



# ABC NEWSLETTER

CURRENT EVENTS AND TRENDS IN BLOOD SERVICES

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2022 #18

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## ABC Announces Partnership with HOSA

America's Blood Centers (ABC) and HOSA – Future Health Professionals announced a [partnership](#) this week focused on encouraging and nationally recognizing HOSA students involved in blood donation as well as promoting careers at community blood centers.

As a part of this partnership, ABC will honor the highest-performing HOSA members each year at the annual HOSA International Leadership Conference. The first such conference that will feature recognition awards will be the 2023 HOSA International Leadership Conference in Dallas, Texas.

“Students that are members of HOSA today will be tomorrow’s health care professionals,” said ABC Chief Executive Officer Kate Fry, MBA, CAE in the news release. “Workforce challenges and the loss of school-based drives during COVID-19, which account for 20 percent of the blood supply nationwide during certain times of the year, continue to strain the nation’s blood supply. Through this partnership, we are excited to help build the next generation of lifelong blood donors and promote the wide variety of career opportunities at community blood centers.” HOSA Executive Director Dr. Jim Koeninger added, “HOSA-Future Health Professional chapters have been hosting blood drives and raising awareness of shortages for decades. We are very pleased that HOSA is partnering with America’s Blood Centers to formalize a process to recognize those who positively impact their communities by taking part in blood drives.”

There are more than 260,000 HOSA members across 54 chartered HOSA associations globally. This organization is focused solely on health care - promoting leadership development for secondary, postsecondary, middle school, adult, and collegiate students enrolled in health science or biomedical science programs or those with an interest in pursuing a career in these fields.

The partnership will kickoff with ABC member Blood Assurance holding a blood drive during HOSA’s International Leadership Conference in Nashville Tenn. June 22-25.

For more information on the partnership please contact ABC Director of Strategic Communications and National Partnerships [Jeff Gohringer](#).

(Source: MCN 22-044, 5/19/22) 💧



## World Blood Donor Day 2022 Approaches

World Blood Donor Day (WBDD) will take [place](#) on June 14<sup>th</sup> with this year's host nation being Mexico. The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the World Health Organization recently announced the focus of this year's campaign is "Donating blood is an act of solidarity. Join the effort and save lives." The organizations stated that the theme aims to "draw attention to the roles that voluntary blood donations play in saving lives and enhancing solidarity within communities" with the specific objectives to:

- "thank blood donors in the world and create wider public awareness of the need for regular, unpaid blood donation;
- highlight the need for committed, year-round blood donation to maintain adequate supplies and achieve universal and timely access to safe blood transfusion;
- recognize and promote the values of voluntary unpaid blood donation in enhancing community solidarity and social cohesion; and
- raise awareness of the need for government investment to build a sustainable and resilient national blood system and increase collection from voluntary non-remunerated blood donors."

ADRP, an international division of America's Blood Centers, has posted the WBDD logo in four languages on its website and will be sharing additional resources leading up to WBDD as they are released.



(Source: WHO and PAHO [Announcement](#)) 💧

### 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!

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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 health care system; promote partnerships, policies and programs that increase awareness about the need for blood donation; and serve as a thought-leader in the advancement of evidence-based medical and scientific solutions related to health and safety.

