



Canadian Hematology Society
Société Canadienne d'Hématologie

NEWSLETTER

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November 2009

Canadian Hematology Society

**Annual Meeting
&
Reception**

6:30 pm December 6, 2009

See Inside

Editor Gail Rock
Executive 2009

President: Jerry Teitel Secretary-Treasurer: Pierre Couban
Past-President: Pierre Laneuville

Canadian Hematology Society



November 2009,
Issue 2



Special Interest

- CHS Reception Dinner and Awards at ASH
- December 6, 2009
- At the Loews New Orleans Hotel
- In the 'Louisiana Ballroom' at 300 Poydras Street, New Orleans, Louisiana 07130
- See page 8 for more information

President's Report

On behalf of the Executive Committee of the Canadian Hematology Society I would like to extend greetings to all of our members. Over the last two years your Executive has been trying to make the CHS a more relevant and useful part of the day-to-day life of hematologists across Canada. We held a day-long retreat in April to discuss the evolving role of CHS, and we believe that we have identified sound strategies to support our collective endeavors. Among these, our annual meeting plays a central role, not only as a formal means of communicating with our members but also as the major forum for informal collegial and social interactions. Hematology is a highly diverse field both clinically and scientifically, and the only forum at which a large number of our

members congregate is the annual meeting of the American Society of Hematology. Recognizing this, we have decided to concentrate our business and social activities at the ASH meeting, rather than trying to schedule a dedicated CHS meeting at another time of year. Those of you who have attended our meetings in recent years know that we have greatly expanded the format and content our traditional Sunday evening cocktail reception. This event now comprises a reception, business meeting, research award ceremony and dinner. To support this much more ambitious event we have solicited and received generous support from several corporate partners. These partners have also cooperated with CHS by refraining from scheduling other events that might conflict with the CHS evening.

Attendance has been excellent, and we are looking forward to another successful evening this year at ASH. Please plan to join us at 6:30 PM on Sunday December 6, in the Louisiana Ballroom of the Loews New Orleans Hotel. The announcement has been circulated to our membership list, and is reprinted in this newsletter.

Given the geographic challenges of our great country and the diversity of interests among our members, we plan to make much greater use of electronic communications to allow CHS to work for you. Our upgraded website will have the capacity to accept payment of annual dues by secure credit card transaction. The website will also host a message centre to post notices of upcoming meetings, open clinical trials, staff and faculty

positions. We will have a news section in which we will post items of interest to our members, including political items, news from the RCPSC, a listing of new members, and milestones such as honors, retirements and obituaries. The website will have links to the many professional associations and other organizations to which our members belong. We are considering an interactive section which will allow our members to seek advice and opinions from their colleagues around difficult clinical cases. We will use our

email list to push these services out to our members.

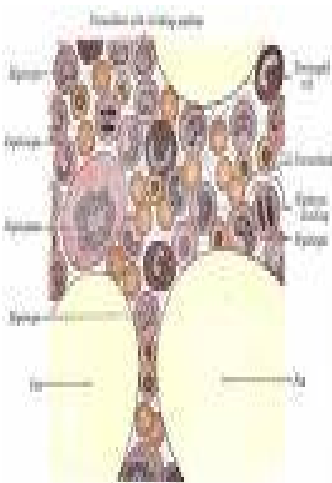
We want you to help us renew the CHS. If you plan to attend ASH this year please plan to join us on Sunday evening.

Finally, on behalf of our Executive and our members I would like to extend my hearty congratulations to Armand Keating of University Health Network, Toronto, on his recent election as Vice-President of the American Society of Hematology. It has been many years since a Canadian

hematologist has had a leadership role in ASH. Armand is a long-time active member and a former President of CHS. His leadership in ASH will reflect well on all of us, and will raise the profile of the large contingent of Canadian hematologists who are members of both national societies. Well done, Armand!

Author: J. Teitel
 President of
 Canadian
 Hematology Society
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UPDATE ON CANADIAN APHERESIS GROUP (CAG)



The Canadian Apheresis Group (CAG) and the Canadian Association of Apheresis Nurses (CAAN) held our 29th Annual General Meeting at the Chateau Cartier Hotel in Gatineau, Quebec, on May 1-3, 2009. Highlights of the meeting were the review of the 2008 data showing a total of 9834 plasma exchange procedures and 1888 stem cell collections from 29 reporting centres.

