

# Blood Matters on the Bench and Beyond

Issue 1 – January 2020

Welcome to the first Blood Matters newsletter for Scientists, written for Victorian transfusion scientists. It will be distributed throughout the year to share information that may be helpful to you, and to let you know of upcoming activities which may be of interest.

## Blood Matters Scientist role

Rae French joined the Blood Matters team in October 2019 in the Blood Matters Scientist role. This role builds on the successes of the red cell wastage project. It will diversify from exclusively being focused on red cell waste, to include other products and will also look at ways to provide support and education for transfusion scientists.

Rae has 17 years of experience as a Medical Scientist in Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom. She will be working every Wednesday, Thursday and alternate Tuesdays. In addition, Rae works part-time as a transfusion scientist, so understands the daily pressures faced in a busy laboratory.

To contact Rae: email [rfrench@redcrossblood.org.au](mailto:rfrench@redcrossblood.org.au), phone: 03 9694 3524, mobile: 0468 514 697

In the coming months Rae will be arranging some site visits to meet you and learn about your site. If you have suggestions about resources that could be developed to assist to you, please contact Rae.

## Survey for Scientists

Blood Matters values your voice and would greatly appreciate you completing this survey – click on the link below. It will take less than 5 minutes of your time to guide us how to best provide you support and education.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/7XKXY75>

We're putting it out to you to come up with a fun title for this newsletter, please add your suggestions to the survey.

The selected name will win a delicious prize for your blood bank, so put your creativity caps on to come up with a catchy title.

## Red cell wastage – festive campaign 'STOP the Waste'

Congratulations to you all for your diligent effort so far over the festive period – the December red cell wastage rate was an incredible 1.6%, below the national average of 1.9%.

Your commitment to ensuring the donor's precious gift is not wasted is commendable. Let's all work together to continue this effort through to February, when the peak wastage has traditionally been.

We appreciate that many of you are continuing to work under very tough conditions in what has been a horrific beginning to the year. Our thoughts go to you, your families and anyone who has been affected by these devastating fires.



## Save the Date - Blood Matters Scientist Summit

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Australian Red Cross Lifeblood, Batman Street, West Melbourne

- A free and catered education day aimed at transfusion scientists of all levels, offering scientific and local industry updates
- Please let us know any topics, challenges or issues you would like included in the day. We are planning an interactive day to share expertise and experiences to contribute to the greater transfusion community.
- Discuss your interest in attending this summit with your senior scientist for rostering purposes.
- Further information about the event will be circulated later in the year.

### BloodNet discard codes

Correct BloodNet discard codes assist with interpretation of the data and help identify trends and possible solutions, particularly in high waste products/areas.

The comment field is a very useful tool, the more information included the better we can interpret the data. The table below provides some examples to help correctly code discards.

Product type	What happened	Correct discard code	Commonly misused
Cryoprecipitate/ FFP	Thawed & not used within the required timeframe	Expired – Thawed Frozen product	Expired - Time expired
Extended life plasma (ELP)	ELP not used within 5 days	Expired – Extended life plasma	Expired – Time expired
Cryoprecipitate/ FFP	Thawed for a patient and no longer required	Clinical – Ordered for patient, not required	Expired - Time expired
Cryoprecipitate/ FFP	Unit still in freezer (unused) on expiry	Expired - Time Expired	

### How can Blood Matters help you?

The Blood Matters team is here to assist health services and laboratories through education and providing resources.

We welcome open and collaborative discussion to ensure we can work together to support and enhance your contribution to safe, efficient and effective blood management.

If you have suggestions, comments or ideas on tools and resources that could assist in day to day activities and towards achieving accreditation please let Rae or any of the Blood Matters team know by email to [bloodmatters@redcrossblood.org.au](mailto:bloodmatters@redcrossblood.org.au)

To receive this publication in an accessible format phone 03 9694 0102, using the National Relay Service 13 36 77 if required, or email Blood Matters [bloodmatters@redcrossblood.org.au](mailto:bloodmatters@redcrossblood.org.au)

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