

2016 #5

February 5, 2016

INSIDE:

Our Space: A Prescription for Erythrogizer™2

AABB Issues
Recommendations to Protect Against Zika, Dengue, Chikungunya..6

Brush up on Advocacy with ABC's New Advocacy E-learning Course!.....6

ABC Advocacy Update: HHS Allocates Funding for Study on Sustainability of the U.S. Blood Supply7

ABC Announces Annual Meeting Scholarship Awardees8

ABC's Social Media Pick of the Week.....8

ABC Members Asked to Complete Collections Survey9

RESEARCH IN BRIEF ...9

BRIEFLY NOTED.....9

REGULATORY NEWS..10

MEMBER NEWS.....11

MEETINGS.....12

POSITIONS AVAILABLE13

ABC Announces the 19th Annual Awards of Excellence and the FABC's Annual Award Winners

America's Blood Centers announced this week the recipients of the 19th Annual Awards of Excellence and the Foundation for America's Blood Centers' Annual Awards, which will be presented on the evening of Monday, March 14 during the ABC Annual Meeting at the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront in Florida. These awards allow ABC and the FABC to recognize individuals and organizations that have made outstanding contributions in promoting blood donation and improving transfusion medicine.

Thomas F. Zuck Lifetime Achievement Award. Walter "Sunny" Dzik, MD, co-medical director of the Transfusion Service at Massachusetts General Hospital and a professor of pathology at Harvard Medical School, will receive the Thomas F. Zuck Lifetime Achievement Award, for which he was nominated by Innovative Blood Resources and garnered support from numerous other ABC members. This award honors an individual for lifetime achievement in the application of clinical/medical and scientific research to improve methods of blood collection and the safety/efficacy of blood products provided to patients. Dr. Dzik is an internationally renowned transfusion medicine expert with a long history in the Harvard hospital environment.



Dr. Dzik has authored or co-authored nearly 200 scientific publications relating to blood safety and transfusion medicine. He has been a leader in establishing international research programs, the first being the Biomedical Excellence in Safety and Transfusion (BEST) Collaborative. He also supports several projects focused on improving transfusion care at Mulago National Reference Hospital in Kampala, Uganda. Dr. Dzik has been a friend and mentor to myriad other leaders in transfusion medicine who have had the honor of training under him in Boston, wrote Jed Gorlin, MD, medical director at Innovative Blood Resources, wrote in his nominating letter.

"He has a unique ability to distill complex questions into straight forward and elegantly simple trials ... His healthy skepticism and hold no "holy grails" approach leads to true equipoise in his studies and investigations," wrote Dr. Gorlin.

(continued on page 3)



OUR SPACE

John Armitage, MD, CEO, Oklahoma Blood Institute

A Prescription for Erythrogizer™

Red blood cells (RBCs) may well be the Rodney Dangerfield of pharmaceuticals because they seem to get no respect. In fact, two major thrusts in transfusion medicine, patient blood management, and hemovigilance, tend to accentuate negative aspects of transfusion care with inherent messages that blood is very risky and needs to be either avoided altogether or, if given, closely scrutinized. Seldom is heard the encouraging insiders' word that RBCs are a miracle drug, which in various situations can save your life, provide you comfort, give you energy, sharpen your thinking, and even improve your appearance. Unfortunately, given the current cost-saving pressures in healthcare, such undervaluation may be causing episodes of under-transfusion that adversely affect quality of life for patients and their caregivers.

At the Patient-Centric Transfusion meeting held last week in New Orleans, the assembled blood bankers discussed reshaping perceptions of blood products by exploring the ways in which patients experience their treatments. Reimagined therapeutic endpoints might enable meaningful quantifications, illustrating the value of transfusion, that go beyond 30-day mortality and length-of-stay metrics.

New measures on which to evaluate restrictive vs. liberal transfusion practices could include: 1) days until a patient returns to work; 2) number of well defined "good days" experienced during chemotherapy; 3) days until a patient has the energy to resume accustomed physical and sexual activities; and 4) post-partum activity (pedometer) measures and depression rates. Because the economic pressure not to transfuse has grown dramatically, so must our understanding of why we should transfuse.

Fortunately, patients are powerful stakeholders that we can engage in this honest reassessment. Disclosing the fast-acting and dramatic benefits of a dose of RBCs would allow potential recipients to make better informed care decisions. The following testimonial from one of our own blood center employees is instructive:

"As a medical laboratory scientist ... until two weeks ago I [had] never had the experience of actually being the patient to receive blood. ... I had not even understood how badly I had been feeling, until I started to feel "good" again. One unit down, I suddenly wished I had bothered to go to the doctors sooner. After the second unit (hours later), I felt incredible."

