



ABC NEWSLETTER

CURRENT EVENTS AND TRENDS IN BLOOD SERVICES

Visit ABC's Web site at: www.americasblood.org

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ABC and Allies Team Up to Urge Diverse Donors to Give Blood During National Sickle Cell Awareness Month

America's Blood Centers (ABC), the Sickle Cell Disease Coalition, and the Sickle Cell Foundation of Minnesota issued a news release this week observing September as National Sickle Cell Awareness Month and encouraging “increased diversity among blood donors to meet patient needs.” The news release highlighted the important role of blood transfusions for sickle cell patients and how “[b]lood from a diverse donor base is critical for those living with diseases like sickle cell that require blood components matched more precisely than just blood type, matches more likely to be found in donors of a similar racial and ethnic background of the recipient patient.” Marjani Cephus, sickle cell disease programs specialist at the Sickle Cell Disease Coalition, added in the news release, “[i]ndividuals living with sickle cell disease face many systemic barriers to accessing high-quality health care, and one major hurdle that continues to challenge the community is a limited blood supply. To combat this issue and improve outcomes for individuals living with sickle cell disease, we need younger, more diverse populations to become regular blood donors. National Sickle Cell Awareness Month presents an incredible opportunity to emphasize the vital impact of regularly donating blood and inspire a new generation of diverse blood donors to get involved and save a life.” Rae Blaylark, president and chief executive officer of the Sickle Cell Foundation of Minnesota, stated that, “sickle cell and blood donation go hand in hand, since the gift of blood is often a lifeline for those living with this challenging condition. Together, let’s raise awareness, break barriers, and make a lasting impact by giving blood during [National] Sickle Cell Awareness Month. Every donation has the power to save a life and offer hope to those in need.” The full news release is [available](#) on the ABC website.

(Source: ABC [News Release](#), 8/31/23) ♦

Source Plasma Donation Frequency Effects Studied in *Transfusion*

Researchers in *Transfusion* [examined](#) whether the current source plasma (SP) donation frequency and volume limits allowed by regulators “impacts donors’ self-reported functional health and well-being.” The cross-sectional study performed by the Plasma Protein Therapeutics Association (PPTA) “hypothesized that the current SP procedures and donation frequency does not impair self-reported donor functional health and well-being.”

The authors explained that 14 centers operated by three different SP collectors participated in the study across the U.S. Those enrolled in the study “completed a self-

(continued on page 2)

Effects of Source Plasma Donation Frequency Studied (continued from page 1)

administered survey assessing health-related quality of life (HRQoL) and frequency of various health conditions. HRQoL was assessed using the SF-36v2® Health Survey (SF-36v2), a 36-item measure of generic HRQoL in the past four weeks.” The study included 5,608 SP donors with 3,434 completing the baseline survey. “Approximately the same number of males and females completed the surveys. The overall mean age for females was slightly higher than males (38.5 vs 36.7 years). Very High Frequency Donors were older than New Donors by seven (male) to 10 (female) years. The mean body mass index (BMI) for females were slightly higher than males (32.5 vs 29.9), however there was minimal difference between the four donation frequency groups. The majority (70 percent) of donors were non-Hispanic White.”

The researchers found that, “[a]mong males, there were no statistically or clinically significant differences in mean scale scores related to physical well-being when higher frequency donor groups were compared with the New Donor group based on the unadjusted or adjusted models...With the exception of the physical functioning scale, there were no statistically significant differences among females in the four donation frequency groups in predicted mean scale scores related to physical well-being based on the unadjusted models.”

The study concluded that, “[a]ll SP donor frequency groups had the same or better scores on multiple indicators of HRQoL as compared with an external benchmark for healthy adults in the U.S. population. After controlling for potential confounding and accounting for multiple comparisons among males and females, there were no statistically significant differences in HRQoL scores between each frequency group relative to the New Donor group, indicating that frequent donors, including Very High Frequency Donors, had similar findings to New Donors. For the self-evaluated transition, only a few participants (3 percent) reported they were worse now than one year ago and most participants (97 percent) reported they were the same or better...[The authors] acknowledged that a cross-sectional analysis cannot account for temporal relationships, and therefore, longitudinal designs are needed to confirm results.”

