

2015 #9

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Fenwal, a Fresenius Kabi Company, Contributes \$100,000 to Support the FABC

Fenwal, a Fresenius Kabi company, announced last week that it is contributing \$100,000 to the Foundation for America's Blood Centers (FABC) to support the developing America's Blood Centers Professional Institute (API) – a learning community that will offer an innovative and robust blend of traditional and virtual educational tools for blood banking professionals.

“Fenwal, a Fresenius Kabi company, is synonymous with high quality service and customer satisfaction. It is clear that for Fresenius Kabi, giving back to the blood community is a true priority,” said ABC CEO Christine Zambricki, DNAP, CRNA, FAAN. “Their capacity for giving truly speaks for itself. Their statement gift of \$100,000 for the API is accompanied by the generous in-kind donation of the time and talents of Toni-Ann Mills, Fenwal’s director of Learning and Development, who is consulting with ABC staff to move the API forward on a solid foundation.”



ABC CEO Christine Zambricki (left) and FABC President Roy Roper (second left) are presented with a donation to the FABC by Dean Gregory, Fresenius Kabi’s president of Medical Devices, North America, (second right) and Chris Trussell, Fenwal vice president of Sales and Marketing (right).

Fenwal made the donation as part of the FABC’s [API Capital Campaign](#) that seeks to fund the ongoing development of the API, which will be a part of the soon-to-launch redesigned ABC member website. ABC aims for the API to be the premier online learning community for the blood banking community by offering access to information and education through face-to-face learning, online learning, learning communities, and publications. In most cases, members will be able to earn continuing education credits, as well as ABC certificates in certain areas of interest valuable to blood bankers.

On behalf of the FABC, Dr. Zambricki and FABC President Roy Roper formally accepted the contribution, presented by Dean Gregory, Fresenius Kabi’s president

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OUR SPACE

Matt Granato, ABC's Chief Operating Officer

What We've Done For You Lately

Hopefully you attended Wednesday's webinar on the recommendations of the ABC Dues Task Force and heard directly from ABC CEO Christine Zambricki about how ABC is working to accomplish our strategic goals. In the next couple of weeks, all ABC member CEOs and member voting representatives will receive their 2014 Member Value Report. I encourage you to review it and share it with your blood center colleagues.

The first of the two-page report details ABC's overall accomplishments on our five strategic goals. On the advocacy front, ABC successfully led a coalition petitioning the Food and Drug Administration to review plasma regulations. After 12 years of industry efforts, FDA is now preparing a guidance, set to be published this year, in response to our concerns. ABC leadership and volunteers employed a multimodal approach, including grassroots, legislative, regulatory, coalition building, and research and communications. Notably, we interacted with 290 key stakeholders, influencers, and policy makers (yes, we are keeping track!) to clarify our positions and advance our members' interests, expressed in our [advocacy agenda](#).

We also made great strides on our education initiatives. We are creating the ABC Professional Institute, a strategic shift in ABC's professional and continuing education services, with the mission of providing and delivering knowledge, innovation, best practices, and resources to advance competency and achieve distinction in blood banking. In 2014, we hosted 27 webinars, two leadership forums, and four specialty workshops that were highly rated and well-attended.

We also assessed our organizational structure and realigned staff responsibilities with our strategic goals. We saved our members \$75,000 per year by consolidating office space. The ABC Data Warehouse (DW) hit several important milestones in 2014, bringing us closer to full member participation. Most importantly, we involved you – the members – by establishing the Requirements Advisory Committee to ensure meaningful and actionable business intelligence reporting out of the DW. On the governance front, we reviewed and overhauled ABC's bylaws to reflect the current environment and best association practices. Finally, we logged over 3,300 interactions with our members throughout 2014. And that's just the first page of the report!

On the second page, you will find an overview of how we worked with your blood center *specifically*, listing ABC's assistance to you by topic, your blood center staff by discipline and title, and the method of interaction (phone, e-mail, in-person, etc.).

The report provides both a view of what ABC has done *for* you and *with* you. These accomplishments would have not been possible if it were not for our dedicated staff, volunteer leadership, and the selfless members who serve on committees or consult with ABC staff informally. We are confident you will find value in our accomplishments and interactions, and continue to support us by lending your time and talents.

mgranato@americasblood.org 

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ABC is an association of not-for-profit, independent community blood centers that helps its members provide excellence in transfusion medicine and related health services. ABC provides leadership in donor advocacy, education, national policy, quality, and safety; and in finding efficiencies for the benefit of donors, patients, and healthcare facilities by encouraging collaboration among blood organizations and by acting as a forum for sharing information and best practices.

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Fenwal, a Fresenius Kabi company, Contribution (continued from page 1)

of Medical Devices, North America and Chris Trussell, Fenwal vice president of Sales and Marketing, during a meeting last week in Chicago.

“Fenwal and Fresenius Kabi are honored to support America’s Blood Centers Professional Institute,” said Mr. Gregory. “Efforts like these are critical to advancing the practice of transfusion medicine, a mission we share with ABC and its members.”

This donation adds to Fenwal’s long-time generosity in supporting the FABC and ABC member blood centers. The company has graciously offered the time and expertise in adult learning of Ms. Mills to assist in building the API and contributed \$10,000 to the [Jerry Haarmann Memorial Fund](#).



Toni-Ann Mills, Fenwal's director of Learning and Development (left) and ABC CEO Christine Zambricki (right).

“As an executive responsible for operations related to blood products, Dean Gregory has a deep commitment not only to the members of ABC, but also to the communities that they serve,” said Dr. Zambricki. “In addition to championing Fresenius Kabi’s support, Dean has donated significant time to help plan the ABC Business Forum on the Economics of Plasma during the ABC Annual Meeting in March.”

