Since January 2020 Elsevier has created a COVID-19 resource centre with free information in English and Mandarin on the novel coronavirus COVID-19. The COVID-19 resource centre is hosted on Elsevier Connect, the company's public news and information website.

Transfusion and Apheresis Science 59 (2020) 102939

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Transfusion and Apheresis Science

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/transci

Updates on Stem Cell Therapy in Transfusion Medicine, New Approaches to RBC Substitution Therapy, the Use of IFC for the Assessment of Extracellular- Derived Vesicles/Exosomes

In this issue of What's Happening, I have invited three regular TRASCI contributors to join me in providing an update on our joint experience and expectations with advances being made in stem cell therapies in Transfusion Medicine, the use of modern analytical tools to access blood product quality and the current opinions against coronavirus infection. I welcome the contributions of Prof. Francesco Lanza, with expertise on stem cell therapies, Prof. Jason Acker, with his knowledge and experience with the manufacturing of blood derived bioproducts and the use of modern and advanced laboratory tools for assessing their quality and safety / efficacy and Dr Jeffery Putter for assembling a comparative analysis on various strategies used for overcoming coronavirus infection. This theme section consists of 3 contributions.

In the two first joint mini-reports, we highlight the strategic usefulness of RBCs derived from peripheral blood and bone marrow as they are the most essential bioproducts that we cannot do without in Transfusion Medicine. In the third article, Dr. Olga Mykhailova and Prof. Jason Acker have provided a focused review on the recent breakthrough and advantages of using imaging flow cytometry (IFC) for the detection and characterisation of blood-product derived extracellular vesicles and the future prospects for routine application of IFC in Transfusion Medicine.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the authors for their timely delivery of concise manuscripts of highly educational value. The next pre-planned section relates to the usefulness and application of artificial intelligence [AI] in Transfusion Medicine. As there is space for a number of concise contributions, be it a commentary, short communication, clinical image, opinion, minireview, perspective commentary or full article (limited to a ten-page, double- spaced manuscript), I am putting out an open call to TRASCI editorial board members, reviewers and interested readers. Please contact me urgently to save a space in the next bimonthly issue as the deadline is the end of September 2020.

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https://doi.org/10.1016/j.transci.2020.102939

Available online 4 September 2020