



ABC NEWSLETTER

CURRENT EVENTS AND TRENDS IN BLOOD SERVICES

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

2015 #15

April 24, 2015

INSIDE:

Our Space: Technology:
Use It Right.....2

Blood Center Leaders
Explore Crisis
Communications at NBF
Leadership Forum3

Save the Date for the
FABC's 5th Links for Life
Golf Tournament5

Spotlight on Chattanooga..
.....6

RESEARCH IN BRIEF7

RECENT REVIEWS8

BRIEFLY NOTED.....9

REGULATORY NEWS....9

THE WORD IN
WASHINGTON.....10

STOPLIGHT@: Status of
the ABC Blood Supply,
2014 vs. 2015.....10

MEMBER NEWS.....10

PEOPLE11

POSITIONS AVAILABLE
.....12

CALENDAR.....14

Passive Reporting Underestimates Rate of Platelet-Associated TACO

Transfusion associated circulatory overload (TACO) is the second leading cause of transfusion-associated mortality over the past five years, according to the Food and Drug Administration. Little is known specifically about the rates of platelet-associated TACO. A study in *Vox Sanguinis* confirms that passive reporting grossly underestimates the rate of platelet-associated TACO.

TACO is a transfusion-associated adverse reaction that results in hydrostatic pulmonary edema due to fluid overload associated with transfusion, which can occur as a function of the transfusion volume and/or rate. Reported rates of TACO following red blood cell (RBC) or plasma transfusion are between 1 and 8 percent, although numerous studies have suggested that these reactions are far underreported by passive surveillance systems. To estimate the incidence of platelet-associated TACO, Jay S. Raval, MD, and colleagues of the University of North Carolina, conducted both retrospective and prospective analyses of TACO following platelet transfusion at their university medical center.

The researchers conducted a 13-year retrospective analysis of blood bank and hospital electronic health records at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, medical center. They investigated all TACO and suspected-TACO reactions from Jan. 1, 2000 to Dec. 31, 2012. A 30-day prospective analysis included active surveillance of all non-emergency issued and non-operative platelet transfusion recipients aged 16 and older, with no transfusions in the previous six hours. They collected demographics, vital signs, pre- and post-transfusion fluid balance, supplemental oxygen use, reports of dyspnea, and infusion rates. Data were collected from medical records within 24 hours of transfusion, and when necessary, interviews with care providers and/or patients were conducted.

In the retrospective analysis of 35,881 transfused units, 366 reactions were reported following platelet transfusion, of which six were determined to be TACO – for a platelet-associated TACO rate of 1 out of 5,997 transfused platelet units with passive surveillance.

During July 2013, the prospective analysis period, 225 eligible patients were transfused with 334 platelet units. Five suspected transfusion reactions were reported to the hospital transfusion service during this time, none of which were

(continued on page 3)



OUR SPACE

Abbey Nunes, ABC's Chief Member Experience Officer

Technology: Use It Right

I once came across a quote online that read, "The whole idea is not about the choice between using or not using technology. The challenge is to use it right." While that quote was unattributed, I could not agree more with whoever said it.

In today's society, technology is all around us. I challenge you to think of anything in your daily life that has not been affected or influenced by technology – I bet you will have quite a difficult time trying to do so. From the app that I use to check the ever-unpredictable D.C. weather, to the e-book I read on my train ride home at the end of the day, none of it would be possible without technology. Our dependence on technology may be scary to some, but to most of us, it is exciting because we can accomplish many great things by using it right!

And ABC is no different. Almost daily, we are striving to leverage new technologies to provide a better member experience – providing information and resources both effectively and efficiently.

If you attended the ABC Annual Meeting you were able to experience the launch of ABC's first-ever mobile event app. I must admit, I was slightly nervous to introduce a new technology at our largest event of the year. But after much planning and widespread adoption by attendees, it was nothing less than a huge success! Attendees were thrilled to be able to use their smartphones or tablets to access speaker information and presentations, communicate with other attendees, and learn more about sponsors who helped make the event possible. Amazingly (or not so amazingly anymore) all this was available with the swipe of a finger.

The mobile app, which will be available to attendees at any ABC meeting or workshop, is just one of the many technology-driven advances that ABC is developing and integrating into the member experience. A much anticipated, more user-friendly member website is set to launch this spring – providing members easy access to everything ABC. We are also working toward improving the means and channels by which members can interact, share and learn from each other, and access educational resources and training – all without having to leave the comfort of their offices.

Technology is all around us, opening doors to new opportunities nearly every day. And as *your* professional trade association, we are not simply choosing to use technology, we are enthusiastically embracing it to help you get the most out of your ABC membership.

Abbey Nunes

anunes@americasblood.org 💧

The *ABC Newsletter* (ISSN #1092-0412) is published 46 times a year by America's Blood Centers® and distributed by e-mail. Contents and views expressed are not official statements of ABC or its Board of Directors. Copyright 2015 by America's Blood Centers. Reproduction of the *ABC Newsletter* is forbidden unless permission is granted by the publisher. (ABC members need not obtain prior permission if proper credit is given.)

