

Contents

President's news

ANZSBT Annual Scientific Meeting

Blood 2018 key information and dates
Blood 2018 international keynote
speakers

South East Asia/Pacific Travel Awards for 2018

Education Standing Committee news

Transfusion Science Committee news

Clinical Practice Improvement Committee news

Executive Committee of the ANZBT Research Fund news

Transfusion Professionals Network news

ANZSBT Guidelines

Guidelines for the Administration of Blood
Products, 3rd edition January 2018

ISBT affiliate membership

Awards and Grants recipients

Interview with 2017 ANZSBT Life
Membership recipient a/Prof Merrole
Cole-Sinclair – an excerpt

Published literature from ANZSBT members

President's news

Wow, how time flies! We are well and truly into the year and I'd like to welcome you to our inaugural 2018 ANZSBT newsletter, which has been kindly produced by the Education Standing Committee. It has been a pretty busy year for ANZSBT with the release of the Guidelines for the Administration of Blood Products 2018, and Guidance documents for pre-transfusion testing in patient's receiving daratumumab.

I'd specifically like to thank Sandy Minck and her team for all their hard work keeping us up to date through the website and Twitter with what's happening within the ANZSBT and further afield in transfusion medicine. I would personally like to apologise to all members for our recent website issues and thank you for your patience whilst we are updating the website.

In this newsletter you will be able to find information regarding Blood 2018, updates from the standing committees, and an excerpt from an interview with new life member recipient Dr Merrole Cole-Sinclair, as well as recent published literature by our members.

I'd like to thank our members for their ongoing support of the Society and those involved with the standing committees for their valuable contributions.

I look forward to seeing you in Brisbane for Blood 2018.

Gemma Crighton, President

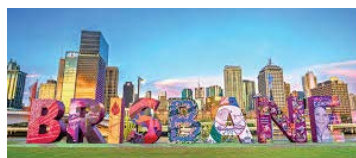
Blood 2018

Registration and Abstract submission now open

Blood 2018 is the combined Annual Scientific Meeting of the:
Haematology Society of Australia and New Zealand,
Australian and New Zealand Society of Blood Transfusion and
Thrombosis and Haemostasis society of Australia and New Zealand

Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre,
21–24 October, 2018
<http://www.blood2018.com>

Key dates:



10 April – Call for abstracts open
10 April – Registrations open
28 June – Call for abstracts close
6 Sept – Earlybird registrations closes



Blood 2018 International keynote speakers

Brian Custer, Professor, Department of Laboratory Medicine, University of California, USA.

Masja de Haas, Laboratory Director, Department of Immunohematology Diagnostic Services, Sanquin Blood Supply, The Netherlands.

Harvey Klein, Chief, Department of Transfusion Medicine, NIH Clinical Center, USA.

Thierry Peyrard, Director, National Immunohematology Reference Laboratory, National Institute of Blood Transfusion, Paris, France.

Lise Estcourt, Consultant Haematologist for NHS Blood and Transplant, and Senior Clinical Lecturer in Transfusion Medicine, Oxford, UK.

South East Asia/Pacific Travel Awards for 2018

These awards are to assist a person from a resource poor country in the South East Asia region or the Pacific Island nations to attend the HSAZ/ANZSBT/THANZ Annual Scientific Meeting – [Blood 2108](#). They are co-sponsored by the International Society of Blood Transfusion. This award is open to any person who is actively working in any area of blood transfusion (medical, scientific, nursing, administration) who resides in the South East Asia region or the Pacific Island nations. It covers conference registration, airfare and accommodation. Award application information can be found in the [Awards & Grants](#) information page.

NOTE: Closing date for applications has been extended to 10 May 2018



2017 South East Asia/Pacific Islands Travel Award recipients:
Nova Hippy – Indonesia and
Bipin Nepal – Nepal
with James Daly (centre).

Education Standing Committee news

The Education Standing Committee is committed to keeping ANZSBT members informed of news, events, people and their activities, & education relevant to transfusion medicine via our website.

We are delighted to bring you this newsletter with updates on all things ANZSBT and transfusion related. This year we have been featuring recipients of our 2017 Awards and Grants. You can find their interviews on our website in the [Featured Recipients](#) section. In this newsletter we present an excerpt from the interview with our 2017 ANZSBT Life Membership recipient a/Prof Merrole Cole-Sinclair.

We would love to hear from our members so we can highlight your work on our website or in our next newsletter. Please contact us at: anzsbt@gmail.com

Sandy Minck, Chair, Education Standing Committee

Transfusion Science Committee news

In 2017 some ANZSBT members and other subject experts were invited by Janssen to set up a small working party to develop a statement or guideline on the management of Daratumumab interference in pretransfusion laboratory testing.