They added that, “the data in this study support the hypothesis that compensated SP donations at the frequency and volumes permitted by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration are consistent with favorable self-reported donor functional health and well-being. Plasmapheresis itself, even at the highest frequency level, is not associated with negative self-reported health impacts. The lower immunoglobulin levels, which have been previously reported in some studies, likely represent a temporary reduction due to the plasmapheresis procedure rather than a true risk of immunodeficiency and associated clinical signs, such as infections.”

Citation: Fransen, M., Becker, M., Hershman, J. *et al.* “[Effects of donation frequency on U.S. source plasma donor health.](#)” *Transfusion*. 2023 ♦

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ABC advocates for and advances policies that promote the role of independent blood centers in providing life-saving blood products and recognizes the continuous need for a safe and robust blood supply. ABC exists to advocate for laws and regulations recognizing the essential role that independent blood centers play in the health care system; promote partnerships, policies, and programs that increase awareness about the need for blood donation; and serve as a thought leader in the advancement of evidence-based medical and scientific solutions related to health and safety.

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INFECTIOUS DISEASES UPDATE

MALARIA

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [published](#) a Health Alert Network (HAN) Health Update on August 28th regarding new information on cases of locally acquired malaria in the U.S. The agency noted in the update that, “On August 18, 2023, a single case of locally acquired malaria was reported in [Maryland](#) in the National Capital Region. This case was caused by the *Plasmodium falciparum* (*P. falciparum*) species and is unrelated to the cases involving local transmission of *Plasmodium vivax* (*P. vivax*) malaria in Florida and Texas described in the [HAN Health Advisory 494](#) issued on June 26, 2023. As an update to that report, to date, Florida has identified seven cases and Texas has identified one case of locally acquired *P. vivax* malaria, but there have been no reports of local transmission of malaria in Florida or Texas since mid-July 2023.” The CDC acknowledged that, “the risk to the U.S. public for locally acquired mosquito-transmitted malaria remains very low. The most effective way to prevent malaria in the United States is for travelers to malaria-endemic areas to take appropriate steps to prevent acquiring malaria while traveling—including taking medications to prevent malaria—and ensuring early diagnosis and treatment of imported cases of malaria and preventing mosquito bites.”

(Source: CDC HAN [Health Update](#), 8/28/23) 💧

RECENT REVIEWS

Donor Safety Short and Long-Term Effects of Plasmapheresis. A [review](#) in *Vox Sanguinis* focused on “the evidence for donor safety and the procedural controls and policies that can be implemented to minimize plasmapheresis donor harm. Two authors completed independent literature reviews.” They explained that, “[t]he rate of nerve injury lasting 12 months is increased in plasmapheresis, reported as 1 in 2.37 million per donation, six times the rate in whole blood (WB) donations.” A review of “data on 12 million U.S. donations showed an overall rate of donor adverse events (DAEs) of 15.85 per 10,000 donations...When a donor is exposed to higher citrate amounts, metabolic changes such as acute hypocalc[e]mia, hypomagnesemia and an increase in parathyroid hormone levels can occur. Therefore, concern has been raised that repeated apheresis may impact bone health. A small randomized controlled trial in high-frequency platelet donors did not demonstrate a bone mineral density (BMD) difference compared with controls.” A review of the “Scandinavian Donations and Transfusions (SCANDAT2) database on over 1.6 million blood donors [and] linking hospital registers [to follow-up] for up to 23 years observed no association between the apheresis frequency and fracture risk...In a study of 54 experienced donors, the total IgG decreased by 13 percent immediately post-donation.” The authors noted that, “[d]espite two studies that demonstrate plasmapheresis iron deficiency with no mitigation, there are other studies that are supportive of donors maintaining their iron and h[e]moglobin...A study of 1,254 plasma donors demonstrated a ferritin increase with increased donation frequency...The authors concluded frequent plasma donation in the U.S. does not adversely impact iron stores in donors and therefore, it was not necessary to monitor iron status or give iron supplementation.” They also added that, “[a] study of Swedish and Danish blood donors found that the odds of non-Hodgkin lymphoma were higher among frequent plasma donors (>25 vs. 0 donations, odds ratio [OR] = 2.14, 95 percent confidence interval [CI] = 1.22–3.74). [However, the authors concluded] this finding should be interpreted with caution.” The review also found that “[e]vidence-based donor selection criteria and appropriate donor care are key factors in managing plasma supply and more individualized donor assessment may facilitate balancing safety and supply.”