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.

America's Blood Centers

President: Dave Green

CEO: Christine S. Zambricki

ABC Publications Editor: Betty Klinck

Business Manager: Leslie Norwood

Annual Subscription Rate: \$390

Send subscription queries to

mnorwood@americasblood.org.

America's Blood Centers

725 15th St. NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20005

Phone: (202) 393-5725

Send news tips to newsletter@americasblood.org.

Platelet-Associated TACO (continued from page 1)

designated as TACO. However, proactive evaluation and surveillance of reactions revealed that TACO occurred in two patients who were not reported to the transfusion service. Their reactions were characterized by new-onset hypertension, crackles on lung auscultation, dyspnea, hypoxia, and supplemental oxygen requirements that resolved completely with diuresis. Based upon these data, the calculated prevalence of platelet-associated TACO by active surveillance was 1 out of 167 transfused platelet units – 36 times greater compared to the prevalence determined during the retrospective analysis.

“To our knowledge, the current study is the first specific investigation of the prevalence of platelet-associated TACO and infusion-related parameters in medical patients,” wrote the authors. “Our findings demonstrate that passive reporting by clinical teams to the transfusion medicine service greatly underestimates the rate of platelet-associated TACO reactions in adult patients.”

Notably, two patients who were discovered to have unreported platelet-associated TACO reactions were both older than 50, had hematologic malignancies, had positive 24-hour fluid balances in excess of 1,000 ml prior to transfusion, and were infused with more than 290 ml of platelets in less than 30 minutes. “Based on these findings, it may be beneficial to transfuse platelets at slower rates in individuals who are older, have malignancies, and have a positive pre-transfusion fluid balance of >1,000 ml,” said the authors.

The underreporting of TACO observed in this study is similar to that seen in other studies of TACO in RBC and plasma transfusion, as well as transfusion-related acute lung injury (TRALI). Clinicians may fail to report such transfusion-related adverse events due to a lack of understanding of the signs and symptoms of these reactions. “Physician and nurse education to improve understanding of evidence-based transfusion therapy and increase recognition of patients at risk for developing TACO will likely play an important part in achieving these improvements,” conclude the authors.

The authors note that their study has a number of limitations, including the inability to precisely enumerate the number of platelet units issued under emergency-release or during massive transfusion in the retrospective portion of the study. Furthermore, the prospective portion of the study was limited by its short duration and the results may not be reflective of all patient populations, as the study was conducted at one institution.

Citations: Raval JS, *et al.* Passive reporting greatly underestimates the rate of transfusion-associated circulatory overload after platelet transfusion. *Vox Sang.* 2015 May; 108(4):287-92. ♦

Blood Center Leaders Explore Crisis Communications at NBF Leadership Forum

Blood center leaders converged in Washington, D.C., April 19 to 20 for the 13th Annual National Blood Foundation (NBF) Leadership Forum, where they learned about crisis communications and the shift to outcomes-focused healthcare. NBF, a program of AABB, has been hosting the Leadership Forum since 2003, allowing healthcare executives to meet and share information and perspectives on critical issues facing transfusion medicine, cellular therapies, and patient blood management.

This year’s forum opened with a dinner and welcome reception where guests heard from award-winning journalist, Candy Crowley, former CNN chief political correspondent and previous anchor of “State of the Union with Candy Crowley.” Ms. Crowley shared her perspective on how the media covers crisis

(continued on page 4)

NBF Leadership Forum (continued from page 3)

situations, particularly those in the healthcare realm, such as the recent Ebola cases in the US. She reminded the audience that reporters rely on subject matter experts to clarify and explain technical subjects, such as health-related crises.

Monday's sessions began with a talk from Andrew D. Gilman, president and CEO of CommCore Consulting Group, who is also a lawyer, award-winning journalist, and recognized expert in public affairs. Mr. Gilman gave an overview of crisis preparation, communication, and the role of social media – emphasizing that the internet and social media have changed the game regarding events that could turn into potential media crises. Many Americans now rely on the internet for news and the speed of social media and online news can perpetuate and even create a public perception crisis, explained Mr. Gilman.



Candy Crowley, former CNN chief political correspondent, addresses attendees at the NBF Leadership Forum in Washington on April 19. Credit: Sam Dingley Photography

He discussed the value of preparing and practicing communications plans for crisis situations, highlighting that social media response should be integrated into that plan. Mr. Gilman advised attendees who may be interviewed by the media in the face of a scandal or crisis to think about how their statements will be interpreted by a reporter and to allow themselves a couple of seconds to think before responding to a reporter's question.

Attendees also heard from Thomas H. Lee, MD, chief medical officer of Press Ganey, who discussed the concept of "grey-zone medicine," which refers to patient outcomes and the patient experience. An expert in developing clinical and operational strategies to help healthcare providers measure and improve the patient experience, Dr. Lee spoke about the shifting paradigm in which the value of healthcare is being linked to patient outcomes and the reduction of suffering.

