



LABMT Telephone conference

January 23, 2012 6PM Berlin time

**Attendees:**

Hildegard Greinix, Luc Noël, Dietger Niederwieser, Paula Watry; Kodera by E-Mail.

Brazil: Dr. Vergilio Colturato [vcolturato@uol.com.br](mailto:vcolturato@uol.com.br) Dr. Mair Pedro de Souza - [mairsouza@netsite.com.br](mailto:mairsouza@netsite.com.br) (Nurse) Ana Claudia Ferrari dos Santos - [anac@amaralcarvalho.org.br](mailto:anac@amaralcarvalho.org.br) (Secretary) Camilla Ferraz Filipi - [camilla@amaralcarvalho.org.br](mailto:camilla@amaralcarvalho.org.br) Dr. Marcos Augusto Mauad and his email [marcosm@amaralcarvalho.org.br](mailto:marcosm@amaralcarvalho.org.br)

Uruguay: Dra. Milka Bengochea SINDOME (National Stem Cell Donors Registry) Instituto Nacional de Donación y Trasplante de células, tejidos y órganos (INDT) - Ministerio de Salud Pública - Uruguay e-mail: [subdireccion@indt.edu.uy](mailto:subdireccion@indt.edu.uy) - Telephone: +598 2 487 28 15

Argentina: Technical Director Gustavo Piccinelli MD Argentina Bone Marrow Donor Registry, Buenos Aires, Argentina- INCUCAI, [gpiccinelli@incucai.gov.ar](mailto:gpiccinelli@incucai.gov.ar), Liliana Bisigniano Directora - Dirección Científico Técnica 011 4788 8300 int. 251; [lbisigniano@incucai.gov.ar](mailto:lbisigniano@incucai.gov.ar)

Spain ONT: Eduardo Martín-Escobar; -Gregorio Garrido; -Mar Carmona;

WHO: Malhi Cho Calidad en la Atención y Seguridad del Paciente; Area de Sistemas de Salud basados en; Atención Primaria de Salud; OPS/OMS;

Luc Noel; WHO; Geneva

The conference day and time were set up after a Doodle pool and the teleconference used the country specific system for free calls.

During the Meeting OF THE SOUTH AMERICAN STEM CELL TRANSPLANTATION (SCT) GROUPS/CENTERS on August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2011 - Saturday, 2:30 - 4:00 PM during the XV SBTMO Congress - Windsor Barra Hotel - Orient's Room Rio de Janeiro, Brazil it was decided by the participants to form a federation of society but also individuals active in the field of stem cell transplantation (physicians, national authorities,..) in South/Middle America in order to promote SCT and to have representatives of this region in the WBMT. The idea would be to have a LABMT Society with all Latin American BMT societies as affiliates. Since many Latin America countries have Hematology but do not have BMT Societies, these Hematology Societies (e.g. in Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay) could also be part of

LABMT. And then, this regional Society, the LABMT, would be part of WBMT. WBMT associates are societies and health care authorities, not individuals. It was also decided to organize a TC to discuss the formation and activities of the LABMT. As you know WBMT is in working relations with the WHO.

The agenda for this conference, as presented by Dr. Dietger Niederwieser, was to approve the minutes of Rio and to discuss the organization of the LABMT and first activities. The minutes of the Rio meeting were approved by those in attendance to the August meeting.

Dietger explained the mission of the WBMT and the activities so far. In addition to the global activity survey 2006 published in JAMA by A. Gratwohl, the survey for 2007-2008 was submitted and is still being considered for publications by JCO. Regarding the organization of the WBMT, its standing committees and their goals, Dietger referred to the home page of the WBMT. The WBMT has five standing committees: Committee for Transplant Center/Recipient Issues, Committee for Donor Issues, Committee for Graft Processing Issues, Committee for Accreditation, and Committee for Dissemination and Education. The Donor Committee helps to set up standards for related donors, including how to check them after the donation and to set up standards for global donors, if there is a need to help. One of the major efforts was to promote SCT in countries with restricted resources. Starting from the activity survey and starting from an idea of the WHO we identified countries with low or no activity in SCT and organized an interactive workshop in Hanoi. The represented countries were asked to present their activities and their major obstacles for improving the situation.

