

2024 #36

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Liberal Transfusion Strategy Better for Patients with Acute Brain Injury?

Researchers in *JAMA* have [published](#) their findings from the Transfusion Strategies in Acute Brain Injured Patients (TRAIN) randomized clinical trial examining whether a liberal versus restrictive transfusion strategy resulted in less unfavorable neurological outcomes. They conducted the, “multicenter, phase III, parallel-group, investigator-initiated, pragmatic, open-label, outcome assessor-blinded, randomized clinical trial [in] 72 intensive care units (ICUs) across 22 countries.” Inclusion criteria for the trial required that patients have, “a Glasgow Coma Scale score of 13 or less on the day of randomization, an expected ICU stay of at least three days, and a hemoglobin level of 9 g/dL or less, measured using a valid point-of-care test (e.g., hospital laboratory or gas analyzer)” with enrollment taking place from September 2017 through December 2022.

The authors of the paper explained that, “patients were randomly allocated in a 1:1 ratio to one of two thresholds to determine when red blood cell transfusion should be given, at a hemoglobin concentration of less than 7 g/dL (restrictive strategy group) or at that of less than 9 g/dL (liberal strategy group).” The trial’s transfusion thresholds were, “maintained for a maximum of 28 days after randomization or until hospital discharge or death, whichever event occurred first. Following randomization, all patients received one unit of packed red blood cells at a time when they met their allocated hemoglobin concentration threshold. In both treatment groups, there was no protocolization for the timing of transfusion once the trigger threshold was met, although it was recommended to administer the red blood cell transfusion within a few hours.”

The primary outcome measure for the trial was, “the proportion of patients with unfavorable neurological outcome at 180 days after randomization. Neurological outcome was assessed using the Glasgow Outcome Scale Extended (GOS-E), which was dichotomized as unfavorable (GOS-E score of 1-5) or favorable (GOS-E score of 6-8); this scale ranges from 1 to 8, with death being included in the scale (GOS-E score of 1), and higher scores indicate better outcome [while] secondary outcome measures included 28-day survival; distribution of GOS-E scores in the two groups (i.e., ordinal outcome analysis) at 180 days; ICU and hospital lengths of stay.”

The researchers stated that the study population featured 820 individuals with, “397 in the liberal strategy group and 423 in the restrictive strategy group. The median time from ICU admission to randomization was 3 days (IQR, 2-5 days) in the liberal strategy group and 3 days (IQR, 2-6 days) in the restrictive strategy group.” They explained that a, “total of 910 blood transfusions were administered in the liberal

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Liberal Transfusion Strategy Better for Patients with Acute Brain Injury? (continued from page 1)

strategy group during the study period and 373 transfusions in the restrictive strategy group ($P < .001$). The median cumulative count of blood transfusions after randomization was 2 (IQR, 1-3) units in the liberal strategy group and 0 (IQR, 0-1) units in the restrictive strategy group (absolute mean difference, 1.0 [95 percent CI, 0.87-1.12]; $P < .001$).”

The trial found that at, “180 days following randomization, 246 (62.6 percent) of 393 patients in the liberal strategy group and 300 (72.6 percent) of 413 patients in the restrictive strategy group had an unfavorable neurological outcome (absolute difference, -10.0 percent [95 percent CI, -16.5 percent to -3.6 percent]; unadjusted relative risk, 0.86 [95 percent CI, 0.78-0.95]; adjusted relative risk, 0.86 [95 percent CI, 0.79-0.94]; $P = .002$). The authors also explained that, “no evidence of a difference in 28-day survival between the liberal and restrictive strategy groups (82/397 [20.7 percent] vs 94/418 [22.5 percent]; relative risk, 0.95 [95 percent CI, 0.74-1.22]). [Additionally,] in the liberal strategy group, 35 (8.8 percent) of 397 patients had at least one cerebral ischemic event compared with 57 (13.5 percent) of 423 in the restrictive strategy group (relative risk, 0.65 [95 percent CI, 0.44-0.97]).”

The authors concluded that, “[p]atients with anemia and acute brain injury randomized to a liberal strategy of red blood cell transfusion at a hemoglobin threshold of 9 g/dL had a lower probability of unfavorable neurological outcome at 180 days than patients randomized to a restrictive strategy of transfusion at a hemoglobin threshold of 7 g/dL.”

The researchers explained that strengths of their trial included the, “concealed group assignment at randomization and blinding of outcome assessors to the assigned intervention. Recruitment of patients from various geographic regions enhances generalizability. The pragmatic trial protocol ensured that routine clinical practices were maintained, except for the specified hemoglobin thresholds for transfusion. “They acknowledged several limitations including, “the awareness of study group assignments by investigators and clinicians, coupled with an incomplete assessment of all concomitant interventions, could potentially introduce bias. [Some] patients may have received blood transfusions before randomization, which could have reduced the differences in hemoglobin values and transfusion exposure between the groups. [The] inclusion of patients with different types of brain injury raises the possibility that there may be varied susceptibility to cerebral ischemia from anemia, [and the] study may have had limited power to detect differences in some subgroup analyses.”

Citation: Taccone, F.S., Bittencourt, C.R., Møller, K.; *et al.* “[Restrictive vs Liberal Transfusion Strategy in Patients With Acute Brain Injury.](#)” *JAMA*. 2024. 💧

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ABC advocates for and advances policies that promote the role of independent blood centers in providing life-saving blood products and recognizes the continuous need for a safe and robust blood supply. ABC exists to advocate for laws and regulations recognizing the essential role that independent blood centers play in the health care system; promote partnerships, policies, and programs that increase awareness about the need for blood donation; and serve as a thought leader in the advancement of evidence-based medical and scientific solutions related to health and safety.