The FABC serves as the fundraising arm of ABC, funding Member Focused Initiatives – programs that



Toni-Ann Mills, of Fenwal, leads a training session about methods of adult learning at ABC’s office in Washington.

benefit the entire ABC membership, such as the API. Other recent examples of FABC-funded Member Focused Initiatives include the redesign of the public website (www.americasblood.org) and funding to support webinars and scholarships to ABC meetings and workshops. To support the education and professional development of ABC member blood center professionals, donations can be made [here](#) to the API Capital Campaign through March 31, 2016.

“Fenwal, a Fresenius Kabi company, has been a longtime supporter of ABC and the Foundation. Their current gift of \$100,000 to support the API will have a profound impact upon the development of a new generation of industry professionals and future leaders,” said Mr. Roper. “On behalf of the FABC’s board, I wholeheartedly thank their leadership team for supporting our industry.” 💧

Don’t Forget to Submit Your Nominations for ABC’s Committees!

Today is the last day for America’s Blood Centers’ members to submit their nominations for ABC’s fiscal year 2016 and 2017 committees. If you are interested in joining or continuing to serve on an ABC committee, please visit the survey available to ABC members in [MCN 15-009](#). ABC relies on staff volunteers from member blood centers to do much of the great work that is accomplished by the association. ABC encourages all Member Voting Representatives and their staff to review the listing of committees and their charters/charge to determine staff who are interested in continuing to serve or joining an ABC committee.



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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. ♦

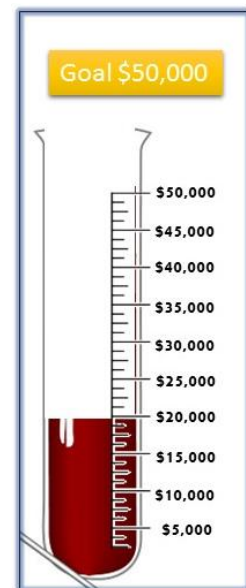
Cast Your Final Votes for the ABC Talent Show Today!

Today is the last day to vote online for the ABC's Got Talent performers – where does your favorite contestant stand? Over the past few weeks, the contestants have been competing for your votes, which can be made via donation to their online campaign, for a chance to be among the Top 5 who perform live at the ABC Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. later this month. (*Editor's Note:* Donations are tax deductible as permitted by law.)

As the contest has progressed, we've seen talented performers move up the ranks and into the Top 5 thanks to contributions from ABC member blood centers, blood center staff, friends, family and other generous supporters of the FABC. Don't miss your last chance to vote online for your favorite act in ABC's Got Talent! Voting will close at 12 p.m. EST on Monday. Tune in next week to see who makes it to Washington.

Thanks to all of its supporters, the FABC has raised more than \$19,000 to date. Attendees at the ABC Annual Meeting will have the opportunity to purchase votes at the live ABC's Got Talent show on March 23 to determine the winner and help the FABC reach its \$50,000 goal for this event. The FABC will award the winner with a weekend in Napa Valley, Calif.

ABC's Got Talent Weekly Top 5		
Contestant(s)	Amount Raised	Link to Campaign
1. Sher Patrick	\$3,750	http://bit.ly/SherPatrick
2. Kim-Anh Nguyen	\$2,980	http://bit.ly/DrNguyen
3. Mary Townsend	\$2,280	http://bit.ly/DrTownsend
4. Emily Shenk-DeMay	\$1,995	http://bit.ly/EmilyShenkDeMay
5. Chris Staub	\$1,910	http://bit.ly/StaubBrothers



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INSIDE ABC (continued from page 4)

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**, Bloodworks Northwest, bagpipe playing: <http://bit.ly/DrAuBuchon>;
- **Sharon Birzer**, Blood Centers of the Pacific, performing stand-up comedy: <http://bit.ly/SharonBirzer>;
- **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>;
- **Pascal George**, Central Jersey Blood Center, performing a French song on the acoustic steel-string guitar: <http://bit.ly/PascalGeorgeCJBC>;
- **Shepard Blues Band**, Shepard Community Blood Center, performing "Man of Sorrow:" <http://bit.ly/ShepardBluesBand>
- **Mindy Smith**, Oklahoma Blood Institute, singing "Art is Calling Me" from "The Enchantress:" <http://bit.ly/MindySmithobi>; and
- **Eric Stone**, Blood Systems, performing "Three Little Birds," <http://bit.ly/EricStoneBSI>. ♠

Rep. Sam Farr to Speak at ABC Advocacy Forum

America's Blood Centers is excited to announce that US Rep. Sam Farr (D-CA) will address the ABC membership at the Advocacy Forum on March 24 at 7:30 a.m. during the ABC Annual Meeting held at the Ritz-Carlton, Pentagon City. As the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies of the House Appropriations Committee, Rep. Farr will discuss issues being addressed by the committee and other happenings on Capitol Hill.

Prior to the Advocacy Forum, ABC members are invited to share their thoughts and concerns one-on-one with Rep. Farr by attending a congressional fundraiser in a separate room at the Ritz-Carlton from 7 to 7:20 a.m. ABC members and guests are encouraged to attend the fundraiser and make a personal donation via check. (Note: Campaign finance laws prohibit contributions by corporations or blood centers.) This is a new type of fundraiser for ABC Annual Meeting attendees, but it is very common in Washington, where fundraising is a necessity for political life. Rep. Farr has been a friend to the blood community through his efforts as the ranking member of a critical subcommittee of the House Committee on Appropriations. Let's come together for a warm ABC welcome at this early morning fundraiser.

Following the fundraiser, Rep. Farr and those ABC members attending the fundraiser will adjourn to the main meeting room where Rep. Farr will be awarded the Blood Community Advocate of the Year award for his work on behalf of ABC member blood centers and the blood industry in general. He will then address attendees at the Advocacy Forum and depart shortly before 8 a.m. As a member of the House Appropriations subcommittee that controls FDA funding, he has been a strong voice for ABC on the issue of plasma regulation flexibility. ABC is grateful that Rep. Farr has agreed to be with us on Tuesday morning.