#### America's Blood Centers

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## RESEARCH IN BRIEF

**Cold Storage Alters Platelets.** A study in *Vox Sanguinis* “aimed to examine the effect of cold storage on the immune characteristics of platelets.” The researchers described how “[p]ooled platelet components were prepared [from] four whole-blood donations...Components were randomly assigned to either room temperature (RT)-stored (20-24°C with agitation) or cold-stored (2-6°C with no agitation)...A common gram-positive (*S. aureus*) and a gram negative (*E. coli*) bacterial strain were included because of their association with post-surgical infection risk.” The authors noted that, “[t]he concentration of CD40L, endocan, IL-1 $\beta$ , IL-13, IL-27, HMGB1 and OX40L did not vary significantly compared to RT-stored platelets. However, the concentration of RANTES and PF4 increased two- and three-fold, respectively, in RT-stored platelets from Day 9 onwards compared to cold-stored components...The concentration of C3a gradually increased in RT-stored components, becoming two-fold higher than cold-stored platelets (CSP) at [d]ays 9 and 14. In contrast, no significant difference was observed in the supernatant concentration of C4a or C5a between RT-stored and CSP.” The study found, “[c]old storage significantly increased the abundance of P-selectin on the surface membrane from Day 2, compared to RT-stored components...Platelet aggregation in response to adenosine diphosphate (ADP) decreased in both treatment arms but was better maintained in CSP at [d]ays 7 and 14...[A] two-fold higher aggregation response to *E. coli* was observed in CSP at [d]ays 7 and 14.” The researchers explained that, “[n]otably, CSP exhibited a significantly higher aggregation response to *S. aureus* at Day 7, which further increased at Day 14...RGDS treatment significantly reduced *E. coli*-induced aggregation after cold storage to levels comparable to those of RT-stored components. Likewise, RGDS addition had no effect on *S. aureus*-induced aggregation of RT-stored platelets but inhibited the cold-stored potentiation of aggregation.” The authors “found that cold storage also induces changes in the immune characteristics of platelets. Specifically, cold storage reduced the release of a range biological response modifiers (BRMs) into the supernatant and altered the surface abundance of receptors associated with immunological function.” They concluded that the “impact of these in vitro changes on clinical outcomes following transfusion of CSP should be a major consideration as the implementation of CSP progresses.”

**Citation:** Winkler-Wood B., Padula M.P., Marks D.C., Johnson L. [Cold storage alters the immune characteristics of platelets and potentiates bacterial-induced aggregation.](#) *Vox Sang.* 2022.

Contributed by Richard Gammon, MD, Medical Director at OneBlood 

## WORD IN WASHINGTON

**The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced that is now casting nationwide for a public service announcement (PSA) raising awareness for blood and plasma donations.** The agency is seeking individuals that are recipients of blood and plasma donations. The PSA is part of a national public health campaign focused on personal stories where blood and plasma have helped save lives, according to the agency. Interested individuals can submit responses [here](#) with a photo, short bio, location, and your story regarding blood or plasma. Initial interviews will be conducted via Zoom until May 24<sup>th</sup> with production/filming scheduled to take place in Washington D.C. either June 13<sup>th</sup> or June 27<sup>th</sup>. Travel/accommodations will be covered for those chosen to have their stories included in the PSA.

(Source: HHS Announcement 5/15/22)

**The National Institutes of Health’s (NIH) National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) and the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Health (OASH) at U.S. Department of Health and Human Services are hosting a virtual workshop August 29-30.** This event, titled “2022 State of the Science in Transfusion Medicine,” aims to “identify current basic, translational, and clinical research priorities, that if

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WORD IN WASHINGTON (continued from page 3)

addressed in the next three to ten years, would increase and diversify the volunteer blood donor pool, identify which blood products from which donors would best match the needs of specific recipient populations, and help ensure safe and effective transfusion strategies.” Six working groups have been assigned to draft research priorities in the following areas:

- Blood donors and the supply;
- Optimizing transfusion outcomes for recipients;
- Emerging infections;
- Mechanistic aspects of components and transfusion;
- New methods in computational science for transfusion; and
- Donor and blood recipient health disparities in transfusion medicine.

Members of the working group will present on these research priorities at the meeting and obtain feedback from the attendees. More information and registration info are forthcoming.

(Source: NHLBI and OASH Workshop Announcement, 5/20/22)

**The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is expected to extend the public health emergency (PHE). Previously, HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra, JD indicated that the agency will give 60-notice before letting the PHE expire.** Now that May 16<sup>th</sup> has passed without notice from the agency, it is anticipated that an additional 90-day extension of the PHE is imminent according to a [report](#) from *Bloomberg*. The PHE has been in effect since January 2020 and extended in 90 day increments as required by law. The PHE declaration allows several pandemic response measures and flexibility to continue. This includes multiple donor deferral changes made by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) early in the pandemic, such as reducing blood donor deferral for men who have sex with other men (MSM) to three months, which are currently in effect until 60 days after the end of the PHE.

