



# Newsletter

February 2002



## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

**D**ue to the very large amount of work undertaken by Council during the second half of last year, there has not been an issue of this Newsletter since April 2001. This is an unfortunate omission, as the Newsletter is the main avenue of informing Members of the sterling work that the Society is undertaking on their behalf.

As you will see from this issue, a number of joint publications with the NH&MRC have been published recently and ASBT has also been regularly involved in discussions with government officials and ministers. The main emphasis of the Society's activities has been on the improvement of quality and safety of transfusion therapy. This has involved not only the joint publications with NH&MRC, but also the commencement of the Research Grants and other Awards designed to provide Members with opportunities for further study and research into various areas of transfusion medicine.

Another area where opportunity for further study lies is with the Internet. There are now a number of sites proving information on blood transfusion; these include other professional societies, scientific journals and universities. Links to some of these are given on the ASBT

web site and it is hoped to soon provide Members with access to some "subscription" sites to scientific journals and search engines. The newly formed Education Subcommittee will be investigating ways of improving and increasing ways to provide Members with education opportunities and to improving communications within the Society. As part of this process, a complete review of the format, content and role of the Newsletter will be held. The editor would welcome any comments and suggestions from Members. Submissions may be sent by e-mail or post to the addresses given below.

During the time since the publication of the last issue of this newsletter, the profession of blood transfusion has been saddened by the death of two eminent blood group serologists with Australian connections, Ruth Sanger and John Case. Although they passed away in the first half of 2001, valedictions for both are included in this issue, as it is only fitting that their passing should not go unrecognised by the ASBT.

**Derek S. Ford**

## Have **your** say through the pages of the ASBT Newsletter

Please send all letters, articles etc to:

Derek S. Ford

Immunohaematology Consultation & Education Services  
PO Box 5436

Port Macquarie NSW 2444

e-mail: [iceserv@bigpond.com](mailto:iceserv@bigpond.com)

# MASTERS IN TRANSFUSION SCIENCE

New in 2002, the School of Biomedical Science at Curtin University will introduce a Masters in Transfusion Science. The three semester on-line program for science graduates consists of 8 coursework units and a project. Included is a unit of Blood Transfusion Service Medicine and one on Hospital Transfusion Medicine. These units have been developed with considerable input from leading scientists in the field.

The course also offers students the opportunity to take elective units in areas such as business, computing and other areas of science.

The program should be of interest to scientists working in the field and is unique in Australia.

For more information contact:  
Dr Bob Dunstan  
Head, School of Biomedical Sciences  
Curtin University of Technology  
GPO Box U1987 Perth 6845  
Western Australia

Phone: +61 8 92667375 Fax: +61 8 9266 2342  
Email: [R.Dunstan@curtin.edu.au](mailto:R.Dunstan@curtin.edu.au)



The lucky winners of the Membership Survey Raffle that was included with the April 2001 issue of ASBT Newsletter were:

**[K Marsden, C Forsyth and D Cross](#)**

Congratulations to the three winners; we hope that you enjoyed carefully analysing the wine!!



# PRESIDENT'S REPORT



**DECEMBER 2001**

By the time you receive this newsletter, I would imagine we will all be well and truly back into the swing of transfusion medicine following the Christmas and New Year break. For those of you who are not aware, the new ASBT Council for 2001-2003 and their positions are:

**Mark Dean** - President

**Ken Davis** - Vice President and Education

**Robyn Minchinton** –Treasurer and Strategic Planning

**John Rowell** –Education and Annual Society Meeting

**Helen Savoia** –Education

**Susanta Gosh** – Secretary and Membership

The Councillors wasted no time in having a face-to-face meeting, which was held at the end of November 2001. The aim of this meeting was to review our strategic direction and by April 2002, we hope to issue a revised ASBT Strategic Plan that will cover the life of this Council. Other issues discussed at the face-to-face meeting included the upcoming Annual Society Meetings. Upcoming ASMs have been scheduled for:

**2002:** 9-12 September - Adelaide

**2003:** 18-22 October - Christchurch

**2004:** 17-20 October - Melbourne

**2005:** 16-19 October - Sydney

I wish to personally congratulate the organising committee for the 2001 Brisbane meeting. There was an excellent scientific program that covered the interests of our broad membership base, as well as an exciting social program.

