



Dear CSTM Member

As summer draws to a close it is time, once again, to update you on the activities and initiatives of your CSTM board.

Many of you attended the wonderful CSTM meeting in Winnipeg this spring. The meeting was a huge success – from every point of view. The scientific content was varied and interesting for all of our members, the social events were inspiring and provided an excellent opportunity to meet and greet one another and the exhibits included a wide array of products and services that are relevant to our transfusion practice.

Highlights for me, personally included the closing session on the past, present and future of perinatal immunohematology which outlined the progress we've made in the prevention and management of Hemolytic disease of the newborn. The presentation by Dr. Zipursky, a pioneer in the development of Rh Immune globulin and HDN prevention was truly an inspiration.

The venue for the Presidents reception – at the Museum for Human rights was also a highlight of this great meeting. The many volunteers who planned and executed this excellent event deserve our thanks and congratulations – as well as a long rest! I invite you to view the pictures from the Winnipeg meeting on our website and to have a look at the abstracts and posted presentations at www.transfusion.ca in the members section.

I hope that by discussing the 2015 meeting that I've got you thinking about your plans to attend CSTM 2016. The next joint conference of the CSTM, CBS and HemaQuebec will be held in Vancouver May 1-15, 2016 and the very preliminary program that I have seen hints at some tantalizing new ideas. Stay tuned for updates from the Vancouver organizing committee over the next few months.

Also, please start to consider nominees for the Ortho Award for 2016. If there are individuals you think should be honored by this award, have a look at the award description on the website for details of the nomination process and requirements. The call for nominations will appear early in 2016.

I had the opportunity to present the CSTM bid to host ISBT (2018) to the board of that organization just before their Congress in London, in June. Together with Dr. Katerina Pavenski, who will chair the Toronto local organizing committee, and Mr. Barry Smith – CEO of the metro Toronto Convention Center – we presented our ideas, our proposed organizing committee and the fabulous city of Toronto as a potential host for the 2018 international congress. We were assisted in preparing our presentation by Alice Au and Rahul Shah of Toronto tourism and the Metro Toronto Convention Center, respectively. Together we developed a great presentation, practiced it and polished it under Alice's watchful eye and presented to the ISBT board. The ISBT has not been held in Canada since the very successful 2002 meeting in Vancouver, and it would be an honour to host the international transfusion community once again. The ISBT board heard from two other cities and is currently investigating facilities in each location before announcing a final decision, which we expect to hear later in September.

In addition to the annual meeting your board has been busy with a number of initiatives. Website enhancements, including an improvement to accessibility via mobile platforms is under way. The conference "app" used for the Winnipeg meeting was a huge success and we plan to expand its use for the Vancouver conference. We also continue to host an interesting and informative immunohematology blog by one of our members and a "resources" page that may provide you with some tools you can use in your blood bank or practice. If you have contributions that you would like to make to our blog postings or to our resources page please contact our web master or your board representative through the website's "contact – us" links.

CSTM membership affords you access to the TM evidence (TME) database. This is database of all transfusion medicine related clinical trials and studies. If you are looking for references or citations don't forget to check the TME through transfusion.ca.

Our Choosing Wisely Canada partnership is also continuing and expanding. As you know, an additional 5 choosing wisely recommendations from CSTM were published by CWC in the spring. The ten recommendations can be found on the CWC website or accessed through www.transfusion.ca. Since the launch, patient information related to these recommendations has also been published and can be found at the same websites. CSTM is continuing to work with CWC and with a number of provincial programs on initiatives to ensure that the recommendations are put to use by transfusion and other health care professionals. We are seeking ways to implement the recommendations as well as to document and measure the use of the Choosing Wisely statements. If you have used the recommendations in your educational offerings or have initiatives underway that will be enhanced through the CSTM or other transfusion related recommendations, we would like to hear about them – and also about any successes that you may have achieved and how you measured your outcomes.

We do have thousands of CWC postcards printed with all 10 recommendations available in English and in French. If you could use some cards to distribute to trainees, education day attendees or any other audience, please contact your board member through the website contacts and we will get these to you.

We also have attractive and fashionable T-shirts with CWC recommendations and the CSTM logo printed on them that may be useful to you for door prizes or special events. Once again, your local board member can help you to acquire some of these.

Our next CSTM board meeting and Education day is fast approaching. This fall, the education day will be held in St. John's Newfoundland on October 3^{0th}. We do plan to webcast the sessions so that remote viewing is possible and following the event the presentations will be posted to our website. If you can make it to Newfoundland at the end of October, please plan to join us. More information regarding the contents, and registration for the in – person as well as web based sessions will be coming your way shortly.

The CSTM standards committee met at the CSTM meeting in Winnipeg. A new committee is now ready to begin revisions of the standards for hospital transfusion services following the publication of the CSA standards. The CSA standards are near completion and in the final editing phase. The chair of your new standards committee is Susanna Darnel, if you have questions or recommendations for the standards committee please use the “ask the standards committee” link at transfusion.ca.

On behalf of the CSTM board of directors very best wishes for a busy and productive fall season.

Gwen Clarke
CSTM President