



Introduction and Overview of the ISTH Regional Training Centers Program

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1. ABOUT ISTH

1.1. About ISTH

The International Society on Thrombosis and Haemostasis (ISTH) was founded in 1969 through the efforts of the members of the International Committee on Thrombosis and Haemostasis (ICTH) to advance the understanding, prevention, diagnosis and treatments for thrombotic and bleeding disorders.

Today, ISTH is a leading medical/scientific organization with over 3,800 members in more than 90 countries around the world. Its mission remains the advancing the understanding, prevention, diagnosis and treatment of thrombotic and bleeding disorders. The Society is dedicated to transformative scientific discoveries and clinical practices, the development of young professionals and the education of physicians, scientists and allied health professionals wherever they may live.

Among its highly regarded activities and initiatives that foster the Society's mission are education and standardization programs, research activities, meetings and conferences, peer-reviewed publications and expert committees.

For more information, please visit www.isth.org

2. REGIONAL TRAINING CENTER PROGRAM

2.1. Introduction

In support of its mission, the ISTH works to foster the exchange of knowledge and education across international borders. Under the leadership of the Education Committee, the Society has established several programs to strengthen the collaboration between institutions and to advance science, education and patient care.

The ISTH Regional Training Center (RTC) Program focuses on building knowledge capacity in under-resourced regions of the world, which the ISTH designates as Reach the World, ([countries classified by the World Bank as low-income, lower-middle-income, or upper-middle-income](#)) by supporting long term partnerships and collaborations as well as knowledge exchange between emerging and mentoring centers. At the core of the program are the partnerships between emerging centers in developing countries and mentor centers in the developed world. The program starts with and is centered around fellowships which are combined and further supported with additional ISTH Reach-the-World (RtW) programs so that the Society's outreach will support and strengthen the professional capacity more broadly in the fellows' home centers.

Applications are welcome from past RtW fellows and home institutions from developing countries that demonstrate a specific need or desire to build professional capacity, clearly formulated objectives and planned educational activities that support the achievement of long-lasting impact for the center and will benefit the patients and region.

In particular, ISTH is interested in helping to create and support partnerships and collaborations that will build knowledge capacity ultimately resulting in the establishment of self-sustaining scientific and educational efforts as well as the creation of regional training centers

2.2. Objectives

The program aims to provide training opportunities on an individual level but also improve the level of knowledge, capability and education on an institutional level which then will more broadly benefit a wider professional and patient community in a certain city, region or even country by building educational and professional capacity.

A true partnership between centers requires long-term and structured/formal collaboration based on personal relationships and institutional support. The collaboration is achieved through the sharing of best practice, exchanging knowledge and participating in joint projects, all supported by various ISTH education programs.

As the emerging center moves through the program, the collaboration with the mentor center will build the area of expertise for the emerging center to support new regional fellows.

Partnerships should improve the level of training for the emerging centers. Emerging centers should use the ISTH Clinical Core Curriculum to help determine needed areas of improvement. The ISTH Curriculum was created to provide a framework for specialists in the field of thrombosis and hemostasis and will provide guidance for new fellows' training. All proposed initiatives should correspond to enhancing competency levels in a subspecialty of the curriculum.

2.3. Types of Centers

The RTC program focuses on hemophilia and/or thrombosis treatment centers that see both adult and adolescent patients and their families dealing with hemophilia, von Willebrand Disease, and other hemorrhagic conditions or centers that diagnose and treat thrombotic disorders.

The RTC partnerships must consist of one internationally recognized treatment center and one emerging treatment center in the developing world.

2.4. Target Regions

South and Latin America, Central and South-East Asia, Eastern Europe, Middle East/North Africa – countries that fall in the category of ISTH's Reach-the-World programs. Reach the World [countries are classified by the World Bank as low-income, lower-middle-income, or upper-middle-income.](#)

If a partnership does not already exist in a region, ISTH will give priority to large institutions in heavily populated urban areas with clearly identified need. Applications will need to show numbers of patients treated and levels of incidence for patients with bleeding and clotting disorders on an annual basis to have maximum impact.

3. CENTER PARTNERSHIPS/MENTORSHIPS

RTC Partnerships must focus on sustainability and capacity-building. The goal of the partnership is for the mentor center to actively assist the emerging center to improve the level of knowledge and ultimately treatment. Emerging centers should never become dependent on the mentor center.

3.1. Program Levels

Centers that would like to form partnerships with the objective of sharing knowledge and building capacity can apply. Having an individual complete the Reach the World Fellowship program is a prerequisite for application as an Emerging center. Any ISTH Reach the World member who has successfully completed an RtW Fellowship in the past 5 years is eligible to apply for their home institution to enter the RTC program.