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House Bill Includes Support for Palliative Blood

Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore.) has [introduced](#) H.R. 9803, the Hospice CARE Act of 2024. The [legislation](#) includes support for palliative blood transfusions for patients enrolled in the Medicare hospice program. The bill makes several major changes to the Medicare Hospice program. Of interest to the blood community, this bill would provide reimbursement outside of the bundled rate to better reflect the cost of blood transfusions in a hospice setting with the goal of expanding access to this important care needed by some patients. Data demonstrates that patients needing palliative transfusions are forgoing or delaying enrollment in hospice, resulting in lower quality of life at a higher cost to the Medicare program. By expanding access to palliative transfusions, it allows patients who rely on blood transfusions and their families to receive the benefits of end-of-life care provided through the Medicare hospice benefit, while maintaining the quality of life provided by blood transfusions.

America's Blood Centers sent a [letter](#) to Rep. Blumenauer thanking him for his work and for the inclusion of this language in the bill. We encourage members to also [send a letter to your Representative](#) asking them to support the bill. Sen. Rosen (D-Nev.) [previously](#) introduced a bill supporting blood transfusions in hospice by creating a demonstration program allowing reimbursement outside of the hospice bundle. Individuals can support that bill [here](#). Please [contact](#) ABC Vice President of Federal Government Affairs Diane Calmus, JD with any questions. 💧

WORD IN WASHINGTON

Michelle Tarver, MD, PhD has been [named](#) director of U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Center for Devices and Radiological Health (CDRH). According to an agency announcement, she is a, “visionary public health executive, board-certified in ophthalmology with a doctorate in epidemiology. [Dr. Tarver] has spent more than 15 years as a medical device regulator, driving strategic initiatives, conducting clinical research, and changing organizational culture. Dr. Tarver has held various leadership positions while at the FDA, including the Deputy Director of the Office of Strategic Partnerships and Technology Innovation, and the Program Director of Patient Science and Engagement.” She brings, “extensive policy experience in crafting regulations, guidances, and conducting premarket and postmarket reviews,” to the role. Dr. Tarver most recently served as the, “Deputy Center Director for Transformation, steering the development, implementation, and direction of CDRH’s transformative projects and strategic initiatives. Under her leadership, CDRH has launched efforts to amplify the perspectives of people living with medical conditions, foster collaboration across the health care ecosystem, and stimulate creative evidence generation pathways. Dr. Tarver received a B.S. in Biochemistry from Spelman College in Atlanta, Ga. and completed the MD/PhD program at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and Bloomberg School of Public Health. As a dedicated clinician, she continues to care for people living with inflammatory eye conditions.”

(Source: FDA [Announcement](#), 10/22/24)

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently [announced](#) that it has provided funding to the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) to [develop](#) a strategic plan and blueprint to address thalassemia. According to the CDC announcement, NASEM will, “convene experts and produce a state of the science consensus report by June 2026. The report will lay out the strategic plan and blueprint to carry out priority programs, policies, and research. CDC will use this information to guide program priorities and collaborations to improve the care and quality of life of people affected by thalassemia.” The call for experts to be a part of the committee is open with submissions

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WORD IN WASHINGTON (continued from page 3)

due by November 8th. “Thalassemia is an inherited blood disorder in which the body does not make enough hemoglobin, a red blood cell protein that carries oxygen to the cells in the body.”

(Source: CDC [Announcement](#), 10/21/24)

Baxter [provided](#) an update on October 24th regarding the intravenous (IV) fluid shortage in the wake of an operations disruption due to damage at a Baxter facility in North Carolina following Hurricane Helene. Baxter explained that, “[w]e are encouraged to report that, barring any unanticipated developments, Baxter anticipates restarting the highest-throughput IV solutions manufacturing line within the next week. Initial batches will be manufactured concurrently with ongoing quality activities and would only be released in accordance with applicable regulatory requirements to ensure the quality and safety of the products. It is important to note that the earliest that new North Cove product could begin entering the distribution channel is mid- to late-November. This is, however, ahead of our original expectations and is a testament to the urgency, diligence and resiliency of the North Cove and broader Baxter teams as we’ve worked to accelerate recovery, with the support of FDA, ASPR and HHS.” HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra, JD issued a [statement](#) in response to Baxter, “I am encouraged by reports that Baxter anticipates restarting the highest throughput manufacturing line at Baxter’s North Cove facility next week – sooner than originally expected. There’s more to do, including meeting regulatory requirements of the product manufactured on the restarted line, but this is good news for partners and patients. This progress is the result of a strong public-private partnership. We have quickly facilitated the import of product from six facilities around the world. We have made it easier for hospitals to produce their own IV fluid during the shortage. And HHS will continue to use all necessary authorities to bolster supply and mitigate impact [on] patients. I want to thank everyone for their continued work on this important part of the recovery process.”

