



# ABC NEWSLETTER

CURRENT EVENTS AND TRENDS IN BLOOD SERVICES

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2015 #4

January 30, 2015

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**FDA's CBER to Address Plasma Flexibility Issue This Year**

The Food and Drug Administration's Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research (CBER) released last week its [listing of guidance documents](#) to be published in 2015, including, among other important blood banking subjects, a draft guidance that would increase the flexibility of plasma regulations. This long-sought-after potential change to plasma labeling regulations is a major pillar of America's Blood Centers' [advocacy agenda](#) and would make it easier for ABC's member blood centers to sell apheresis plasma that is not transfused to manufacturers to make life-saving plasma therapeutics.

Over the past year, ABC's staff has worked – in collaboration with others in the blood community and patient groups – to promote on behalf of its member blood centers for improved plasma regulation flexibility before FDA and members of Congress. According to its 2015 document schedule, CBER plans to publish “Draft Guidance for Industry: Relabeling of Apheresis Plasma Intended for Transfusion to Concurrent Plasma for Further Manufacture.” Other guidance topics include recommendations for blood donor assessment in response to Ebola virus, revised HIV donor deferral recommendations, and recommendations to reduce the risk of transfusion-transmitted chikungunya virus (see a full listing [here](#)).

Current regulations regarding the sale of plasma to fractionators to be made into plasma protein therapeutics do not allow for the maximum use of the gift given by donors. Whole blood plasma can be shipped as “recovered plasma” to create essential plasma derivatives at any time during its shelf life. While apheresis plasma for transfusion bears the same labeling as whole blood plasma, FDA requires untransfused apheresis plasma to expire (one year from the data of collection) before it can be sent for fractionation. Because this adds medically unjustified operational complexities to its use, this is generally not done, causing the unused product to be wasted.

Increasing the flexibility of these regulations will allow blood centers to better meet the expectation of volunteer blood donors that every component of their donated blood be used maximally to save and enhance patient lives. The need for these critical plasma products has increased in recent years, and will continue to rise. Adding more plasma from blood centers would enhance supplies and help keep prices as low as possible.

“ABC applauds the FDA for prioritizing the guidance on plasma flexibility. ABC members are well positioned to match the utilization of currently unused

(continued on page 3)



## OUR SPACE

ABC President Dave Green

### I Didn't Know What I Didn't Know

I'd like to tell you I entered the Army solely out of patriotism. The truth is, my father strongly suggested it because he thought I was lazy and undisciplined. As it turned out, it was an excellent experience and a strong sense of patriotism eventually followed. I often wondered if I would have developed a similar sense of responsibility without the rather abrupt culture change introduced by my basic training drill sergeant and nine years in the Army. In retrospect, I think my military service accelerated changes that would have occurred regardless as I matured. Then again, compared to my father, I'm still lazy and undisciplined.

This past week, ABC's board of directors met for its annual "strategic thinking" retreat. One of the major issues we tackled was generational differences and how to position ABC's services accordingly. We had a facilitator who specializes in challenges related to generational differences and evolving an organization's services to resonate with generations X and Y. In reviewing responses from pre-meeting surveys conducted among both generational groups, it became clear that broadly grouping individuals into generational "buckets" is risky, as there were distinct differences within those 15-year classifications. Overall, the experience highlighted the importance of understanding our audience, encouraging long-term engagement, and cultivating opportunities for leadership in our field. Personally, I reflected on how different I was when I was in the same age groupings now labeled X and Y, and how I was likely perceived by senior leaders in blood banking. Sobering no doubt!

Without getting too philosophical on this issue (perhaps too late), I believe our opportunity for establishing and maintaining effective connections with all age groups is to ensure open and continuous dialogue. People are not static, nor are they easily "clumped." What resonates with some will undoubtedly fail to impress others, and what motivates someone today may not drive them tomorrow. Recognizing this, the ABC staff has undertaken a rigorous and ongoing review of its offerings to discern what members want and how best to deliver it. The ABC staff also understands the importance of tailoring offerings to match the evolving membership needs of different age groups. While this approach means offering new opportunities, it also means discontinuing support of others. Ultimately, the ABC staff is committed to delivering value for you, the members.

In the end, I probably know less than I thought I knew. But I also firmly believe gaining different perspectives from people of similar core values produces a powerful mix of ideas to deal with our challenges. Based on that, I am extremely optimistic about the future!

[DGreen@bloodsystems.org](mailto:DGreen@bloodsystems.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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Plasma Regulation Flexibility (continued from page 1)

equipment capacity and unused donor type capacity with the donors' expectation that we maximize their gift of life in a safe and efficient manner," said ABC CEO Christine Zambricki, DNAP, CRNA, FAAN.

Shortly after ABC's board of directors approved ABC's advocacy agenda, including the plasma regulation flexibility issue, the House Appropriations Subcommittee Report requested in March 2014 that FDA address this issue. ABC worked closely with Ranking Member Rep. Sam Farr (D-CA) of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA, and Related Agencies, to ensure that this issue was featured prominently during the fiscal year 2015 FDA Budget Hearing on March 27 (see [ABC Newsletter, 4/4/14](#)).

On Aug. 18, the blood community – including ABC, AABB, the American Red Cross, the Plasma Protein Therapeutics Association (PPTA), the International Plasma Fractionation Association (IPFA), and AdvaMed – submitted a letter to FDA Commissioner Margaret A. Hamburg, MD, supporting this change (ABC members can view all comment letters [here](#)). A similar letter was submitted by A-PLUS (the American Plasma Users Coalition), a coalition of 10 groups representing patients with rare disorders who require plasma products (see [ABC Newsletter, 8/29/14](#)). FDA has also met twice with representatives of ABC and other blood organizations to discuss the issue – appearing receptive to the suggested changes and willing to work together with blood industry stakeholders to move forward (see [ABC Newsletter, 11/7/14](#)).

ABC encourages its member blood centers to get involved in this issue by sending a letter to their congressional members promoting this change. ABC has created a [template letter](#) and a one-page informational [document](#) on this issue for ABC members.

ABC's member blood centers will also have the opportunity to make their voices heard on this issue and others during ABC's Advocacy Forum and visit to Capitol Hill on March 24 during the [ABC Annual Meeting](#). Before heading to the Hill, attendees can learn more about the current plasma landscape during the "ABC Business Forum: The Economics of Plasma" on March 21. ABC members and non-members interested in attending can register for the ABC Annual Meeting via the direct e-mail invitations sent by ABC or by contacting Lori Beaston at [lbeaston@americasblood.org](mailto:lbeaston@americasblood.org). (Source: FDA CBER guidance document schedule 2015, 1/23/15) ♦

### We Welcome Your Articles

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



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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. ♦*

### ABC's Got Talent Spotlight on Chris Staub and Mary Townsend

Have you checked out the talented performers participating in the first-ever ABC's Got Talent show fundraiser? The ABC's Got Talent virtual talent show allows contestants to show off their skills while raising money to support the Foundation for America's Blood Centers (FABC). Take a peek at the impressive acts below and check in next week to see two new acts highlighted!