From 8 to 9 a.m., ABC CEO Christine Zambricki, DNAP, CRNA, FAAN, will review ABC's four key advocacy goals and answer questions prior to the ABC member visits with their members of Congress on Capitol Hill. Attendees are encouraged to come with questions and plan to depart for the Hill after 9 a.m. ABC members who would like Dr. Zambricki to accompany them on their Hill visits may contact her at czambricki@americasblood.org. Please direct any questions to czambricki@americasblood.org.

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INSIDE ABC (continued from page 5)

SPOTLIGHT ON ORLANDO

Home of ABC Member OneBlood and the 2015 ABC Technical, Collections & Quality Workshop

Attraction & Shopping Edition. With seven of the world's top theme parks all in one sunny location, Orlando is considered the theme park capitol of the world. In fact, it would take 67 days to visit all of the entertainment attractions in Orlando. But Orlando is more than just theme parks – it also offers museums, world-class entertainment, and top-shelf shopping.

Orlando is home to more than 100 attractions, including some of the best-known theme parks like Walt Disney World, Universal Studios Orlando, and SeaWorld Orlando. The Theme Park Capital of the world continues growing, with major additions in 2014 including the opening of Universal's Wizarding World of Harry Potter and the largest expansion in Magic Kingdom history with new Fantasyland at Walt Disney World Resort.

Looking for a night out complete with top-notch entertainment? From the unique celebration of art, technology, and music offered by the Blue Man Group at Universal Orlando to a hilarious comedy show that will make you laugh until you cry at the Orlando Improv Comedy Club, you will find a wide variety of entertainment options in Orlando.



Lake Eola Park is a popular destination in the downtown Orlando area with many people taking advantage of its beautiful surroundings.
Photo Credit: Visit Orlando



Orlando's award-winning shopping destination, The Mall at Millenia, is a site to see for any fashionista.
Photo Credit: Visit Orlando

Orlando also offers a variety of quality shopping from luxury malls to top-notch outlets, all within a 20-minute drive. A favorite Orlando activity, shopping sales have launched both the Mall at Millenia and Orlando Premium Outlets into the 10 highest sales-generating shopping locations in the US for 2014, according to Fortune Magazine. Whether you are looking for the high fashion found at Mall at Millenia, the unique boutiques of Artegon Marketplace Orlando, or great deals at Orlando Premium Outlets – Orlando has something for every shopper.

We hope that you will join us in sunny Orlando for the ABC Technical, Collections & Quality Workshop from May 5 to 7 at the Embassy Suites Orlando Downtown. Register now via the invitations e-mailed by ABC. Questions about registration may be directed to Lori Beaston at lbeaston@americasblood.org. Contact Abbey Nunes at anunes@americasblood.org for sponsorship opportunities.

ABC Launches Employee Turnover and Retention Survey for Calendar Year 2014

America's Blood Centers' Human Resources Committee launched its annual Employee Turnover and Retention Survey for calendar year 2014. The committee seeks to achieve a 100 percent response rate and encourages all member centers to complete the survey to ensure it will be a valuable tool for the entire membership.

The survey results will be reported in aggregate and made available on ABC's member website. More information is available to ABC members in [MCN 15-018](#). Questions regarding the survey may be directed to Jennifer Feeney at jfeeney@mvrbc.org. ♦

RESEARCH IN BRIEF

A recent study in *Transfusion* suggests that alanine aminotransferase (ALT), used to detect liver dysfunction, may be unsuitable to monitor for additional transfusion transmitted infections (TTIs) in blood donors negative for recognized hepatitis viruses. Prior to the development of more sensitive hepatitis screening tests for blood donors, blood services used ALT tests as a surrogate marker for the risk of transfusion-transmissible hepatitis. Major industrialized countries discontinued serum ALT tests for donors by the 1990s, but the Japanese Red Cross still uses ALT testing due to the high prevalence of hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection. Rika A. Furuta and colleagues of the Japanese Red Cross Society conducted a study to assess the potential risks of TTIs in plasma with elevated serum ALT levels in the Japanese Red Cross's current donor screening program. They classified 300 plasma samples collected from healthy donors into three groups according to their levels of ALT, and subjected them to metagenomics analysis (MGA) to identify nucleic acid sequences suggestive of unrecognized liver pathogens. The researchers identified *Herpesviridae*, *Anelloviridae*, *Picornaviridae*, *Flaviviridae* sequences in the plasma samples, but found no difference in their distribution and frequency based upon ALT level. "Therefore, the serum ALT test used to screen donors is very likely inadequate to reduce the risk of post-transfusion hepatitis, but instead, excludes donors with risk of other liver dysfunctions, such as alcoholic fatty liver. The utility of the ALT test for the latter reasons requires further evaluation," conclude the authors.

Citation: Furuta RA, *et al.* Metagenomic profiling of the viromes of plasma collected from blood donors with elevated serum alanine aminotransferase levels. *Transfusion*. 2015 Feb 26. [Epub ahead of print]

A recent review and meta-analysis of studies published in *Journal of the American College of Cardiology* suggests that blood transfusion is associated with an increased risk of mortality and major adverse cardiac events in patients undergoing percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI). About 2 to 4 percent of patients undergoing PCI, commonly referred to as angioplasty, have a blood transfusion, but the optimal use of blood products in these patients is still debated. Chun Shing Kwok, MBBS, MSc, BSc, and colleagues at the University of Manchester in the UK conducted a review of PCI studies that evaluated blood transfusions and their association with major adverse cardiac events (MACE) and mortality. The researchers conducted a meta-analysis to estimate the risk of adverse outcomes with blood transfusions. The authors evaluated 19 studies that included more than 2 million patients with more than 54,000 transfusions. The crude mortality rate was 6,435 of 50,979 (12.6 percent, eight studies) in patients who received a blood transfusion and 27,061 of 2.3 million (1.2 percent, 8 studies) in the remaining patients. The crude MACE rates were 17.4 percent in patients who had a blood transfusion and 3.1 percent in the remaining patients. The meta-analysis showed that blood transfusion was independently associated with an increase in mortality and MACE. "Clinicians should minimize the risk of peri-procedural bleeding complications during PCI through the use of bleeding-avoidance strategies such as the use of anticoagulants associated with reduced bleeding and use of the transradial access site approach for PCI, particularly in patients at high risk of bleeding complications," concluded the authors. They add that their data support the need for a larger definitive trial to define optimal transfusion strategies for patients undergoing PCI.