(Sources: Baxter [Update](#), 10/24/24; HHS Statement, 10/24/24) 💧

RECENT REVIEWS

Quality of Life With Sickle Cell Disease and RBC Exchange. A [review](#) in *Vox Sanguinis* “aim[ed] to gather evidence on the impact of treating sickle cell disease (SCD) patients with automated red blood cell exchange (aRBCX) comparing it, with other transfusion modalities.” The authors noted that, “[s]ystematic searches were carried out in PubMed to retrieve articles published in the last 20 years.” They explained that, “[one patient group] had been on simple transfusion therapy and then moved to aRBCX. For them, pain, social life, autonomy in daily activities, energy, and physical function, and emotional worry/mental health significantly drove quality of life (QoL) ($p < 0.01$) and accounted for 39 percent of QoL ($R^2 = 0.39$, $p < 0.01$).” The investigators also noted that, “[f]rom the standpoint of the physicians, the factors that accounted for QoL were: less iron overload, effectiveness, acute and chronic complications, and better performance in acute situations. [Compared with] simple transfusions, aRBCX is iron-neutral. [Two single-center] studies and the American Society for Hematology guideline conclude that aRBCX is more efficacious in HbS suppression.” They explained that, “[s]everal guidelines suggest the use of aRBCX over manual red blood cell exchange (mRBCX) for chronic red blood cell exchange therapy [noting that the] American Society for Apheresis recommends aRBCX as second-line therapy for patients with recurrent vaso-occlusive pain crisis.” The investigators further explained that, “[w]hen checking procedure-related adverse events, a higher number was associated with aRBCX compared with mRBCX ($p = 0.05$)...When exploring catheter-related adverse events (infection, blockage or thrombosis) in mRBCX or aRBCX, it is acknowledged that vascular access for aRBCX is more difficult.” They highlighted that a, “study found there was a significant decrease in the number of emergency room visits ($p = 0.0021$) as well as a decrease in hospital admissions ($p = 0.0013$) after entering a chronic red blood cell exchange progra[m]...A reduced length of stay in hospital in patients with SCD has also been observed after the initiation of aRBCX.” They

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RECENT REVIEWS (continued from page 4)

noted that, “[a] study in 44 patients with SCD showed that those undergoing chronic red blood cell exchange had less anxiety and better social function than those not having chronic red blood cell exchange.” The reviewers explained that, “[o]ne of the initial drawbacks of aRBCX is the fact that it needs special apheresis equipment and training for the healthcare personnel, and it needs larger amounts of blood compared with mRBCX (two to four times more).” They concluded that, “the publications retrieved in this review that contained QoL data, together with the disease management context from other publications, point out the benefits of aRBCX in SCD management, which positively impact [s] the patient’s QoL.”

Citation: Dierick, K., Rodriguez-Grande, B., Navarro-Aragall A.-G., and Beraud, M. “[Quality of life in people with sickle cell disease treated with automated red blood cell exchange.](#)” *Vox Sanguinis*. 2024.

Contributed by Richard Gammon, MD, Chief Medical Officer at Carter BloodCare 💧

MEMBER NEWS

Versiti Blood Center of Wisconsin recently [opened](#) a new location in the ThriveOn King Development in Milwaukee, Wis. This fixed site location is the “first-of-its-kind” blood center and community resource center, according to the *Milwaukee Courier*. Versiti President and Chief Executive Officer Chris Miskel, MBA explained to the publication, “[t]he ThriveOn King Collaboration is meant to have a generational impact on the community by bringing essentially better healthcare and wellness to a community that really needs it. If you live in this zip code your life expectancy may look somewhat different than someone living in a neighboring zip code and for me and many folks inspired by this particular collaboration that’s just unacceptable. The idea that the Medical College of Wisconsin is here with the Greater Milwaukee Foundation and Royal Capital — it was their vision, to have this space destination where we’re part of the community and able to provide resources for health and wellness. It was inspiring for us as an organization and we’re here as the healthcare anchor.” Community resources that will be available at Versiti on King are, “disease education on conditions commonly affecting communities of color, a community health navigator, and basic social services. Versiti also plans to create new jobs and provide skill training for their employees, including new phlebotomists for their donor centers,” according to the news outlet. Milwaukee Mayor Cavalier Johnson and County Executive David Crowley both attended the opening and promoted blood donation by rolling up their sleeves.



(Source: *Milwaukee Courier*, “[Versiti Opens a First-of-Its-Kind Blood and Community Resource Center.](#)” 10/19/24)

Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center (GCRBC) has [partnered](#) with Cryoport, Inc. to, “enhance the availability of high-quality, manufacture-ready cryopreserved allogeneic leukopaks for cellular therapy research, development, and treatment.” According to a news release announcing the strategic alliance, the collaboration, “brings together GCRBC’s Cellular Life Solutions (“CLS”) program, which specializes in allogeneic donor recruitment, management, and apheresis collection, with Cryoport’s industry-leading cryopreservation and biologistics expertise, creating a comprehensive and unified service offering for the life sciences community. GCRBC’s CLS program is located less than two miles from Cryoport’s Houston campus, enabling efficient local transport of collected leukopaks through Cryoport’s Cryoshuttle® transportation service.”

(Source: Cryoport [News Release](#), 10/22/24) 💧



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INSIDE ABC

The programs and services described in the Inside ABC section are available to ABC member blood centers and their staffs only, unless otherwise specified.