The winners of awards from this meeting were:

Presidential Award -

Andrew Geczy

Ruth Sanger Orator -

Anne Fletcher

Poster Award -

Russel O'Connor

Peter Schiff Award -

Gordon Whyte

Asian Pacific Island Travel Grant -

Donald Tahini (Solomon Islands)

Student Scholarship -

Rebecca Veres

Travel Grant -

Rosemary Sparrow  
and Karen Thrift

Further details of these awards are given on Page 12 of this newsletter.

In the months ahead, I see the ASBT continuing to have a key role in the implementation of the Clinical Practice Guidelines and the Appropriate Use of Blood and Blood Products. It is very pleasing to note that the ASBT is also represented on the newly formed AHMAC Blood Safety and Quality Working Group. The ASBT representative for that Working Group is myself. The Scientific Committee is nearly in a position to release revised Autologous Guidelines and is working on both the Irradiation Guidelines and Guidelines for Assessing the Quantity of Foetal Maternal Haemorrhage.

Finally, I wish to thank Rick Tochetti, John Lown and Jenny Condon who served on the previous ASBT Council.

I wish you all well in 2002 and encourage you to start thinking about abstracts for presentation at the September 2002 ASM.

**Mark Dean**

President, ASBT

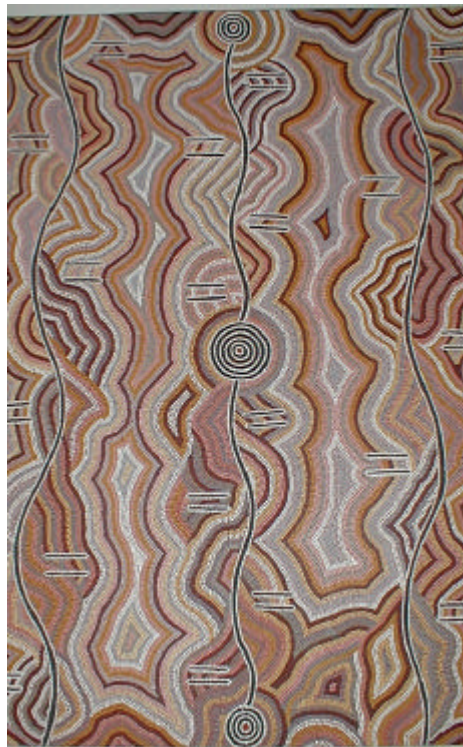
## Memories of the 2001 Annual Scientific Meeting



Dr Anne Fletcher from ARCBS prepares for her Ruth Sanger oration



Jennifer Antonino, Director Sales & Marketing, Pharmion, created a poem to welcome delegates to the opening cocktail party.



At the Transfusion Technology symposium, sponsored by Baxter Healthcare, aboriginal art seemed to depict a leucoreduction filter with top and bottom packs attached!

[Photographs courtesy of Dr Robyn Minchinton.]

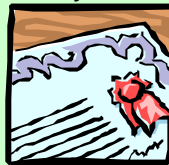
*[All three photographs have dark backgrounds. Although they reproduce well on the website, they may not print well in the black & white 'hard copy' distributed to all members – Ed]*

## Links to the NHMRC/ASBT GUIDELINES.

- <http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/publications/pdf/cp77.pdf> - (appropriate use of red blood cells summary)
- <http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/publications/pdf/cp79.pdf> - (Blood Platelets)
- <http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/publications/pdf/cp80.pdf> - (frozen plasma)
- <http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/publications/pdf/cp81.pdf> - (blood components - pocket)
- <http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/publications/pdf/cp82.pdf> - (use of red blood cells)
- <http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/publications/pdf/cp83.pdf> - (blood brochure)
- <http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/publications/pdf/cp84.pdf> - (blood poster)

## Peter Schiff Award

*Kindly sponsored by CSL Bioplasma*



**The winner of the 2001 Peter Schiff Award is Dr Gordon Whyte  
Congratulations!**

## I'M ON A COMMITTEE

Oh, give me your pity, I'm on a committee  
Which means that from morning to night,  
We attend and amend, and contend, and defend,  
Without a conclusion in sight.

We confer and concur, we defer and demur,  
And re-iterate all of our thoughts  
We revise the agenda with frequent addenda,  
And consider a load of reports.

We compose and propose, we suppose and oppose,  
And the points of procedure are fun  
But though various motions are put up as motions  
There's terribly little gets done.

