

A B C N E W S L E T T E R

URRENT EVENTS AND TRENDS IN BLOOD SERVICES

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2025 #11

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HHS Plans Reorganization

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has <u>announced</u> plans to restructure the agency. According to a news release from HHS, the restructuring will include downsizing the agency's workforce to 62,000 full-time-employees, from 82,000, and save taxpayers [approximately] \$1.8 billion annually. Additionally, the agency will "streamline" and reduce the number of divisions from 28 to 15 new divisions.

Other items of interest to the blood community from the news release, HHS restructuring <u>fact sheet</u>, and news updates include:

- "the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) will decrease its workforce by approximately 3,500 full-time employees, with a focus on streamlining operations and centralizing administrative functions. This reduction will not affect drug, medical device, or food reviewers, nor will it impact inspectors;
- [t]he Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will decrease its workforce by approximately 2,400 employees, with a focus on returning to its core mission of preparing for and responding to epidemics and outbreaks. This includes moving the Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response (ASPR) under CDC to enhance coordination of response efforts. **NOTE: The "CDC" decrease would only be 1,400 if you included the individuals coming over from ASPR (approx. 1,000 individuals); **
- [the] National Institutes of Health (NIH) will decrease its workforce by approximately 1,200 employees by centralizing procurement, human resources, and communications across its 27 institutes and centers;
 - the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will decrease its workforce by approximately 300 employees, with a focus on reducing minor duplication across the agency. This reorganization will not impact Medicare and Medicaid services;
- combin[ing] the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health (OASH) and [the] Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) into the newly formed Administration for a Healthy America (AHA);
- merg[ing] the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE) with the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) to create the Office of Strategy to enhance research that informs the Secretary's policies and improves the effectiveness of federal health programs; [and]"

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HHS Plans Reorganization (continued from page 1)

• closing the Office of Infectious Disease and HIV/AIDS Policy (OIDP) eliminating all staff. OIDP had a division for "Blood and Tissue Safety and Availability." This leaves no one currently serving as the government liaison to the Association for the Advancement of Blood & Biotherapies Interorganizational Task Force on Domestic Disasters and Acts of Terrorism.

At this time, it is unknown if OIDP closing will impact the HHS Advisory Committee on Blood and Tissue Safety and Availability (ACBTSA) or the National Blood Collection and Utilization Survey (NBCUS), which is a joint effort of OIDP and CDC).

America's Blood Centers will continue to provide updates as they become available.

(Source: HHS News Release, 3/27/25; HHS Fact Sheet, 3/27/25)

Peter Marks Resigns as CBER Director

Peter Marks, MD, PhD has <u>announced</u> that he will resign and retire from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research (CBER) by April 5th. He has served as CBER Director since 2016 and joined the FDA in 2012. ABC expresses gratitude to Dr. Marks and thanks him for his service and being a great friend to the blood community, willingly speaking at numerous industry meetings over the years, facilitating open dialogue, and championing commonsense approaches to blood safety and availability.

(Source: Associated Press, "Top vaccine official resigns from FDA, criticizes RFK Jr. for promoting 'misinformation and lies," 3/29/25)

WORD IN WASHINGTON

The U.S. Senate has confirmed the nominations of Martin Makary, MD, MPH as commissioner of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Jay Bhattacharya, MD, PhD as director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) following full Senate votes. Mehmet Oz, MD, MBA, the nominee to serve as administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), also had his nomination advanced by the Senate Finance Committee to a full Senate vote. America's Blood Centers (ABC) issued

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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.

America's Blood Centers

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a news release congratulating Drs. Makary and Bhattacharya on their nominations stating, "ABC congratulates Dr. Marty Makary on his confirmation as commissioner of FDA. Our nation's blood supply is a cornerstone of our healthcare system, relied on by millions of Americans every year. We look forward to working with Dr. Makary to not only maintain the safety and availability of the blood supply but also to modernize regulations that impede blood centers' ability to collect and distribute this vital resource. We also congratulate Dr. Jay Bhattacharya on his confirmation as director of NIH. The institutes' groundbreaking research and support are instrumental in safeguarding the blood supply and developing breakthroughs that benefit countless patients nationwide."

