

Please Note: The *Newsletter* will not run for **TWO** weeks due to the upcoming holidays. We will re-sume publication on January 13, 2017.

Issue #45
December 23, 2016

ABC Chief Medical Officer Louis Katz to Retire



Louis Katz, MD, Chief Medical Officer for America's Blood Centers, has recently announced his intention to retire from his position at the conclusion of the ABC Summer Meeting in August 2017. As he eases into retirement, Dr. Katz plans to transition to a part-time position close to home at the Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center while still maintaining a strong volunteer presence with ABC SMT and advocacy activities.

Dr. Katz's many contributions at ABC are merely a shadow of the significant voice he holds in the larger blood community. More will be said at the time of his retirement, but just a few examples of Dr. Katz's leadership, include the ABC presidency, chairing multiple clinical committees and work groups at AABB as well as serving as a member and chair of the FDA Blood Products Advisory Committee. Dr. Katz was recently appointed to the Health and Human Services (HHS) Advisory Committee on Blood and Tissue Availability, as of December 16, 2016.

The ABC Board of Directors will discuss plans for the replacement of the Chief Medical Officer position at their retreat in January. ABC members are welcome to provide their input on the position and potential candidates for consideration by the Board at their upcoming meeting.

2016: A Year in Review

Looking back at 2016, there were a variety of happenings that will shape the blood industry for the next year and years to come. Of course we would be remiss to speak of 2016 without first mentioning the emergence of Zika virus as an issue in the blood community. The explosion of Zika in the Americas, the Haemonetics filter recall, and the increased hemoglobin threshold for male blood donors, all helped create shortages in the blood community this summer. Pivotal meetings with the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) helped highlight this crucial time in the U.S. blood industry and could shape the system into the future. In this recap of the year, we take a look at these and other happenings that helped shape what could become a pinnacle year in the blood industry's history.

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OUR SPACE

ABC Chief Administration Officer Kate Fry

A Look Back With a Focus on the Future

President Dwight D. Eisenhower once said, “Politics ought to be the part-time profession of every citizen.” With this week’s *ABC Newsletter* covering the priority topics faced by the blood community in 2016, we are reminded of the tremendous work that has been accomplished this year. Perhaps even more important, however, should be the future of our industry and how our last year motivates each of us to face the compounding challenges in 2017 and beyond.

The last three months have been some of the most important in recent memory for the advocacy on behalf of blood centers. Between issuance of FDA’s Zika guidance, the release of the RAND report and subsequent meetings to discuss the future of blood collection and reimbursement, BPAC discussions and the national elections, much work has been done and even more remains.

With the ABC Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C., in March 2017 (registration is now open!), **you have the chance to make a real difference on these and other issues at the biennial ABC Advocacy Day on Tuesday, March 28, 2017.** During this event, we encourage blood center executives to meet with key legislators who represent your collection facilities and to advocate on behalf of an ABC Advocacy agenda that will feature efforts to promote the value of blood.

It is easy for you to have an impact with your legislators. ABC will assist in scheduling of your visits, provide all the advocacy collateral you need, and conduct full briefings that morning on what to expect during your meetings.

The idiom tells us the squeaky wheel gets the grease. Effective advocacy for our industry requires a consistent effort from each and every blood center to bring a voice to the work you do. Blood centers and the patients you serve cannot afford complacency during such turbulent times. We must be proactive in facing the challenges of the next year and each do our part in securing policies that enable a safe and sustainable blood supply. Please join us in being a squeaky wheel, register for the ABC Advocacy Day today at, xx (insert link). ♦

KFry@americasblood.org

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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.

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2016: A YEAR IN REVIEW (continued from page 1)

It seems fitting that January 1, 2016, was the first day after the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) confirmed the locally-acquired Zika in Puerto Rico (PR). Since then we have heard and reported on Zika more times than we can count. We have covered the spread of Zika in PR from just a couple of locally-acquired cases to the 186 cases (4,617 total Zika cases) on the island as of December 14. We notified member centers when the FDA halted blood collections on the Caribbean island and a number of ABC member centers stepped in and sent blood products to PR.