Citation: Hoad, V.C., Castrén, J., Norda, R., Pink, J. [A donor safety evidence literature review of the short- and long-term effects of plasmapheresis](#). *Vox Sang.* 2023.

Contributed by Richard Gammon, MD, Medical Director at OneBlood 💧



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 staffs only, unless otherwise specified.

New ADRP Resources Available: Toolkits for September Awareness Initiatives

ADRP, the Association for Blood Donor Professionals has developed three new toolkits to support efforts in raising awareness for upcoming recognition events during the month of September. Each toolkit aims to provide blood centers with resources that can be customized and tailored to fit their specific needs to assist with community engagement efforts. These resources include:

- [Childhood Cancer Awareness Month Toolkit](#) – includes social media graphics, draft press release, and more;
- [Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month Toolkit](#) – includes social media graphics and community resources from the Sickle Cell Disease Coalition; and
- [International Donor Recruitment Recognition Day Toolkit](#) – includes social media graphics in English, French, and Spanish, a draft blog post, and more.

Contact info@adrp.org with questions or trouble accessing the toolkits.

Register for the ADRP Masterclass: Change is Good — The Journey of Donor Eligibility

Registration is open for [ADRP's Masterclass](#), “Change is Good — The Journey of Donor Eligibility,” taking place September 20th-21st. While navigating changes in donor eligibility can feel overwhelming at times, this virtual conference is designed to equip industry professionals with invaluable insights, strategies, and best practices to confidently address such challenges and turn them into opportunities. This Masterclass is about more than just implementing a single deferral change. Instead, attendees will hear from award-winning leaders from outside the blood community. These speakers will share insights into building a culture that helps your blood center be more adaptable to future changes, tips for managing challenging conversations on and offline, and cutting-edge strategies being embraced across other industries so they can thrive in a challenging environment. Participants will also get the latest industry data, hear best practices, and be a part of thought-provoking conversations with industry peers. 💧

NEW on CollABORate

COLLABORATE

SHARE STRATEGIC ADVICE | SOLVE CHALLENGES | DEVELOP NEW APPROACHES

Recent discussion topics on the ABC [CollABORate](#) Online Member Community include:

- [Not for Transfusion Labels](#) (COLLECTIONS & DONOR SERVICES)
- [Annual Temperature Verification of Coolers](#) (COLLECTIONS & DONOR SERVICES)
- [Post-donation Callback Instructions](#) (MEDICAL ISSUES)

ABC members are encouraged to [login](#) and join the conversations today!

MEMBER NEWS

Texoma Regional Blood Center (Sherman, Texas) has joined the National Blood Testing Cooperative (NBTC), becoming its 18th member. “Joining NBTC and partnering with other blood center owners to take direct control of our testing needs is extremely exciting, and the synergy of this partnership will allow Texoma Regional Blood Center to better accomplish our mission to deliver the highest quality blood products and the most efficient blood services to those in need,” said Stacy Braddock, executive director of Texoma Regional Blood Center, in the news release. The NBTC news release also explained that, “NBTC formed in 2019 and “is the first cooperative formed specifically for blood testing needs of blood centers and hospitals. It offers all infectious disease and confirmatory testing services, including Chagas and Babesia testing.” Other members include:

- Cascade Regional Blood Services (Tacoma, Was.);
- Central Pennsylvania Blood Bank (Hummelstown, Penn.);
- Community Blood Center of Ozarks (Springfield, Mo.);
- Houchin Community Blood Bank (Bakersfield, Calif.);
- ImpactLife (Davenport, Iowa);
- Kentucky Blood Center (Lexington, K.Y.);
- LifeServe Blood Center (Des Moines, Iowa);
- LifeShare Blood Center (Shreveport, La.);
- LifeSouth Community Blood Centers (Gainesville, Fla.);
- Miller-Keystone Blood Center (Bethlehem, Penn.);
- Northern California Community Blood Bank (Eureka, Calif.);
- Rock River Valley Blood Center (Rockford, Ill.);
- Shepard Blood Center (Augusta, Ga.);
- Stanford Blood Center (Palo Alto, Calif.);
- SunCoast Blood Centers (Sarasota, Fla.);
- The Blood Center (New Orleans, La.);
- Texoma Regional Blood Center (Sherman, Texas) and
- We Are Blood (Austin, Texas).

(Source: NBTC News Release, 9/1/23) 💧

GLOBAL NEWS

The Australian Red Cross Lifeblood [reported](#) this week that more than 123,000 blood and plasma donations have been made in the past year from individuals who previously lived in the United Kingdom in the wake of the deferral change for variant Creutzfeldt Jakob Disease (vCJD). In a news release, the organization said, “[it] anticipated the rule change would lead to an additional 18,000 donors, but more than 34,000 new donors have rolled up their sleeves to give. Lifeblood Executive Director of Donor Experience Cath Stone added in the news release, “These newly eligible donors are contributing nearly one in every 10 blood and plasma donations in Australia. However, the reality is that with demand at its highest in a decade, we still need more donors to boost supplies and there are still more than 800,000 people who may have become eligible because of this rule change.”

(Source: Australian Red Cross Lifeblood [News Release](#), 8/29/23) 💧






BRIEFLY NOTED

The International Association of EMS Chiefs (IAEMSC) issued a statement supporting the use of prehospital blood product transfusion by paramedics in cases of acute hemorrhagic shock. The organization said in the policy statement, “IAEMSC calls on EMS services; medical directors; EMS regulatory agencies; healthcare systems; trauma systems; blood-banks; and all Americans to support the rapid, reasonable, and regional implementation of prehospital paramedic blood product transfusion programs in the United States...Prehospital blood transfusion is the straightforward, standard of care therapy for severe blood loss. The earliest possible replacement of lost blood with blood in serious hemorrhage is the obvious and irrefutable priority for EMS in saving lives and improving outcomes from hemorrhagic shock from trauma or other acute causes. The ability of paramedics to safely, rapidly, effectively, and independently, without on-scene physician oversight or involvement, administer blood products via transfusion has been definitively proven through prehospital military experience and numerous successful EMS transfusion programs in multiple civilian EMS paramedic systems.” The IAEMSC also “encourage[d] “close involvement of EMS leaders and providers with trauma surgeons, blood banks, and EMS service physician medical advisors in accelerating the development standardization and implementation of protocols and procedures to rapidly deliver blood product transfusion to patients at the scene (e.g., entrapment) and enroute to definitive care, most often a trauma center...The IAEMSC firmly believes that the provision of prehospital blood transfusion should be prioritized at both the national and regional levels across various sectors, including health care, transportation, public safety, and homeland security...Furthermore, the IAEMSC strongly advocates that patient access to prehospital blood transfusion in managing hemorrhagic shock should be recognized as a fundamental patient right.”

(Source: IAEMSC [Policy Statement](#), 8/21/23) ♦

COMPANY NEWS

Blood Bank Computer Systems, Inc. (BBCS) announced a partnership with **Bloodbuy** this week.  According to a joint news release, the organizations will integrate BBCS' ForLife Biologics Platform™ with Bloodbuy® “enabl[ing] blood center customers to engage with their national resource sharing counterparties seamlessly, remove existing manual data transfer processes and enhance user productivity and data quality by eliminating opportunities for human error, all while improving user satisfaction by automating highly repetitive data transfer tasks.” The new integration is scheduled to be rolled out to ForLife and Bloodbuy users by October.