Advocacy Agenda Input Requested by November 8th

America's Blood Centers (ABC) in consultation with the ABC Board of Directors and Policy Council is developing its Advocacy Agenda for 2025. As a part of the development process, member blood center feedback is being sought. Please complete the brief survey linked in [MCN 24-066](#) to share your input and make your voice heard by Friday, November 8th. The 2025 Advocacy Agenda will build upon the work completed over the past year. ABC thanks all members and partners who helped advance the policy issues outlined in the [2024 Advocacy Agenda](#). Please [contact](#) ABC Vice President of Federal Government Affairs Diane Calmus, JD with any questions.

(Source: [MCN 24-066](#), 10/16/24)

Call for ABC Board Nominations

ABC is accepting nominations for the ABC Board of Directors, for terms starting April 1st, 2025. Individuals interested in nominating themselves or other ABC members can find a link to the nomination form in [MCN 24-068](#) along with additional information regarding eligibility, composition, and terms for the ABC Board of Directors. Nominations are due by November 15th. Please [contact](#) ABC Chief Executive Officer Kate Fry, MBA, CAE with questions.

(Source: [MCN 24-068](#), 10/17/24)

Executive Fellows Program Call for Applicants Deadline November 15th

ABC in partnership with Vanderbilt University's Owen School of Management is now [accepting applications](#) until November 15th for the [Executive Fellows Program \(EFP\)](#). This groundbreaking new initiative offers industry-specific, best-in-class leadership training to blood community executives, elevating individuals, organizations, and the nation's blood supply. The program will accept an annual cohort of up to 25 fellows, with the first cohort starting in March 2025. The EFP strives to accept participants from a wide variety of backgrounds and leadership roles. Final selections for the first cohort will occur by December 2024. An independent selection committee is responsible for selecting each year's cohort. Senior leaders from ABC member blood centers, hospital-associate members, affiliate organizations, and industry partners are encouraged to apply. The Foundation for America's Blood Centers (FABC) is pleased to announce up to \$30,000 in partial scholarships for individuals employed by ABC active member blood centers. Additional information regarding tuition rates is available [here](#). Through the EFP, individuals will be uniquely equipped with the business acumen and executive skill set needed to succeed in the blood community's ever-evolving environment. The EFP also features a week-long Leadership Residency at Vanderbilt each fall, three additional in-person learning immersions throughout the year, virtual seminars taught by Vanderbilt faculty, a 360-leadership assessment, individual executive coaching, a capstone project, and more.

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Registration Remains Open for the ABC WELC Rise & Lead Workshop

[Register](#) for the America's Blood Centers Women's Executive Leadership Community's (WELC) [Rise & Lead Workshop](#). This event will take place November 6th -7th in San Antonio, Texas at the Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort. The full [agenda](#) is available and features speaker Vicki Guy, a strategist, coach, and facilitator with more than two decades of corporate experience in sales, management and leadership development who partners with corporate and non-profit organizations to optimize their talent and create high performing teams. Take advantage of this exclusive opportunity to boost your leadership journey as this workshop will ignite meaningful conversations and cultivate diverse perspectives. This event goes beyond traditional conferences by encouraging dynamic conversations that spark connections and drive personal and professional growth. Elevate your leadership journey with us!

Save the Date: SMT Journal Club on December 2nd

The next ABC Scientific, Medical, and Technical (SMT) Journal Club Webinar will take place on December 2nd from 4-5 p.m. EST. The webinar is free to all ABC members. An email announcement with a registration link and the articles to be reviewed on the webinar will be available soon. A Continuing Medical Education (CME) credit (1.0) is now offered for all ABC SMT Journal Club webinars.

Registration Opens for 2024 ADRP International Showcase

Join ADRP for the [2024 ADRP International Showcase](#) taking place on November 13th from 1-2:30 p.m. EST. [Registration](#) is open. Blood center professionals worldwide are encouraged to take part in this annual event that provides them with a forum to share, connect and learn from each other. Topics this year include:

- The “License to Save Lives” campaign, a low-budget but highly effective “guerrilla” marketing strategy that resulted in a 20 percent increase in new donors by Eva Petra Gómez Sjunnesson, Head of Communication and Marketing, Blood and Tissue Bank (Balearic Islands, Spain);
- Artificial Intelligence (AI) in blood donation: Implementation of an automated and efficient system to optimize the call of donors in three hospitals in Catalonia. Iris Garcia, PhD, Blood and Tissue Bank (Catalonia);
- Voices in Action: How Community Leaders Amplify Our Voice. Chelsey Smith, Director of Public Relations, New York Blood Center Enterprises;
- Using AI to increase efficiency on social media (while staying human and full of empathy)? Yes we can. Patrice Lavoie, Director of Public Relations and Outreach, Héma-Québec; and
- Plasmattaque: a successful friendly competition between universities. Brigitte Bernier, Senior Advisor, Donor Recruitment, Héma-Québec. 💧

Upcoming ABC Webinars & Virtual Events – Don't Miss Out!

- **2024 ADRP International Showcase** – Nov. 13th. [Registration](#) is open. More information available [here](#).
- **ABC Scientific, Medical, and Technical (SMT) Journal Club Webinar** – Dec. 2nd at 4 p.m. EST. More information is coming soon.



INFECTIOUS DISEASES UPDATE

MALARIA

The World Health Organization (WHO) “[certified](#)” Egypt as malaria-free on October 20th. According to the agency, “Egypt is the third country to be awarded a malaria-free certification in the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region following the United Arab Emirates and Morocco, and the first since 2010. Globally, a total of 44 countries and one territory have reached this milestone.” The certification is designated, “when a country has proven, beyond reasonable doubt, that the chain of indigenous malaria transmission by *Anopheles* mosquitoes has been interrupted nationwide for at least the previous three consecutive years. A country must also demonstrate the capacity to prevent the re-establishment of transmission.”