(Source: *Bloomberg*, [U.S. Set to Extend Covid-19 Public Health Emergency Past July](#), 5/16/22)

**This week, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued a [statement](#) on COVID-19 “booster shots” announcing that it was “strengthening its recommendation that those 12 and older who are immunocompromised and those 50 and older should receive a second booster dose at least four months after their first.”** CDC Director Rochelle Walensky, MD, MPH added, in the statement, “[w]ith cases increasing, it is important that all people have the protection they need, which is why, today, CDC [recommended that] [t]hose 50 and older and those who are 12 and older and immunocompromised should get a second booster dose.”

(Source: CDC [Statement](#), 5/19/22) 💧

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

- **The Clinical Laboratory Workforce: Understanding the Challenges to Meeting Current and Future Need-ASCP Blueprint Webinar** – July 20<sup>th</sup> from 3-4 PM EDT. More information coming soon.
- **ABC SMT Journal Club Webinar** – August 10<sup>th</sup> from 3-4 PM EDT. More information coming soon.



**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 MD Workshop and Summer Summit

Mark your calendar for the [ABC Medical Directors Workshop and ABC Summer Summit](#) taking place August 2-4 in Minneapolis, Minn. Over the course of two days, attendees will hear case study rounds, engaging discussions, and have many networking opportunities to connect with peers and colleagues. [Hotel reservations](#) can be made now through the ABC block. 💧

### MEMBER NEWS

**Central California Blood Center (CCBC)** (Fresno, Calif.) recently announced that a [series](#) of commercials featuring New York Yankees' slugger and former Fresno State Bulldog Aaron Judge has been nominated for an Emmy. Additional commercial assets include billboards, city bus wraps, radio, and social adaptations. According to a statement from the blood center, "since 2018, the blood center has been committing significant resources into rebranding and ongoing marketing. The purpose has been to elevate the blood center's mission to top of mind in the communities in California's Central Valley, with the ultimate effect of raising new legions of loyal blood donors for today and into the future. The latest campaign concept 'It's Amazing What You Can Do,' captures all the things donors can enjoy doing while donating blood and saving lives, to make the process less daunting and more attractive." For more information, please contact [Arax Martirosian](#).

(Source: Central California Blood Center Announcement, 5/20/22)



*Rendering courtesy of Maui Now*

State legislators in Hawaii have [proposed](#) that the **Blood Bank of Hawaii** receive \$1.15 million in grant funding to help pay for a new facility, according to the *Honolulu Star-Advertiser*. If approved by the governor, the funds would assist the blood bank in paying for its new headquarters in West Oahu. "The team at Blood Bank of Hawaii is humbled and thankful that the Legislature deeply understands our critical mission to provide a safe and adequate blood supply to the people of our islands and has recommended a generous Grant in Aid," said Kim-Anh Nguyen, MD, chief executive officer of Blood Bank of Hawaii, in a statement according to the publication. "These funds will help to build a facility on the

West Side of Oahu that incorporates new technologies to better serve our community. Mahalo to our legislative leaders." In March 2022, *Maui Now* [reported](#) that the blood bank had secured \$2 million in federal funding for the project. Rep. Ed Case (D-Hawaii), a member of the House Appropriations Committee, told the publication at the time, "[a]s the US faces our worst blood shortage in over a decade, I am especially pleased that my Committee approved my Community Project Funding to support a new home for the Blood Bank of Hawaii. Due in part to its geographic isolation, Hawaii particularly depends on the generosity of

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## MEMBER NEWS (continued from page 5)

people to donate the gift of life-saving blood, and we have turned to the Blood Bank time and again to ensure a safe and reliable blood supply for all of Hawaii. This funding could not have come at a more critical time.”