(Source: BBCS & Bloodbuy [News Release](#), 8/28/23)

An announcement from **BioMarin Pharmaceutical Inc.** stated that the first individual in Europe has been [treated](#) with the company's gene therapy (Roctavian®) to treat patients with severe hemophilia A. This marks the first time this gene therapy has been used commercially in Europe. “In June, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved [the gene therapy] for the treatment of adults with severe hemophilia A (congenital factor VIII (FVIII) deficiency with FVIII activity <1 IU/dL) without antibodies to adeno-associated virus serotype 5 (AAV5) detected by an FDA-approved test. Roctavian is now commercially available in the U.S.”

(Source: BioMarin Pharmaceutical Inc. [News Release](#), 8/30/23) ♦



Upcoming ABC Webinars & Virtual Events – Don't Miss Out!

- **ADRP Masterclass: Change Is Good – The Journey of Donor Eligibility** – Sept. 20-21. [Registration](#) is open. More information available [here](#).



CALENDAR

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

2023

Sept. 6. **FDA Meeting: Understanding FDA Inspections and Data (Virtual)**. [Registration](#) is open. More information available [here](#).

Sept. 7-9. **European Blood Alliance European Conference on Donor Health and Management. Vienna, Austria**. [Registration](#) is open. More information available [here](#).

Sept. 17-20. **American Association of Tissue Banks Annual Meeting, National Harbor, Md.** [Registration](#) is open. More information available [here](#).

Sept. 20-21. **ADRP Masterclass: Change Is Good – The Journey of Donor Eligibility (Virtual)**. [Registration](#) is open. More information available [here](#).

Sept. 20. **The Department of Transfusion Medicine, National Institutes of Health (NIH) Clinical Center, NIH, and the American Red Cross 42nd Annual Immunohematology and Blood Transfusion Symposium**. [Registration](#) is open. More information available [here](#).

Oct. 9-11. **Advanced Medical Technology Association (AdvaMed) The MedTech Conference, Anaheim, Calif.** [Registration](#) is open. More information available [here](#).

Oct. 14-17. **AABB Annual Meeting, Nashville, Tenn.** [Registration](#) is open. More information available [here](#).

Oct. 18-20. **American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP), Long Beach, Calif.** More information available [here](#).

Nov. 18-21. **ISBT Regional Congress, Cape Town, South Africa**. [Registration](#) is open. More information available [here](#).

2024

Feb.7-8. **International Plasma and Fractionation Association & EBA Symposium on Plasma Collection and Supply. Leiden, Netherlands**. More information available [here](#).

Mar. 4-6. **ABC Annual Meeting, Arlington, Va.** More information available [here](#).

May 14-16. **2024 ADRP Annual Conference, St. Louis, Mo.** More information available [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 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

EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE

For Sale. Two refurbished Aurora Plasmapheresis System devices with Certificate of Compliance for each device. Both devices have Software 2.0 installed. Asking for best offer. Location: Jackson, TN. Please contact LaTrina Morman, (731) 427-4431, or email latrinamorman@lifelinebloodserv.org.

For Sale. Two NEW Aurora Plasmapheresis System devices with Certificate of Compliance. NEVER USED. Currently, both have Software 2.0 installed. Asking for best offer. Location: Jackson, TN. Please contact LaTrina Morman, (731) 427-4431, or email latrinamorman@lifelinebloodserv.org.