"We are entering a new healthcare market place driven by competition based on doing the 'right things,'" said Dr. Lee. Measuring the quality of patient care is an imperfect science, but the success of new healthcare models based on the quality of care relies upon developing metrics to assess and improve patient care, he added.

During lunch, Barbee I. Whitaker, PhD, AABB's director of Research and the Center for Patient Safety, presented preliminary results of the 2013 AABB Blood Collection, Utilization, and Patient Blood Management Survey, which was distributed in November to AABB member blood centers and hospitals within the US and abroad, covering Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2013. The data show a downward trend in collections of whole blood and red blood cells in the US between 2008 and 2013, with allogeneic collections dropping 12 percent. Platelet collections, however, increased 7 percent. The final results are expected to be published by July 31, said Dr. Whitaker.

The Forum wrapped up with a lively blood banking-specific crisis communications simulation activity, led by Mr. Gilman, and his colleague Nicholas F. Peters, senior vice president of CommCore Consulting Group. Mr. Gilman and Mr. Peters presented two scenarios, challenging attendees to respond to the simulated disasters under timed conditions in various roles like the media, a blood center, and government regulators.

AABB CEO Miriam Markowitz provided some closing remarks and thanked the attendees, speakers, and sponsors for their participation. ♦



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

INSIDE ABC

Save the Date for the FABC's 5th *Links for Life* Golf Tournament

The Foundation for America's Blood Centers will hold its 5th *Links for Life* Golf Tournament on Thursday, Aug. 6 at the Woodcrest Country Club in Cherry Hill, N.J. The tournament will be held in conjunction with the ABC Summer Meeting in Philadelphia from Aug. 4 to 6, co-hosted with Central Pennsylvania Blood Bank, Blood Bank of Delmarva, and Miller-Keystone Blood Center.

The *Links for Life* Golf Tournament supports the FABC, which funds programs and initiatives that benefit all ABC member blood centers. This year, golfers will be treated to 178 acres of pristine greens, challenging fairways, and beautiful landscapes on the William Flynn designed course at the [Woodcrest Country Club](#), just miles from Philadelphia.

As in past years, one executive from each ABC member blood center will have the opportunity to golf in the tournament for free. If you want to golf for a good cause, stay tuned for more details and registration information when registration opens for ABC's Summer Meeting in May. Contact Jodi Zand at jzand@americasblood.org with questions. 💧



INSIDE ABC (continued on page 6)

INSIDE ABC (continued from page 5)

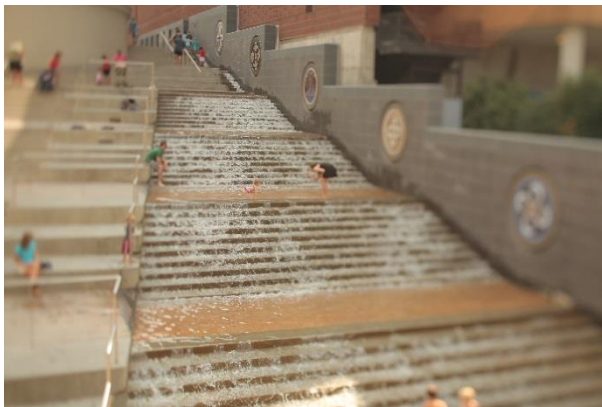
SPOTLIGHT ON CHATTANOOGA

Home of ABC Member Blood Assurance and Host City of the 2015 Fund Development, Communications & Donor Management Workshop

History & Shopping Edition. From Civil War to Native American history – Chattanooga is a destination for any history buff, offering the nation's oldest military park, a memorial to the passage of the Cherokee Native American tribes, and a myriad of museums. The city's rich history is also reflected in its eclectic shopping options, including one of the top public markets in the US and a variety of one-of-a-kind boutiques.

Chattanooga is rich in history, particularly Civil War history, boasting the nation's first and largest military park, [Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park](#). It commemorates the 1863 battles for Chattanooga that marked a major turning point in the Civil War. The park spans the borders of Georgia and Tennessee, headquartered at Chickamauga Battlefield, where the fields and woods of northwest Georgia witnessed the last major Confederate victory of the Civil War. The park's visitors' center includes extensive exhibits, as well as hiking and biking routes for the park.

Those interested in Native American history can visit [The Passage](#), a public art memorial and pedestrian link between downtown Chattanooga and the Tennessee River marking the beginning of the Trail of Tears. The beautiful outdoor space includes "weeping wall" with water cascading down a set of stairs, representing the tears shed by the Cherokee tribes on the journey that forced their removal from Ross' Landing in Chattanooga to Oklahoma. Visitors will also find a variety of museums ranging from the [Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum](#) to the [Bessie Smith Cultural Center](#).



