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*Please Note: The ABC Newsletter will not be published next week, Oct. 31, due to ABC staff attending the AABB Annual Meeting in Philadelphia. Publication will resume on Nov. 7.*

## ABC's Ruth Sylvester to Receive ASBP's 2014 Lifetime Achievement Award

The Armed Services Blood Program (ASBP) announced on Oct. 17 that retired Air Force Lt. Col. Ruth Sylvester and retired Navy Cmdr. Jerry Holmberg, PhD, will receive this year's ASBP Lifetime Achievement Award. Lt. Col. Sylvester has served as America's Blood Centers' director of Regulatory Services since July 2005.

Since being established in 2009, the Lifetime Achievement Award has recognized those who exemplify tireless dedication to the military blood program. Each year, the ASBP awards individuals whose accomplishments have had a transformative effect on blood banking in the military, according to the ASBP press release.

"It is my honor to recognize Lt. Col. Sylvester and Cmdr. Holmberg with the 2014 Lifetime Achievement Award," Navy Capt. Roland Fahie, ASBP director, said. "These two have made great contributions to military blood banking and their accomplishments have truly helped the ASBP save countless lives."

**Retired Air Force Lt. Col. Ruth Sylvester.** Lt. Col. Sylvester has more than 30 years of experience in both clinical laboratories and blood banks, specializing in troubleshooting and improving operations. Over the course of her 22 years in the Air Force, she excelled in various positions, including as a leader in the clinical laboratory and in blood banking, said the ASBP.



According to Air Force Lt. Col. Angela Hudson, Lt. Col. Sylvester excelled as the first Air Force quality assurance coordinator. She developed the program from the ground-up, collating and analyzing the five years of errors, and Food and Drug Administration data and used the results to identify improvements. "Her efforts resulted in reducing FDA discrepancies by 50 percent and FDA reportable errors by 38 percent," Lt. Col. Hudson wrote to the ASBP in her nomination letter.

From 1998 to 2000, Lt. Col. Sylvester served as the chief of the Air Force Blood

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## OUR SPACE

**FABC Board Chair Roy Roper, President & CEO, Blood Bank of Delmarva**

### How Do We Honor an Industry Visionary?

Earlier this year, we lost a respected leader in the blood banking community – one who was recognized for his financial acumen, industry vision, and perhaps most importantly, his ability to put aside personal feelings and unite those with opposing viewpoints for the greater good. Jerry Haarmann, who you likely know as the guiding force behind Group Services for America’s Blood Centers (GSABC), was not only a visionary, but also a friend and mentor to many of us.

Jerry served as an executive leader in blood banking for more than 20 years. First serving as CEO of Memorial Blood Centers and later as the president of GSABC – a forward-thinking, member-owned group purchasing organization, which he was instrumental in founding. Following Jerry’s passing, many of his colleagues asked themselves – how can we possibly honor someone who contributed so much to our industry?

The Foundation for America’s Blood Centers’ (FABC) board and a group of Jerry’s former colleagues recently decided to raise \$50,000 through the FABC to fund a leadership in blood banking certificate program in his name. The leadership program will eventually be offered to blood banking professionals through the ABC Professional Institute, which is currently being developed. What better way is there to honor Jerry than to carry on his legacy of developing future blood banking leaders?

Jenny Ficenc, who formerly worked with Jerry at GSABC said that he “had a great eye for talent, not only to recognize developed skills, but the ability to see strengths, competencies, and aspirations in people – even when they had not yet recognized it in themselves.” Jerry was known to promote or hire people despite doubts in their own abilities. Time and time again, “Jerry pulled talent out of the basement and from behind the bench ... molding that talent into future managers, directors, vice presidents, and CEOs,” Jenny told us.

This is just one of numerous anecdotes that I have heard from Jerry’s former colleagues, speaking not only of his ability as a leader, but again consistently highlighting his willingness to foster skill development and growth in others, and his genuine compassion for those around him. To ensure that the FABC can continue his work, please help us reach our \$50,000-goal by making a *personal* contribution to the Jerry Haarmann Memorial Campaign at <http://bit.ly/JerryHaarmann>, or mail a check to: The Foundation for America’s Blood Centers, Attn: Jodi Zand/Jerry Haarmann Memorial Campaign, 725 15<sup>th</sup> St. NW, Ste. 700, Washington, DC 20005.

Jerry recognized and encouraged many to pursue new career goals and to “shoot higher.” Your support in helping FABC to carry on this legacy is greatly appreciated.

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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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Sylvester, Holmberg Receive Award (continued from page 1)

Program. In this position, she developed and disseminated blood policy for 38 Air Force medical treatment facilities, transfusing 20,000 units at 12 blood donor centers and collecting 30,000 units annually, Lt. Col. Hudson said. Under her leadership, her team also conceptualized and evaluated the Expeditionary Medical Support laboratory capabilities to ensure adequate support to the revolutionary wartime medical field asset.



As the deputy director of operations for the ASBP, Lt. Col. Sylvester was a key strategist of the Operation Iraqi Freedom blood support plan, delivering 62,000 units to Iraq. According to Lt. Col. Hudson, this enabled 8,000 transfusions to more than 2,000 patients. She also helped increase blood collections by 42 percent, while decreasing deferrals by 25 percent by implementing donor marketing and recruitment programs.

In 2003, Lt. Col. Sylvester became the 14<sup>th</sup> director of the ASBP. In this role, she was instrumental in directing the Department of Defense Joint Health Agency that manages the global policies, planning, and operations of a then-\$76 million blood program for military departments and combatant commands, said the ASBP in the press release. Her accomplishments included fielding a triad of automated tools for achieving goals by capitalizing on emerging technology and integrating systems into a cohesive network.