We resolve and absolve, but never dissolve,  
Since it's out of the question for us.  
What a shattering pity to end our committee.  
Where else could we make such a fuss?

*[Thank goodness, instead then, that we have a Council  
Though if the outcome differs by more than an ounce I'll  
Be delighted and very surprised!! - Ed.]*

# Vale – John Case

29/12/1926 – 27/04/2001



Immunohaematology lost a renowned medical scientist with the recent death of John Case in Houston. John inspired many medical scientists to specialise in blood group serology by his very individual form of enthusiasm and dedication. I was just one of those who John inspired and he was my mentor, teacher and friend throughout my entire career.

John commenced his medical scientist training at the Public Health Laboratory in Poole, Dorset. Following his two years in the Army, from 1945, John held a posts in Whipps Cross Hospital and the South London Blood Transfusion Service (where Laurie Marsh was also employed), before emigrating to New Zealand in 1959 to take the position as Chief Technologist in Haematology and Blood Transfusion at the Otago Medical School. It was in 1961 that I first met John, when I joined him in Dunedin as his Senior Technologist; from that point on, John was the leading influence in my career as he encouraged me to specialise in immunohaematology.

In 1971, John moved from Dunedin, New Zealand to Melbourne, Australia, to take the post of Consultant Serologist at the Commonwealth Serum Laboratories (CSL) and to head the National Blood Group Reference Laboratory. Whilst there, he quickly expanded and improved the range of blood group reagents that were produced by CSL and was a leading force in assisting the growth of the blood transfusion service in Malaysia. Within only a few years, John was well known throughout the blood banking international scene and, only 5 years after joining CSL,

he was headhunted by Gamma Biologicals of Houston, Texas to become Vice-President of Regulatory Affairs. From that time, John played a leading role in the “English Mafia” of USA blood banking and became a well-respected teacher, adviser and consultant. In 1990, John was honoured by the AABB by being awarded the Ivor Dunsford Prize for that year and in 1997 he was given the Ruth Sanger Oration Award by the ASBT. John’s forthright manner sometimes rankled a few feathers; he forcefully insisted on the rigorous adherence to the highest practical standards and he never hesitated to openly state his opinion – which was always based on his extraordinary theoretical and practical knowledge. Over the last few years of his career, John’s exchanges with John Judd in the discussion group pages of the AABB web site kept many amused, but never failed to educate at the same time.

John’s love for immunohaematology can be gauged by the fact that he did not retire at 65, but continued until his 73<sup>rd</sup> year; only 2 years before his untimely death following a stroke. John’s sudden passing came as a shock to many immunohaematologists, both medical and scientific, throughout the world and leaves a gap that can never be filled. He is survived by his wife, Ellen and children, Edward, Jackie and Adrienne, and granddaughters Kelsey and Landa, to whom we offer our sincere condolences.

Rest in Peace, dear friend and valued colleague.

**Derek S. Ford**

# Obituary - Ruth Sanger

Co-author of the 'bible' of scientists in the field of blood-grouping

**Ruth Sanger was born on June 6, 1918. She died on June 4, 2001, aged 82.**



A TIRELESS worker in the field of human blood group research for more than forty years, Ruth Sanger made a great contribution through her painstaking laboratory work, her erudite contributions to the academic literature and her witty presentations at scientific conferences. Most famously she co-authored the book *Blood Groups in Man* (1950) with her partner — later to be husband — Rob Race. Eventually going through six editions, “Race and Sanger” was the blood grouper’s bible for more than 30 years, a work vital for academic research and practical medical aspects of blood transfusion. Born in 1918 in Queensland, Australia, Ruth Sanger was educated at Abbotsleigh School, Sydney, and Sydney University. In 1940, she joined the Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service in Sydney. She worked first in the blood plasma drying plant and then, under Dr R. T. Walsh, in the blood-grouping laboratory — a discipline she would pursue for the rest of her life.

After the war she came to England to visit relatives and Walsh arranged for her to spend a year with Dr R. R. Race and his newly formed Medical Research Council Blood Group Unit in London. This Unit studied new red cell antigens and the antibodies that identified them and was especially interested in the clinically important Rhesus blood group system.

The original year was extended to two and she completed her PhD at London University in 1948. She returned to Sydney expecting to stay but could not resist the excitement of the work being carried out in London. She sold her piano to pay her return fare on the boat and came back to join the scientific staff of the MRC Unit at the Lister Institute in 1950. She succeeded Race as

Director in 1973 and continued in the Unit until she retired in 1983.