**Chris Staub, Unyts, performing an original song "Boys from Pennsylvania."** Chris Staub, vice president of Blood Services at Unyts in Buffalo, N.Y., and his brother Tony Staub from York, Pa., perform one of Tony's original tunes from his band, Waitin' on a Train, titled "Boys from Pennsylvania." Listen to their song and vote for Mr. Staub's act at <http://bit.ly/StaubBrothers>.



**Mary Townsend, MD, Blood Systems, trick roping.** Mary Townsend spent her summers from the age of 3 months through 18 years old traveling with her parents on the rodeo circuit. Her father was a rodeo announcer and she and her brothers killed time by learning to trick rope and trick ride, starting when she was just 3 years old! She even impressed her now-husband, who she met during their medical residencies in Philadelphia, with her trick roping. After telling him about her skills, he responded "I'm not a fool, I know better than to think that every girl from Texas who claims to, can spin a rope!" She promptly opened up the trunk of her car, pulled out the ropes, and started trick roping under the lights of Washington Square in Philadelphia "He never accused me of making anything up after that," said Dr. Townsend. She has been in blood banking for 24 years, spending most of her career at Coffee Memorial Blood Center in Amarillo, Texas, where she continues to serve as a contract medical director for them.



Dr. Townsend is currently the senior medical Director at Blood Systems where she has worked for four years. She has a passion for donors and patients, particularly for improving the donation experience. She is interested in supporting FABC because she feels they fund worthy projects, such as a recent grant that allowed her to develop teaching materials including a video to use with her center's high school donor program. Other ABC centers have picked up the program and now use the materials. To view Dr. Townsend's video and help her lasso some votes visit <http://bit.ly/DrTownsend>.

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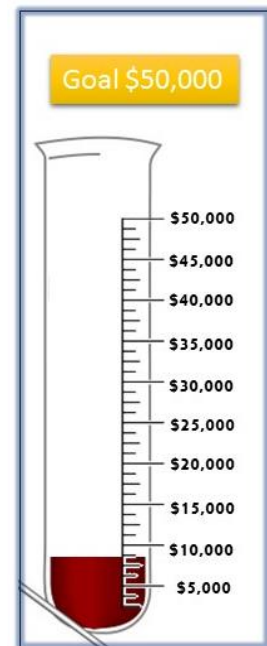


INSIDE ABC (continued from page 4)

### ABC's Got Talent Weekly Tally

The ABC' Got Talent contestants are competing for your votes, which can be made via donation to their online campaign, for a chance to be among the top five who perform live at the ABC Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. this March. Below are the acts that are currently in the lead at press time.

ABC's Got Talent Weekly Top 5		
Contestant(s)	Amount Raised	Link to Campaign
1. Kim-Anh Nguyen, MD, PhD	\$2,670	<a href="http://bit.ly/DrNguyen">http://bit.ly/DrNguyen</a>
2. Sher Patrick	\$1,090	<a href="httpbit.ly/SherPatrick">httpbit.ly/SherPatrick</a>
3. Pascal George	\$845	<a href="http://bit.ly/PascalGeorgeCJBC">http://bit.ly/PascalGeorgeCJBC</a>
4. Shepeard Blues Band	\$670	<a href="http://bit.ly/ShepeardBluesBand">http://bit.ly/ShepeardBluesBand</a>
5. Sharon Birzer	\$610	<a href="http://bit.ly/SharonBirzer">http://bit.ly/SharonBirzer</a>



Don't see your favorite act listed in the top five? View and vote for your favorite by following the links below.

- **James AuBuchon, MD**, Puget Sound Blood Center, bagpipe playing: <http://bit.ly/DrAuBuchon>;
- **Dan Eberts**, OneBlood, singing "Songs for All Seasons:" <http://bit.ly/DanEberts>;
- **Laurett Gannon**, Central Jersey Blood Center, singing "Look for the Silver Lining:" <http://bit.ly/LaurettGannon>;
- **Emily Shenk-DeMay**, Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center, singing "God Bless America:" <http://bit.ly/EmilyShenkDeMay>;
- **Mindy Smith**, Oklahoma Blood Institute, singing "Art is Calling Me" from *The Enchantress*: <http://bit.ly/MindySmithobi>;
- **Chris Staub**, Unyts, "Appalachian Instrumental Tune & Original Song" with brother Tony Staub: <http://bit.ly/StaubBrothers>;
- **Eric Stone**, Blood Systems, musician, <http://bit.ly/EricStoneBSI>; and
- **Mary Townsend, MD**, Blood Systems, rope tricking: <http://bit.ly/DrTownsend>.

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### America's Blood Centers Professional Institute (API): 2015 Meetings & Workshops At-A-Glance

Meeting/Workshop	Dates	Location	Hotel/Hotel Rate	Registration Dates & Fees Member /Non-Member
Annual Meeting	March 20-24	Washington, DC	Ritz-Carlton (Pentagon City), \$239/night	Dec. 10-Feb. 27: Annual (Fri-Tue) \$945 /\$1990 Annual (Sat-Tue) \$725 /\$1560 IBSF+Plasma (Fri-Sat) \$395 /\$395 IBSF (Fri) \$265 /\$265
Technical, Collections & Quality Workshops	May 5-7	Orlando, Fla.	Embassy Suites Downtown, \$174/night	Feb. 18-27: Early bird \$390/\$460 (2- or 3-day sessions); Feb. 28-April 10: Regular \$445/\$515 (2- or 3-day sessions) \$780/\$905
Fund Development, Communications & Donor Management Workshop	June 16-19	Chattanooga, Tenn.	DoubleTree, \$139/night	April 1-10: Early bird \$390/\$460/\$515 (2-, 3- or 4-day sessions) April 11-May 22: Regular \$445/\$515/\$565 (2-, 3- or 4-day sessions) \$780/\$905/\$990
Medical Directors Workshop	August 4 (precedes Summer Meeting)	Philadelphia, Pa.	Loews Philadelphia, \$199/night	May 6-July 10: \$415 /\$730
Summer Meeting	August 5-6	Philadelphia, Pa.	Loews Philadelphia, \$199/night	May 6-July 10: Summer+MD \$725 /\$1270 Summer \$625 /\$1095 MD+SMT \$445 /\$780
Financial Management Workshop	September 16-17	Chicago, Ill.	Westin O'Hare, \$175/night	July 8-17: Early bird \$390 July 18-Aug. 21: Regular \$445 /\$780

**2016 Meetings/Workshops:** Annual Meeting; Human Resources & Training/Development Workshops; Fund Development, Communications, and Donor Management Workshop; Medical Directors Workshop; Summer Meeting; and IT Workshops. Other workshops may be added at a later date. Check <http://members.americasblood.org/go.cfm?do=Page.View&pid=257> for the most up-to-date information.

