



MONASH University

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Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences

# Transfusion Research

School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine

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The Transfusion Research Unit (TRU) was formed at the beginning of 2010. TRU is the home of the Transfusion Outcomes Research Collaborative (TORC), a partnership between the Australian Red Cross Blood Service and Monash University's Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine (DEPM). This collaboration, established in 2008, has been central to the design and progress of pioneering transfusion research in Australia.

## Overview

TORC is overseen by a multidisciplinary steering committee chaired by Associate Professor Merrole Cole-Sinclair of St Vincent's Hospital, Melbourne. TORC works closely with clinical leaders to establish new national registries and other projects to collect information about conditions requiring major and/or complex transfusion support, and to better understand and improve outcomes for patients. Clinical experts from around Australia and New

Zealand participate as local investigators and project steering committee members. TORC also has close links with governments, advisory groups, specialty Colleges and professional societies to ensure translation of research into policy and practice.

TORC's setting, combining access to transfusion medicine and research expertise, provides opportunities for medical specialists in training and future researchers to develop solid foundations in transfusion research methodologies.



## Current research registries

- Thrombotic Thrombocytopenic Purpura (TTP);
- Neonatal Alloimmune Thrombocytopenia (NAIT);
- Aplastic Anaemia Registry (AAR); and
- Massive Transfusion Registry (MTR).

## Other transfusion projects

- **Data linkage:** collaboration with established large clinical registries (for trauma, intensive care and cardiac surgery) using data from these sources and administrative datasets (such as hospital admissions) linked with laboratory information to develop models to predict and monitor blood use.
- **Pandemic modelling project:** in collaboration with the Epidemiological Modelling and Infectious Diseases Units, developing a model to better understand the impact of a major blood shortage (such as during disasters or pandemics) on clinical supply and patient outcomes.
- **Massive Obstetric Haemorrhage (MOH):** working with the Australasian Maternity Outcomes Surveillance System (AMOSS) to capture data on major obstetric bleeding.

- **Systematic reviews:** to better understand the current evidence base for transfusion practice and identify evidence gaps for future research, in collaboration with Oxford's Systematic Reviews Initiative team.
- New activities include exploration of the implementation of new national patient blood management guidelines.

## TORC seminars

TORC holds educational seminars to bring together clinicians, policy makers and researchers. Previous seminars have addressed informed consent for transfusion; massive transfusion and critical bleeding; perioperative blood management; and bleeding, clotting and transfusion support in obstetrics.

## Other projects

- Venous Thromboembolism Cohort study (VTE);
- Myeloma and Related Diseases Registry (MRDR); and
- Registry of Kidney Diseases (RKD).

## Registries in development

- Haemoglobinopathies (including thalassemia and sickle cell disease).





## Contact Us



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