



# ABC NEWSLETTER

CURRENT EVENTS AND TRENDS IN BLOOD SERVICES

Visit ABC's Web site at: [www.americasblood.org](http://www.americasblood.org)

2019 #11

April 5, 2019

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## Mike Parejko Becomes ABC President as the 57<sup>th</sup> ABC Annual Meeting Explores Stakeholder Engagement, the Impact of Paid Plasma Donation on Volunteer Donations, and O-negative RBC Use

Close to 120 professionals from ABC member blood centers and industry partners gathered in Arlington, Va. during ABC's 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting. Mike Parejko, CEO of Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center was elected as the President of the ABC Board of Directors. The new slate of officers was approved and includes Rob Purvis (New York Blood Center) as vice president and Delisa English (The Blood Connection) as Secretary/Treasurer. Also, joining the ABC Board were John Miller (LIFELINE Blood Services) and Rob Van Tuyle (Vitalant), as Jim Aubuchon (Bloodworks Northwest) and Dave Green (Vitalant) rotated off. Martin Grable (Community Blood Center of the Carolinas) will assume the *ex-officio* non-voting role of Past-President, which was voted on and approved by the ABC membership during the Members Meeting.

The General Session began with Nancy Bocskor stressing the important role of storytelling as a vehicle to convey the importance of blood donation and its power to engage internal and external stakeholders in conversations that promote the priorities of the blood community. Ms. Bocskor demonstrated the benefits of building relationships and connecting on a personal level with legislators and their staffs by finding commonality to become trusted partners through storytelling. Her 5-step framework for good storytelling as an impactful advocacy tool and driver for change on Capitol Hill featured the following components:

- structuring your story through use of a story board;
- be authentic;
- be visual;
- make it easy for the audience to connect the dots; and
- lead and engage the audience in discussions about your story.

Ms. Bocskor's presentation was followed by Jarrard Inc. Founding Partner and Chief Innovation Officer Molly Cate who delved into the changing healthcare landscape which has experienced significant disruption in recent years. This has resulted in mounting financial and political pressure to cut costs leading to consolidation of health systems. Ms. Cate explained the importance of blood centers aligning and positioning themselves to be creative partners with hospitals helping them redefine their businesses and evolve through creative solutions. She added that blood centers can become valuable trusted partners of hospitals by identifying areas to improve efficiency, patient experiences, and collaboration.

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ABC 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting (continued from page 1)

Debate on the impact of paid plasma donation on the volunteer blood community continues. The General Session concluded with William English, PhD and Peter Jaworski, PhD of Georgetown University presenting preliminary findings from their research in Canada and the U.S. on this subject. Their data showed a small, but positive increase in blood donations (80-100 per 1,000 plasma donations) in Canada where currently only 2 paid plasma centers exist due to bans throughout various Canadian provinces. In the U.S. where paid plasma facilities are much more prevalent, the phenomenon of “crowding out” does exist regionally in some areas, but overall plasma collections were associated with a small but positive increase ranging from 8-16 additional blood donations per 1,000 additional plasma donations. They hypothesized that this is due to advertising spillover and strategic response by blood centers, while adding that additional research and data are needed to further explore this topic.

The SMT Forum began with a presentation by Claudia Cohn, MD, PhD medical director of the University of Minnesota’s Blood Bank Laboratory on the appropriate uses of O-negative red blood cells (RBCs). Dr. Cohn acknowledged that patient blood management (PBM) has reduced blood collections, but still an over-reliance O-negative RBCs exists. She proposed that hospital transfusion services create policies to O-positive RBCs whenever possible while switching patients to type specific RBCs as soon as possible. Dr. Cohn encouraged blood centers to support the efforts of smaller hospitals through education, inventory control, and audits, while working with them to develop and implement plans aimed at reducing Rh-negative use. Patricia Shi, MD of New York Blood Center followed Dr. Cohn with a presentation that outlined the draft recommendations from ASH for sickle cell disease related transfusion support. Some recommendations included:

- the prevention RBC alloimmunization by extended typing at the earliest opportunity for all patients and genotyping to be conducted rather than serotyping;
- prophylactic Rh matching for (C, E or C/c,/E/e) and K match RBCs was conditionally recommended; and
- immunosuppressive therapy over no immunosuppressive therapy in patients with sickle cell disease (all genotypes) with an acute need for transfusion at high risk of acute hemolytic transfusion reaction or with a history of multiple or life-threatening delayed hemolytic transfusion reaction(s).