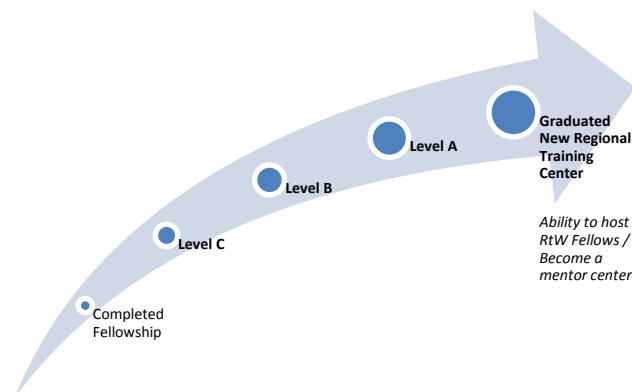
An application must be submitted by the Emerging center along with the Fellow together with an identified internationally recognized thrombosis and/or hemostasis training center or an established RTC acting as the Mentor center. Applications must identify the initiatives planned by the partnerships over the first two years and also those competencies to will be improved, based on the ISTH Core Curriculum.

It is envisaged that the regional training center (RTC) program will complete a 6-year collaborative relationship between the emerging center and the mentor center. Centers will continue to be able to take part in ISTH programs and benefit from ISTH resources as long as there is clear demonstration of progress towards the defined objectives. Further information on programs and support are detailed in section 4.

Centers accepted into the RTC will enter the program at Level C partnership and have access to funding for additional fellowships, travel grants to the annual ISTH meeting and additional grants to allow senior leaders to travel to each other's centers.

Each level requires at least two years of collaboration, progress and advancement before the next level may be reached. Emerging and Mentor Centers will be required to submit yearly

progress reports to document ongoing activities and programs. Those partnerships that meet the required milestones will be eligible to progress to the next level. Additional programs and increased financial support will be available at higher levels.



3.2. Progress Reports

As emerging centers move through the RTC program, yearly progress reports will be reviewed for completion of RtW activities and objective that were identified and agreed at entry to the program, as well as demonstration of progress and advancement. Activities such as collaborative projects, completed fellowships, number of travel grants and quality of interactions between the mentor and emerging centers will be evaluated as to their impact on the stated objectives. Centers that have achieved their objectives will advance to the next level of support.

Centers that do not show the required level of progression in the first year of each level will be contacted by the ISTH and may benefit from limited administrative assistance planning and executing projects towards the established goals.

3.3. Progressing through Program

To advance to the next level of the program, there are certain minimum requirements that must be met depending on the level. For Level C, the emerging center must have one person participate in the RtW fellowship program, submit an abstract to attend the annual ISTH meeting and have a leader from each center visit their partner center. Centers in the second year of the each level will be required to submit an application to advance to the next level. The application must detail new activities and planned education course(s), fellowships or visiting professorships for the next RTC level and how they relate to the overall objectives. An ad-hoc subcommittee of the ISTH Education

Committee will review all advancement applications each October with decisions communicated to the partners each November.

3.4. Failure to Progress

Centers that do not score highly on their progress reports can request an additional 2-year period in their current program level. All requests for additional time will require supporting letters by the head of the department citing reasons for the lack of progress and detailing the renewed commitment to the program.

No center may spend more than 4 years in any level or a total of more than 10 years in the program.

Centers that fail to advance through the levels will be retired and all recognition of being in the RTC program must be removed from the ISTH website and from all center materials.

3.5. Graduating Program

An emerging center that has successfully completed the 6-year program will be classified by the ISTH as a “Regional Training Center”. The RTC should then act as a mentor center for a new emerging center in the country/region. Centers will be reviewed by the ISTH Education Committee for RTC status every 5 years after completion.

As part of the graduation process, the RTC is expected to indicate their level of training in subspecialties in alignment with the ISTH Clinical Core Curriculum. RTC centers will be listed on the ISTH website for potential future RtW and RTC program applicants.

4. ISTH FINANCIAL SUPPORT AND PROGRAMS

ISTH is committed to providing support to contribute to the success of the RTC program.

Base level funding, as well as funding for RtW activities, will increase as the emerging center progresses through the program.

