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### SAVE THE DATE

Blood 2019



20-23 October 2019

Perth Convention & Exhibition Centre.

ISBT Regional Congress

16-19 November 2021

ANZSBT to host in Brisbane Australia

### PRESIDENT'S NEWS

Blood transfusion can be a life-saving medical treatment and is considered standard of care in the treatment of many medical conditions. Each day the blood services of Australia and New Zealand issue an amazing 2,000 red cells to treat patients.

As a specialist transfusion society we strive to provide independent expertise in transfusion medicine, promote best practice in clinical and laboratory transfusion medicine, and support transfusion-related education and research.

In order to meet our mission statement and support transfusion research, this year we have increased the Research Fund Grant to \$75,000 to allow greater funding of worthwhile projects.

To support transfusion-education for our members, we will shortly be advertising the ANZSBT Scholarship. The scholarship amount of \$12,500 is to help towards the professional development of scientists, nurses, medical staff students and transfusion practitioners by helping members pursue a course of transfusion-related study or research.

For those who have not seen the news section of the webpage, I can now officially announce that ISBT is coming to Brisbane in 2021, the meeting will be held between the 16th and 19th November. This meeting provides a fantastic opportunity for ANZSBT to showcase the tremendous work that is being done across Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific in transfusion medicine and science.

As a member of our Society, I would like to thank you for your ongoing support and participation of the Society. The Society welcomes input and participation from all its members, so please contact us to see how you may be able to participate, whether through advocacy, education, committee membership, scientific meeting planning, guideline development or other activities.

Gemma Crighton, President

### ANZSBT COUNCIL NOMINATION

Nominations are called to fill ONE vacancy on Council for the term October 2019 to October 2020.

Please note the following important points as stated in the new 2016 Constitution:

1. At least 1 of the Council Members must be a resident of New Zealand
2. There cannot be more than 2 Council Members resident of the same Australian State
3. Proposers and Seconders must be full and financial Ordinary members of the ANZSBT
4. Honorary Life Members are eligible to be nominated as Councillors of the Society

Please also note that because we already have two Councillors from NSW for the 2019 to 2020 term, a nominee from NSW cannot be accepted at this time.

**Nominations are to be received by the ANZSBT Secretariat by COB on 3rd June 2019.**

The nomination form can be found at [2019 ANZSBT nomination form and info](#).

### BLOOD 2019 - CALL FOR ABSTRACTS NOW OPEN

Abstracts may now be submitted for Blood 2019 using the guidelines outlined on the [website](#).

Abstract submission closes on 21 June 2019.



### ANZSBT AND TWITTER

Did you know that [@ANZSBT](#) has over 280 followers? ANZSBT uses Twitter to share information about ANZSBT news and initiatives; and communicate with the broader (international) transfusion community.

And we are not alone. Find out how AABB is striving to expand the transfusion medicine Twitter community by highlighting the latest opinions, research and educational opportunities to help the field advance in the following article:

[From the bench to the field: how Twitter is connecting the blood banking community](#)

### ANZSBT AWARDS AND GRANTS

**Applications are now open for the co-sponsored ISBT Travel Awards to Blood 2019.**

The travel award is to assist a person from a resource poor country in the South East Asia region or the Pacific Island nations to attend Blood 2019, the HSANZ/ANZSBT/THANZ Annual Scientific Meeting. This award is open to any person who is actively working in any area of blood transfusion (medial, scientific, nursing, administration) who resides in the South East Asia region or the Pacific Island nations. The award covers airfare, accommodation and registration costs.

The **closing date for applications is on 4 May 2019**. If you know or have contact with anyone who would be eligible in applying for this grant, it would be much appreciated if you could pass this information on to them.

More information can be found on our [Awards & Grants General Information](#) webpage

An extract of the report from Halimatun Radziah Othman, one of our 2018 South East Asia/Pacific Islands Travel Award recipients, is highlighted on our [Featured Recipients](#) page.

### BLOOD 2018 – INTERNATIONAL KEYNOTE SPEAKER PRESENTATIONS

Blood 2018 included an impressive line-up of international and local speakers, discussing a diverse range of scientific and clinical topics. Members are able to access video recordings of keynote presentations via [ANZSBT Blood 2018 Video Portal](#).