Chattanooga visitors and locals explore The Passage, an outdoor art memorial to the Trail of Tears. Photo Credit: Chattanooga Visitors Bureau



A view from Chick-Chatt Military Park Point at the Chickamauga-Chattanooga National Military Park Photo Credit: Chattanooga Visitors Bureau

Not into history? Chattanooga also has a diverse assortment of shopping options for the bargain hunter, as well as the fashionista. Shoppers will find a diverse variety of boutiques and restaurants on Frazier Avenue in Chattanooga's trendy NorthShore area, including chic retail stores and specialty shops in [Warehouse Row](#). Visit the rejuvenated Southside of Chattanooga for galleries and quaint shops and restaurants.

Chattanooga also offers one of the best artisan markets in the country, [Chattanooga Market](#), named one of the "Top Ten Public Markets in America" by *Frommers*. The market features more than 50 farms bringing a variety of produce, meats, and cheeses to the market each week, and more than 130 artisans offering their crafts, arts, farm-fresh goods, and other locally made specialties. Looking for a traditional indoor mall? [Hamilton Place](#), Tennessee's largest shopping complex, boasts six department stores and more than 200 specialty stores and restaurants.

From history buffs to avid shoppers – Chattanooga has something for everyone! We hope that you'll join us in exploring this wonderful city for the ABC Fund Development, Communications and Donor Management Workshop held at the DoubleTree Hotel from June 16 to 19. Registration is now open via the e-mails sent by Lori Beaston. Contact Ms. Beaston at lbeaston@americasblood.org with questions about registration or Mack Benton at mbenton@americasblood.org for questions about the workshop program. Contact Abbey Nunes at anunes@americasblood.org for sponsorship opportunities.

RESEARCH IN BRIEF

A commentary published in *The New England Journal of Medicine* on Wednesday calls for a federal mandate to implement pathogen reduction technologies to protect the blood supply from known and emerging pathogens. Historically, the blood community has relied on a reactive approach to infectious diseases that may threaten the blood supply, developing and implementing screening tests after potential pathogens are identified, explained authors Edward L. Snyder, MD, of Yale University, Susan L. Stramer, PhD, and Richard J. Benjamin, MD, PhD, both of the American Red Cross. The Food and Drug Administration recently approved two pathogen reduction technologies – Cerus’ Intercept Blood System and Octapharma’s Octaplas – and is investigating a third, Terumo BCT’s Mirasol PRT System. “We believe the FDA should mandate a proactive approach, ensuring ongoing blood safety by requiring treatment of blood components by approved pathogen reduction technologies,” wrote the authors. Despite data supporting the efficacy of such technologies, no mandate exists for their use. Pathogen reduction technologies could improve the safety of the blood supply by protecting from known infectious agents, like HIV or hepatitis, soon after infection – during the “window period” – and would allow for a more proactive approach to addressing emerging pathogens like chikungunya and dengue viruses. Further, pathogen reduction would largely eliminate the risk of transfusion reactions caused by bacterial contamination of platelets, currently the most important infectious risk to the blood supply in the US. While critics are concerned about the cost of pathogen reduction, implementing these technologies could negate the need for numerous other tests used to screen for infectious diseases, said the authors. They conclude that the historical reactive process to blood safety is insufficient and that FDA must mandate pathogen reduction. “This mandate should be supported by a reimbursement process that recognizes the benefits of proactive strategies and offsets the costs. In addition, we believe that pathogen reduction of red-cell components should become a national research priority. We now have the means to protect patients from existing and emerging blood-borne threats – all we need is the will,” they wrote. AABB will host a symposium in Bethesda, Md. next week exploring pathogen reduction technologies and their implementation. Check out next week’s *Newsletter* for a meeting summary.

Citation: Snyder EL, Stramer SL, Benjamin RJ. The safety of the blood supply – time to raise the bar. *N Engl J Med.* 2015 Apr 22. [Epub ahead of print]

A study published in the May issue of *Vox Sanguinis* suggests that medication taken by blood donors can be detected following the storage of fresh frozen plasma (FFP), which could cause adverse reactions in transfusion recipients. An analysis of Dutch hemovigilance data showed that anaphylactic reactions accounted for the largest number of serious transfusion reactions from 2008 to 2012, and further, that they were more common with the transfusion of plasma or platelet concentrate than with red blood cells. Because about 10 percent of plasma donors in the Netherlands regularly use medications, it is possible that medication taken by the donor could cause an anaphylactic reaction in the recipient. Anita van Tilborgh and colleagues of the TRIP National Hemovigilance and Biovigilance Office in the Netherlands, conducted an exploratory study to investigate the presence of drugs or drug metabolites in FFP after quarantine, storage, and thawing. They tested 5 ml samples from FFP that had to be discarded due to leaks or length of time after thawing. Of 87 samples analyzed, toxicological screening was positive in 14 samples (16 percent). In 11 samples, one substance was found, and in three samples, the presence of two or three drugs was detected. At least eight of the substances detected are capable of causing anaphylactic reactions according to the literature. They conclude that “further research on allergic transfusion reactions and the possible relation to the presence of medication in donated blood is recommended.”

