

Aplastic Anemia & Myelodysplasia Association of Canada NEWSLETTER

President's Message

After a fairly long winter, it's wonderful to finally have spring arrive with all the flowers in bloom and the trees turning green!

April was National Volunteer Month and April 19-25 was National Volunteer Week. The Aplastic Anemia & Myelodysplasia Association of Canada (AAMAC) has a small office in Richmond Hill and one paid staff member – a part-time administrative assistant. The rest of the organization, including board members, is made up entirely of volunteers. In other words, if it was not for volunteers, AAMAC would not exist.

The volunteers, (patients, family members, friends) who generously donate their time to help AAMAC fulfill its mandate of providing information, support to, and advocate on behalf of patients and families dealing with AA, MDS and PNH, as well as providing funds for research to further understand and treat these dangerous diseases, are truly an amazing group of people. I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every individual who volunteers and contributes to success of this wonderful organization. Your efforts are very much appreciated!

It's people like Jeanette Rintoul and Victoria Fleming who this year organized the amazing silent auction and Andy May who chaired the organizing committee for our annual Spring Swing Gala fundraiser and made it a tremendous success that are examples of the giving individuals that keep AAMAC going. Paul Sue who updates our website and Robert MacDonald who is our Atlantic Chapter Coordinator and is organizing our Education Day in Halifax are further examples of exemplary volunteerism. There is not enough space to acknowledge all our volunteers but let me say to everyone of them – you are making a difference and are the engine of our organization.

I am proud of our organization and am pleased to see how it has grown. It is most gratifying to hear responses from patients thanking us for our help. With this success however, comes challenges – we need more help, more volunteers. Perhaps you would like to distribute our posters at your local hospitals and promote AAMAC awareness, or would be willing to be a patient support contact or maybe you would like to start a patient support group in your community. There are many ways of being involved. If you are interested in joining our cause please contact our office at 1 (888) 840-0039.

The volunteers that AAMAC is so fortunate to have are a testament to the fact that the community spirit in Canada is alive and flourishing.

Sincerely,

Stan Chmelyk
President, AAMAC



**Aplastic Anemia
&
Myelodysplasia**
ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

The Aplastic Anemia and Myelodysplasia Association of Canada (AAMAC): provides information about aplastic anemia, myelodysplasia and PNH to the public; operates a nationwide support network for patients, families and medical professionals; supports Canadian Blood Services blood programs and the Unrelated Bone Marrow Donor Registry; and raises funds for medical research.

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Alberta Chapter Update

By Doug Mylie

The Alberta Chapter continues to be involved in advocating for the Alberta government to approve funding of the drug, Revlimid, which used in the treatment of MDS patients with a 5q-chromosomal abnormality.

If any patient or family members are interested in sitting on a committee to advocate for funding of this very important medication, please contact me at alberta@aamac.ca.

We are planning an informal support group meeting in Sherwood Park on June 7 at 1 p.m. This will be an opportunity to share stories and challenges with others who are affected by these blood disorders. If you are interested in attending please contact me at alberta@aamac.ca for further details.

Ontario Chapter Update

By Andy May

Welcome to the Summer issue from Ontario. What a great time of the year when we can discard our winter coats, enjoy some light gardening or take a walk out in the fresh air. If you can, make some time with a friend or loved one and get out and enjoy this time of the year.

In Ontario, we had a busy spring with the annual AAMAC Spring Swing

fundraiser. Once again on Saturday, April 4, just over 300 people enjoyed a great night of food, entertainment and a fantastic silent auction at the Meridian Banquet Hall and Conference Centre in Toronto.

A big "Thank You" to all the volunteers who made this year's event go so smoothly. I was able to see firsthand this year all the effort that is put into this important day of celebration. To each and every volunteer, on behalf of the Board of Directors of AAMAC, we appreciate all your contributions.

A special thank you goes out to our evening entertainment headliners, "No Strings Attached," and the music from Enrico Galante. We were entertained from the start to the end of the evening with first-class music entertaining all ages.

This evening was full of surprises starting with every attendee receiving a free oil change from our friends, Paul and Sam, owners of Delta Tire in Rexdale. Let's see if we can make this a yearly return for your entrance ticket.

Then Detectives Dave Ecklund and Pete Grande from the Toronto Police Service donated funds received from their annual golf tournament – a whopping \$6,100 (hope to see you again next year).