(Source: ABC <u>News Release</u>, 3/26/25)

President Trump has <u>nominated</u> Susan Monarez as the director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). She is currently the agency's acting director and has previously served as deputy director of the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health. Her nomination comes in the wake of the White House withdrawing the nomination of Dave Weldon, MD earlier this month.

(Source: *CBS News*, "<u>Trump nominates Susan Monarez for CDC director, elevating from acting role</u>, 3/24/25)

Dr. Brian Christine has been <u>nominated</u> by President Trump to serve as the assistant secretary of health and human services in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Dr. Christine is a urologic surgeon at Urology Centers of Alabama.

(Source: Congress.gov <u>Alert</u>, 3/24/25) •

FBI Determines No Credible Threat to Hospitals Exists

The American Hospital Association (AHA) and Health-ISAC <u>published a joint update</u> on March 26th to the threat bulletin <u>issued on March 20th</u> titled "Potential Terror Threat Targeted at Health Sector." According to the organizations, "the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) advised that, after an extensive investigation and intelligence review, they have not identified any specific credible threat targeted against hospitals in any U.S. city. The FBI advised that if they receive credible threat information, they will immediately advise any identified potential targets and, if appropriate, alert the broader health care sector through the AHA, the Health-ISAC and other appropriate channels." AHA and Health-ISAC are recommending that, "[s]tandard vigilance should be maintained, including a visible security presence to deter any act of targeted violence on hospital premises. As always, suspicious or threatening activity should be reported to local law enforcement." On March 18th, the organizations alerted the health sector to a ,"<u>post</u> on X with details related to the active planning of a coordinated, multi-city terrorist attack on U.S. health sector organizations."

(Source: AHA and Health ISAC <u>Update</u>, 3/26/25) •





BRIEFLY NOTED

ABC Newsletter

An article in *Becker's Hospital Review* <u>reported</u> that, "[in] a <u>survey</u> of 200 healthcare industry experts, 82 percent said they expect tariff-related import expenses to increase hospital and health system costs by 15 percent in the next six months." Other key findings included:

- "90 percent of healthcare supply chain professionals anticipate major disruptions in procurement processes and contract negotiations with suppliers;
- 90 percent of surveyed hospital finance leaders said they will need to shift increased costs onto payers and patients through higher service charges;
- 94 percent of healthcare administrators said they foresee buying less equipment or delaying upgrades to mitigate financial strain;
- 81 percent of medical equipment manufacturers predict longer lead times and supply shortages due to higher production costs and import restrictions;
- 27 percent of survey respondents said they are seeking alternative suppliers to offset tariff-related cost increases, but 92 percent of drugmakers said switching suppliers could cause regulatory delays and supply disruptions;
- 91 percent of provider IT leaders expect postponed digital transformation projects as budgets shift to cover increased operational costs;
- 39 percent of healthcare IT executives said they think the tariffs will increase costs for software licensing, cloud computing and managed services;
- 16 percent of healthcare IT vendors predict an increase in the cost of essential hardware, including servers, networking equipment and medical IT devices, affecting prices and service delivery timelines;
- 84 percent of payers expect higher claims costs due to increased pricing on medical treatments and drugs; [and]
- 48 percent of payer executives said they think insurance premiums will increase within the next year due to increased supply chain expenses."

The survey was conducted by Black Book Market Research, a healthcare research and analysis firm in late January 2025 and, "survey respondents spanned hospital finance and supply chain executives, payers, patients, health market customers, pharmaceutical and medical equipment manufacturers, and physicians and ancillary practice administrators."

(Source: *Becker's Hospital Review*, "<u>Hospital finance</u>, supply leaders predict 15 percent increase in tariffrelated costs, 3/27/25)

The Center for Internet Security issued a March 21st advisory warning that, "[a] vulnerability in Google Chrome could allow for arbitrary code execution. Successful exploitation of this vulnerability could allow for arbitrary code execution in the context of the logged-on user. Depending on the privileges associated with the user an attacker could then install programs; view, change, or delete data; or create new accounts with full user rights. Users whose accounts are configured to have fewer user rights on the system could be less impacted than those who operate with administrative user rights." The vulnerability is considered "high" for large and medium business and "medium" for small businesses. The organization stated that a key recommendation is staying current on Google Chrome software updates.