Support over 2 year period	Level C	Level B	Level A
Project Administrative Support	5,000 USD	5,000 USD	7,500 USD
Education Course Support (up to)	n/a	10,000 USD	10,000 USD
RTW Fellowships (up to)	10,000 USD	10,000 USD	10,000 USD
Travel Grants (up to)	1,500 USD	3,000 USD	4,500 USD
Visiting Professorships (up to)	5,000 USD	5,000 USD	10,000 USD
Total support per center- 2years	21,500 USD	33,000 USD	42,000 USD

The budgeted amount for each center and level/period cannot be exceeded. Funding for the administrative support will be provided as a grant based on a detailed request. Funding for all other initiatives will be handled directly with the individual either through reimbursement or dictated by RtW program requirements. Further descriptions of the types of support are below:

Administrative Support

Project financial support is intended to be used towards the administrative costs of maintaining a connection between mentor and emerging centers. Financial support may be used for tele/videoconferencing between centers but may not be used for materials such as medical supplies,

laboratory equipment and reagents in the Emerging center required for routine clinical care. Financial support may be used to cover once-off shipping costs of specific supplies from the mentor center.

Reach the World Fellowships

RTC partnerships will be given priority review for funding of new RtW fellowship(s) in any 2-year period but these will be based on competitive applications. Fellowship applications must follow all requirements detailed on the [ISTH website](#). RtW fellowship applications should select the mentor center as the first choice for additional training, but may apply to another center although the reasons for this will have to be provided.

Travel Grants

Funding for Reach the World travel grants to the annual ISTH meeting will be based on submission (and acceptance) of abstracts to the meeting. Abstract submissions must indicate request for RtW support as a participating RTC. RTC partnerships will be given priority review but grants will be given based on competitive abstract review. Further details may be found on the specific ISTH meeting website.

Visiting Professorships

Additional funding of up to USD 5,000 may be provided for a senior representative (Visiting Professorship) of the emerging center to visit the mentor center and/or the liaison of the mentor center to visit the emerging center. Support is based on economy class travel to allow for more than one visit. Housing and accommodation for senior representatives should be covered by the emerging/mentor center as hosts.

Rolling Over of Funds

ISTH funding for programs is available for the two-year period ending at the calendar year. Funds not used in this period will not be carried over to the next level of the program. Centers that progress to a higher level will have access to the resources of the new funding level on January 1.

Additional Funding Sources

The RTC program provides funding for core ISTH activities as educational grants and cannot be used as service grants (i.e., support for institutional or individual research). The funds are not intended to be spent on medical equipment or supplies. The partnership centers are encouraged to identify and secure additional funding from inside or outside the center.

5. APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Previous Reach the World Fellows and their home institutions can submit an application for the RTC program. Applications must be accompanied by support letters from the Dean of the University or Hospital Director. It is anticipated that an experienced health professional in the discipline of thrombosis and hemostasis will ultimately act as RTC liaison for their respective center and communicate with their counterpart. Previous experience with the ISTH would be beneficial but is not a requirement.

All applications must be submitted by the published deadline with the aim to start the RTC program at the beginning of the next calendar year. Applications will be assessed in part by information provided in the completed application form (attached). Members of the ISTH Education and Outreach Committee may be consulted for advice on completing the RTC application but this does not guarantee commitment from ISTH. All applications will go through official review and competitive selection process.

5.1. Application Timeline

Applications will be available online through the ISTH website and inquiries can be sent to ISTH HQ throughout the year.

Application deadline is September 1.

The Education Committee will review the applications over a 6-week period during which additional information may be requested from the centers. Applicants will be notified with a final decision in November.

5.2. Financial Aspects

The ISTH will provide levels of support and funding over three distinct two-year terms. Each RTC partnership, in their application, is required to indicate which ISTH support they intend to use, the planned month to begin each activity and estimated costs involved.

5.3. Requirements for Applications

Eligibility

- Successful participation in the Reach the World fellowship program
- The emerging center must be located in a Reach the World country, based on classification by the World Bank as Upper-Middle income or below.
- The mentor center must be an internationally recognized T&H center or current RTC
- Both centers must indicate (by official letter from Dean of the University or Hospital Director) a willingness to devote time and resources to the project and development of the RTC beyond the support of ISTH

Selection

Applications will be selected based on the following criteria:

- A demonstrated need to enhance the training level of the emerging center
- Identification of training areas to be improved based on the ISTH Clinical Core Curriculum
- Clarification of reasons that the emerging center would like to become a RTC – i.e. perceived benefits to healthcare in the community and region
- Written approval of the director of thrombosis and/or hemostasis (as applicable) at both centers
- Demonstration of successful past collaborations between the emerging and mentor centers
- Existence of clearly identified necessary infrastructure and capacity for conducting clinical research at the emerging center
- Past organization of an appropriate Education course, with or without the support of ISTH

6. CONTACT

Please submit your completed application to the Mr. Cary Clark at the ISTH Office. He may also assist with for any inquiries and clarifications.

Cary Clark

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