(Sources: *Honolulu Star-Advertiser*, [Lawmakers award Hawaii nonprofits nearly \\$50M](#), 5/14/22; *Maui Now*, [\\$2M in federal funding secured to build a new home for the Blood Bank of Hawaii](#), 3/20/22)

**Blood Assurance** (Chattanooga, Tenn.) will soon [celebrate](#) its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Serving the community since 1972, the blood center will recognize its anniversary with a celebration on June 25<sup>th</sup>. The festivities will include commemorative t-shirts for blood donors, live music, a photobooth, food trucks, blood center lab tours, and more.



(Source: Blood Assurance [Announcement](#) 5/14/22) 💧

## REGULATORY NEWS

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) [issued](#) a draft guidance on May 20<sup>th</sup> titled “**Risk Management Plans to Mitigate the Potential for Drug Shortages Guidance for Industry.**” According to the agency, the purpose of the guidance is to “to help stakeholders develop, maintain, and implement risk management plans (RMPs) to proactively assist in the prevention of human drug product and biological product shortages. RMPs can provide stakeholders with a framework to proactively identify, prioritize, and implement strategies to mitigate hazards that can cause a supply disruption.” A footnote in the guidance for the section on “Products for Which RMPs Are Required” references blood and blood components. “As described in the Background section of this guidance, the CARES Act added section 506C(j) to the FD&C Act, which requires certain manufacturers to develop, maintain, and implement, as appropriate, a ‘redundancy risk management plan that identifies and evaluates risks to the supply of the drug, as applicable, for each establishment in which such drug or active pharmaceutical ingredient of such drug is manufactured.’” The footnote states “Through rulemaking, FDA applied section 506C of the FD&C Act to all biological products, including recombinant therapeutic proteins, monoclonal antibody products, vaccines, allergenic products, plasma-derived products and their recombinant analogs, blood or blood components, and cellular and gene therapy products (see 80 FR 38918, July 8, 2015; 21 CFR 600.82; and section 506C(h)(1), (i)(3) of the FD&C Act). Therefore, section 506C(j) is applicable to all biological products. Section 506C(a) applies only to applicants of blood or blood components for transfusion that manufacture a significant percentage of the U.S. blood supply (see 21 CFR 600.82; 80 FR 38926).”

(Source: FDA [Draft Guidance](#), 5/20/22) 💧

## BRIEFLY NOTED

Trusting Heart Blood Center [announced](#) that a [micro documentary](#), “**The Platelet Problem – A Micro Documentary of Families Who Need Platelets**” has been “selected as an Official Honoree and placed in the top ten for best Public Service & Activism Videos in the 26th Annual Webby Awards.” Established in 1996, The Webbys are presented by the International Academy of Digital Arts and Sciences (IADAS), and honor “excellence on the internet.”

(Source: Trusting Heart Blood Center [News Release](#), 5/17/22) 💧

## GLOBAL NEWS

The World Health Organization's (WHO) Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) and COVID-19 Vaccines Working Group published an interim [statement](#) on May 17<sup>th</sup> regarding additional “booster” doses of mRNA COVID-19 vaccines. The statement outlines the WHO's current position and specifies that, “[a]dditional booster doses beyond the first booster dose are currently being offered by some countries (i.e. fourth dose to older adults and a fifth dose for immunocompromised persons). Data on the usefulness of these additional booster doses is sparse and especially limited on the duration of further protection...Studies show some short-term benefit of an additional booster dose of mRNA vaccine in health workers, those over 60 years of age or with immunocompromising conditions. Data to support an additional dose for healthy younger populations are limited; preliminary data suggest that in younger people, the benefit is minimal...The limited available data suggest that for highest risk groups there is a benefit that supports the administration of an additional booster dose.”