Lt. Col. Sylvester was always active in medical readiness and disaster preparedness and excelled as the Department of Defense (DoD) liaison to the AABB Interorganizational Task Force for Domestic Disasters and Terrorism. She led disaster preparedness planning to ensure continued operations during natural and manmade emergencies and continues to assist and support America's Blood Centers' member organizations with developing local plans. Recently, Lt. Col. Sylvester has co-authored a chapter on disasters in the last two editions of the AABB technical manuals and has spoken at several state-level workshops on disaster planning for blood.

“She was a liaison to an international group of blood pandemic influenza planners who are coordinating and sharing best practices to ensure uninterrupted blood supply worldwide during a potential pandemic outbreak,” Lt. Col. Hudson said. “She is truly an outstanding representative of the ASBP. It was my pleasure to nominate her for the ASBP Lifetime Achievement Award.”

In her role as ABC's director of Regulatory Services, Lt. Col. Sylvester assists ABC members with a variety of issues pertaining to blood center regulations set forth by the Food and Drug Administration, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments, AABB, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and other standard-setting organizations. She also leads ABC's disaster preparedness efforts to assist members in preparing for and responding to disasters. She is also an integral member of the team bringing ABC's Data Warehouse to fruition, which will enable the collection of member data for benchmarking, advocacy, and educational purposes.

“The ABC staff and members offer heartfelt congratulations to Lt. Col. Sylvester for her past service to the military,” said ABC Chief Medical Officer Louis Katz, MD. “We recognized in Ruth's work at ABC

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Sylvester, Holmberg Receive Award (continued from page 3)

the same qualities for which she is being recognized by the ASBP – intelligence, organization, hard work, and a direct approach to problem solving and communications.”

**Retired Navy Cmdr. Jerry Holmberg.** Cmdr. Holmberg has more than 43 years of experience in all areas of laboratory medicine with a concentration on blood bank operations, research, education and policy, according to the ASBP. Commissioned in the US Navy as a lieutenant junior grade in 1980, Cmdr. Holmberg began his career assigned to the Blood Bank and Transfusion Center at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md.



“During this time, he expanded blood donor operations, including tri-service donor collections with US Air Force and US Army personnel, thereby laying the groundwork for the establishment of joint operations,” said 2010 Lifetime Achievement Award winner retired Navy Cmdr. W. Patrick Monaghan, PhD, in his nomination letter.

Cmdr. Holmberg went on to serve as the head of the Transfusion Service in Bethesda and earned a doctorate with an immunohematology concentration after graduating from the Specialist in Blood Banking Fellowship Program in 1986. From there, he served as the director of the US Pacific Command Blood Program Office. During that time, he established the massive frozen red blood cell prepositioned supply for the ASBP. By 1990, he was serving as the director of the National Naval Medical Center Blood Bank where he performed studies on the use of newly developed blood processing equipment for improved blood component therapy.

From 1995 to 1998, Cmdr. Holmberg served as the director of the Navy Blood Program. In this capacity, he was responsible for 19 FDA-licensed blood donor centers and eight transfusion services. In 2000, Cmdr. Holmberg retired from active duty service, but his scientific expertise and contributions have continued. He is an active participant in the US President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief.

“Dr. Jerry Holmberg has made numerous contributions to the military and our country over several careers which have spanned 43 years,” said Cmdr. Monaghan said. “His numerous accomplishments over all these years will serve as an outstanding example for other blood bank officers to emulate.”

Both Lt. Col. Sylvester and Cmdr. Holmberg will be honored on Oct. 25 at the ASBP’s Workshop at the AABB Annual Meeting in Philadelphia (<http://bit.ly/10p0KDI>). Those attending the AABB Annual Meeting are welcome to come celebrate this accomplishment. (Source: ASBP press release, 10/17/14) ♦

### Join ABC in Giving Back Through Caps for Kids Day!

America’s Blood Centers will participate in Caps for Kids’ Corporate Cap Day on Nov. 14 to help kids fighting cancer. Caps for Kids is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to providing ball caps autographed by celebrities, athletes, and other notable entertainers to children and adolescents undergoing chemotherapy treatment in their battle with cancer. Corporate Cap Day enlists the helps of companies and other workplaces by asking staff to donate \$5 to support Caps for Kids and show their team pride by wearing their favorite ball cap to work on Nov. 14. If blood centers would like to join ABC in supporting this cause, more information can be found at <http://bit.ly/1wupl3I>. Send your photos and caption information to [newsletter@americasblood.org](mailto:newsletter@americasblood.org) to be included in the *Newsletter’s* coverage of Corporate Cap Day.



**America's Blood Centers®**  
It's About *Life.*

## INSIDE ABC

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

### **ABC to Provide Advocacy Agenda Update in Government Affairs Webinar**

America's Blood Centers will hold a webinar providing an update on its advocacy agenda on Thursday Oct. 30 at 2 p.m. ET. During this webinar, ABC will share details and give a status report on ABC's advocacy agenda accomplishments through the fiscal year's first two quarters. ABC members can find more information and login details in [MCN 14-113](#). ♦