Having seen dengue and chikungunya outbreaks, ABC centers realized it was only a matter of time before local transmission of Zika hit the continental U.S. Local Zika transmission was documented in Florida in July, and more recently in Texas. Testing for Zika quickly began under investigational new drug (IND) study protocols for Roche's cobas 6800/8800 system as early as late May, and subsequently using Hologic/Grifols' Procleix Panther System. Member center Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center (GCRBC) was the first blood center in the continental U.S. to start testing stateside donors for Zika. Individual donation screening under IND is now being used across the country, in compliance with FDA guidance from August. Reactive donors now number almost 100, with confirmation testing pending on most. Early data on supplemental testing suggests about half or somewhat less will represent true positives.

Meetings, symposia, and webinars were part of ABC's Zika coverage during the year, helping keep our members informed on test implementation, clinical, epidemiological and research developments..

With Zika's emergence, a few major blood center needs were highlighted in the *Newsletter* during the year: the need for more research into pathogen reduction technology (PRT); and the need for blood centers to form strong ties with their local state public health departments.

“Communication and implementation is greatly facilitated when you can work closely with the health department,” Rita Reik, MD, chief medical officer for OneBlood. “We alert the health department immediately if we have a Zika-positive donor. The health department immediately contacts the donor and lets the blood center know when that has taken place. That then allows the blood center to reach out to the donor for follow-up notification... A close working relationship is essential.” You can read more on these and other Zika topics on our member website by searching for “Zika”.

May 23 was a “day to remember” for the blood community, said Susan Rossmann, MD, chief medical officer for GCRBC and president of ABC. The day was the deadline to implement the FDA's long anticipated “final rule” that provided a framework for relevant transfusion-transmitted infection (RTTI) testing, a new requirement for control of bacterial contamination of platelets via PRT, and raised the hemoglobin threshold for male blood donors from 12.5 g/dL to 13.0 g/dL. The implementation of this guidance has been monumental in shaping the blood industry.

While some member centers had been noting filtration failures during quality control testing with the Leukotrap RC System with RC2D filter from Haemonetics Corporation as early as April. It was in June, after more evidence of problems accumulated, when Haemonetics recalled the filters. The filters were associated with “higher than acceptable residual leukocyte counts,” read the recall. These events spotlight the fragility of the medical device supply chain for the blood community, as well as the difficulty replacing single-sourced processes in a good manufacturing practices environment.

The trifecta of Zika, the “final rule,” and the filter recall was already causing a shortage for many blood centers, when the predictable summer lack of donors hit. The expected fall rebound when schools go back into session did not happen at the expected rate; leaving many blood centers anxious for the recommendations



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INSIDE ABC

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

A Big Year at ABC

A lot has happened at ABC in the last year. In March we held our 54th Annual Meeting in Jacksonville, Fla., hosted by member center OneBlood. The ABC Board of Directors met to change the bylaws to allow for partnership with ADRP to occur and Martin Grable, president and CEO of Community Blood Center of the Carolinas, was approved to serve as president-elect. The meeting was a big success with such presentations as “Stored Blood is OK,” at the Blood Center Leadership Forum by Walter “Sunny” Dzik, MD, this year’s recipient of the Thomas F. Zuck Lifetime Achievement Award; and the Scientific, Medical, Technical Forum featured presentation and Celso Bianco lecture titled, “Transfusion Recipient Safety In The Era Of Value-Based Care: Are There Limits?” by Harvey J. Alter, MD, distinguished NIH investigator and Infectious Diseases Section associate director of Research for the Department of Transfusion Medicine at the National Institutes of Health.

After the ABC Board of Directors Meeting in Chicago, we announced ADRP would join our association as an international division of ABC. This partnership continues to bring together two organizations committed to providing educational opportunities for professionals involved in all aspects of donor recruitment, experience, and management, both nationally and internationally. We are looking forward to attending another great International ADRP Annual Conference in May 2017 and hope to see many of you there as well.



ADRP & ABC Members meeting in NYC

ABC also held the bi-annual ABC Human Resources & Training/Development Workshop in San Antonio, Texas, hosted by the South Texas Blood and Tissue Center, and discussed such topics as emotional intelligence, performance management, and customer service training. ABC also held the 2016 ABC IT Workshop in Minneapolis, Minn. Hosted by Innovative Blood Resources, the IT workshop brought professionals in the information technology industry together from across the nation to learn, discuss, and most importantly network with their peers.