Ruth Sanger received many honours and was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1972. She was also invited to become an honorary member of numerous societies worldwide, which reflected her extensive collaborative links and the importance of her work in the blood-grouping field.

The six editions of *Blood Groups in Man* and Ruth Sanger’s light-hearted but hard-working approach and willingness to share knowledge attracted visitors and scientific problems from many countries. The MRC Blood Group Unit became a centre for studying unusual red cell phenotypes and a focus for investigating problems disclosed by pre-transfusion compatibility testing.

The Unit played a central role in defining the individuality of our blood groups and their complexity. In addition to the clinically important ABO and Rh blood groups, more than 20 other systems were recognized. Ruth Sanger derived considerable pleasure from the discovery of the Xg system, which is on the X-chromosome. This work involved collating a wide spectrum of data from serology, genetics and cytogenetics, and provided new information about the function of the X and Y chromosomes.

Ruth Sanger’s intelligence and warmth charmed colleagues of all ages. She will be remembered for friendship, enthusiasm, helpfulness and humour. In 1956, she married Dr Race, after the death of his first wife. He died in 1984.

*This obituary appeared in “The Times” newspaper in England on Sunday 1 July 2001*

# RUTH SANGER, FRS, Ph.D

## 6 June 1918 – 4 June 2001

Ruth Sanger, who is honoured by the Society's Annual Oration, died in London in June. Ruth was born in Southport, Queensland, the youngest of a family of four. Her father was a housemaster at The King's School, Parramatta, and later Headmaster of the Armidale School (TAS) where the family lived on the school grounds. The young Ruth therefore grew up in an academic and sporting atmosphere which she certainly appreciated. She attended Abbotsleigh, Wahroonga from 1928- 1935, and, in the first of those years, was the youngest boarder in a school where her sister was at the time head prefect. Ruth recalled those years with great enjoyment, never topping any class, nor ever failing. There were prizes along the way, and at the end of her school days, she received the Faith Brodziak Memorial Prize. She enjoyed all sporting activities, excelling at netball, cricket, and less so at tennis.

She found it hard to work out the influence of her school on her future career, since, other than mathematics, botany was the only science subject taught – Ruth enjoyed both. She left school with no idea of what she wanted to do except to go to University (there was only one university in Sydney then), which she duly did, spending four happy years at Women's College.

The first year of science was difficult indeed, as Ruth had not studied either physics or chemistry at school. It is recorded that she borrowed Leaving Certificate physics and chemistry notes from a couple of Newcastle High School girls over the holidays. Ruth won the Caird scholarship, which allowed her to do an honors year, in which World War 2 began.

Ruth's first job in 1940 was a temporary one in the Pathology Department at the Camperdown Children's Hospital, which she felt gave her a taste for laboratory medicine. After three months she joined the Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service and for the first two years or so, worked with Dr. Frank Byrom, an Englishman who was setting up a plant for drying plasma in the University Medical School. In 1991 Ruth wrote: "This work I enjoyed but I was delighted to be moved to Sydney Hospital (where the BTS was housed during the War) to the Blood Grouping Laboratory – my boss was Dr. R.J.Walsh. Blood groups have been my metier all my life. My work was arduous, interesting and often exciting. During the War the Rh factor and its importance in blood transfusion and haemolytic disease of the newborn was discovered in the United States and in the UK, and I was given most of the Rh laboratory work."

In order to further her career, Ruth set her sights on England, and to raise the fare, she sold her only possession, the family piano. In those days there were no travelling scholarships. She was given paid leave on the understanding that she would repay the RCBS by working for a further year on her return. Bob Walsh had written to Dr. Rob Race, then still in Cambridge, who had done some excellent work in unravelling the genetics of the Rh groups, asking him to fit Ruth into his laboratory. It was 1946, and Rob Race had just been given a Medical Research Council Unit, to be housed in the Lister Institute of Preventive Medicine near the Battersea Bridge and powerhouse in London. Ruth thus joined the MRC Blood Group Unit team on a year's paid leave from Sydney BTS.