### **BRIEFLY NOTED**

The Virginia Blood Foundation announced last week a \$1 million grant to support the Virginia Children's Hospital Alliance. The announcement was made to an audience of nearly 400 physicians, hospital CEOs, and other community leaders during a celebration at the Jefferson Hotel in Richmond, Va. The grant is designed to establish best practices in pediatric medicine for the state's first freestanding children's hospital. Virginia Blood Foundation's grant is the first of its kind awarded by a non-profit organization to help strategically meet the needs of the new children's hospital. "We hope other organizations will follow Virginia Blood Foundation's lead as we work to develop and deliver the best system of pediatric care addressing the needs of our community and the Commonwealth," said Katherine Busser, CEO of the Virginia Children's Hospital Alliance. Freddy Cobb, Virginia Blood Foundation chair, added "It was obvious that this grant would have significant impact on a large geographical region, serving pediatric patients throughout Virginia and beyond. That impact is very important to our mission." This grant supports the collaborative effort between Virginia Children's Hospital Alliance, Bon Secours Virginia Health System, and Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) Health System to establish a children's hospital in Richmond. "An independent children's hospital in Richmond is an audacious goal that is worth pursuing because we have faith in the community, physicians, and other pediatric healthcare providers – many represented in this room – to put our children first," said Michael Rao, PhD, president of VCU and VCU Health System. President and CEO of the Virginia Blood Foundation Robert Carden, PhD, said that he and the Virginia Blood Foundation are proud to support this collaboration. "Our mission is to work with hospitals throughout Virginia to ensure best practices in transfusion medicine" said Dr. Carden. In addition to the funds awarded to the Virginia Children's Hospital Alliance, the Virginia Blood Foundation also recently awarded grants to Winchester Medical Center, Winchester, Va.; University of Virginia Health System, Charlottesville; VCU's Department of Clinical Laboratory Sciences, Richmond and Abingdon; and VCU Health System, Richmond. Commenting on the turnout for the grant reception, Reginald Gordon, CEO of the American Red Cross of Virginia and a Virginia Blood Foundation board member said, "The turnout tonight shows how supportive the community is of this partnership. Tonight is a great example of what we can achieve together. Virginia Blood Foundation's neutrality provides the organization with a unique opportunity to bring the transfusion community together to better serve patients throughout the commonwealth." Virginia Blood Foundation is a free-standing, private foundation dedicated to championing excellence in transfusion medicine, governed by an independent board of directors. It is not affiliated with any blood center or other organization. Virginia Blood Foundation does not raise money to support its activities but rather generates operating and grant funds through its investment portfolio, according to a Virginia Blood Foundation press release. (Source: Virginia Blood Foundation press release, 10/20/14) ♦

## REGULATORY NEWS

**The International Council for Commonality in Blood Banking Automation (ICCBBA) has experienced a delay in its plan to release the restructured ISBT 128 Product Description Code Database as version 6.0.0 has been delayed, ICCBBA announced in an e-mail update on Tuesday.** Therefore, version 5.4.0 that is now available will continue with the old structure, noted ICCBBA. All database updates are listed in the version control sheet. This version of the database can be downloaded as a Microsoft Access database or as Text file tables. New product codes for medical products of human origin can be requested via their respective forms found on the ICCBBA website (with login) at <http://bit.ly/1zmb7rb>. ISBT 128 is the global standard for the identification, labeling, and information transfer of medical products of human origin. ICCBBA also announced that the Standard Terminology version 5.4 document is now available. The Standard Terminology document is given a new version each time there is a change to the class or attribute tables of the ISBT 128 Product Description Code Database. It can be viewed at <http://bit.ly/1tftzli>. (Source: ICCBBA e-mail update, 10/21/14) ♦

## GLOBAL NEWS

**Global Blood Fund (GBF), a non-profit charity that works to improve the safety and availability of blood in resource-scarce nations, recently announced two grant programs to support blood services in developing nations.** GBF is currently accepting applications for the inaugural round of its Small Grants Program to assist blood donor recruitment efforts in developing nations. These grants are designed to encourage and enable innovative approaches in blood donor recruitment and retention. Applications will be accepted until the end of October, but GBF is awarding grants to standout requests as they are received. To date, these include a grant of \$2,500 to Kenya to help train the leaders of faith-based organizations as donor recruiters. A similar sum granted to Tanzania will help the blood service establish after-school blood donor clubs to leverage the enthusiasm of young people for donating blood. GBF also announced its International Donor Recruitment, Engagement, and Management (IDREaM) Bursary. IDREaM awardees will spend time with a blood center in either Europe or the US. They will participate in a learning program focused on donor optimization. They will also be equipped with skills to share new knowledge with coworkers upon return, said GBF in a recent e-mail newsletter. More information about both programs can be found at [www.globalbloodfund.org](http://www.globalbloodfund.org). (Source: Global Focus Fall 2014, 10/17/14) ♦

## INFECTIOUS DISEASE UPDATES

### DENGUE VIRUS

Results from a phase-III trial published in *The Lancet* report a candidate vaccine that provided moderate protection against dengue virus among children in Asia. There is great enthusiasm about a dengue vaccine, as more than 50 percent of the world's population live in regions at risk for this mosquito-borne illness, with an estimated 100 million people developing symptomatic dengue infection each year. Maria Rosario Capeding, MD, of the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine in the Philippines, and colleagues build on previous research with a multicenter phase-III randomized, observer-masked, placebo-controlled efficacy trial of their recombinant, chimeric, live-attenuated tetravalent dengue vaccine (CYD-TDV). Capeding and colleagues conducted their trial in five countries in the Asia-Pacific region and assessed 10,275 children aged 2-14 years. The primary objective was to estimate protective efficacy against symptomatic, virologically confirmed dengue after the completion of three doses of CYD-TDV

