

**Canadian Hematology Society**  
**Société Canadienne d'Hématologie**



# **BULLETIN**

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**MARCH 2006**

**Canadian Hematology Society**

**Annual General Meeting**

**Fairmont Macdonald, Edmonton**

*To be held*

**Friday, 21 April 2006**  
**8:00 am – 5:00 pm**

**Executive Meeting: Friday, 5:00 pm**

**Editor Gail Rock**

**Executive 2005 - 2006**

President: Pierre Laneuville    Secretary-Treasurer: Sue Robinson  
Past-President: Armand Keating

## Annual Meeting of CHS: Focus on Hemoglobinopathies

The hemoglobinopathies are the most common genetic disorders worldwide. Nearly 5% of the world's populations carry globin variants. It is estimated that about 1.7% of the world's population are heterozygous for  $\alpha$ -thalassemia and  $\beta$ -thalassemia, 2% carry sickle hemoglobin, 1% carry hemoglobin E and 0.3% carry hemoglobin C. Worldwide, the birth rate of people homozygous and compound heterozygous for symptomatic globin disorders is about 2.5 per 1000 births, of which 2 have sickle cell disease and 0.5 have thalassemias. The populations at risk for hemoglobinopathies constitute 18%, 25% and 40% of the population of Canada, Ontario and Toronto respectively.

In 1948, when Linus Pauling showed the abnormal electrophoretic mobility of hemoglobin molecule in an affected individual, sickle cell disease became the first disorder in which the abnormality in a protein was known to be at fault. Eight years later, Vernon Ingram discovered the *val*  $\rightarrow$  *glu* substitution in sickle hemoglobin, thus making it the first genetic disorder whose molecular basis was known.

Despite these staggering statistical and historical facts about the hemoglobinopathies, widespread unfamiliarity with these disorders exists even among hematologists across Canada. Less than a year ago, a CBC News report captioned: "*Visible Minorities to top 50% in Toronto, Vancouver by 2017 by 2013*" emphasized the rapidly changing demography of Canada. Canada is currently one of the most multi-cultural countries in the world. This cultural and ethnic diversity is likely to increase, based on the current immigration trends. Physicians, particularly hematologists, can no longer afford not to possess a basic knowledge of the hemoglobinopathies. This has provided the impetus for the decision by the leadership of CHS to make hemoglobinopathies the focus of the 2006 Annual Meeting in Edmonton.

While the advancement of knowledge of the pathophysiologic mechanisms underlying the thalassemias and sickle cell disease was hampered for many years by the lack of animal models that produced purely human globin chains, recent progress in the production of suitable animal models has resulted in a substantial increase in our understanding of these disorders. This has created opportunities for laboratory and clinical trials of newer therapies for these disorders.

The plenary session at the CHS meeting will review the epidemiology of the hemoglobinopathies in Canada, discuss the clinical challenges in the management of thalassemias and sickle cell disease, investigate progress being made in the implementation of universal newborn screening for hemoglobinopathies and examine strategies for addressing the complex problems associated with transition from pediatric to adult care. The problem of iron overload and its management has been the major clinical challenge in the management of patients with  $\beta$ -thalassemia major. The use of deferoxamine, the only effective parenteral iron chelator, has made significant impact on life expectancy. Lately, the indication for chronic blood transfusion in patients with sickle cell disease has expanded to include primary and secondary stroke prevention. Thus, management of iron overload has emerged as a common clinical challenge in both disorders. The meeting will review progress in the use of oral iron chelators as well as the availability of non-invasive means of assessing iron burden.

It is noteworthy that the Annual Meeting of CHS will take place a day prior to the Bi-Annual Meeting of the Canadian Blood and Marrow Transplant Group. This provides an excellent opportunity to highlight the phenomenal progress that has been made in use of hemopoietic stem cell transplantation (HSCT) as curative treatment for thalassemia and sickle cell disease. Newer conditioning regimens and shift to non-myeloablative approach have necessitated significant changes in the eligibility criteria for HSCT in these disorders.

It is hoped that, by the end of this year's Annual Meeting, we will be able to develop a Canadian policy that will be useful to the hemoglobinopathy community at large.

I warmly invite you all to participate in this momentous event in the history of CHS.

See you in Edmonton!

Isaac Odame, MB ChB, MRCP (UK), FRCPath, FRCPCH  
Chair, Hemoglobinopathy Group of Ontario.

