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### President's news

It has been a very long time, but the International Society of Blood Transfusion (ISBT) Congress is finally coming back to Australasia! ANZSBT has been chosen to host the non-European regional congress of the ISBT in 2021. ISBT was last in Australia in 1986, when Sydney hosted the 19<sup>th</sup> International Congress. We hope to provide you with more information at Blood 2018 with regard to the location and dates.

On an international theme, congratulations to ANZSBT member Erica Wood, who was recently elected as President Elect for the new ISBT Board of Directors.

ANZSBT has been collaborating with the Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP) to produce three webinars which will be available to review on our website. Alison Street has presented adverse effects of transfusion; Zoe McQuilten will be talking about blood product modifications; and James Daly about Evolve and the ANZSBT's top 5 recommendations.

In this newsletter you will be able to find out who the Ruth Sanger orator for 2018 will be, updates from the standing committees and information about the Consensus statement on the use and allocation of Kell negative red cells.

With less than 2 months to go until Blood 2018, the countdown is on. The interim program is available for review on the conference website, and is looking very exciting. The theme for the Gala Dinner has been announced and is Victorian Gothic Vampire, so I am hoping for some terrific costumes.

I look forward to seeing you all in Brisbane in October.



Gemma Crighton, President

### Blood 2018 – register before 6 September for early bird fees!

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:

6 Sept – Early bird registrations closes  
21 October – Conference commences

### Ruth Sanger Award – David Roxby

The Ruth Sanger Award is the premier award of the ANZSBT and is given in recognition of a significant contribution to the field of transfusion medicine. The Ruth Sanger oration is given at the Annual Scientific Meeting.



The 2018 recipient is David Roxby, Head of Unit, SA Pathology Transfusion Medicine. Congratulations to David and we look forward to his Ruth Sanger Oration.

Read more about David on the [Blood 2018](http://www.blood2018.com) website.

### 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.

### Education Standing Committee news

The Education Standing Committee (ESC) is looking forward to Blood 2018 and introducing new strategies to maximise the value for members. We will be videoing our international keynote speakers and using Twitter to disseminate key messages. As has been occurring with our 2017 Awards & Grant recipients, we will continue to feature interviews with our new 2018 recipients on our website in the [Featured Recipients](#) section. If you have any other suggestions for Blood 2018, please contact us at [anzsbt@anzsbt.org.au](mailto:anzsbt@anzsbt.org.au).

The ESC is committed to keeping ANZSBT members informed of news, events, people and their activities, and education relevant to transfusion medicine via our website. 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@anzsbt.org.au](mailto:anzsbt@anzsbt.org.au).

Sandy Minck, Chair, Education Standing Committee

### Transfusion Science Standing Committee news

The transfusion committee has been busy following up on our actions items post our face to face meeting in May. The primary agenda of this meeting was the review the feedback received from the release of the Guidelines for Transfusion and Immunohematology Laboratory Practice in November 2016. Currently we are collating information regarding some points that require further research and clarification before these changes can be incorporated into the guideline. All of the changes have been tabulated with the intention of this table being added to the front of the guideline in the same manner as the Administration of Blood and Blood Products Guideline. This will ensure the changes are clearly documented for the users. The committee feels this is a better way to outline changes moving forward and commends the Clinical Practice Improvement Committee on the great job they did with this guideline.

We have had some additional enquiries from the ARCBS regarding alloabsorptions and testing in patients on daratumumab that are being followed up on. Since the May face to face we have had a follow up teleconference in July and it was decided to have monthly teleconferences for the interim to get up to date on the current items outstanding. This has been proposed to Council and approved.

Review of the Guidelines for Laboratory Assessment of Fetomaternal Haemorrhage is ongoing and it has been noted that the Extending Life Plasma Guideline will need review now with the ISBT changes upcoming. The focus of the monthly meets will be transferred to these items once the review of the transfusion guidelines is complete.

