the current situation of the generation of red blood cells for transfusion from progenitor cells, which is a topic of global interest, given that red blood cell transfusions have gradually increased over recent years, while the number of blood donations has stabilised.

Having access to enough red blood cells without the risk of transmitting infectious diseases, and for a given blood group, is now almost a reality, although it is currently at the *development* stage.

- **Symposium 4: New blood for the world. Promoting blood donation amongst young people**

Josep M. Puig, professor at the Faculty of Pedagogy of the University of Barcelona, introduced the participants to the *Learning and service* educational concept, based on educating with a social purpose in the framework of cooperation and reciprocity, which allows for the acquisition of skills and knowledge throughout the life of individuals.

Puig bases his idea on the fact that blood is not manufactured or bought, and hence depends on the voluntary and free action of donors, which requires calling upon their altruism. He believes that education is important, and that the best way to do this is to ensure the participation of children and young people.

Gal·la Cortel, head of promotion at the BST, described the project "Blood donation and education for citizenship", based on the *Learning and service* educational concept, and the good results it has obtained in the years of its implementation.

Cortel also explained the forward-looking communication campaign aimed at university students, called "University attack", which has been awarded several national and international prizes.

Daniel Vinet, from Hema-Québec in Quebec, Canada, surprised participants by explaining how Canadian society actively and altruistically participates in donation and youth education campaigns, in coordination with the transfusion centre.

- **Symposium 5: Health cooperation programmes**

Four cooperation projects were described, all of great health and welfare interest, which moved the participants of the symposium. Their features were different but they had the same aim: solidarity, cooperation, mutual learning and specific goals to be attained.

Specifically, Elisenda Serra from the Banc de Sang i Teixits explained the international cooperation programme *Hemagenia*.

Her explanation was followed by that of Marcela Contreras from London's Blood Transfusion International, who presented *Blood Transfusion International: care for developing countries*.

Manuel del Castillo, of Sant Joan de Déu hospital in Barcelona, described the *Cooperation at Sant Joan de Déu hospital* project in Barcelona.

Lastly, Ferran Aguiló of Fundació Vicente Ferrer, explained the *Anantapur Health Project*.