Vitalant’s Mary Townsend, MD and OneBlood’s Richard Gammon, MD presented previews of upcoming white papers soon to be published by ABC on mitigating teen donor reactions and the value of blood respectively. Dr. Townsend provided recommendations from the white paper aimed at reducing the vasovagal reactions included reducing emotional stressors and taking steps to prevent and counteract physiological changes such as appropriate hydration and applied muscle tension techniques. Dr. Gammon described

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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 recognize 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 healthcare 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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ABC 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting (continued from page 2)

ABC's priorities as expressed in the white paper with the reality of declining blood transfusions questions surrounding the residual value of blood. The paper supports the dissemination of "extant clinical transfusion guidelines" when available and the use of "excellent" clinical judgement in its absence, the need for appropriate studies to close data gaps and the appropriate recognition of blood components.

Louis Katz, MD presented hot topics in blood banking for the final time as Chief Medical Officer at ABC, which was preceded by a celebratory "roast" and slideshow from Vitalant's Chris Gresens, MD in honor the contributions that Dr. Katz has made to ABC and the blood community throughout his career complete with a song inspired by the Mary Tyler Moore Show.

The day concluded with the Celso Bianco Lectureship delivered by Jay Epstein, MD of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research. Dr. Epstein presented on the global efforts to national blood regulatory systems. He described the need for national blood regulation and the role that National Blood Regulatory Authority plays in providing oversight of safety requirements. Dr. Epstein also provided an update on the global progress of blood regulation and specific initiatives that are ongoing. A reception immediately followed to celebrate the life and memory of Celso Bianco, MD. More than 100 friends, family members, peers, and former colleagues of Dr. Bianco shared stories in celebration of the impact that Dr. Bianco had on ABC and the global blood community.

*Please Note: The ABC Annual Meeting will be reported on in two parts. The remaining portion of the meeting will be covered next week.* ♦

## **ABC and Global Healing Hold the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Blood Safety Forum**

On March 23<sup>rd</sup>, the America's Blood Centers (ABC) and Global Healing International Blood Safety Forum (IBSF) brought together representatives from professional societies, blood centers, for-profit companies, and the U.S. Military – to learn and discuss the contributions of each sector in assisting blood systems in low and middle-income countries (LMICs). In an era when financial support for work in blood safety and availability has fallen considerably, government funding in this arena, such as that provided by the United States' President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) program, has largely dried up while very few blood systems in LMICs have achieved the ability to establish, much less maintain, appropriate inventories of safe blood without external financial and technical support. Currently, much of the assistance comes from private sources and international programs via grassroots activities.

This one-day meeting featured short presentations followed by constructive, robust discussions among attendees. Jim MacPherson, president of MacPherson Strategies, Global Healing's Board Chair, and former CEO of ABC, opened IBSF with a welcome and overview in which he emphasized the tremendous need for both governments (in and outside of the affected LMICs) and private philanthropies to work together to support meaningful and sustainable improvements in the availability and safety of blood products and plasma-derived medicines. One of his most resonant statements was that, "every year a million kids die from anemia and tens of thousands of mothers die from hemorrhage delivering their children [and] millions more need surgeries that can't be done without blood; meeting those needs should be our ultimate goal."

Next Bloodworks Northwest President and CEO James AuBuchon, MD, FCAP, FRCP(Edin) delivered the keynote address, "Yes, You Can!" Dr. AuBuchon spoke on sharing our blood banking wealth in a variety of ways and noted how all successful healthcare activities, including those focusing on blood safety and

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3<sup>rd</sup> International Blood Safety Forum (continued from page 3)

availability, require the presence of mostly non-medical fundamentals such as reasonable-quality roads and electricity, education, and healthcare training. He also observed how basic, life-saving services are estimated to cost \$44 per person, worldwide, but 13 percent of countries spend less than this amount. Only half of needed blood is available worldwide, as internal revenue sources in LMICs have not replaced loss of international blood-focused assistance.

Dr. AuBuchon continued by stating how this situation is especially dire in many of the poorest LMICs. For example, most Sub-Saharan African countries (where, aside from South Africa, blood collections are far lower than the World Health Organization’s (WHO) target of 10 per thousand population) need far more blood products than are available to care for patients ravaged by severe malaria and maternal hemorrhage, let alone to support trauma management, general surgery, and oncology. However, several ways in which smaller contributions of dollars from wealthier blood centers, individuals, and charitable groups can have a large effect – most notably in training and “twinning” program activities. One of Dr. AuBuchon’s most salient recommendations was embodied by his comment: “[a]lthough advances in health spending and health care have been seen in developing countries, their quality systems, donor recruitment abilities, and underlying knowledge base are all excellent opportunities for teams from developed countries to join in their improvement efforts.” Following Dr. AuBuchon’s presentation, fourteen additional speakers shared their experiences in this area, as is summarized in the table below.

