

Dear CSTM Members,

August 2018

As we enjoy our summer months in Canada, I would like to take this opportunity to give you an update on CSTM activities since last fall's newsletter.

We were privileged to partner with the ISBT for their 35th International Congress in Toronto June 2-6, 2018. It was exciting to have more than 2400 attendees from 96 countries participating in this conference. What an excellent way to learn and share knowledge about challenges and achievements in transfusion medicine here and around the world and as always, enlarge our network of colleagues. The local organizing committee did a tremendous job to bring us an impressive scientific and social program, including an excellent Local Day with the theme "Advances in Transfusion Medicine over the Years: Past, Present and Future". We're looking forward to the CSTM Conference which will be held May 30 to June 2, 2019 in Calgary Alberta.

We were very pleased to post the first five Choosing Wisely videos in early 2018 on the [Choosing Wisely web page](#) thanks to Dr. Clinton Campbell and funding from the CBS BloodTechNet Program. They have proven very popular and are surely found to be an effective way to promote these recommendations to a broad audience. The content and narrations have been translated and we hope to publish the French videos soon on the website.

In response to questions and requests received, the Standards Committee developed 10 Guidance Statements that were published in March 2018 along with some corrective revisions to the Standards document version 4. Licensed pdf copies of CSTM Standards version 4 have been purchased by the provinces, territories, and organizations listed on the [Standards web page](#), to be shared with all facilities in their jurisdictions. If you would like access to the licensed pdf copy that your province, territory or organization has purchased, please contact their office for details. Provinces, territories and organizations that have not yet purchased a pdf copy to share with their facilities are invited to contact the CSTM Office for more information and to obtain their copy.

Exciting new work is being carried out by the Canadian Obstetrics and Pediatric Transfusion Network (COPTN), a new subcommittee formed in 2017 and chaired by Dr. Lani Leiberman. Thank you to all who worked to develop the COPTN survey sent out in February and to all who took the time to complete it. It is hoped that the information gained from all the responses will help guide us in future to improve transfusion medicine practice in these specialties.

The 2018 Simulation Summit planning committee invites you to attend their September 28-29, 2018 conference in Ottawa, Ontario. Hosted by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, the annual Simulation Summit is a unique and practical interprofessional medical simulation conference, which annually attracts hundreds of international simulation educators, researchers, health care professionals and other individuals engaged in the field of simulation.

This year's conference theme is Negotiating the Channels through Simulation and the program features more than 20 innovative and practical professional development workshops tailored towards interprofessional audiences. For more information please click: [Simulation Summit](#).

Our next CSTM Education Day will be held in Lethbridge, Alberta on September 21, 2018. To ensure the quality of the recordings, the presentations will be recorded and made available in the member section of the CSTM website. These presentations are a great continuing education resource, available online at the convenience of those involved in transfusion and especially valuable to fulfill CE requirements of lab accreditation and technologists' professional orders. Two presentations were prioritized for translation this fall. We'd like to encourage health care organizations to consider purchasing a [CSTM institutional membership](#) to provide the personnel of their facilities ongoing access to [Education Day presentations](#), [Annual Conference presentations](#) and [abstracts](#), the [Transfusion Evidence Library](#), the [ISBT Affiliate membership](#) and many more [benefits of CSTM membership](#).

Wishing you all the best on behalf of the CSTM Board!

Ann Wilson
President, CSTM Board of Directors