Citation: Kwok CS, *et al.* Blood transfusion after percutaneous coronary intervention and risk of subsequent adverse outcomes: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *JACC Cardiovasc Interv*. 2015 Feb 12. [Epub ahead of print]

Researchers at Tufts University School of Engineering and the University of Pavia reported the development of the first 3-D tissue system that reproduces human bone marrow and successfully generates functional human platelets. Using a biomaterial matrix of porous silk, the system is capable

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RESEARCH IN BRIEF (continued from page 7)

of producing platelets for an *in vitro* laboratory tissue system with which to study mechanisms of blood disease and to predict the efficacy of new drugs – providing a more precise and less costly alternative to *in vivo* animal models, according to the new research published online in *Blood* on Jan. 9. The new system combined micro-tubes spun of silk, collagen, and fibronectin surrounded by a porous silk sponge. Megakaryocytes – some of which were derived from patients – were seeded into the engineered micro-vasculature. The researchers were able to increase platelet production in the bioreactor by embedding the silk with active endothelial cells and endothelial-related molecular proteins that support platelet formation. Lab tests showed that the platelets generated and recovered from the tissue system were able to aggregate and clot. While the number of platelets produced per megakaryocyte was lower than normally produced in the body, the researchers note that the system represents a significant advance over previous models. The researchers hope that the platelets produced can also be used as a source of growth factors for wound healing in regenerative medicine. “The need for platelet production systems to treat patients with related diseases is significant. This patient-specific system could provide new insight and options for clinical treatments,” David Kaplan, Ph.D., chair of biomedical engineering and Stern Family professor at Tufts and co-corresponding author, said in a Tufts press release. “Further the platelets can be generated on demand, avoiding the complications of storage problems, and in greater quantities and with better quality and control in terms of morphology and function.” (Source: Tufts University [press release](#), 2/18/15)

Citation: Di Buduo CA, *et al.* Programmable 3D silk bone marrow niche for platelet generation ex vivo and modeling of megakaryopoiesis. *Blood*. 2015 Jan 9. [Epub ahead of print] 



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

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

America's Blood Centers' Technical, Collections & Quality Workshops

Orlando, FL – May 5-7, 2015

Hosted by **oneblood** 
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Negotiated hotel room rate at the Embassy Suites

Orlando - Downtown: \$174 + tax

http://bit.ly/tcq15_hotel

2015 Workshop Fees (early bird/regular)

2-day registration: \$390/\$445

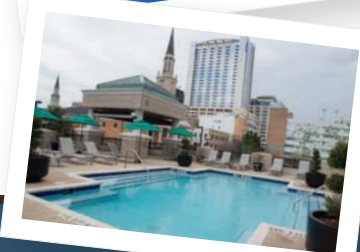
3-day registration: \$460/\$515

Scholarship opportunities available to ABC members to cover the cost of registration fees and help with travel expenses. There are eight (8) \$1,000 scholarships available to ABC members to cover the cost of registration fees and help with travel expenses. Application link and additional details included in registration.

OneBlood is excited to host the upcoming ABC Technical, Collections & Quality Workshops in Orlando. Our industry is rapidly evolving to meet the future needs and expectations of our healthcare partners. This meeting will equip you with the latest information on hot topics and allow you opportunities for networking with colleagues from across the country. Don't miss out on the chance to enhance your knowledge and to share your thoughts and expertise with others.

– Don Doddrige
CEO, OneBlood Inc.

Sponsorship opportunities available. Contact Abbey Nunes at anunes@americasblood.org for details.



Orlando International Airport (MCO) is served by most major US airlines and offers non-stop service to 79 destinations; check www.orlandoairports.net for more information.

REGULATORY NEWS

The Food and Drug Administration issued a [Safety Alert](#) this week warning doctors against the overuse of testosterone supplements for men, saying they have not been established as safe or effective for treating common signs of aging like low libido and fatigue. The agency is requiring that manufacturers of all approved prescription testosterone products change their labeling to clarify that the drugs, currently being taken by millions of US men, are only approved to treat low testosterone levels caused by disease or injury, not by normal aging. Furthermore, FDA now requires that drug makers add information to the labels indicating that these drugs may increase the risk of heart attack, stroke, and other cardiovascular problems. FDA has charged drug makers with conducting long-term studies to investigate these risks. This warning comes after a September 2014 FDA advisory committee meeting where the committee met to discuss whether testosterone replacement therapy for age-related hypogonadism is supported by the available data (see [ABC Newsletter](#), 2/20/15). The extensive use of testosterone in the general population has become an issue for blood centers, as increasing numbers of men are sent to blood centers for therapeutic phlebotomy when their hemoglobin rises as a result of the treatment. It is often unclear how blood centers should handle these donors, who are often prescribed testosterone and may not be sufficiently monitored, with doses reduced to allow for erythrocytosis. Until recently, all such donors had been deferred because they are not clearly volunteer donors. However, FDA now permits blood centers with a variance to collect blood from these donors without labeling the units as “therapeutic” (see [ABC Newsletter](#), 9/27/13). (Sources: FDA Safety Alert, 3/3/15; Associated Press, 3/3/15) ♦

THE WORD IN WASHINGTON

On Thursday, ABC was represented at a hearing of the House Appropriations Committee; Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA and Related Agencies, as FDA Commissioner Margaret Hamburg, MD, sat in the hot seat for the last time before stepping down at the end of the month. As usual, Dr. Hamburg fielded questions in a professional and expert manner, responding to inquiries on topics varying from opiate addiction, to endoscopic devices, to saturated fats.