(Source: WHO [Statement](#), 5/17/22)

NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT), the national blood provider for England and transplant services for the United Kingdom (UK), has [started](#) five blood and transplant research units “aimed at providing new technologies, techniques, or insights that will benefit donation, transfusion, and transplantation.” According to a news release announcing £20 million in funding for the multidisciplinary centers of excellence, the units went live in April and include:

- Precision Cellular Therapeutics
- Data Driven Transfusion Practice
- Organ Donation and Transplantation
- Donor Health and Behavior
- Genomics to Enhance Microbiology Screening.

The stated goals for the centers of excellence are:

- “pursue cutting edge research in donor health and behavi[o]r;
- improve transfusion practice in hospitals;
- increase the number of organs available and improve long-term outcomes after solid organ transplant;
- develop new kinds of cell therapies for blood disorders and blood cancer; [and]
- reduce the risks of transmitting infections through the work that we do.”

NHSBT Chief Medical Officer Dr. Gail Miflin added in the news release, “[b]y collaborating with universities, these five new Blood and Transplant Research Units will help us to deliver on our mission to ‘save and improve even more lives’ and drive innovation to inform future clinical practice and improve patient outcomes.”

(Source: NHSBT [News Release](#), 5/16/22) ♦

## COMPANY NEWS

**Editas Medicine, Inc.** [received](#) the “Orphan Drug Designation” this week from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for its investigational gene therapy to treat transfusion-dependent beta thalassemia. The company is preparing to begin a phase I/II clinical trial of the therapy this year. Currently, a clinical trial is underway using this same therapy to treat patients with severe sickle cell disease.

(Source: Editas Medicine [News Release](#), 5/12/22) ♦

## CALENDAR

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

### 2022

June 4-8. **37<sup>th</sup> Annual International Congress of ISBT (Virtual)**. More information available [here](#).

June. 7-9. **U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Virtual Public Workshop — Building Medical Device Supply Chain Resilience: A Healthcare and Public Health Ecosystem-wide Collaboration**. More information available [here](#).

June. 6-10. **FDA Regulatory Education for Industry (REdI) Annual Conference 2022 (Virtual)**. More information available [here](#).

June. 9-10. **FDA Cellular, Tissue, and Gene Therapies Advisory Committee (CTGTAC) Meeting (Virtual)**. More information available [here](#).

Aug. 2-4. **ABC Summer Summit and Medical Directors Workshop, Minneapolis, Minn.** More information coming [soon](#).

Aug. 29-30. **National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Office of the of the Assistant Secretary of Health (OASH) of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) 2022 State of the Science in Transfusion Medicine Workshop (Virtual)**. More information coming soon.

Sept. 19-22. **American Association of Tissue Banks Annual Meeting, San Antonio, Texas**. More information available [here](#).

Sept. 21-22. **28<sup>th</sup> IPFA/ Paul-Ehrlich-Institut[e] (PEI) International Workshop on Surveillance and Screening of Blood-borne Pathogens, Porto, Portugal**. Registration is [open](#). More information available [here](#).

Sept. 28-29. **BEST Meeting LXIV, Cocoa Beach, Fla.** More information available [here](#).

Oct. 1-4. **Association for the Advancement of Blood & Biotherapies Annual Meeting, Orlando, Fla.** More information available [here](#).

### 2023

Mar. 6-8. **ABC Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C.** More information coming soon.

May 9-11. **2023 ADRP Conference**. More information coming soon. 💧

## CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

Classified advertisements, including notices of positions available and wanted, are published free of charge for a maximum of three weeks per position per calendar year for ABC 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, e-mail: [newsletter@americasblood.org](mailto:newsletter@americasblood.org)

## POSITIONS

**Director of Recruitment (Bradenton, FL).** SunCoast Blood Centers is accepting applications for a Director of Recruitment to work at our Lakewood Ranch Head Quarters. This position directs and oversees mobile, fixed site and concierge recruitment activities. Other duties include Designs and directs a comprehensive donor recruitment and retention plan for the organization. Counsels and evaluates the performance of direct reports. Oversees

processes related to the coaching and mentoring of recruitment management staff to assure a well-functioning team. Manages the data base of blood donors and donor groups to assure successful strategies to meet collection goals, standards, and efficiency measures, and other duties as required to fulfill the organizations mission and

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## POSITIONS (continued from page 8)

vision. Qualified applications should possess a bachelor's degree in public relations, marketing, or other equivalent experience. Applicant must have five years recruitment, healthcare sales, or marketing, plus three years in a senior leadership role. To apply and view a complete job description of this position please visit <https://suncoastblood.org/careers/>. EOE. Applicant drug testing required.