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**INFECTIOUS DISEASE UPDATES** (continued from page 8)

given six months apart (at months 0, 6, and 12). The primary analysis included 6,710 children assigned to receive the vaccine and 3,350 to placebo. The researchers observed 250 cases of virologically confirmed dengue more than 28 days after the third injection – 117 in the vaccine group and 133 in the control group. The incidence density of virologically confirmed dengue during the 25-month active surveillance phase was 1.8 percent in the vaccine group and 4.1 percent in the control group – translating to an overall protective efficacy of 56.6 percent. Efficacy was serotype specific – consistent with the previous, single-center, phase 2b trial in Thailand. The vaccine prevented more than 75 percent of serotype 3 and 4 dengue, and 50 percent of those caused by serotype 1, over the 12-month period following the 28<sup>th</sup> day after dose 3. However, the vaccine efficacy was only 35 percent against serotype 2. “In view of the high disease burden in endemic countries ... this vaccine candidate, despite moderate overall efficacy, could have a substantial effect on public health. That vaccination provided clinically important reductions in hospital admissions and prevented 80 percent of cases of dengue hemorrhagic fever is particularly noteworthy in this context” wrote the authors. Annelies Wilder-Smith, MD, PhD, at the Nanyang Technological University in Singapore, wrote in an accompanying editorial that these results suggest “the main indication for this vaccine should be to protect against severe disease, reduce hospital admissions and hence healthcare costs, and potentially prevent deaths.” Dr. Wilder-Smith asks, “Does an overall efficacy of 56 percent justify introduction of this dengue vaccine into national immunization programs in dengue-endemic countries?” She argues that it does. “With an estimated 96 million clinically apparent dengue infections annually, a reduction by half would present a substantial public health benefit that would support vaccine introduction.” While there are numerous questions to be answered relating to cost-effectiveness and the vaccine’s apparently lower protection against serotype 2, Dr. Wilder-Smith notes that “for the moment, the CYD-TDV vaccine is the best we have.” Continued investment in research and development of this and other candidate vaccines are required to better control dengue virus, she concludes.

**Citations:** Capeding MR, *et al.* Clinical efficacy and safety of a novel tetravalent dengue vaccine in healthy children in Asia: a phase 3, randomized, observer-masked, placebo-controlled trial. *Lancet*. 2014 Oct 11;384(9951):1358-65.

Wilder-Smith A. Dengue vaccines: dawning at last? *Lancet*. 2014 Oct 11;384(9951):1327-9. ♠



**We know you have the talents to save lives, now show us how else you shine!**

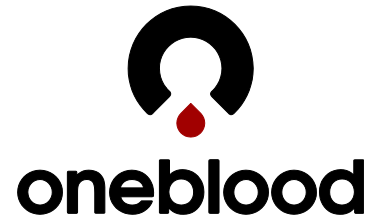
**Introducing ABC's Got Talent**

A talent show that not only lets your talent shine, but also helps support the Foundation for America's Blood Centers.

Just submit your video to this YouTube channel to be included in online voting by donation. The top winners will have the chance to perform live at the ABC Annual Meeting in Washington DC in March 2015! The winner of the live show will receive a grand prize! For more information, please contact Jodi Zand at [jzand@americasblood.org](mailto:jzand@americasblood.org).

## MEMBER NEWS

**Terumo BCT recently announced that it is partnering with OneBlood, based in Florida, to allow the blood center to treat platelets stored in plasma or platelet additive solution (PAS) with Terumo BCT's Mirasol pathogen reduction system.** In response to public health concerns over chikungunya virus and dengue fever, Terumo BCT will file a submission with the Food and Drug Administration to allow expanded access use of the Mirasol Pathogen Reduction Technology System for the treatment of platelets, the company reported on Wednesday. FDA's Treatment Use Provision for expanded access to unapproved devices allows the use of promising new therapeutic and diagnostic devices as early in the development process as possible. This process applies to serious or life-threatening diseases or conditions for which no comparable or satisfactory alternative exists. This clinical protocol will allow OneBlood to apply the Mirasol system to treat platelets stored in plasma or PAS. The Mirasol system is a pathogen reduction technology designed to render a broad range of disease-causing viruses, bacteria, and parasites less pathogenic, and inactivates residual white blood cells found in blood components. "Safety of the blood supply is OneBlood's top priority. Currently there is no approved screening test for blood centers to use in detecting chikungunya virus and dengue fever. Through the pilot program with Terumo BCT, we will be able to evaluate the effectiveness of the Mirasol system and provide an added layer of safety to our existing testing process," said OneBlood CEO Don Doddridge. (Source: Terumo BCT press release, 10/22/14)



**South Texas Blood & Tissue Center (STBTC), headquartered in San Antonio, Texas, recently implemented a new device to help phlebotomists locate the donor's vein on the first stick.** The VeinViewer Flex, manufactured by Christie Medical Holdings, is a handheld device that projects a green light on the donor's skin to highlight the vein, Christie Cardenas, STBTC's assistant director of Donor Services, told the *Newsletter*. "While a successful collection is still dependent on the skill of the phlebotomist, this device definitely helps with vein assessment," said Ms. Cardenas. An assessment of "quantity not sufficient" (QNS) phlebotomies showed that young female donors (under age 21) accounted for 41 percent of all QNS incidents at the blood center, which is significant considering that 30 percent of the center's blood supply comes from high school donors, explained Ms. Cardenas. To cut down the QNS rate and improve the donation experience – especially for young first-time donors – STBTC purchased eight VeinViewer devices and began implementing them at school blood drives in August. STBTC began collecting data on the VeinViewer and its impact on QNS in August to further evaluate its value in the blood center. Ms. Cardenas notes that early numbers suggest an improvement in the QNS rate. The center eventually intends to implement the device in training and other capacities. (Source: Texas Public Radio, 10/8/14)