Red Cross allowed her a second year, funded by the MRC, and during that time she completed her PhD at London University. She also made two working visits to the United States, mainly based in Boston where much good red cell serology was being done. In 1949, Ruth returned to Sydney to fulfil her contract, and then moved permanently to London in 1950, where she remained for the rest of her career with the MRC Blood Group Unit. She later married her colleague and mentor, Rob Race, and helped him raise three daughters. When Rob retired in 1973, Ruth was appointed as Director of the Unit, a post that she held until her own retirement in 1983.

Ruth Sanger was elected FRS in 1972 and with Rob Race, shared the Karl Landsteiner Memorial Award of the AABB in 1957, and the Philip Levine Award of the American Society of Clinical Pathologists in 1970. Other honours included the Gairdner Foundation Award (Canada, jointly with Rob Race, in 1972), and the Oliver Memorial Award of the British Red Cross in 1973. She took delight in

receiving an honorary MD from the University of Helsinki in 1990, as part of the ceremony required her to receive (but not wear!) both a top hat and sword.

I first met Ruth and Rob in London in 1968, when they were at the peak of their professional careers. It could easily have been a daunting experience for a young man on his first overseas visit, but they ensured that it wasn't by their decidedly relaxed approach. We met and talked in a laboratory that most certainly would not pass muster in a NATA/RCPA or TGA inspection – eating, smoking and drinking coffee and tea were all done at the laboratory bench! The first part of the visit was spent bringing Ruth up to date with news from Sydney and the wider Australian scene. This inquisition at Ruth's hand was a featured part of all our subsequent meetings. Although Ruth had made her professional career in England and the Northern Hemisphere, an important and driving part of her remained archetypally Australian, and matters scientific and serologic could not be addressed until she had been brought up to date on her Australian friends and colleagues, as well as the latest cricket and football news.

Like so many of the truly great and famous, the laboratory in which Ruth and Rob worked was modest, their lunch simple, almost pedestrian, at the local pub, where these distinguished scientists were on the warmest of first name terms with the innkeeper and his clientele.

The Book – definitively named “Blood Groups in Man” was first published in 1950, and was totally rewritten several times over the next twenty-five years. They wrote at home, which would not surprise anyone who has ever aspired to write in an uninterrupted manner for more than 15 minutes. As each new edition neared completion, this meant Tuesdays and Thursdays at home, with the week's work squeezed into three hectic days.

Ruth's active mind did not allow her to rest idly in her retirement, and she enrolled in several keep fit classes for the over 60s and undertook tertiary level studies in geology, archaeology and other quite remote and lateral disciplines. She went to concerts, to plays, and was involved in the affairs of the Royal Society. For some years, she was always welcomed back on her one day a week at the Blood Group Unit, where she felt she doubled not only as an in-house referee of papers, but as a combined coach and cheerleader for the team.

Sadly, in recent months Ruth had deteriorated mentally and physically, and her passing came peacefully, with her family at hand.

Ruth Sanger was a most distinguished Australian scientist who contributed uniquely to our knowledge of immunohaematology. Intellectually honest and devastatingly frank as only expatriate Australians can be, Ruth was nevertheless a wonderfully warm, outgoing, friendly human being, whose encouragement, friendship, stimulation and support meant a great deal to an enormous number of workers from all over the world in the field she graced. **Vale, Ruth!**

This tribute to Ruth is an edited version of the opening of my Ruth Sanger Oration given in 1993 in Hobart, part of which appeared in the Society's Newsletter in November 1993. At that time, I acknowledged that I was indebted for much of the information to Ruth herself, and to her colleague and successor Dr. Patricia Tippett.

*Some of the detail of Ruth's early life and career came from an autobiographical note that Ruth prepared in 1991 for her old school magazine.*

**Robert Beal**  
**Adelaide**  
**July 2001**

## Call for Nominations

### Scientific Subcommittee (2002 - 2004)

There are two vacancies on this Committee – one medical and one scientific.

Nominations are invited from members for these two positions on the ASBT Scientific Subcommittee in 2002.

See Terms of Reference for this Subcommittee on page 11 of this Newsletter.