Anyone wishing to attend these meetings/workshops as a sponsor should contact Abbey Nunes at [anunes@americasblood.org](mailto:anunes@americasblood.org) or (202) 654-2980.

### ABC Webinar to Present New Developments in Learning Management Systems

America's Blood Centers' Member Employee Training and Development Committee will hold a webinar on Feb. 26 at 2 p.m. EST, exploring what's new on the learning management systems (LMS) market.

Teresa Hutchinson, director of the MBA program at St. Ambrose University (Davenport, Iowa), will share with webinar attendees the top instructional technology tools for use in training, discuss the pros and cons of different systems, and describe methods to properly integrate technology tools in corporate training. ABC members can find more information and login details in [MCN 15-006](#). Questions may be directed to Leslie Norwood at [lnorwood@americasblood.org](mailto:lnorwood@americasblood.org).

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INSIDE ABC (continued from page 6)

## ABC Board of Directors, Guests, Staff Meet for Annual Retreat in Scottsdale

America's Blood Center's board of directors, committee chairs, executive leaders, and some ABC staff members met in Scottsdale, Ariz. last week for the annual board retreat, which was hosted by Blood Systems, Inc. The group explored shifting demographic trends in today's workforce, how best to deliver value to the ABC membership, progress on ABC's strategic plan, and ABC's vision and goals through 2020.

ABC invited Sarah Sladek, an experienced marketing and media professional who specializes in demographic shifts impacting trade associations, to facilitate the meeting. Ms. Sladek is the CEO and founder of XYZ University, helping membership associations and other non-profits identify their competitive advantage, embrace challenges, bridge gaps, increase return on investment, and remain relevant to future generations.



Sarah Sladek facilitates the ABC board of directors meeting last week in Scottsdale, Ariz.

Ms. Sladek has authored two books on the generational topic, as well as "The End of Membership as We Know It," which focuses on how the "perfect storm" fueled by economic and demographic shifts and changing technology have affected associations and altered the value proposition of membership. She was invited to facilitate discussion on this subject and provide insight into ABC's trends and future membership demographics.

The workforce and thus the constituency of membership associations have shifted from mostly Baby Boomers – those born between 1946 and 1964 – to a majority of Gen X (born in the 1960s to early 1980s) or Gen Y (born in the late 1980s to early 2000s), said Ms. Sladek. Beginning this year, Gen Ys make up the majority of the workforce. These shifts have a big impact on how organizations – including ABC as well as its member blood centers – deliver their services and communicate value to their customers or members, explained Ms. Sladek.

For example, baby boomers were considered "joiners," enthusiastically supporting their trade associations, while members of Gen X and Gen Y are more likely to ask "What's in it for me?" The board and attendees explored some of these differences between the various generations, how ABC can stay relevant, and the best ways to engage each generation (see Our Space on page 2 for more).

"The generational perspectives encouraged us to consider different approaches to achieving our strategic objectives," said ABC President-Elect Susan Rossmann, MD, PhD, chief medical officer, Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center.

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**INSIDE ABC** (continued from page 7)

The group also reviewed the results of a membership survey that Ms. Sladek conducted, seeking feedback from leaders among the ABC membership on the ABC services they most value. The results highlighted that ABC members highly value ABC's advocacy efforts focused specifically on community blood centers and the opportunity for networking within a niche community. They explored challenges in communicating ABC's value to the membership and how ABC could improve that function.

Ms. Sladek then led an activity focused on "ghosts, myths, and legends," challenging participants to brainstorm ghosts – negative perceptions that continue to "haunt" ABC despite being outdated, myths – false perceptions about ABC, and legends – areas where ABC has excelled in the past. The group discussed how ABC can eliminate ghosts and dispel myths, while focusing on expanding and communicating legends, such as advocacy. For example, ABC is continuing to grow its advocacy efforts through promoting increased regulatory flexibility regarding the labeling of plasma products and its value of blood project.

The board heard updates from ABC executives and staff members about progress on ABC's strategic plan, specifically the association's "five big rocks," or strategic objectives – Advocacy Excellence, Data Driven Excellence, Association Model Redesign, Education and Competency Development, and Governance Excellence. The board was enthused and impressed with the progress, particularly on the continuing development of the new ABC member's website, the soon-to-be-launched ABC Professional Institute (API), and the ABC Data Warehouse.

Next, Ms. Sladek led a review of the existing strategic plan and integrated the previously discussed concepts of demographic shifts delivering value to the membership into the development of the vision and goals for ABC through 2020. Wrapping up the meeting, each board member and ABC employee set individual 30-day goals, as well as long-term goals, for achieving ABC's strategic objectives and furthering the organization's mission of serving community blood centers.

"Including committee chairs and some of the ABC staff in the board retreat allowed us to ensure that the strategic plan is developed with input from the entire organization and implemented throughout ABC. They have great ideas, and often bring new viewpoints to the board," said Dr. Rossmann. She also thanked Blood Systems for their hospitality in hosting the meeting. ♦

**RESEARCH IN BRIEF**

**A study in the *Journal of Neurotrauma* suggests that the administration of platelets and desmopressin do not decrease the risk of progression of intracranial hemorrhage following traumatic brain injury (TBI).** Managing TBI shortly after the injury focuses on preventing a second brain injury and progression of intracranial hemorrhage. Previous studies have suggested the utility of platelet and desmopressin administration to prevent early hemorrhage progression following traumatic brain injury. Dennis Kim, MD, and colleagues of the Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, examined the impact of platelet transfusion and desmopressin administration on early hemorrhage progression following the initial radiographic diagnosis of TBI. They found that "platelet and desmopressin administration is not associated with decreased early radiographic hemorrhage progression in patients with traumatic intracranial hemorrhage." However, they note that prospective multi-institutional studies examining the outcomes in patients with traumatic brain injury may be necessary.