The morning session included a report on TTP: "Where We're At"

which involved a review of our previous studies including the recently aborted Uniplus study with Octapharma. This study, which involved 16 Canadian and 6 American Centres, was intended to be a non-inferiority study of the universal plasma produced by Octapharma by mixing plasmas and was discontinued last year by the company. This was partly as a result of an intervention by the FDA to require an increase in the total number of patients to almost double the number required and the slow entry of

patients. The status of the Archemix Study using aptamers which inhibits Von Willebrand Factor activity in TMA was also reviewed. Data from the company indicates, once again, that patient recruitment is slow. The US STAR study of TTP, which uses Rituximab and plasma exchange for TTP patients, was also discussed. A recent presentation at an international conference indicated that this multi-centre study has now begun in the US. The goal is to assess the benefits of adding this B-cell inhibitor to the TTP treatment regime

in all presenting patients. In Canada, we have also initiated a study using Rituximab to treat TTP. This study is being done in refractory and unresponsive patients and will involve a total of 60 patients in a non-randomized trial.

Data on our fluid use was discussed. In total, a volume of 32,003 l of fluid was used for replacement last year with 18,371 l of albumin, 4358 l of FFP and 4858 l of CSP used. The Canadian Apheresis Group is considering initiating a trial on the use of Voluven as replacement fluid. Voluven is a hydroxyethyl starch with an average molecular weight of 130,000 daltons and a degree of substitution of 0.4. It has a narrow distribution profile. While previous small studies have compared other starches (i.e. Pentaspan) to albumin in patients undergoing plasma exchange, these studies have been limited by small numbers of patients and in some cases only used starches for less than 50% of the replacement fluid with the rest being albumin and saline. Early studies used starches with higher molecular weights and degree of substitution with wider distribution profiles. While these small studies have shown relative safety, there remains concern regarding hemostatic complications from the use of larger volumes of HES, mainly from the surgical literature. Voluven has been

shown to have less of an inhibitory effect on coagulation system than Pentaspan. Therefore, a large randomized study of Voluven, newer and potentially safer HES, is being considered to assess the safety and feasibility of this agent as a replacement fluid in plasma exchange. A pilot study conducted by Dr. David Barth showed that Voluven is a safe replacement fluid when compared to albumin in patients undergoing at least 5 plasma exchange procedures over 10–14 days. The potential benefits of using this agent would include: (a) reduction in cost of replacement fluid (b) a secure supply source of replacement fluid (c) no concern about potential transmission of unknown infectious agents (d) the ability to use this agent in patients refusing albumin on the basis of religious beliefs.

The issue of severe reactions was reviewed by Dr. Uwais Qarni of the University of Alberta Hospital in Edmonton. Only one severe reaction was reported during the 2008 reporting year and it was considered that this might possibly represent under reporting. However, a poll of attending physicians did not elucidate information on any other problems, indicating that the data was likely accurate. No deaths were seen this year related to plasma exchange procedures.

A half day symposium on stem cell collections was chaired by Dr. Ronan Foley of McMaster University, Hamilton Health Science Centre. At present 22 centres are reporting stem cell collections in support of bone marrow transplantation. Speakers at this symposium were Bernice LeBlanc and Pamela Baldwin, both Apheresis nurses from Hamilton, who presented a paper, entitled “Challenging Cases in Stem Cell Collection” and also provided details on the current expansion to their centre in Hamilton, Ontario. Dr. Steven Devine from the Ohio State University and Gynzeme Canada partnered on a discussion about the AMD3100 Mobilization Agent, while Dr. David Allan of the Ottawa Hospital spoke on Future Cell Therapies and posed the question – What else are we already collecting?