**Nominations close noon 28 February 2002**

For further information

**ASBT Secretariat**

**145 Macquarie Street**

**SYDNEY NSW 2000**

**AUSTRALIA**

Tel: 02 9256 5456

Fax: 02 9252 0294

Email: [secretariat@asbt.org.au](mailto:secretariat@asbt.org.au)



### *New Members since April 2001*

<u>Name</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>State</u>
ZD Bennetts	QLD	AK Mills,	QLD
J Bosio,	WA	D Mills-Wallbridge,	NSW
KE Burns,	NT	C Mullighan,	SA
S Caleo,	NSW	K Robinson,	SA
A Chand,	NZ	PV Ross,	QLD
KV Doherty,	SA	C Sellings,	VIC
M Gaskell,	VIC	M Sharma,	QLD
AF Geczy,	NSW	JS Shukla,	INDIA
E Giannitto,	SA	A Stelmach,	SA
PK Gounder,	NSW	KM Thrift,	NSW
S Heatley,	SA	BR Tranter,	VIC
P Hetzel,	SA	K Wehr,	SA
		SA Williams.	QLD

## **TERMS OF REFERENCE SCIENTIFIC SUBCOMMITTEE**

1. The Subcommittee should consist of six ASBT members and be comprised of three medical practitioners and three scientists and no more than two representatives from any one state or New Zealand.
2. The Council will call for nominations for the Subcommittee from the general society membership. Such nominations should include a brief resume of the nominated person and that person's acceptance of the nomination. The Council of the ASBT would then appoint the subcommittee. Council would appoint members of the Subcommittee for a period of two years, renewable for a further two terms. Half of the Committee would retire at one time. Any vacancy occurring during the term of office will be decided by the Council.
3. Members of the Scientific Subcommittee should not be members of the Council other than the Chairman of the Scientific Subcommittee who would become a co-opted Council member. A Vice-Chairman and Secretary should also be appointed.
4. The Subcommittee would report through its Chairman to the ASBT Council at each Council meeting and its terms of reference should be:
  - a. to recommend to the Council, areas of transfusion medicine practice that warrant special study
  - b. at the request of the ASBT Council to survey current practices and assess whether guidelines or standards should be formulated, to enhance the practice of transfusion medicine
  - c. at the request of the ASBT Council to recommend guidelines concerning the practice of transfusion medicine to the Council for final ratification and circulation
  - d. to formulate education material to enhance the practice of transfusion medicine in collaboration with the Education Councillor.
  - e. other tasks as requested by the ASBT Executive
  - f. at the request of Council, the Scientific Subcommittee to respond to members and others, on scientific and technical questions
5. The Subcommittee is responsible to Council and formal communication to outside bodies is to be through Council.
6. The Scientific Subcommittee shall address topics designated by Council which will provide written guidelines, objectives and date for completion.
7. The membership of the Scientific Subcommittee shall nominate to Council and invite individuals with appropriate expertise on to Expert Panels to examine and report on designated issues. Each Expert Panel will include at least one member of the Scientific Subcommittee.
8. Following each meeting of the Subcommittee, the Chairman shall make an interim report to Council via the Education Councillor. A report on the activities of the Committee shall also be made by the Chairman at the usual council meetings. Council shall report to the ASBT membership, on the activities and progress of the Scientific Subcommittee, in each newsletter.
9. The Subcommittee and Expert Panels would normally meet by teleconference. Council has approved two face to face meetings per year, one of which should be at the annual scientific meeting of ASBT.
10. Appropriate expenses for teleconferences and face to face meetings would be met by the ASBT following approval by the Executive.
11. The Editor of the Broadsheet shall be co-opted to the Scientific Subcommittee.



## 2001 ASM Prize Winners

**Presidential Award:** Andrew Geczy, ARCBS-NSW for “*Development of monoclonal antibodies for the detection of the infectious agent of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD) in blood*”

FF Yuan 1, M Suarez 1, S Biffin 1 and AF Geczy 1 \*, R Cappai 2 , and C Masters 2

**Poster Award:** Russell O'Connell, ARCBS – Geelong for “*The Blood Supply Of The Future: Establishing Donation Patterns Through A School Based Youth Program*”

\*Russell O'Connell (1), Catherine Davis (1) and the Staff of the Geelong Blood Centre (1)  
(1) Australian Red Cross Blood Service – Geelong Blood Centre, Geelong Victoria Australia

