



**MEETING OF THE SOUTH AMERICAN STEM CELL
TRANSPLANTATION GROUPS/CENTERS**
August 13th, 2011 - Saturday, 2:30 - 4:00 PM
XV SBTMO Congress - Windsor Barra Hotel - Orient's Room
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Dietger Niederwieser welcomed the participants and thanked Dr. Bouzas for having made this meeting possible within the annual meeting of the Brazilian Society of Stem Cell Transplantation in Rio. The meeting started with each participant presenting himself/herself.

Marcelo Pasquini made a brief introduction to the subject of the meeting mentioning the need of an Latin/American Society for Stem Cell Transplantation.

Walter Zoss, representing RINC/UNASUL (Rede de Institutos Nacionais de Cancer - Cancer National Institutes Network from South America), made a presentation explaining what is "RINC" (more information in this link <http://bit.ly/nehlt8> - in Portuguese).

Dietger Niederwieser presented the spirit and the work of the WBMT, saying that only "international associations/society" can participate in the board of the WBMT and not one singular country. Since many international societies (18 see www.wbmt.org) are already represented in the WBMT (but not South America) this meeting was planned with the help of the World Health Organization (WHO). Ministries of Health of South American countries were invited by the WBMT to send their representatives to Rio.

Marcelo Pasquini explained the reasons to create a Latin America society of bone marrow transplantation.

Victor Morales, from Argentina, expressed a doubt that was readily answered: there is no overlapping among the works of WBMT, WMDA and CIBMTR.

Luis Fernando Bouzas talked about a group of bone marrow donor registries of MERCOSUL, in which he represents Brazil. However, it was made clear that a society is not only a registry, but should have an active part in planning, in interacting with national authorities and politicians and finally in counseling considering the global

effort of stem cell transplantation. The final aim is to support excellence in an expensive but curative treatment without alternatives. It was also mentioned that the WBMT will organize a first meeting in Vietnam in cooperation with the WHO to support SCT and awareness for SCT in countries with low or no activity (see program on www.wbmt.org).

One of the goals of the WBMT is to provide an annual survey on stem cell transplantation activities in order to help underdeveloped countries or country without activity (see Gratwohl et al, JAMA 2010 and a further manuscript is in preparation). This annual survey is collecting the activity without outcome data. For the moment the focus is on numbers of transplant per team/country/disease/source.

Ricardo Pasquini, from Curitiba/Brazil, pointed out that this kind of association must have two directions.

Milka Bengochea, from Uruguay, expressed some doubts about government participation in this matter.

Marcelo Pasquini said to the group that the WBMT is happy to help in setting up such a society, but would not take an active part. This help includes preparation of bylaws for the society, which should have a board composed of all national societies or national colleges. This board should then elect the executive officers. But also other structures are possible and the decision should come from the group and not from the WBMT. The WBMT can help to start this activity by organizing meetings and teleconferences.

Luis Fernando Bouzas showed that it is a necessity that each country chooses a representative to this new group and that this person does not need to be from the government.

Luis Fernando Bouzas remembered how important it is the participation of all countries for the success of this group.

One of the representatives from Venezuela asked what would be the first step to create this organization.

Dietger Niederwieser explained that the first step is to organize a way to communicate, which is functioning quite well in the WBMT on a global level. Dietger Niederwieser and Marcelo Pasquini offered to organize such a TC (possibly through skype) and to accompany such a process at the beginning.

Luis Fernando Bouzas suggested that the SBMTO (Brazilian Society of Bone Marrow Transplantation) sends a letter to each one with a suggestion of form to be completed by each country and sent to the WBMT with its data. Besides that, he suggested that bylaws should be made to this Latin association.

Dietger Niederwieser asked the group, if they feel the need of such a society and all the participants (Argentina, Venezuela, Uruguay, Panama, Brazil) were in favor for such a society. A further question was raised on the name of such international society. The discussion focused on two possibilities: South America (SABMT) and Latin America Blood and Marrow Transplantation Group (LABMT).

The participants voted for "Latino America Bone Marrow Transplantation-LABMT".

Luis Fernando Bouzas said that he would be in charge of creating a logo for the group and organizing an executive board. He also remembered that in case a country has an hematology society, it could help with a BMT section. This would avoid any governmental involvement in this matter.

To finish the meeting of the LABMT foundation, Dietger Niederwieser asked for a photo of all the group and Luis Fernando Bouzas thanked the presence of everybody. The TC will be organized in November after the Hanoi meeting (please look at your skype account).

Dietger Niederwieser

Marcelo Pasquini

Luis Fernando Bouzas

Tania Pimenta