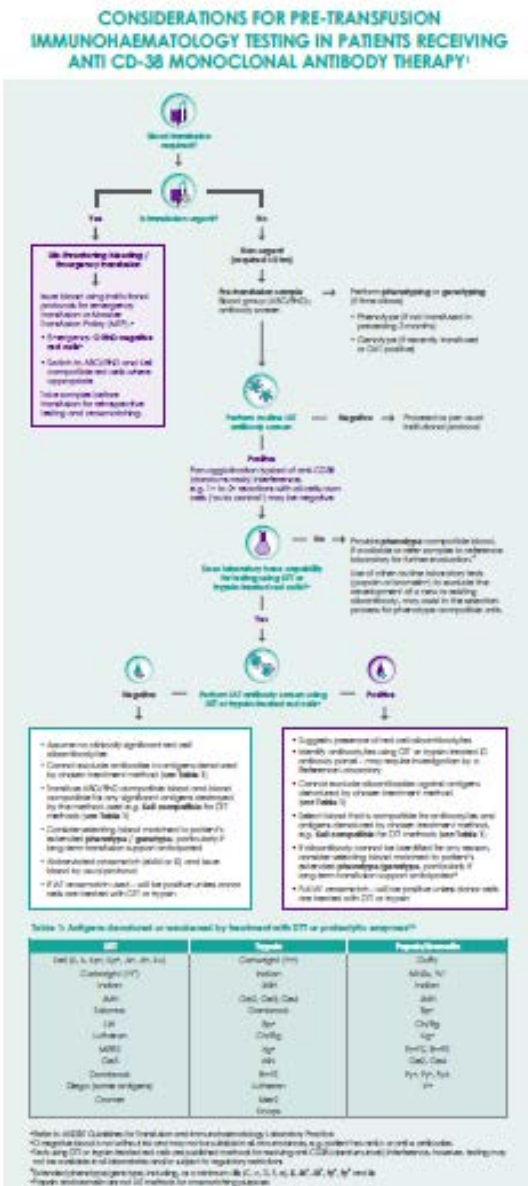
A position paper was produced which summarises daratumumab's effects on pre-transfusion immunohaematology testing and its impact on clinical practice. It makes practical recommendations based on a consensus from medical and scientific transfusion experts and myeloma specialists on behalf of the Australian and New Zealand Society of Blood Transfusion and Myeloma Scientific Advisory Group to Myeloma Australia, respectively. This was subsequently published in the Internal Medicine Journal, Royal Australasian College of Physicians in February 2018.

The link to the position paper has been added to the ANZSBT website, as a position and consensus statement:



Considerations for pre-transfusion immunohaematology testing in patients receiving the anti-CD38 monoclonal antibody daratumumab for the treatment of multiple myeloma.

A flowchart is now also available for download.



Currently the TSC members are preparing for our upcoming face to face meeting in May 2018 in which we will finalise the feedback received from the Guidelines for Transfusion and Immunohaematology Laboratory Practice, 1st edition 2016. Also on the agenda is to revise the dated Guidelines for Laboratory Assessment of Feto-maternal Haemorrhage, 1st edition 2002.

Nicole Zacher, Acting Chair, Transfusion Science Committee

Clinical Practice Improvement Committee news

By now members will have read the ANZSBT Guidelines for the Administration of Blood Products 2nd Edition, which has been the major focus of work over the last few years. It was a major effort and our thanks go out once again to the Committee members who invested their time to bring it all together, in particular the outgoing chair Marija Borosak. The Committee has had an injection of new blood and prepared for feedback on the updated guidelines. That we haven't been bowled over is testament to the careful thought and preparation of the published document.

The Committee has not been idle though. Meeting monthly, the group has been considering ways in which we may share the vast experiences of clinical practice improvement within the membership, both in transfusion and patient blood management. We would love to hear your thoughts and experiences. Please feel free to drop me an email or contact any one of the Committee's members.

Philip Crispin, Chair Clinical Practice Improvement Committee

[Standing Committee Membership October 2017 – October 2019](#) can be found on our website.

Executive Committee of the ANZBT Research Fund news

The Executive Committee of the ANZBT Research Fund met last week and our funding recommendations will be submitted to the full Council for their ratification in the near future.

The number of applications (16) this year was significantly higher than last year and the topics were very diverse. We were pleased to receive requests from applicants with backgrounds in laboratory research, health services analysis, nursing and clinical medicine. The ANZBT Council has generously provided \$52,500 for grants this year. As is the case with all funding bodies the application requests (over \$380,000) far exceeds this and I want to reassure those applicants who do not get funded that their projects may be excellent but our limited funding makes hard decisions necessary.

The Executive Committee of the ANZBT Research Fund has five members: Prof. Wendy Erber, A/Prof. Erica Wood, Dr Catherine Hyland, Prof. Paul Monagle and A/Prof John Carter. Prof. Doug Joshua has retired from the committee after many years of excellent service. His deep knowledge and incisive reasoning were very valuable in assessing research applications. I am very grateful for the significant amount of time and expertise that these members contribute to carefully triaging the applications and making the difficult decisions in awarding the grants.