This set the stage for one of our sponsors, Celgene, stepping up to the plate and committing large funds for next year's fundraiser and issuing a \$10,000 challenge for any other



Celgene presents a donation to AAMAC at Spring Swing 2009. From left to right: Joan Weir, Jean Hardy, Dr. Wells, Kevin Lesbuke, Stan Chmelyk, Chris Meyer and Andy May.

sponsors to meet.....any takers?....

The highlight of the evening was the advocacy award presented to Joan Weir, Jean Hardy, Dr. Richard Wells and Dr. Rena Buckstein with Joan, Jean and Dr. Wells in attendance. This was a very proud moment for everyone involved when Kevin Leshuk of Celgene presented plaques with kind words and what will now be a yearly monetary donation to AAMAC on behalf of those who advocate. On behalf of the Board of Directors of AAMAC, "Congratulations" to Joan, Jean, Dr. Wells and Dr. Buckstein for all your efforts.

We are in the process of finalizing the numbers however it looks like this year's event brought in more than \$35,000 to support AAMAC's work!

We are starting to plan next year's event. If you are interested in helping or donating please let me know. To all who donated silent auction gifts and to all who bid on items or the 40-inch plasma television raffle prize...Thank You.

The second event I want to comment on is the 2009 Marrow Failure and Myelodysplasia Conference held on Saturday, March 28 at the Hospital for Sick Children. Caroline Laughlin was part of the organizing committee volunteering on behalf of AAMAC.

The event was also attended by AAMAC's President, Stan Chmelyk and Board members Chris Meyer and myself. The day was filled with great speakers dealing with bone marrow failure disorders issues. There was a special children's activities area this year. They had a blast. I will be bringing my little ones next year.

I encourage anyone with questions about bone marrow failure diseases in children to consider attending next year's conference.

I also hope to see Ontario patients at our Education Day in Halifax this fall.

In closing I want to remind anyone who is able..."Please give blood."

Remember, every donation can save up to three lives. Contact Canadian Blood Services at www.blood.ca for more information.

Also check out the AAMAC web site for current up-to-date information at www.aamac.ca.

If you have any comments, concerns or events you would like posted in the next newsletter, please contact me. Enjoy your summer.



Spring Swing attendees enjoyed the fabulous music of No Strings Attached!

BC Chapter Update

By Janice Cook

On a beautiful spring Saturday in April, 14 members of the BC Chapter met for an informal meeting in Vancouver. Within the group we had all three illnesses represented (AA, MDS and PNH) in varying stages of treatment and remissions, and people from the Lower Mainland, the Fraser Valley, Victoria and Campbell River represented. Seven others RSVP'd that they were unable to make it on that particular day but would attend another time, so I guess it's safe to say that we'll meet again, perhaps on the island at some point. As our planned speaker wasn't able to come we took the opportunity to talk about AAMAC.

Pam Wishart and I are both members of the Board for BC, so we were able to tell people a bit about the work that AAMAC does and some of the services available. We had an exciting proposal for a fundraiser from one of the group, and will report on that at a later time. As always, time seemed too short for the support group portion of the meeting so I hope that some

personal connections were made and some of you will keep in touch. The peer-to-peer contacts can be so important when dealing with such rare illnesses.

We are pleased to say that Eileen Sue of Vancouver will represent AAMAC on a Canadian Blood Services committee; the Diversity Liaison Committee (DLC). Its role is to reach out to ethnic communities to raise awareness about blood donation and OneMatch registration. This is an issue of vital importance to many of our members, truly a matter of life and death for some. Thank you Eileen!

Sylvia Scow has informed us that due to other commitments she is stepping down as BC Chapter Coordinator, although she will stay involved locally with fundraising efforts. I will become chapter coordinator with the assistance of Pam in Victoria, and we will work together to make sure that patient support is readily available to you.

We'll also do our best to answer your questions and raise awareness of AAMAC locally. I am in remission following ATG treatment for AA in 2004, and have recently moved to Mission in the Fraser Valley. I work as an emergency room registered nurse in the beautiful new hospital in Abbotsford. Please contact me at cookjan@telus.net if you have any concerns or questions.

Atlantic Chapter Update

By Gwen Barry

Members of the Atlantic Chapter met at the Holiday Inn Select, Halifax in March to review the facilities for this year's Education Day. We were joined by Susan Boyce of Fredericton, who is our representative in New Brunswick.

