



Dear CSTM Members,

Well, here I am, writing my last letter as CSTM president – and I have so much to tell you!

As ever, your board of directors has been busy since I last wrote.

First of all, a few words about our educational activities. The Joint Annual CSTM/CBS/HQ Scientific Meeting for 2016 is coming soon – and will be held on May 12th – 15th, 2016 in Vancouver. This year's meeting is themed: "Quality, where safety and efficacy meet". The organizing committee is hard at work finalizing the last details. The program features a wide variety of topics and speakers. More than 100 abstracts have been submitted and are currently under review. The early registration deadline is at the end of March. All of the information about the conference, the workshops, the social events and registration details can be found on the conference website. Stay tuned for more information about the conference app which will be used once again to convey conference program and location information as well as many other conference details.

We've just completed our spring face to face board meeting and accompanying educational day in Timmins, Ontario on March 4th and 5th, 2016. The educational day was very successful. We had approximately 20 attendees present in Timmins – including staff members from the Timmins and District Hospital as well as several from surrounding communities. In addition we had over 160 sites dial in to the webcast. The presentations were excellent. I came away with many project ideas – and I am sure that many other listeners did as well. For those who attended and want to see some of the presentations again – as well as for those who were unable to attend on the day – the presentations are now available on the website members section, under the "education" tab.

Preliminary planning for our fall board meeting and education day are currently underway, with details to follow in the coming weeks, once the location has been established.

The Ottawa organizing committee for the CSTM/CBS/HQ Joint Scientific Meeting in 2017 is already actively planning an exciting scientific event and an interesting social program. 2017 is Canada's 150th birthday making it a very special year to visit Ottawa.

Finally, preliminary plans are underway for the 2018 ISBT meeting to be held in Toronto. The CSTM board meeting, awards presentations and a scientific agenda planned by the local Toronto organizing committee will be held on Saturday June 2nd, 2018 with the ISBT meeting following thereafter. A site visit by the ISBT planning staff will take place in the summer of 2016 with further plans and announcements to follow.

Potential locations for our annual meetings in 2019 and 2020 will be up for discussion at the Annual General Meeting in Vancouver. Please bring your ideas, suggestions (and offers to host) to the meeting.

The CSTM board and membership have also been very active on a number of new and ongoing projects.

Choosing Wisely Canada initiatives are underway across the country. We would love to hear what you are doing in your part of the country to champion one or more of the [CSTM Choosing Wisely Statements](#). The first Choosing Wisely Canada Conference will be held at the end of March 2016 and will feature a number of projects and initiatives stimulated by the Choosing Wisely statements. The CSTM has postcards available featuring the 10 Choosing Wisely statements pertaining to transfusion. These statements can also be found on the Choosing Wisely Canada website. If you would like some postcards to distribute to staff, please contact your local CSTM director through <http://www.transfusion.ca>. Additional postcards featuring the logo "Why Give Two when One will Do" will also be available soon in support of the Choosing Wisely Canada "10 Million" campaign which strives to reduce unnecessary tests and treatments by 10 Million by 2020. The picture associated with this choosing wisely statement - intended as a screen saver – is also available on our [CSTM website](#).

The website is due for a refresh and a redesign. We hope that the new look and improved features, including better search capability and mobile device compatibility – will be on-line in summer 2016. In the meantime, however, the site remains busy. Three bloggers are currently frequent contributors. Eric Ching continues to submit excellent blog posts related to serological testing. Pat Letendre is curating a series of blog posts about various illustrious colleagues in our Canadian Transfusion community and Clare O'Reilly is just beginning a series of posts related to Transfusion Safety Officer activities in Canada.

The Resources page is also a great place to visit – with many links and attachments to useful tools that have been developed by CSTM members, provincial blood coordinating offices and plasma protein product manufacturers. There may be something here that you can use in local educational initiatives so visit often.

Julia Hendry, CSTM Secretary Treasurer, recently had the opportunity to produce an educational video to highlight appropriate transfusion triggers and dose. She collaborated with a post- secondary institution in her community to have the video filmed and edited, and recruited physicians and blood bank staff to develop the script and act in the short video. This is one of many excellent educational items that will soon be available through the Resources page of the website.

Heather Panchuk, your CSTM Director-at-Large, is working on a new resource that will provide information about transport boxes currently used by Canadian hospital transfusion services – including contact information, validation information and strategies for using new phase change materials effectively. Look for this new resource in the coming months.

If you have tools or resources you would be willing to share with your colleagues via the CSTM website, please contact your CSTM director or the webmaster through the [links on the website](#) to discuss ways in which we could post or link to your materials and resources.

Another new website feature is a link to our long and growing list of volunteer opportunities including board and committee positions. Look for this feature to be posted in the next 1 – 2 months.

As you all know, the CSA Z902–15 Standards were released in December 2015. The CSTM standards committee, led by Chair Susanna Darnel, began meeting shortly thereafter and are working on updates to the CSTM Standards for Hospital Transfusion Services. The new edition of standards will be compliant and cross referenced with CSA Z902–15 and will be directed to hospital transfusion practice. Publication is expected in the next several months.

Late in 2015, a CSTM member suggested that the Board of Directors consider establishing a foundation that would award grants to Canadian researchers – a national blood foundation for Canada. Some preliminary exploration of this idea has been completed and a number of questions related to this proposal will be explored at the Annual General Meeting. If you have comments or suggestions regarding this please, plan to attend the AGM during the Vancouver conference and have your say in this exciting new initiative.

Happy Spring! I look forward to seeing you all in Vancouver in May.

With warmest regards,

Gwen Clarke

President, CSTM Board of Directors