(Source: Center for Internet Security <u>Advisory</u>, 3/21/25)





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

Register for the ABC Advocacy Summit

Registration is open for America's Blood Centers (ABC) Advocacy Summit. This event will take place in Washington, D.C. at the Hamilton Hotel June 10th-11th. Book your room before Thursday, May 15th to take advantage of the discounted rate. The full agenda is available and don't miss this opportunity to let your voice be heard as this event connects the blood community with national leaders in public policy and advocacy including meetings with members of Congress and their staff. Join us for a full day of advocacy training and group preparations for meetings with congressional offices on June 10th before heading to Capitol Hill on June 11th for group meetings with members of Congress and their staff, advancing ABC's advocacy priorities. ABC will coordinate and schedule meetings on behalf of all attendees and conclude the day with a reception for all attendees. The training will feature insights from former members of Congress, seasoned lobbyists, and public policy staff from partner organizations, and ABC's government affairs team. Please contact us with questions.

ABC Economic Outlook Survey Launches

The ABC Economic Outlook Survey is open. This resource provides a comprehensive look at blood center finances, including 19 of the most frequently used ratios for benchmarking the financial health of an organization as well as median service fees for 30 different blood products and blood center procedures. The aggregate data from this survey is important to both members and ABC as we advocate for fair and accurate reimbursement policies. Survey results are anonymized and aggregated, and all reporting complies with antitrust requirements. The ability to download final trend reports and create customized reports based on selected filters will be available to participants via ABC's benchmarking portal. Please contact us with questions.

Register for the ABC WELC Webinar: "The Art of Facilitation and Listening: Unlocking Leadership Excellence"

Registration is open for the ABC Women's Executive Leadership Community (WELC) Webinar: "The Art of Facilitation and Listening: Unlocking Leadership Excellence." This virtual event will take place on April 9th from 1-2 p.m. EDT and feature Lowell Aplebaum, EdD, FASAE, CAE, CPF, a facilitation expert at Vista Cova Inc. An email announcement with a link to registration is available here for ABC members. In today's fast-paced and collaborative work environments, effective facilitation, and intentional listening are essential skills for leaders. This interactive session will explore how leaders can foster trust, guide productive discussions, and create inclusive spaces where diverse perspectives are heard and valued. Attendees will gain practical tools to enhance their facilitation techniques and develop deeper listening habits, empowering them to lead with purpose and strengthen their teams. Don't miss this opportunity to elevate your professional development and position yourself for success in the ever-evolving business landscape.

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ADRP Trends in Donor Relations Study Deadline This Week

The <u>ADRP Trends in Donor Relations Study</u> submission deadline has been extended until Friday, April 4th. This survey is a strategic tool for blood centers to evaluate and benchmark the performance of collection and recruitment operations and marketing strategies with your domestic and international peers. It streamlines and combines the previous ADRP Recruitment and Collections Survey and the ADRP Marketing Survey. ADRP is partnering with a third-party company, Dynamic Benchmarking, to improve the data collection and reporting experience. The confidentiality of your data and the information shared in this report is a top priority of ADRP and will only be disseminated in the aggregate and in accordance with antitrust regulations. A key feature of the reporting platform is the ability to view how your operations compare to others using several dynamic filters, including blood center location, collection levels, and employee count. Only blood centers that participate in the survey will have access to this information. Participation in the study is open to all blood centers. Survey responses must be completed by the April 4th deadline. Please only submit one response per blood center. <u>Contact us</u> with questions.

April ADRP Webinar: Conference 2025 "Know Before You Go"

<u>Registration</u> is open for the April 16th ADRP webinar at 1 p.m. EDT titled <u>Conference 2025 "Know Before</u> <u>You Go."</u> Hear members of the ADRP Conference Committee share highlights of the conference schedule and events including insights into how you can maximize your experience at conference.

Register for the 2025 ADRP Annual Conference

Register now for the 2025 ADRP Annual Conference in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, from May 6th to 8th at the Omni Oklahoma City Hotel. Remember to book your hotel room by April 11th for the discounted rate. This conference offers a chance to learn about industry trends, share ideas, and connect with other donor recruitment, donor services, collections, marketing, and communications professionals. Join more than 400 of your peers by participating in pre-conference workshops, attending compelling educational sessions, engaging in roundtable discussions, and exploring an expansive exhibit hall filled with innovative solutions. Seize this extraordinary opportunity to learn, share, and grow within the blood community.

