students, and leaders in the technology and communication industries were invited to participate. The broad range of topics discussed included means to improve access to data, approaches for better information filtering and for electronic annotation, the merits and limitations of the peer-review process, and pathways to transition from today’s static publication format to an interactive one. A unique aspect of this meeting was the participation of HighWire Press, the leading e-publishing platform, which facilitates the digital dissemination of 1696 journals, such as Science, the Journal of Biological Chemistry, the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, the British Medical Journal, and Clinical Chemistry. HighWire Press and similar publishing entities have the ability to transform some of these ideas into reality and the potential to change the way that readers access and communicate scientific information. To access the executive summary of this exercise, go to: https://lib.stanford.edu/files/Colloquium.Summary.Final_.pdf.

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English Translation of the Dutch Blood Transfusion Guideline 2011

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The Dutch Blood Transfusion Guideline 2011 consists of recommendations for blood transfusion practice and the underlying arguments for these recommendations. The recommendations were created through study of the literature and the subsequent forming of opinion within a multidisciplinary working group of delegated representatives from the various professional organizations involved in blood transfusion.

The aim of the 2011 revision was to update the multidisciplinary guideline on the transfusion policy of blood and blood components from 2004 in order to promote the quality of blood transfusion and the skills of employees involved in it, with a focus on the hospital situation.

The working method consisted of evaluation of the relevance of research data published since 2003, subjects that were not discussed in the previous version, developments in the social debate, and incorporation of these matters into the new guideline. The recommendations were formulated to stimulate more uniformity in clinical thinking and action in the field of blood transfusion.

A set of internal quality indicators based on the guideline has been developed, and it is aimed at stimulating the effective and safe use of blood components.

To improve accessibility, we have implemented a search function in the Table of Contents in the PDF of the guideline document. Clicking the cursor on the desired paragraph in the Table of Contents will link the reader to the relevant paragraph. Amended and new
recommendations in the present version of the Blood Transfusion Guideline (compared with the previous version) have been marked in the text in turquoise and yellow, respectively. We have also used colors to mark a number of different sections so that various types of users [pediatricians (light green), nurses (light pink), and laboratory employees (light blue)] can find the sections relevant to them more easily.

Because we made ample use of foreign guidelines (usually in English) in the creation of this guideline, we thought it a good idea to make our guideline accessible to foreign colleagues by translating the guideline into English. We are extremely grateful to the Sanquin Blood Supply Foundation for financing this translation.


We hope that this English translation of the Dutch Blood Transfusion Guideline may prove useful for many foreign colleagues in preparing or updating their own guidelines.

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