Practical Transfusion Medicine

Edited by

Michael F. Murphy, Derwood H. Pamphilon and Nancy M. Heddle









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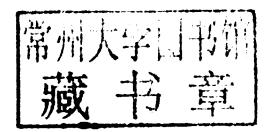
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Preface to the Fourth Edition

The pace of change in transfusion medicine is relentless with new scientific and technological developments, and continuing efforts to improve clinical transfusion practice and avoid the use of blood wherever possible. This fourth edition has become necessary because of rapid changes in transfusion medicine since the third edition was published in 2009.

The primary aim of the fourth edition remains the same as the first, that is to provide a comprehensive guide to transfusion medicine. The book aims to include information in more depth than contained within handbooks of transfusion medicine and to present that information in a more concise and 'user-friendly' manner than standard reference texts. The feedback we receive from reviews and colleagues is that this objective continues to be achieved and that the book has a consistent style and format. We have again strived to maintain this in the fourth edition to provide a text that will be useful to the many clinical and scientific staff, both established practitioners and trainees, who are involved in some aspect of transfusion medicine and require an accessible text.

We considered that the book had become big enough for its purpose, and the number of chapters has been reduced by one from 49 to 48. It is divided into seven sections, which systematically take the reader through the principles of transfusion medicine, the complications of transfusion, practice in blood centres and hospitals, clinical transfusion practice, alternatives to transfusion, cellular and tissue therapy and organ transplantation and the development of the evidence base for transfusion. The final chapter on 'Scanning the future of transfusion medicine' has generated much interest, and it has been updated for this edition.

We wish to continue to develop the international readership and are very pleased to welcome Professor Nancy Heddle as a co-editor. The authorship likewise has become more international with each successive edition to provide a broad perspective. We are very grateful to the colleagues who have contributed to this book at a time of continuing challenges and change. Once again, we acknowledge the enormous support we have received from our publishers, particularly Jennifer Seward and Maria Khan.

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Introduction: recent evolution of transfusion medicine

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Introduction to the introduction

'May you live in interesting times' (attributed to an ancient Chinese proverb).

This quotation, sometimes referred to as the Chinese curse, seems to be an appropriate statement to introduce the fourth edition of *Practical Transfusion Medicine*. Although it has been attributed to an unknown ancient Chinese proverb, its origin has not been determined, its attribution remains unclear and several of my Chinese colleagues suggest that it does not sound like a saying that emanated from China. One theory suggests that an original proverb translated to say 'It's better to be a dog in a peaceful time than be a man in a chaotic period' may be the origin and additional Wikipedia information suggests sources from the *American Society of International Law Proceedings* in 1939, or attributions to Polish or Jewish roots.

Regardless of its source, this curse has become a blessing readily demonstrated by the growth of transfusion medicine as witnessed by the evolution of *Practical Transfusion Medicine* into this fourth edition. The transfusion medicine world has used transformational problems such as the HIV epidemic and growing concerns of patients and physicians about blood safety to address and anticipate transfusion-related problems. Physicians now seek evidence that our current and evolving practices are based upon

a solid foundation. This current volume has evolved from its humble original purpose to provide transfusion medicine educational material for haematology trainees in the United Kingdom (the first edition in 2001 through subsequent editions in 2005 and 2009) to become a comprehensive text with a distinguished international cast of authors. Former editions of the text have described the developing and broadening field of transfusion medicine for a multidisciplinary group of primary transfusion medicine practitioners to an increasingly diverse group of clinicians and supporting personnel dependent upon our services. This fourth edition continues the documentation of this movement to enhance blood safety and evaluates a growing armamentarium of options for blood and cellular therapies, based upon a foundation of evidence that continues to look forward but also has looked backward to substantiate or refute practices of the past. The transitions documented in the past ten years of the book's history have not always been easy or straightforward, but readers of the text will understand that the transfusion medicine community has addressed the challenges of the curse of 'interesting times' and turned them into enhanced patient care opportunities.

Modern transfusion therapy would not be possible without the discoveries of the heterogeneity of blood group antigens by pioneers such as Landsteiner, Levine and Wiener, the development of anticoagulant preservative solutions for red cells stimulated

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