ABC members at the Summer Meeting

For the 2016 ABC Annual Summer Meeting we took flight over the nation and Pacific Ocean to learn Hawaiian style. Hosted by the Blood Bank of Hawaii, the Summer Meeting was held in Waikiki Beach, Hawaii, and attendees heard presentations on everything from iron depletion and mitigation techniques, to bloodless medicine and surgery programs and CAR-T therapy, to attracting millennial donors and executive succession planning. ABC members also heard talks from ABC staff members, Sameer Ughade, director of IT, on the state of the datawarehouse project, and Rachele Fondaw, director of education and grants, on the progression of the America’s Blood Centers Professional Institute (API)—which we recently launched in October.

The Foundation of America’s Blood Centers also had some fun this year while raising money to support the API. Following the Awards of Excellence ceremony at the ABC Annual Meeting in Jacksonville, FABC hosted “Rolling on the River” Casino Night. Guests “purchased” casino

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INSIDE ABC (continued from page 4)

chips via donations to the FABC and tried their luck on the various blackjack, poker, roulette tables, and more. The winner of the evening, Billie Johnson of Incept, enjoyed a lovely prize, a wine and almond basket, donated by Blood-Source. Golfers kicked off the ABC Summer Meeting in Waikiki with the 6th Annual Links for Life Golf Tournament. Set at the stunning Kaneohe Klipper golf course on the Kaneohe Marine Base, golfers hit the links for charity while enjoying breathtaking views—complete with a tee off on Hole #13 overlooking the ocean—a scene many won't forget any time soon. Golfers enjoyed a pre-game lunch, a challenging 18-hole game and some friendly competition all while benefitting the FABC. Golfers and other meeting attendees ended the evening back at the Hilton Waikiki Beach meeting hotel for an outdoor reception complete with an island breeze, great food and drinks, and prizes from the golf competitions.



Klipper FABC golf tournament at the Kaneohe Klipper golf course

Thanks to everyone who participated in FABC and ABC events in 2016 to help make this year a success. We look forward to seeing you all in March at the 2017 ABC Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C.!

ABC Awards of Excellence: Nominations Open

ABC is now accepting nominations for the 20th Annual ABC Awards of Excellence. A ceremony for the award winners will take place on Monday, March 27, 2017, during the Washington D.C.-based ABC Annual Meeting at the Ritz Carlton in Pentagon City.

Nominations for all awards are due by Friday, January 27, 2017. Nomination forms can be found [here](#). Once the nominations have been submitted, an independent committee will review and select the winners in each category. Winners will be announced the week of February 6. The event registration fee is included in the meeting registration fee for ABC members and sponsors. Award winners will receive two complimentary tickets to the event. The nominating blood center is encouraged to provide transportation and lodging costs for the winner.

Please email [Jodi Zand](#) with any questions.

ABC Annual Meeting Scholarship Nomination Deadline Approaching

America's Blood Centers is committed to helping its member blood centers and their staff grow and develop the next generation of leaders and encourages blood center executive staff to promote internal staff development by nominating an employee. The Future Leader Scholarship provides five \$1,000 scholarships to attendees of the Annual Meeting. Funds received through this scholarship are to be used to cover the cost of the Annual Meeting (must include the Blood Center Leadership Forum) registration fee and/or supplement any travel/lodging costs associated with attendance.

Qualifications: Scholarship applicants must be non C-suite level blood center staff. Scholarship awardees are eligible to apply every three fiscal years (April 1 – March 31). All applications must be submitted by a member of the applicant's C-suite level staff (on behalf of the scholarship applicant) to be considered. **Submit the application no later than December 30, 2016** to be considered. Pay close attention to criteria and guidelines as only applications that meet all requirements will be considered. For questions about the scholarship program, contact [Leslie Maundy](#). 💧

2016: A Year in Review (continued from page 3)

in the RAND study on the sustainability of the blood supply, commissioned by the Advisory Committee on Blood & Tissue Safety & Availability (ACBTSA), part of HHS.

In November, the ACBTSA convened to discuss the RAND study, which members of the committee, sub-committee, and the community within the audience unanimously felt missed the urgency of the industry's situation. The RAND study main author, Andrew Mulcahy, PhD, noted that his research team found that, for the most part, "blood gets where it needs to be," and the current system "seems to operate, in almost all cases, effectively and efficiently, with little evidence of serious shortages, a robust price competition." ABC members [commented to the Committee](#), stressing that most blood centers are operating with negative margins and the current system is unable to supply blood products beyond the immediate needs.