**Citation:** Kim D, *et al.* The Effect of Platelet and Desmopressin Administration on Early Radiographic Progression of Traumatic Intracranial Hemorrhage. *J Neurotrauma*. 2015 Jan 21. [Epub ahead of print]

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**RESEARCH IN BRIEF** (continued from page 8)

**An early uncontrolled clinical trial published in *JAMA* suggests that hematopoietic stem cell transplant (HSCT) may offer a treatment option for patients with relapsing multiple sclerosis (MS).** MS is thought to be an immune-mediated disorder of the central nervous system that in most patients begins as an inflammatory relapsing-remitting disease. Despite several available therapies, the majority of patients enter a secondary-progressive phase for which there is no effective therapy. Previous studies have suggested that HSCTs may offer a therapy option to MS patients designed to reset, rather than suppress, the immune system like the standard immune-based drugs. Richard K. Burt, MD, and colleagues at Northwestern University, conducted an open-label study of 145 patients with relapsing-remitting MS or secondary-progressive MS who were treated with one of two immune conditioning regimens followed by HSCT between 2003 and 2014. Half of the patients were followed up for at least two years. They found that Expanded Disability Status Scale (EDSS) (a method of measuring the level of disability in MS) improved with 50 percent of patients demonstrating improvement at two years and 64 percent at four years. “Among patients with relapsing-remitting MS, nonmyeloablative HSCT was associated with improvement in neurological disability and other clinical outcomes,” write the authors. They note that their study has many limitations due to its uncontrolled nature, and that further rigorous studies are necessary to confirm these findings.

**Citation:** Burt RK, *et al.* Association of nonmyeloablative hematopoietic stem cell transplantation with neurological disability in patients with relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis. *JAMA*. 2015 Jan 0;313(3):275-84. [♦](#)

## “A Monumental Affair” –A must-attend event!

Your chance to celebrate with colleagues, enjoy heavy Hors d’oeuvres and drinks, and laugh until you can’t laugh anymore while watching a live performance from “The Capitol Steps”, a political satire comedy troupe.

Tickets are \$200 or \$500 for VIP, which includes a moonlight limo tour of Washington, DC complete with champagne and strawberries. To register, please contact Jodi Zand at [jzand@americasblood.org](mailto:jzand@americasblood.org).



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## BRIEFLY NOTED

**The Armed Services Blood Program (ASBP) is supporting operations to respond to the Ebola outbreak in West Africa, according to a Jan. 9 [ASBP news release](#).** ASBP is a tri-service organization that requires coordination among the blood programs of the military services – Army, Navy, and Air Force – and the unified commands. A recent ASBP news release highlighted the efforts of Army Maj. Matthew Swingholm, a blood bank officer assigned to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany, who is responsible for managing joint blood program operations in both Europe and Africa. Among his many responsibilities, Maj. Swingholm is tasked with assisting in Operation United Assistance and the ongoing Ebola crisis in West Africa. According to the US Africa Command website, Operation United Assistance “provides coordination of logistics, training, and engineering support” in West Africa to assist in the Ebola crisis relief efforts and to “contain the spread of the Ebola virus, as part of the international assistance effort supporting the governments in Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Guinea,” reported the ASBP. The Department of Defense said in November that more than 2,500 US military personnel are in West Africa as part of Operation United Assistance to help battle the largest Ebola outbreak in history. Maj. Swingholm’s role was crucial to ensuring blood and blood products were delivered to the Forward Resuscitative Surgical System, the 440<sup>th</sup> Blood Support Detachment, and the US Public Health Services team at the Monrovia Medical Unit, an Ebola treatment unit constructed specifically for the treatment of medical workers who were infected while caring for Ebola patients, Army Lt. Col. Jason Corley, ASBP deputy director of operations, said in the ASBP news release. More information about these efforts can be found [here](#). (Source: ASBP news release, 1/9/15)

**The Joint Commission published its [2015 Patient Safety Goals \(NPSG\)](#), a set of standards addressing specific areas of concern in regard to patient safety for Joint Commission accredited healthcare facilities.** The Joint Commission is a non-profit organization that accredits and certifies more than 20,500 healthcare organizations and programs in the US. The NPSGs include goals and objectives in ambulatory healthcare, behavioral healthcare, critical access hospitals, home care, hospitals, lab services, long-term care, nursing care centers, and office-based surgery. Of interest to the blood community, the NPSGs include performance standards for blood transfusion, including goals focused on eliminating transfusion errors related to patient misidentification. There are no new additions to this year’s NPSGs. (Source: The Joint Commission 2015 National Patient Safety Goals) ◆

## REGULATORY NEWS

**Recommendations proposed by federal regulators that would change the informed consent policy in studies comparing two treatments considered standard of care have many in the medical community concerned about the regulations’ potential to hamper important clinical trials.** The [draft guidance](#), published in October 2014 by the Department of Health and Human Service’s Office of Human Research Protection (OHRP), requires a more explicit explanation of risks that participants may incur in clinical trials comparing two medical treatments or therapies already considered to be within the standard of care. “Prospective subjects ought to be informed of a particular risk that they may be exposed to if a research study is evaluating that risk and the subjects could avoid it if they were to decide not to participate,” states the draft guidance. Specifically, the draft guidance requires that physicians and researchers be clear with participants that randomization itself may alter an individual’s exposure to potential benefits and harms that may differ between patient groups. The authors of a recent commentary in *The New England Journal of Medicine* point out that this would require a longer, more explicit explanation of risk, even if the patients would incur the same risks receiving medical treatment outside of the research project. Researchers and other experts at a recent Institute of Medicine conference met to discuss the

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**REGULATORY NEWS** (continued from page 10)

proposed regulations and agreed that while the current informed consent policy is flawed, the new guidelines may have a chilling effect on clinical trials with longer and more complex informed consent forms deterring patients from participating and researchers from conducting trials. “Informed-consent documents may balloon beyond their already unreadable lengths. Such over-disclosure can easily become non-disclosure, if information about important possible harms and benefits gets buried in voluminous legalist text,” write Chana A. Sacks, MD, and Celestine E. Warren, AB, in *The New England Journal of Medicine*. The [draft guidance](#) is available for comments through the end of this month and could be finalized this year. (Source: The Washington Post, 1/19/15)

**Citation:** Sacks CA, Warren CE. Foreseeable risks? Informed consent for studies within the standard of care. *N Engl J Med*. 2015 Jan 22;372(4):306-7. ♦

**THE WORD IN WASHINGTON**

**Representative of the three major blood organizations – America’s Blood Centers, AABB, and the American Red Cross (ARC) – were active on the Hill yesterday, meeting with senior staff from the offices of US Rep. Mike Quigley (D-IL), Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), and Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) to discuss FDA’s recently published draft guidance suggesting that the current permanent blood deferral for men who have sex with men (MSM) be reduced to one year.** Louis Katz, MD, ABC’s chief medical officer, and ABC CEO Christine Zambricki, DNAP, CRNA, FAAN, joined Richard Benjamin, MD, PhD, chief medical officer of ARC’s Biomedical Services, Dawn Latham, ARC’s director of Government Relations, and Theresa Wiegmann, JD, AABB’s director of Advocacy, to provide a united message on behalf of the blood community.



Richard J. Benjamin, ARC; ABC CEO Christine Zambricki; and Theresa Wiegmann, AABB, stand outside of US Rep. Mike Quigley’s office.

Rep. Quigley is a member of the House Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education & Related Agencies. Sen. Baldwin and Sen. Warren are members of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions (HELP).

