

Prof. Cees Th. SMIT SIBINGA
MD, PhD, FRCP Edin, FRCPATH

Cees Th. Smit Sibinga is a University of Groningen graduate, clinical haematologist and specialist of Transfusion Medicine. He is special professor of International Development of Transfusion Medicine at the University Medical Centre Groningen and University of Groningen. He has been involved in the development of Transfusion Medicine and quality systems and management for economically restricted (poor economics) countries since 1980 through his work with the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Federation of Haemophilia (WFH) and the International Consortium for Blood Safety (ICBS).

Cees Th. Smit Sibinga is the former Medical Director and founder of the Dutch Regional Blood Bank in Groningen (1976, northern part of the Netherlands), IQM Consulting for International Development of Quality Management in Transfusion Medicine (2001), the Dutch Sanquin Consulting Services and the Academic Institute for International Development of Transfusion Medicine in Groningen (2001), and the AABB Consulting Services Division, Bethesda, MD, USA (2002), all non-for-profit.

For 28 years he has served as the Managing Director of Sanquin Division Blood Bank Noord Nederland in Groningen, the Netherlands (1976-2004).

Since 1993 his Blood Bank did incorporate the WHO Collaborating Centre for Blood Transfusion and the WFH International Hemophilia Training Centre (cryoprecipitate) in Groningen. In 2001 the Blood Bank became the first Collaborating Centre of the International Consortium for Blood Safety (ICBS). When he left in 2004, these functions were no longer continued.

Quality Management –

Cees Th. Smit Sibinga is the Founder of the Dutch Blood Bank Inspection and Accreditation Programme and Haemovigilance System. His blood bank was the first non-American civilian blood centre accredited by the AABB in 1981. Since then he served the AABB Inspection/Audit and Accreditation program as a lead inspector/auditor till 2004.

He also is the founder and was the first Director (2001-2004) and Manager Operations (2001-2010) of the Consulting Services* of the Sanquin Blood Supply Foundation and of the Academic Institute for International Development of Transfusion Medicine (IDTM)** at the University of Groningen (2001-2010) in the Netherlands.

He served (2000-2004) as the regional coordinator to the global WHO Quality Management Training Project for the Europe Region. In addition, Cees Smit Sibinga has also been the first Vice President and Director of the AABB Consulting Services Division (2001-2004) *providing quality and process improvement solutions to Transfusion Medicine and related biological therapies worldwide*. From 2004 till 2011 he served the AABB Consulting Services Division as the Senior Medical Advisor.

* created in 2001 and ISO 9001:2000 certified in December 2004

** created in 2001, registered under Dutch law as a Foundation in 2004 and ISO 9001:2000 certified in June 2007. These were not continued after he left in 2010



Science and Education –

Cees Th. Smit Sibinga has organized 28 well reputed international symposia on Transfusion Medicine in Groningen, published over 380 peer reviewed scientific articles and chapters in books, and edited over 45 books. He published and presented countless scientific abstracts for posters and orals at numerous international professional congresses and meetings.

Cees Th. Smit Sibinga has guided 12 PhD fellows during their scientific research track at the University of Groningen (Netherlands) and in collaboration with Makerere University (Kampala, Uganda), University of Amsterdam, Leiden, and Utrecht (Netherlands), Lille (France), Astana (Kazakhstan).

He was the chairman of the organizing committee of the 1986 12th International Scientific Meeting of the Society for Low Temperature Biology in Groningen, the 1990 3rd WAA congress and vice-chairman of the 1994 International Congress of ISBT in Amsterdam.

Cees Th. Smit Sibinga has served ISBT in numerous working parties and committees (e.g., Socio-economic, Education, Publications, Clinical Transfusion, Global Blood Safety, etc.) and served as the Editor-in-Chief of Transfusion Today from 1992 till 2004.

Cees Th. Smit Sibinga is the founder of the European Society for Haemapheresis (EFSH, 1980) and a co-founder of the World Apheresis Association (WAA, 1984) and served both organizations as a President.