"ABC will continue to take a proactive approach to achieve recognition of the high value of blood. We must address the financial crisis affecting the blood community with policy and reimbursement changes that mitigate the developing threat to a sufficient blood supply in the future," said ABC CEO Christine Zambricki, DNAP, CRNA, FAAN.

ABC laid out a number of recommendations to the Committee, which ACBTSA took into account when crafting their comments to the outgoing HHS Assistant Secretary of Health Karen DeSalvo, MD, MPH, all of which can be read in [ABC Newsletter #42](#).

Earlier in November, BPAC reinforced our long understanding that donor hemoglobin is not an accurate estimate of donor iron stores and that many blood donors are iron depleted. There was strong support for efforts to reduce iron depletion, but no clear consensus was obvious about what should be required, and it was clear that FDA would need to do more work on the issue. In the meanwhile, it was obvious in formal ABC, and other organizations', comments during the meeting that the blood community should respond with a variety of interventions and supply data on their impact to FDA in advance of or in lieu of formal guidance from the agency.

The BPAC unanimously voted to recommend strategies to decrease adverse events among teen donors as much as possible, including vasovagal reactions and iron store depletion especially. What those mitigation techniques will look like was unspecified, but techniques are available, and again, the blood community suggested that voluntary programs collecting evidence of impact were important in advance of agency action. More information can be found in [Newsletter #41](#).

This year, we also covered a number of research articles and reviews of clinical trials relevant to transfusion medicine. Examples include several pieces on the impact of storage duration on clinical outcomes of transfused patients; the adverse clinical impacts of liberal transfusions after traumatic brain injury; mitigation of donor iron depletion; platelet transfusions after intracranial bleeding due to platelet therapies; the use of specific reversal agents for thromboembolic patients taking direct oral anticoagulants; and the use of whole blood in trauma instead of components therapy.

AABB, with participation from ABC members, published their updated red blood cell guidelines, which we covered in [ABC Newsletter #37](#). The guidelines emphasized two major findings: the absence of an association with adverse clinical outcomes for appropriately studied patient groups with a restrictive transfusion hemoglobin threshold (7 to 8 g/dL) compared to a liberal transfusion threshold (9 to 10 g/dL); and no correlation of fresher blood and a lower mortality rate amongst patients.

Of course, patients would have no life-saving blood transfusions and our member centers would shutter their doors if not for the selfless donors who visit our member centers. In order to help our donor centers retain, recruit, and market to donors, we published a number of articles centered on marketing and recruitment, and

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2016: A YEAR IN REVIEW (continued from page 6)

How donor messaging has changed over the years, new techniques being used to attract apheresis platelet donors; how follow-up contact via text, phone calls or email can help retain donors and even turn them into super-donors; and the Missing Type campaign that went viral across the world and brought awareness of the need for blood donors.

As we look to 2017 and the future, we know there are many changes that could, and some that need to, take place within the blood community. Some of these changes are major breakthroughs in the use of blood for treating a number of conditions, like DNA testing for blood types to more accurately predict and match blood donor and frequently transfused patients, as well as the collection, production and use of T-cell therapeutics in the treatment for cancers.

We will continue to deliver you compelling and applicable news and changes in the blood industry as they come in 2017. We appreciate your readership and wish you all Happy Holidays! ♦

RESEARCH IN BRIEF

The Annual Serious Hazards of Transfusion (SHOT) Report quantifies transfusion-related incidents in the United Kingdom. There were 3,288 reports of adverse events associated with transfusion in 2015 in the report. Of those reported events, 77 percent were from human error and 26 deaths occurred where transfusion was a contributory cause of the deaths. Two deaths were definitively attributed to transfusion, and nine other cases were likely related to transfusion. The most serious adverse reactions were hemolysis—which contributed to five deaths; transfusion-associated circulatory overload (TACO)—which contributed to seven deaths; delayed transfusions; and acute transfusion reactions (allergic/febrile). Ninety percent of the incidents were deemed “preventable”. There were also at least 10 errors to do with faulty anti-D detection for pregnant women, which contributed to at least two infant deaths. Two recommendations came from the report: a formal pre-transfusion risk-assessment for TACO should be performed for every applicable transfusion recipient, and for a five-point checklist to be practiced by the patient’s side before the transfusion starts.