### ANZSBT MEMBERSHIP CHALLENGE

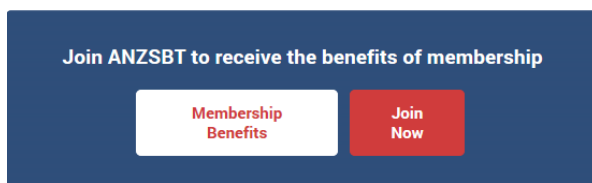
ANZSBT Council invites you to encourage your colleagues to join ANZSBT.

Cut and paste the following and email to a colleague who is not yet a member:

Did you know that it is easier than ever to join ANZSBT?

1. Find 2 current members to propose you (name and email only required).
2. Write a brief 1-2 page CV outlining your experience in transfusion medicine/science and/or immunohaematology.
3. Complete the membership form including payment of [membership fee](#).

Find out more about the [benefits of membership](#).



### National Blood Transfusion Committee (NBTC) Background Paper with Outcomes

ANZSBT members can access the latest NBTC background paper with outcomes from the November 2018 meeting in the Members area of our website [here](#). This report includes the latest updates in Transfusion Practices in Australia.

### ANZSBT STANDING COMMITTEE NEWS

Current members of the Standing Committees are available on our [website](#).

#### Clinical Practice Improvement Committee

The CPIC has finalised the updated Guidelines for the Administration of Blood Products, and these should be released soon, responding to feedback from members on the double independent check. The feedback has highlighted a need amongst Australian and New Zealand clinicians for more specific resources explaining how this might look. Members are working on developing compliant approaches at their own institutions and we're hoping to be able to share some of these in the near future.

In the interim, Bloodsafe e-Learning has put together a video explaining the intent of a double independent check, which can be found here: <https://bloodsafelearning.org.au/resource-centre/videos>.

More broadly, we are also planning to facilitate the sharing of clinical practice improvement projects in transfusion and patient blood management. Currently we are working on the framework, and you shall hear more on this in future.

Jumping straight into this with enthusiasm has been a new member, Alana Delaforce. We welcomed Alana in October and are pleased that she is still able to find time to contribute amongst her schedule. In addition to her role as quality coordinator in transfusion at Brisbane's Mater Hospital, she is also undertaking her PhD examining the barriers and facilitators to implementing PBM.

We are also pleased to welcome Liz Thrift to the Committee representing Council.

Philip Crispin, Chair, Clinical Practice Improvement Committee

### Transfusion Science Standing Committee

The TSSC has continued with monthly teleconference meetings resulting in the revision of the Guidelines for Transfusion and Immunohaematology Laboratory Practice being in its final stages. However, release of the draft NPAAC Requirements for Transfusion Laboratory Practice for consultation will require review for consistency with this standard. Additionally, issues raised by the Australian Red Cross Blood Service and the National Blood Transfusion Committee require further research and will delay the release. The issues have included storage and transport of blood products; storing other products besides blood products in dedicated blood fridges and freezers; and storing plasma derivatives in fridges such as vaccine fridges.

The committee has commenced review of the Guidelines for Laboratory Assessment of Fetomaternal Haemorrhage (FMH). Issues regarding testing methods are being reviewed and clarified, and the committee is consulting with RANZCOG to determine if our recommendations will have any clinical impact on patient care in the community

The Extended Life Plasma (ELP) review will occur after the FMH. The implementation of ISBT labels will be considered as part of this review. The committee is currently seeking clarification from TGA on a number of concerns.

Nicole Zacher, Chair, Transfusion Science Standing Committee

### Executive Committee of the ANZBT Research Fund

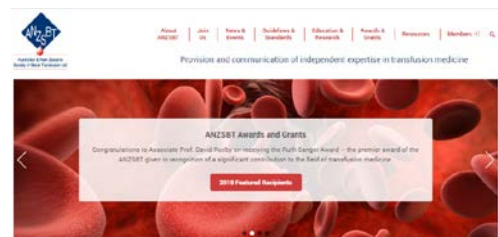
The Research Committee has met to review applications for the 2019 Research Fund and make their recommendations to ANZSBT Council. The successful awardees will be approved at the Council meeting in May, and subsequently notified.

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

### Education Standing Committee

The Education Standing Committee are delighted to welcome a new member - David Peterson. David is Manager of BloodSafe eLearning Australia and has a background as both a Transfusion Medicine Scientist and Transfusion Educator/Manager.

The ESC are pleased with our new website look and feel and will continue to provide updates and monitor usage. In 2018 there were over 16,000 visitors to the website, of whom 17% were returning and 83% new visitors. The majority of users are from Australia (67%), followed by NZ (8.8%) and United States (8.4%). The most visited page is our [ANZSBT Guidelines](#) page.