If professionals who routinely perform cross-matches do not fully appreciate RBC effects, imagine how difficult these connections must be for laypeople to grasp. Perhaps it would be educational if we, like our for-profit, big pharma cousins, launched more descriptive branding for blood products. Fatigue-busting qualities could be conveyed by trade names like "Erythrogizer," "Cytovigor," and "Dynofuse." If this seems farfetched, it says much about the narrow self-conceptions we harbor about our function in dispensing our miracle drugs. [Editor's Note: Continue monitoring the *ABC Newsletter* for updates on this initiative.]

john.armitage@obi.org 

The *ABC Newsletter* (ISSN #1092-0412) is published 46 times a year by America's Blood Centers® and distributed by e-mail. Contents and views expressed are not official statements of ABC or its Board of Directors. Copyright 2016 by America's Blood Centers. Reproduction of the *ABC Newsletter* is forbidden unless permission is granted by the publisher. (ABC members need not obtain prior permission if proper credit is given.)

ABC is an association of not-for-profit, independent community blood centers that helps its members provide excellence in transfusion medicine and related health services. ABC provides leadership in donor advocacy, education, national policy, quality, and safety; and in finding efficiencies for the benefit of donors, patients, and healthcare facilities by encouraging collaboration among blood organizations and by acting as a forum for sharing information and best practices.

America's Blood Centers

President: Susan Rossmann
 CEO: Christine S. Zambricki
 ABC Publications Editor: Betty Klinck
 Subscriptions Manager: Leslie Maundy
Annual Subscription Rate: \$390

Send subscription queries to lmaundy@americasblood.org.

America's Blood Centers
 725 15th St. NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20005
 Phone: (202) 393-5725

Send news tips to newsletter@americasblood.org.



ABC, FABC Award Winners (continued from page 1)

William Coenen President's Award. Margaret Wallace, MHS, MT(ASCP) who retired as CEO of LifeShare Blood Centers, Shreveport, La., in September 2015, and Gary Levy, MD, who also retired from LifeShare Blood Centers in 2015, will receive the William Coenen President's Award, which is given at the discretion of the ABC president. Ms. Wallace is being recognized for her strong support of ABC during her long career in blood banking. Dr. Levy is being recognized for his numerous contributions to ABC's Scientific, Medical, and Technical (SMT) Committee and groups.

During Ms. Wallace's 30 years of service at LifeShare Blood Centers, she maintained what has been the focus of the center since 1942 – providing quality blood components for use by patients in need. She led the expansion into new territories in Louisiana, Arkansas, and Texas, embraced technological advancements, and was instrumental in the creation of the John J. Moulds Immunohematology Reference Laboratory and Scientific Support Services.



Ms. Wallace has been published in multiple transfusion medicine journals and has been recognized with several blood banking awards including the John Elliott Memorial Award and the Ivor Dunsford Memorial Award from AABB, the Sol Haberman Administrative Award from the South Central Association of Blood Banks, and the Jack B. Alperin Award from the University of Texas Medical Branch for outstanding support for the SBB program. Ms. Wallace has served ABC since its early days when it was known as the Council of Community Blood Centers in many roles and has been a strong supporter of the association.

Dr. Levy had a 30-year career in blood banking and served as the medical director of LifeShare Blood Centers since 1988. During his time at LifeShare, he was part of the senior management team as the organization increased blood donations by about 40,000 donations annually, began an apheresis program, and established the John J. Moulds Immunohematology Reference Laboratory and Scientific Support Services.



Throughout his career, Dr. Levy chaired and served on numerous committees including several for ABC, AABB, and the LSU Health Sciences Center-Shreveport. ABC recognized Dr. Levy for his work with ABC's SMT Committee during the ABC Summer meeting in Philadelphia last August. In particular, Dr. Levy is well known for moderating the Morbidity and Mortality Rounds during ABC's Medical Directors Workshop, which focuses on interesting or unusual blood donor cases.

Larry Frederick Award. Raye Deusinger, nominated by OneBlood, based in Florida, will receive the Larry Frederick Award, which honors an individual for his or her community leadership in raising awareness of the need for blood donations. Ms. Deusinger, now an 80-year-old 15-gallon blood donor, has chaired the successful Okeechobee Blood Roundup blood drive annually for the last nine years and helped OneBlood garner donations from local businesses to reward blood donors.



In 2006, three years after her husband received 36 blood transfusions before passing away, Ms. Deusinger founded the

(continued on page 4)



ABC, FABC Award Winners (continued from page 3)

Okeechobee Blood Roundup, an annual blood drive held before Thanksgiving, which has generated 4,162 blood donations, almost 10 percent of the town's population annually. She also recruits donors and support from local businesses, garnering 225 prizes worth \$16,000 for donor drawings this year alone. To support this community drive, Ms. Deusinger has also gained significant media coverage.

During the two-day drive, 34 high school volunteers hold up road signs, escort donors to bloodmobiles, serve hot dogs and soda. The Filipino-American club sets up and cleans up the auditorium where double red cells and platelets are donated. Ms. Deusinger has restaurants provide food to serve 100 meals, three times a day, feeding OneBlood staff and her volunteers. This year for the 10th annual blood drive she invited Be The Match and LifeLink to register prospective bone marrow donors too.

2015 Blood Community Advocate of the Year. ABC will award the 2015 Blood Community Advocate of the Year to Jim Berger, MS, MT(ASCP), SBB, senior advisor for Blood Policy, in HHS's office of HIV/AIDS and Infectious Disease Policy (OHAIDP), and Rich Henry, ML, MPH, advisor for Blood & Tissue Policy in HHS's OHAIDP. This discretionary award honors individuals who demonstrate leadership, commitment, or extraordinary service in advocating on behalf of ABC member blood centers and the blood community to advance their missions of maintaining a safe and reliable blood supply for all patients in need.

