

Gordon Signy Fellowship Report

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Institution : Sanquin Blood Bank (Amsterdam), UMCG (Groningen)
Supervisors : Martin Smid, Stephen Peuchen
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Field of interest : Blood Bank

It was an excellent opportunity to have a training in Sanquin Blood Bank in Amsterdam. Sanquin is the example of centralization concept of blood establishment, which is very different with the concept of blood establishment in my country. In Sanquin, I learnt about overall management with the CEO, production and donor affairs, supply chain management, transfusion medicine and donor medicine, quality assurance and quality control, also quick overview about finance and human resources department.

I had a good time in the National Screening Laboratory of Sanquin (NSS) which is a very productive, sophisticated laboratory with high throughput automated instruments and large number of samples from all collecting sites in the Netherlands. In the Netherlands, they perform more blood screening tests (hepatitis B, hepatitis C, hepatitis E, HIV) with both ELISA and NAT method. They also perform testing for parvovirus B-19, West Nile virus, and syphilis antibody so there is no doubt that blood safety in the Netherlands is one of the best in the world. Benefit of centralized testing concept like NSS is saving in human resources, test utilization, and reduction of number of laboratory devices.

With the manager of supply chain management, I learnt that forecasting is the key. Forecasting must be made by a multidisciplinary team from donor collection center, transfusion medicine doctors, communication department, etc. In the Netherlands, donors come by invitation. Donors who come without appointment are not always allowed to donate. The reason is to be always in control and in blood inventory, stock surplus is not always good.

In QA/QC department, I learnt that in EU, there is a Directive 62/2005 that regulates quality system for blood establishment. Blood products must have high standards of quality and

safety. These high standards can only be achieved by applying the principles of good manufacturing practices (GMP) during the collection, testing, storage, and distribution. In the Direction, every blood center must have a Responsible Person (RP) that is in charge to make decision related to blood quality. In QC laboratory, they performed QC for blood bags, QC for blood products, and bacterial screening test for platelet concentrate. The QC laboratory uses hematology analyzer and flowcytometer for cell analysis and leukocyte count.

I got a new insight from Sanquin that I may perform in my blood bank, that is the use of ferritin screening protocol to improve donor's health, since anemia is one of the health concern in my country.

My supervisor helped me a lot during my stay in the Netherlands since the very beginning. His position is Managing Director in Sanquin. He connected me with all the department managers in Sanquin. All the people there were incredible to me and very resourceful to help me improve my blood bank service in Indonesia. My supervisor also asked me to join his class in leadership. He said that as a middle manager, I have to be able to position myself well and have a tough mentality. He also said about the importance of having trusted friends and mentors who can see the blind spots in us, so that we become alert and improve ourselves continuously.

The two months training were really valuable not only for my professional career but also for my personal life. I have learned many things from the Netherlands and from Sanquin, but in applying them to Indonesia, I have to adapt them to the context because the two countries have geographical, cultural, and resource differences.

I would like to thank the World Pathology Foundation for supporting me in this training. I was supposed to have this training in 2019 but because of the pandemic, the Trustee was still giving me the opportunity in this year (2022). I hope there will be more pathologists around the world, especially from low and middle income countries, who have the opportunity to get a training in developed countries and to get many new insights to be applied in their own situation. I also thank my supervisors and staffs at Sanquin and UMCG for being very helpful during my stay.



With dr. Martin W Smid, my supervisor. He was welcoming me in Forum Groningen where we took a photograph with the iconic Martini Tower.



In the National Screening Laboratory of Sanquin (NSS), with Marco Koppelman, Head of NSS, and other staffs.