



ISBT Statement on the 36th International Congress of the ISBT, June 6 – 10, 2020, Barcelona

Thursday March 19, 2020

ISBT is aware that our members, corporate partners, potential delegates and exhibitors are keen to know whether the 36th International congress of the ISBT will go ahead in Barcelona, Spain in June.

In response to the global SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19 outbreak, ISBT has followed its congress risk management policy which has involved discussions with MCI, our core Professional Congress Organiser, the Spanish Blood Transfusion Society's local organising committee, our corporate partners and experts in virology. On March 13, the ISBT Executive Committee held a phone meeting to discuss the rapidly changing situation. This resulted in a recommendation to the ISBT Board, which held an extra phone meeting this week. The Board recognised that the congress is an important opportunity for ISBT members to share knowledge to enhance transfusion science and practice and wants to give transfusion medicine professionals the opportunity to do this.

The primary concern of the ISBT Board however in relation to the Barcelona congress is the safety of its members, congress delegates and exhibitors. Following careful deliberations and extensive discussion on various options presented, the unanimous decision of the Board was that the 36th International congress of the ISBT in Barcelona should be postponed. We are happy to announce that we have been able to secure new dates at the same venue. The congress will now take place in Barcelona December 12 – 16, 2020.

MCI and ISBT will be contacting speakers, corporate partners, exhibitors and delegates in due course about new arrangements. All accepted abstracts will be transferred to the December congress. Please note that the congress website will not be accessible on March 19 due to updating.

We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause you but look forward to your continuing support and we very much hope that we will see you in Barcelona in December.

Yours sincerely,

Martin L. Olsson
ISBT President

José Manuel Cardenas
Congress President and
President of SETS

Judith Chapman
ISBT Executive Director