Oral arguments began earlier this week on the King v. Burwell US Supreme Court case on subsidized health coverage offered through federal exchanges in states. America’s Blood Centers is monitoring the case because a ruling in favor of the plaintiff could eliminate federal subsidies for private plans marketed in states through federal or federally-facilitated exchanges, which includes most states. This outcome could wipe out the market for such plans and substantially disrupt coverage for several million Americans. By the end of last year, 15 million people had enrolled in Affordable Care Act (ACA) plans including Medicaid expansions, and nearly half of them had signed up through the federal exchange. To learn more, visit <http://bit.ly/1pxf6NL>.

According to Rep. Paul Ryan (R-WI), chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means, Congress has not yet reached consensus on how to financially support a permanent repeal the Medicare Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR). In order to avoid a 21 percent Medicare payment cut for physicians and other healthcare providers, Congress will likely pass another short-term relief bill to avert SGR cuts. Without bipartisan agreement on how to pay its \$180 billion cost, a temporary fix is the mostly likely option for avoiding a payment cut. ♦

GLOBAL NEWS

The International Society of Blood Transfusion (ISBT) recently highlighted its new [website](#), which boasts a more modern design, showing the content in a clean and user-friendly way. The new website contains direct links to other content of interest such as ISBT's [LinkedIn page](#) and three presentations available on the ePortal. The [Working Party](#) pages contain brief introductions, an overview of their aim and activities, as well as contact information of the corresponding chairpersons. One of the website's new features is the "my ISBT" page, which is visible after logging in. This page provides links to ePortal, journals, statutes, payments, a "search members" option, and more. (Source: February ISBT E-news, 2/1/15)

NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) recently launched its first-ever five-year blood [strategy](#), shaping the direction for blood services in England and North Wales through 2020. "Since 2007-2008, in addition to generating a safe and sustainable supply of blood, we have delivered significant operating efficiencies. These have cut the price of red cells £140 to £122 (\$213-186) per unit, delivering savings of around £50 million (\$76 million) per annum to the NHS. We will build on this significant success and aim to reduce prices further through successful delivery of the 2020 strategy," NHSBT Chair John Patallo, said in a statement. The plan, "Blood 2020," outlines NHSBT's aim to provide extended services to the NHS and to increase integration with hospitals. This includes working to improve patient outcomes by providing extended blood group testing for patients with sickle cell and thalassemia, allowing blood to be better matched. More information can be found [here](#). (Source: NHSBT press release, 2/24/15) ♦

INFECTIOUS DISEASE UPDATES

HEPATITIS E VIRUS

A recent study in *The New England Journal of Medicine* shows that a recombinant hepatitis E vaccine (HEV) approved in China provided protection against HEV for up to 4.5 years. HEV is a common cause of acute hepatitis worldwide, most commonly transmitted via contaminated water and food, although it can be transmitted by animals or humans. The HEV vaccine Hecolin, manufactured by Xiamen Innovax Biotech, has been used in China since 2012. Previous studies of the vaccine showed that it is safe and 95 percent effective over a 12-month period. The initial efficacy study randomly assigned health adults 16 to 65 years old to receive three doses of either an HEV vaccine or a hepatitis B vaccine at times zero, one and six months with the participants followed for 19 months. Jun Zhang, MSC, of the School of Public Health at Xiamen University in China, and colleagues conducted an extended follow-up study in which the treatment assignments of all participants remained double-blinded, and follow-up assessments of efficacy, immunogenicity, and safety were continued for up to 4.5 years after vaccination. During 4.5 years of follow-up, 60 cases of HEV were identified – seven in the vaccine group and 53 in the control group. The vaccine efficacy was 86.8 percent; 87 percent of those who received doses of the HEV vaccine maintained antibodies against the virus for at least 4.5 years. While HEV is a known problem in certain areas, the absence of data on HEV burden and deaths related to the virus will create a barrier to defining the clinical and public health applications of the vaccine, wrote Eyasu Teshale, MD, and John W. Ward, MD, of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. They add that questions must be answered about this vaccine including who should be vaccinated, when, and the cost effectiveness of the

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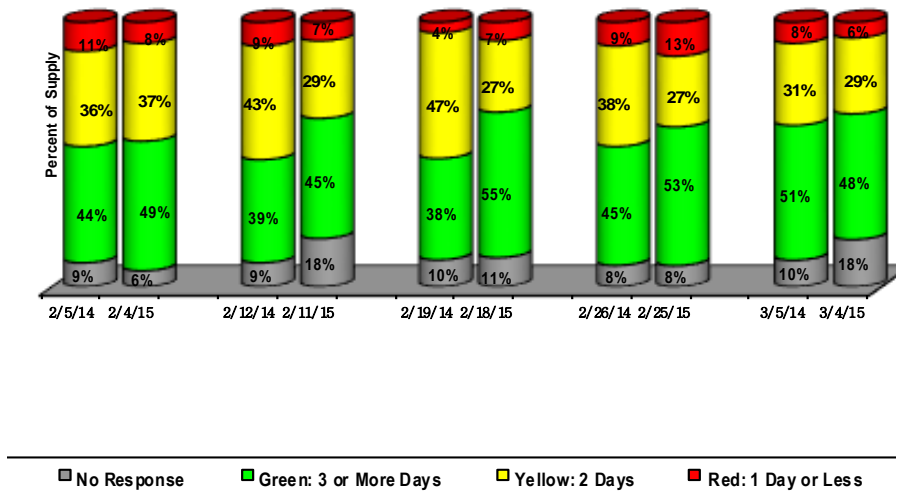
INFECTIOUS DISEASE UPDATES (continued from page 10)

vaccine. “Given the sustained protection offered by the HEV vaccination reported by Zhang *et al.*, now is the time to answer these remaining questions and establish the public health applications of an HEV vaccine,” they conclude.