Citation: Bolton-Maggs P.H.B. SHOT Conference Report 2016: Serious Hazards Of Transfusion – Human Factors Continue To Cause Most Transfusion-Related Incidents. *Transfusion Medicine*. December 19, 2016. DOI: 10.1111/tme.12380. ♦

RECENT REVIEWS

Prothrombin complex concentrates (PCC) significantly reduced all-cause mortality for urgent reversal of warfarin. In a retrospective review of databases MEDLINE, EMBASE, and Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials Library, 13 studies (five randomized and eight observational studies) were reviewed on urgent reversal of warfarin methods for patients experiencing a major bleeding episode or requiring urgent surgery. Researchers pulled the studies from database inception until December 2015. They found vitamin K and coagulation factor replacement with PCC significantly reduced all-cause mortality compared to vitamin K and coagulation factor replacement with fresh frozen plasma (FFP), (OR= 0.56, 95 percent confidence interval [CI]; 0.37–0.84). *A priori* subgroup analyses suggest the mortality advantage is being driven by four-factor PCCs. Patients receiving PCC were more likely to achieve normalization of international normalized ratio (INR) (OR 10.80, 95 % CI; 6.12–19.07) and experienced more rapid INR correction; as well as a lower risk of post-transfusion volume overload compared to FFP

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RECENT REVIEWS (continued from page 7)

(OR 0.27, 95 % CI; 0.13–0.58). There was no statistically significant difference in the risk of thromboembolism.

Citation: Chai-Adisaksopha C., Hillis C., Siegal D.M., *et al.* Prothrombin complex concentrates versus fresh frozen plasma for warfarin reversal. *Thrombosis and Haemostasis*. November 2016. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1160/TH16-04-0266>. ♦

BRIEFLY NOTED

Patent case for CRISPR-Cas9 underway. A three-judge panel at the U.S Patent and Trademark Office is presiding over a patent “interference” case between the University of California, Berkeley, and the Broad Institute of MIT/Harvard. The decision in the case could decide who controls the foundational patents covering the gene-editing method called CRISPR-Cas9. The dispute stems from the University of California filing for a patent first, however the Broad Institute obtained 13 patents covering CRISPR’s use on eukaryote cells. The privatization of the technology could bring billions of dollars to the institution who wins the case, but could also slow or halt development of new CRISPR therapies and research. (Source: *MIT Technology Review*, [Biotech Trial of the Century Could Determine Who Owns CRISPR](#), December 7, 2016; *Nature World News*, [Gene-Editing Technology for Free? MIT, Harvard, UC in Heated Debate to Privatize CRISPR](#), December 12, 2016). ♦

INFECTIOUS DISEASE UPDATES

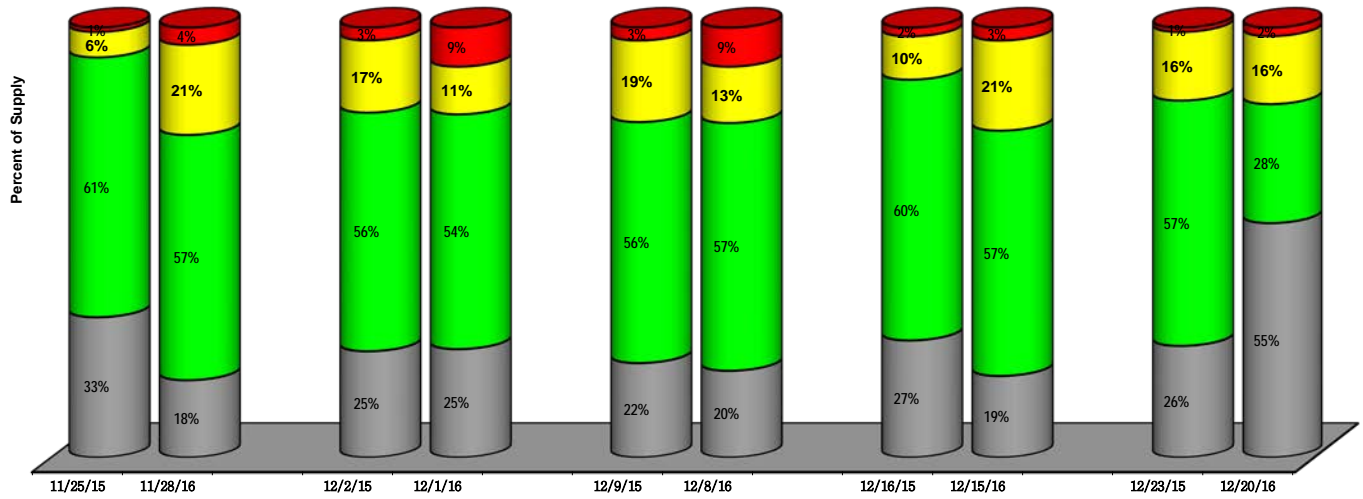
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued a health alert related to Zika for those living and traveling to Brownsville, Texas, in Cameron County. The town of Brownsville, right on the Mexican border, is currently experiencing a local spread of Zika virus. Pregnant women should postpone traveling to the town and those pregnant women living in or near Brownsville should take extra precautions to [avoid mosquito bites](#) and [sex with partners who live or travel to that area](#). The first case of local mosquito-borne Zika in Brownsville was on November 28. Per the CDC, Texas has 272 travel-related confirmed Zika cases and one locally acquired case. The Texas Department of State Health Services (TDSHS) and Cameron County Department of Health and Human Services has identified an additional four cases of suspected locally-acquired Zika infections close to the first case in Cameron County. (Sources: [CDC press release](#), December 14, 2016; [TDSHS press release](#), December 9, 2016) ♦