**South Texas  
Blood & Tissue Center**

**Blood Bank of Delmarva (BBD), headquartered in Newark, Del., recently received approval from the Food and Drug Administration for use of platelet additive solution (PAS) platelets for its Dover Donor Center.** This approval allows the organization to distribute single donor platelets containing PAS outside the state of Delaware. PAS is added to platelet donations to replace about two-thirds of the plasma present in the product, as some patients who receive platelet transfusions have reactions due to the volume of plasma in stored platelets. Some researchers have suggested that reducing the amount of plasma may reduce the risk of a reaction, explained Chris Nare, BBD's lead executive of Laboratory Services & Distribution. (Source: BBD press release, 10/22/14) ♦



## PEOPLE

Effective Jan. 2, 2015, **Denise Ballinger, SPHR, CCP**, will retire as chief human resources (HR) officer for the Travis County Medical Society, Medical Service Bureau, and The Blood and Tissue Center of Central Texas, also known as Affiliated Medical Organizations. Ms. Ballinger joined the affiliated group in January 1995 as the first in-house HR professional. She developed a robust HR program with resources in policy, compliance, compensation, benefits, and employee relations. Her professional guidance and leadership enabled the organization to develop and maintain a talented and high-functioning workforce, a responsible corporate culture, and a healthy workplace environment across all business units. In addition to her expertise in human resources, Ms. Ballinger's knowledge of operations has made her a valuable strategic contributor to its executive team. "To me personally, and to every officer, director, and hiring manager, Denise has been our confidant for 20 years, guiding us in every challenging situation, helping us to always do the right thing. We will miss her," said the affiliated group's CEO Marshall G. Cothran. Ms. Ballinger has served for eight years on America's Blood Centers' Human Resources Committee, including two years as its chair. She has co-chaired the Human Resources Committee for the Alliance for Community Transfusion Services and currently provides HR consulting services for two of its member blood centers. She is also an active member of the Society for Human Resource Management. "I have loved working with the many extremely talented HR pros I have gotten to know through America's Blood Centers. With our unique industry challenges, the opportunity to meet, talk, and learn through committee calls, quarterly webinars, and workshops, on- and offline has been invaluable. I am really going to miss everyone," said Ms. Ballinger.

**Edwin A. Steane, PhD**, was recently named the recipient of the 2014 One World Award by the International Coalition for Commonality in Blood Banking Automation (ICCBBA). Dr. Steane was a pioneer in the development of ISBT 128 – the global standard for the terminology, coding, and identification of products of human origin – and a powerful advocate for global standardization. The award recognizes his vision in identifying the need to improve standards for blood transfusion information technology and for his enthusiasm and determination to achieve a well-structured framework upon which future generations of technology developers and transfusion specialists could build, according to ICCBBA. The award will be presented at an evening celebration of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ICCBBA to be held on Oct. 26 during the AABB Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, Pa. (Source: ICCBBA announcement, 9/30/14)

**Ralph R. Vassallo, Jr., MD**, was recently appointed Blood System's executive vice president and chief medical and scientific officer. He will join the organization Dec. 1. He will oversee medical direction in the areas of donor suitability, donor care, clinical services, and transfusion medicine consultation throughout Blood Systems' 19-state service area. He also will oversee initiatives at Blood Systems Research Institute. Dr. Vassallo is currently the chief medical officer with the American Red Cross Blood Services' East Division, having served in various American Red Cross medical leadership roles for the past 12 years. "In this challenging and changing environment, Blood Systems will benefit from Dr. Vassallo's expertise and perspective, his reputation for leadership in the transfusion medicine community, his passion for transfusion safety, and his commitment to process improvement and innovation," said Blood Systems President and CEO Dan Connor. Dr. Vassallo received his bachelor's and medical degrees from the University of Pennsylvania. He completed a residency in internal medicine and a fellowship in hematology/oncology at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. (Source: Blood Systems press release, 10/21/14) ♦



## COMPANY NEWS

The US Department of Health and Human Services recently selected BloodHub – a provider of web-enabled blood applications – to develop the infrastructure needed to capture, calculate, and communicate real-time blood inventory information, announced BloodHub in a press release on Thursday. HHS seeks to demonstrate that real-time, end-to-end inventory visibility is possible over a wide geographic area and across multiple blood establishment computer systems (BECS). HHS has set a series of ambitious objectives for this project. Among other reasons, HHS selected BloodHub because of its unique ability to provide real-time inventory at each blood center, in transit between blood center and hospital, and at each hospital. In addition to inventory totals, HHS seeks a platform that will calculate a series of inventory metrics and statistics that provide a deeper understanding of inventory status. The system must also be able to display the resulting metrics on-demand to HHS users in mobile, table, desk-top, and large screen formats. “Our goal is to develop the capability to view blood inventory levels end-to-end, in real time where possible. This capability is integral to accomplishing our mission of providing all-hazards preparedness and response coordination of federal policies for blood products,” said Jim Berger, senior advisor for Blood Policy at the Division of Blood and Tissue Safety and Availability at HHS. “BloodHub demonstrated they possess the vision, infrastructure, technical and industry expertise, along with the market share needed to complete this regional demonstration successfully.” BloodHub has been charged with developing the infrastructure to collect, calculate, and communicate realistic inventory data. For each quantifiable objective defined by the HHS customer, BloodHub will develop the statistical calculations and the visual, interactive reports needed to communicate the results. “This award validates our vision for automating the blood supply chain,” said Michael Pandelakis, Founder and CEO of BloodHub. “This is a unique opportunity to demonstrate BloodHub’s flexibility, scalability, data visualization and delivery capabilities. Most importantly, we are honored to be selected by the Department of Health and Human Services for this important project. It is a giant step forward for our company.” The press release is available at <http://bit.ly/1oyeK8V>. (Source: BloodHub press release, 10/22/14) ♦