(Source: WHO [Announcement](#), 10/20/24) 💧

GLOBAL NEWS

Researchers in Brazil have [announced](#) the publication of a [paper](#) in *Social Science & Medicine* that explored the impact of blood donors receiving discounts on a ride-share application (app) to promote blood donation. According to the announcement from Fundação Getulio Vargas, “Rio de Janeiro State Blood Center ran this one-day campaign in partnership with a ridesharing company, offering a discount for trips to and/or from the blood center. The researchers looked at a period of 195 days and almost 24,000 donors, using logistic regression and proportional hazard models to assess the campaign’s influence and rate of return. The results showed a significant increase in donation attempts on the day of the campaign, with 590 attempts and 438 actual donations.” Additionally, the researchers explained that, “[t]here was a notable increase in the number of first-time donors and the initiative attracted more individuals who fit the profile of the ridesharing company’s customers. The incentive reduced people’s costs in terms of money, time, and effort, thereby reducing the inconvenience associated with donating blood. The waiting time at the blood center was considerably longer on the day of the campaign, although this did not reduce the quality of the blood collected. The intervention resulted in a 97.4 percent increase in donations on the day of the campaign and the donors in question had a predicted return rate of 36.2 percent. Although the incentive substantially increased donors’ attendance on the day of the intervention, it also led to a lower future return rate.” The paper attributed the lower future return rate to, “increase in waiting time, which negatively affected the donors’ experience. Despite this, the short-term growth in the number of donations during the intervention offset the reduction in return rate, validating the campaign’s effectiveness.”

(Source: Fundação Getulio Vargas [Announcement](#), 10/21/24)

NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT), the national blood provider for England and transplant services for the United Kingdom (UK), has [partnered](#) with several organizations on an initiative to prioritize blood donation with “Donate Breaks.” According to the news release, leading commercial organizations will, “urge employees to book morning and afternoon weekday appointments at their nearest town or city cent[er] blood donation [centers while granting them] designated time off during their workday to donate.” Organizations who have committed to participate include, “The Co-operative Bank, ITV (office-based colleagues), Hargreaves Lansdown, Gatenby Sanderson through to Basketball England, Millwall Community Trust and Alton Towers Resort.”

(Source: NHSBT [News Release](#), 10/18/24) 💧



Rise & Lead
A WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP

Elevate your leadership journey!
Join us in San Antonio, TX
November 6th & 7th

[Register Now](#)

COMPANY NEWS

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recently [approved](#) a supplement to the biologics license application (BLA) for **Grifols**' human fibrin sealant (Vistaseal™), a plasma-protein based fibrin sealant for use in controlling surgical bleeding. The letter from the agency, “expand[s] the indication [for Vistaseal] to include pediatric patients aged <18 years.”

(Source: [FDA Letter](#), 9/27/24)

Terumo Blood and Cell Technologies (Terumo BCT) and **Blood Centers of America** have [announced](#) the forthcoming launch of Terumo's Reveos™ Automated Blood Processing System at the first blood center in the U.S. According to an October 17th news release, America's Blood Centers and BCA member Carter BloodCare will soon become the first U.S. organization to, “implement Reveos to manufacture platelets, red blood cells and plasma for transfusion,” as part of the partnership between Terumo BCT and BCA. “Reveos is a great fit because we're interested in using technology to make blood donation centers more efficient,” said BCA Chief Executive Officer and President Bill Block in the news release. “It helps us keep up with the increasing need for blood while also making things more operationally efficient, and that in turn, should help ease some of the labor force pressures our centers are experiencing.”

(Source: Terumo BCT [News Release](#), 10/17/24) ♦

CALENDAR

***Note to subscribers:** Submissions for a free listing in this calendar (published weekly) are welcome. Send information to newsletter@americasblood.org. (For a more detailed announcement in the weekly “Meetings” section of the newsletter, please include program information.)*

2024

Oct. 28. **U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Sickle Cell Data Collection Summit (Virtual)**. [Registration](#) is open. More information available [here](#).

Oct. 28. **Reagan-Udall Foundation for the FDA Webinar: Record Keeping and Adverse Event Reporting; Medical Device Reporting, Corrections and Removals and Quality System Complaint Requirements (LDT Industry Education) (Virtual)**. [Registration](#) is open. More information available [here](#).

Oct. 30. **FDA Patient Engagement Advisory Committee Meeting on Patient-Centered Informed Consent in Clinical Study (Virtual)**. More information available [here](#).

Nov. 6-7. **America's Blood Centers Women's Executive Leadership Community (WELC) Workshop. San Antonio, Texas**. [Registration](#) is open. More information is available [here](#).

Nov. 6-7. **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC Clinical Laboratory Improvement Advisory Committee (CLIAC) Meeting (Virtual)**. More [information](#) is available [here](#).

Nov. 8. **FDA Webcast: Informed Consent — More than Just Another Document to Sign? (Virtual)**. [Registration](#) is open. More information available [here](#).

Nov. 13. **2024 ADRP International Showcase**. [Registration](#) is open. More information available [here](#).

Nov. 14. **2024 FDA Broad Agency Announcement (BAA) Day Webinar (Virtual)**. [Registration](#) is open. More information available [here](#).