The purpose of the meeting was to allow members of congress on key committees to seek input regarding the impact of the proposed MSM change on blood centers in terms of a timeline for adoption and operational challenges that may arise associated with the guidance. Dr. Katz emphasized that implementation will be “deliberate,” although it will be months before a draft guidance is available and will require time for comment before issuance of a final guidance. Once the final guidance is released, implementation of the one-year deferral will most likely take many months to a year due to the requirement that the change process be consistent with good manufacturing practices (GMPs).

The team described the need for funding hemovigilance studies to monitor the impact of the altered regulations. All three groups have supported the change to a one-year deferral for MSM based on scientific evidence, and expressed their appreciation to the congressional offices for their regulatory and

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**THE WORD IN WASHINGTON** (continued from page 11)

advocacy and to the FDA for moving forward with the initiative.

“When the blood community speaks with one voice, the opportunities for success are strengthened,” said Dr. Zambricki. The three organizations will be collaborating with these key legislative offices to support NIH funding for studies related to MSM blood donation.

**Medicare recently released its schedule for transitioning to new payment models.** How will this impact blood centers? Medicare proposed on Jan. 26 to have 85 percent of its provider payments made in relation to healthcare quality or value outcomes by the end of 2016, moving away from straight fee-for-service payment and toward applying quality-measure incentives, bundled payment systems, and reimbursement to providers based on population health. Is there something in this model that could be adapted to promote a different reimbursement paradigm for blood centers that will financially support new blood safety technologies, such as pathogen reduction technology? America’s Blood Centers continues to advocate for advancing initiatives that promote the sustainability of the blood supply long term – including a critical look at the current reimbursement paradigm with an eye on options for improvement

**Marilyn Tavenner RN, MHA, FACHE, announced Jan. 16 that she is resigning from her post as Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) administrator in February or March.** She will be succeeded on an interim basis by Andrew Slavitt, who has served as the principal deputy administrator of the agency since early 2014. Mr. Slavitt, who holds an MBA from Harvard University, was brought onboard to recover and improve the [healthcare.gov](http://healthcare.gov) website from its troubled 2013 rollout. He will serve in an acting capacity until and unless he is confirmed by the Senate. The President has not yet officially submitted his nomination, but is expected to do so. ♦

**INFECTIOUS DISEASE UPDATES****EBOLA VIRUS**

***The New England Journal of Medicine* has reported the first peer-reviewed data on one of two Ebola vaccines currently under urgent development.** It demonstrates that the vaccine appears safe and immunogenic. Researchers at the University of Oxford in the UK administered a chimpanzee adenovirus 3 (ChAd3)-vectored vaccine to 60 healthy adult volunteers. The vector includes the surface glycoprotein of Zaire ebolavirus (EBOV), the strain causing the West Africa outbreak. They measured antibodies and cellular immune responses to the assessed safety over the next four weeks, and found that the ChAd3 monovalent vaccine against EBOV was immunogenic at the doses tested. Large clinical trials are being planned but may be hampered by the recent decline in Ebola transmission.

**Citation:** Ledgerwood JE, *et al.* Chimpanzee adenovirus vector Ebola Vaccine – Preliminary Report. *N Engl J Med.* 2014 Nov 26. [Epub ahead of print] ♦

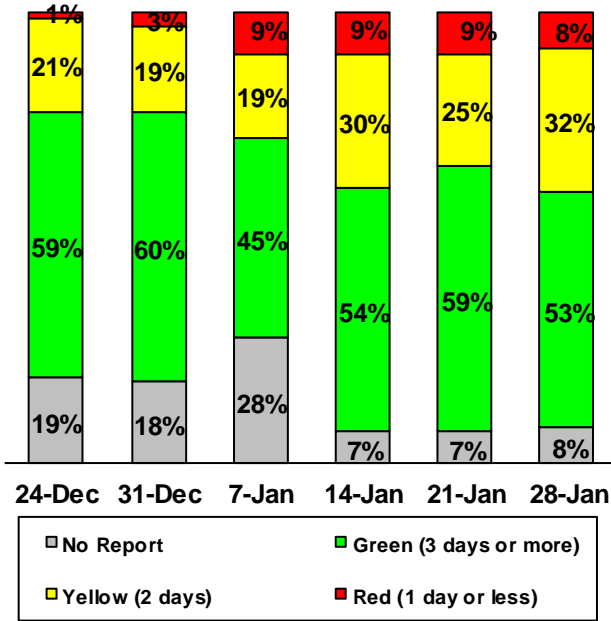
**We Welcome Your Letters**

The *ABC Newsletter* welcomes letters from its readers on any blood-related topic that might be of interest to ABC members. Letters should be kept relatively short and to the point, preferably about a topic that has recently been covered in the *ABC Newsletter*. Letters are subject to editing for brevity and good taste. Please send letters to Publications Editor Betty Klinck at [newsletter@americasblood.org](mailto:newsletter@americasblood.org) or fax them to (202) 393-1282. Please include your correct title and organization as well as your phone number. The deadline for letters is Wednesday to make it into the

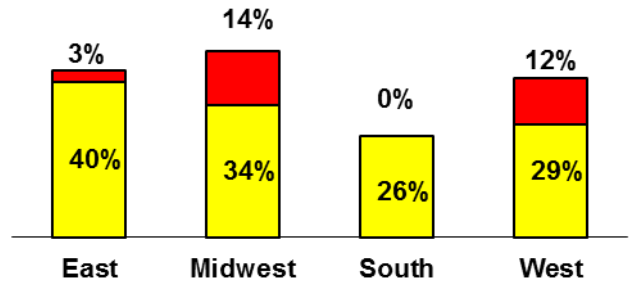


**STOPLIGHT®: Status of America’s Blood Centers’ Blood Supply**

**Total ABC Red Cell Inventory**



**Percent of Regional Inventory at 2 Days Supply or Less, January 28, 2015**



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

Daily updates are available at:  
[www.AmericasBlood.org](http://www.AmericasBlood.org)

**MEMBER NEWS**

**Blood Bank of Delmarva had more than 400 donors attend the OC Cares Blood Drive on Jan. 21 at the Ocean City Convention Center in Maryland.** “Blood donations can slow during the winter months, which makes the OC Cares Blood Drive so crucial to the members of the surrounding community,” said Michael Waite, BBD’s director of Marketing & Community Relations. This year marked the 17<sup>th</sup> time that Ocean City and BBD teamed up to host the blood drive. Since its inception, BBD has collected blood from nearly 8,000 donors. The town of Ocean City supports its many employees who wish to come donate blood during the drive, and members of the Ocean Pines Kiwanis Club volunteered their time and assistance to work at the drive. Many local businesses pitched in as well, providing free refreshments for donors. The Worcester County Girl Scouts also donated 15 cases of cookies for donors to enjoy at the drive.