Citations: Zhang J, *et al.* Long-term efficacy of hepatitis E vaccine. N Engl J Med. 2015 March 5;372(10):914-922.

Teshale E, Ward JW. Making hepatitis E a vaccine-preventable disease. N Engl J Med. 2015 March 5;372(10):899-901. ♦

STOPLIGHT®: Status of the ABC Blood Supply, 2014 vs. 2015



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

MEMBER NEWS

Blood Centers of America (BCA) selected QualTex Laboratories as its vendor of choice for its member centers’ testing needs, announced BioBridge Global, QualTex Laboratories’ parent company, on March 2. BCA, which comprises more than 50 independent blood centers, made the announcement at its recent member meeting. BCA chose QualTex Laboratories from a group of seven other testing facilities. “We are very pleased that the BCA Testing Leadership Committee selected QualTex as the vendor of choice for BCA members,” said Dirk Johnson, chief operating officer of QualTex Laboratories. “We look forward to continuing our partnership with the BCA membership, meeting their testing needs and exceeding their expectations with our service.” BCA President and CEO Bill Block added, “This process will have resulted in reduced costs and increased net revenues for BCA members, and that’s what’s most important.” (Source: BioBridge Global press release, 3/2/15)



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MEMBER NEWS (continued from page 11)

A team from BioBridge Global's South Texas Blood & Tissue Center (STBTC) successfully drew a unit of blood on Thursday, Feb. 26 from Akinniyi Emmanuel Fadipe, a Nigerian doctor who survived Ebola virus. He was drawn at a research firm XBiotech in Austin, Texas, which will use the sample to continue its research for a treatment for those afflicted with the devastating virus. Dr. Fadipe was part of the team that treated the first case of Ebola in Nigeria. He and three colleagues from First Medical Centre in Lagos contracted the virus and survived; four of their coworkers died. His blood initially was screened at BioBridge Global in San Antonio on Feb. 24 to ensure he qualified for the research (see [ABC Newsletter, 2/27/15](#)). The research involves taking whole blood from Ebola survivors to identify the antibody for the virus and eventually reproduce it. This method could result in the ability to manufacture a therapeutic on a large scale to help treat those affected by the disease. "I am more than excited to help fight Ebola," Dr. Fadipe said in a BioBridge press release. "The research is going to be a very wonderful thing. Ebola is still very much around in African countries, though Nigeria is free of it. People are still fighting it. I want to contribute to fighting Ebola by helping XBiotech get drugs to Africa." Dr. Fadipe and his team in Lagos established protocols that were called instrumental in sparing Nigeria from a large-scale Ebola outbreak. In September of last year, the World Health Organization said the nation, which is the most populous in Africa, was free of Ebola. This is the second time in the last several months that BioBridge Global has participated in a project supporting Ebola research. In January, an STBTC team traveled to longtime partner XBiotech to draw the blood of Dallas nurse and Ebola survivor Amber Vinson. Her blood also came back to San Antonio to be tested by QualTex Laboratories. (Source: BioBridge Global press release, 2/27/15)



Akinniyi Emmanuel Fadipe, MD, of Nigeria tries on a cowboy hat presented by BioBridge Global as a gift.

Blood Assurance has partnered with Erlanger LIFE FORCE to help save lives through the transportation of liquid plasma, the center announced on Tuesday. Erlanger LIFE FORCE is only the third flight program in the US to implement liquid plasma in the transport environment and is the first air ambulance service to offer liquid plasma on-board each of its helicopters in Tennessee and Georgia. "Research in trauma patients has shown that earlier transfusion and transfusion of different types of blood products can decrease the chance of death following trauma. Erlanger LIFE FORCE approached Blood Assurance about producing liquid plasma so that it could be transfused during patient transport instead of waiting until patient arrival at the hospital," said Elizabeth Culler, MD, medical director for Blood Assurance. "This is a tremendous advancement that will contribute to saving lives who need emergency assistance right away." Because liquid plasma does not require a thawing period, it is ready for immediate use, thus making it safe and ideal for Erlanger LIFE FORCE helicopters to transport. Through the technological advances implemented at Blood Assurance and Erlanger LIFE FORCE, patients can receive the assistance they need without waiting for frozen plasma to thaw. "LIFE FORCE has administered liquid plasma to many critical patients with life threatening intracranial hemorrhages and other traumatic injuries," said Jason Clark, clinical educator for Erlanger LIFE FORCE. "Having the capability to administer liquid plasma in the pre-hospital setting will greatly contribute to producing better outcomes for our patients." Liquid plasma will provide crucial clotting factors to help minimize bleeding. This capability not only serves as a valuable asset on scene flights with ambulance service providers, but is also extremely valuable to rural hospitals that do not have rapid access to plasma, according to a Blood Assurance press release. (Source: Blood Assurance press release, 3/4/15) ♦



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.

EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE:

For Sale. [Court Ordered Auction](#) – The Blood Center of New Jersey 3/17/15. Five Bloodmobile Collection Centers, Lab Equipment, Refrigeration, Collection Center Furniture, Blood Bank Supplies, Executive Office Furniture, Computers & Equipment. AJ Willner Auctions | (908) 789-9999 | www.ajwauctions.com

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Center Manager (Lake Charles, Va.). LifeShare Blood Centers is currently seeking an individual to fill a key leadership position within our organization. The center manager is accountable for operational objectives and will ensure the strategic plan is met. The position tracks and trends key performance indicators, quality metrics and financials and takes appropriate action to ensure the business viability. Bachelor's degree in applied sciences or business required with MBA preferred. Demonstrated success of execution of strategic objectives in challenging and highly regulated environment. Ten years of progressive managerial experience required with experience managing donor recruitment and donor services a plus. LifeShare has been a part of the community since 1942, providing local hospitals and our employees with great benefits. To apply, please visit: www.lifeshare.org under the careers tab. LifeShare Blood Centers is proud to be an EEO/AAP – M/F/D/V/Genetic Data employer that maintains a Tobacco and Drug Free Workplace. All qualified applicants will receive consideration without regards to race, color, ethnicity, religion, gender, national origin, disability, veteran status, genetic data, or other legally protected status.

Center Manager (Beaumont, Texas). LifeShare Blood Centers is currently seeking an individual to fill a key leadership position within our organization. The center manager is accountable for operational objectives and will ensure the strategic plan is met. The position tracks and trends key performance indicators, quality metrics and financials, and takes appropriate action to ensure the business viability. Bachelor's degree in applied sciences or business required with MBA preferred. Demonstrated success of execution of strategic objectives in challenging and highly regulated environment. Ten years of progressive managerial experience required with experience managing donor recruitment and donor services a plus. LifeShare has been a part of the community since 1942, providing local hospitals and our employees with great benefits. To apply, please visit: www.lifeshare.org under the careers tab. LifeShare Blood Centers is proud to be an EEO/AAP – M/F/D/V/Genetic Data employer

that maintains a Tobacco and Drug Free Workplace. All qualified applicants will receive consideration without regards to race, color, ethnicity, religion, gender, national origin, disability, veteran status, genetic data, or other legally protected status.

IRL Manager. Bloodworks Northwest is currently seeking a manager for our Immunohematology Reference Laboratory (IRL) located in Seattle, Wash. Our IRL has supported the Transfusion Service and served the Pacific Northwest as a regional reference laboratory for over 30 years. The IRL Manager is responsible for providing leadership and oversight to the IRL with emphasis on customer interactions, development, training, and managing resources. The Manager, working with the medical director and supervisor, assures that departmental processes, procedures, and quality control activities are compliant with accreditation and regulatory standards. Requirements: BS CLS/MT (or equivalent), SBB (ASCP), and five years' experience at the supervisor level in the areas of immunohematology reference testing, clinical immunology and/or genomic testing. More information at www.bloodworksnw.org. Qualified applicants send resumes to humanresources@bloodworksnw.org Attn: #7424ABC. Puget Sound Blood Center is now Bloodworks Northwest! Bloodworks Northwest 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.

Director of Program/Fund Development. We are committed to providing excellent benefits, a great working environment and just being an all-around great place to work. We're looking for an individual who can

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POSITIONS (continued from page 13)

oversee all fund raising efforts, including grant writing, to support operational expenses and special projects. To help meet our mission the successful candidate: coordinates all fundraising activities of the corporation, acknowledges all financial contributions to (Mississippi Blood Services) MBS, contacts potential donors, and solicits support (these donors may be in-state or out-of-state), maintains record of financial contributors, sends invoices to those making pledges, gives appropriate recognition for all donations, identifies funding opportunities locally and nationally, and writes grants to support special projects or operational expenses, works with management to identify needs; then identifies donor/donors to provide the resources to meet those needs. Ability to meet annual revenue goals. Stable work history. Qualifications: Bachelor's degree from four-year college or university; and two to four years related experience and/or training; or equivalent combination of education and experience. Experience in a health-related business and/or non-profit organization preferred. To apply, please visit www.msblood.com under the careers tab. Mississippi Blood Services is an equal opportunity employer and makes employment decisions without regard to race, gender, disability or protected veteran status. EOE/M/F/Disabled/Vet. Drug Free Workplace. Pre-employment drug testing required.

Sr. Director, Quality (LifeShare). Blood Systems, Inc. (BSI) is searching for a Sr. Director, Quality located at LifeShare Community Blood Services in Elyria, Ohio. This position is responsible for providing oversight and for the overall deployment of the quality system. Position Requirements: Bachelor's degree, knowledge of local, state, national, and international regulations as they relate to the blood or related industry, quality, and manufacturing activities. Six years of related experience in a regulated industry required. To include three years supervisory experience and four years of experience in quality, regulatory, and/or auditing. Certification as a Medical Technologist or Specialist in Blood Banking (SBB) by a recognized certifying agency or RN licensure and experience in the healthcare, blood banking, or pharmaceutical industry preferred. For more information and immediate consideration, apply by **03/13/2015** at: <http://bit.ly/17XMqVA>. Pre-employment background check and drug screen is required. Visit our website at: www.bloodsystems.org. Blood Systems provides equal employment opportunities to minorities, females, veterans, and disabled individuals, as well as other protected groups. Our organization participates in E-Verify, for more information click here. *Find the Hero in You. Donate blood three times a year!*

Executive Director. The Arkansas Blood Institute (ABI) seeks a "community spirited" professional to LEAD its new Little Rock team in fulfilling the mission 1) to recruit blood donors, drive sponsors, and volunteers and 2) to store and deliver blood units for local hospitals. This position requires an outgoing and ener-

getic personality to foster relationships, but also demands detailed attention to planning, communication, regulations, finances and personnel. Connectivity with regional leaders and access to key social networks is a positive. The successful candidate will present and maintain a credible, positive image of ABI in the community. He/she will act as a liaison between the Institute and the community, organizations and residents. Applicants should be goal-driven, self-starters who have strong interpersonal, organizational and analytic skills. They should be able to motivate and inspire diverse constituencies including donors, sponsors, staff, and volunteers. They must also possess integrity and strength of character. A bachelor's degree with at least five years of senior level operations and/or large project management experience is required. Community relations, marketing, sales, fundraising or blood banking experience is a plus. ABI provides a competitive salary and benefits package including Health, Dental, Vision, Life, LTD, Flex Plan, and 401k Plan. Apply at <http://arkbi.org/careers/>. EOE M/F/D/V Drug Free Work Environment