POSITIONS

Assistant Manager - Product Quality Control (Carter BloodCare). Principal Accountability: The Assistant Manager Product Quality Control reports to the Manager of Product Quality Control and will be responsible for all daily, routine departmental activities and operations, consulting with the Manager, as needed. This position will oversee strict fiscal adherence to the budget and other administrative activities for the department, as assigned by the Manager, Technical Director, or Medical Director. The Assistant Manager is able and willing to perform any departmental task, as needed, to ensure efficient workflow within the department. Education: Bachelor of Science Degree and Minimum MT/MLS ASCP, or equivalent, required. Experience: Working knowledge of Product Quality Control instrumentation and parameters associated with donor collections. Strong working knowledge of blood bank policies and procedures. Comprehensive problem-solving skills. Good written and verbal communication skills. Excellent interpersonal and conflict resolution skills. Very strong customer service practices. Advanced computer skills. Comprehensive knowledge of administrative functions, including budget activities. Effective organizational skills, to include the ability to organize and prioritize workload, attention to detail, and consistently follow through with a commitment to excellence. Equal Opportunity Employer: Disability/Veteran. Apply at www.carterbloodcare.org, click Careers & search for job **Assistant Manager Product Quality Control**.

Quality Systems Director. Rock River Valley Blood Center, based in Rockford IL, is looking for a Quality Systems Director to oversee the strategic planning, development and execution of all quality systems and process improvement initiatives center wide. This includes business operations relating to blood collection, testing, manufacturing, distribution, document control, customer service, safety, risk management, training, internal and external audits/inspections. The position is responsible for ensuring the organization is in full compliance with

all applicable federal and state regulations and professional contract requirements. The successful candidate is a self-starter who will lead and champion all quality initiatives from start to finish, taking an influential, collaborative, team-oriented and business friendly approach. Must possess strong leadership skills with advanced knowledge and business acumen in quality system concepts and process improvement. Must have advanced analytical and problem-solving skills; exceptional attention to detail; ability to prioritize tasks; effective communication skills both verbally and in writing. Strong skills in Microsoft Office applications. Qualifications include: five-plus years' experience in a progressive quality systems role within a highly regulated environment, three-plus years supervisory and leadership experience, previous experience interpreting and implementing regulatory/accrediting standards, bachelor's degree in health science, quality management or related field. M.T. or M.L.S. (ASCP) a plus. CMQ/OE and/or CQA (ASQ) highly preferred. Please visit our careers site online to apply <https://www.rrvbc.org/careers/>.

Director, Public Relations and Marketing. Mississippi Blood Services (MBS) is seeking the right candidate for the highly visible position of Director of Public Relations & Marketing. We are looking for an individual with flexible skills who can oversee our Communications and Public Relations efforts to ensure we are able to collect and distribute the much-needed resource of blood donations! As the face of the company, the ideal candidate will be responsible for all aspects of Public Relations and Marketing, which includes recruitment of blood drives and telerecruitment. This individual will work with Public Relations, Marketing Representatives, Telerecruitment manager, and other managers to coordinate and organize ample daily collections of whole blood, double red cells, apheresis platelets, and plasma collections for the organization. They will also work in conjunction with other MBS management to set strategic

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POSITIONS (continued from page 8)

goals and objectives for the company. Must have a bachelor's degree (BA) from a four-year college or university; three to five years' related experience; or equivalent combination of education and experience. Visit www.msblood.com to apply online.

Purchasing Manager. LifeSouth Community Blood Centers is seeking a highly skilled leader with proven management experience and a passion for making a difference. The Purchasing Manager at our headquarters location in Gainesville, FL is responsible for vendor selection, negotiation, establishment and maintenance of all purchased materials, supplies, equipment, and services used by the company. The Purchasing Manager oversees daily operations of the Purchasing team, is organized and decisive, and can motivate the team to reach daily and long-range goals. Join our team and help us continue our dedication to making sure the blood is there when you or your family is in need. Visit our careers page to learn more about this position, and [apply here!](#)

Manager of Technical Services. The Blood Connection is seeking a proactive and results-driven Manager Technical Services to oversee and manage the daily operations within our technical departments which include Hospital Services, Biologics Processing, and Reference Laboratory. This position requires an understanding of laboratory operations, including specialist (SBB) skills, and involves supervising staff while performing essential functions within the laboratory. The ideal candidate will hold their SBB and have a background in the Reference Laboratory. This role is based in Morrisville, NC. Prospective candidates may be eligible for relocation assistance. How to apply: [Manager of Technical Services Application.](#) ♦