### Correction

In last week’s *ABC Newsletter*, on page 7, we published some excerpts from letters submitted to the editor by ABC Specialty Scholarship recipients for ABC’s recent IT Workshop. In a letter by Shawn Kirkpatrick, he referred to “BYOD,” which the *ABC Newsletter* staff mistakenly defined as “bring your own data.” This acronym actually stands for “bring your own device.” We apologize for introducing this error into Mr. Kirkpatrick’s letter and for any confusion.

## 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

**Regional Director, Oregon and Southwest Washington Blood Program (OSWBP).** The Oregon and Southwest Washington Blood Program, an extension of Puget Sound Blood Center, is proud to be the local, independent blood center for the region. Through our partnerships, we have a far-reaching, long term presence throughout the Northwest. Every day we work to save lives through research, innovation, education, and excellence in blood, medical and laboratory services. We have served donors and patients in partnership with our community for 70 years. Requirements include: Bachelors' degree business management, organizational development, health sciences, public relations or equivalent combination of education and relevant experience (MBA preferred); blood banking experience highly desirable, seven years' experience and demonstrated success in community outreach, development or multi-location healthcare management; outstanding written, verbal, interpersonal, facilitation, negotiation and conflict resolution skills. More information at [www.psb.org](http://www.psb.org). Qualified applicants send resumes to [humanresources@psbc.org](mailto:humanresources@psbc.org) Attention: Job #7414ABC. Puget Sound Blood Center is an equal opportunity employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, protected veteran status, disability status, or any other characteristic protected by law.

**Manager, Blood Collections Operations - Job #7416.** For more than 70 years, Puget Sound Blood Center has had a far-reaching presence throughout the Puget Sound Region. We have proudly served donors and patients in partnership with our community. Based in beautiful Seattle, Wash., we are seeking a dynamic, experienced leader to join our Blood Collections department, taking responsibility for the team that provides Quality, Training, Process Improvement and Operational support to the team that provides the core function of our mission. Requirements include: Bachelors' degree in Health Science related field; or equivalent combination of education and work experience. Registered Nurse License (Washington State) preferred; three to five years supervisory/management experience with proficiency in technical, leadership and team building skills required, previous blood banking experience preferred. More information at [www.psb.org](http://www.psb.org). Qualified applicants send resumes to [humanresources@psbc.org](mailto:humanresources@psbc.org) Attention: Job #7416ABC. Puget Sound Blood Center is an equal opportunity employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, protected veteran status, disability status, or any other characteristic protected by law.

**Program QA Coordinator (Medical Services (Medical Apheresis) Department).** Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center has a great opportunity for an experienced

Program Quality Assurance Coordinator in its Medical Services area. The position reports directly to the Medical Director and manages all aspects of the quality and compliance activities related to the National Marrow Donor Program Donor and Apheresis Centers and Medical Apheresis programs. This is an excellent position for someone interested in using project management skills in a regulated healthcare work environment. Requirements for this job are bachelor's degree (preferably in healthcare) from an accredited college or university and a minimum of three years' experience in compliance or coordination of organ or other tissue transplant programs or equivalent combination of education and experience. Apply at [www.giveblood.org](http://www.giveblood.org) today! The Blood Center is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Qualified applicants for positions are considered without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, status as protected veteran or other characteristics protected by law.

**Medical Director.** BloodCenter of Wisconsin is currently seeking a physician to join their growing Hematology service of the Medical Sciences Institute. *This position is based in Milwaukee, WI.* In direct partnership with the Directors of the Platelet and Neutrophil Immunology Laboratory and Hemostasis Laboratory, this position provides clinical and scientific direction to include case review, clinical consultation, and associated assay development. We will rely on you to work effectively with the Medical Director and VP of Diagnostic Laboratories and the Scientific Director of the Platelet and Neutrophil Immunology Laboratory to define research and development priorities, validate and implement new assays, and to provide leadership and management to the laboratory. This position actively participates in the activities of the Medical Sciences Institute. BloodCenter offers a competitive salary, commission plan, and benefits package. Learn more and apply online at [www.bcw.edu](http://www.bcw.edu). *Equal Opportunity Employer of Minorities, Females, Protected Veterans, and Individuals with Disabilities.*

**Clinical Education Consultant (RFS00033).** Fenwal, Inc., a Fresenius Kabi company, is a global blood technology company dedicated to supporting transfusion medicine and cell therapies. We help ensure the availability, safety, and effectiveness of treatments that depend on blood – medicine's most vital natural resource. We have an opportunity for a Clinical Education Consultant based out of Northern or Southern California or Denver, CO to work collaboratively with the sales team within a region, providing clinical support for Fenwal's product's, supporting the region and accomplishing sales objectives. Requirements include: RN, LVN, MT or related work experience; Bachelor's degree

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a plus; three to five years' experience in a clinical environment; transfusion experience a plus; experience in training medical staff and the ability to drive sales; strong presentation and facilitation skills to effectively deliver training; ability to travel 75% in the Region by air and personal car. For more information about this position and to apply, please visit our website: [www.fenwalinc.com/Pages/Careers.aspx](http://www.fenwalinc.com/Pages/Careers.aspx) and search keyword: RFS00033. We offer an excellent salary and benefits package including medical, dental and vision coverage, life insurance, disability, and 401K. Fresenius Kabi is an Equal Opportunity Employer. We encourage and support a diverse workforce.