In preparation for Education Day, Robert MacDonald has been working diligently behind the scenes, lining up speakers, and getting the news out to hematology units in hospitals across Atlantic Canada. On April 29, our group met again for further Education

Day planning.

In other news, at a blood donor clinic in Saint John in April, Susan Boyce handed out AAMAC literature, and thanked donors.

Our next meeting will be in June with the date to be determined as of press time. New members are welcome. For further information, contact Robert at (902) 443-1615 or rob.jack@ns.sympatico.ca.

Iron Chelation at ASH

Each year in December, the American Society of Hematology (ASH) holds an annual meeting where international experts in hematology discuss critical issues and learn about developments in scientific research. The event attracts hematologists from around the world including Canada.

At ASH's last meeting, its 50th, new data from the EPIC trial, a landmark trial in iron chelation, was presented. The new data provides additional evidence that Exjade (deferasirox) benefits chronically transfused patients by significantly reducing toxic iron that can damage key organs.

EPIC studied the safety and efficacy of Exjade, the only once-daily oral iron chelator for the treatment of chronic iron overload due to blood transfusions. With 1,744 patients, the EPIC trial is the largest ever conducted for an iron chelator and includes the largest number of underlying anemias in a single trial, including patients with myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS) and aplastic anemia.

Below is a summary of some of the results from the EPIC trial which demonstrated the safety and efficacy of Exjade. The summary comes courtesy of the medication's manufacturer, Novartis.

Overall 1-year Results

Abstract #3875 by Cappellini – Efficacy and Safety of Deferasirox

(Exjade®) in Patients with Transfusion-Dependent Anemias: 1-Year Results from the Large, Prospective, Multicenter EPIC Study

- Data shows that in one year, with appropriate dosing and monitoring, Exjade can effectively and safely remove iron from key organs in patients with a variety of transfusion-dependent anemias, including MDS and aplastic anemia.

Exjade in MDS Patients

Abstract #633 by Gattermann – Efficacy and Safety of Deferasirox (Exjade®) during 1-Year of Treatment in Transfusion-Dependent Patients with Myelodysplastic Syndromes: Results from EPIC Trial

- Many patients with MDS are susceptible to life-threatening iron overload from ongoing blood transfusions and increased dietary iron absorption, but these patients are less likely to receive appropriate iron chelation compared to patients with other transfusion dependent conditions.

- The study included 341 MDS patients with iron overload, the largest number of MDS patients to be included in an iron chelation trial to date.

- The data showed that over a one-year period, Exjade significantly reduced levels of serum ferritin, a key measure of iron in the body, in this patient population (reduction from baseline was 253.0 ng/mL; P=0.0019).

Exjade in Aplastic Anemia Patients

Abstract #439 by Lee – Iron Chelation in Regularly Transfused Patients with Aplastic Anemia: Efficacy and Safety Results from the Large Deferasirox EPIC Trial

- Many patients with aplastic anemia require repeated blood transfusions and are subsequently at risk of developing iron overload.

- This subgroup analysis included 116 patients with aplastic anemia.

- The data demonstrates that over a one-year period, Exjade significantly reduced levels of serum ferritin, a key

measure of iron in the body, in this patient population (reduction from baseline median of 3254.0 ng/mL was 964.0 ng/mL; P=0.0003).

- Despite a heavy iron burden and ongoing transfusions, about 70% of patients had not received any iron chelation therapy before study entry, demonstrating the need for education related to iron overload and its treatment in this patient population.

For more information about the data presented at ASH, please visit www.hematology.org. If you have any questions about iron chelation, please speak to your hematologist.

AA Patient Promotes OneMatch

By Stan Chmelyk

James Ilari is a 24-year-old successful information technology (IT) professional who was diagnosed with severe aplastic anemia in January of this year and is undergoing treatment. A search for a stem cell donor was also initiated.

In late March, two blood donor clinics were held in his honor in Woodbridge, Ontario. Former Board member Caroline Laughlin and I attended the clinic at St. Clare of Assisi Church in Woodbridge on March 26 and had the opportunity to meet with some of James' family including his sister Josie Ilari who was extremely well spoken and knowledgeable and spoke with reporters who were invited to the clinic.

The clinic was well attended and it was obvious that James has a large support group of family and friends. We also met with MaryLynn Pride, Coordinator, Canadian Blood Services OneMatch Stem Cell and Marrow Network.