Overall the committee has been very busy and productive this quarter but we are enjoying the tasks at hand. Current Transfusion Science Standing Committee membership is detailed on our website:  
<https://anzsbt.org.au/pages/standing-committees.html>

Nicole Zacher, Chair, Transfusion Science Standing Committee

### Clinical Practice Improvement Committee news

Committees can struggle to find a time to get together, and so it's been over winter for the CPIC. The activity hasn't stopped though and I thank the Committee members for the generosity they show with their time.

The Administration Guidelines are finding their way into practice as people update their local policies. Listening to the feedback from around the country, we've heard that many people are struggling with how to implement the two person independent bedside check. This is not surprising. Updated guidelines challenge us to review and improve our practice and the transition is not always easy. In many instances our practices have included shared (or devolved) responsibility and the guidelines challenge us to ensure independent duplication of critical tasks and therefore independent responsibility. The challenge of change is confounded by the lack of consensus in the literature on what double checking actually means and in addition, people are struggling to find Australasian resources to implement. We'll be reviewing this shortly to provide clarification, and appreciate your continued feedback. In the meantime, if you're ahead of the curve and would be willing to share your resources with others, please let us know at [anzsbt@anzsbt.org.au](mailto:anzsbt@anzsbt.org.au).

Continuing on the theme of challenging our practice, the CPIC has been helping former ANZSBT President James Daly and Education Standing Committee Chair Sandy Minck to finalise ANZSBT Evolve recommendations. Subscribing to the "many hands" theory, the CPIC took on refining parts of the Evolve recommendations, although the heavy lifting had already been done. This initiative of the Royal Australian College of Physicians asks specialty societies to come up with a list of practices that don't stand up to evidence based scrutiny. James will be covering these in one of the ANZSBT Webinars, so something for members to look out for.

Philip Crispin, Chair Clinical Practice Improvement Committee

### Executive Committee of the ANZBT Research Fund news

The research community in Australasia investigating issues related to blood transfusion is not a large one. Similarly the research committee is relatively small and members may have professional relationships with grant applicants. Over past years the committee has been very careful that conflicts of interest are declared and appropriate provisions made that these do not influence the committee's decisions.

We are currently working closely with Anne Wiseman, Executive Officer of ANZSBT, to have a more formal document with clear guidelines to assist the committee for the next applicant round. As noted above, there has not been concern that conflicts have influenced decision making previously, but the new guidelines will assist with the process in the future and increase transparency of the process. Following completion of the document and its acceptance by the appropriate approval process it will be used for the next round of grant assessment.

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

### Transfusion Professionals Network news

There is lots of work happening in the Transfusion Professionals (TP) area, with a number of audits being undertaken and ongoing work to embed PBM practices across all jurisdictions. BloodSafe eLearning Australia have released 6 new courses and the Blood Service is preparing for ISBT128 labelling with updated 'pack check'. Preparation for Blood 2018 is underway, with a TP session planned and the AGM to occur. The TP Winter newsletter can be found on the ANZSBT website. It contains information on what each area is currently doing as well as a report from a member who attended the 35th International Congress of ISBT.

Angie Monk, Chair, Transfusion Professionals Network

### 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.anzsbt.org.au/pages/isbt-academy-eportal.html>

### ISBT 128 labelling delay

The Australian Red Cross Blood Service has announced that the implementation of the ISBT 128 labelling standard will be delayed for several weeks from the previously advised date of 29 July 2018.

This delay is required to provide additional time for the Blood Service to complete further validation work.

The revised implementation date will be communicated once it is set.



Image source: transfusion.com.au

### RACP Specialty Society Webinar Pilot 2018

We are very pleased to inform you that the ANZSBT will be presenting a series of webinars as part of the RACP Specialty Society Webinar Pilot 2018 which represents a partnership between speciality societies and the College.

