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| Blood Matters on the  Bench and Beyond |
| Issue 6 – April 2021 |

Welcome to the Blood Matters newsletter for Scientists. It will be distributed throughout the year to share information that may be helpful to you, and to let you know of upcoming activities which may be of interest.

**‘STOP the waste’ festive campaign 2020-21**

The 2020-21 ‘STOP the waste’ festive campaign was extremely successful.

Thank you to everyone for the dedication displayed over this period. The average Victorian red cell wastage rate was at an all-time low of 1.4% in November and December 2020 and at 1.5% in February 2021. This is an outstanding result, and we applaud all your efforts in keeping wastage to a minimum.

As anticipated there was an increase in activity at many organisations throughout this period.

As we continue into 2021, please remember to monitor changes to activity within your organisation which may impact on blood use and adjust the inventory accordingly.

Donated blood is a precious gift, and we all need to do our part to protect and manage this valuable resource. Let’s continue to ensure we keep blood wastage to a minimum throughout the year.

Your continued support of the ‘STOP’ the waste’ campaign is appreciated.

**7 day platelets – they’re here!**

It is exciting to see 7 day platelets finally introduced after many years of work by Lifeblood to gain approval.

While we expect there to be a subsequent positive impact on platelet wastage, it is vital that we don’t rely entirely on the increased shelf life to solve platelet wastage issues.

Please continue to be mindful of reviewing your inventory and identifying any processes that may be contributing to increased platelet ordering and wastage.

Blood Matters is able to help if there are any areas of concern that you need assistance with.

**Anti-CD47 interference in pretransfusion testing: The sign of things to come?**

In light of the trial for Magrolimab (Anti-CD47 monoclonal antibody) beginning in sites around Victoria, an online meeting was held with participating transfusion service senior scientists along with representatives from ANZSBT and Lifeblood. This was to discuss the interference that was being experienced and mitigation strategies to overcome the interference.

This discussion led to a draft guidance document being written, which is currently being reviewed by the ANZSBT Transfusion Science Standing Committee, for publication in the near future.

Blood Matters in collaboration with the Victorian Immunohaematology Discussion Group (VIDG) then held an online education session to highlight and discuss this very important and timely topic.

Andrew Webb from Alfred Pathology Service delivered an engaging and insightful presentation which was followed by discussion including Dr James Daly, around how we can progress with managing the impact of monoclonal therapies as they emerge into the future.

[Click here for to view meeting recording](https://lifeblood.webex.com/webappng/sites/lifeblood/recording/710a781081b3446dbfb73dd90f549e7b/playback)

The following resources may also be of interest to you for additional background information on Anti-CD47 interference in pretransfusion testing:

[063CE: Anti-CD47 Testing Interference with Connie Westhoff - (bbguy.org)](https://www.bbguy.org/2019/02/06/063/)

[Monoclonal anti‐CD47 interference in red cell and platelet testing - Velliquette - 2019 - Transfusion - Wiley Online Library](https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/trf.15033)

[The effects of monoclonal anti‐CD47 on RBCs, compatibility testing, and transfusion requirements in refractory acute myeloid leukemia - Brierley - 2019 - Transfusion - Wiley Online Library](https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/trf.15397)

Thank you to the scientists and associated transfusion professionals involved in bringing both the guidance document and education session together. The dedication and expertise shared by this group have been invaluable, and we look forward to further opportunities for collaboration and co-ordination in the future.

**Blood Matters education in 2021**

COVID-19 has provided many challenges and difficulties, but it has also provided opportunities to develop and augment new practices. A major positive has been the development of Blood Matters online education events. Not only has the virtual format enhanced accessibility for many people, especially in regional centres, but it has also fostered multidisciplinary attendance.

**Save these dates:**

* Scientist education session: 19 May
* Scientist Summit: 4 August
* Five in 5 education series: 9 – 13 August

There will be other events held throughout the year, with information circulated closer to the time. These are planned to be virtual, and if the circumstances permit some of these may be converted to face to face events, or a combination of both.