MEMBER NEWS

New York Blood Center Enterprises (NYBCe) has <u>announced</u> that its "<u>Good Karma by the Pint</u>" campaign received six awards at the <u>2025 American Advertising Awards</u> ceremony including "Best in Show, Overall." According to the NYBCe announcement, the advertising campaign features, "[c]laymation characters, colorful scenery, and an original song with lyrics emphasizing the vast impact of blood donation. Lyrics include: 'Donate blood and you just might save three people's lives and get a season's worth of good vibes!' and 'Just an hour out of your day — who knows how many people you'll save!' NYBCe's Office of Donor Engagement, Strategy, and Planning launched [the campaign] in June 2024 as part of an effort to garner attention and support from individuals aged 25-54. The internal team collaborated with ad agency <u>Markham Yard</u> for months to develop the campaign. The video was released on social media, streaming platforms, and targeted digital ads, with distribution continuing through June 2025. [The American Advertising Awards are] the initial stage of a prestigious three-tier national competition."

(Source: NYBCe <u>Announcement</u>, 3/26/25)



Our Blood Institute (OBI) <u>recently opened</u> a new 5,000 square foot Yukon Donor Center, according to a report from *Yukon Progress*. The March 25th grand opening event included Yukon, Oklahoma City (OKC), and Northwest OKC chambers of commerce, local leaders, and OBI staff. According to the publication, "OBI President and Chief Executive Officer John Armitage, MD described the new donor center as a 'factory of hope', a 'power plant of positivity,' and an 'epicenter of good' for donors, recipients and their families, along with OBI's vol-



unteers, staff and hospital partners." He also stated, "I think this facility is appropriate, and hopefully it gives you the environment that matches the kind of karmic uplift, attitude makeover, and psychic boost that you get when you give blood. We don't celebrate that enough. If you want to take a bad day and turn it into a good day, come in here, save some lives, and be the best possible human being you can be for an hour."

(Source: *Yukon Progress*, "<u>New blood center opens</u>," 3/29/25)

INFECTIOUS DISEASE UPDATES

Measles

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has published an <u>update</u> regarding measles outbreaks. As of the March 27th, there have been five measles outbreaks (defined as three or more related cases) in the U.S. this year resulting in 483 confirmed cases, 70 hospitalizations (14 percent) and one confirmed death, the first in the U.S. since 2015, and another under investigation. According to the agency the cases have been reported by 20 jurisdictions: Alaska, California, Florida, Georgia, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York City, New York State, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, and Washington with 93 percent of cases (447 of 483) being outbreak-associated. In 2024, the U.S. reported 285 total cases. Transfusion-transmission of measles has never been demonstrated, and any risk to the blood supply is believed to be theoretical.

Additionally, the World Health Organization (WHO) <u>published</u> a March 27th disease outbreak news communication on the measles outbreak in the U.S. that provided a situation report (as of March 11th) and noted that, "[i]n 2000, measles was declared eliminated in the United States, since then imported cases of measles have been detected in the country, as the disease remains endemic in many parts of the world. WHO is working closely with countries in the WHO Region of the Americas to prevent the spread and reintroduction of measles."

(Sources: CDC <u>Announcement</u>, 3/14/25; WHO <u>Communication</u>, 3/27/25)

RESEARCH IN BRIEF

Assessing Iron Depletion in Regular Platelet Donors. A study in *Vox Sanguinis* was conducted to, "compare the effectiveness of reticulocyte h[e]moglobin (RET-He) with that of serum ferritin — for diagnosing iron depletion in platelet apheresis donors." The authors explained that, "RET-He measures the h[e]moglobin content in immature red blood cells." According to the paper, the study enrolled, "100 regular platelet apheresis donors [94 male] [with] a history of monthly platelet apheresis donations." Both apheresis systems, Fresenius' AmiCore and Terumo's Trima Accel, were available at the blood center, "with an estimated red blood cell loss of approximately 30 mL per procedure from residual volume in the collection set." The authors noted that, "[i]nitial [labs] before platelet donation included measurements of RET-He,