**Director of Product Management.** *Be a part of a dynamic and forward thinking blood center in this changing healthcare environment! This position is based in Milwaukee, WI. This position is responsible for the integration of manufacturing, inventory management, and distribution and customer service operation. This key role also assures that the manufacturing and distribution processes for blood products are performed in compliance with regulatory and organizational requirements. We will rely on you to assure customer satisfaction, operational/cost effectiveness, and quality results. The ideal candidate will have a bachelor's degree, a minimum of five years of current management experience in a regulated environment to include operational, logistical, financial and human resource responsibilities. Successful candidates will have the ability and desire to learn the basic science encompassed within the operations coupled with skills and ability in inventory management, distribution, and customer service. BloodCenter offers a competitive salary, commission plan, and benefits package. Apply online at: [www.bcw.edu](http://www.bcw.edu). Equal Opportunity Employer of Minorities, Females, Protected Veterans, and Individuals with Disabilities.*

**Senior Manager Transfusion Services (Westchester, New York).** At New York Blood Center, one of the most comprehensive blood centers in the world, our focus is on cultivating excellence by merging cutting-edge innovation with diligent customer service, groundbreaking research, and comprehensive program and service development. Reporting to the Senior VP/Chief Medical Officer, you will oversee our strategic expansion goals and the overall operations/administration for our Transfusion Services laboratories located in Elmsford, NY. Responsibilities include: Ensuring compliance with FDA, NYSDOH, CAP, AABB, Joint Commission (TJC), preparing performance improvement plans, developing schedules and monitoring work to staff, implementing productivity standards, training clinical pathology residents, hematology fellows and NYBC fellows, initiating, coordinating and enforcing systems, policies and procedures and participating in hospital contract negotiations. Qualified candidates

must have a BS in Medical Technology, MT (ASCP) or equivalent, NYS Clinical Laboratory License, 10 plus years of clinical laboratory experience, three years management experience within a clinical laboratory environment. The ability to develop/manage budgets, familiarity with AABB standards, NYSDOH regulations, CAP guidelines and JCAHO requirements, and Transfusion Service Departmental SOPs. Superior leadership, communication, and PC skills are required. MBA/MPH/SBB preferred. We offer a competitive compensation package and dynamic work atmosphere. Apply online at: <http://bit.ly/1omJI9v>. EOE AA M/F/Vet/Disability

**Reference Laboratory Technologist.** Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center (MVRBC) has an exciting opportunity in our St. Louis, MO facility for a Reference Laboratory Technologist to work in our Reference Department performing antibody testing, antigen typing, and providing consultation to hospital staff as needed. This position is full time with a working schedule of Monday through Friday 3:00 pm to 11:00 pm, including on-call rotation for weekends and holidays. Candidates will possess MT/MLS certification with ASCP or equivalent. SBB a plus, but not required. Ideally, candidates will have three years of blood banking experience in the past five years. Interested candidates may visit [www.illinoisdiversity.com/j/8857831](http://www.illinoisdiversity.com/j/8857831) to apply. EOE: M,W,V,D

**Donor Relations Consultant.** Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center has an exciting opportunity for a Donor Relations Consultant to develop strong relations with 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; preferred studies include business, communications, marketing, or sales. Must possess a valid driver's license, be insurable by MVRBC's insurance carrier, and be willing to drive within the MVRBC service area. Interested candidates may visit [www.illinoisdiversity.com/j/8601040](http://www.illinoisdiversity.com/j/8601040) to apply. EOE: M,W,V,D

**Manager/Director, IRL & Molecular Laboratory.** The San Diego Blood Bank is a progressive company with outstanding service and leadership in the blood banking industry. Synergies between SDBB, the community, the biotechnology industry and academic

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institutions allow us to save lives with quality blood services, innovative clinical research, new technologies, and health & wellness. With proactive and aggressive new approaches to core business, research, and sophisticated technology, SDBB is where you want to be! Immediate opening: Manager/Director, IRL & Molecular Laboratory. Responsibilities include: Investigation of complex red cell antibody problems and molecular determination of red blood cell antigens for hospital laboratories, testing and consultation to hospitals with patients refractory to platelets, implementation of new molecular technology and testing platforms and collaborative partnership with biotech researchers. Candidate Qualifications: BS or Master's degree, MT, SBB - (ASCP), CA CLS license (or eligible) and three to five years IRL and management experience. To apply or learn more visit: <http://bit.ly/1sOmXF5> or call (619) 400-8271.

**IRL & Molecular Med Tech (Night shift).** The San Diego Blood Bank (SDBB) is a progressive company with outstanding service and leadership in the blood banking industry. Synergies between SDBB, the community, biotechnology industry and academic institutions allow us to save lives with quality blood services, innovative clinical research, new technologies, and health & wellness. With proactive and aggressive new approaches to core business, research, and sophisticated technology, SDBB is where you want to be! Immediate opening: Night shift - IRL & Molecular Med Tech. Responsibilities include: Investigation of complex red cell antibody problems, molecular determination of red cell antigens for hospital laboratories, testing and consultation to hospitals with patients refractory to platelets, implementation of new molecular technology and testing platforms and collaborative partnership with biotech researchers. Candidate Qualifications: BS or Master's degree, MT, SBB - (ASCP), CA CLS or CIS license (or eligible), and three to five years IRL experience. To apply or learn more visit: <http://bit.ly/1waJA7p> or call (619) 400-8271.