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CALENDAR (continued from page 9)

Nov. 19-20. **Trauma Hemostasis & Oxygenation Research (THOR) Network Emergency Transfusion in Females with Childbearing Potential: Mitigating the Risks of Hemolytic Disease of the Fetus and Newborn Meeting.** Bethesda, Md. [Registration](#) is open. More information available [here](#).

Nov. 19-20. **Plasma Protein Forum.** Washington, D.C. More information available [here](#).

Dec. 2. **ABC Scientific, Medical, and Technical (SMT) Journal Club Fall Webinar.** More information coming soon.

2025

Mar. 10-12. **ABC Annual Meeting.** Arlington, Va. More information available [here](#).

May 6-8. **2025 ADRP Annual Conference.** Oklahoma City, Okla. More information available [here](#).

May 14-15. **International Plasma and Fractionation Association (IPFA)/Paul-Ehrlich Institut[e] (PEI) 30th International Workshop on Surveillance and Screening of Blood-borne Pathogens.** Heidelberg, Germany. [Registration](#) is open. More information available [here](#).

May 20-21. **International Plasma Protein Congress.** Warsaw, Poland. More information is coming soon.

June 25-26. **HHS OIDP TBDAIC Community Engagement Meeting (Hybrid).** Portland, Maine. More information coming soon.

June 30-July 1. **HHS Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response (ASPR) Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) Industry Day 2025 (Hybrid).** Washington, D.C. More information available [here](#).

Oct. 12-15. **American Association of Tissue Banks (AATB) Annual Meeting.** Atlanta, Ga. More information is coming soon.

Oct. 25-28. **AABB Annual Meeting.** San Diego, Calif. More information is coming soon.

Nov. 17-20. **American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) Annual Meeting.** Atlanta, Ga. More information coming soon. 💧

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

Classified advertisements, including notices of positions available and wanted, are published free of charge for a maximum of three weeks per position per calendar year for ABC members. There are charges for non-members: \$139 per placement for ABC Newsletter subscribers and \$279 for non-subscribers. A six (6) percent processing fee will be applied to all credit card payments. Notices ordinarily are limited to 150 words. To place an ad, e-mail: newsletter@americasblood.org

POSITIONS

President and CEO (Fresno, CA). The Central California Blood Center (CCBC) provides blood and services to patients who receive care at over 20 hospitals and their network of facilities in Central California. CCBC has five donor collection centers in Central California and currently employs over 170 team members. It is one of two blood centers in California with a full-service laboratory, including infectious disease testing, donor screening, component QC testing, and immunohematology reference consultation services. We are exploring moving into the cell therapy space. We are seeking an accomplished and visionary Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to lead our organization within the Blood Bank industry. The ideal

candidate will be responsible for the overall strategic direction and operation of the company, fostering a culture of innovation and excellence. If you are a strategic thinker with the ability to execute business plans effectively and build operational efficiencies, we encourage you to apply and join us in this transformative journey. We offer a competitive salary, relocation package, and excellent benefits. To view the full job description and apply, please click [here](#). The deadline to apply is **November 13, 2024**.

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Associate Director, Member Programs. The Associate Director of Member Programs will play a crucial role in the development and oversight of member programs for America’s Blood Centers (ABC) and our international division, ADRP: The Association for Blood Donor Professionals. This key position will provide strategic guidance on emerging trends in association management and the blood community and shape strategies that drive value and promote growth. Working closely with the leadership team, the Associate Director will be at the forefront of decision-making processes to ensure that member programs align with the organizational objectives. The role involves collaborating with stakeholders from both ABC and ADRP to create engaging and impactful member programs that meet the evolving needs of the blood community. The successful candidate will foster innovation and excellence in program development and execution. This position is remote. ABC employs talented individuals whose passion, drive and skills are necessary to fulfill our mission. ABC offers a salary commensurate with experience as well as an excellent benefits package including medical, dental, LTD, and 401k contribution. We are a virtual office that promotes a flexible work environment. Applicants must be able to maintain a safe, separate workspace in which they can complete their work that is free from distraction and live in an area where they can obtain reliable internet service. This is a full-time staff position including benefits and a stipend for internet and telephone services. ABC prohibits discrimination and provides equal employment opportunities to all employees and applicants for employment without regard to race, color, religion, age, sex, national origin, disability status, genetics, protected veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or any other characteristic protected by federal, state, or local laws. Learn more here. Interested applicants should send a cover letter and resume to careers@americasblood.org.

Inventory Coordinator MLT. Have you been looking for purposeful work that contributes to a lifesaving mission? We are currently looking for a full-time Inventory Coordinator to join our team in Johnston, Iowa. This position ensures the highest level of customer satisfaction to our hospitals through our inventory management resources and expertise. Key responsibilities: Daily reporting of inventory. Daily evaluation of inventory. Anticipates the impact of inventory on external factors such as holidays or weather, and coordinates stakeholders to develop action plans. Communicates with hospital blood bank staff, leaders, and expired product vendors. Schedules and organizes all assigned exporting operations. Negotiates price on ad hoc shipments. Requirements: Bachelor’s degree required. Medical Technology (MT), Medical Laboratory Specialist (MLS), or at minimum Medical Lab Technology (MLT) certification required. Four years sales, customer service, or

directly-related experience preferred. Experience working with inventory management is preferred. Hospital transfusion service experience is ideal. Interested applicants should visit our [website](#). LifeServe Blood Center is fully committed to equal employment opportunity. All applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, sexual orientation, gender identification, genetic information, marital status, pregnancy, disability, veteran status, or any other legally protected status.