Citation: van Tilborgh-de Jong AJ, *et al.* Presence of medication taken by blood donors in plasma for transfusion. *Vox Sang.* 2015 May;108(4):323-7. ♦



SAVE THE DATE

Summer Meeting

August 4-6, 2015 – Philadelphia, PA

Hosted by



Negotiated hotel room rate at Loews Philadelphia Hotel: \$199 + tax
www.loewshotels.com/philadelphia-hotel

2015 Summer Meeting Schedule and Fees

Medical Directors Workshop: Aug 4 (\$415)

Medical Directors Workshop and SMT Forum: Aug 4-5 (\$445)

Summer Meeting: Aug 5-6 (\$625)

Medical Directors Workshop and Summer Meeting: Aug 4-6 (\$725)

Don't miss the opportunity to join your fellow blood bankers on the links at the 5th Annual Links for Life golf tournament - Aug 6; Woodcrest Country Club (Cherry Hill, NJ) benefitting the FABC.

Non-members (non-vendor), contact Lori Beaston at lbeaston@americasblood.org for registration fees and information.

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

Philadelphia, known as the “City of Brotherly Love” and the “Cradle of Liberty,” a place where sharing diversity of opinion is welcome and there is a rich history of innovation and bold new beginnings. With the passion of Rocky Balboa let us join together, interact and create change as demonstrated by our nation’s forefathers in crafting the Declaration of Independence.

- Your Hosts: Blood Bank of Delmarva, Central Pennsylvania Blood Bank and Miller-Keystone Blood Center

New Future Leader Scholarship Program: Don't let cost concerns hold you back from a valuable learning experience! Supported by the FABC, the Future Leader Scholarships offer non-C-suite blood center executives the opportunity to advance professionally by attending the ABC Summer Meeting. Application and details will be made available when registration opens in May.



Philadelphia International Airport (PHL) is served by most major airlines. Visit www.phl.org for more information.

RECENT REVIEWS

The journal *Blood* published a [review](#) of established and theoretical factors to consider in assessing the red blood cell (RBC) storage lesion. The storage lesion refers to the changes that occur during RBC storage, which some researchers have suggested may have a clinical effect on transfused patients. James C. Zimring, MD, PhD, of Bloodworks Northwest (previously Puget Sound Blood Center), provides an analysis of the current understanding of the biological effects of different elements of the storage lesion, in the context of evolving new clinical understanding. He presents a synopsis of both established and theoretical considerations of the RBC storage lesion and ongoing efforts to create a safer and more effective product. Dr. Zimring highlights several large randomized controlled trials suggesting no difference in clinical outcomes when comparing older stored blood with fresher blood. He also reviews the potential toxicity from transfusion of stored RBCs, traditional measures of RBC storage, biological properties of RBCs, and other aspects of the RBC storage lesion. He concludes that improving the understanding of the storage lesion, particularly the role of 24-hour recoveries in its analysis, might advance clinical care and provide a rational basis for storage system development and refinement.

Citation: Zimring JC, *et al.* Established and theoretical factors to consider in assessing the red cell storage lesion. *Blood*. 2015 Apr 2;125(14):2185-90. 💧

BRIEFLY NOTED

The Office of the National Coordinator (ONC) for Health Information Technology released a [report](#) on April 16 showing increased implementation of electronic health records over the last several years. About 76 percent of non-federal acute-care hospitals reported having electronic health record systems in 2014, according to the ONC analysis on the implementation of electronic health records from 2008 to 2014. That is a 59 percent increase from 2013 and an eight-fold increase since 2008, the agency said. At least half of non-federal hospitals in all states reported having at least a basic EHR system, and more than one-third of hospitals were using more advanced EHR functionality. The data were collected from the American Hospital Association Information Technology Supplement to the AHA Annual Survey. (Source: ONC Data Brief No. 23, 4/16/15)

Many healthcare and organ donation organizations are celebrating National Donate Life Month throughout April, encouraging Americans to register as organ, eye, and tissue donors. Instituted by Donate Life America, a non-profit alliance of organizations committed to increasing eye, organ, and tissue donation, National Donate Life Month also celebrates those who have saved lives through the gift of donation. Donate Life America provides reference materials, artwork, promotional items, and social media images, and other materials to help organizations celebrate National Donate Life Month in their own way. More information and materials can be found [here](#). If your organization recognized National Donate Life Month, share your stories and/or photos with us; send them to newsletter@americasblood.org. (Source: Donate Life America website, 4/23/15) ♦

