

Blood Management News

Patient Blood Management in Asia

Submitted by: Richard Melseth; Ananthi Krishnamoorthy, MD; and James M. Reynolds

In February, Richard Melseth, Director of Blood Conservation & Business Development at the Surgical Specialty Hospital of Arizona in Phoenix, AZ, returned home from Asia after a week of intense lectures on establishing patient blood management programs in China and Malaysia. He was optimistic about the prospect of a SABM meeting being held in Asia in 2011.

Whether this occurs still depends on deliberations currently taking place globally about how to best handle the overwhelming interest in Asia. Throughout his trip, Mr. Melseth emphasized the administrator's role in response to questions regarding the dilemma of on-going blood shortages and physician skepticism.

Asian healthcare professionals have traditionally been reluctant to push transfusion-free medicine because of long-held opinions about the supposed benefits of transfusion. However, many understand the gravity and overwhelming need for better patient blood management. Mr. Melseth repeatedly referred to the evidence as "objective" and "scientific" during his Asian lectures.

"Heart disease is the number one killer in China," said one senior Chinese government official. More than 9 million patients need cardiac surgery in this nation of 1.3 billion people. However, the system can only handle 90,000 patients annually. It is evident that patient blood management provides us with a win-win situation."

Chinese Progress

Steps taken at Fu Wai Hospital in Beijing, where 10,000 open hearts surgeries are performed annually, are encouraging. During the past year, doctors have reduced their use of RBC transfusions by 20 percent. "Patient blood management is very practical and it is for the whole world," said Long Cun, MD, Department of Cardiopulmonary Bypass, Cardiovascular Institute and Fu Wai Hospital, Beijing.

During his visit to Hangzhou Children's Hospital in Hangzhou, Mr. Melseth stated that patient blood management is in every patient's interest, including children. In order to learn more, the hospital's Vice President, Qiang Shu, MD, sent a delegation to attend the Helen Devos Children's Hospital Pediatric Blood Avoidance conference in Grand Rapids, Michigan, in April 2010.

Substantial discussion also occurred at the conference organized by Liu Hua, MD of Fudan University in Shanghai, where she hosted the event at Zhongshan Hospital. "We want a patient blood management program," Zhongshan Hospital Vice President, Tongyu Shu, MD, said. "We need a program. We want to cooperate."

Ma Enling, MD, Director of the Department of International Collaboration at Beijing's Peking Union Medical College Hospital (PUMCH), also sent a strong signal. Following the round-table presentation, he announced that 130 physicians from the hospital will travel to the United States for training in patient blood management. Dr. Ma has been a long supporter of bloodless surgery. Back in 2008, he called bloodless surgery, "a milestone that could benefit the whole health care sector."

Many experts participated in a conference held at Guangdong Provincial Cardiovascular Institute organized by Huanlei Huang, MD, a SABM member. At the conference, the hospital's Vice President, Ou Jinrui, declared, "We must change the way we think about how we use blood."

Malaysian Interest

Physicians in other parts of Asia are also beginning to support bloodless surgery. "It was a fruitful discussion," was how Afifah HJ Hassan of the National Blood Center at Malaysia's Ministry of Health described a discussion held on bloodless surgery at the Institut Jantung Negara (IJN) (National Heart Institute) in Kuala Lumpur. "I was

fascinated by the extent of implementation of blood conservation programs in many hospitals in the United States. It is interesting that departments actively promote this concept to clinicians and the public. I realized this is what we should aim for. We need the participation, understanding and commitment from all in the healthcare sector."

Others expressed interest in the 2011 SABM regional meeting. "I look forward to the SABM, Regional Meeting - that it will be informative and educational," remarked Pau Kiew Kong, MD of the Department of Cardiovascular Surgery at the Institut Jantung Negara and SABM member.



Richard Melseth visits Zhongshan Hospital



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Ananthi Krishnamoorthy, MD, of the Ministry of Health in Ipoh, Malaysia, one of the conference organizers and a SABM member, stated she hopes that physicians will see things from a different perspective as a result of the conference.

