2016 Categories and Definitions

Scientific

Donor Recruitment, Retention, and Adverse Events: Quantitative Aspects; Donor Recruitment/Retention/Marketing and Donor (Suitability) Eligibility
Includes surveys; quantitative studies of donor recruitment and retention; and studies related to donor eligibility criteria and methods of determining donor hemoglobin/hematocrit. Also includes prospective studies of donor adverse events (vasovagal, vascular/neurologic injury, iron depletion). Does not include screening for transfusion-transmitted infections (see Transfusion-Transmitted Infectious Diseases).
Includes strategy development, execution, qualitative outcome measurements related to donor recruitment, retention and satisfaction. Also includes donor incentive programs, marketing strategies and techniques related to donor recruitment and retention. Covers the process of determining donor eligibility for blood collection via donor identification, the administration of manual/automated health history questionnaires, evaluation of physical findings, and evaluation of prior donor deferrals. Also includes donor deferral from either health history screening or testing, notifying donors of unsuitability for donation, and donor re-entry.

Donor and Therapeutic Apheresis
Includes donor qualification and monitoring issues unique to apheresis donation and growth factor administration. Includes quantitative and comparative studies of instrument methodology. Also includes trials of therapeutic apheresis, including photopheresis, therapeutic phlebotomy, and hemochromatosis donor studies. Note: Does not include peripheral blood stem cell collection (see Cellular Therapies category).

Components and Component Processing
Includes whole blood collection; preparation, storage and processing of red cells, platelets, granulocytes, plasma and plasma derivatives, including cryoprecipitate. Includes studies of component filtration, irradiation, fractionation, cryopreservation, and other treatments and their effects on product quality, including cell function and survival. Includes new methods for assessing component quality. Note: Does not include studies on pathogen reduction techniques (see Transfusion-Transmitted Infectious Diseases category.)

RBC Immunohematology
Includes red cell antigens and antibodies, serologic methods, and clinical studies or animal models of red cell alloimmunization. Includes red cell membrane biochemistry, hemolytic transfusion reactions due to incompatible red cells or plasma, and autoimmune or drug-induced hemolytic anemia.

RBC Molecular Testing and Genetics
Includes red cell genotyping, genotype/phenotype relationships, and donor/recipient genotype matching. Also includes molecular characterization of blood group antigens and their variants.

Platelet and Leukocyte Biology
Includes studies of platelet and leukocyte antigens and antibodies, serologic methods, immunophenotyping, molecular genetics and biology, cell function, metabolism and membrane biochemistry. Also includes clinical studies or animal models of alloimmunization, transfusion refractoriness, and autoimmune thrombocytopenia or leukopenia.
Transfusion Practice
Includes clinical use of blood component therapy, plasma derivatives and transfusion alternatives, and assessment of their efficacy. Includes clinical trials of all blood components, analysis of transfusion triggers, and studies of transfusion support in specific disorders and settings, including, but not limited to, sickle cell disease, thalassemia, hematologic malignancy, trauma, massive transfusion and other transfusion emergencies. Also, includes issues related to transfusion consent, pre-medication and component administration, as well as transfusion-related education research and information management. Note: Clinical case reports should be submitted to the category most relevant to the case, which may not necessarily be Transfusion Practice.

Immunotherapies: Innate and Adaptive Immunity cell and plasma-derived therapies (NEW THIS YEAR!)
Includes all aspects of development of a cellular or plasma-derived immunotherapy product or tissue for clinical use including discovery research; preclinical studies including pivotal proof-of-concept studies; purity and potency assays; chemistry, manufacturing and controls; immune-effective cell and tissue cryopreservation, storage and handling; quality assessment, and regulatory issues; clinical trial design, clinical trial results and analysis of disease-modifying effects of therapy (effectiveness) and adverse events. Immunotherapies are inclusive of immunoglobulins, other plasma-derived proteins or specific cell types with innate or adaptive immune activity (e.g. intravenous immunoglobulins, anti-D immunoglobulin, monocytes, granulocytes, cytotoxic T lymphocytes, chimeric-antigen receptor (CAR) T cells, B cell populations, dendritic cells, regulatory T cells or others), those derived from blood, bone marrow, cord blood or by culture of adult stem cells or pluripotent stem cells. It includes unmanipulated, purified/selected and/or genetically-manipulated cell products that aim to modify immunological responses in vitro and/or in vivo. Both basic and clinical research abstracts are encouraged. Case reports should be novel and point to definitive changes in current clinical practice.

