

### Contents

President's news

Blood 2019 – conference reflections from our president

Blood 2019 Videos, Posters and Abstracts

ANZSBT 2019 AGM Reports and Papers

Tribute to Harry Kronenberg

Tribute to Tony Greenfield

The International Society of Blood Transfusion (ISBT)

### OTHER (NON-ANZSBT) NEWS

Published literature

### SAVE THE DATE

Blood 2020



15-18 November 2020  
Adelaide Convention Centre.

ISBT Regional Congress  
16-19 November 2021  
ANZSBT to host in Brisbane, Australia

### PRESIDENT'S NEWS

Following another successful conference and AGM we look forward to the new Council term. I feel extremely honoured to be chosen as President by the incoming Council. Thank you to Dr Gemma Crighton for her time on Council and strong stewardship as President for the last two years. I would also like to welcome our new Councillor Dr Anastazia Keegan and look forward to her contribution to Council.

As new President I am mindful of the need for continuity and stability but also looking ahead and ensuring the Society remains responsive to the inevitable changes and challenges in the broader environment within which we operate. Integral to this will be Council and the Standing Committees identifying key strategic and financial goals for the next few years.

Communication is a vital element of the Society's engagement with members and stakeholders but is a two-way process. The website, newsletters and presence at meetings all contribute to the Society's visibility and I would encourage members to engage with us via one or more of these channels and have your say. I realise that although the majority (more than 80%) of our members are from Australia the Society represents the transfusion communities in both Australia and New Zealand. We also have members further afield and in particular the Pacific Islands and South East Asia. I am especially keen to hear from our overseas colleagues and gain insight into your expectations of ANZSBT.

As the year rapidly comes to a close it is worth remembering that transfusion medicine could not exist without the many thousands of blood donors who underpin our work. After recently celebrating its 90th anniversary you will have no doubt noticed that the Australian Red Cross Blood Service has changed name. The organisation is now called Australian Red Cross Lifeblood (or Lifeblood for short). Its new name reflects a service expanding its horizons beyond simply blood donation, as Lifeblood also facilitates the donation of tissue, organs, breastmilk and other life-giving biological products. Congratulations to Lifeblood as it embraces and evolves its new identity. The Society looks forward to our relationship and collaboration continuing for many years to come.

Finally, with the terrible vision of the recent bush fires fresh in mind please ensure you and your family, friends and colleagues stay safe as we head into summer and the holiday season.

Simon Benson, President

### **BLOOD 2019 – CONFERENCE REFLECTIONS**

Thank-you to everyone who presented their work either as a poster or free oral communication. Well done to the [Awards and Grant recipients](#) who we will highlight over the coming months on our website. I would also like to acknowledge the sponsors of our Awards and Grants - we greatly appreciate their valuable support.

A special mention goes to Dr Ian Prosser who gave this year's Ruth Sanger oration "Regulation and blood: an unexpected journey." The accompanying Ruth Sanger award is the highest honour bestowed by the Society and Dr Prosser is a truly worthy recipient, recognised for his significant contribution to the field of transfusion medicine, perhaps most notably in the blood safety and regulatory sphere.

Our other two significant awards are the Peter Schiff Award and the Presidential Symposium Award, presented to Professor Robert Flower and Dr Maria Saito-Benz respectively. Congratulations to Robert and Maria for their well-deserved awards.

Lastly, it is a pleasure to acknowledge Dr Peter Flanagan and Cheryl Kann through the award of Life Membership of the Society.

Simon Benson, President

### **BLOOD 2019 VIDEOS, POSTERS AND ABSTRACTS**

Webcasts of keynote speakers, the Ruth Sanger oration as well as the Presidential symposium presenters can be viewed by members [here...](#)

Posters can be viewed by members [here...](#)

Abstracts be published shortly in the Internal Medicine Journal. Members will be informed when this has been finalised.

### **ANZSBT 2019 AGM REPORTS AND PAPERS**

The ANZSBT President's Report; and the AGM Reports for the Research, Clinical Practice Improvement, Education Standing and Transfusion Science Standing Committees; and the Transfusion Professionals Network are available to members [here...](#)

### **TRIBUTE TO HARRY KRONENBERG**

Harry was regarded as one of the "founding fathers" of modern haematology and blood transfusion in Australia. He was the first appointed Haematologist at the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital and was awarded the Member of the Order in 2001 for the expansion of haematology services at his hospital, for services to transfusion medicine and to the fields of education and professional development.