<u>RESEARCH IN BRIEF</u> (continued from page 7)



serum ferritin and complete blood count. [On the basis of previous research,] a RET-He concentration below 30 pg was considered indicative of iron depletion." They explained that, "[a]ccording to the World Health Organization guidelines, serum ferritin levels of <15 ng/mL are indicative of iron depletion." The study found that, "[t]he prevalence of iron depletion among platelet apheresis donors, determined by serum ferritin levels <15 ng/mL, was 13 percent. All donors identified with iron depletion were male. Among the 13 donors diagnosed with iron depletion, 10 had RET-He-levels<30 pg, resulting in a sensitivity of 76.92 percent (95 percent confidence interval [95 CI]: 46.19–94.96). Among 87 donors without iron depletion, 39 were correctly identified by RET-He as having levels \geq 30 pg, yielding a specificity of 44.83 percent (95 CI:34.15–55.87)." The researchers also noted that, "[1]ow serum ferritin levels, indicating iron depletion, were significantly associated with shorter platelet apheresis intervals (p=0.032), decreased RET-He levels (p=0.045), decreased mean corpuscular h[e]moglobin (p=0.053), decreased mean corpuscular h[e]moglobin concentrations (p=0.026) and decreased white blood cell count (p=0.069). Conversely, iron depletion was inversely related to red blood cell distribution width (p=0.027)." They further explained that, "[d]onors with platelet apheresis intervals of two weeks presented a significantly greater risk of iron depletion than those with four-week intervals with an adjusted odds ratio (aOR) of 3.487 (p=0.047; 95 CI:1.017–11.955). RET-He levels below 30 pg did not pose a significant risk of iron depletion, with an aOR of 4.380 (p = 0.068; 95 CI:0.897-21.397)." The study concluded that, "frequent platelet donations can lead to iron depletion. [To ensure that donors] can continue donating platelets safely and effectively, it is essential to monitor serum ferritin levels and provide iron supplementation, especially for those who donate every two weeks. While RET-He testing offers advantages in convenience, cost effectiveness and rapid results, it cannot fully replace serum ferritin testing because of its lower sensitivity and specificity."

Citation: Nakdee, P., Warindpong, T., Virat, S., Permpikul, P., Kittivorapart, J. "<u>Assessing iron depletion</u> <u>in regular platelet apheresis donors: A comparison of reticulocyte haemoglobin and serum ferritin</u>." *Vox Sanguinis*. 2025

Contributed by Richard Gammon, MD 🌢

GLOBAL NEWS

The United Kingdom Health Security Agency (UKHSA) has released the "Infectious diseases impacting England 2025 report." According to the agency, this is the first report which will now be published on an annual basis. The report noted that the, "COVID-19 pandemic and associated social restrictions reduced the transmission of almost all infectious diseases, with alterations in healthcare delivery also disrupting the delivery of a variety of public health program[s] such as routine vaccination. The return of social mixing and international travel, particularly since 2022, together with changing migration patterns has been associated with the re-emergence, reestablishment, and resurgence of a number of endemic and epidemic infectious diseases. [Some of the interventions deployed] during the pandemic are providing opportunities to review and strengthen our current health protection measures, which will be critical as the threat from a wide range of infections with epidemic and pandemic potential continues to evolve."

(Source: UKHSA <u>Report</u>, 3/25/25)

UKHSA has <u>published</u> a priority pathogens <u>reference tool</u> that, "provides information on pathogen families where UKHSA believes further research would be most beneficial to boost preparedness against future biosecurity risks, particularly around diagnostics, vaccines and therapeutics." The announcement explained that, "[f]or each viral family included in the tool, an indicative rating of high,

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moderate, or low pandemic and epidemic potential is suggested. These ratings are the opinions of scientific experts within UKHSA, who have considered routes of transmission and severity of disease arising from pathogens in each family to inform the ratings." The tool includes several pathogens of interest to the blood community and denotes their pandemic and epidemic potentials including:

- Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus: high pandemic potential and high epidemic potential
- Ebola virus: low pandemic and high epidemic potential.
- Sudan virus: low pandemic and high epidemic potential.
- Marburg virus: low pandemic and high epidemic potential.
- Dengue virus: low pandemic and high epidemic potential.
- Zika virus: low pandemic and high epidemic potential.
- Hepatitis C virus: low pandemic and high epidemic potential.
- Non-seasonal influenza: high pandemic and high epidemic potential.
- Oropouche virus: low pandemic and medium epidemic potential.
- Mpox: medium pandemic and high epidemic potential and
- Chikungunya virus: low pandemic and medium epidemic potential.

