British Blood Transfusion Society

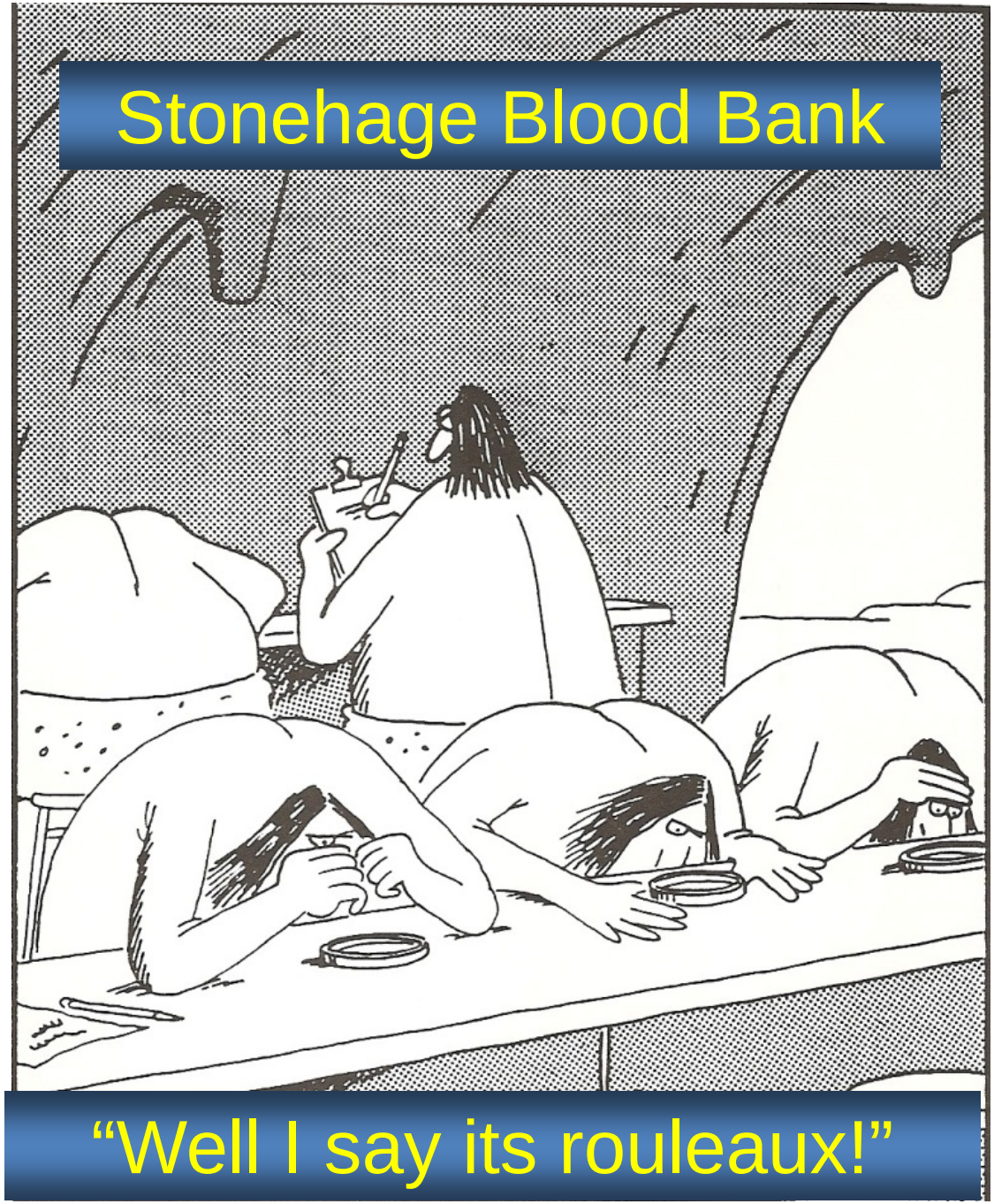
Upgrading the BBTS Specialist Certificate in Transfusion Science Practice

Martin Bruce OBE

BBTS President

British Blood Transfusion Society

In the beginning ……



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Drivers for (Future) Service Delivery Models

- The economic recession
- Less funding for more activity at the same quality
- Demographic change – an aging population requiring more access to healthcare
- New treatments requiring new products and tests
- Advances in technology, more automation, fewer staff
- Consolidation of service delivery
- Modernising Scientific Careers

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(Future) Service Delivery Models

