



# Highlight Report -TP Specialist Interest Group (SIG): March 2026

## Key Updates

### TP SIG Leadership

Danny Gaskin has stepped into the role of interim Chair following Karen Mead finishing her term as Chair. Expressions of interest for the permanent Chair role remain open, and members are encouraged to consider this opportunity. A recruitment pack is being explored to support wider engagement.

### BBTS Website and TP Forum

Work is ongoing to update the TP SIG webpage and resolve administrator access issues on the TP forum. Members are encouraged to actively use the forum to share queries, resources, and learning across the network.

### Bloodlines Contributions

Recent and upcoming articles continue to showcase the breadth of TP practice across the UK and internationally, with contributions planned from multiple regions. Members are encouraged to submit articles, including collaborative or externally authored pieces.

## BBTS Conference and SIG Activity

### BBTS Conference 2026 – Registration Now Open

Registration for the BBTS Conference 2026 (Glasgow, 15–17 September) is now open. Further information, including programme details and registration, can be found here: <https://www.bbts.org.uk/bbts2026/>

### Awards and Recognition

Nominations for both the Mollison Award and the TP SIG Award have now been received and submitted and are currently subject to Council vote. Engagement has been strong across all four nations, with a high volume of nominations received for transfusion practitioners. The TP SIG Award continues to recognise outstanding contributions to



transfusion practice, with plans to establish the tradition of previous winners presenting the award at future conferences.

## TP SIG Conference Session

We have received some interest in abstract submissions for the TP SIG session. Work is underway to identify a unifying theme for the session, with suggested topics including:

- Digital transformation in transfusion
- Implementation of new clinical transfusion standards
- Experiences relating to TACO and clinical safety alerts
- Maternity care and transfusion

Members are encouraged to submit further ideas to shape future conference programmes.

## Conference Engagement

Attendance at the 2025 TP SIG session exceeded expectations, reflecting increasing interest and visibility of the TP role within the wider transfusion community.

## TP Role Development

### National TP Framework

Significant progress continues on the development of the National TP Professional Framework, with wide stakeholder engagement across NHS England and regional networks. Final stages of review and sign-off are anticipated shortly.

Feedback has highlighted opportunities to strengthen alignment with workforce planning and organisational structures. The framework is expected to support consistency in role definition, career development, and service capacity planning.

### Specialist CTP Programme

Development of the BBTS Specialist Certificate for Transfusion Practitioners remains in progress, with optimism that enrolment may reopen during 2026.

## Next Meeting Dates

- 10 June 2026
- 8 September 2026



# 2025: THE YEAR OF THE TRANSFUSION PRACTITIONER

Rachel Moss

Advanced Transfusion Practitioner  
Great Ormond Street Hospital for  
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It is difficult to remember a time when the Transfusion Practitioners (known as TPs) weren't around to fulfil the safety and training requirements for clinical transfusion. How did the role come into being? The 2000/2001 SHOT report[1] stated that "Transfusion Practitioners should be appointed in all NHS trusts, and they play a key role in staff training and implementation of safe transfusion practice, as well as inappropriate blood component usage" and this was supported by the Better Blood Transfusion (1, 2 & 3) documents published around this time[2]. So really Transfusion Practitioners should be celebrating their 25-year Silver Jubilee! Although it was 2005 by the time most NHS Trusts had one TP in post so a China celebration (20 years) might be better. A teapot for your TP perhaps?

So, what recommendations and updates occurred in transfusion between 2005 and 2025? And how has that impacted the TP role?

2005 was a milestone year with the Blood Safety & Quality Regulations 2005[3] coming into force, which changed the transfusion landscape forever. Traceability became a regulatory thing, with much of the traceability burden ending up with the TPs. Something that probably hasn't changed for many.

2006 had the NPSA (National Patient Safety Agency) Safer Practice Notice 14 "right patient right blood"[4] supported by SHOT. This really defined the training

Wendy McSparran

Advanced Transfusion Practitioner  
The Royal Marsden NHS Trust

and competencies required for clinical staff with the Blood Sampling, Blood Collection and Blood Administration becoming the three key areas. Again, the onus on ensuring all these were completed came to the Transfusion Practitioners. With many trusts having thousands of staff involved in the transfusion process and TP teams being between 1 and 4, this was a mammoth task.

2014 saw the formal launch of patient blood management (PBM) through the National Blood Transfusion Committee's publication of Patient Blood Management, an evidence-based approach to patient care[5] and this document outlined the TP role in transfusion education, incident investigation and audit management.

