



**T-REC annual meeting and conference parallel session – Le Meridien Hotel, Mauritius
3rd-6th June 2012**



Daniel Ansong, the DPDM coordinator for Ghana, presenting at the T-REC Parallel Session

The T-REC Consortium held its annual meeting at the 6th Annual AfSBT International Congress in Mauritius in June 2012. All members of the consortium were present including colleagues from: National Blood Service Ghana, National Blood Service Zimbabwe, African Society for Blood Transfusion, University of Groningen, University of Copenhagen and the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine. We discussed progress to date, our goals and the different ways in which we could monitor capacity building activities.

T-REC consortium members were active at the International Congress with a range of presentations including poster presentations, a plenary session about the DPDM, and a parallel session to introduce and discuss T-REC activities with other delegates.

At the parallel session, T-REC consortium members presented work taking place in Ghana and Zimbabwe and discussed different priorities for the future of blood transfusion research in sub-Saharan Africa. “We are trying to develop a more questioning culture,” said Justina Ansah, Director of the National Blood Service in Ghana. T-REC presented information and progress with the DPDM, student bursaries and PhD projects, all of which are integral parts of T-REC’s work.

David Mvere – Director of the National Blood Service, Zimbabwe - referred to a workshop in Kenya in 2008 where researchers identified the lack of blood transfusion research taking place within Africa. “Because of the Mombasa workshop, we were able to guide the PhD students on what the research priorities are,” he said.

Each of the PhD students presented their research project to the audience and took questions.

- Tonderai Mapako’s research topic is ‘Risk modeling in blood safety in Zimbabwe’.
- Nyasha Mafirakureva’s research topic is ‘Health economics and safety of blood and blood products in Zimbabwe’.
- Frances Sarkodie’s research topic is ‘Syphilis testing and its cross reactions in Ghanaian blood donors’.
- Lucy Asamoah-Akuoko’s research topic is ‘Evolving appropriate strategies to encourage repeat donations among first-time voluntary and replacement donors in Ghana’.

To find out more about each of the students and their research projects please visit their [profile pages](#) and watch them on a short YouTube film.

The T-REC consortium evolved from the specific need for more research about blood transfusion to take place within Africa. While the project is currently restricted to two countries – Ghana and Zimbabwe – other African researchers might also be keen to deepen research efforts on blood transfusion.

T-REC is currently exploring how to develop a network of African researchers interested in blood transfusion. To find out the level of interest, the audience was split into three groups to discuss questions:

- What should the network do?
- Who should be involved in the network?
- How should the network operate?

A synopsis about this session will be available shortly and an email will be sent to everyone who expressed an interest.

If you would like to be part of this future network and help shape its direction, please contact: trec@liverpool.ac.uk