



Transfusion Seminar, Pirogov Center, Moscow, Russia

May 18–20, 2011

Eugene Zhiburt, Moscow, Russia

The Russian National Medical Surgical Center was named in honor of the famous surgeon Nicolay Pirogov (1810 – 1881). Nicolay Pirogov was named in honor of St. Nicholas. The Russian Orthodox Church has two days of St. Nicholas: in May and in December.

On the eve of these holidays, we held two scientific sessions including workshops on transfusion medicine to discuss new developments and advances, technologies and documents.

Four years ago the Russian Federal Service on Surveillance in Healthcare registered medical technology for plasma virus inactivation with methylene blue. After four years evaluation due to absence of adverse events and good clinical results in May 2011 the Federal Service has given the permission for permanent use of the technology.

Interesting news is that Russia became the second (after South Africa) country in the world where haemoglobin-based oxygen carrier Hemopure is registered for clinical use. During the seminar Dr Colin MacKenzie from Baltimore, gave a very interesting presentation on the USA experience of using Hemopure, an artificial oxygenator.

The seminar was supported by ISBT and we had speakers from five countries: Belarus, France, Russia, USA and UK.

The most questions were after the lecture “Application of Quality System Principles” given by Alan Slopecki, Head of Quality Assurance, NHS Blood and Transplant (England). The special position of quality manager only emerges in post-USSR countries. Alan Slopecki generously shared the experience to separate two key roles: The Operations and Quality Managers.

The Operations Manager works to specification and identifies errors.

The Quality Manager:

- Ensures processes are validated and followed;
- Audits to confirm their effectiveness;
- Ensures that adverse events are learnt from;
- Can stop unsafe procedures and initiate a recall;
- Agree concessions with Clinical colleagues to release valuable components which don't meet specification.

Quality management:

- Keeps an overview of the performance of the system and suppliers through real time analysis of data and audit;
- Ensures that validation of procedures and supplies is completed before they are placed into use;
- Insists on realistic timescales for effective corrective and preventative action which address the root cause of human error;
- Act as the bridge between the organisation and regulators during inspections, good way of benchmarking your performance;
- Ensures the QMS is effective.

All colleagues are kindly invited to join blood transfusion workshop in Moscow in December (14-16) 2011 and in May 2012. Our winter workshop will probably be devoted to blood service and transfusion medicine in emergencies.