

Apr 11, 2024

Distinguished guests,

Good morning,

On behalf of the National Public Health Organization and its President, Professor Christos Hatzichristodoulou, it is an honour to address this esteemed gathering at the International Haemovigilance Network Symposium. This event brings together experts, researchers, and practitioners from around the world to discuss critical issues related to haemovigilance.

Haemovigilance plays a pivotal role in ensuring the safety and quality of blood and blood products. As we convene here in the historic city of Athens, Greece, we recognize the significance of our collective efforts in safeguarding the health and well-being of patients who rely on transfusions.

Allow me to highlight a few key points:

Collaboration: Haemovigilance is a collaborative endeavour that transcends borders. The NPHO acts as a bridge between various stakeholders, including healthcare institutions, blood banks, regulatory bodies, and international organizations. By sharing knowledge, best practices, and experiences, we strengthen our ability to detect, prevent, and manage adverse events associated with blood transfusions.

Data and Surveillance: Robust data collection and surveillance systems are the backbone of haemovigilance. Our ability to identify trends, assess risks, and implement targeted interventions relies on accurate and timely reporting. Let us continue to invest in these systems to enhance patient safety.

Education and Training: Continuous education and training are essential for all stakeholders involved in the transfusion process. From healthcare professionals to blood bank staff, we must stay updated on the latest advancements and guidelines. Let us foster a culture of learning and improvement.

Patient-Centered Approach: At the heart of haemovigilance lies the patient. Every decision we make, every protocol we develop, should prioritize patient safety and well-being. Let us never lose sight of the lives we impact through our work.

Global Solidarity: Haemovigilance knows no boundaries. As we face emerging challenges such as new pathogens, changing demographics, and technological advancements, let us stand united in our commitment to advancing haemovigilance worldwide.

In conclusion, I extend my gratitude to the International Haemovigilance Network for organizing this symposium. Let us engage in meaningful discussions, forge new collaborations, and inspire each other to elevate haemovigilance to greater heights.

Thank you, and may our collective efforts continue to save lives.