**2021 Blood Matters Audit**

In 2021, the Blood Matters audit will survey the implementation of an electronic medical record (EMR). We are seeking information on blood related processes of the EMR and will requesting input from several areas of the health service.

We recognise that not all health services have an EMR, and there will be questions relevant to all health services.

The anticipated date of the audit has been delayed, it will now be open **12 July – 8 August 2021**.

**Blood 2021**

**Blood 2021,** the combined Annual Scientific Meeting of the HSANZ, ANZSBT and THANZ, is to be held from 19 to 22 September 2021.

Council is committed to this meeting, and is currently considering the format of the meeting.

[Further information](https://anzsbt.us4.list-manage.com/track/click?u=8f9f3265483ca629da1c8a91b&id=7c7b7aa9e3&e=fc39e38703) will be provided when available, watch the ANZSBT website.

[Travel Grants](https://anzsbt.us4.list-manage.com/track/click?u=8f9f3265483ca629da1c8a91b&id=3239e66b13&e=fc39e38703) are available to assist with attendance at the Blood 2021 Annual Scientific Meeting.

**BloodSafe eLearning Australia**

**BloodSafe eLearning Australia** has released a number of new courses for doctors, nurses, midwives, scientists and other health professionals in the transfusion chain:

1. [Clinical Transfusion Practice Refresher](https://anzsbt.us4.list-manage.com/track/click?u=8f9f3265483ca629da1c8a91b&id=b2d2e7a28c&e=fc39e38703), a case-based course set in an electronic medical records environment
2. [Intraoperative Cell Salvage](https://anzsbt.us4.list-manage.com/track/click?u=8f9f3265483ca629da1c8a91b&id=2c11a02b82&e=fc39e38703)
3. [Immunoglobulin](https://anzsbt.us4.list-manage.com/track/click?u=8f9f3265483ca629da1c8a91b&id=54b3166cf9&e=fc39e38703), a suite of five courses covering the prescribing, administration and governance of intravenous and subcutaneous immunoglobulin.

### image of a certification documentNational certification of the medical scientist profession

A national professional certification scheme for the medical laboratory science profession in Australia has come into effect.

The Australian Council for Certification of the Medical Laboratory Scientific Workforce (ACCMLSW) is a newly created not for profit company established to administer the voluntary certification scheme.

* Join now at [www.accmlsw.org.au](https://accmlsw.wildapricot.org/). You will need to upload:
  + A certificate of primary qualification
  + Continuing professional development (CPD) certificate or an outline of CPD activities undertaken in the previous 2 years
  + Declaration of competency assessment and experience (downloadable from the website) signed by your employer.

**Why become certified?**

* This can be seen as a first step towards ensuring only high calibre practitioners are employed in our laboratories, demanding recognition of our professional standing as part of Australia’s health service workforce.
* Certification will be the best benchmark available to assure competent professional practice.
* With a certified workforce there will be more obligation on the employer to ensure staff have professional development opportunities afforded to them.
* As a nationally certified medical scientist you can demonstrate your ongoing commitment to professional development and self-improvement and be recognised as passionate, progressive and pro-active.

[Click here to view a short video about the certification scheme](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Zc4QQJEijs)

This scheme needs to be supported for it to succeed. It is the closest the industry have got to greater recognition and professionalism with unification of the different professional associations.

Blood Matters is committed to providing support and education to assist in the early stages of this scheme.

**How can Blood Matters help you?**

The Blood Matters team are here to assist health services and laboratories through education and providing resources.

If you have suggestions for tools and resources that could assist in day to day activities and towards achieving accreditation please let Rae French or any of the Blood Matters team know by email to at [rfrench@redcrossblood.org.au](mailto:rfrench@redcrossblood.org.au) or bloodmatters@redcrossblood.org.au or phone 03 9694 3524.

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