Donor Recruitment Manager. Blood Assurance is seeking a **Donor Recruitment Manager** to lead field recruitment efforts that build new and existing business in and around our Nashville region. Primary responsibilities include direct leadership of Account Managers in expanding blood drive activity on mobiles primarily, and in facilities as needed, based on growth strategy in a specific type of blood product recruitment and collection. Assist in developing long-term community business partnerships and coordinating internally with all leadership levels to support or expand Blood Assurance recruitment efforts. Work closely with Donor Services leadership to ensure recruitment and collection teams are working together toward meeting overall product collection goals. Qualified applicants will have: Bachelor’s degree-preferably in business, marketing, or related field. Seven to 10 years sales experience, preferably in blood banking. Three to 5 years sales staff management. Advanced communication skills. Public presentation and networking skills. Advanced organizational, customer service and teamwork skills. We offer many benefits including: Health/Dental/Vision Insurance, Flexible Spending Account, Employee Assistance Program for you and your family, Paid Time Off, 401K and a Wellness Program. Qualified candidates are encouraged to email a resume to katiemarye@bloodassurance.org. Blood Assurance is an Equal Opportunity Employer and a Tobacco Free Environment.

LAN Administrator II. Join Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center’s team of heroes as a **LAN Administrator II!** We are seeking a detail-oriented professional responsible for planning and deploying major service upgrades and providing enterprise-level support for hardware, software, operating systems, and network infrastructure. In this role, you will oversee Windows Server management, file and print sharing, and network support. You’ll also serve as the technical lead for projects, ensuring seamless network infrastructure installation and support for key systems like Exchange, Virtualization, and Active Directory. Additional responsibilities include maintaining system documentation, assisting with Wide Area Network (WAN) management, and providing backup support for MS back-office services and the organizational Help Desk. Ideal candidates will have a Bachelor’s

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Degree in Computer Science or a related field and at least five years of experience in enterprise-level server and network support. Proficiency in Windows Active Directory, TCP/IP, and Microsoft Office is essential, and certifications such as MCSE, MCSA, or VCP are highly preferred. This role offers exciting career advancement opportunities, a competitive compensation package, and the chance to make a real difference in a mission-driven organization. If you're a problem-solver with great interpersonal skills and a passion for IT, [apply now!](#)

Regional Consultation Lab Services Tech III. Join our team of heroes! Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center is seeking a **Regional Consultation Lab Services Tech III** in Nacogdoches, TX! This unique role combines laboratory services, phlebotomy, and community engagement. You'll prepare special blood components, perform patient testing, and serve as hospital services support. Additionally, you'll participate in blood collection during facility and mobile operations, ensuring a high level of customer service with both hospital staff and donors. Key responsibilities include performing serological testing, interpreting complex antibody identification, and preparing consultation reports. You'll also rotate on-call duties to provide after-hours consultation and support hospital services. In donor collections, you'll handle pre-donation screening, venipuncture, and post-donation care, with all necessary training provided. The ideal candidate will have a certification as an MLT or MLS, with blood bank and immunohematology experience preferred. A valid Texas Driver's License and reliable commute to the Nacogdoches facility are required. This position offers career growth, a competitive compensation and benefits package, and the rewarding opportunity to save lives. If you're precise, astute, and passionate about using your talents to support the community, this is the perfect role for you! Training in donor collections is provided for those without phlebotomy experience. What are you waiting for? [Apply Now!](#)

Business Development Manager. Join Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center's team of heroes as a **Business Development Manager!** We're seeking an energetic self-starter passionate about making a difference through outstanding client service and business growth. In this role, you'll initiate new client onboarding, prospecting, and account management for our diverse product lines, including biotech/research, laboratory testing, and cellular therapy products and services. You'll be responsible for identifying top prospects, strategizing sales and marketing approaches, and managing CRM processes. This in-office position collaborates with the marketing team which is key to developing engaging materials for B2B and online campaigns. We offer a competitive compensation package, career advancement opportunities, and the chance to work in a dynamic, mission-driven environment that saves lives. Ideal candidates will have a

bachelor's degree or five years of related experience. Industry sales experience or a background in life science is preferred. Candidates must have a valid Texas driver's license and reliable transportation. This position also offers mileage reimbursement and free parking near NRG Stadium. If you're adaptable, driven, and passionate about helping others, this role is for you. Join us in embodying our core values of Commitment, Integrity, and Respect while creating life-saving experiences every day. [Apply Now!](#)

Consultation Lab Specialist. Join Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center as a **Consultation Lab Specialist!** This life-saving role performs complex and routine serological investigations and testing, requiring precision, attention to detail, and the ability to work diplomatically with both internal and external customers. You'll be responsible for resolving serological problems, interpreting complex antibody cases, and preparing consultation reports among additional intricate laboratory services. If you take pride in delivering high-quality service and are passionate about making a difference in the community, this is the perfect role for you. We offer a competitive compensation package, career advancement and technical development opportunities. Talent in this department has the chance to work in a dynamic, mission-driven, and patient-first environment. Ideal candidates will have a bachelor's degree in a laboratory science field with an ASCP MT, MLS or SBB certification and recent immunohematology, reference lab experience. Sign-on bonus and relocation packages available. If you're precise, astute, and passionate about using your talents to support the community, this is the perfect role for you! What are you waiting for? [Apply Now!](#)