Gail Rock
 Chair, Canadian Apheresis
 Group
cag@ca.inter.net

Canadian Bone Marrow Transplant Group

The last year has seen some changes in the focus of the CBMTG. After a review of the direction of the group, it was decided that there was a need to be more encompassing in order to maintain our membership and build on our past successes. The CBMTG has always had strength in its biannual meeting and in our Clinical Trials Group. One of our mandates has always been to be a multi-disciplinary group that appeals to scientists, physicians, nurses, pharmacists, psychosocial professionals and others involved in blood and marrow stem cell transplants, as well as a link with Pharma to facilitate exchange of ideas and as a conduit for clinical research. Maintaining the enthusiasm of our membership, particularly in non-meeting years has been an issue, as well as building the appeal of membership for non-physicians has been made a priority.

We continue to work hard to perform good scientific and clinical studies that involve group collaboration. The ongoing success of the CTG is a clear indication that this remains a solid basis of the group. Exchange of ideas, many of which do not lead to CBMTG sponsored or collaborative studies is a fruitful exercise for the group. Our current major protocols, one our collaboration with the NMDP in the US has resulted in near completion of the bone

marrow versus peripheral blood cell source of stem cells study in unrelated donor allografts. Our own national protocol that has gone international with other groups around the world, looking at peripheral blood versus G-CSF stimulated bone marrow as a stem cell source has picked up speed and is now accruing nicely. Newer studies are being developed and older once remodeled to increase our output and interactions with other transplant groups' world wide.

We have just initiated our first year of sponsorship of several small grants for studies in various fields that would otherwise be ineligible for funding. It is hoped that these projects will serve as pilots for larger group studies especially in areas where non-scientist, non-physician groups can participate and expand research.

What I find exciting is our new push to encourage participation of all disciplines in the group. We are setting up ways for professionals to exchange ideas and education through on line discussion groups and webinars. This will allow successful local programs and rounds in nursing, laboratory science, pharmacy and psychosocial care to be shared across the country and give our members a forum for sharing problems and solutions. The CBMTG wishes to affirm our belief that

we are all integral parts of the overall transplant community and that a multi-disciplinary group must truly be a multi-disciplinary group.

The future sees the CBMTG and in particular, the Vancouver planning group for the 2010 meeting working towards an event that will be successful and attractive to all members of the Canadian transplant community. We will also be planting the seeds for the 2012 meeting which will likely return to eastern Canada. Further expansion of our existing programs will continue, as well as looking into helping our centers deal with issues of regulatory changes and standardization of processes. Challenges will be helping to deal with expanding costs of therapies and dealing with contracting funding sources particularly in cases of sponsorship of events.

I would like to thank the members of the executive, particularly Ronen Foley and Stephen Couban for their hard work and continuity. I would also like to thank those members who have helped expand the scope of the Group and who are making their presence a welcome hope for future success. Last and not least, many thanks to our management group at Malachite who makes the day to day aspects of running the Group a pleasure

Jeff Lipton
President of CBMTG
Jeff.Lipton@uhn.on.ca.

The Canadian Society for Transfusion Medicine

The Canadian Society for Transfusion Medicine (CSTM) is an inter-professional society that promotes excellence in Transfusion Medicine in Canada. This year the society celebrated 30 years of promoting excellence and supporting professional standards and best laboratory and manufacturing practices in transfusion medicine.

In the beginning... it all began with a small group of concerned blood bankers whose intent was to ensure a high level of ethics and the highest possible standards of blood transfusion practice in Canada. Volunteering their time, they met in 1978 to design and establish the infrastructure for an association whose purpose was to "ensure the highest possible standards of blood transfusion practice in Canada through meetings, educational seminars, evaluation of available products and supplies and the *monitoring of all services to the Canadian patient in our hospital*". On April 6th 1979 the Charter of the *Canadian Association of Immunohematologists (CAIH)* was signed in Toronto. In 1983 the *Standards Committee* was formed and tasked with developing standards for practice. In 1984, the first edition of the Transfusion Medicine Standards for Canada was published. The most current version of these Standards, entitled CSTM Standards for Hospital Transfusion Services, Version 2.0 was released in September 2007 and for the most part is considered "best practice" for

transfusion medicine in Canada. In 1989, the association made application for a Federal Charter and the first meeting of the CSTM was held in 1990. In 2002 the CSTM office was relocated to Ottawa where it is now managed under the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. The Board of Directors is elected from the inter-professional membership and there is a Board Member representing every region throughout Canada.