Cellular Therapies: Other Cells and/or Tissues
Includes all aspects of development of a cellular therapy product or tissue for clinical use including discovery research; preclinical studies including pivotal proof-of-concept studies; purity and potency assays; chemistry, manufacturing and controls; cell and tissue cryopreservation, storage and handling; quality assessment, and regulatory issues; clinical trial design, clinical trial results and analysis of disease-modifying effects of therapy (effectiveness) and adverse events. Cell therapies are inclusive of hematopoietic cells (mobilized peripheral blood cells, bone marrow, cord blood), those derived from other adult stem cells or pluripotent stem cells excluding those ones used for immunotherapy. Clinical trials include those in which the graft is composed of cells, genetically-modified cells or engineered tissues which are not intended to primarily modify immunological responses. Cellular therapies include both autologous and allogeneic approaches. Both basic and clinical research abstracts are encouraged; case reports should be novel and point to definitive changes in clinical practice.

Recipient Non-Infectious Adverse Events
Includes hemovigilance methods and surveillance reporting of adverse transfusion outcomes, as well as clinical studies or animal models of non-infectious adverse effects of transfusion, such as TRALI, volume overload, febrile and allergic reactions. Note: Does not include RBC immune hemolytic reactions (see RBC Immunohematology category).

Pediatric Transfusion Medicine
Includes studies of transfusion therapy, outcomes, and adverse events unique to neonates, infants, and older pediatric patients.

Transfusion-Transmitted Infectious Diseases
Includes screening, prevention, detection, transmission, and treatment of transfusion-transmitted viruses (HIV, HBV, HCV, HTLV, WNV, emerging viruses), bacteria, parasites, and prions. Also includes pathogen reduction of blood components for all transfusion-transmitted infectious agents.
Patient Blood Management
Includes evidence-based, multidisciplinary approaches to improving clinical outcomes and reducing transfusion requirements in medical and surgical patients through such measures as: optimizing hemostasis, minimizing blood loss, optimizing patient red cell mass, and optimizing tolerance of anemia. Includes measures for managing and treating anemia. Also includes the development and use of guidelines and algorithms for patient blood management. Includes all aspects of patient evaluation and clinical management surrounding the transfusion decision-making process.

Administrative

Collections
Includes the process for the collection of whole blood and components by apheresis methods, including arm scrub methods. Also includes operational and administrative aspects of the evaluation and/or implementation of new methods and instrumentation for collection; evaluation of set up of collection sites; and analyses of donation intervals and donation types. Includes evaluation of automated tools used to monitor donor and procedure run data.

Product Manufacturing
Includes operational aspects of the manufacturing process of blood components (RBCs, platelets, plasma, and cryoprecipitate). Also includes product quality control, process controls, and utilization of the principles of “Lean Manufacturing.”

Inventory Management, Storage and Distribution
Includes operational aspects of managing product inventory, interfacing with customers regarding product mix, availability, type; stock rotation; balancing inventory; product supply vs. demand, product storage, temperature monitoring; validation of storage and transport processes, product traceability, management of product return, quarantine, inspection and qualification.

Education and Training
Includes management, development, execution, evaluation, measurement, and outcomes related to education, training, and curriculum. Also includes competency assessment, learning tools, E-learning, learner and learner event tracking, training document management, and training effectiveness case studies.

Quality Management
Includes topics related to quality assurance, quality systems, compliance, regulatory affairs, establishment/product licensure; equipment qualification and management; quality control processes, equipment preventive maintenance and calibration; supply/supplier management; process management; process validation; document development and control, managing nonconforming materials and events; assessment and auditing processes; deviation or error management and CAPA systems, quality monitoring; tracking and trending; performance improvement (Six Sigma, Lean, or the use of other quality improvement tools and methodologies).

Management, Finance, and General Marketing
Includes policy and infrastructure development and deployment, strategic planning, goal setting, succession planning, Human Resources, facilities, disaster and emergency response, project and change management, business metrics and performance measurement, employee metrics and performance, and blood utilization management. Also includes budgeting, ROI calculations, property and equipment asset categorization and management, hospital marketing, and community and industry partnering.

Blood Management
Includes blood management programs aimed at reducing the use of blood products in hospital and clinic practice, reducing cost and improved patient outcomes.