(Source: UKHSA <u>Announcement</u>, 3/25/25)

Kenya's Ministry of Health recently <u>announced</u> that the country's blood service will deploy, "whole blood automation technology as part of efforts to modernize its blood transfusion services and improve access to safe blood across the country." They will use Terumo Blood and Cell Technologies' automation solution, "enabl[ing] faster and higher-quality processing of donated blood, with the added benefit of reducing wastage. Once fully deployed in Kenya's regional blood centers, the technology will extend the shelf life of red blood cells from six days to 45 days and allow for frozen platelets to last up to two years." Kenya's Principal Secretary for Medical Services, Harry Kimtai also explained, "the progress made by countries like Zambia and Uganda in adopting modern blood technologies and called on other African nations to follow their example. 'Africa has an opportunity to leapfrog in technology, rather than follow traditional evolutionary paths,' he said. He further appealed to the private sector, learning institutions, and the public to support voluntary blood donation and transition away from dependence on high school donors. 'Blood is a gift we all have — and one we can give freely to save lives.'"

(Source: Kenya Ministry of Health <u>Announcement</u>, 3/28/25)

COMPANY NEWS

Artblood has announced the <u>development</u> of a blood substitute, made from using stem cell *in vitro*." According to a report from *Chosun Biz*, a paper will be published in *Frontiers in Cell and Developmental Biology* explaining that, "Artblood analyzed how the overexpression of the TAL1 gene, essential for red blood cell production, facilitates the differentiation process from stem cells to red blood cells. The results confirmed that activating TAL1 increases hematopoietic cell formation complex (HCFC), promotes the expression of hematopoietic-related genes, and accelerates the rate of red blood cell production." Artblood founder Baek Eun-jeong, professor in the Department of Diagnostic Hematology at Hanyang University, told *Chosun Biz*, "[t]his research proves that TAL1 plays a crucial role in the hematopoietic process utilizing stem cells. It has opened the possibility of mass-producing red blood cells *in vitro*." The news organization also noted in the article that, "Artblood has independently developed the 'Bioblood' technology to replicate the process of blood formation in the bone marrow *in vitro*. Last year, the company secured 10.5 billion

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<u>COMPANY NEWS</u> (continued from page 9)

won in Series A funding, and it is currently in the midst of developing a mass production process for Bioblood. This year, it aims to promote global partner collaborations."

(Source: *Chosun Biz*, "<u>Artblood pioneers stem cell-derived blood production amid global blood shortage</u>, 3/28/25)

Terumo Blood and Cell Technologies (Terumo BCT) recently announced a <u>partnership</u> with **Osong Medical Innovation Foundation (KBIOHealth)** to jointly develop cell and gene therapy workforce training. According to a company news release, the organizations signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) and will begin the collaboration by, "creating training programs to support the manufacture of mesenchymal stem cell (MSC) and chimeric antigen (CAR) T-cell therapies, both with workflows based on Terumo BCT's suite of products, including the Quantum Flex[™] Cell Expansion System, a leading bioreactor globally. [Additionally,] KBIOHealth will launch a training center [next year] to expand access to biopharma and manufacturing training, particularly for CGTs, centered on automated manufacturing workflows developed on Terumo BCT's Quantum Flex and Finia[™] Fill and Finish System. Under the new agreement, the two organizations will codevelop training programs where participants will learn state-ofthe-art cell therapy manufacturing techniques under a comprehensive curriculum. The training program will include hands-on and VR training for good manufacturing practice (GMP)-based cell therapy manufacturing and quality control, human-derived cell culture, and culture using bioreactors."

(Source: Terumo BCT <u>News Release</u>, 3/18/25)

The Advanced Medical Technology Association (AdvaMed) recently "<u>reiterated</u>" a request from <u>February</u> seeking a medical technology exemption from all tariffs. Scott Whitaker, president and chief executive officer of AdvaMed, explained in the news release, "[o]ur February [2025] statement seeking a medical technology (medtech) exemption stands. We are concerned about any tariffs' impact on the number-one medtech industry in the world — the U.S. — and the patients we serve. We are monitoring the tariffs' impact on the medical supply chain and will share what we see with the administration."