**Blood Center Laboratory & Production Manager.** LifeServe Blood Center is seeking senior level candidates to oversee operations of our Hospital Services department. This position is responsible for oversight, development and implementation of lab functions, such as testing, product management, manufacturing and distribution. This position is responsible for the direct management of a team focused on customer service, testing and distribution. Primary responsibilities: Streamline operations, create/meet department budget, drive performance to meet department and quality metrics, develop/implement process improvement initiatives, and comply with all employee training and accreditation requirements. Education/Experience: Bachelor's degree in Business Administration, Biology or related field, MT, MLS or MLT preferred, two to

three years of management experience required in production environment, blood banking or laboratory setting preferred, and experience in lean manufacturing or six sigma highly recommended. Other Requirements: Employment offers - contingent on the successful completion of pre-employment, post offer drug testing and background checks. LifeServe is fully committed to EEO. All applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, sexual orientation, gender identification, genetic information, marital status, pregnancy, disability, veteran status or any other legally protected status. Interested applicants should visit our website, [www.lifeservebloodcenter.org](http://www.lifeservebloodcenter.org) to apply. Click "Join our Team".

**Mobile Operations Supervisor.** Join our friendly, caring team of employees and help save lives! As our Mobile Operations Supervisor you will use your nursing and/or medical experience, your people management and organizational skills to supervise blood drives at local businesses, high schools, colleges and the University of Oregon to ensure that donor needs are met by delivering smooth operations and great customer service. Requirements include: RN license or other health-related professional education degree; excellent phlebotomy skills; three to five years of supervisory experience; and great leadership and customer service skills. Two years of blood banking experience preferred. Competitive pay and great benefits including medical, dental, life, long term disability and retirement plan. Go to [www.laneblood.org](http://www.laneblood.org) and click on "About Us", "Employment Opportunities" for complete job description and how to apply. Lane Blood Center, 2211 Willamette St, Eugene, OR, 97408 (541) 484-9111.

**Director of Human Resources.** The Blood & Tissue Center of Central Texas in Austin is hiring an HR professional to lead, develop, and supervise all HR functions. As a member of the management team, this position guides the HR department and serves as the subject matter expert to all staff on recruitment and screening; compensation and benefits administration/planning; employee relations; HR policy/procedures development and monitoring; staff training and development. Qualified candidates must have at least five years HR experience and a college degree with no less than three years high-level HR management experience or at least 10 years HR experience, plus PHR/SPHR certification with no less than five years high-level HR management experience. Proficient understanding of benefit and compensation programs, investigation and resolution of employee relation issues, and employment and benefit laws/regulations including ERISA, DOL, EEOC, IRS and any other regulatory entities. Working knowledge of HRIS and electronic payroll systems desired - ADP proficiency a plus. Must

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be at least 21 years old, hold a valid driver's license, provide a copy of an acceptable driving record, and show proof of liability insurance. Applicants may send cover letter, resume, and salary requirements to [resumes@tcms.com](mailto:resumes@tcms.com). Please include position title in subject line.

**Reference Lab Supervisor.** The Rhode Island Blood Center (RIBC) has an excellent opportunity for a Reference Lab Supervisor to supervise and manage staff, daily workload and compliance with applicable standards of AABB and CLIA. Requirements: BS in Medical Technology or related field. Certified Specialist in Blood Banking (SBB). Four years of blood banking or two years supervisory experience in a hospital or blood

center laboratory. RIBC has one of the most competitive benefits and compensation programs available. Our training programs, investment in technology, and commitment to innovation have enabled us to steadily grow over more than 35 years. As a Blood Center employee, you'll truly make a difference in the lives of Rhode Island residents. Relocation package available. Join the team that gives the gift of life! Rhode Island Blood Center is an Equal Opportunity Employer and all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, veteran status or disability. Apply online at [www.ribc.org](http://www.ribc.org). Follow the links to "About Us" and "Careers." ♦

**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.)*

**2014**

Oct. 31-Nov. 3. **5th International Meeting on Emerging Diseases and Surveillance, Vienna, Austria.** More information can be found at <http://imed.isid.org>. Contact: [info@isid.org](mailto:info@isid.org).

Nov. 4. **AdvaMed Webinar: Mobile Apps and Network-Aware Devices.** More information can be found at <http://bit.ly/103XkGc>.

Nov. 5-6. **AdvaMed Medical Devices and Products Liability Seminar, Washington, D.C.** Those interested in attending may find more information at <http://bit.ly/11DdTcw>.

Nov. 6. **FDA Cellular, Tissue, and Gene Therapies Advisory Committee, Silver Spring, MD.** More information, agenda, and meeting materials can be found at <http://1.usa.gov/1q9kvrW>.

Nov. 13-14. **HHS Advisory Committee on Blood and Tissue Safety and Availability Meeting, Arlington, Va.** More information can be found in the Federal Register announcement at <http://1.usa.gov/ZTqtnp>.

Dec 9-10. **Supply Chain Optimization Workshop, America's Blood Centers, Austin, Texas.** Contact: ABC Meetings Dept. Phone: (202) 654-2901; e-mail: [meetings@americasblood.org](mailto:meetings@americasblood.org).

**2015**

Feb. 14-15. **SBB Last Chance Review, Houston, TX or by webinar.** Registration details at <http://bit.ly/1ryDQE9>. Contact Clare Wong, (713) 791-6201, [cwong@giveblood.org](mailto:cwong@giveblood.org).

Mar. 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).

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/Lab & Quality Workshop, America's Blood Centers, Orlando, Fla.** 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). ♦