**JERRY G. SCOTT DAY**  
**THURSDAY, APRIL 20<sup>TH</sup>, 2006**  
 SHAW CONVENTION CENTRE, SALON 13-14  
 EDMONTON, AB  
**1:00 PM – 5:00 PM**

**A G E N D A**

<b><u>TIME</u></b>	<b><u>SPEAKER</u></b>	<b><u>TITLE</u></b>
1:00PM	DR. BRUCE RITCHIE ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, HEMATOLOGIST UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA HOSPITAL EDMONTON, ALBERTA	<i>“NEW BLOOD PRODUCTS AND THEIR USE IN HEMATOLOGY”</i>
1:40 PM	DR. SUSAN NAHIRNIAK MEDICAL DIRECTOR, CAPITAL HEALTH TRANSFUSION SERVICE ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA FACULTY OF MEDICINE	<i>“AUTOIMMUNE HEMOLYTIC ANEMIA – A CLINICAL –LABORATORY PERSPECTIVE”</i>
2:20 PM	DR. RALPH MEYER DESIGNATE DIRECTOR NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE OF CANADA CLINICAL TRIALS GROUP, PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF ONCOLOGY, QUEEN’S UNIVERSITY KINGSTON, ONTARIO	<i>“CURRENT ISSUES IN MANAGING PATIENTS WITH HODGKIN’S LYMPHOMA”</i>
3:00 PM	REFRESHMENT BREAK	
3:40 PM	DR. CYNTHIA L. TOZE LEUKEMIA/BONE MARROW TRANSPLANTATION PROGRAM OF BRITISH COLUMBIA DIVISION OF HEMATOLOGY, DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE VANCOUVER BRITISH COLUMBIA	<i>“OVERVIEW OF TRANSPLANTATION FOR LYMPHOMA”</i>
4:20 PM	DR. JOHN KELTON DEAN & VICE PRESIDENT FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES MCMASTER UNIVERSITY	<i>“THROMBOTIC THROMBOCYTOPENIC PURPURA”</i>
5:30 PM	DINNER - <b>OPEN TO JERRY SCOTT DAY ATTENDEES – PLEASE RSVP FOR BOTH THE JSD MEETING AND DINNER TO DR. CHEN’S OFFICE @416-946-2827 OR AMY.SGOURAKIS@UHN.ON.CA</b>	

**2006 Jerry G. Scott Day**  
**Edmonton, AB**  
**Call for Abstracts**  
**Hematology Trainees (pediatric and adult)**

*There will be a \$1000.00 honorarium for the best paper by a trainee*

Jerry Scott Day is an educational and social event for hematology residents, fellows, and faculty from across Canada. This year's event will be held in Edmonton, Alberta (Conference Location TBA) on Thursday April 20, 2006 1-6pm. In the spirit of the skilled educator and clinician for which the day is named, a series of five to six presentations will be delivered by invited speakers, followed by a dinner.

**Similar to previous years, we will be choosing three top abstracts of resident research (hematology residents only) for presentation at the Canadian Hematology Society luncheon on Friday, April 21, 2006. An honorarium will be awarded to the best presentation. We ask that residents submit abstracts (1 page) to our office below by no later than Friday April 7, 2006.**

**ABSTRACT FORMATTING**

1. Abstracts should be no more than 500 words in length and fit onto a single page.
2. Abstracts must be 12 point font.
3. Type title in capital letters, authors' names and affiliations in capitals and lowercase.
4. Underline all authors' names, indicate presenting author with an asterisk (\*).
5. The abstract should include the purpose of the investigation, methods, results and conclusions
6. High quality diagrams or tables may be included.

**DEADLINE**

**April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2006**

**SUBMISSION INSTRUCTION**

Submissions by fax or email are accepted.

Please include the following information with your submission.

1. Corresponding Trainee

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ (if faxed)

Training Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Year of Training: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel #: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please send to:**

**Dr. Christine Chen** – U of T  
 Adult Hematology Training Program  
 Princess Margaret Hospital  
 Dept. of Med Onc & Hem 5-220  
 Toronto On M5G 2M9  
 Tel No: (416) 946 –2827  
 Fax No: (416) 946 – 4563  
 Email: amy.sgourakis@uhn.on.ca

## **JOB POSTING: HEMATOLOGIST**

The Discipline of Medicine in the Faculty of Medicine, Memorial University of Newfoundland and Eastern Health invites applications for a position in the field of hematology. Applicants must hold an MD degree, an FRCPC in internal medicine or equivalent, and be eligible for licensure in the province of Newfoundland and Labrador. Royal College subspecialty certification in hematology or equivalent is required.

The Division of Hematology seeks an individual with a strong commitment to patient care who will participate in all phases of the practice including stem cell transplant. The successful candidate would join a team of four hematologists. The group is involved with undergraduate and postgraduate teaching in the Medical School and participates in multiple clinical trials.

All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply, however, Canadian citizens and permanent residents will be given priority. Memorial University and Eastern Health are committed to employment equity and encourage applications from qualified women and men, visible minorities, aboriginal people, and persons with disabilities.

Memorial University is the largest university in Atlantic Canada, offering diverse undergraduate and graduate programs to almost 16,000 students in St. John's, a very safe, friendly city with great historic charm. Eastern Health provides most of the tertiary and quaternary care for the province of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Applicants should submit a curriculum vitae and names and addresses of three referees to:

Dr. Robert Williams  
Vice President, Quality, Diagnostic & Medical Services  
Eastern Health, c/o Administration, Room 1352, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
The Health Sciences Centre  
300 Prince Philip Drive  
St. John's, NL, Canada A1B 3V6  
Tel 709 777-1308  
Fax 709 778-6307  
Email: Robert.Williams@easternhealth.ca