Harry focussed his interests in blood transfusion in the latter part of his career. In 1980, he became President of the Australasian Society of Blood Transfusion (ASBT), later to become ANZSBT, and remained so until 1982, when he stepped down to be Vice President through 1983. In 1984 he returned to being President and remained so through 1987. He delivered the Ruth Sanger oration in 1996. We remember him for his years of invaluable contribution to haematology and transfusion medicine.

### **TRIBUTE TO TONY GREENFIELD**

It is with deep sadness we note the tragic and untimely death of Tony Greenfield. Tony was Principal Hospital Scientist for Sydney South West Pathology Service, based at Liverpool Hospital. Tony was greatly respected by his colleagues and peers across our broad transfusion community and who all appreciated his calm, courteous manner and deep transfusion knowledge and experience all tempered with a dash of dry humour.

Our thoughts are with Tony's wife and family during this difficult and sorrowful time.

Simon Benson, President

### THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF BLOOD TRANSFUSION (ISBT)

The International Society of Blood Transfusion (ISBT) brings together professionals from around the world to share knowledge and advance transfusion practice.

ANZSBT is an affiliate institutional member of ISBT, which gives ANZSBT members access to selected ISBT educational materials, including presentations from ISBT congresses. You can find instructions on how to access these [here...](#)

You may also be interested in becoming an individual member of ISBT. This gives you the opportunity to:

- get involved in any one of ISBT's 15 working parties, the transfusion practitioner forum, or the young professionals group;
- access the full range of ISBT educational resources;
- participate in webcasts and online journal clubs; and
- secure reduced rates for ISBT congresses.



The 2019 regional congress was held in Bangkok from 16-19 November, and will be followed by the international congress in Barcelona (June 2020), and then regional congresses in Milan (June 2021) and Brisbane (November 2021) – the first ISBT congress in Australia since 1986! So now's the time to get planning to share your work by submitting an abstract to one of the upcoming meetings.

Being a member of ISBT is a wonderful way to advance your education and career, and meet colleagues and make friends all around the world. Membership is not expensive, and there are special rates for medical scientists, transfusion practitioners and the under-35s. See: <http://www.isbtweb.org/my-isbt/join>

Please get in touch with any of us if you have questions about ISBT, or ideas about how you can get involved.

Erica Wood, ISBT President-elect  
 Lin Fung, ISBT Western Pacific regional director  
 Linley Bielby, chair, ISBT transfusion practitioner forum,  
 ISBT working party on clinical transfusion  
 Gemma Crighton, chair, paediatric subgroup, ISBT  
 working parties on clinical transfusion and  
 haemovigilance



### Member report: ISBT 2019 (Basel, Switzerland)

ISBT meetings are a great opportunity to expand your knowledge, and to see the different challenges of transfusion in resource-poor countries compared with Australia and New Zealand. Two highlights from this year's meeting were the:

- Impact of sickle cell disease on patients and transfusion services including the increasing incidence in the developed world due to immigration; best-practice selection of blood to minimise exposure to foreign antigens; and the challenges faced by laboratories and blood services finding blood for the 'untransfusable' patient. It was exciting to hear of future treatments and potential cures such as switching on the HbF gene and how this may be able to compensate for the disease.
- Use of electronic medical records for clinical audits and transfusion exposure using validated, natural language processing tools to search for transfusion-related information, creating an opportunity to use big-data to improve transfusion practice.

David Peterson, Manager, BloodSafe eLearning  
 Australia

### OTHER (NON-ANZSBT) NEWS

#### National Blood Authority receives Silver Award

Australia's National Blood Authority (NBA) has been awarded a Silver Award in the 2019 Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Public Sector Management for its work in developing and implementing Australia's National Immunoglobulin Governance Program.

The NBA was among 46 entrants from Commonwealth, State, Territory and local government departments and agencies across Australia, and one of 22 shortlisted. Six awards were presented at the ceremony. More information on all entrants and the other awards presented can be found [here...](#)

The NBA has ensured uninterrupted supply of immunoglobulin products in Australia since 2004. The continuous and increasing demand for immunoglobulin (Ig) has presented challenges for security of supply and affordability. The innovative approach represents a world-first national program providing clinical treatment for patients using precious, high cost Ig products made from donated blood plasma.