MEMBER NEWS

New York Blood Center (NYBC) researcher genetically helped to sequence the parasite causing river blindness. Sara Lustigman, PhD, head of the Laboratory of Molecular Parasitology at NYBC’s Lindsley F. Kimball Research Institute collaborated on the first-ever effort to generate a high-quality genome assembly of *Onchocerca volvulus* (*O. volvulus*), the filarial parasite that causes onchocerciasis (river blindness). The disease has infected about 17 million people in Africa even though it is almost eliminated in the Americas. She also collaborated on a similar project published in the *Journal mBio*, from the American Society of Microbiology, on the lifecycle of *O. volvulus* and its global transcriptional profile. (Source: [NYBC press release](#), December 14, 2016)

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STOPLIGHT: Status of the ABC Blood Supply, 2015 vs. 2016



No Response
 Green: 3 or More Days
 Yellow: 2 Days
 Red: 1 Day or Less

The order of the bars is (from top to bottom), red, yellow, green, and no response

ABC's Got Talent

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Season II Is Coming

MARCH 27, 2017

**Start Practicing & Stay
Tuned for Details!**

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Registration is now open for the 2017 America’s Blood Centers Annual Meeting



AMERICA'S BLOOD CENTERS

55th ANNUAL MEETING



"The 2017 ABC Annual Meeting in Washington, DC is the premier place for industry leaders to experience peer-to-peer collaboration and networking, exclusive educational events and the opportunity to be an advocate for your blood center on Capitol Hill."
 – Christine Zambricki, Chief Executive Officer, America’s Blood Centers

Meeting Schedule

<p>Friday, March 24 International Blood Safety Forum</p> <p>Saturday, March 25 Business Forum ABC Board Meeting</p> <p>Sunday, March 26 ABC Members Meeting SMT Forum & Celso Bianco Lectureship FABC Reception</p> <p>Hotel Information Ritz-Carlton (Pentagon City) Hotel room rate: \$249 + tax Reserve hotel by March 3</p>	<p>Monday, March 27 Blood Center Leadership Forum 20th Annual <i>Awards of Excellence</i> ABC’s Got Talent Season II</p> <p>Tuesday, March 28 Advocacy Forum Capitol Hill Visits</p>
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March 24-28, 2017 – Washington, DC

Future Leader Scholarship Program (Funded by FABC)
Details available upon registration.

Registration Fees (Member/Non-member)
 Annual Meeting: \$975 / \$1,605
 International Blood Safety Forum (Friday only): \$275 / \$275
 International Blood Safety Forum & Business Forum (Fri & Sat only): \$410 / \$410
 Business Forum through Advocacy Forum (Sat through Tue): \$760 / \$1,330
 Registration opens early December. For questions, contact [Lori Beaton](#).

Sponsorship Opportunities
 For questions or to learn more about sponsorship opportunities, contact [Jodi Zand](#).



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New

ABC’s Premier Education Resource is now online


Register today for industry-leading education

The **ABC Professional Institute** Learning Portal provides access to webinars and self-paced online courses and resources that are intended to support the success of blood center employees and industry partners. The **ABC Professional Institute** offers industry-level training, allowing you to focus on organization-level training.