Mr. Berger and Mr. Henry are being recognized for leading the charge in securing funding from HHS to support a study on the value of blood, one of ABC's key advocacy agenda initiatives (see page 7). The study, to be conducted by the RAND Corp. will characterize the current U.S. blood system and alternatives that might assure the sustainability of a safe and adequate blood supply. Concerns regarding inadequate reimbursement models and the sustainability of the U.S. blood supply came to a head during a December 2013 meeting of HHS's Advisory Committee of Blood and Tissue Safety and Availability. ABC's leadership spearheaded an effort to secure an appropriate vehicle and funding source to conduct a study investigating these issues.

ABC worked with Mr. Berger and Mr. Henry, who were critical to moving this effort forward, graciously agreeing to take this topic to the Advisory Committee for Blood and Tissue Safety and Availability (ACBTSA), ultimately forming a multidisciplinary ACBTSA Subcommittee on Sustainability. Mr. Berger and Mr. Henry were also key to finding the appropriate path to funding the study through HHS. The overarching goal is to publish an evidence-based report, independent of the blood community, which provides a big picture analysis of the current situation and future options for ensuring long-term sustainability of the U.S. blood supply.

Corporation of the Year. Anna Maria Oyster Bar, nominated by SunCoast Blood Bank, Sarasota, Fla., will receive the Corporation of the Year Award, which is given to a business that demonstrates exceptional commitment to the volunteer blood community and to raising awareness of the need for blood donations. Anna Maria Oyster Bar, a small chain of local restaurants, has helped encourage countless community members to donate blood and contributed thousands of dollars in gift cards and coupons to reward SunCoast Blood Bank's blood donors.

Anna Maria Oyster Bar encourages its 230-person staff and large social media and e-mail following to donate blood, and even secures radio and television spots promoting blood drives. Additionally, the restaurant provides a coupon for a free lunch or early bird special for each blood drive. As part of SunCoast's loyalty program, Anna Maria Oyster Bar donated more than \$10,000 in gift cards for donors.

(continued on page 5)



ABC, FABC Award Winners (continued from page 4)

The restaurant chain was also the first community partner to sign up for the “Saving Other This Summer (SOS)” initiative, for which they donated \$5 and \$10 coupons to every donor who gave blood from May to September. On average, the restaurants blood drives generate 150 units of blood.

“Anna Maria Oyster Bar and its owner John Horne are generous to a fault. From having his staff serve our staff lunch at every drive, to being the first one on the bus to donate, he supports many local non-profits, and we count ourselves very fortunate to be among them,” Jayne Giroux, SunCoast’s director of Community Development, wrote in the nomination letter.

Media of the Year. WFSA Channel 12-Montgomery, Alabama, nominated by LifeSouth Community Blood Centers, headquartered in Gainesville, Fla., will receive the Media of the Year Award. Over the past eight years, this local media outlet has sponsored the annual Give From the Heart Blood Drive, held in conjunction with Valentine’s Day, which LifeSouth estimates has saved more than 2,500 lives. While this blood drive is held once annually, WFSA supports LifeSouth all year-long by promoting blood donation and advertising blood drives with news spots and through social media. In 2014-2015, the station featured LifeSouth in more than 70 spots, which had a viewership of about 3.4 million valued at \$114,038.99.

Blood Drive Recognition Awards. The following awards recognize specific blood drive partners and coordinators for particularly successful or creative blood drives.

- **School Blood Drive:** Highland High School, nominated by United Blood Services.
- **Most Productive Blood Drive Awards:** (Small center) Sarasota Memorial Health System, nominated by SunCoast Blood Bank; (Medium center) Cincinnati Reds Week, nominated by Hoxworth Blood Center; (Large center) Chick-Fil-A, nominated by OneBlood.
- **Most Creative Blood Drive Awards:** (Small center) Suncoast Behavioral Health Holiday Heroes, nominated by SunCoast Blood Bank; (Medium center) CARE Center Hospital, nominated by Hoxworth Blood Center; and (Large center) Dr. Elba Garcia’s Summer Blood Drive Challenge, nominated by Carter BloodCare.

Foundation Awards. MAK-Systems, Inc. and Roche will receive the FABC’s Pacesetter Award for contributing \$50,000 to the Foundation. HemaTerra Technologies, Hologic, and Terumo BCT will receive the Patron Award for contributions of \$25,000.

Pascal George, CEO of Central Jersey Blood Center and president-elect of the FABC, will receive the President’s Award for his enthusiastic service to the FABC’s board. Mr. George’s dedication to the FABC was evident from the onset of his service in 2013, volunteering to serve as the head of a newly formed fundraising committee, which sought to strategize and implement ABC’s Professional Institute (API) Capital Campaign. In chairing this committee, Mr. George led by example in reaching out to the blood community and industry partners. He has garnered immense support for the API, as well as increased the visibility of ABC and the FABC.