A Blood Bank of Delmarva phlebotomist assists a donor at the OC Cares Blood drive

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**MEMBER NEWS** (continued from page 13)

**Blood centers across the US have been celebrating National Blood Donor Month throughout January to recognize and thank volunteer blood donors who give blood regularly.** BloodSource in California kicked off National Blood Donor Month with its media partner KCRA 3. The KCRA 3 Blood Drive for Life exceeded expectations, with more than 1,000 donors coming out to give blood during a holiday weekend on Jan. 2 and Jan. 3. KCRA 3 ran stories during the morning and evening news for five days prior to the drive about recent blood recipients, long-time survivors who required blood transfusions, and automated blood collection technology to educate and encourage their viewers to visit the blood drive held at four locations. BloodSource had 1,008 potential donors register and collected nearly 800 units of blood. Additionally, 300 first-time donors gave blood and 45 donors signed up for the Be the Match bone marrow registry. The Association of Donor Recruitment Professionals (ADRP) also celebrated National Blood Donor Month with the publication of its winter edition of "[The Drop](#)" newsletter. (Source: BloodSource press release, 1/5/15) ♦

**PEOPLE**

**Theresa Boyd, MD**, was recently named the new medical director of Blood Bank of Delmarva, Newark, Del. Dr. Boyd comes to BBD with more than 20 years of experience in leadership and patient care, and is a recognized expert in transfusion medicine, clinical laboratory science, and patient therapeutic apheresis medical services, according to a BBD press release. "We are very excited to welcome a medical director of such high caliber to the Blood Bank of Delmarva," said Roy Roper, BBD president and CEO. "Dr. Boyd's proven track record in analyzing existing operations and identifying growth opportunities will help further enhance the Blood Bank's position as a best in class blood bank." Dr. Boyd said, "I am very honored to join the Blood Bank of Delmarva as the first full-time medical director. Mr. Roper has assembled an excellent team. This team, and the fact that the Blood Bank of Delmarva is dedicated to serving the community, attracted me to the position. It feels very much like I've returned home." Dr. Boyd held a series of positions with progressively increasing responsibility at the American Red Cross (ARC), starting as chief medical officer of the Carolinas Region, which included roles as medical director for the National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP) and director of Clinical Services, culminating as executive medical officer for ARC National Headquarters in Washington, D.C. Dr. Boyd recently completed an appointment at the American University of the Caribbean, where she served as an associate professor of pathology. She has also served in a number of other medical and transfusion medicine leadership positions at numerous hospitals. Dr. Boyd has served on the board of directors for AABB and NMDP. After receiving her bachelor's degree in biology from Sarah Lawrence College in Bronxville, N.Y., Dr. Boyd earned her medical degree from Howard University College of Medicine in Washington, D.C. She completed an internship in internal medicine at St. Vincent's Hospital & Medical Center in New York, N.Y.; a residency in anatomic pathology at Howard University Hospital in Washington, D.C., completing her residency training in pathology and transfusion at Washington Hospital Center in Washington, D.C. Dr. Boyd is board-certified in Anatomic and Clinical Pathology with special board certification in Blood Banking & Transfusion Medicine. She has been published in numerous medical journals and is often invited to speak on blood banking and transfusion medicine topics. (Source: BBD press release, 1/28/15) ♦

## COMPANY NEWS

**Healthcare-ID, Inc. and Miller-Keystone Blood Center, an America's Blood Centers member, announced on Jan. 15 that Miller-Keystone successfully implemented Healthcare-ID's Donor-ID software on its fixed and mobile sites beginning Jan. 6.** The center went live with screening, phlebotomy, iCASI, and the Ultracrit and Welch Allyn Physical Exam interfaces, according to a Healthcare-ID [press release](#). "We are very excited to have Miller-Keystone Blood Center rolled out on Donor-ID. It's always rewarding to see another customer begin using the software in a live environment where they and the donors can really begin to see the true benefits of using Donor-ID," said Rick Stone, president and CEO of Healthcare-ID. Sean Tinney, director of Marketing at Miller-Keystone Blood Center, added, "We received a lot of positive feedback from our donors since the launch of Donor-ID. Those that completed Donor-ID at the blood center mentioned they noticed a significant decrease in the amount of time answering their Donor History Questions (DHQ). The donors who completed their DHQs prior to arriving for their donation loved the convenience and decreased time getting through the donation process once they arrived for their appointment." Also recently announced, the Food and Drug Administration approved Healthcare-ID's 510(k) application for Donor-ID version 3.2.6. More information is available in the FDA approval [documents](#). (Sources: Healthcare-ID press release, 1/15/15; FDA 510(k) approval documents, 1/23/15) ♦

## 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 Norwood at the ABC office. Phone: (202) 654-2917; fax: (202) 393-5527; e-mail: [lnorwood@americasblood.org](mailto:lnorwood@americasblood.org).

## POSITIONS AVAILABLE

**Associate Medical Director (Full-Time, Exempt; Availability 24/7, 365 days a year).** The Associate Medical Director position is divided between transfusion medicine responsibilities at our community hospitals, CLIA Laboratory Director and Medical Director to our Hematopoietic Progenitor Cell (HPC) Program. The Associate Medical Director contributes to the ongoing direction, monitoring, evaluation and quality assurance of Physician Services and research. At Memorial Blood Centers (MBC), the Associate Medical Director will assist with leading and managing physician services including managing and performing evaluations of physician service support staff, including staff in Lincoln, Nebraska. The evaluations should emphasize employee learning and development, achieving quality outcomes, improving processes, meeting customer needs with all programs. The Associate Medical Director will also have responsibility for the safety of the donors and the safety, efficacy, purity and potency of components released for transfusion. For a Complete Description and to apply, please follow the link below: <https://home2.eease.adp.com/recruit/?id=15803252>.

**Executive Director, Blood Operations AD001- San Antonio, TX.** Work directly with the chief operating officer to execute the mission of South Texas Blood & Tissue Center (STBTC). This executive leadership position is accountable for operational objectives and will ensure the strategic plan is met. In addition to oversight of daily operational functions, this position tracks and trends key performance indicators, quality metrics and financials, and takes appropriate action to ensure business viability. Bachelor's degree in Applied Science or Business required, MBA preferred. Successful execution of strategic objectives. Demonstrable success building teams to drive operational success in challenging and highly regulated environments required. Demonstrable success with implementing and sustaining process improvement. Ten years progressive managerial experience required. Experience managing donor recruitment, donor services, component manufacturing, and product management preferred. Texas Operator's License. Three years driving experience with good driving record required. Visit our website at

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**POSITIONS** (continued from page 15)

[www.biobridgeglobal.org](http://www.biobridgeglobal.org). E-mail résumé to [hr\\_dept2@biobridgeglobal.org](mailto:hr_dept2@biobridgeglobal.org). Call Human Resources (210) 757-9557. BioBridge Global and its subsidiaries are proud to be an EEO/AA-M/F/D/V/Genetic Data employer that maintains a Tobacco & Drug-Free Workplace. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, ethnicity, religion, sex, national origin, disability, veteran status, genetic data or other legally protected status.