**Chief Administrative Officer (Shreveport, LA).** LifeShare Blood Center (LSBC) is seeking an experienced human resource, risk management or business administration professional as our **Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)**. Reporting to the President & CEO, the CAO develops and administers Company-wide policies and practices to facilitate business operations and manage risk exposures; ensures compliance with applicable laws, standards and regulations governing various areas of responsibility; provides executive leadership of human resources, health, safety, benefit plan, commercial and professional liability insurance, donor claims management, and other risk management efforts; provides executive oversight of the IT infrastructure, including computer software systems, servers and networks, enterprise systems, data integrity and security, and business continuity protocols; provides direction of quality assurance and regulatory affairs to ensure achievement of goals and objectives and compliance with standards and regulations governing the blood banking industry. Oversees LifeShare Phlebotomy School operations to ensure all accreditation requirements are met. Degree in human resources, business management or related field; 10 years management experience in HR, legal compliance, or risk management. LSBC offers a competitive beginning salary, commensurate with experience and a generous benefits package. **Join us in our important mission to connect blood donors and the lives they impact!** Apply at [Careers Page](#).

**Director of Regulatory Affairs and Quality Compliance.** Director of Regulatory Affairs and Quality Compliance. The Blood Connection is looking for a Director of Regulatory Affairs and Quality Compliance. This is a newly created position reporting to the Vice President of Quality Systems. The Director of Regulatory Affairs and Quality Compliance would be responsible for providing leadership with regulatory guidance ensuring ongoing compliance for the organization. This role will monitor the release of new or revised regulations and standards, evaluating the impact on current processes and practices, and recommend changes if necessary to ensure continual compliance. The Director will evaluate investigations of incidents/occurrences reported and participate in the investigation, root cause analysis, and development of corrective action plans. This role will lead the Quality Unit staff by coaching, managing, monitoring, and evaluating compliance activities and promoting ongoing

compliance and effective processes ensuring adherence to applicable regulations and standards. We offer a generous benefits package including a great 401k match, tuition reimbursement, yearly increases, company bonus, cell phone stipend, and 30 days PTO. How to apply: <https://thebloodconnection.org/about-us/careers/>.

**QA Specialist (R2216359) (Stanford Blood Center).** **Responsibilities:** Cover the quality essentials and perform regulated tasks addressing organization, resources, equipment, supplier & customer issues, process control, document and records, deviations and adverse events, assessments, process improvement, and facility & safety. Assist in training appropriate personnel pertaining to QRA and safety activities. Ensure compliance to current regulations, accreditation standards, guidance documents and policies and procedures consistent with the latest releases of Code of Federal Regulations, California Code of Regulations, Health & Safety Codes, Business and Professions Code, AABB Blood Bank and Transfusion Services and College of American Pathologist accreditation standards including local Bills (Assembly and Senate Bills) and applicable County Directives. Perform regulated document reviews of standard operating procedures, forms, training plans, other pertinent documents, change controls, and validations. Also, review and monitor incident and deviation management through the different Quality Management System applications. Act as member of the safety committee member and perform designated roles as Emergency Response Team (ERT), Assembly Point Coordinator (APC). Facilitate external inspection conducted by inspectors. Qualifications: Bachelor's degree required. Three plus years to five years in blood banking, laboratory or manufacturing with solid familiarity of GMP, safety in a manufacturing setup, and CAL-OSHA regulations Required. Please click [here](#) to view the full job description and apply. 💧