



As we all get ready to enjoy summer another Canadian summer, I would like to take this opportunity to update you on the many activities and initiatives that your CSTM board has been involved with over the last few months.

The CSTM/Héma-Quebec/CBS Joint Scientific conference - held this year in Vancouver from May 11-15, was a great success. The conference included delegates from across Canada and abroad. The conference program - Transfusion Medicine “Quality: Where Safety and Efficacy Meet” was educational and enlightening with a wide variety of lecture topics and abstracts. As always, this conference was an excellent way to renew acquaintances, expand networks, and learn about transfusion medicine and transfusion science in Canada. The venue, the city, the food and the entertainment were excellent and not possible without the generous support of the sponsors, exhibitors, and the tireless work of the local organizing committee.

Conference abstracts and presentations will be posted on the website in July, at about the same time that we anticipate publication of top four abstracts in *Transfusion Medicine Reviews*. The initiative to publish the top 4 abstracts in *Transfusion Medicine Reviews* has been in place since 2013 and is something we hope to continue in the future.

Just prior to the conference, the standards committee had the opportunity to meet in person and continue work on the next version of the CSTM standards. The new version of standards will be compliant and cross referenced with CSA Z902–15 and directed to hospital transfusion practice. Publication is expected in the fall.

If you were unable to attend the conference in Vancouver, we hope you are able to join us in Ottawa for the 2016 conference “Transfusion for All Ages”. The preliminary plans include some new approaches to the social and scientific program. Please keep checking the CSTM website for updates from the Ottawa planning committee. Looking further ahead, mark your calendars for June 2 – 7, 2018 when the prestigious international society of blood transfusion (ISBT) meeting comes to Toronto.

Another exciting initiative the board is exploring is development of a National Blood Foundation. The notion of this foundation has been mentioned in past messages and at the annual general meeting with the request for members to share their thoughts with the board. To this end, an online survey will be developed as a means to actively seek feedback from the membership. Look for an email invite in the near future.

An additional membership resource is underdevelopment titled “Spotlight on Safety”. Anyone from the transfusion medicine community will be welcome to submit an error or near miss event and the learning

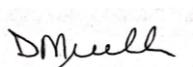
outcomes using a template document available on the web site. Submissions will be reviewed, de-identified, and posted in the members section of the website as a learning resource tool. Keep an eye out for safety events that you feel would be helpful to share with others and look for information on this launch in the coming months.

Further to ways of sharing knowledge, networking with colleagues, and getting involved with the transfusion medicine community, I would encourage you to review the volunteer opportunities available. The board has recently compiled a list of the ongoing volunteer opportunities including a description of the positions and the terms of service that will be posted to the website. If you are interested in volunteering in one of these positions or in other ways please complete the volunteer application form posted on the website.

The Choosing Wisely Canada campaign continues to evolve and grow since it launched 2 years ago. Most recently, a CSTM representative attended the inaugural Choosing Wisely Canada national meeting. Almost 300 representatives were in attendance where the Choosing Wisely DIY toolkits were announced. The CSTM toolkit associated with the statement “Why Give Two When One Will Do” was created to support the implementation of interventions to reduce unnecessary red blood cell transfusions. The toolkit was developed by Dr. Yulia Lin from Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre and Troy Thompson from ORBCoN.

One of the board duties is to regularly review the CSTM strategic plan and ensure we are stewarding the finances and vision statements of our society. Part of this includes assessing the value of initiatives and resources provided to membership. One such initiative was introduction of the Transfusion Evidence Library. Our 2 years subscription will end this year. Due to seemingly low usage and the cost of this subscription we may not renew the subscription unless we hear differently from membership. Please contact your board representative (email link on the website) if you feel that continuing with this subscription is of value to the membership.

You may have noticed the frequent reference to the CSTM website in all messages you receive from the CSTM. Our website is the main form of communication and information sharing of the society. Our current website was launched in 2010 so the time has come to revitalize and update the platform to better serve members. Earlier this year work the RFP process was completed and a vendor selected to build and support the website redesign. Building and transitioning of the website is well underway with a go live in mid July. More information will follow as the time draws near but in the meantime, a couple of the enhancements members can look forward to include improved mobile and tablet device functionality and streamlined user log in. We look forward to feedback on your experience with the new website.



Darlene Mueller
CSTM President