Shortly after the clinic was held, the wonderful news was released that a stem cell donor match was found for James (a perfect 10 out of 10 match). A copy of one of one piece of television coverage received about

James' story is posted on our website at www.aamac.ca. We wish James the very best and thank him for raising awareness about the need for blood and bone marrow donors.

We encourage our readers to consider joining the OneMatch donor registry and to give blood if they are able as many other patients also require donors.

Josée's Story

By Bob Ross



Josée in October 2008, healthy and happy!

In March of 2006, my wife Louise and I learned the most horrifying news any parent can imagine. Our daughter Josée, age 6 at the time, was diagnosed with aplastic anemia and our world, indeed our entire lives, were forever changed.

But ironically, that isn't what horrified us, not at first. What terrified us was that on the night Josée was brought in to the emergency room, they told my wife that it might be leukemia. Now *that* was a dangerous disease, and we shuddered at the thought of what we were facing.

It had all begun as a fever and what looked every bit like a common cold. The doctor at the nearby walk-in clinic had suggested Tylenol and rest and in fact he following morning, Josée insisted she felt well enough to go to school. She no longer had a fever and we saw no reason to keep her home. After school the daycare called my wife, something wasn't right with Josée. By the time my wife got to the clinic, Josée had a 40-degree fever and was covered with petechiae. She was rushed to the Children's Hospital of

Eastern Ontario (CHEO), where she was admitted immediately.

As fate would have it, I was leaving for Toronto that very morning to attend a work-related training course. I was comfortably settled in my hotel room when all this was going on. Because my wife got caught in the whirlwind of activity at CHEO, it was nearly midnight before she called me with the terrible news. I drove to back to Ottawa in under four hours.

The next morning, bone marrow biopsy results revealed that it wasn't leukemia, and for a moment, we were incredibly relieved. A second biopsy confirmed that it was aplastic anemia. As the doctors were explaining about the counts and other symptoms pointing to a severe case, I honestly wasn't focused anymore. I can only remember the immense relief I felt while they were talking. I kept saying over and over to myself, "*Thank God it isn't cancer!*"

Of course, I quickly learned that my reaction was based on ignorance (on the night she was admitted, her platelet count was 2!), as I believe was the reaction of the doctor at that first walk-in clinic. My intent was certainly not to critique his actions; over the next two years we would meet a few more emergency room doctors with little or no knowledge of the disease. On the contrary, these examples simply serve to underline the need for awareness of this terrible disease.

When I learned the full implications of the disease, I was crushed. What my daughter had to endure over the two years of her treatment is nothing short of incredible. Forty-two transfusions, two ATG treatments, several bone marrow biopsies. The mind boggles. The list of drugs she had to take was astounding. At one point there were 14 pills, three times a day.

There were related issues to deal with as well. There was a bout of serum sickness after the second ATG treatment, where the slightest touch would cause searing pain. She suffered dozens of opportunistic infections, a mystery virus that nearly...well, I'd

rather not go there. Cyclosporine was massaging her kidneys, there was talk of 'sacrificing' a kidney to save her life.

The deepest disappointment came after that second ATG treatment. A few weeks had gone by and her counts hadn't improved. We ended up at Hôpital St-Justine in Montreal to begin the groundwork for a bone marrow transplant. Josée is an only child; the outlook for a HLA match was bleak. And that's when we received our first good news in months. Her counts hadn't changed, but we were being impatient. The bone marrow biopsy had revealed precursors. Lots of precursors. Her marrow was literally about to explode.

Not two weeks later, it did exactly that, and her counts began a steep climb that showed no signs of stopping. By September 2008 she was cyclosporine-free. By Christmas, she was declared to be in remission

Today Josée is a healthy and active 9-year-old girl, concerned with all the things any 9-year-old girl should be concerned with, but with a twist. Josée is the 2008-2009 poster child for an initiative by IBM Canada and the Children's Wish Foundation (CWF) that has raised over \$4 million to date. She also participates regularly with us at fundraising events for CWF and she hopes she can do the same for AAMAC.

For my part, my band, Eloquent Edge, is donating a part of the proceeds of the sale of our first CD, 'The November Sessions,' to AAMAC.

My motivations for joining AAMAC are clear. I remember how I felt during those first weeks. It would have been priceless to have someone to talk to who understood, someone who had gone through the same thing. The value of a support group is beyond measure, and this is why I want to help establish one in Ottawa.

Editor's note: With the help of individuals including Bob Ross and Dr. Mitchell Sabloff, Ottawa's first support group meeting will take place in June.