This program has delivered an initial moderation of the rate of demand increase for Ig products from a long term average of 11% per year, to an initially reduced rate in 2018-19 of 7.2%, while maintaining access to Ig therapy within a wide range of chronic and acute immunological, neurological, haematological, transplantation and other clinical contexts.

Extensive information on the National Immunoglobulin Governance Program, and Australia's arrangements for the supply of blood products, can be found on the NBA website at [www.blood.gov.au](http://www.blood.gov.au)

#### Perioperative Medicine Communiqué

Dr Vanessa Beavis, Vice-President, ANZCA and Chair, Perioperative Medicine Steering Committee invites those with an interest in perioperative medicine to review the [November 2019 Perioperative Medicine Communiqué](#).

#### The 4th Perioperative Patient Blood Management Symposium

The Centre for Excellence and Innovation in Anaesthesia (CEIA) would like to invite you to attend the 4th Perioperative Patient Blood Management Symposium. More details [here...](#)

#### RACP Congress 2020

Register now for the RACP Congress 2020 taking place from Monday, 4 May to Wednesday, 6 May 2020 at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre.

RACP Congress 2020 brings together physicians from Australasia to exchange ideas, ask the tough questions, discuss concerns and develop solutions to enhance healthcare for all.

This year's RACP Congress theme is Balancing medical science with humanity. Congress 2020 will explore what it is to be good medical citizens in this rapidly changing world and how retaining humanity and empathy makes physicians and paediatricians better scientists; for their patients and for each other.

Some of the key topics for 2020 include:

- Transitions: exploring the impact of transfers from paediatrics to adult medicine and the responsibility when transitions in care occur
- Emerging role of microbiome: how it influences human health and disease
- Healthy futures / health cities: climate change, digital existence, ageing, complexity, vulnerability and loneliness are new issues to deal with
- Genomics: how the application of this rapidly evolving multidisciplinary field will become increasingly important from both individual disease and the broader societal perspectives

To view the program and to register visit the [Congress website](#).

### **PUBLISHED LITERATURE FROM OUR MEMBERS (July 2019 – December 2019)**

Aubron C, McQuilten Z, Bailey M, Board J, Buhr H, Cartwright B, Dennis M, Hodgson C, Forrest P, McIlroy D, Murphy D, Murray L, Pellegrino V, Pilcher D, Sheldrake J, Tran H, Vallance S, Cooper DJ; endorsed by the International ECMO Network. [Low-dose versus therapeutic anticoagulation in patients on extracorporeal membrane oxygenation: A pilot randomized trial](#). Crit Care Med. 2019 Jul;47(7):e563-e571.

Irving A, Higgins A, Ady B, Bellomo R, Cooper DJ, French C, Gantner D, Harris A, Irving DO, Murray L, Nichol A, Petrie D, McQuilten ZK; on behalf of the Standard Issue Transfusion versus Fresher Red-Cell Use in Intensive Care (TRANSFUSE) Investigators and Australian and New Zealand Intensive Care Society Clinical Trials Group. [Fresh red cells for transfusion in critically ill adults: An economic evaluation of the standard issue transfusion versus fresher red-cell use in intensive care \(TRANSFUSE\) Clinical Trial](#). Crit Care Med. 2019 Jul;47(7):e572-e579.

Wood EM, Ang AL, Bisht A, Bolton-Maggs PH, Bokhorst AG, Flesland O, Land K, Wiersum-Osselton JC, Schipperus MR, Tiberghien P, Whitaker BI. [International haemovigilance: what have we learned and what do we need to do next?](#) Transfus Med. 2019 Aug;29(4):221-230.

Keir AK, New H, Robitaille N, Crighton GL, Wood EM, Stanworth SJ. [Approaches to understanding and interpreting the risks of red blood cell transfusion in neonates](#). Transfus Med. 2019 Aug;29(4):231-238.