**Ruth Sanger Orator** Dr Anne Fletcher, ARCBS-NSW

**Peter Schiff Award** Dr Gordon Whyte

**Asian / Pacific Islands Travel** Mr Donald Tahani from the Solomon Islands

**Student Scholarship** Rebecca Veres, School of Life Sciences, QUT

**ASM Travel Grant:** Rosemary Sparrow ARCBS-VIC,  
Karen Thrift PaLMS Transfusion Service, RNSH, Sydney

**CSL Bioplasma** Yoke Lin Fung, ARCBS-QLD

### **Research Fund**

1. Dr Angela Anniss, ARCBS-VIC  
*“Red Blood cell changes during storage: strategies for developing a clearer understanding of “storage lesions”*
2. Mrs Natalie Cowley, ARCBS-QLD  
*Aim is to develop a single stage PCR assay to detect the RHD gene using Real Time PCR to test for the RHD presence and zygosity (D gene dosage). The real-time PCR assay will be validated for use as a diagnostic assay against the current PCR technology used at ARCBSQ, while exploring the option of marketing the test as a commercial assay for the detection of the RHD gene.*
3. Professor Robert Flower, Transfusion Service, RNSH Sydney  
*The aim of the project is to study vMNS phenotypes, to improve identification of incompatibilities and manage or prevent transfusion-associated morbidity.*



## Calendar of Scientific Meetings

2002

**24-28 August**  
**Vancouver, BC, Canada**

27th Congress of the International Society of  
Blood Transfusion  
hosted by the Canadian Society for  
Transfusion Medicine  
Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada  
For information contact:  
website: [www.isbt2002.com](http://www.isbt2002.com)  
e-mail: [congress@venuewest.com](mailto:congress@venuewest.com)

**7-11 September**  
**Adelaide, Australia**

ASBT/HSANZ Conjoint Meeting  
For information contact: ASM Secretariat:  
Festival City Conventions Pty Ltd  
PO Box 949, Kent Town  
South Australia 5071  
Australia  
Ph. +61 8 8363 1307  
Fax: +61 8 8363 1604  
[hsanzasbt@fcconventions.com.au](mailto:hsanzasbt@fcconventions.com.au)

**26-30 October**  
**Orlando, Florida, USA**

55<sup>th</sup> AABB Annual Meeting and TXPO 2002  
For information contact:  
American Association of Blood Banks  
8101 Glenbrook Road  
Bethesda, MD 20814-2749  
Phone: (301) 907-6977 Fax: (301) 907-6895  
email: <mailto:aabb@aabb.org>

### ***Transfusion Medicine Web Site***

Have a look at Pat Letendre's web site at : <http://www.ualberta.ca/~pletendr/bb.html>.

This is an excellent Transfusion Medicine web site, containing many excellent links and well worth adding to your bookmarks.

# Privacy Policy

The ASBT complies with new, national privacy legislation *The Privacy Amendment (Private Sector) Act 2001*, effective 21 December 2001.

Personal information, as defined by the Act, about Members, whether submitted prior to 21 December 2001 or after that date, will only be handled and used in accordance with the National Privacy Principles. Such information will be used only for the purposes collected and will not be passed on to a Third Party without the express permission of the individual concerned. Any Third Party with whom information may be shared must have a complying privacy policy and must undertake to use that personal information for the stated purpose only and not for any secondary purpose.

Personal and sensitive information already submitted by this date or collected after this date will be regarded as confidential and will be disclosed ONLY under the following conditions.

For Members:

- for the purposes of processing Membership application;
- for purposes of identifying status as Member or Applicant for Membership of the ASBT;
- for purposes of promoting scientific meeting(s), in particular the ASBT's Annual Scientific Meeting;
- for purposes of forwarding educational information;
- inclusion in the Directory of Members;
- to other ASBT Members for a purpose approved by the ASBT;
- for any purpose deemed of interest to Members by the ASBT;

For Employees,

- Where disclosure is a matter of regulatory compliance or judicial order by an authority.

Notes:

- a) *It is not possible to become a Member of the ASBT without providing the personal information requested.*
- b) *Not all information relating to an individual is defined as "personal" under the Act. For example, records of evaluative material as part of the assessment process.*

Those who have provided personal information will have access to the ASBT's record of their personal information.

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***Are you preparing your paper/poster for  
the 2002 Annual Scientific Meeting?***

Now is the time to start on your contribution to this year's ASM in Adelaide. Remember that there are a number of prizes and travel grants available to members who have submitted papers/posters. Abstracts are due in by 3 June, so there is no time to lose – START NOW!!!

## ASBT COUNCIL OCTOBER 2001 TO OCTOBER 2003

<b>NAME &amp; ADDRESS</b>	<b>POSITION</b>	<b>WORK PHONE</b>	<b>FAX NO</b>	<b>EMAIL</b>
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