News of Note

The H1N1 Influenza Virus

The AA&MDS International Foundation has written an article called, "What do you need to know about the H1N1 Influenza Virus (swine flu) Outbreak?" Visit www.aamds.org or call 1 (800) 747-2820 for details.

Vidaza Access in Canada

In recognition of patient need and in response to inquiries from AAMAC and patients across Canada, we are pleased to announce that Celgene has now informed us that Vidaza, a medication for high-risk MDS and AML patients can be accessed through Health Canada's Special Access Program and that patients will now benefit from a compassionate use program made available by Celgene.

Access will be made available across Canada with the support of designated experts in MDS. Please speak to your hematologist to find out if you may be eligible for this program.

Revlimid Funding Clarification

In our spring 2009 issue we reported that Quebec is one of the provinces where Revlimid is included on the public formulary. In Quebec, Revlimid is currently being approved through the patient d'exception mechanism. We regret any confusion this may have caused.



Tree of Life

The Tree of Life was created and donated by David McTavish. The Tree of Life is a way of recognizing those who have been affected by aplastic anemia, myelodysplasia or PNH. You may make a tax-deductible donation of \$150 to have a special person's name inscribed on the tree. This beautiful carved tree is on display at our Annual General Meeting and other meetings in the Toronto area, whenever possible. The rest of the time it hangs on the wall at the national office. If you are interested in honouring your loved one(s) through the Tree of Life, please call our office at (905) 780-0698 or 1 (888) 840-0039, or visit our website at www.aamac.ca.

In Memory Of

Giovanni Arcuri
Earl J. Banford
John R. Barton
Joe Burleigh
John Maxwell Cameron*
Danny Carrick
Alexandre Castonguay*
Vern Coles
Talsa Coon
Rodney W. Crocker
Barbara Jean Cronyn
Barbara Culbert
Keith Curry*
Constantine Deplares
Pietro Di Ilio
Philip Doiron
Marnie Douglas
Roger Fortin
Elizabeth Rose Herman
Donald J. Highfield
Sheryl Hylton
Valdemars Jankovskis
Elmer Kerbes

Susan Laughlin*
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William Terry McEvoy
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Albert H. Stahlke
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Silvia Marchesin
Don McIntyre
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Heather Parsons
Kris Plotzke
Carrie Plotzke-Cleghorn
Gord Sanford
Bernice Teasdale
Trevor Thompson

*Multiple Leaves



**Aplastic Anemia
&
Myelodysplasia**
ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

AAMAC EDUCATION DAY
Saturday, October 24, 2009
8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Halifax, Nova Scotia

Join the *Aplastic Anemia and Myelodysplasia Association of Canada* for an opportunity to learn more about bone marrow diseases **Aplastic Anemia, Myelodysplasia (MDS) and PNH.**

- WHAT:** Annual Patient Education Day featuring presentations about Aplastic Anemia, Myelodysplasia and PNH by experts in the field
- WHY:** To provide valuable, disease-related information to Canadians with bone marrow failure diseases
- WHEN:** Saturday, October 24, 2009
- WHERE:** Holiday Inn Select
1980 Robie Street (at Quinpool Road)
Halifax, Nova Scotia
- WHO:** Patients, family and healthcare professionals

This day will include:

- An Excellent Slate of Expert Speakers
- A Session on Navigating the Health Care System
- Bone Marrow Transplantation Information
- Information on Iron Chelation
- Pediatric AA
- Patient Stories
- Information on the One Match Donor Program
- An opportunity to meet others dealing with bone marrow failure
- An opportunity to learn more about the Aplastic Anemia and Myelodysplasia Association of Canada

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

PLEASE VISIT WWW.AAMAC.CA OR CALL 1-888-840-0039.

MSAC Chair Receives Prestigious Physician Award

By Chris Meyer

Canadians with aplastic anemia, myelodysplastic syndrome and PNH are fortunate that while the diseases are uncommon, an exceptional group of Canadian healthcare providers dedicate themselves to treating people with these bone marrow failure diseases.

Last year, AAMAC's Board had the honour of nominating one of those healthcare providers – Dr. Richard Wells – for the prestigious College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario (CPSO) Council Award which honours outstanding Ontario physicians.

Dr. Wells is co-director of the Myelodysplastic Syndrome program of the Odette Cancer Centre, Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre in Toronto. He is also a scientist and director of the Crashley Myelodysplastic Syndrome Research Laboratory, Sunnybrook Research Institute.