Consultation & Reference Laboratory Assistant Manager. Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center is seeking a **Consultation & Reference Laboratory Assistant Manager!** This pivotal role involves overseeing laboratory operations, supervising staff, and ensuring compliance with all policies, procedures, and quality control standards. Reporting to the Consultation & Reference Manager, the Assistant Manager will be instrumental in maintaining effective relations with both internal and external departments and customers. This opportunity is perfect for individuals who value precision, enjoy problem-solving, and are dedicated to delivering high-quality service to the community. You will assist with budget management, monitor lab performance, and contribute to the development and revision of department SOPs. Additionally, the role requires regular communication with the Medical Director and participation in internal and external assessments. **Why join us?** You'll enjoy a competitive compensation package, free parking at the Texas Medical Center, and opportunities for career growth—all while contributing to life-saving work. Sign

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on bonus and relocation opportunities available. **Qualifications** include an SBB Certification (ASCP), 6+ years of recent blood banking experience, 3+ years in an Immunohematology Reference Lab, and at least 2 years of management experience. If you embody integrity, commitment, and respect, we encourage you to [apply now](#) and help make a difference!

Quality Assurance Director. Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center is seeking an experienced **Quality Assurance Director** to lead and oversee all aspects of Quality Assurance and Compliance. Reporting to the Associate Vice President of Quality Services, this pivotal role ensures that the blood center maintains the highest standards of safety and quality in alignment with FDA regulations, AABB standards, and other key accrediting bodies. As the Quality Assurance Director, you will be responsible for implementing and monitoring quality systems, leading audits, ensuring compliance with international and domestic regulations, and fostering a culture of continuous improvement. This role is ideal for individuals with strong leadership and problem-solving skills, and a deep understanding of quality management principles like Lean and Six Sigma. You will develop quality training programs, oversee incident reports, and serve as the FDA designee for the organization, ensuring that all processes meet regulatory standards. **Qualifications** include a bachelor's degree (Graduate degree preferred) and at least 7 years of progressive management experience in a regulated industry. Preferred certifications include ASCP, ASQ, and Six Sigma Green Belt or better. If you are ready to make a lasting impact in a mission-driven organization, we encourage you to [apply today!](#)

VP, Regional Operations. Reporting to the Chief Operating Officer (COO), the position is responsible for executing the New York Blood Center Enterprises (NYBCE) strategy for the Mid-Atlantic Region (BBD and RIBC). The role will coordinate regional efforts with the centralized enterprise functions to attain objectives and KPIs for the region. The VP, Regional Operations will support NYBCE stature as "best in class" by achieving strategic goals and driving tangible, measurable outcomes. The candidate will join the Senior Leadership Team and be the enterprise ambassador for NYBCE in the Mid-Atlantic region, represent the enterprise at official events and meetings with community leaders. The home site is RIBC (Providence, RI) or BBD (Newark, DE). Minimum one week on site presence required monthly at the non-home site. Education: Bachelor's degree in STEM, economics, business administration, or health administration. MBA preferred. Experience: 15 + years of previous operations management experience in a healthcare, hospitality, or service sector. Travel: Ability to travel 25-30 percent including overnight stays. For applicants who will perform this position in Rhode Island

the annual salary is \$285,000.00p/yr. to \$290,000.00p/yr. salary reflects local market rate and be commensurate with the applicant's skills, job-related knowledge, and experience. Please click [here](#) to apply.

Marketing Executive. LifeSouth Community Blood Centers is looking for a highly skilled leader with a solid understanding of marketing principles and techniques, a data-driven approach, and a passion for innovation, to join the team as Marketing Executive in Gainesville, FL. This position is responsible for the overall marketing strategy across the organization. This position requires active communication with executive leadership and department directors within the organization to ensure adequate planning and execution of strategic marketing plans. This position is dedicated to advancing the organization's objectives in blood donation, cord blood services, cellular therapy, new business development, and meeting patient needs. Join our team and help us continue our dedication to making sure the blood is there when you or your family is in need. Visit our careers page to learn more about this position, and apply [here!](#)

Immunohematology Reference Lab Medical Technologist. LifeSouth Community Blood Centers is looking for an experienced Laboratory Medical Technologist, with a passion for making a difference, to join our Immunohematology Reference Laboratory team in Atlanta, GA. The position is responsible for following established policies and procedures, identifying problems that may adversely affect test performance or reporting of test results, and either correct the problems or immediately notify a supervisor, manager, or director. The IRL Medical Technologist will resolve immunohematology and compatibility problems to provide the safest donor blood for the patients in our community. We focus on providing the best possible customer service. Join our team and help us continue our dedication to making sure the blood is there when you or your family is in need. Visit our careers page to learn more about this position, and apply [here!](#)

Immunohematology Reference Lab Medical Technologist. LifeSouth Community Blood Centers is looking for an experienced Laboratory Medical Technologist, with a passion for making a difference, to join our Immunohematology Reference Laboratory team in Jacksonville, FL. The position is responsible for following established policies and procedures, identifying problems that may adversely affect test performance or reporting of test results, and either correct the problems or immediately notify a supervisor, manager, or director. This individual will resolve complex immunohematology and compatibility problems to provide the safest donor blood for the patients in our community. We focus on providing the best possible customer service. Join our team and help us continue our dedication to making sure the blood is there when you or your family is in need. Visit our careers page to learn more about this position, and [apply here!](#) 💧