

EBA Benchmarking Workshop
Innovation without Compromise
21-22 October 2026
Cardiff, Wales

Venue: Clayton Hotel, Cardiff
Room: Meeting Room 7

Day 1 – Wednesday, 21 October

Moderator:

- | | |
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| 09:00 | Registration |
| 09:10 | Meet in Reception for Optional Blood Bank Tour (meet in Hotel Foyer) |
| 09:20 | Travel to Blood Establishment from Hotel (Bus provided) |
| 10:00 | Blood Establishment tour including:
Welcome
Donor Contact Centre
Platelet Apheresis Clinic
Manufacturing, Testing & Distribution Laboratories |
| 11:30 | Travel to Hotel from Blood Establishment (Bus provided) |
| 12:15 | LUNCH |
| 13:15 | Welcome
Ed Gibbons, Co-Chair for EBA Benchmarking Group |
| 13:20 | Opening remarks EBA
TBD |
| 13:30 | Welcome from Hosts
Georgia Stephens/Eleri Schiavone |

- 13:50 Improvement vs Innovation**
Prof Chris Brown
- 14:10 Session 1: Innovative approaches to donor engagement and specific donor populations**
Wales - Genetic Haemochromatosis (video)
Elisabeth Davies
EFS Youth and Diversity Strategy
Marjolaine Jacques, Head of European Affairs, French Blood Establishment
- 14:50 COFFEE BREAK and group photo**
- 15:20 Group Discussions**
- i. What lessons can be applied to your organisation?
 - ii. How can we measure impact across the EBA?
- 16:20 Day one Wrap up and Evening Tour/Dinner Logistics**
- 16:45 Close of day 1**
- 17:30 Meet in Hotel Foyer**
Cardiff Castle Tour and Dinner

Day 2 – Thursday 22 October

- 09:00 Recap & Plan for the Day**
Ed Gibbons, Co-Chair EBA Benchmarking WG
- 09:05 2025-26 EBA Benchmarking Scorecard**
Ed Gibbons, Co-Chair EBA Benchmarking WG
- 10:05 Group Feedback**
- i. What are your key insights from this year's Benchmarking Report?
 - ii. What report improvements do you propose?
 - iii. What should be in the benchmarking work plan for 2027?
- 10:50 COFFEE BREAK**
- 11:20 Session 2: Using innovation to optimise blood component management and supply**
The application of machine learning tools in platelet management
Liam Morgan, Senior Scientist, Irish Blood Transfusion Services, Ireland

Practical examples of how to prevent or reduce plasma loss
Dr Matthias Johnsen, Regional Production Manager, German Red Cross Blood Donation Service North-East

12:20 Group Discussions

- i. What lessons can be applied to your organisation?
- ii. What can the Benchmarking group do to support?

13:00 LUNCH

**14:00 Session 3: Strengthening blood supply resilience through innovation
Germany - Targeted NAT screening of Blood Donors after travel to
virus endemic areas**

Prof Michael Schmidt, Head of Blood Donor Screening Laboratories

**A digital tool for travel-related arbovirus deferrals in Sweden:
resekarens.se”**

Anna Wieberg. Specialist in Clinical Immunology and Transfusion
Medicine, Sahlgrenska University Hospital, Gothenburg, Sweden

15:00 COFFEE BREAK

15:30 Group Discussions

- i. What lessons can be applied to your organisation?
- ii. How do we measure resilience in the supply chain?

16:00 Group Feedback

- i. What are the key insights from this year’s conference?

16:30 Wrap-up & Close day 2

Jarkko Ihalainen, Co-Chair EBA Benchmarking WG

17:00 Departure safe travel home