The FABC will present Toni-Ann Mills, Fenwal’s director of Learning and Development, with the FABC Volunteer of the Year Award. As part of a generous contribution to support the development of the API, Fenwal, Fresenius Kabi, donated the time and adult learning expertise of Ms. Mills, who consulted with

(continued on page 6)



ABC, FABC Award Winners (continued from page 5)

ABC staff on developing the curriculum and direction of the API. She provided valuable staff training about adult learning methods and was selfless in volunteering her time and energy to advance the API.

Michael Buell, manager of Product Manufacturing at SunCoast Blood Bank, will receive the ITxM Award for Excellence in Technical Operations. Mr. Buell is a hardworking, dedicated technician, recognized for his even temperament, who worked hundreds of hours to implement the Cerus Intercept System, a new pathogen reduction technology, at SunCoast. He underwent extensive training and prepared the blood center's manufacturing set-up and storage to accommodate pathogen reduced blood products. His work helped SunCoast become the first in the U.S. to implement the Intercept System.

SunCoast Blood Bank will receive the Terumo BCT Award of Excellence in recognition of its partnership with iHeartMedia, 107.9 WCTQ, which dedicates an entire day to raise awareness about the importance of blood donation. Pints for Play, a 13-hour, commercial-free blood drive marathon has an in-kind value of \$75,795. As the largest blood drive for the year for SunCoast, Pints for Play has collected 3,970 units of blood over seven years. Clear Channel and WSRZ 107.9 have been avid blood donation advocates in the local community by educating the public about the importance of donating blood. 💧

AABB Issues Recommendations to Protect Against Zika, Dengue, Chikungunya

The World Health Organization issued an international state of emergency on Feb. 1 as concerns mounted over the spread of Zika virus throughout South and Central America, particularly in Brazil where it is suspected that the virus is causing an uptick in a rare birth defect called microcephaly. As U.S. health officials monitor for Zika cases introduced by travelers to Zika-endemic areas, the blood community has taken preventive measures to ensure the blood supply remains safe.

In response to concern over Zika virus, and related dengue and chikungunya viruses, AABB issued [Association Bulletin #16-03](#). In addition to providing Zika virus background information, AABB recommends that blood centers implement self-deferral for 28 days for all donors who have traveled to Mexico, the Caribbean, or Central and South America. The blood community is considering what measures may be appropriate in the event that local transmission is established in the U.S.

AABB's Transfusion Transmitted Diseases committee, which includes liaisons from the Food and Drug Administration and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, crafted the recommendations. FDA is currently drafting guidance on this subject, according to ABC Chief Medical Officer Louis Katz, MD.

ABC members can access Zika virus talking points [here](#), as well as a number of [reference materials and resources](#) about Zika virus. ABC members with questions or concerns may contact Dr. Katz at lkatz@americasblood.org. 💧

Brush up on Advocacy with ABC's New Advocacy E-learning Course!

Are you planning to visit with your member of Congress during ABC's Community Blood Center Advocacy Week, Feb. 15-19? Well we have the perfect tool to prepare you for meetings with your legislator(s). ABC's brand new advocacy e-learning course will teach you to better understand and communicate effectively with your congressional leaders. ABC members can find the course on the [ABC member website](#).



ABC Advocacy Update: HHS Allocates Funding for Study on Sustainability of the U.S. Blood Supply

The Acting Assistant Secretary for Health received official notice this week that the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health has allocated funds to support the “Sustainability of the U.S. Blood Supply Study,” being conducted by RAND Corp. under the auspices of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). HHS announced its commitment to fund the project in September 2015, and this accomplishment marks the official allocation of funds.

The funding and initiation of this study represents a major step forward in America’s Blood Centers’ advocacy agenda initiative on the “Value of Blood,” which seeks to ensure the long-term sustainability of the U.S. blood supply through exploring the current model and suggesting future directions. This issue came to a head during a December 2013 meeting of the HHS Advisory Committee on Blood and Tissue Safety and Availability. Shortly following this meeting, ABC added the Value of Blood issue to its advocacy agenda.

ABC CEO Christine Zambricki, DNAP, CRNA, FAAN, and Chief Medical Officer Louis Katz, MD, led the charge to coordinate blood community support and gain funding for a study that would investigate the current U.S. blood supply model. Finding strong advocates in Jim Berger, MS, MT(ASCP), SBB, senior advisor for Blood Policy in HHS’s Office of HIV/AIDS and Infectious Disease Policy (OHAIDP), and Rich Henry, ML, MPH, advisor for Blood & Tissue Policy at OHAIDP, HHS agreed in September 2015 to fund the study (see [ABC Newsletter, 9/4/15](#)).

The goal is to publish an evidence-based report, independent of the blood community, which provides a big picture analysis of the current U.S. blood supply situation and future options for ensuring long-term sustainability. This study will be the first step toward making recommendations and policy to support a sustainable blood supply. This would in turn allow blood centers to proactively find solutions to sustaining a safe and adequate blood supply for the benefits of both donors and patients.

The RAND Corp. will collaborate with ABC, AABB, the American Red Cross, and other blood community experts to enable the study.