**Assistant Director (Mobile Recruitment)-Mobile Operations – DR020- San Antonio, TX.** Responsible for managing, leading, mentoring and motivating the mobile recruitment team. Responsible for maximizing automated recruitment and will ensure teams meet and/or exceed 100 percent of assigned draw goals. Will plan, organize, promote, and coordinate all site recruitment activities. High School Graduate or equivalent required, bachelor's preferred. Five years sales preferred, extensive sales management experience preferred, supervisory experience required, and computer experience preferred. Three years driving experience with good driving record required. Certification/License: Texas Operators Driver's License. Visit our website at [www.biobridgeglobal.org](http://www.biobridgeglobal.org). E-mail résumé to [hr\\_dept2@biobridgeglobal.org](mailto:hr_dept2@biobridgeglobal.org). Call Human Resources: (210) 757-9557. BioBridge Global and its subsidiaries are proud to be an EEO/AA-M/F/D/V/Genetic Data employer that maintains a Tobacco & Drug-Free Workplace. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, ethnicity, religion, sex, national origin, disability, veteran status, genetic data or other legally protected status.

**Donor Relations Consultant.** Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center (MVRBC) has an exciting opportunity for a Donor Relations Consultant to develop strong relations with east central Illinois community organizations for hosting mobile blood drives. The ideal candidate will have strong communication and organizational skills, a demonstrated ability to obtain measurable goals, solid customer service experience, previous business to business experience, and the ambition to motivate others. This position requires an individual who is confident in public speaking; media relations experience is a plus. This is a full-time position working Monday through Friday with occasional evenings and weekends. A bachelor's degree, or equivalent combination of experience and education, is required to be considered; preferred studies include business, communications, or marketing. Must possess a valid driver's license, be insurable by MVRBC's insurance carrier, and be willing to drive within the MVRBC service area. We offer a competitive salary and excellent benefits including health, dental, vision, life, and 401(k). Pre-employment drug screen and background check required. The Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center is

a non-profit organization and an exclusive provider of blood products and services to more than 85 hospitals in Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, and Wisconsin. Equal Opportunity Employer: Minorities, Women, Veterans, Disabilities. To apply visit: [www.bloodcenter.org](http://www.bloodcenter.org).

**Director, Business Development.** Be a part of a dynamic and successful blood center in this changing healthcare environment! This key position is responsible for developing donor group relationships through sponsor/donor recruitment and donor event management and database marketing. We will rely on you to manage a cross-functional coordinated effort to develop and implement strategy to maximize collections through donor group relationship management across the departmental efforts in donor recruitment, collections and public relations. Position is accountable for executing successful campaigns, initiatives and promotions, and understanding and differentiating between activities to increase collections. This role is key in branding and messaging to foster a customer-focused culture resulting in increased donor/sponsor loyalty and new growth through tactical efforts targeted to collection strategies. We will rely on you to evaluate donor marketing programs across the organization, determine effectiveness of campaigns, and leverage programs. The ideal candidate will have a bachelor's degree and a minimum of five years' experience in marketing or business development with at least five years as a cross functional project management leader and a minimum of 7-10 years business to business sales experience required. The Blood Connection offers a competitive salary and benefits package. Apply by sending resume directly to [pgarrett@thebloodconnection.org](mailto:pgarrett@thebloodconnection.org).

**Technical Services Weekend Manager.** Kentucky Blood Center, located in Lexington, Ky., is seeking a self-starter to assist in achieving production and operation goals by supervising Technical Services staff during weekend hours. Job duties include, but are not limited to: supervising staff activities in Technical Services areas during weekend hours; meet all requirements and carries out all duties for General Supervisor for high complexity testing; help service hospitals by answering questions and resolving issues; facilitate smooth changing of shifts; assist in training of employees; conduct performance evaluations; assist with revising and reviewing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs); and perform Technical Services laboratory audits. Bachelor's of Arts or Science; Medical Technologist MT(ASCP) or Clinical Laboratory Sciences, or experience deemed equivalent. Two years experience in blood banking; and two years supervisory experience preferred. Competitive salary, comprehensive benefits including health/dental/life, LTD, STD, paid sick/vacations/holidays, EAP, 403(b) retirement savings plan, and pension plan. For more information or to

(continued on page 17)

**POSITIONS** (continued from page 16)

apply online, please visit [www.kybloodcenter.org/](http://www.kybloodcenter.org/). Drug-free and EOE/AAP

**Director, Donor Services.** The Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center is searching for a dynamic individual to join our Donor Services management team as a Director, Donor Services. This position is based in Davenport, IA. We are excited to announce this opening as an expansion to our current team. This individual will support our current operations with oversight to the assigned mobile and fixed site staff located in eastern Iowa and western Illinois. As Director, Donor Services you can expect to be involved in all aspects of staffing management including; but not limited to, interviewing and hiring, staff development, annual performance reviews, counseling and coaching. Additionally, this position will ensure compliance to established regulations, procedures, cGMP, criteria, and standards. The ideal candidate will have two to five years' experience in previous blood center setting or similar experience with supervisory experience preferred. A Bachelor's degree in biology or related science or business field is preferred. This position does require the ability to travel 25-50 percent of the work-week within the MVRBC service territory. We offer a competitive salary and excellent benefits including health, dental, vision, life, and 401(k). Apply online at [www.bloodcenter.org](http://www.bloodcenter.org), click on join our team. *Equal Opportunity Employer of Minorities, Females, Protected Veterans, and Individuals with Disabilities.*

**QA Technical Specialist – Full time (Carter Blood-Care – East Texas).** This position performs quality assurance functions which include: review of technical (laboratory operations) and other departmental quality assurance activities; review and approval of technical and other departments' operating procedures; preparation of QA departmental reports and procedures; perform quality assurance audits; and provide quality assurance support to all operational departments with an emphasis in technical areas. MT(ASCP) or equivalent required. Three years' experience in a hospital laboratory or transfusion service operation required; two years' experience in Quality System function application preferred. Carter BloodCare (CBC) is an EEO/Affirmative Action employer. CBC provides equal employment opportunities (EEO) to all employees and applicants and will not discriminate in its employment practices due to an employee's or applicant's race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, genetic, and veteran or disability status. In addition to federal law requirements, Carter BloodCare complies with applicable state and local laws governing nondiscrimination in employment in every location in which the company has facilities. CBC is a Pro Disabled & Veteran Employer. We maintain a drug-free workplace and perform pre-employment substance abuse testing. Qualified candidates may apply online at [www.carterbloodcare.org](http://www.carterbloodcare.org).