The experience WBMT had in the local meeting organized in Hanoi was excellent. All slides are available at the WBMT website <http://www.wbmt.org/en/hanoi-2011-presentations/> and the WBMT will prepare an algorithm for optimizing the transplant activity and support interested countries. The idea would be to have similar workshops in Latin America but it would be necessary first to have a local society to organize such meeting. This regional society should have a Board and bylaws. Dr. Dietger Niederwieser sent out the bylaws of the WBMT to be used as a possible template. Kodera wrote some important thoughts to the TC members by E-mail for the LABMT to be successful:

1. organize annual meeting with country report.
2. The initial core members must continue the works for several years.
3. Activity survey would be a symbol of the unity of LABMT.
4. The office must be fixed at single place.

Argentina and Uruguay already have National Registries that work with BMDW and WMDA. But most countries do not. One of the first activities of the LABMT would be to perform a survey of transplant activity in all Latin American countries. The transplant centers would be numbered at WBMT and recognized worldwide. The LABMT would have a voice at the WBMT and would be able to organize workshops in collaboration with the WHO. No other society but WBMT is covering transplant activities worldwide and helping to deal with local problems.

The Latin American group should discuss the goals of their group and define how to work together to achieve this goal. The LABMT should have standards for BMT in the region to improve quality. The mission of WBMT is to promote excellence in SCT, stem cell donation, cellular therapy and accreditation through collaboration of existing international societies. Therefore, WBMT would collaborate with LABMT.

LABMT objectives must be simple, not to compete with any national organization. LABMT should serve as a bridge between the different countries within Latin America regions.

Many participants shared their concern with the proliferation of private cord blood banks and emphasized the importance of establishing standards. This is certainly one of the major tasks of the LABMT and WBMT to help to develop or adapt such standards.

The LABMT should also organize a Latin American meeting to discuss specific local issues. All transplant centers should be invited. Each of the countries has different situations but it would be very good to have a face to face

debate. Dr. Niederwieser suggested us to download the form to report transplantation activities and report activities to WBMT to be part of the manuscript that will be released early.

Dr. Niederwieser would like help to identify physicians involved in BMT in the different countries. It was suggested to WBMT to contact the countries and ask which societies are active and who is responsible in the country. The group should also remember Brazilian SBTMO, the HSCT Committee of the Hematology Society in Argentina, Fabiola, Sergio Murillo from Peru, Dr. Cavalo from Chile. Nobody on the call knew of transplant activities in Costa Rica, Bolivia or Colombia. In the former, the Ministry of Health has prohibited a private initiative to perform transplants stating that it would not be safe yet in the country. One could start contacting the BMT centers listed at CIBMTR and everyone who was present at the first meeting in Rio.

One opportunity to meet in person would be the next meeting of the Brazilian BMT society that will happen in Ribeirão Preto (São Paulo state) August 5-8, 2012. Before that, it would be good to have a virtual meeting. Nobody will attend EBMT meeting in Geneva but some will be at the Tandem Meeting next week, so everyone attending the meeting is invited to take part at the WBMT meeting on Saturday February 4, 16:30 AM – 17:30 PM at Ford A – Manchester Grand Hyatt and a face to face LABMT meeting .

For this next virtual meeting (through “Illuminate” system), all participants are kindly asked to send names and e-mail of the people who should be invited to participate.

It was suggested to have another virtual meeting before the group would work on having a President, Secretary and Treasurer, that will be necessary to organize the LA BMT Meeting.

Dr. Luc Noel, from WHO in Geneva, joined the meeting and reported the enormous WHO interest in LABMT, starting how important it would be to have a professional harmonization in the region, a community of common thinking and ethics. The regional WHO office was present on the TC and is happy to help.

The telephone conference closed at 18.40 Berlin time. It was proposed to meet during the CIBMTR/ASBMT meeting in San Diego and if possible during the EBMT meeting in Geneva.

Adriana Seber

Paula Watry

Hildegard Greinix

Dietger Niederwieser

Members, which could not join the TC:

Brazil: Luis Fernando Bouzas; Marcelo Pasquini; Ricardo Pasquini (BMT Unit – Curitiba);  
Tania Beume (REDOME); Virginia Pires (REDOME); Alexandre Almada (REDOME);  
Walter Zoss (INCA-RINC/UNASUL); Dr. Mair Pedro de Souza;

Argentina: present

Venezuela: Sandra Gonzalez; Francisco Ramírez Osío; Marcos Hernandez Jimenez

Uruguay: present

Panama: Ernesto Fanilla

Paraguay: Fabiola Estigarribia; Romi Alcaraz

Peru: Sergio Murillo Vizcarra

Chile: CCarvalho