Current Course Offerings Include

- Community Blood Center Advocacy Day
- Leadership development courses
- Customer service courses
- Selection of recorded ABC webinars





Industry Fundamentals

Customer Service Strategies & Techniques

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Find out more and register: americasblood.org or members.americasblood.org



MEMBER NEWS (continued from page 9)



Pediatric patients show appreciation for donors.

Five pediatric blood transfusion recipients made cards to be presented to blood donors at all BloodCenter of Wisconsin donor centers and community blood drives until December 24. Steven Seraphine, 12-year-old boy

from Oconomowoc, Wis., wanted to show his appreciation to blood and platelet donors who gave him a second chance at a healthy and happy life. Steven, and several other young blood recipients, created holiday cards as a special show of thanks to donors who take time to donate, particularly during the holiday season. Steven will personally be on hand to thank donors at the BloodCenter's "Season of Giving" blood drive on Wednesday, December 28, at the Milwaukee County Zoo. ♦

COMPANY NEWS

Grifols SA to buy Hologic Inc.'s blood screening assets for \$1.85 billion. Spanish-based Grifols announced its plans to buy medical device manufacturer Hologic's licenses to Procleix blood screening product patents, access to product manufacturers, and a plant in San Diego, Calif. The Procleix line includes assays for West Nile Virus, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)-1 and HIV-2, and hepatitis A, B, and C. (Source: Reuters, [Grifols to buy Hologic's stake in blood screening JV for \\$1.85 billion](#). December 14, 2016)

Commonwealth Transfusion Foundation (CTF) awarded a three-year grant to Blood Centers of America (BCA). The grant will help fund the development and implementation of a website to provide timely information on the benefits and effects of transfusion to patients, caregivers, donors, investigators, advocates, and others. "Because the consenting process can give patients and their loved ones an unbalanced view of transfusion, this new and accessible information source will help inform them about the details of infusion and intended outcomes. It is a way for the patient to engage actively as a partner in managing his or her own treatment with blood products," said John Armitage, MD, board chair of BCA. Richmond, Va.,-based CTF, which awards over \$1 million annually in grants and Direct Charitable Activities, will provide funding for the website, while BCA members will provide and manage the content. CTF is not affiliated with any blood center, hospital, or other organization. (Source: BCA press release, December 19, 2016) ♦

WORD IN WASHINGTON



Scott Gottlieb, MD, is being considered for the next Food and Drug Administration Commissioner under the Trump Administration, reports Reuters. Dr. Gottlieb was formerly the deputy commissioner of the FDA from 2005 to 2007 and senior advisor to FDA Commissioner Mark McClellan from 2003 to 2004. He is currently a practicing physician, Resident Fellow at the American Enterprise Institute (AEI), a private, conservative, nonprofit government think-tank, and he also serves as a partner at New Enterprise Associates, one of the world's largest venture capital funds. Another possible candidate for the Commissioner position is Jim O'Neill, as first reported by Bloomberg News. Mr. O'Neill is a libertarian and colleague of Peter Thiel, the co-founder of Mithril Capital Management who was an early Trump supporter and is now advising Trump's transition team. Some news outlets have suggested Dr. Gottlieb would be a more traditional candidate as Mr. O'Neill has no scientific or research background. (Sources: *Politico*, [Scott Gottlieb Biography](#); *FierceBiotech*, [Scott Gottlieb now also in the running for Trump's FDA pick](#). December 13, 2016.) ♦

CALENDAR

2017

Feb. 13-14: **AABB U.S. Hemovigilance Symposium, Atlanta, Ga.** To register and more information, click [here](#).

Mar. 2-3: **IPFA 2nd Asia Workshop on Plasma Quality and Supply, Yogyakarta, Indonesia.** To register for the workshop, click [here](#).

Mar. 24-28: **Annual Meeting, America's Blood Centers, Washington, D.C.** Contact: ABC Meetings Department. Phone: (202) 654-2901; e-mail: meetings@americasblood.org.

Mar. 25: **Board Meeting, America's Blood Centers, Washington, D.C.** Contact: ABC Meetings Department. Phone: (202) 654-2901; e-mail: meetings@americasblood.org.

May 1-3: **2017 ADRP Annual Conference, Chicago, Ill.** More information is available on the [website](#).