- Significantly greater multidisciplinary working
- MSC Themed Groups eg Blood Sciences encompasses:
  - Transfusion, Haematology, H&I; C Biochemistry, C Immunology
- Hospital collaboration to deliver Hub/ Spoke/ Satellite services
- NHSBT Integrated Transfusion Services approach
  - NHSBT provide and manage the hub/ spoke/ satellite hospital transfusion services and staff
- Blood Establishments will continue to consolidate/ drive out avoidable costs

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(Future) Service Delivery Models

- Fewer staff overall, fewer AfC Band 7 and above
- Difficulty in recruiting sufficient medical staff specialising in Blood Transfusion
- Consultant Transfusion Scientists will replace/ take over some medical consultant duties
- The Private sector will become increasingly involved in delivering Pathology Laboratory Services
- There will be an increase in Point of Care Testing
  - Should be managed and overseen by laboratory staff?
  - Potentially more NEQAS exercises required ?

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Threats Arising from (Future) Service Delivery Models

- Loss of specialist skills and knowledge
  - Who provides the essential specialist training?
  - Who develops and maintains safe systems of work?
  - Reduced availability of training programmes
- Potential loss of career progression opportunities
- Loss of specialist Blood Establishment expertise
  - Ongoing closure of Blood Centres
  - hospital Hubs undertaking “reference” work
- Demographic change – an aging population requiring more access to healthcare

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Threats Arising from (Future) Service Delivery Models

- Future technological change will lead to further deskilling and consolidation
- Radical reorganisation of Pathology Services
- Possible regulatory risks
- The loss of fundamental parts of a fully integrated and functional blood transfusion service
- The need for effective training programmes that will support the delivery of high quality, safe and effective transfusion practice

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- Reviewed in light of ageing materials and MSC requirements, Key Findings and Solutions:
  - Specialist Certificate met a critical need but didn't meet needs of MSC nor did it meet learning needs
  - BBTS Council has committed start up funding
  - UK Forum have also contributed funds
  - Fees will increase to cover costs
  - Radical upgrade of the certificate is well underway
  - Now meets the stds required of University Courses
  - Addresses the identified shortcomings

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- Distance learning with on-line resources – 450 hrs
- Core Transfusion Science module (30 credits)
- ImmunoHaem or Donation testing/Components 15
- On-line, moderated student forum on BBTS website
- Student tracking
- Updated study materials (text book & study guide)
- Exam after 12 months
  - MCQ; Short Answers - both core
  - Data interpretation & case studies – core and specialism
  - 60% pass rate overall with no paper <40%

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- Post graduate programme of study
- Certificate provides evidence of fitness to practice at Specialist level – ie can work independantly
- Aligns with Modernising Scientific Careers
- Accreditation being actively pursued
- Credit Accumulation and Transfer Scheme (CATS) will apply
- Blood Transfusion MSc courses in Edinburgh and Bristol agree they would recognise the Specialist Certificate

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Higher Specialist Scientific Training
Leading to Consultant Clinical Scientist Grade

"Scientists who successfully complete Higher Specialist Scientific Training (HSST) equivalent to medical Higher Specialist Training with 4 to 5 years of speciality-specific training, should be considered competent to provide consultant-level clinical scientific expertise advice and leadership."

Shelley Heard
Medical Advisor to the Chief Scientific Officer

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"Statement" from the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges

- Recognise the importance of HSST in ensuring career progression for a highly skilled, healthcare scientist workforce
- Will work with expert scientists to develop HSST curricula
- The curricula will define scope of practice to ensure clarity of roles and create synergy between medical and scientific disciplines to promote optimal patient care.
  - It is believed that this career option is currently only open to Clinical Scientists and the number of posts will be small but……
  - IBMS/ RCPath have developed syllabuses for Advanced Specialist Diplomas in Pathology that will ultimately result in BMS staff undertaking medical tasks – the door is open!

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The Potential Role of The Consultant Transfusion Scientist

- Clinical significance of irregular blood group a'bodies
- Management of transfusion support in AIHA
- Management of cold agglutinin transfusion support
- Transfusion support in massive blood loss
- Specialist support for blood component development
- Management and reporting of incidents, adverse events and near misses to SABRE/ SHOT

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The Potential Role of The Consultant Transfusion Scientist

- Design, validation and oversight of Blood Transfusion point of care testing programmes
- Design and maintenance of Quality Management Systems in support of MHRA/ CPA compliance
- Training and assessing the competency of medical and consultant transfusion scientist candidates
- Contributing to the management of pregnancies in patients who have clinically significant blood group antibodies