Cees Th. Smit Sibinga is the founder of the Academic Institute for International Development of Transfusion Medicine (IDTM, 2001) at UMCG and University of Groningen, Groningen focused on restricted economy (poor economics) countries. This WHO initiated unique institute did provide a post-academic Master course (e-learning) in Management of Transfusion Medicine (MMTM) which is currently run by the Graduate School of Medical Sciences (GSMS) at the University of Groningen.

Cees Th. Smit Sibinga has been recognized and honoured as an *honorary member* of the Brazilian, Dutch, Hellenic, Hungarian and Indian Societies for Blood Transfusion and Immunohaematology.

In 2001 he received the AABB Joel Solomon Memorial Award for Quality Management in Transfusion Medicine and in 2019 the AABB President's Award for Education in Transfusion Medicine focused on the developing part of the world.

In 2018 the City, Province and University of Groningen, the Netherlands recognized and acknowledged his international post-graduate education efforts at academic level to develop Transfusion Medicine through 28 annual thematic International Symposia with the second prestigious 'Groningen Congress Medal'.

He was honoured to present the annual Mayo Clinic lecture (1994, Rochester, MN); Leela Moolgaokar Memorial lecture (1997, New Delhi, India);


Tibor Greenwalt lecture (2002; Hoxworth Blood Center, Cincinnati, OH);

Claes Högman Memorial Lecture (2007; Uppsala, Sweden);

Harvard Medical School JPTM Grand Rounds invited Lecturer (2010, Boston, MA).

Honorary Member of the Senior Academy Society (SAS), Groningen, NL (2021).

Cees Th. Smit Sibinga is an expert (professor at the University of Groningen) in international development of Transfusion Medicine, involving all aspects of the management and operations of blood supply and clinical use systems at national level, including governance and legislative/regulatory frameworks, leadership development, and professional development (education). He has dedicated his entire profes-



sional life to the development of sustainable and safe blood supply and transfusion systems at national level all over the world and documented his experiences in the international peer reviewed literature.

Cees Th. Smit Sibinga is a long-term member of WHO Expert Advisory Panel on Blood Transfusion Medicine (since 1994).

His special knowledge and skills in Transfusion Medicine are - executive management, governance and legislative/regulatory frameworks; quality system management; institutional organization (blood supply systems); clinical use of blood; education (teaching and training at all levels) in transfusion medicine; design of quality and quality management systems; audit and inspection of quality and quality management systems in blood transfusion including ISO 9001.

International Consulting –

Since 1980 he has been increasingly involved in international short term consulting missions and medium and long term projects focused on the development of Transfusion Medicine in economically restricted (poor economics) countries in South-East Asia, Eastern Europe, Central Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, Western Pacific and the Eastern Mediterranean and Middle East. Many of these missions and projects were undertaken and completed on behalf of WHO and/or on a specific request of country Ministries of Health. The focus has been largely on advice and guidance in the creation of vein-to-vein sustainable and safe national blood transfusion systems – legislative/regulatory frameworks, governance and leadership through tailor-made education, quality system management and rational clinical use including patient blood management and haemovigilance.

The most recent experiences (2004 – 2021)

- ADB – WCHD Component 3 on Blood Safety (Uzbekistan >4 years);
- ADB – FHSDP Component 1 Blood Safety (Mongolia 4 years);
- EU – IPA project Croatia (8 months);
- EU PHARE – Blood Safety project Romania (Quality Management, 1 year);
- EU Twinning Light – Blood Safety project Cyprus (6 months);
- EU/Expertise France – ‘Mendami’ Project to strengthen the blood transfusion system in Libya (12 months ongoing, expert advisor);
- GFATM/WHO – Blood Safety project Cambodia (clinical use, 1 year);
- GIZ – Safe Blood Project Pakistan (>4 years);
- UNFPA/EMRO – Operational Plan for National Blood Bank Mogadishu, Somalia;
- US HSS/CDC PEPFAR – AIHA project CAR (5 years);
- US HHS/CDC PEPFAR – Blood Safety track (Uganda and Zambia, >5 years);
- WB – Blood Safety project Georgia (4 months);
- WB – Blood Safety project Kazakhstan (28 months);
- WB – Blood Safety project Bangladesh (assessment, 6 months);
- WHO-EMRO – Availability and Safety of Blood Transfusion: a Strategy and Framework for Action for the Eastern Mediterranean Region 2016-2025. Primary Technical Advisor (10 years). Missions took place in Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Libya (virtual), Pakistan, Somalia (virtual), Syria and Yemen;
- WHO-EMRO/EU – Blood Safety project Iraq (1 year, on hold);
- WHO-EMRO GFATM – Blood Safety project Sudan (Quality Management, 1 year);
- WHO-EURO/EU – IPA project Montenegro (2 years).