<p><b>Keynote Address:</b> James P. AuBuchon, MD, FACP, FRCP(Edin), President &amp; CEO, Bloodworks NW, Seattle, WA</p>
<p><b>Session 1:</b> How professional societies are contributing to the development of blood systems in low resource countries</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> W. Martin Smid, MD, PhD, MBA – Managing Director, Consulting Services, Sanquin Blood Supply; Chair, ISBT Working Party for Global Blood Safety</p> <p><b>Other presenters</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quentin Eichbaum, MD, PhD, MPH – Professor of Pathology, Vanderbilt University School of Medicine; Chair, AABB Global Transfusion Forum</li> <li>• Paula Castellanos, QB, EIHBS, MBA – Professor of Biology and Mathematics, University del Valle, Guatemala; President, Grupo Cooperativo Iberoamericano de Medicina Transfusional (GCIAMT)</li> <li>• Jan M. Bult – President and CEO, Plasma Protein Therapeutics Association (PPTA)</li> <li>• Paul Strengers, MD – International Plasma and Fractionation Association (IPFA)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Session 2:</b> Experts from individual centers talk about their experiences working in low-resource countries</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Benjamin Rioux-Masse, MD – Professor of Medicine, University of Montreal</p> <p><b>Other presenters</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chris Gresens, MD – Senior Chief Medical Officer, North &amp; West Divisions of Vitalant</li> <li>• Jed B. Gorlin, MD, MBA – Medical Director and Vice President, Quality and Regulatory Affairs, Innovative Blood Resources</li> <li>• Meghan Delaney, DO, MPH – Children’s National Health System, George Washington University</li> </ul>
<p><b>Session 3:</b> How industry is contributing to the development of blood systems in low-resource countries through CSR donations, tech transfer, education, and other ways</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Elan C. Weiner, MS, MPH, MBA – Director, Blood Center Services, Cerus Corporation</p> <p><b>Other presenters</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sushil Devare, PhD – Distinguished Research Fellow, Abbott Diagnostics</li> <li>• Jerry Holmberg, PhD – Director, Scientific Development, Grifols Diagnostic Solutions</li> <li>• Nigel Talboys – Global Director, Government Affairs and Public Policy, Terumo BCT</li> </ul>
<p><b>Closing Remarks:</b> Commander Jonathan Hoiles, MS, MBA – Director, Navy Blood Program</p>

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### 3<sup>rd</sup> International Blood Safety Forum (continued from page 4)

While the approaches they shared varied, some common themes emerged, including the need for thoughtful and realistic national blood policies and quality systems affecting all transfusion-related areas in a “vein-to-vein” manner – i.e., from donor recruitment and collections through product testing and storage all the way to patient transfusions. Training of personnel was emphasized by several as a major area where our community can continue to play a major (and often low-cost) role. U.S. Navy Commander Jonathan Hoiles, director of the Navy Blood Program, in his closing remarks, discussed how dedicated individuals, when supported generously by their respective organizations, can achieve important outcomes. In summary, ABC Chief Medical Officer Louis Katz, MD concluded, “[a]lthough advances in health spending and health care have been seen in developing countries, enhanced attention to their systems, donor recruitment, and underlying knowledge base are all excellent opportunities for teams from developed countries to join in their improvement efforts.” Preliminary feedback indicates that the Forum achieved its purpose and objectives. Finally, ABC, Global Healing, IBSF attendees, and the blood community would like to thank John Donnelly, PhD for his contributions and leadership in the success of Global Healing and IBSF. His substantial efforts in support of globally equitable access to quality healthcare (including transfusion medicine), during his military and civilian careers have left an indelibly positive impression throughout the world.

*Contributed by Chris Gresens, Senior Chief Medical Officer, North & West Divisions, Vitalant and Susan Rossmann, MD, PhD, Chief Medical Officer, Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center. 💧*

AMERICA'S  
BLOOD  
CENTERS'

## TECHNICAL AND QUALITY WORKSHOP

Bloomington, MN | April 30 - May 2, 2019





**HOTEL INFORMATION:**  
Embassy Suites Bloomington:  
Hotel room rate: \$139

**2019 WORKSHOP SCHEDULE**  
BCA IRL Disease Symposium: April 30  
Technical: April 30-May 1  
Joint Technical & Quality: May 1  
Quality: May 2

**2019 WORKSHOP FEES**  
(EARLY BIRD/REGULAR)  
TD or QA: \$360/\$420  
TD and QA: \$435/\$495

\*Registration for Technical or Quality includes the Joint Session.