REGULATORY NEWS

The Department of Health and Human Services Advisory Committee on Blood and Tissue Safety and Availability (ACBTSA) met on April 7 to 8 to discuss improving the tracking and tracing of tissue products, reported the *AABB Weekly Report* on April 17. The committee heard a number of presentations relating to tissue safety, highlighting recent progress, as well as gaps in tracking, traceability, and informed consent for tissue products. Committee members voted unanimously to recommend to the secretary of the US Department of Health and Human Services a step-wise, risk-based approach to standardizing the identification, tracking, and tracing of medical products of human origin. Specifically, the committee recommended establishing the use of ISBT 128 labeling as “a universal standard for mandatory implementation of unique donation identifiers for all human tissue products,” reported AABB. Committee members recommended that the secretary promote the integration of transplantation records into searchable electronic patient records. The committee asked the secretary to promote education for healthcare providers regarding the risks of human tissue transplants, the need for meaningful patient informed consent, and the necessity of engaging in activities to ensure tracking and tracing of tissue products. The committee highlighted the importance of promoting international collaboration and data sharing on outcomes of tissue transplantation. A webcast of the meeting will be posted on the committee [website](#) in the near future. (Source: AABB Weekly Report, 4/17/15) ♦

We Welcome Your Letters

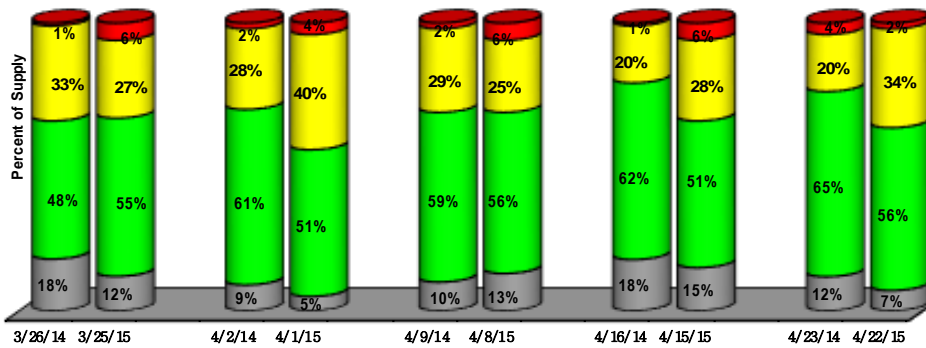
The *ABC Newsletter* welcomes letters from its readers on any blood-related topic that might be of interest to ABC members. Letters should be kept relatively short and to the point, preferably about a topic that has recently been covered in the *ABC Newsletter*. Letters are subject to editing for brevity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

THE WORD IN WASHINGTON



America’s Blood Centers CEO Christine Zambricki, DNAP, CRNA, FAAN, (left) met with US Rep. Dan Benishek (R-MI) (right) on Wednesday to discuss ABC and the important work of its member blood centers. Dr. Zambricki also discussed ABC’s advocacy initiatives on behalf of its member centers. ♦

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



No Response
 Green: 3 or More Days
 Yellow: 2 Days
 Red: 1 Day or Less

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

MEMBER NEWS

The Centers for Transfusion and Transplant Medicine (CTTM), an affiliation of four Midwest blood centers, unveiled on Thursday its new name: **Versiti**, as well as its new logo and expanded areas of expertise. “In an era of unprecedented change in healthcare, there is significant opportunity for blood centers to work closely with our healthcare system partners to support them in reaching their goals of improved patient outcomes, expanded access to care,



(continued on page 11)

MEMBER NEWS (continued from page 10)

and cost efficiencies,” said Peter Ziegler, Versiti board chair. “Having brought four blood centers together, we are well on our way to delivering enhanced value to our partners and communities.” The four Versiti affiliates include BloodCenter of Wisconsin, Heartland Blood Centers, Indiana Blood Center, and Michigan Blood. “Versiti provides even greater value to healthcare systems in our communities and across the country through our five areas of expertise,” said Jacquelyn Fredrick, president and CEO of Versiti. “Our new name and logo better reflect the depth and breadth of this expertise and the diversity of our innovative science, products and services,” said Ms. Fredrick. Versiti provides services in transfusion medicine and blood services; transplantation; stem cells and cellular therapies; hematology/blood diseases; and oncology and genomic medicine. The “ver” portion of the Versiti name is meant to convey truth, accuracy, and versatility, while the “siti” portion suggests university and diversity of services and products, said the Versiti press release. (Source: Versiti press release, 4/23/15) ♦

PEOPLE

Linda Myers, BioBridge Global’s CEO, was recently named one of the winners of the 2015 Health Care Heroes awards, given each year by the *San Antonio Business Journal* (SABJ), announced BioBridge Global (BBG) in an April 17 press release. Ms. Myers was one of the winners in the category of Outstanding Health Care Executive – Non-hospital-Based. BBG board members, Mike Kreager and John Feik, submitted letters in support of Ms. Myers’ nomination, as did Steve Davis, MD, and Ann Stevens. Dr. Davis is a co-founder of San Antonio-based biomedical firm Stem-BioSys Inc.; Ms. Stevens is president of BioMed SA, a nonprofit organization that supports the biomedical industry in San Antonio. “I am honored to have received this award and the support of the board,” Ms. Myers said in the press release. “It is through the efforts of the entire organization and our employees working toward our mission of saving and enhancing lives that we are at the forefront of the medical and regenerative medicine industries. I’d like to thank everyone at BioBridge Global who works diligently every day to help us improve the lives of those who are ill and injured. BioBridge Global serves patients and supports research opportunities through the continued collaborations with our biomedical community partners.” Specific accomplishments that supported Ms. Myers’ nomination were helping to bring the World Stem Cell Summit to San Antonio in December 2014, her work in transforming BBG subsidiary QualTex Laboratories into an international leader in infectious disease testing, and her vision to build BBG subsidiary GenCure into a regenerative medicine resource. The SABJ will honor the recipients at a reception on May 28 at the Tobin Center for the Performing Arts in San Antonio, Texas. (Source: BioBridge Global, 4/17/15) ♦