“We would like to thank Jim Berger, Rich Henry, and the entire HHS for their support in making this study a reality,” said Dr. Zambricki. “The resulting report will be critical to ensuring a stable blood supply infrastructure in the U.S. ABC is pleased that its Value of Blood advocacy efforts have resulted in moving this important study forward.” ♦

We Welcome Your Articles

We at the *ABC Newsletter* welcome freelance articles on any subject relevant to the blood banking community. Writers are encouraged to submit short proposals or unsolicited manuscripts of no more than 1,100 words. While ABC cannot pay for freelance pieces, the writer’s name and title will be included at the end of the story, brief news item, or commentary. If proposing a story, please write a few paragraphs describing the idea and sources of information you will use, your present job and background, and your qualifications for writing on the topic. ABC staff cannot guarantee all stories will be published, and all outside writing will be subject to editing for style, clarity, brevity, and good taste. Please submit ideas and manuscripts to ABC Publications Editor Betty Klinck at newsletter@americasblood.org. You will be sent a writer’s guide that provides information on style conventions, story structure, deadlines, etc.



America's Blood Centers®
It's About *Life.*

INSIDE ABC

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

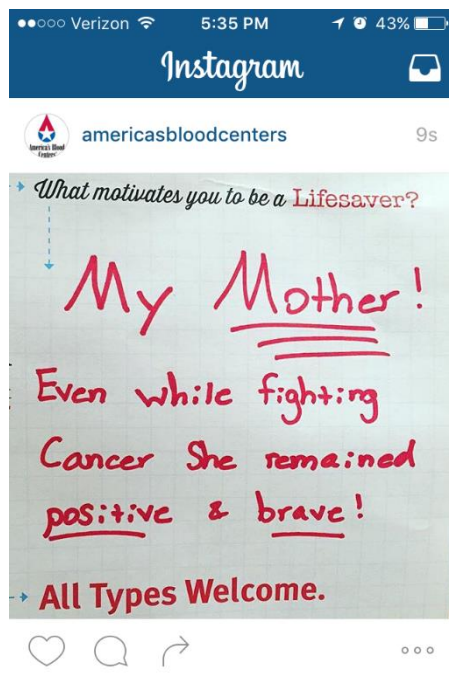
ABC Announces Annual Meeting Scholarship Awardees

America's Blood Centers recently announced five winners from ABC member blood centers who will receive a scholarship to attend the ABC Annual Meeting in Jacksonville, Fla. this March. ABC's Scholarship Program, made possible by a grant from the Foundation for America's Blood Centers (FABC), provides scholarships to individuals from ABC member centers to supplement costs for attendance to an ABC Specialty Workshop or Meeting.

ABC congratulates the following five recipients on being selected to receive a scholarship for the upcoming ABC Annual Meeting.

- **Gabriela Garcia**, manager, Neighborhood Donor Center, Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center
- **Jennifer Linder**, apheresis tech 2, Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center
- **Meredith Lummer**, supervisor, Components Laboratory, Community Blood Services
- **Veronica Moore**, director, Hospital Relations, Carter BloodCare
- **Kathy Mullins**, hospital services manager, Blood Bank of Delmarva

ABC's Social Media Pick of the Week



Have you checked out America's Blood Centers on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#)? Well you should! We are sharing posts from our fellow member blood centers to increase the visibility of your blood center and connect you with other blood center networks around the country.

Each week we'll feature a particularly popular or engaging post that we borrowed from a member blood center. This week, we're recognizing Hoxworth Blood Center who is sharing on Instagram what motivates their donors to give blood.

Want to get more involved with ABC's social media presence? Tag us in your posts or use the hashtag #americasgotblood, and we'll like, share, or retweet the post. You can also ask donors to use our hashtag or tag our social media pages. We can't wait to see you online!



INSIDE ABC (continued from page 8)

ABC Members Asked to Complete Collections Survey

America's Blood Centers recently distributed the 2015 annual donor collections survey to its membership. ABC member blood centers are asked to complete the survey, reflecting 2015 collections, by **Feb. 16**. ABC members can access the survey in [MCN 16-006](#) or may contact Trudy Thompson (tthompson@americasblood.org) with questions. ♦

RESEARCH IN BRIEF

A study published Feb. 2 in *Transfusion* suggests that the age of red blood cells (RBCs) was not associated with significant differences of health-related quality of life (HRQL) in patients receiving chronic transfusions. Further, this study demonstrated the feasibility of n=1 trials (single patient trials) to determine the benefits of transfusions in a single patient. Randomized controlled trials in critically ill patients demonstrate no difference in patient outcomes when comparing older vs. younger stored RBCs. However, these studies do not provide any insight into the impact of RBC age on clinical outcomes in transfusion-dependent patients. Cyrus C. Hsia, MD, of London Health science Center in Ontario, Canada, and colleagues investigated whether storage duration would affect the benefits of transfusion as measured by hemoglobin (Hb) increment and HRQL. They conducted n=1 trials (single patient, randomized, blinded, multiple crossover comparisons) to compare the effects of fresh (<7 days of storage) vs. standard-issue (up to 42 days storage) blood on Hb and levels of HRQL in chronically transfused patients. They enrolled 20 transfusion-dependent patients, of whom nine completed at least six transfusions. There were no significant differences in the effect of standard and fresh blood on follow-up Hb levels or the eight HRQL dimensions assessed via pre- and post-transfusion questionnaires. "While larger trials are needed, these results support current practices in hospital blood transfusion laboratories using first-in, first-out model of blood utilization for these transfusion-dependent patients," concluded the authors. Importantly, their results also suggest that n=1 may be a useful model to assess clinical outcomes, other than morbidity and mortality, related to transfusion.