**For registration information, visit [http://bit.ly/abc\\_tq19](http://bit.ly/abc_tq19).**

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### We Welcome Your Letters

The *ABC Newsletter* welcomes letters from its readers on any blood-related topic that might be of interest to ABC members. Letters should be kept relatively short and to the point, preferably about a topic that has recently been covered in the *ABC Newsletter*. Letters are subject to editing for brevity and good taste and published after editorial review. Please send letters to the Editor at [newsletter@americasblood.org](mailto:newsletter@americasblood.org) or fax them to (202) 899-2621. Please include your correct title and organization as well as your phone number. The deadline for letters is Wednesday to make it into the next newsletter.



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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.*

### Registration Extended for ABC Technical and Quality Workshop

[Register](#) today for the ABC Technical and Quality Workshop in Bloomington, Minn. at the Embassy Suites Bloomington. This year, ABC and Blood Centers of America, Inc. (BCA) are partnering to provide a multi-day professional development and educational opportunity for quality and technical blood bank professionals. The BCA IRL Networking Conference/IRL Disease Symposium will take place on April 29-30<sup>th</sup> with the ABC Quality (QA) & Technical Directors (TD) Workshops following it on April 30<sup>th</sup>- May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Additional schedule and registration information are below:

- April 29: BCA IRL Networking Conference (*BCA members-only; BCA will provide registration information*)
- April 30: BCA IRL Disease Symposium (*All ABC members welcome; no registration fee; ABC will provide symposium registration*)
- April 30 – May 1: TD Workshop and Joint TD/QA Session
- May 2: QA Workshop

#### Registration & Fees:

- Breakfast, lunch, and two receptions included.
- ABC QA/TD Workshop Registration Fees:
  - TD or QA Workshop: \$420 regular
  - TD & QA Workshop: \$495 regular 💧

## RESEARCH IN BRIEF

**Liberal or restrictive blood pressure criteria for donors?** In a before and after study of the relationship of predonation blood pressure to vasovagal reactions (VVR) after donation, Italian investigators conclude that a liberal policy is safe for blood donors. VVR occurred after .46 and .51 percent of donations in 2015 and 2016 respectively. During the restrictive interval (2015) donors were accepted with systolic pressures of 110-180 mmHg and diastolics of 60-100, while only pressures of >180 systolic and >100 diastolic were excluded during the liberal interval. In univariate analysis the VVR rate was higher with systolic pressures <110, but multivariate analysis suggests that association was due to body weight, age, site of collection, and number of donations “excluding a role for systolic blood pressure”.

**Citation:** Salvadori, U., Sandri, M., Cemin, R. *et al.* Effect of a liberal versus a restrictive pre-donation blood pressure policy on whole-blood donor adverse reactions. *Vox. Sang.* 2019.doi: [10.1111/vox.12772](https://doi.org/10.1111/vox.12772).

**Family members of blood donors with *T. cruzi* infection should be screened as well.** A study from the Center for Excellence for Chagas Disease at UCLA has found 7.4 percent of 189 relatives of 86 Chagas

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## RESEARCH IN BRIEF (continued from page 6)

Disease patients also have evidence of infection. The authors conclude “our study supports offering screening to relatives of patients who are diagnosed when giving blood or donating/receiving organs, which is currently the main pathway of [Chagas Disease] diagnosis in the United States.”

**Citation:** Hernandez, S., Forsyth, C.J., Flores, C.A., Maymandi, S.K. Prevalence of Chagas Disease among family members of previously diagnosed patients in Los Angeles, California. *Clin. Inf. Dis.* 2019. doi: [10.1093/cid/ciz087](https://doi.org/10.1093/cid/ciz087).

**Report on readiness for a “nuclear incident” available from National Academies.** A “dirty bomb” or other events, including nuclear war, involving exposure of a population to radiation is one of the unprecedented disaster scenarios that face the United States and require planning for preparedness. The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine have published the [proceedings](#) of a workshop held in August 2018 “to explore current assumptions behind the status of medical and public health preparedness for a nuclear incident, examine potential changes in these assumptions in light of increasing concerns about the use of nuclear warfare, and discuss challenges and opportunities for capacity building in the current threat environment.” Sessions included in the document are federal planning, the state of preparedness, planning assumptions, communications strategies, health care system capacity, challenges to response capacity building, workforce readiness, and future priorities. The blood community is referenced within high-level discussions of the Radiation Injury Treatment Network (RITN), a group of 83 cancer centers, cord blood banks, and blood centers, preparing to care for patients with acute radiation syndromes (ARS). In that context, the report specifically references “national gaps in response capacity for nuclear incidents include the lack of knowledge around ARS in the medical community as well as a lack of knowledge about the resources available on radiation safety.” Few details regarding the activities of this RITN are provided, but additional information on the RITN can be found [here](#).