John Carter, Chair, Executive Committee of the ANZBT Research Fund

Transfusion Professionals Network news

The TPN have been busy as usual. Our Autumn newsletter is available on the ANZSBT website and provides updates on what's happening around Australia and New Zealand. It also contains information about the NSQHS Standards, 2nd Edition; PBM Collaborative resources; Age of Blood; and items from the Australian Red Cross Blood Service and BloodSafe

eLearning Australia. You can find it on the Transfusion Professionals Network webpage.

Angie Monk, Chair, Transfusion Professionals Network

ANZSBT Guidelines

Guidelines for the Administration of Blood Products, 3rd edition January 2018

The Guidelines for the Administration of Blood Products, 3rd Edition, 2018 have just been released. These guidelines were developed by the Clinical Practice Improvement Committee (CPIC) of the ANZSBT. ANZSBT is pleased to recognise its continuing partnership with the Australian College of Nursing (ACN) by once again co-branding these guidelines with the College.

ANZSBT thanks the general membership for participation in review of this guideline and are confident that this updated guideline will once again prove to be extremely valuable to Australasian laboratories

The document has been published and is available to [download](#).

ISBT affiliate membership

Recently, ANZSBT has become an Affiliate Member of the International Society of Blood Transfusion (ISBT).

An important benefit of ISBT Affiliate Membership is that members have access to a suite of material on the ISBT's educational platform, the Academy ePortal. On the ePortal, you will find an international guideline library, an educational eBook and webcasts from various ISBT congresses. The Affiliate Suite presents useful basic knowledge on a wide range of topics related to transfusion medicine.

Members can find instructions on how to access the affiliate suite in the member's area of the website: <https://www.ansbt.org.au/pages/isbt-academy-eportal.html>

2017 ANZSBT Life Membership recipient

A/Prof. Merrole Cole-Sinclair BSc(Hons) MBBS FRACP FRCPA FFSc(RCPA)

Below is an excerpt from an interview with Dr Cole-Sinclair. The full interview is available on our website.



Dr Cole-Sinclair is an Australian trained clinical and laboratory haematologist, currently Head, Laboratory Haematology, and Chair of the Transfusion Committee at St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne; with an honorary appointment in the Department of Pathology at the University of Melbourne.

Dr Cole-Sinclair majored in Immunology and Pathology and achieved RACP and RCPA Fellowships in Haematology. She has worked as a clinical research fellow and in clinical haematology and pathology hospital positions; and has held many memberships, positions, roles and responsibilities with the RCPA, RACP and various transfusion-related organisations.

Dr Cole-Sinclair's initial exposure to transfusion was during her immunology studies where transfusion serology was used as a practical demonstration of antigen/antibody interaction and detection; her own specimen was deemed 'interesting' and taken away for further analysis! During her resident years she realised that transfusion, although considered by some to be a routine ancillary supportive therapy, was unique, important, widely used and not without major risk. Having to investigate and manage an ABO incompatible transfusion reaction as a laboratory registrar made a significant and lasting impression, as did the somewhat stressful overnight manual cross-matching that was the responsibility of haematology trainees in many hospitals in those years.

"All of us in the business of providing blood and transfusion advice should use every opportunity to educate staff, patients, carers etc about the importance of safe transfusion practice across the entire transfusion chain and the positive aspects of blood donation for the good of the whole community."

"While national guidelines for transfusion and patient blood management support the current quite appropriate paradigm of good practice and avoidance of transfusion wherever possible, we sometimes need to remind ourselves of the significant benefits of transfusion and ensure that patients who would benefit and should be transfused actually receive this therapy."

Highlights of Dr Cole-Sinclair's career include the privilege and at times challenges of direct patient care; the opportunity to work with multidisciplinary teams to achieve improvements for patient care and safety; and education, training, curricula development and assessment of health professionals in Haematology and transfusion (both clinical and laboratory). Involvement in the TORC collaboration has been very gratifying due to the "expanding and high quality contributions to the evidence-base of transfusion practice."

Dr Cole-Sinclair highlights contributions to the improvements in transfusion medicine but states that "equity of access to safe transfusion on a global scale.... still requires a huge amount to be achieved."

Published literature from our members

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Flores C, Thomson A, Hong F, Spigiel T, Minck S, Saxon B. [Implementing routine ferritin screening for iron deficiency in pregnancy using clinical practice improvement tools](#). (2018), Pathology; 50:S108 - S109. doi:10.1016/j.pathol.2017.12.307

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Apologies to any member whose publication we may
have missed.

Feel free to email us your articles at anzsbt@gmail.com
for inclusion on our website and/or in our next
newsletter.