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Platelet Serology

Research Progress and Clinical Implications

Volume Editors
F. Décary, G.A. Rock, Ottawa, Canada

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Francine Décary
MD, PhD, Assistant Medical Director, The Canadian Red Cross Society,
Blood Transfusion Service, Ottawa, Canada

Gail A. Rock
PhD, MD, Medical Director, Ottawa Center, Canadian Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service, Ottawa, Canada
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Preface

It has been a distinct pleasure to welcome European, American and Canadian colleagues to the First Canadian Workshop and Conference on Platelet Serology, organized with the support of the Research and Development Sub-Committee of the National Advisory Committee of the Canadian Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service.

In our continuing effort to provide improved blood products to all Canadian hospitals, many of the Red Cross Blood Transfusion Centres have endeavoured to increase efforts over the past few years to improve the quality and post-transfusion survival of platelets supplied to hospital patients. A number of cross-matching methods have been under study, not only in Canada, but in many other centres across the world. To provide standardization in platelet serology among Canadian laboratories, a Workshop was planned. For this purpose, we have obtained the gracious collaboration of three reference laboratories from Holland (Central Laboratory of the Netherlands Red Cross), Milwaukee (Central Wisconsin Blood Center) and Seattle (Puget Sound Blood Center). Results from a number of test sera have been analyzed and our first Canadian experience in this regard has proven to be most gratifying. The conference will review the details of the workshop results and lay out a perspective for the future.

On behalf of my Canadian colleagues, I wish to thank the three reference laboratories, and Drs. Francine Décary and Gail Rock from the Ottawa Centre of the Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service for their support and organization of the workshop and conference. A follow-up to this first workshop would be of value in assisting the Red Cross Transfusion Service in providing the best possible quality platelet products in a cost-effective fashion.

R.A. Perrault, MD
National Director, Canadian Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service