(Source: AdvaMed <u>News Release</u>, 3/6/25) ♦

CALENDAR

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

2025

April. 9. ABC Women's Executive Leadership Community (WELC) Webinar: The Art of Facilitation and Listening: Unlocking Leadership Excellence. More information and a link to registration are available to ABC members <u>here</u>.

May 6-8. 2025 ADRP Annual Conference. Oklahoma City, Okla. Registration is open. 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. <u>Registration</u> is open. More information available <u>here</u>.

May 20-21. International Plasma Protein Congress. Warsaw, Poland. Registration is open.

<u>CALENDAR</u> (continued from page 10)

June 1-4. International Society of Blood Transfusion (ISBT) 35th Regional Congress. Milan, Italy. <u>Registration</u> is open. More information available <u>here</u>.

June 10-11. ABC Advocacy Workshop. Washington, D.C. More information is coming soon.

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

Sept. 10. FDA CBER Office of Blood Research and Review (OBRR) Public Webinar: FDA Review of Biologics License Applications for Blood and Source Plasma (Virtual). More information is coming soon.

Sept. 24-25. **2025 ADRP Master Class: "Building Brighter Experiences: Empowering Customers, Engaging Employ**ees (Virtual). More information is coming soon.

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

Oct. 14-15. International Protein Forum. Old Town Alexandria, Va. Registration opens in July.

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

Oct. 26-29. Blood 2025 and the ISBT 36th Regional Congress. Perth, Australia. More information available here.

Nov. 17-20. American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) Annual Meeting. Atlanta, Ga. <u>Registration</u> is open. More information available <u>here</u>.

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

Executive Director - Enterprise IT Applications. Join us at New York Blood Center Enterprises (NYBCe). The Executive Director - Enterprise IT Applications opportunity provides leadership and strategic oversight for the enterprise portfolio of software application solutions, including Solutions analysis and recommendations, Development and planning, Configuration and maintenance, Testing and quality assurance, Deployment and implementation, and Ongoing maintenance and life cycle management. Serves as a member of enterprise IT leadership for the ongoing strategic direction, monitoring, evaluation, and quality assurance of enterprise IT applications. Responsibilities: Strategic IT Leadership & Governance, Enterprise IT Application Management, **Project & Vendor Management, IT Team Leadership** & Development, Operational Support & Quality Assurance. Education: Bachelor's degree in computer science, information systems or related field. Experience: 10 years of IT leadership experience in enterprise software applications, preferably in healthcare or a related industry. Proven experience in project management, vendor negotiations, and IT governance. Prior experience managing supervisory/managerial teams. **Locations:** Candidates must be able to report into one of the following NYBCe locations: Rye, New York; Kansas City, Missouri; St. Paul, Minnesota; Providence, Rhode Island, and Newark, Delaware. For applicants who will perform this position in New York City or Westchester County, the proposed annual salary is \$225,000.00p/yr. to \$245,000.00p/yr. Please click <u>here</u> to view the full job description and apply.

Vice President, CFO. LifeStream Blood Bank, headquartered in San Bernardino, California, an independent blood center serving 80 hospitals in six counties in Southern California is seeking a VP, CFO. Reporting to the President/CEO, the preferred candidate is one who has demonstrated successful leadership in other blood centers or healthcare related organizations. The successful candidate must possess strong strategic planning skills to navigate a competitive environment and strong interpersonal and communication skills to develop strong

POSITIONS (continued from page 11)

business partner relationships as well as within the organization. The CFO is directly responsible for all financial systems and functions of the organization and ensures legal and regulatory compliance for all accounting and financial reporting functions. The CFO participates as a member of the organization's Leadership and Executive Teams. Minimum seven years' progressive management experience is required. Bachelor's Degree in accounting or other business-related field required with CPA and/or MBA or other relevant specialty preferred. Experience in

not-for-profit healthcare setting; strong experience managing contracts, and good working knowledge and relationship with industry trade associations is preferred. Competitive salary, relocation package and excellent benefits. Please submit cover letter, resume and salary requirements to Judy Taylor, VP Human Resources at taylorju@LStream.org, and/or to submit your application click here: <u>APPLY HERE</u>. The deadline for applications is **March 28, 2025**.