The ESC is responsible for the content, coordination and editorial review of the ANZSBT newsletter. Past editions are available on the [website](#). We welcome your input and feedback at [anzsbt@anzsbt.org.au](mailto:anzsbt@anzsbt.org.au).

Sandy Minck, Chair, Education Standing Committee

### Transfusion Professionals Network

It was agreed by the ANZSBT committee that the transfusion professional network will have a dedicated day to meet at Blood 2019. This will be the Saturday prior to the conference. A working group has been formed to plan the day. More information will be provided closer to the conference.

Our most recent ANZTPN Newsletter – Autumn 2019 is now available on the website at the bottom of the [Special Interest Group](#) page.

Angie Monk, Chair, Transfusion Professionals Network

### OTHER (NON-ANZSBT) NEWS

#### RCPAQAP Transfusion Discipline News

The Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia Quality Assurance Programs (RCPAQAP) Transfusion has completed another successful year in 2018. Survey summary reports for 2017 for the basic and general transfusion compatibility programs, antibody titration and phenotyping programs were sent out to laboratories. The purpose of these additional reports was to provide peer group comparison to laboratories so that they could review their own individual performance.

The one-day Transfusion Seminar held in 2017 at the Royal College of Pathologists in Sydney was a tremendous success. In 2018, another very successful Transfusion Seminar in Melbourne received extremely positive feedback from attendees. For 2019, RCPAQAP is planning to include a one and half hour symposium at the Blood 2019 meeting in Perth later this year. Planning is in progress and the details of the symposium will be announced in due course.

A survey monkey questionnaire was sent to participants to assess interest in taking part in an ABO titre pilot survey. In 2019, laboratories that have expressed interest will receive pilot survey samples. Transfusion QAP would like to thank the Advisory Committee members and the participating laboratories for their feedback and participation in Transfusion RCPAQAP surveys.

David Roxby, Chair, Transfusion RCPAQAP and Tara Kahlyar, Senior Scientist, Transfusion RCPAQAP

#### 2018 Patient Blood Management International Consensus Conference

The 2018 PBM International Consensus Conference, held in Frankfurt, Germany defined the current status of the PBM evidence base for practice and research purposes. The Scientific Committee established 10 clinical recommendations and 12 research

recommendations for preoperative anaemia, RBC transfusion thresholds for adults, and implementation of PBM programs.

An editorial regarding the importance of patient blood management and the recommendations from the conference were published in the March issue of JAMA.

[Safeguarding the Patient's Own Blood Supply](#)

[Patient Blood Management Recommendations From the 2018 Frankfurt Consensus Conference](#)

#### BloodSafe eLearning Australia

[BloodSafe eLearning Australia](#) has released four new, free-to-access, online courses on iron deficiency anaemia.

- IDA: Essentials – introductory course including prevalence, diagnosis and management;
- IDA: Paediatrics – case-based, application to paediatric practice;
- IDA: Preoperative – case-based, application to a preoperative patient; and
- IDA: Heavy Menstrual Bleeding – case-based, application to chronic blood loss.

Two more case-based courses will be available mid-year: Maternity, and Complex Comorbidities.

#### International Collaboration for Transfusion Medicine Guidelines

The International Collaboration for Transfusion Medicine Guidelines (ICTMG) was established in 2011 with international transfusion experts as members. The goal of the ICTMG is to create and promote evidence-based clinical guidelines to optimise transfusion medicine. Current guideline topics include: Platelet, FNAIT and Hemoglobinopathies. For more information, visit the [ICTMG](#) website.

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B. M. C. Randika Wimalasiri Yapa, Liesel Stassen, Xiaodong Huang, Louise M. Hafner, Wenbiao Hu, Gregor J. Devine, Laith Yakob, Cassie C. Jansen, Helen M. Faddy, Elvina Viennet & Francesca D. Frentiu (2019) [Chikungunya virus in Asia – Pacific: a systematic review.](#) Emerging Microbes & Infections, 8:1, 70-79, DOI: 10.1080/22221751.2018.1559708

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Wood, E. M., Ang, A. L., Bisht, A. , Bolton-Maggs, P. H., Bokhorst, A. G., Flesland, O. , et al. (2019), [International haemovigilance: what have we learned and what do we need to do next?](#). Transfusion Med.

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Apologies to any member whose publication we may have missed.

Feel free to email us your articles at [anzsbt@anzsbt.com](mailto:anzsbt@anzsbt.com) for inclusion in our next newsletter and/or on our website.