May 16-17: **IPFA/PEI 24th International Workshop on "Surveillance and Screening of Blood-borne Pathogens", Zagreb, Croatia.** To register, click [here](#).

June 17-21: **27th Regional Congress of the ISBT, Copenhagen, Denmark.** [Click to register for the event.](#)

Aug. 1-4: **Summer Meeting, MD Workshop & Golf Tournament, America's Blood Centers, Providence, R.I.** Contact: ABC Meetings Dept. Phone: (202) 654-2901; e-mail: meetings@americasblood.org.

Aug. 3: **Board Meeting, America's Blood Centers, Providence, R.I.** Contact: ABC Meetings Dept. Phone: (202) 654-2901; e-mail: meetings@americasblood.org.

Sept. 11-12: **IPFA/BCA 3rd Global Symposium on The Future for Blood and Plasma Donations, Atlanta, Ga.** To register, click [here](#). ♦

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

Assistant Manager Donor Testing (Laboratory Supervisor). (Department: Donor Testing; Reports To: Manager Donor Testing Lab; Status: Full-time, 1.0FTE, and Exempt; Schedule: Monday – Friday, 3rd Shift 9 p.m. - 5:30 a.m.; Benefits: Medical, Dental, Vision, 401K, PTO / EST, to name a few!) Take the next step in your career in our high profile donor testing laboratory with our non-profit mission based organization. Primary Purpose: Manages testing laboratory 3rd shift staff and coordinates operations associated with testing blood donors for infectious disease and immune-hematology during these shifts. Provides adequate training and performance appraisals. To apply please go directly to our website with an updated resume: <https://home2.eease.adp.com/recruit2/?id=19192882&t=1>.

Medical Technologist. The Rhode Island Blood Center (RIBC) is seeking a Medical Technologist (MLT, MT, SBB, or BB). This position is based in Providence, RI. The primary responsibilities of the Technologist position include: routine testing of donor blood samples with proper technique and documentation, labeling of blood components, performing and documenting quality control procedures, and generating client reports for donor testing. MLT, MT, BB or SBB (ASCP) certification is required. Please apply online at www.ribc.org. JOIN

(continued on page 13)

POSITIONS (continued from page 12)

THE TEAM THAT GIVES THE GIFT OF LIFE!!!
RIBC is an equal opportunity employer.

Director, Product Management (DPM) (Shreveport, LA). LifeShare Blood Centers, a community partner since 1942, is currently seeking a key leadership position to assist with building a culture focused on quality and efficiency while ensuring all operational policies, procedures and SOPs meet requirements of regulatory bodies. Provides oversight for product manufacturing and distribution to hospitals across a multi-state area. Provides oversight of distribution activities for seven LifeShare locations while maximizing opportunities of resource sharing products. Monitors demand to coordinate collection needs, ensuring availability of blood products. Develops and maintains training programs on compliance and error reduction, works with others to plan and meet budgetary goals and operational performance trends to ensure the business viability. Bachelor's in health or related field. Four plus years' blood banking or five years in management with logistics and sales experience. Experience in leading teams in regulated environment. Must have knowledge of strategic planning, budgeting, organizing and implementing initiatives. To apply: www.lifeshare.org under the careers tab. LifeShare Blood Centers is an EEO/AAP – M/F/D/V/Genetic Data employer maintaining Tobacco and Drug Free Workplace. All qualified applicants will receive consideration without regards to race, color, ethnicity, religion, gender, national origin, disability, veteran status, genetic data or other legally protected status.

Chief Medical Officer. Hoxworth Blood Center seeks a Chief Medical Officer to be responsible for the medical activities of Hoxworth, oversight of the operation of the Transfusion Service, and maintains service relations with 30 other hospitals in the Cincinnati area. The position accomplishes this through a respectful, constructive and collaborative style, guided by local, state and national regulations and the objectives of Hoxworth Blood Center and the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine. The position provides medical oversight, regulatory expertise and leadership to ensure the delivery, potency, purity and safety of blood/cell services and products. This position requires an active Unrestricted Ohio Medical License (or eligibility to obtain the license). Apply online at: <https://jobs.uc.edu> (Req ID# 15461). Visit our website at www.hoxworth.org. Hoxworth Blood Center is dedicated to the promotion of research and education in transfusion medicine and cell therapies. The University of Cincinnati is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer/M/F/Vet/Disabled. 💧