Citation: Hsia CC, *et al.* Use of n-of-1 (single patient) trials to assess the effect of age of transfused blood on health-related quality of life in transfusion-dependent patients. *Transfusion*. 2016 Feb 2. [Epub ahead of print] ♦

BRIEFLY NOTED

America's Blood Centers has endorsed a letter from PLUS, the Platform of Plasma Protein Users, to the European Medicine Agencies (EMA), urging the agency to ensure that diverging blood donor deferral policies regarding men who have sex with men (MSM) do not negatively impact the availability of plasma-derived medicinal products. In December 2015, the Food and Drug Administration changed its longstanding policy deferring MSM from donating blood indefinitely to a policy that defers MSM donors for one year from the last male-to-male sexual contact. The policy will limit the ability of U.S. blood centers to ship recovered plasma to fractionators in Europe that manufacture critical plasma-derived medicinal products. The EMA currently does not allow plasma fractionators to make derivatives using plasma donated by MSM, and it remains unclear how the EMA plans to address this issue. PLUS, an international coalition that represents various international plasma fractionators and patient groups, wrote a letter to the EMA to "express significant concern regarding global implications

(continued on page 10)

**BRIEFLY NOTED** (continued from page 9)

for the free movement of plasma and consequently access to life-saving plasma-derived medicinal products due to diverging blood donor deferral policies for MSM.” They note that the revision of national MSM deferral policies may have unintended consequences including the potential to negatively impact the global supply and availability of safe plasma-derived products. “There is an urgent need to find a regulatory mechanism that, whatever the differences in the national MSM deferral policies, ensures this will not have an impact on the availability of licensed plasma-derived medicinal products,” states the letter. They urge the EMA to ensure that regulatory authorities are taking measures to avoid restricting access to these products. “ABC is committed to assisting PLUS as they pursue harmonization of the applicable regulations and policies related to source plasma and the new MSM regulations,” said ABC Chief Medical Officer Louis Katz, MD. (Source: PLUS letter, 2/4/16) 💧

REGULATORY NEWS

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved on Jan. 28 a biologics license application from Bloodworks Northwest for its cord blood program. The FDA license designates Bloodworks as an authorized national source for hematopoietic cell therapy – known as HCP Cord Blood. Bloodworks is only the sixth cord blood bank in the U.S. to achieve this FDA approval. “Our new FDA license tells bone marrow transplantation centers nationally and internationally that we have established, capable, documented, successful and stringent quality systems for the collection, processing and delivery of umbilical cord stem cells,” said James P. AuBuchon, MD, president and CEO of Bloodworks. “The stem cells collected can be truly lifesaving for patients receiving treatment for leukemia, lymphoma, or immune system disorders.” The collection of cord blood from new mothers is a voluntary and painless procedure that does not interfere with the birth, or with mother-and-child bonding after delivery. There is no risk to either mother or baby, and there is no cost associated with the donation, according to Bloodworks. More information about the regulatory approval can be found in the FDA approval letter [here](#). 💧



Cord blood units are stored in a liquid nitrogen freezer at Bloodworks Northwest until they are matched to a patient in need of a transplant.

We Welcome Your Articles

We at the *ABC Newsletter* welcome freelance articles on any subject relevant to the blood banking community. Writers are encouraged to submit short proposals or unsolicited manuscripts of no more than 1,100 words. While ABC cannot pay for freelance pieces, the writer’s name and title will be included at the end of the story, brief news item, or commentary. If proposing a story, please write a few paragraphs describing the idea and sources of information you will use, your present job and background, and your qualifications for writing on the topic. ABC staff cannot guarantee all stories will be published, and all outside writing will be subject to editing for style, clarity, brevity, and good taste. Please submit ideas and manuscripts to Editor Betty Klinck at newsletter@americasblood.org. You will be sent a writer’s guide that provides information on style conventions, story structure, deadlines, etc.



MEMBER NEWS

Lifeblood, Memphis, Tenn., introduced this week its newest team member – a 40-ft. long mobile blood drive bus – to Mid-South donors. Through a Plough Foundation grant, Lifeblood was able to add a seventh bloodmobile to its fleet. The bus boasts the latest generator technology with two turbo charged generators with low emissions and a custom interior design for maximum comfort. “A new bus will give us even more opportunities to reach donors in our community,” said Jennifer Balink, Lifeblood’s vice president of donor relations. “We look forward to saving thousands of lives with the help of our generous community partners and supporters.” The new bloodmobile will bring Lifeblood’s fleet up to seven bloodmobiles, which provide an opportunity to those in the Mid-South to donate blood at work, school, or any other location where a mobile bus can be set-up. Mobile blood drives account for 60 percent of Lifeblood’s total blood collections. The blood collected on the new bus is expected to impact more than 6,000 lives in the Memphis community annually, according to a Lifeblood press release. (Source: Lifeblood press release, 2/1/16) 💧



Lifeblood employees pose on the new bloodmobile that was received through a \$250,000 Plough Foundation grant.