The recommendations have been plentiful to oversee the necessary improvements in transfusion care for patients. They include the publication of guidelines by NICE (2015)[6] and the subsequent Quality Standards 138, and with this the requirements for regular audit and results now transparent on model hospital. There is also the National Comparative Audit programme for transfusion, again necessitating continuing improvement through the audit cycles for patient care through optimised blood health and safe transfusion.

The last two symposiums for transfusion, Transfusion 2024 (2019) and Transfusion Transformation (2024) have also considered the workforce necessary



Transfusion Practitioners Group  
British Blood Transfusion Society

The Transfusion Practitioner carries much of the responsibility for delivering key clinical transfusion milestones.

and responsible for meeting the service requirements. This was very needed as we all know. As the recent BSH workforce report (2025) highlighted much of transfusion work is 'unreported' and it went on to say 'The clinical haematological input to transfusion is delivered by physicians and transfusion practitioners, 35% of whom are single handed practitioners for large hospital groups.' [7]

All the recommendations required input and energy from the Hospital Transfusion Team, but much of the responsibility for managing, overseeing or undertaking these key clinical transfusion milestones was with the Transfusion Practitioner. Finally there was engagement at symposiums forming future strategy with what the small workforce required in terms of education and staffing to support



▲ Rachel Moss receiving the Gold Medal from David Roberts.



▲ Wendy receiving the TP SIG award from Karen Mead

the role.

So how do we plan for the future? The TP Framework is being developed for now and the next generation of Transfusion Practitioners. This will be published in Spring 2026 and will focus on the 4 strands that underpin the TP role.

- Facilitation of learning
- Leadership and management
- Professional and clinical practice
- Research and Innovation

It has taken 25 years from the first recommendations that a TP is needed for safe blood transfusion for a formal framework to be developed, and hopefully this is just the beginning of all health care provider organisations, (whether NHS, private or even international) recognising what benefits the Transfusion Practitioner role brings to the patient and the whole transfusion process.

So why was 2025 the year of the Transfusion Practitioner? Well for the first time BBTS awarded two Transfusion Practitioners for their outstanding contribution to transfusion.

Wendy McSparran is the Advanced Transfusion Practitioner at the Royal Marsden Hospital NHS Foundation Trust. The BBTS TP Special Interest Group (SIG) awarded Wendy the first ever Transfusion Practitioner award.

The award was given in recognition of the significant contribution to transfusion practice from a TP perspective and to the benefit of the wider transfusion

community. Wendy had contributed towards T2024 and Transfusion Transformation, BSH guidelines, NCA planning and report compilation, journal article publications, and leadership with the TP framework.

Rachel Moss is the Advanced Transfusion Practitioner at Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Foundation Trust. BBTS awarded Rachel the Gold Medal Award, the only award voted for by BBTS Council and is awarded to an individual for their exceptional and long standing services to the Society and to the practice of blood transfusion in the UK. Rachel is the first TP to win this award.

Rachel started as a TP in 2003 and like many TPs had to develop the role from the beginning. In the following 22 years Rachel has been active in regional and national committees. In 2015 Rachel presented on the "Role of the TP in the UK" at the ISBT (International Society Blood Transfusion) Annual Scientific Meeting in London. From that meeting Rachel helped establish the ISBT TP Forum and is currently the Chair. Rachel has spoken internationally on the role of the TP and has co-authored published papers on the TP Role<sup>[8,9]</sup>, and with other members of the ISBT TP Group has published a series of podcasts called "TPs around the world".

So perhaps these amazing awards are a reason for a golden celebration.

#### References

[1] - Love EM, Jones H, Williamson LM et al, Serious Hazards of Transfusion (SHOT) Steering Group. The 2000/2001 Annual SHOT Report (2002)

[2] - Health Service Circular, Better Blood Transfusion, HSC1998/999, HSC 2002/009, HSC 2002/009, HSC 2007/001

[3] - The Blood Safety and Quality Regulations 2005 (SI 2005 No. 50)

[4] - National Patient Safety Agency (NPSA) Safer Practice Notice (SPN) 14 Right patient, right blood (2006)

[5] - NBTC, Patient Blood Management, an evidence based approach to patient care (2014)

[6] - NICE guideline NG 24, Blood Transfusion, 2015

[7] - BSH, Haematology Workforce Report, 2025, p10 -11

[8] - Bleiby L, Moss RL Patient blood management and the importance of the Transfusion Practitioner role to embed into practice Transfusion Medicine (2018) 28,98-106

[9] - Dhesi AS, Moss RL et al A survey of transfusion practitioners in international society of blood transfusion member countries Vox sanguinis (2020) 115(3):200-210