Each webinar will generally be a 30 minute presentation followed by 30 minutes of question time. The 3 live webinars are available exclusively to ANZSBT members.

The College will provide the webinar platform and will be sharing the recording with the broader College membership via the College website.

Please note the following dates for each ANZSBT webinar:

Date	Presenter	Title
13 Aug	Dr Alison Street	Haemovigilance and adverse effects of transfusion
25 Sept	Dr Zoe McQuilten	Blood product modifications – who needs what?
7 Nov	Dr James Daly	Evolve – the ANZSBT's top 5 recommendations



### ANZSBT Guidelines

#### Consensus statement on use and allocation of Kell negative red cells, July 2018

The consensus statement on the use and allocation of Kell negative red cells has been revised and is posted on the ANZSBT website.

The Australian and New Zealand Society of Blood Transfusion (ANZSBT), supported by the National Blood Transfusion Committee (NBTC), believe a mixed inventory of K positive and negative units, reflecting the local population distribution of the antigen, can be managed effectively without unnecessary red cell wastage if appropriate patient selection and/or K phenotyping is employed. The ANZSBT and NBTC support the Blood Service issuing red cells without regard to their K type unless fulfilling a patient specific order where K negative red cells are requested.

The document is available for [download](#).

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

The Guidelines for the Administration of Blood Products, 3rd Edition, 2018 were released early this year. 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](#).



### Report from International Haemovigilance Network (IHN) & Serious Hazards of Transfusion (SHOT) seminars by A/Prof Erica Wood

The English city of Manchester recently hosted two important conferences focussed on haemovigilance – one was coordinated by the International Haemovigilance Network (IHN) in partnership with the Serious Hazards of Transfusion (SHOT) scheme and the Irish Blood Transfusion Service, and the second was the annual SHOT seminar.

IHN brings together 40 national and regional haemovigilance programs around the world to promote science and education in this field, including by developing internationally harmonised definitions of transfusion-related adverse events, and sharing and analysing data for benchmarking and practice improvement. IHN works closely with the haemovigilance working party of the International Society of Blood Transfusion.



A/Prof Erica Wood of Monash University's Transfusion Research Unit is the current President of IHN. In this role, she presented the IHN Award and lectureship (for service to international haemovigilance) to Dr Johanna Wiersum of the Dutch TRIP system. Many ANZSBT members will know Jo for her role as chair of the haemovigilance working party of the ISBT, as well as serving on the board of IHN for some years. She also spoke at HAA in Melbourne in 2012. The IHN Medal (for service to IHN) was presented to Dr Paula Bolton-Maggs, medical director of SHOT, for her service as the honorary secretary of IHN. Paula is retiring from both roles this year.

Photo: Erica Wood with (L to R): Dr Barbee Whitaker (USA, Chair, IHN seminar committee), Dr Johanna Wiersum, Netherlands, and Dr Paula Bolton-Maggs, UK.

IHN seminars are now held every second year, and IHN also supports professional societies and haemovigilance organisations by participating in their meetings. Key themes of this year's IHN seminar included respiratory complications of transfusion (and the need for better definitions and data), and the importance of understanding and addressing human factors in transfusion adverse events and near misses. Abstracts covered a wide range of topics. Erica made an oral presentation on behalf of the Serious Transfusion Incident Reporting (STIR) expert group, which was well received. The SHOT meeting included a patient presentation on her experience of therapeutic apheresis for TTP, a number of presentations on experience from hospitals in managing "never events", and several interactive case studies. Their 21st annual report (happy birthday, SHOT!) was released at the seminar, and is also available online at [www.shotuk.org](http://www.shotuk.org)

The IHN and SHOT seminars are open to all and are very educational, interactive and welcoming. Both are great events to meet other people with interests and expertise in haemovigilance, so please do consider attending a future meeting. You might like to submit an abstract to share your work on any aspect of haemovigilance or transfusion practice improvement.