Vice President of Technical Operations (Oklahoma City, OK). Our Blood Institute (OBI) is looking for a Vice President of Technical Operations who will provide strategic planning, operational management, budgeting, and leadership to the OBI and provide technical and leadership support to the Testing Lab, Quality Control Lab, Manufacturing Operations, Logistics/Inventory Management, and Technical Operations Systems departments. Overseeing the day-to-day operations, implementing business plans, managing the department's P&L, and fostering high performance, customer-oriented culture. Successful applicants must have a Bachelor of Science degree in Medical Technology and a Master's degree is strongly preferred. Position requires ASCP certification as a Medical Technologist. Position requires a minimum of ten years progressive management in a related medical industry. Salary Range: Competitive salary with excellent benefits package including health, dental, vision, and life insurance, 401(k), paid time off, and holiday pay. How to apply: https://obi.org/about/careers/

Medical Technologist. Join Suncoast Blood Centers – Where Every Drop Saves Lives! Sarasota, FL. We're looking for a passionate and skilled Medical Technician (Blood Banking) to be part of our mission-driven team! You'll play a vital role in blood collection, processing, compatibility testing, and transfusion services—all while ensuring top safety and compliance standards. For 75+ years, Suncoast Blood Centers has been a lifeline for our community, delivering lifesaving blood products with dedication and care. We offer amazing benefits, generous PTO, and a sign-on bonus! Make a difference—apply today! To apply: <u>Careers - SunCoast Blood Centers</u>



Vice President of Operations. LifeSouth Community Blood Centers is currently looking for a highly driven individual with outstanding leadership, communication, and interpersonal skills to join our Executive Team as Vice President of Operations. This is a senior leadership role who reports directly to the Chief Operating Officer and is responsible for overseeing and driving the operational effectiveness of LifeSouth Community Blood Centers across a multi-state footprint set by executive leadership. In this position you will develop, implement, and lead strategic initiatives to enhance blood donations, blood processing, and blood distribution while ensuring operational efficiency and compliance with regulatory standards. This position is also responsible for maintaining optimal staffing ratios, overseeing training programs, and ensuring continuous operational growth and innovation. Join our team and help us continue our dedication to making sure blood is there when you or your family is in need. Visit our careers page to learn more about this position, and apply here!

Chief Medical Officer (CMO). Carter BloodCare seeks a dynamic Chief Medical Officer (CMO) to lead medical and technical operations and ensure excellence in transfusion medicine, cellular therapy, and donor care. As a key executive team member, the CMO will drive innovation, compliance, and strategic growth. Why Carter BloodCare? Mission-Driven Work: Your leadership directly impacts patients in need. Executive Leadership: Collaborate with the CEO and executive team to shape policies and strategy. Industry Influence: Represent Carter BloodCare as a thought leader in transfusion medicine. Growth & Innovation: Lead research initiatives and partnerships with medical institutions. Key Responsibilities: Oversee medical services, ensuring safety, compliance, and quality. Act as CLIA Lab Director for high and moderate-complexity testing labs. Serve as one of the medical and scientific faces of Carter BloodCare. Lead and mentor Medical Directors, fostering a culture of excellence. Guide organizational strategy and budgeting. Advance clinical research, academic collaborations, and medical education initiatives. What We're Looking For: M.D. or D.O. (or equivalent) with board certification in transfusion medicine or a related field. Eligibility for a Texas medical license and willingness to obtain additional state licenses as needed. 7+ years of experience in blood banking/transfusion medicine or related field. 3+ years of leadership experience. Apply today: www.carterbloodcare.org/careers

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POSITIONS (continued from page 12)

Associate Medical Director/Medical Director (Versiti Blood Center of Ohio). Serve as the physician face of Versiti and Versiti Ohio, translating complex medical issues to educate other physicians, support staff and the public. Opportunities in educational initiatives and clinical/applied research are available within Versiti and with our affiliated health systems. As part of the Versiti physician team you will have the opportunity to participate in clinical research projects with investigators at our world-renowned diagnostic laboratory and blood research institute. Joining our Medical Science Institute transfusion medicine physician team will provide you with a uniquely diverse and collaborative experience. Requirements: MD or DO Degree. Board certified/eligible in Blood Banking/Transfusion Medicine. At least three years of experience in blood center/transfusion medicine practice preferred. Licensed or eligible for an Ohio and Indiana; other state licenses may be required. Driver's License in good standing. Please click here to read the full job description and apply.