**Medical Director.** The Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center (MVRBC) is searching for a full-time Medical Director in Springfield, Ill. to support our operations throughout Illinois and Missouri. The Medical Director is primarily responsible for supporting the Chief Medical Officer and providing quality service to our hospital clients. The Medical Director will support medical processes and procedures to ensure optimal medical care and regulatory compliance of IRL, have medical oversight of research endeavors, clinical consultation, medical support of clients, donor collections and counseling. This position will oversee and validate all Laboratory Standard Operation Procedures in conjunction with the Laboratory Director to establish compliance with manufacturer's directions, cGMP, and QA. This position will work closely with MVRBC Executive Management regarding laboratory issues and represent MVRBC to physicians and other public outreach regarding laboratory services. Requirements: MD Equivalent from an accredited medical institution, license to practice in assigned state(s) or ability to obtain, Board Certified in AP/CP or CP from American Board of Pathology (ABP), and Board Certified or eligible in Blood Banking/Transfusion Medicine from ABP. To apply, visit [www.illinoisdiversity.com/j/10170631](http://www.illinoisdiversity.com/j/10170631). MVRBC is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization and an exclusive provider of blood products and services to hospitals in Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, and Wisconsin. EOE: M,W, V,D.

**Account Manager.** Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center (MVRBC) is searching for an Account Manager (AM) to cultivate successful relationships with assigned client accounts. The AM will develop relationships with hospitals to include specific, technical education on blood; blood industry updates; and support hospital regulatory compliance. This dynamic position will consist of approximately 25-50 percent travel primarily in the Central Illinois to St. Louis region. The AM will support distribution of blood products by supporting sales and conducting inventory management as appropriate. This position requires a high understanding of laboratory science, specifically blood banking, in order to effectively communicate between hospital clients and lab staff. The ideal candidate will also possess experience in customer service/product marketing and/or understanding of inventory management. Statistical and data analysis experience is preferred. Candidates should have a bachelor's degree in Biology or related science field, business degree with demonstrated science background, or equivalent combination of experience and education will be considered. To apply, complete our online application, attaching a resume, at [www.illinoisdiversity.com/j/9734720](http://www.illinoisdiversity.com/j/9734720). Pre-employment drug screen and background check required. MVRBC is a non-profit organization and an exclusive provider of blood products and services to hospitals in Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, and Wisconsin. EOE: M,W,V,D



## CALENDAR

*Note to subscribers: Submissions for a free listing in this calendar (published in the last issue of each month) are welcome. Send information to Leslie Norwood by e-mail ([lnorwood@americasblood.org](mailto:lnorwood@americasblood.org)) or by fax to (202) 393-5527. (For a more detailed announcement in the weekly "Meetings" section of the Newsletter, please include program information.)*

### 2015

Feb. 11-13. **TransFuse 2015: Transformative-Fusion of Innovative Patient Blood Management, Phoenix, Ariz.** More information and registration details can be found at <http://bit.ly/1wM1JKz>.

Feb. 14-15. **SBB Last Chance Review, Houston, TX or by webinar.** Sponsored by Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center in Houston, this intensive, two-day annual blood banking review is designed to benefit individuals preparing to take the ASCP Board of Certification examination in the SBB or BB category, physicians preparing for the Board examination in Blood Banking, as well as individuals seeking a refresher course in blood banking. This SBB review provides 13 P.A.C.E., California and Florida continuing education hours. Included in the registration are handouts with references, case studies and practice questions. Registration details at <http://www.giveblood.org/education/sbb-last-chance-review/>. Contact Clare Wong, 713-791-6201, [cwong@giveblood.org](mailto:cwong@giveblood.org).

Feb. 23-24. **AdvaMed 510(k) Submissions Workshop, Washington, D.C.** More information and registration details can be found at <http://bit.ly/1FaJaC5>.

Feb. 25. **AdvaMed IDE Submissions Workshop, Washington, D.C.** More information and registration details can be found at <http://bit.ly/1vwnzm3>.

March 13. **Center for Patient Safety 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, St. Louis, Mo.** More information and registration details can be found at [www.centerforpatientsafety.org/2015conference](http://www.centerforpatientsafety.org/2015conference).

March 20. **International Blood Safety Forum, Washington, D.C.** For more information, e-mail [contact@globalhealing.org](mailto:contact@globalhealing.org).

March 20-24. **Annual Meeting, America's Blood Centers, Washington, DC.** Contact: ABC Meetings Dept. Phone: (202) 654-2901; e-mail: [meetings@americasblood.org](mailto:meetings@americasblood.org).

March 25-26. **NHLBI State of Science Meeting in Blood Banking and Transfusion Medicine, Bethesda,**

**Md.** More information and registration details can be found at <http://bit.ly/1tnjB8y>. Contact: Simone Glynn, MD, MPH: [glynnsa@nhbli.nih.gov](mailto:glynnsa@nhbli.nih.gov).

April 22-24. **ADRP Annual Conference, Denver, Colo.** More information available at [www.adrp.org/conference](http://www.adrp.org/conference).

May 5-7. **Technical, Collections & Quality Workshops, America's Blood Centers, Orlando, Fla.** Contact: ABC Meetings Dept. Phone (202) 654-2901; e-mail: [meetings@americasblood.org](mailto:meetings@americasblood.org).

May 20-21. **IPA/PEI 22<sup>nd</sup> International Workshop on "Surveillance and Screening of Blood Borne Pathogens," Prague, Czech Republic.** More information about the workshop can be found at <http://bit.ly/1tnjXfe>. Contact: Mariska Mooijekind: [info@ipfa.nl](mailto:info@ipfa.nl).

June 16-19. **Fund Development, Communications, & Donor Management Workshop, America's Blood Centers, Chattanooga, Tenn.** Contact: ABC Meetings Dept. Phone (202) 654-2901; e-mail: [meetings@americasblood.org](mailto:meetings@americasblood.org).

Aug. 4-6. **Summer Meeting & MD Workshop, America's Blood Centers, Philadelphia, Pa.** Contact: ABC Meetings Dept. Phone: (202) 654-2901; e-mail: [meetings@americasblood.org](mailto:meetings@americasblood.org).

Sept. 16-17. **Financial Management Workshop, America's Blood Centers, Chicago, Ill.** Contact: ABC Meetings Dept. Phone: (202) 654-2901; e-mail: [meetings@americasblood.org](mailto:meetings@americasblood.org).

Sept. 28-29. **IPFA/BCA 2<sup>nd</sup> Global Symposium on the Future for Blood and Plasma Donations, Dallas, Texas.** Contact: e-mail: [info@pifa.nl](mailto:info@pifa.nl). More information available [here](#). ♦