**Citation:** National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine 2019. [Exploring Medical and Public Health Preparedness for a Nuclear Incident: Proceedings of a Workshop](#). Washington, D.C.: *The National Academies Press*. ♦

## REGULATORY NEWS

**The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued a joint statement from FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb, MD and Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research (CBER) Peter Marks, MD, PhD on the potential for pathogen reduction technology to improve blood safety and cut costs.** “The ideal pathogen reduction technology would be relatively inexpensive, simple to implement on Whole Blood, and would allow the blood to subsequently be easily separated into the different components such as packed red blood cells, platelets, and plasma. In addition, it would provide sufficiently robust pathogen inactivation. This could potentially enable many of the existing donor screening requirements – such as those for travel to malaria-endemic areas – to be reduced or removed. Moreover, several current tests, such as those for West Nile virus and Babesia, could potentially be eliminated. This could reduce the cost of screening blood, improve safety, and increase the donor pool.” The statement reiterated the commitment of FDA and CBER to prioritize blood safety and acknowledged that while current pathogen reduction techniques have “limitations,” the agencies see the potential for advancements in such technology, “[g]iven the importance of blood safety and availability to public health, the Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration is working with a variety of different partners to pursue multiple avenues of research to advance pathogen reduction technology. We believe perfecting these approaches is a critical priority.”

(Source: Scott Gottlieb, MD & Peter Marks, MD, PhD Joint [Statement](#), 3/26/19) ♦



## WORD IN WASHINGTON

America's Blood Centers signed-on to a coalition [letter](#), joining more than 60 organizations, sent to Senate Majority Leader Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.), Senate Minority Leader Sen. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.), House Speaker Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.), and House Minority Leader Rep. Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) encouraging passage of the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness & Advancing Innovation Act (PAHPAI) H.R. 269. The letter states, “[t]he recent wildfires, hurricanes and measles outbreaks have demonstrated that all sectors – public health, healthcare and private sector – play a critical role in saving lives during disasters and outbreaks. PAHPA is the backbone of our nation’s health security, providing the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) with authorities for preparing the healthcare and public health systems for disasters and strengthening the medical countermeasures enterprise. The legislation addresses gaps we have seen in recent responses, such as the speed of funding for public health emergencies, development and deployment of medical countermeasures for significant threats and preparedness for children in disasters.” The House passed the bill earlier this year after it was reintroduced following its failure to be passed at the end of 2018. The bill includes important provisions that are intended to strengthen the U.S. blood system. Section 209 references the role of the nation’s blood supply in emergency preparedness and response systems and the specific challenges facing community blood centers. The House bill also makes references to blood centers and the blood system requiring the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) to develop and update guidelines for regional health care emergency and response systems, and to consult with blood banks and other key stakeholders when developing and updating guidelines.

(Source: Coalition [Letter](#), 3/22/19)

**The Institute for Critical Infrastructure Technology has provided a summary of common themes from some of the stakeholder feedback in response to a February healthcare cybersecurity inquiry from Sen. Mark Warner (D-Va.).** The report entitled “An Analysis of Responses to Senator Warner’s Health Sector Cybersecurity Inquiries: The Benefits of Proactive Engagement and What We Can Glean from These Questions & Responses” is [available](#). Common themes include the need for healthcare entities to:

- Collaborate;
- be proactive concerning cybersecurity;
- push for legislation that is proactive and actionable;
- advocate for a national strategy, creation of a government-recognized certification program; and clarity regarding federal guidance.

In the inquiry, Sen. Warner [asked](#) healthcare stakeholders to provide suggestions for improving cybersecurity safety efforts. He sought input from organizations that included the American Hospital Association, American Medical Association, and AdvaMed in the wake of legislators and regulators prioritizing cybersecurity improvement efforts following a Government Accountability Office Report that highlighted exploitable vulnerabilities in healthcare IT systems.

(Source: Institute for Critical Infrastructure Technology [Report](#), 4/3/19) ♦

### ABC Calendar of Events

ABC offers a variety of meetings, workshops and virtual opportunities for education and networking as well as participation in ABC business. The [calendar of events](#) includes annual and summer meetings, board meetings, workshops, and webinars, and details will be updated as confirmed. We look forward to your support and participation!