Ket SN, Sparrow RL, McQuilten ZK, Tacey M, Gibson PR, Brown GJ, Wood EM. [Clinical coding data algorithm to categorize type of gastrointestinal bleeding as a primary reason for massive transfusion: results from the Australian and New Zealand Massive Transfusion Registry](#). Vox Sang 2019; 6 Sept. doi: 10.1111/vox.12840

Aubron C, Berteau F, Sparrow RL. [Intravenous immunoglobulin for adjunctive treatment of severe infections in ICUs](#). Curr Opin Crit Care. 2019 Oct;25(5):417-422.

Saadah NH, Schipperus MR, Wiersum-Osselton JC, van Kraaij MG, Caram-Deelder C, Beckers EAM, Leyte A, Rondeel JMM, de Vooght KMK, Weerkamp F, Zwaginga JJ, van der Bom JG. [Transition from fresh frozen plasma to solvent/detergent plasma in the Netherlands: comparing clinical use and transfusion reaction risks](#). Haematologica. 2019 Jul 4. pii: haematol.2019.222083. doi: 10.3324/haematol.2019.222083

Yazer, M. H., Delaney, M. , Doughty, H. , Dunbar, N. M., Al-Riyami, A. Z., Triulzi, D. J., Watchko, J. F., Wood, E. M., Yahalom, V. and Emery, S. P. (2019), [It is time to reconsider the risks of transfusing RhD negative females of childbearing potential with RhD positive red blood cells in bleeding emergencies](#). Transfusion. doi:10.1111/trf.15569

Hoad, V. C., Guy, R. J., Seed, C. R. and Harley, R. (2019), [Tattoos, blood-borne viruses and blood donors: a blood donor cohort and risk assessment](#). Vox Sang, 114: 687-693. doi:10.1111/vox.12832

Davison, K. L., Gregoire, Y. , Germain, M. , Custer, B. , O'Brien, S. F., Steele, W. R., Pilonel, J. , Seed, C. R. and , (2019), [Changing the deferral for men who have sex with men – an improved model to estimate HIV residual risk](#). Vox Sang, 114: 666-674. doi:10.1111/vox.12826

Styles, C. E., Hoad, V. C., Kiely, P. , Seed, C. R. and Gosbell, I. B. (2019), [Blood safety assessment of hepatitis A outbreak linked to frozen pomegranate arils: are foodborne outbreaks an emerging blood safety risk?](#). Transfusion. doi:10.1111/trf.15548



Crispin, P. , Sliwinski, K. , Wilson, C. , Lennard, S. ,  
DeSouza, M. and Sethna, F. (2019), [Cold reacting anti-  
M causing delayed hemolytic disease of the newborn.](#)  
Transfusion. doi:10.1111/trf.15578

Crispin, P. (2019), [Effect of anemia on muscle oxygen  
saturation during submaximal exercise.](#) Transfusion.  
doi:10.1111/trf.15588

Hoad, V.C., Styles, C.E., Seed, C.R., Kiely, P. and Gosbell,  
I.B. (2019), [Confirming transfusion-transmitted viral  
infections in the molecular age: time to get back to the  
basic definition of infection for hemovigilance.](#)  
Transfusion. doi:10.1111/trf.15598

O'Brien, S.F., Grégoire, Y., Pillonel, J., Steele, W.R.,  
Custer, B., Davison, K.L., Germain, M., Lewin, A., Seed,  
C.R. and (2019), [HIV residual risk in Canada under a  
three-month deferral for men who have sex with men.](#)  
Vox Sang. doi:10.1111/vox.12867

Gyawali Narayan, Taylor-Robinson Andrew W.,  
Bradbury Richard S., Pederick Wayne, Faddy Helen M.,  
Aaskov John G. [Neglected Australian Arboviruses  
Associated With Undifferentiated Febrile Illnesses.](#)  
Frontiers in Microbiology. 10:2019  
DOI=10.3389/fmicb.2019.02818

Johnson, L., Waters, L., Green, S., Wood, B. and Marks,  
D.C. (2019), [Freezing expired platelets does not  
compromise in vitro quality: An opportunity to  
maximize inventory potential.](#) Transfusion.  
doi:10.1111/trf.15616

Leitch, S. and Charlewood, R. (2019), [Paraprotein  
implicated in hardware failures in nucleic acid testing  
of blood donors.](#) Vox Sang. doi:10.1111/vox.12870

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.