Direct Action

On April 21, 2010 in Beijing during an intense two-day international conference organized by the Beijing Municipal Health Bureau and the Beijing Red Cross Blood Center, Xiaohong Deng, MD, the Deputy Director of the Beijing Municipal Health Bureau, urged delegates not to leave empty-handed.

"What do the facts tell us about blood transfusions?" asked Aryeh Shander, MD, FCCM, FCCP, Clinical Professor of Anesthesiology, Medicine & Surgery at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York as he persuaded delegates. He concluded: "No one should be more concerned about the hazards of using blood than the physicians prescribing it."

Pierre R. Tibi, MD, the Medical Director of Cardiothoracic Surgery at the Yavapai Regional Medical Center in Prescott, Arizona, and a member of SABM, reviewed data on improved patient outcomes. The challenges of implementing a patient blood management program are not confined to China. "The United States is probably on the forefront of patient blood management. Trying to put together a whole program and get the entire hospital involved is difficult," said Dr. Tibi. In October, 15 anesthesiologists from China will attend a training session in cardiac blood management at Yavapai Regional Medical Center.

Repeatedly referring to numerous studies, Michael Auerbach, MD, a Clinical Professor of Medicine at Georgetown University's School of Medicine, raised a number of eyebrows with his lectures on the use of IV iron as an alternative to blood

transfusions. "There is a huge opportunity in China. Can you imagine in rural areas where parasitic infestations must be rampant? How IV iron infusions in children would work? You could literally change their social structure by improving growth and development," ventured Dr. Auerbach.

At the Chinese Association of Anesthesiologists Annual Meeting in Dalian on April 24, Dr. Aryeh Shander gave the keynote address on patient blood management. He described this experience as the "privilege" of a lifetime.

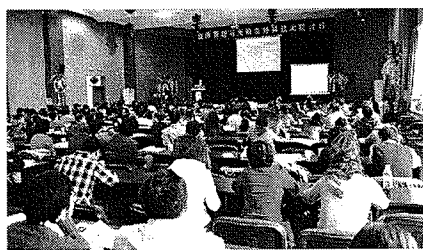
James M. Reynolds, Facilitator and Asia Liaison of Patient Blood Management in China with the University of Pennsylvania Health System summed up the impact of the recent lectures by SABM members in Asia with this comment: "I think it's fair to say that the healthcare sector in Asia is in the process of looking hard at what their long term options are."

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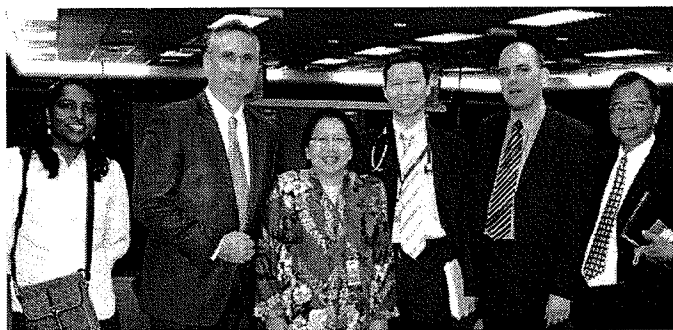
Richard Melseth; Ananthi Krishnamoorthy, MD; and James M. Reynolds are SABM members.



Patient Blood Management Lecture at the IJN National Heart Institute of Malaysia



International Patient Blood Management Symposium, Xiao Tang Shan Hospital, Beijing



Speakers and SABM Members with the CEO and Team from IJN

Left to right: Ananthi Krishnamoorthy, MD; Richard Melseth; Dato' Seri Robaayah Zambahari, MD, CEO, and senior consultant cardiologist at IJN; Pau Kiew Kong, MD, consultant cardiothoracic surgeon at IJN; James Reynolds; and Ong Kwan Teng



Discussion with the Team from Pusat Darah Negara (PDN) National Blood Center

Left to right: Ananthi Krishnamoorthy, MD; Richard Melseth; James Reynolds; Roshida bt Hassan, MD, PDN Director; Norris B. Naim, MD, PDN pathologist; Dato Yasmin Ayob, MD, PDN board member; Afifah Bt Hassan, MD, PDN hematologist