

BloodNotes

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The 16th Annual Transfusion Medicine Education Symposium

The symposium, titled [Game, Set, Match: Finding blood for Difficult to Match Patients](#), is on April 14th, 2021. This year, the symposium will be presented as a webinar. Participants can register to watch on a computer, mobile device or as a group at your hospital.

[Canadian Blood Services](#) and the [Ontario Regional Blood Coordinating Network](#) (ORBCoN) have partnered once again to offer this annual educational event to develop the transfusion skills of professionals working in community hospitals to improve patient outcomes.

The symposium is open to all healthcare professionals involved in the ordering, issuing and/or transfusing of blood and blood products, including physicians, nurses, technologists as well as residents, trainees and students.

"Patients with complex red blood cell antigen matching could pose challenges for any hospital. That's why we're bringing together experts to discuss current standards of care and approaches to providing blood, especially in the acute setting," says Dr. Waseem Anani, Canadian Blood Services medical officer and co-chair of the symposium organizing committee. "The goal is to offer transfusion guidance to the clinical teams that encounter conditions that impede rapid issuing of blood."

Presentations include:

- **Transfusing patients with sickle cell disease: first principles and best practices**, Dr. Jacob Pendergrast, University Health Network.
- **Optimizing transfusion support for patients with myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS)**, Dr. Yulia Lin, Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre.
- **Out of order: pretransfusion testing and autoimmune hemolytic anemia challenges**, Dr. Jonathan Mack and Melanie Tokessy, The Ottawa Hospital.

The virtual conference is free to attend, but [registration](#) is required. Participants can choose from two identical sessions, one in the morning and the other in the afternoon.

If you have any questions, please contact Amanda Nowry at Amanda.nowry@blood.ca or Tracy Cameron at tcameron@ohri.ca.

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Winter 2020/2021