**We Welcome Meeting Notices**

Do you have a symposium, conference, workshop, or annual meeting that you would like to publicize in the *ABC Newsletter*? If so, please send a meeting notice or press release to Publications Editor Betty Klinck at newsletter@americasblood.org. Notices should contain the following information: the exact date(s) of the meeting; the formal title of the meeting; the sponsoring organization or agency; the location of the meeting; a short (fewer than 35 words) description of the curriculum, agenda, or topics to be covered; a contact person or a website address with more information. Notices will be published at the discretion of the editor in the Meetings section of the Newsletter.

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.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Audit Manager. BPL Plasma, Inc. is seeking an Audit Manager for our US based plasmapheresis centers. The Audit Manager shall be responsible for scheduling and conducting internal audits while ensuring BPL Plasma meet FDA cGMP, EU, IQPP, CLIA, COLA and customer requirements. Upon completion of the audit, prepare audit reports and communicate findings to management team. Analyze audit data / reports in determining compliance trends and audit strategies. Provide tracking and trending reports of audit findings to senior management. The Audit Manager will report to the Compliance Director. Must be available to relocate to Austin, TX. Education / Experience: Bachelor's degree in scientific or technical field. Seven plus years' experience within the plasma, blood or biological industries with cGMP and EU auditing experience. Five plus years' managerial experience. Certification in auditor training programs, such as (ASQ, ISO etc.) is preferred. Must have above average writing and verbal communication skills. Computer skills required (MS Office, Word, Excel, and PowerPoint). Knowledge of FDA, EU and cGMP regulations in a biological industry. Willing to travel domestically, overnight stays one to three days per week. To apply, please submit resumes fax to (979) 846-1215 or email smitzelfelt@bplplasma.com. Please feel free to visit our website: www.bplplasma.com.

Auditor. BPL Plasma, Inc. is seeking Auditors for our US based plasmapheresis centers. The Auditors shall conduct internal audits while ensuring BPL Plasma meet FDA cGMP, EU, IQPP, OSHA, COLA and customer requirements. The Auditors will perform internal audits, which covers operations and quality management system at BPL Plasma collection centers, corporate office and third party storage warehouse. Upon completion of the audit process will prepare audit reports and communicate findings to management team. Follow-up corrective and preventive actions to ensure implementation and compliance. The Auditors will report to the Auditing Manager. Positions are located in Florida and Texas. Education / Experience: Bachelor's degree in scientific. Three plus years' experience within the plasma, blood or biological industries with cGMP and EU auditing experience. Certification in auditor training programs, such as (ASQ, ISO etc.) is preferred. Must have above average writing and verbal communication skills. Computer skills required (MS Office, Word, Excel, and PowerPoint). Knowledge of FDA, EU and cGMP regulations in a biological industry. Willing to

travel domestically, overnight stays of one to three days per week. To apply, please submit resumes fax to (979) 846-1215 or email smitzelfelt@bplplasma.com. Please feel free to visit our website: www.bplplasma.com.

Director of Patient Services. We are currently seeking a dynamic individual to direct our Hospital Services and Immunohematology Reference Laboratory divisions. Will oversee department staffing, budget, training, education, customer service programs and consultation services to customers and perform various projects as needed. Will assist in negotiating hospital service agreements and oversee all aspects of laboratory testing and technical operations. Must possess excellent communication (verbal/written), interaction, problem solving, negotiation leadership and organizational skills. Position requires a BS/BA in related field and four years relevant experience; Must possess eligibility for State of California Clinical Laboratory Scientist License (current CA CLS preferred) and be SBB (or equivalent) certified. To apply, visit our employment page at: <http://www.bloodcenters.org/about-us/employment/>. Requisition #15000476. Blood Centers of the Pacific provides equal employment opportunities to minorities, females, veterans, and disabled individuals, as well as other protected groups.

