

PRESS RELEASE

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ICCBBA, World Body for Blood, Tissue and Cellular Therapy Identification Presents Inaugural "One World Award" to Dr. Charles Munk

June 9, 2009, REDLANDS, CA and NICE, FRANCE — Honoring original research and innovative technical development for the advancement of global information standards in transfusion and transplantation medicine, ICCBBA has presented Dr. Charles Munk with its inaugural One World Award.

The One World Award recognizes international efforts to standardize information management for blood, tissue and cellular therapies. The presentation by Dr. Jørgen Georgsen, Chairman of the Board of Directors of ICCBBA, took place at a meeting of the ICCBBA Middle East and Europe Technical Advisory Group in Nice, France on May 15, 2009.

"My mission with ISBT, as the former chairman of what is today known as the Working Party on Information Technology, was to establish a framework [for] emerging technologies as well as the norms and standards necessary for information capture activities," stated Dr. Munk, a distinguished Information Engineer and PhD who works at the Service Régional Vaudois de Transfusion Sanguine CRS, Blutspendedienst Bern, Switzerland.

Among Dr. Munk's contributions, three important task forces were created with the aim of providing the transfusion medicine community with formulative guidelines. These included a Validation task force (which he chaired), an Information Security task force (which he co-chaired) and an RFID task force.

The validation guidelines developed by Dr. Munk are recognized worldwide and have been introduced in his homeland as part of the Swiss national transfusion medicine directives. In addition, Dr. Munk led the implementation of the ISBT 128 Standard in Switzerland, which has been used nationwide since 2003. ISBT 128 is a global standard for blood, tissue and cellular therapy information transfer.

"Dr. Charles Munk is the honorary recipient of the inaugural One World Award," announced ICCBBA Executive Director Paul Ashford, "for his vision in recognizing the need to improve standards for blood transfusion information technology and for his enthusiasm and determination to achieve a well structured framework on which future generations of technology developers and transfusion specialists can build."

The One World Award and a financial honorarium were bestowed by ICCBBA, formerly the International Council for Commonality in Blood Bank Automation. In further recognition of the honor, Dr. Munk will present an award lecture at a major scientific congress during 2010.

ICCBBA is headquartered in Redlands, CA, USA and can be found online at <http://www.iccbba.org> .

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