Through, education, communication and partnerships, the CSTM strives to enhance transfusion practices by establishing mutually beneficial working relations with relevant local, provincial, national and international societies and organizations. As an example, in conjunction with their Board meetings the CSTM provides locally designed educational events, which are video – conference to rural sites that otherwise, may not have access to on-going training opportunities. Also, in partnership with the Canadian Blood Services (CBS) and Héma-Québec (HQ), the CSTM is very successful in mounting its national conference that attracts unprecedented global interest and attendance of inter-professionals whose scope of practice involves a role for transfusion. Through our partnership, we can support the advancement of

transfusion science through in-house programs such as genotyping and organ and tissue banking. This annual conference provides opportunities to share best practices, policy development and research and a number of Canadian initiatives showcased have become recognized models of care for other blood-service organizations and clinical and laboratory transfusion practices Provincially co-coordinated Blood Offices or Programs, the Transfusion Transmitted Injuries Surveillance System and the development of National Standards (Z902-04) specific to the transfusion of blood products are only a small illustration of the progress Canada has made to promote quality and safety in transfusion medicine and improve patient outcomes. This year, the Society was engaged in submitting a proposal for the International Society of Blood Transfusion Congress meeting for 2012, although unsuccessful, the society was able to profile many of the Canadian transfusion research initiatives through this process. The future joint scientific conference planning is in full swing for May in Vancouver CSTM 2010, Toronto 2011 and Winnipeg 2012. In addition, the CSTM membership supports the advancement of knowledge and services for transfusion services in less developed countries and in 2007, supported a delegate

from a developing African nation to attend the World Health Organization Global Consultation on Universal Access to Safe Blood Transfusion.

The CSTM is also proud to provide professional on-line resources for the exchange of views and information to both members and non-members. Through its internationally recognized (and bilingual) website www.transfusion.ca and its quarterly newsletter entitled the "Bulletin", the membership is provided with scientific abstracts,

articles and case studies related to transfusion medicine which can be utilized as part of any on-going training program.

Over the last decade, the society has successfully reached out beyond the walls of the laboratory and expanded both its role and membership to include practices such as Blood Conservation and Transfusion Safety. It is actively soliciting and developing relationships with other health care

disciplines and societies whose practices link with transfusion such as Apheresis, Tissue Banking and Organ Transplantation. Together, we can influence our practices to improve patient safety and achieve better patient outcomes.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the CSTM,

Shelley Feenstra RN

President,

Canadian Society for Transfusion Medicine

Special Invitation

2nd Annual Canadian Conference on Lymphoproliferative Disorders March 26 to 28, 2010

Dear Colleague

On behalf of our distinguished faculty, I have the pleasure of inviting you to participate in the **2nd Annual Canadian Conference on Lymphoproliferative Disorders (CCOLD)** at Lake Louise, which will be held March 26 to 28, 2010. This meeting highlights advances in the management of lymphoma, leukemia, myeloma and other hematologic disorders.

In 2009, attendees were privileged to hear concise and state of the art presentations on CLL, follicular lymphoma and other indolent histologies by international speakers. This

year the conference will focus on the more aggressive nonHodgkin's Lymphomas as well as Hodgkin's Disease. Changes in classification and pathophysiology of Lymphoproliferative Disorders have been incorporated, besides presentations on radiotherapy. This conference will showcase significant advancements in the management of Lymphoproliferative Disorders. Case presentations will highlight current treatment standards. There will be opportunity for audience participation via keypad polling devices, question and answer sessions, and during panel

discussions featuring our faculty.

An exciting addition to the conference for 2010 is our "Young Investigators Research Awards Program" which aims to provide educational and research support to trainees interested in Lymphoproliferative Disorders. Abstracts will be presented during a special posters session at the reception on evening of Saturday, March 27.

The Planning Committee has been successful at securing leaders in the field of Lymphoproliferative Disorders to provide keynote lectures.