## MEMBER NEWS

The Blood Science Foundation, the charitable arm of **Vitalant** in Pittsburgh, Pa. and Chicago, Ill. received a total of \$200,000 in grants from the Highmark Foundation and the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC). The grants will support a blood donor education and awareness initiative in western Pennsylvania. “There is an immediate need to educate everyone that the declining donor base is becoming a public health issue that must be solved. We cannot do it alone,” said Vitalant Northeast Division President Charlie Wilcox in a news release. “It takes blood drive sponsors and blood donors providing 450 blood donations every day to meet our communities' blood needs. We must sustain this level of donation on an ongoing basis so the appropriate amount of blood is available well before a disaster.” Highmark Foundation President Yvonne Cook added, “[h]aving an adequate blood supply is one of those critical cornerstones that leads to a healthier community. A robust, safe and accessible blood supply is vital to the health and wellness of all of us. We are proud to support the Blood Science Foundation and this important initiative.” The campaign will take place this year. “UPMC is deeply rooted in its respective communities, and part of our mission is to provide programs and services that support community health,” said Leslie Davis, senior vice president, executive vice president, and chief operating officer of UPMC Health Services Division. “The region's blood supply is a life-saving gift, and we must educate people that blood donation is not a one-time event or a one-time-a-year need.”

(Source: Blood Science Foundation [Release](#), 3/26/19) 💧

## GLOBAL NEWS

**NHS Blood and Transplant, the national blood provider for the United Kingdom, recently held a clinical [symposium](#) with the National Blood Transfusion Committee and NHS England to set priorities for a 5-year strategy for clinical and laboratory transfusion practices.** Entitled “Transfusion 2024,” the conference examined patient blood management, strategies to improve hospital transfusion laboratory safety, patient safety through technology and innovation within NHS. “Looking forward, there are many emerging opportunities to embrace new technology and innovation and to provide blood components that will further meet patient need,” said NHS Blood and Transplant’s Shubha Allard, MD and Catherine Howell in a news [release](#). “The conference provides an opportunity for NHSBT to work collaboratively with key stakeholders within the broader NHS to determine the future of transfusion care and encompasses our vision of saving and improving lives.”

(Source: NHS Blood and Transplant News [Release](#), 3/26/19)

**The Health Sciences Authority (HSA), the statutory board of the Singapore Ministry of Health that regulates blood donation, announced that the records of more than 800,000 donors were exposed in an unsecure internet database for more than two months.** The agency sent a [letter](#) to donors notifying them that a vendor placed the data on an unsecure server without “approval” or “adequate safeguards” after a cybersecurity expert came across the vulnerability and contacted the Personal Data Protection Commission. In a statement on the HSA website, CEO Mimi Choong states, “[w]e sincerely apologise to our blood donors for this lapse by our vendor. We would like to assure donors that HSA's centralised blood bank system is not affected. HSA will also step up checks and monitoring of our vendors to ensure the safe and proper use of blood donor information.” HSA added that their initial investigation found no evidence that the database was accessed by anyone other than the cybersecurity expert according to the logs from the database.

(Source: Health Sciences Authority [Statement](#), 3/15/19) 💧



### ABC 2019 Meetings & Workshops

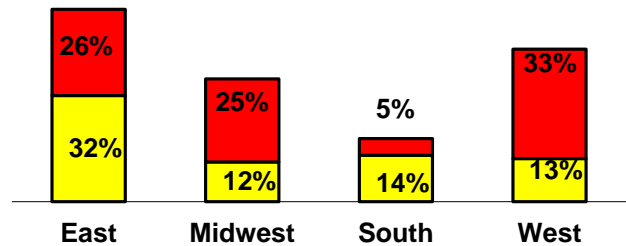
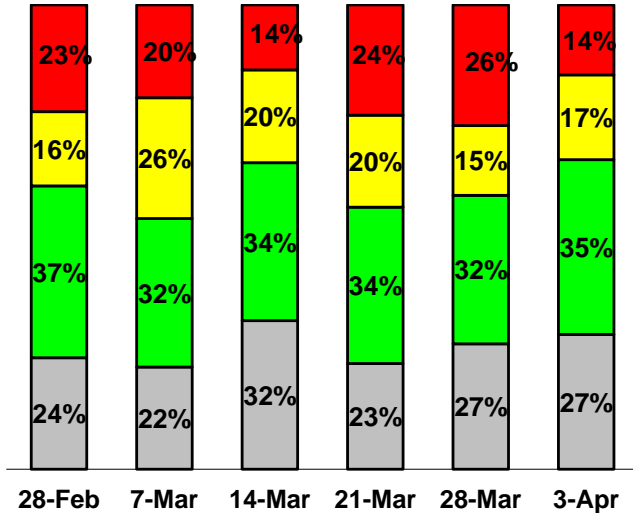
Meeting/Workshop	Dates	Location	Hotel/Hotel Rate	Registration Dates & Fees
Technical & Quality Workshop	April 30-May 2	Bloomington, Minnesota	Embassy Suites, \$139/night	<a href="#">Register here</a> (TD or QA or TD + QA) \$420/\$495
<a href="#">ADRP Annual Conference</a>	May 14-16	Indianapolis, Indiana	Hyatt Regency, \$179/night	<a href="#">Register here now</a> Subscribers \$575/\$695 non-subscribers
Medical Directors Workshop	July 30 (precedes Summer Mtg)	Denver, Colorado	Grand Hyatt, \$239/night	Late April - July 5 MD Workshop \$435 MD+Summer \$760
Summer Meeting	July 31-August 1	Denver, Colorado	Grand Hyatt, \$239/night	Late April - July 5 Summer \$655 Summer+MD \$760

**Notes:**  
For the most up-to-date information on all events, members of ABC may check the [calendar](#) on ABC's Member Site. Non-members may attend all events; information will be updated on ABC's [Public Site](#).