REGISTRATION NOW OPEN



54th Annual Meeting

March 12-14, 2016 – Jacksonville, FL

Sponsored by



Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront

Negotiated hotel room rate: \$179 + tax

http://bit.ly/jax_hyatt

2016 Annual Meeting Schedule

- Saturday, March 12:** Business Forum
- Sunday, March 13:** ABC Members Meeting
SMT Forum & Celso Bianco Lectureship
Host Event by OneBlood
(off-site event)
- Monday, March 14:** Blood Center Leadership Forum
19th Annual Awards of Excellence & Casino Night

“The Annual Meeting provides a chance for us to learn, discuss and decide important issues for ABC, as well as meet old and new friends. In this time of rapid change in our arena, it is particularly important for us to stay in touch with what is going on in the field, and to keep ABC responsive to the needs of our members.”

Susan Rossmann, M.D., Ph.D.
ABC President

Future Leader Scholarship Program
Supported by the FABC, these scholarships offer non-C-suite blood center executives the opportunity to advance professionally by attending the ABC Annual Meeting. Details available upon registration.

Registration Fees
ABC Annual Meeting: \$725
Non-members (non-vendor), contact Lori Beaston at lbeaston@americasblood.org for invitation, registration fees and additional information.

Sponsorship opportunities available. Contact Jodi Zand at jzand@americasblood.org for details.



Jacksonville International Airport (JAX) is served by most major airlines. Visit www.flyjax.com.



MEETINGS

Sept. 21 **6th Annual Symposium Red Cell Genotyping 2016: Clinical Steps, Bethesda, Md.**

BloodCenter of Wisconsin and the National Institutes of Health are co-hosting the 6th Annual Symposium Red Cell Genotyping 2016: Clinical Steps. It will be held at the NIH campus in Bethesda, Md. Registration can be found here: www.bcw.edu/rcg2016.

Contact: Phyllis Kirchner, Phyllis.kirchner@bcw.edu

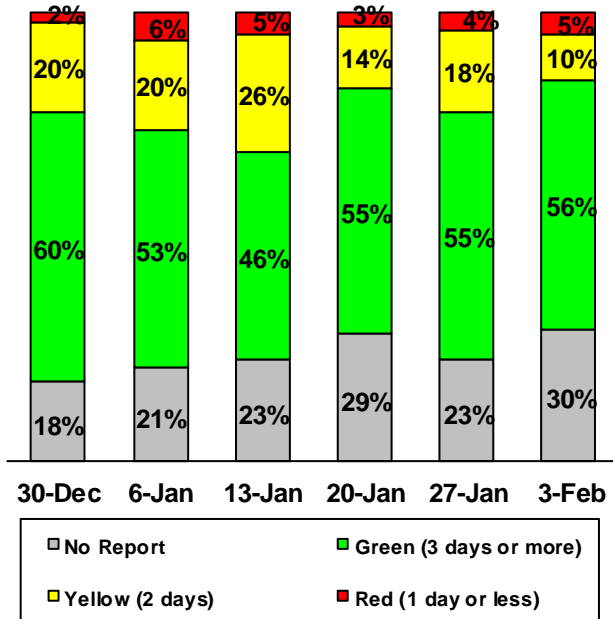
Sept. 22 **35th Annual Immunohematology and Blood Transfusion Symposium, Bethesda, Md.**

The American Red Cross and the National Institutes of Health are co-hosting the 35th Annual Immunohematology and Blood Transfusion Symposium at the NIH campus in Bethesda, Md. There is no registration fee but advance registration is encouraged. Registration can be completed [here](#).

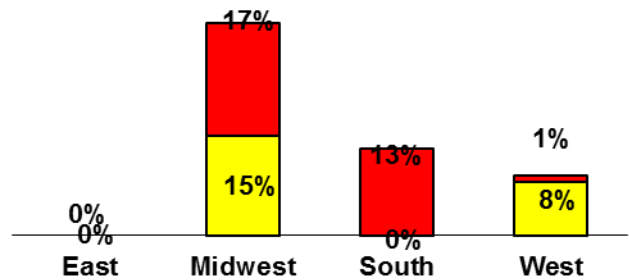
Contact: Karen Byrne, kbyrne@cc.nih.gov ♦

STOPLIGHT®: Status of America’s Blood Centers’ Blood Supply

Total ABC Red Cell Inventory



Percent of Regional Inventory at 2 Days Supply or Less, Feb. 3 2016



Percent of Total ABC Blood Supply Contributed by Each Region
 East: 20%; Midwest: 25%; South: 24%; West: 31%