International  
Haemovigilance  
Network



18<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL  
HAEMOVIGILANCE  
SEMINAR  
10 & 11 JULY, 2018 - MANCHESTER, UK

### Published literature from our members

(May – August 2018)

Tan, J. C., Yuan, F. F., Daley, J. , Marks, K. , Flower, R. L. and Dyer, W. B. (2018), [D-immunized blood donors who are female and who possess at least one HLA-DRB1\\*15 allele show a propensity for high serum RhIG production](#). Transfusion, 58: 1182-1188.  
doi:10.1111/trf.14584

Millard, G. M., McGowan, E. C., Wilson, B. , Martin, J. R., Spooner, M. , Morris, S. , Farley, R. , James, S. , Liew, Y. , Schoeman, E. M., Dean, M. M., Flower, R. L., Hyland, C. A., Powley, T. and Roxby, D. (2018), [A proposed new low-frequency antigen in the Augustine blood group system associated with a severe case of hemolytic disease of the fetus and newborn](#). Transfusion, 58: 1320-1322.  
doi:10.1111/trf.14562

Flores, C. J., Quested, B. , Spigiel, T. , Thomson, A. and Saxon, B. (2018), [Junior doctors' perspectives on transfusion education in Australia](#). Vox Sang.  
doi:10.1111/vox.12654

Katrina K. Ki, Helen M. Faddy, Robert L. Flower & Melinda M. Dean (2018) [Platelet concentrates modulate myeloid dendritic cell immune responses](#), Platelets, 29:4, 373-382.  
doi: 10.1080/09537104.2017.1306045

Gipson, J. S., Wood, E. M., Cole-Sinclair, M. F., McQuilten, Z. , Waters, N. and Woodford, N. W. (2018), [Major haemorrhage fatalities in the Australian national coronial database](#). Emergency Medicine Australasia, 30: 382-388.  
doi:10.1111/1742-6723.12915

Fox, L. C., Cohney, S. J., Kausman, J. Y., Shortt, J. , Hughes, P. D., Wood, E. M., Isbel, N. M., de Malmanche, T. , Durkan, A. , Hissaria, P. , Blombery, P. and Barbour, T. D. (2018), [Consensus opinion on diagnosis and management of thrombotic microangiopathy in Australia and New Zealand](#). Nephrology, 23: 507-517.  
doi:10.1111/nep.13234

Fox, L. C., Cohney, S. J., Kausman, J. Y., Shortt, J. , Hughes, P. D., Wood, E. M., Isbel, N. M., de Malmanche, T. , Durkan, A. , Hissaria, P. , Blombery, P. and Barbour, T. D. (2018), [Consensus opinion on diagnosis and management of thrombotic microangiopathy in Australia and New Zealand](#). Intern Med J, 48: 624-636.  
doi:10.1111/imj.13804

Chunilal SD, Wood EM. [Red cell transfusion and clinical outcomes in acute pulmonary embolism: Harmful therapy or an indicator of sicker patients with poor prognosis?](#) Respiriology. 2018 Jun 11.  
doi: 10.1111/resp.13331. [Epub ahead of print]

Pavenski K, Stanworth S, Fung M, Wood EM, Pink J, Murphy MF, Hume H, Nahirniak S, Webert KE, Tanael S, Landry D, Shehata N; International Collaboration for Transfusion Medicine Guidelines (ICTMG). [Quality of Evidence-Based Guidelines for Transfusion of Red Blood Cells and Plasma: A Systematic Review](#). Transfus Med Rev. 2018 Jun 1. pii: S0887-7963(18)30017-8.  
doi: 10.1016/j.tmr.2018.05.004. [Epub ahead of print]

Kiely, P. , Hoad, V. C. and Wood, E. M. (2018), [False positive viral marker results in blood donors and their unintended consequences](#). Vox Sang.  
doi:10.1111/vox.12675

Apologies to any member whose publication we may have missed.

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