“As a non-profit organization dedicated to the improvement of the lives of the individuals touched by aplastic anemia and myelodysplasia (also called myelodysplastic syndrome or MDS), we wish to nominate Dr. Wells for this award because he shares with us the same enthusiasm and passion in achieving this goal,” our nomination read. “He has spent many years helping us further our organizational objectives as the Chair of our Medical and Scientific Advisory Committee (MSAC) – a volunteer role that he dedicates many hours to.”

Two of Dr. Wells' patients also wrote letters in support of the nomination. I'm extremely pleased to report that Dr. Wells was one of five Ontario physicians selected for 2008! He will receive the award at a CPSO Council meeting in 2009. “It was obvious to the members of the Committee that

Dr. Wells has made outstanding contributions and it gives us great pleasure to recognize his accomplishments in this manner,” wrote Jeffrey Turnbull, Chair of the Council Award Selection Committee.

For more than 15 years, CPSO has paid tribute to outstanding Ontario doctors by recognizing their hard work, dedication and excellence through this award. We are thrilled that Dr. Wells was recognized in this way. Congratulations Dr. Wells!

Mark Your Calendars

Ottawa AA/MDS Patient Support Group, Saturday, June 6, 2009, Ottawa Hospital, Ottawa, ON:

Come and meet with Dr. Mitchell Sabloff, Director of the Ottawa Hospital Leukemia Program, Member of the Blood and Marrow Transplant Program, Investigator at the Ottawa Hospital Research Institute and Assistant Professor, University of Ottawa. Meet with other MDS and AA patients as well as other healthcare providers at 3 p.m. This first meeting will be supported with Stan Chmelyk and Andy May in attendance. Contact AAMAC at 1 (888) 840-0039 for details or to rsvp.

Where will my money come from if I'm too sick to work?, June 11, 2009, Toronto, ON:

This Money Matters presentation will help you understand income and government benefits options, and how to access them, to help you cope with the financial challenges of diagnosis. It is relevant at any stage of treatment or if you are contemplating returning to work. It will also be of interest to those who are relatively healthy but want to understand what is available in case they need to access programs in the future. Information on various income and benefits programs will be covered, including how the programs do and do not work together and how each defines illness or disability in order to qualify. Presenters: Pamela Bowes, Manager of Program Development and Manager of the Money Matters Program, and and

Ilene Shiller, both from the Wellspring Cancer Support Foundation. Drop by Wellspring Sunnybrook, 2075 Bayview Avenue, from 6 to 7 p.m. for light refreshments and to meet others before the hour-long presentation and question and answer period begins at 7 p.m. For information or to RSVP, email chris_meyer@sympatico.ca or call Chris at (416) 994-6712.

Aplastic Anemia and MDS International Foundation 2009 Patient and Family Conference, July 10 to 12, 2009, Indianapolis, IN:

Join patients from around the world at the Indianapolis Marriott Downtown for answers, support and hope. Visit www.aamds.org or call 1 (800) 747-2820 for details.

AAMAC Education Day 2009, Halifax, Nova Scotia:

This year's Education Day will be at the Holiday Inn Select, Robie Street on October 24, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Speakers will include a number of hematologists who are experts in the fields of AA, PNH, and MDS. Keep this date open. It is an excellent opportunity to learn more about these diseases, and to have your questions answered. For further information, contact our national office at info@aamac.ca or locally in Halifax contact Robert at (902) 443-1615 or rob.jack@ns.sympatico.ca. Please also see the poster in this issue.

Iron Chelation Overview, June 22, 2009, Canada-wide:

Join us by telephone for an overview of iron chelation from Dr. Rena Buckstein, co-director of the MDS Research Program at the Odette Cancer Centre, Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre. Phone 1 (800) 615-2900 toll-free a few minutes before the start time and enter 55041 on a touch tone phone. The hour-long call begins 5 p.m. Pacific, 6 p.m. Mountain, 7 p.m. Central, 8 p.m. Eastern, 9 p.m. Atlantic and 9:30 p.m. Newfoundland. Dr. Buckstein will take questions after her presentation. The call will be open to a maximum of 50 callers on a first-come, first-serve basis. No registration is required. For questions, contact Chris at (416) 994-6712 or chris_meyer@sympatico.ca. Please also see Chapter updates for meetings.