### STOPLIGHT®: Status of America's Blood Centers' Blood Supply

**Total ABC Red Cell Inventory**

**Percent of Regional Inventory at 2 Days Supply or Less, April 5, 2019**



No Report  
 Green (3 days or more)  
 Yellow (2 days)  
 Red (1 day or less)

**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](http://www.AmericasBlood.org)



### Upcoming ABC Webinars – Don't Miss Out!

- **QA Education Webinar – PRT & Double Red Cell Licensure** – April 9<sup>th</sup>. Additional details forthcoming!
- **2019 ABC Advocacy Agenda Webinar** – April 11<sup>th</sup>. Additional details forthcoming!
- **QA Education Webinar – Change Management** – July 16<sup>th</sup>. Additional details forthcoming!



## CALENDAR

***Note to subscribers:** Submissions for a free listing in this calendar are welcome. Send information to Leslie Maundy by e-mail ([lmaundy@americasblood.org](mailto:lmaundy@americasblood.org)) or by fax to (202) 899-2621. (For a more detailed announcement in the weekly “Meetings” section of the newsletter, please include program information.)*

### 2019

April 15-16. **2019 HHS Advisory Committee on Blood and Tissue Safety and Availability Meeting, Washington, D.C.** More details available [here](#).

April 23-24. **15<sup>th</sup> Annual FDA and the Changing Paradigm for HCT/P Regulation, Washington, D.C.** More details available [here](#).

April 30-May 2. **2019 ABC Technical & Quality Workshop, Minneapolis, Minn.** More details available [here](#).

May 14-16. **ADRP Annual Conference, Indianapolis, Ind.** More details available [here](#).

May 22-23. **IPFA/PEI 26th International Workshop on “Surveillance and Screening of Blood-Borne Pathogens”, Krakow, Poland.** More details available [here](#).

July 30-Aug. 1. **2019 ABC Medical Directors Workshop & Summer Meeting, Denver, Colo.** More details 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 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) 899-2621; e-mail: [lmaundy@americasblood.org](mailto:lmaundy@americasblood.org).

## POSITIONS

**Senior Director, Member Programs and Services.** America's Blood Centers (ABC), North America's largest network of community-based, independent blood programs, is seeking a Senior Director, Member Programs and Services. The position is a key senior management role and will lead a team tasked with the development and execution of innovative solutions that maximize ABC member engagement and promote ABC products, programs and services. The position will report directly to the Chief Executive Officer, providing strategic guidance on emerging trends in association management and the blood banking industry to help shape strategies that increase growth and drive revenue. Primary Responsibilities: Implement a long-term strategy to position the association's programs and services with a focus on member engagement and revenue growth. Provide leadership and support for the design, development and implementation of ABC meetings and workshops, including budgeting, content, logistics, sponsorships, and marketing. Seek and assess feedback and market analysis to implement, revise, and strengthen ABC's membership offerings. Identify opportunities related to member retention and growth. Oversee ABC publications and member and public websites to maximize value to ABC members and promote additional revenue streams where possible. Educational requirements: Bachelor's required. Click [here](#) to view the full job description. Interested applicants should send a cover letter and resume to [careers@americasblood.org](mailto:careers@americasblood.org).

**Manager, Grassroots and Communications.** America's Blood Centers (ABC), North America's largest network of community-based, independent blood programs, is seeking a Manager, Grassroots and Communications for our expanding advocacy team. The position will assist in managing issue advocacy campaigns, implementing new grassroots programs and developing a robust network of blood advocates. This position will also oversee ABC public relations and communications efforts, including developing and executing robust communication and marketing plans to promote ABC, its member blood centers, and the importance of blood donation. Primary responsibilities: Manage and expand ABC's member grassroots advocacy programs and campaigns, including site visits, our annual Day on Capitol Hill, education and training throughout the year, and material development. Develop and promote activities that recruit grassroots volunteers and build a grassroots network that includes blood donors, patients, community partners, and other stakeholders.

Execute and deliver industry and association messaging and communications to critical audiences around Association's priorities and ensure digital, social and earned media efforts and goals are fully integrated and aligned with ABC's Advocacy Agenda. Educational requirements: Bachelor's required. Click [here](#) to view the full job description. Interested applicants should send a cover letter and resume to [careers@americasblood.org](mailto:careers@americasblood.org).

