30 years International IPFA Workshops on Blood-borne Infections

What is in a name: International Workshop on ….

- Nucleid Acid Amplification Assays and Plasma Products (1994)
- *[Quality and Safety of Plasma Products (1995, 1998, 1999, 2000)]*
- Nucleid Acid Amplification Tests for the Detection of Blood Borne Viruses (1996, 1997, 1999, 2001, 2002)
- *[International Plasma Derivatives Congress (2001)]*
- Surveillance and Screening of Blood-borne Pathogens

  (2004, 2007, 2008, 2009 and the following years)
- NAT Workshop on Surveillance and Screening of Blood-borne Pathogens (2006)

In collaboration with …

- **National Institute for Biological Standards and Control**
  (1994, 1996, 1997, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002)

- *[European Association of the Plasma Products Industry]*
  (1995, 1998, 1999)
- *[PPTA Europe]*
  (2000, 2001, 2002)

- **Paul Ehrlich Institute**
  (2004 and the following years) → 20th anniversary

What was the purpose of the meeting?

- Create an expert scientific forum
  to predict and consider known and unknown risks

- Have we been successful?

Blood borne infections

- HIV
- HBV
- HBV mutants
- Occult HBV
- HCV
- HAV
- Parvovirus B19
- Chikungunya
- Human TSEs
- vCJD
- Q-fever
- West Nile virus
- Chagas Disease
- Plasmodium
- Zika
- Leishmania
- CMV
- Tick Borne Encephalitis
- Bacteria
- Dengue
- Babesia
- SARS-Cov-2
- Monkeypox
- HTLV
- Usutu
- Syphilis
- Ebola
- XMRV
- HEV

First objective was screening and testing

Serology and/ or NAT ?

Conclusion in 1994:

NAT is very interesting technology, but it can never be used for routine blood safety testing

Subjects on the programmes

- Validation
- Standardisation
- Proficiency
- Application
- Risk/benefit analyses
- Cost/benefit analysis
- Assessment of validation studies
- Regulatory environment
- Political environment
- Epidemiology
- Global safety
- Pathogen inactivation
- Climate change
- ……..

Speakers

- Nobel Prize winner (Harvey Alter)
- Nobel Prize winner Kerry Mullis invited , who he declined
- Ministers of Health and other important officials
- Mike Busch, who has been here for ever

Some special events

- Finland (1994): date needed to be postponed because of meeting Reagan and Gorbatsjov in same hotel
- Bethesda (2005): in collaboration with FDA
- Krakow (2009): visit to salt mine
- Ireland (2011): Vulcano eruption in Iceland, Obama and the UK Queen in town, printer stolen in the hotel.
- Many discussions on vCJD

Thanks to

- All members of the Programme Committee
- Supporting help of Mariska , Linda, Sophie and Giulia

Special big thank to

- Bob Perry
- Mike Buscn
- Supporting industry
- and all the delegates who gave such loyal support for many years !

Finally

For IPFA and for its staff,

it was an absolute joy and pride to have been able to organise these meetings

and hopefully make a small contribution to transfusion safety !