

Report on the EHC Women and Bleeding Disorders Committee

Strategic Retreat

October 26-27, 2024
EHC office, Brussels, Belgium

The EHC Women and Bleeding Disorders (WBD) Committee held a strategic retreat on October 26-27, 2024, at the EHC office in Brussels, Belgium, to reevaluate the Committee's mission and direction, reassess the current needs and priorities for women with bleeding disorders, and establish a roadmap for future activities. This two-day meeting brought together eight members of the WBD Committee, incl. one member from the EHC Steering Committee and one EHC staff representative.

On the first day, Anna Tollwé (Swedish NMO) was reelected to complete the remainder of her three-year term, ensuring continuity in leadership and ongoing contributions to the Committee's initiatives.

The Committee reviewed previous priorities, reaffirming its focus on improving general knowledge of women with bleeding disorders within the bleeding disorders community, improving access to treatment and diagnosis, and highlighting the connection between bleeding disorders and infertility/fertility. Following this evaluation, members brainstormed activities for 2025, identifying specific areas to target in the coming year. Key topics included fertility, early diagnosis, and the increasing importance of addressing menopause and ageing.

The Committee also reviewed its original mission, assessing whether it aligns with current priorities in light of the evolving landscape of women's health needs. This mission review led to discussions about possible modifications, reflecting the Committee's commitment to providing comprehensive, inclusive support to women affected by bleeding disorders.

The day concluded with the Committee reviewing the 2017 EHC survey on women with bleeding disorders, [published](#) in 2019, to prepare for a similar survey in 2025. This updated survey will help the Committee compare findings, assess evolving needs, and guide future actions based on recent trends.

The second day centred around a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) analysis to gain insight into the internal and external factors affecting the Committee's work. This analysis helped clarify areas where the Committee could leverage its strengths, address weaknesses, and identify opportunities to increase visibility and advocacy for women's issues within the bleeding disorders community. Based on the findings from the SWOT analysis, the Committee defined actionable steps to expand partnerships, enhance awareness, and strengthen educational initiatives around women's health.

The retreat concluded with a wrap-up session where participants summarized their key takeaways and outlined the next steps. Moving forward, the Committee identified several priority areas for 2025, including updating survey data to understand women's evolving needs, implementing strategies to raise awareness of women's issues within the bleeding disorders community, and expanding initiatives focused on early diagnosis and the impacts of ageing and menopause.

Overall, this retreat provided the WBD Committee with a valuable opportunity to revisit its mission, set clear goals, and strengthen its strategic focus. Through research, advocacy, and community engagement, the Committee aims to enhance the quality of care and support for women with bleeding disorders within the EHC community.