**Senior Director, Federal Government Affairs.** America's Blood Centers (ABC), North America's largest network of community-based, independent blood programs, is seeking a Senior Director, Federal Government Affairs. The position is a key senior management role and will lead the day-to-day activities of an expanding advocacy team. The position will be actively involved and accountable for the development, prioritization, tracking, communication, and accomplishment of public policies impacting ABC members at the federal level. The position will report directly to the Chief Executive Officer, providing strategic guidance on government affairs and public policy issues pertaining to the nation's blood supply. Primary Responsibilities: Represent ABC before the U.S Congress and key federal agencies, building and maintaining strong relationships and improving the visibility of ABC member centers. Work closely with the CEO, Chief Medical Officer, and Government Relations team to define ABC's public policy and advocacy focus and develop positions and strategies on legislative, policy, and regulatory priorities. Oversee the development of a comprehensive and coordinated strategy to leverage direct lobbying, grassroots advocacy, and coalition building in the advancement of ABC's Advocacy Agenda. Educational requirements: Bachelor's required. Click [here](#) to view the full job description. Interested applicants should send a cover letter and resume to [careers@americasblood.org](mailto:careers@americasblood.org).

**Outside Sales Representative/Event Planner (Little Rock, Arkansas).** Account Consultants must develop new partnerships with targeted decision makers in community organizations, educational and religious institutions and businesses to gain support in meeting the needs for volunteer blood donors. Responsibilities include organizing and promoting blood donation events; assessing, developing and implementing strategic/tactical

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plans to achieve recruitment objective/goals. She/he is expected to develop a customer-focused culture that will result in successful community partnerships and donation awareness. Identify opportunities for growth within current group base and facilitate a plan to achieve growth percentage for total unit collection within territory. Book recurring blood drives for the following year. Develop and maintain relationships with key accounts. Give presentations in order to promote blood collection. Identify and provide feedback on issues regarding customer needs/requirements, customer issues/concerns and satisfaction, competitor activities/strategies, etc. Interact effectively and professionally with team members and all internal/external contacts. Qualifications: Associate/Bachelor's degree preferred, one to three years sales related experience, public speaking/presentation experience preferred, excellent communication skills, and valid driver's license with access to vehicle. Salary Range: Competitive salary, commission plan, and excellent benefits package including health, dental, vision, and life insurance, 401(k), paid time off, and holiday pay. How to apply: <http://arkbi.org/careers/>.

**Program Manager of Medical Technology Education.**

If you have a passion for teaching and sharing your excitement of learning, consider joining OneBlood as a Program Manager of Medical Technology Education. OneBlood, a proven leader in blood banking, cares about the development and aspirations of our team members and needs a proven inspirational leader to join our organization to educate and train future blood banking technologists. The program is based out of the Tampa/St. Petersburg, FL area, close to the most gorgeous beaches in the nation! If you want to join our life saving mission and team of dedicated employees, visit our *Careers* page at [www.oneblood.org](http://www.oneblood.org) to learn more. OneBlood, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer/Vet/Disability.

**Medical Director.** Provide transfusion medicine (TM) clinical care at Heartland Blood Center (HBC) and its associated hospitals in the scope noted below, as well as effort in leadership of the Immunohematology Reference Laboratory (IRL) as Medical Director at HBC/Versiti. Key components of this position would comprise TM consultation and oversight of blood management at HBC and Versiti partner hospitals, as well as participation in educational initiatives and clinical/applied research within both Versiti blood centers and their affiliated health systems. Primary Responsibilities: Oversees blood donor center collections in the Chicago-land and various areas of Indiana. Provides medical direction, including compliance with local, state, and federal regulations and accreditation agencies, for blood center and transfusion services at Versiti affiliated hospitals in Illinois and Indiana. IRL Medical Director for HBC, providing oversight of IRL laboratory staff technical duties and working with Versiti and HBC laboratory management to provide education and skill advancement. Education and Licenses: M.D. or D.O. Degree. Board certified in pathology (AP/CP or CP only), internal medicine, or pediatrics (with subspecialty boards in hematology). Board certified/board eligible in Blood Banking/Transfusion Medicine (American Board of Pathology—ABP). Current or eligible for medical licenses in Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana, Michigan and Ohio. Experience/Certifications: Demonstrated experience in both 1) pathology/laboratory medicine or hematology and 2) transfusion medicine. Ability to write lectures and articles using original or innovative techniques or styles; excellent presentation skills with capacity to present to varied audiences. Click [here](#) to view the full job description and to apply. ♦