Confirmed visiting faculty include :

Dr. Michael Pfreundschuh,
Homburg, DE
Dr. Nancy Harris, Boston, MA

Dr. Randy Gascoyne,
Vancouver, BC
Dr. Andreas Engert,
Dr. Jay Harris, Boston, MA

Dr. Joe Connors, Vancouver, BC

Dr. Jonathan Friedberg,
Rochester, NY

Dr. Jonathan Friedberg,
Rochester, NY

We hope that you will be able to join us in what we anticipate to be a stimulating and rewarding program. Further

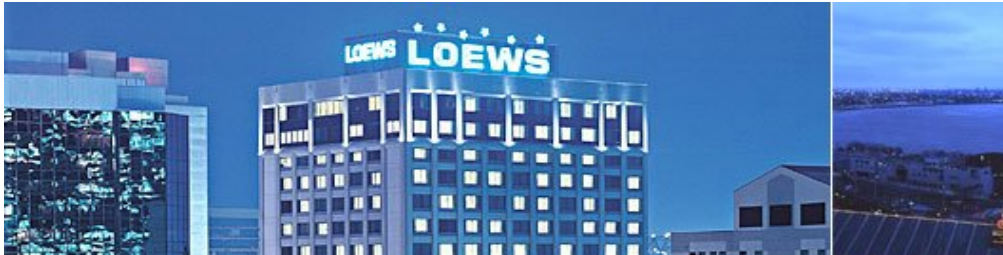
details can be found on the conference website www.ccold.ca

Planning Committee :

Dr. Laurie Sehn (Vancouver, BC)
Dr. Wendy Lam (Vancouver, BC)
Dr. Doug Stewart (Calgary, AB)
Dr. Jame Johnston (Winnipeg, MB)
Dr. Christine Chen (Toronto, ON)
Dr. Chaim Shustik (Montreal, QC)
Dr. Stephen Couban (Halifax, NS)

Yours truly,
Dr. Wendy Lam
On behalf of the
Planning Committee

**Reception, Annual General Business Meeting and the
2009 Research & Education Awards Dinner
Sunday December 6th, 2009**



Loews New Orleans Hotel
Louisiana Ballroom
300 Poydras Street
New Orleans, Louisiana 70130

The Canadian Hematology Society is pleased to announce our 2009 Reception, Annual General Business Meeting and the 2009 Research and Education Awards Dinner which will be held on **Sunday December 6th, 2009** at the Loews New Orleans Hotel, New Orleans in the Louisiana Ballroom. This evening will be held in conjunction with the 51st American Society of Hematology's (ASH) Annual Meeting and Exposition.

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
6:30pm	Cocktail Reception	Parrish Hall
7:30pm – 8:00pm	Annual General Business Meeting	Mezzanine Room
8:00pm – 10:00pm	Awards Reception and Buffet Dinner	Louisiana Ballroom



Canadian Hematology Society
Soci t  Canadienne d' H matologie

REGISTRATION FORM FOR MEETING AND RECEPTION

New Orleans

Sunday December 6th, 2009

Yes, I will be attending the CHS reception, Annual General Business Meeting and Research and Education Awards dinner

Contact Information

Title: Dr. Mr. Ms. Mrs. Other: _____

Name and Job Title (please print):

Institution: _____

Department: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone: () _____ Fax: () _____

E-Mail: _____

Please confirm your attendance by November 13th, 2009. Please RSVP by fax or email to Ms. Stacey Rehel, fax: 514-843-5292, email: srehel@gliasc.com.



Canadian Hematology Society
Soci t  Canadienne d' H matologie



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Executive Vice President

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CHS 2010 Dues – First Notice**Active members – Please remit your annual dues to CHS upon receipt.**

Please complete your contact information to assist us in keeping the CHS files up-to-date

Send your \$50.00 due payment to:

199-435 St. Laurent Blvd.
Ottawa, Ontario
K1K 2Z8

Membership Status	ACTIVE	ASSOCIATE	EMERITUS
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Has Your Status Changed?	Yes/No
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Name: _____

Address: _____

Work Phone: _____

Work Fax: _____

Email Address: _____