Daily updates are available at:
www.AmericasBlood.org



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 institutional 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, contact Leslie Maundy at the ABC office. Phone: (202) 654-2917; fax: (202) 393-5527; e-mail: lmaundy@americasblood.org.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Director of Collections. The director of collections (DC) provides effective leadership, supervision and direction for the operations of collections. Oversee the direction, coordination, and evaluation of collections, providing direction for subordinate management team members to ensure excellent services and an adequate, safe, pure and potent blood supply. Responsible for developing tissue related operational procedures and tasks that comply with core current good tissue practice (cGTP) requirements. Ensures all procedures and processes are performed as designed to prevent circumstances that increase the risk of the introduction, transmission, or spread of communicable diseases through the use of human cells, tissue and cellular and tissue-based products (HCT/Ps). Effectively monitor production, inventory and performance in areas within the scope of assigned departments; develop, implement, monitor, and determine the effectiveness of department processes and plans; take appropriate corrective measures when necessary; and identify new applications, innovations, quality and/or safety improvements; report findings/results to the CFO and medical director, as appropriate. Employer will assist with relocation costs. Additional Salary Information: TBD. Please apply at www.BBH.org.

Donor Testing Technician I. (Department: Donor Testing; Location: St. Paul, MN; Hours: Full Time, 1.0 FTE (40hrs/week), Non-Exempt; Shifts: 2nd Shift - Specific Schedule TBD) Primary Purpose: Supports and promotes department and organizational goals, mission and vision. Contributes to a culture that aligns with Memorial Blood Centers' values of respect, integrity, synergy, excellence and service. Under general supervision, this position precisely and accurately performs sample handling/tracking/testing for one or more of the following: serologic testing for markers of hepatitis B, hepatitis C, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), human T-lymphotropic virus (HTLV), syphilis, cytomegalovirus (CMV), red cell antibody screen, NAT(PCR), Chagas (T CRUZI) and additional viral screening assays on both blood donor and patient samples. Completes all required ancillary duties including reporting of test results, quality control/quality assurance activities and record maintenance. Operates a variety of computer systems and lab equipment, performs periodic equipment maintenance as necessary, performs primary review of test records, monitors and

maintains adequate laboratory supplies, provides excellent customer service to both external and internal customers. To apply, please go directly to our website with an updated resume: <https://home2.eease.adp.com/recruit2/?id=19062262&t=1>

Donor Recruitment Representative/Account Manager. (Location: St. Paul, MN; Status: Exempt; FTE: 1.0 FTE, Full Time (40 hours per week), Exempt; Benefits: Medical, Dental, Vision, PTO, EST, Holiday, 401K and more!) Combine a love of sales account management and event planning to make a lifesaving difference in our community! Primary Purpose: Responsibilities will be focused in Donor Recruitment sales. The Donor Recruitment Representative ensures daily collection goals of whole blood are met by enhancing the overall marketing, recruiting and retention of donors. The Representative participates in departmental and cross-departmental projects, serving the objectives of the organization. This position also supports and participates in strategic planning within the department and business unit to improve, change, and/or enhance all areas of the collection process. Must be able to work well with others as part of a team, as well as independently. To apply, please go directly to our website with an updated resume: <https://home2.eease.adp.com/recruit2/?id=19060522&t=1>.

Chief Operating Officer. Blood Bank of Hawaii, a medium-size blood center (50,000 RBC distribution annually), is seeking a chief operating officer. This exciting position will provide leadership and direction to the organization, as well as direct and oversee donor recruitment, collections and technical operations. Responsibilities include strategic planning and development, creation of annual expense and operations budget, and monitoring of annual distribution and collection goals against budget. Bachelor's degree with 15 plus years of blood banking or blood center experience required. Demonstrated expertise in leading organizations utilizing combined technical and interpersonal skills required. Ideal candidate will possess superior leadership, supervisory and communication skills with

(continued on page 14)

POSITIONS (continued from page 13)

the ability to facilitate change and growth through collaboration and teamwork, while successfully promoting Blood Bank of Hawaii's mission, vision and values. Headquartered in Honolulu, we are the sole provider of blood to the state's hospitals. We offer a competitive salary and excellent benefits. Apply online now at <http://www.bbh.org/about-bbh/employment.html>.

Supervisor, HLA Laboratory/Relationship Testing.

The Rhode Island Blood Center is currently seeking a Supervisor, HLA Laboratory/Relationship Testing. Management of daily HLA Laboratory workload, compliance with and maintenance of ASHI (American Society for Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics) and AABB standards in the performance of HLA testing

and techniques, training technologists to perform HLA testing, management of HLA Laboratory staff including performance appraisal, and DNA testing for relationship testing. Also, this position requires advanced knowledge of HLA serologic and molecular techniques and DNA testing, plus techniques for handling hazardous chemicals and biologic specimens. B.S. in Medical Technology or related field. Certified Technologist/Specialist in Histocompatibility and Immunology (CHT or CHS). At least four years blood banking experience two of which were at the supervisory level or at least two years HLA experience in a supervisory capacity. Please apply online at www.ribc.org. JOIN THE TEAM THAT GIVES THE GIFT OF LIFE!!! We are an Equal Opportunity Employer ♠