Client Service Coordinator. Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center (MVRBC) is conducting a search for a client service coordinator (CSC) to support our Business Development team by maintaining successful relationships between MVRBC and client accounts. The CSC will provide technical education and support on blood, industry updates, and regulatory compliance to our hospital clients. The CSC may also support distribution of products by supporting sales and conducting inventory management. This position requires a high understanding of laboratory science, specifically blood banking. The ideal candidate will possess experience in customer service/product marketing and/or inventory management. Statistical and data analysis experience is preferred. Candidates should have a bachelor's degree in medical laboratory science, biology or related science field. Business degree with demonstrated science background, or equivalent combination of experience and education will be considered. Opportunities are available in the Davenport, Iowa; Springfield, Ill., and St. Louis offices. To apply, complete our online application at www.bloodcenter.org/join-our-team/, attaching a resume. EOE: MWVD

Clinical Education Consultant. 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 opportunities for Clinical Ed Consultants based out of Northern California and Atlanta, Ga. to work collaboratively with the sales team, providing clinical support for

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Fenwal's product's, supporting the region and accomplishing sales objectives. Requirements include: RN Degree; three to five years clinical experience; 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 percent in the region by air and personal car (full reimbursement for business expenses). For more information about these positions and to apply, please visit our website: www.fresenius-kabi.us/career.html and search keyword: RFS00033 (California) or RFS00047 (Atlanta, GA). Fresenius Kabi is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disabilities, or protected veteran status.

Laboratory Services Director (GL036). QualTex Laboratories a subsidiary of BioBridge Global is seeking a laboratory services director. Will be responsible to direct, manage, supervise, and coordinate all technical activities for infectious disease and donor acceptability testing (includes pre-analytical, serological, nucleic acid, ancillary testing) in addition to the Immunohematology Reference Laboratory (IRL) for QualTex Laboratories in Norcross, Ga. Bachelor's degree in science, medical technology, microbiology or related discipline required. master's and/or doctorate degree in related field preferred. Six years blood banking or transfusion service experience required. Extensive management experience in blood banking required. Three years with good driving record required. Certifications: MT (ASCP) required, SBB preferred. Georgia operators driver's license and US passport required. E-mail résumé to hr_dept2@biobridgeglobal.org. Call Human Resources (210) 757-9557. Visit our website at www.qualtexlabs.org. BioBridge Global and its subsidiaries are proud to be an equal opportunity employer & is committed to providing employment opportunities to minorities, females, veterans, & disabled individuals. In addition we maintain a Tobacco & Drug-Free Workplace.

Donor Center Supervisor (Blood Bank of Hawaii). If you have the proven leadership ability and supervisory skills, possess exceptional customer service, and the ability to work alongside with the team, please read on. Our donor center supervisor will be responsible for the overall supervision of the donor collection team and collection facilities, ensuring the collection operations are in compliance with internal SOPs and external regulations, collaborating through interaction and communication with other departments to ensure policies and procedures are in place to optimize the quality and integrity of the blood supply and donor safety. A current, valid driver's license is required for this position. If you have supervisory experience in a healthcare-related field, able to lead by example, a team player, and

available to work flexible hours including evenings, weekends and holidays, please apply online at www.BBH.org.

Compliance Specialist (Blood Bank of Hawaii). Come join our collections department and help support the needs of patients in all of Hawaii. The compliance specialist (CS) participates in and supports change throughout the organization and department. Special focus in deviation management, root cause analysis, corrective action and follow-up, collections audits, and project improvement processes are necessary. The CS works closely with the collections department leadership to ensure quality standards are followed per SOP. The CS will be responsible for serving on collections-related project teams to ensure internal and external standards are followed. SOP writing, reviewing, and updating is an essential function of this role. The CS will also work closely with the training team to guarantee a successful rollout of new processes. A close collaboration with record reviewers, quality assurance, information technology, and lab is necessary. The desirable candidate will preferably have quality and/or regulatory experience in a blood center or healthcare related industry. We offer a competitive salary and excellent benefits. Please apply via our website at www.BBH.org.

IRL Manager and Part-Time Technologist II. Join the American Red Cross, where your heart and mind go to work! The American Red Cross is seeking an IRL Manager and part-time Technologist II (20 hrs/wk) located in Oakland, Calif. The manager is responsible for control of all daily laboratory operations, including staff, budget, environment and work processes. The technologist will perform basic and guided advanced donor and patient tests and interpret results to determine donor-recipient compatibility. They will also resolve compatibility problems, provide intermediate reference and consultation services to hospitals and transfusion services and perform automated and manual test procedures on blood samples. Both positions must be California Licensed Clinical Laboratory Scientist (CLS). For a complete description please visit: www.americanredcross.apply2jobs.com and search for Area of Interest: IRL Reference Laboratory or by location. *As an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer, well-qualified women, minorities, veterans and persons with disabilities are encouraged to apply.*

ITS Quality Manager-ITS001. Responsible for managing quality control in all aspects to include but not limited to the organization and management of SOPs, quality improvement reports (QIRs), process change requests (PCRs), validations, external and internal audit reports, organizational forms, and records for the

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Information Technology Services (ITS) department. Will perform within the guidelines and requirements of the regulatory agencies governing computer operations. This position reports directly to the chief information officer. Bachelor's degree in computer information technology services preferred. Three years of quality management experience required. Experience performing quality management with IT departments preferred. Must be proficient in MS Office. Must be at least 21 years old with a good driving record. Three years of driving experience required. FT: Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. May work additional hours as required. E-mail résumé to 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. 💧