Running activities

- WHO-EMRO – Availability and Safety of Blood Transfusion: a Strategy and Framework for Action for the Eastern Mediterranean Region 2016-2025. Primary Technical Advisor (10 years);
- EU/Expertise France – ‘Mendami’ Project to strengthen the blood transfusion system in Libya (12 months, expert advisor);
- UNFPA/EMRO – Operational Plan for National Blood Bank Mogadishu, Somalia.
- WHO HQ Geneva – Guidance document on Ensuring sufficient supplies of safe blood and components during emergency situations (1 year).

Languages

Fluent in Dutch, English, German. Conversant in French.

Biodata –

Born

- 17-06-1939, Makassar, Indonesia


Marital status


- married, 4 children, 8 grandchildren, 1 grand grandchild

Education

- 1965, MD at University of Groningen, NL
- 1971, Internist/Clinical Haematologist, University Medical Centre, Groningen
- 1972, PhD University of Groningen
- 1992, FRCP Transfusion Medicine, Edinburgh, Scotland
- 1995, FRCPath Transfusion Medicine, London, UK

Professional functions (current) –Transfusion and Immunohematology

- WHO, member Expert Committee on Blood Transfusion
 - Editor in Chief, International Journal for Clinical Transfusion Medicine
 - Editor in Chief, International Journal for Blood Transfusion and Immunohaematology
 - Chairman Publications Ethics Committee, Edorium Journals
 - Vice-president Transfusion Medicine Foundation (1996-ongoing)
 - Chairman Subcommittee 1 on Education, AABB Global Transfusion Forum (GTF)
 - Member ISBT Working Party on Clinical Use of Blood
 - Member ISBT Working Party on Global Blood Safety
 - President 2014-2017 and 2021-2023 RI RAG on Blood Donation, a ‘Global Network for Blood Donation’
 - Vice-President 2018-2021 RI RAG on Blood Donation
 - International Rotary Fellowship of Healthcare Professionals, Member Steering Cttee
 - AABB Global Standards Committee, expert member
 - Member of the former ‘Collegie der Heeren Seventien’ (National Congress Bureau Advisory Board, Amsterdam, NL)
 - Past Chairman ‘Ubbo Emmius Collegie’ (Advisory Board Groningen Congress Bureau)
 - Past Chairman Jubilee Committee ‘250 years De Groote Sociëteit, 1765-2015’, Groningen, NL
 - Past Chairman Presidium Senior Academy Society (SAS), University of Groningen, NL
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- Honorary Member of the Senior Academy Society (SAS), Groningen, NL (2021)
 - WHO HQ – Chairman Working Group Guidance document on Ensuring sufficient supplies of safe blood and components during emergency situations.

Social functions (current) –

- Chairman National Polio Committee, 7 Dutch Rotary Districts (2008-ongoing)
- TRF officer RC Groningen-West, Zuidhorn, NL (1988-Ongoing)
- Chairman RI D1590 International Service Committee (2018-ongoing)
- Multiple (6) Paul Harris Fellow Rotary International
- Member RI Paul Harris Society
- Secretary Foundation Community Service, RC Groningen-West, Zuidhorn, NL
- Member Excursion Committee De Groote Sociëteit, Groningen, NL
- Member of Merit, De Groote Sociëteit, Groningen, NL (2016)

December 2021 - Zuidhorn, NL