

HTRS MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:

Q&A with Stacy Croteau, MD, MMS

Director, Hemophilia/VWD Program, Boston Children's Hospital

Medical Director, Boston Hemophilia Center

Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, Harvard Medical School



Dr. Croteau is a pediatric hematologist and clinical investigator at Boston Children's Hospital and an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at Harvard Medical School, where she specializes in bleeding and clotting disorders. Dr. Croteau is the head of the Hemophilia/VWD program at Boston Children's Hospital and medical director for the Boston Hemophilia Center serving Boston Children's Hospital and Brigham and Women's Hospital. She also serves as a Region I (New England states) medical director for the national network of U.S hemophilia treatment centers (HTCs) for the Centers of Disease Control bleeding disorders surveillance project. Dr. Croteau currently serves at the principle investigator for several industry-sponsored and investigator-initiated clinical trials on hemophilia and other bleeding and clotting disorders. She has published numerous original research and review articles in peer-reviewed journals and presents nationally and internationally on a broad spectrum of bleeding disorder topics for both medical professionals as well as the bleeding disorders community.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Q: Outside of medicine, what other interests or hobbies do you pursue?

I grew up in the wilds of northern Vermont, so I love to be outside. You can generally find me kayaking in local rivers, cycling around town, or tending to my herb garden. When the rain or snow keeps me indoors, I enjoy sewing, crafts, and do it yourself projects around the house.

Q: If you could bring one book and one movie to a desert island, what would they be and why?

For a book, I would take my trusty Girl Scout wilderness handbook; just seems practical. For my movie, I would take *Singing in the Rain* – I love musicals and this musical-romantic comedy in particular. The entertaining story, uplifting songs and elegant dance sequences would be a nice escape from day-to-day life on the island.

Q: If you could invite at least three people, living or dead, to dinner at your house, who would you invite and why?

Charlotte Brontë, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Carol Burnett. In their own times and careers, each of these women pushed the envelope of acceptability and expectations, helping to redefine roles and opportunities for women. This ladies' night would be full of tales of emotional strength, perseverance and "laugh-until-you-cry" reminiscences, I am sure.

Q: A genie in a bottle gives you three wishes...what would you wish?

1. More time!
2. Resources to promote healthy living and wellness for all
3. Longevity, peace, and fulfillment for all

YOUR CAREER

Q: Who are the mentors who first inspired you to choose non-malignant hematology as a career?

My interest in hematology ignited during medical school, and I attribute that early spark to one of our pathology professors, Dr. Luba Dumenco, who introduced me to erythrocytes and plasma during my first-year coursework. Dr. Ellis Neufeld had a tremendous impact on my early career development, as well, starting during my residency years at Boston Children's Hospital. He took me under his wing as an aspiring clinical expert and investigator in hemostasis and thrombosis, and supported my successful application for several career development awards including an HTRS Clinical Fellowship award. Ellis continues to be an excellent role model for me on how to be an expert clinician, investigator, colleague, and mentor.

Q: What do you enjoy most about your career today?

I enjoy the diversity of things in which my position enables me to engage. I love taking care of my patients and working with families, leading and participating in clinical and translational research projects, and running our HTC and factor program. I regularly teach (and learn from!) patients/families, medical students, residents/fellows, and colleagues about non-malignant hematology and hemostasis and thrombosis, in particular. There are so many aspects of promoting health, wellness, and awareness, and I feel lucky that my career facilitates my contribution through different avenues.

Q: Describe a highlight of your career to date.

The execution and publication of my first investigator-initiated, multi-site clinical study was a highlight for me. This was the culmination of so much learning and hard work. Completing the first project left me with a great sense of victory. It certainly took a village, and I remain so thankful to my CRCs and collaborators who remained dedicated and enthusiastic throughout the whole process...and then, of course, the subsequent projects that I roped them into!

Q: What scientific or clinical publication in your field has been most influential to your clinical practice and/or research?

The Manco-Johnson et al Joint Outcomes Study and Bjorkman et al population pharmacokinetics (popPK) in hemophilia work have been the most influential for me. These two publications are foundational to my clinical research in personalization of prophylaxis to minimize bleeds and burden of treatment, and also to maximize musculoskeletal health and overall wellness.

Q: Why is HTRS meaningful? How do you think the Society should continue to evolve?

HTRS has developed into a fantastic network of clinicians, clinical researchers, and other experts in hemostasis and thrombosis. As a budding junior faculty member just entering a career in hemostasis and thrombosis, HTRS provided me an opportunity to meet, interact, and learn with some many junior and senior colleagues from across the U.S. I was also a fortunate recipient of career development grant funding that helped me to protect my time as I was developing expertise in this field and also to begin my clinical research career. Ongoing programs that continue to encourage and support trainees in joining the hemostasis and thrombosis community are so important!

Q: What words of guidance would you give trainees contemplating a career in non-malignant hematology?

Passion. Perseverance. Family. Identify what you are passionate about, what drives you from an academic/career perspective. Find the courage, strength and patience to push forward no matter the real or perceived roadblocks. Always make time for family, no matter how you define *family*. They are your joy, your support. Never neglect nourishing those important relationships.

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