Immunohematology Reference Laboratory (IRL) Assistant Director. The Clinical Services Division, Hoxworth Blood Center seeks Immunohematology Reference Laboratory (IRL) Assistant Director. Ideal candidate will have five years' experience and SBB (ASCP) certification at supervisor level or above in areas of immunohematology reference testing and/or transfusion service. Assistant Director of this AABB accredited IRL is responsible for leadership, expertise, oversight with emphasis on customer interactions with 24 associated labs, regional transfusion services, coordinating development, training, and managing resources. Assistant Director assures that departmental processes, procedures, quality control activities are compliant with accreditation and regulatory standards. Assistant Director is responsible for testing, technical operation, employee counseling, evaluation and other supervisory functions. Other duties: developing/managing contracts, bids, budget, management of licensed regional antibody

(continued on page 13)

POSITIONS (continued from page 12)

registry, relevant projects, education of selected transfusion service technologists, bachelors/masters students, post-doctoral physicians/scientists. Bachelor of Science degree clinical laboratory science (or equivalent), SBB (ASCP) certification, three years' experience. Apply for this position (Required ID 2746) at <https://jobs.uc.edu/>.

IRL Technologist (Medical Technologist). Are you looking to make a difference in the job you do? The American Red Cross collects over 6.5 million units of blood annually and provides best in class IRL/testing services via our network of 41 local IRL offices. The IRL Technologist will perform basic and advanced blood donor and patient tests and interpret results to determine blood donor-recipient compatibility as well as other duties as assigned. MT (ASCP) and/or BB (ASCP) required, blood banking experience is preferred. Positions available nationwide. For more information or to apply visit: www.americanredcross.apply2jobs.com. The American Red Cross Blood Services IRL group is accepting applications for a variety of positions in the following states: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Georgia, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Texas and Virginia. The American Red Cross is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, color, religion, national origin, disability, protected veteran status, age, or any other characteristic protected by law.

Field Representative. Indiana Blood Center (IBC) is looking for two Field Representatives (Monroe and Brown County areas and Tippecanoe County area). This position will educate and motivate new and existing donor groups, chairpersons and committees to meet IBC blood needs through sponsorship of successful blood drives. Responsible for the achievement of the monthly and annual field recruitment collection goals in whole blood and other product lines. Educates and motivates new and existing donor groups on hosting blood. Ensures the adequacy of drive sites through the site inspection procedure. Complies with current donor incentive procedure and ensures all coordinators are trained and documentation is captured. Plans and implements donor recognition and promotions. Builds relationships with coordinators and account leaders. Conducts recruitment strategy meetings. Recruits donors at on-site drives. Conducts training and promotes the use of DonorPoint and online schedules in order to maximize donor potential. Conducts cold calls on inactive/new territories and performs territory blitzes. Performs account sweeps prior to lock-down period and resolves internal coordination issues. Performs account assessments to help identify territory strategies. BS/BA degree; three to five years sales experience required, with proven success in business to business sales preferred. Must have valid Driver License, acceptable

driving record and reliable transportation to reach communities in assigned territory. Please apply at www.indianablood.org. EEO Employer/Vet/Disabled

Senior Manager, Transfusion Services (Elmsford, New York * Full Time). New York Blood Center seeks professional to oversee the overall operations and administration of laboratories under Transfusion Services. Requires a BS in Medical Technology, MT (ASCP), NYS Clinical Laboratory License, and six plus years of transfusion service experience, including five plus years of progressively responsible management experience in a clinical laboratory environment. The ability to develop/manage budgets a must. MBA/MPH/SBB preferred. Competitive compensation package. Please apply online at: <http://bit.ly/1GcIRdN>. EOE AA M/F/Vet/Disability

Account Representative – East Bay Region (\$50,176 Salary + Lucrative Incentive Program). Blood Centers of the Pacific is a nonprofit, community-based organization that provides blood and blood components to hospitals, physicians, and patients throughout Northern California. Blood Centers of the Pacific supports over 50,000 patients every year with blood donated by our community. It also houses the Blood Systems Research Institute which conducts medical research to improve blood safety and patient care. We are currently seeking a marketing and account management oriented individual to work with corporations and organizations in the East Bay area to promote and increase blood donations by developing existing/new accounts and coordinating blood drives. Must be comfortable in an environment where an achievement of monthly/annual goals is expected. Position requires a BS/BA in related field and one year of relevant experience; valid California driver's license, acceptable driving record and own vehicle (mileage reimbursed). To apply, visit our employment page at: <http://www.bloodcenters.org/about-us/employment/>. Requisition #15000344. Blood Centers of the Pacific provides equal employment opportunities to minorities, females, veterans, and disabled individuals, as well as other protected groups.

HLA Tech (Carter BloodCare – Tyler, Texas). The HLA Tech works under the direct supervision of the HLA Manager, performing medical laboratory tests pertaining to organ transplantation and has the capability to perform disease association and platelet matching. This position also participates in extensive quality control exercises to ensure that all reagents and equipment perform correctly and that results are reported accurately. This position shares all with other Technologists and Manager. Baccalaureate degree in Medical Technology and CHT (ABHI) or CHS (ABHI) accreditation preferred. One year previous laboratory experience preferred. Must have the ability to work an on-call

(continued on page 14)

POSITIONS (continued from page 13)

schedule. We maintain a drug-free workplace and perform pre-employment substance abuse testing. Carter BloodCare (CBC) is an EEO/Affirmative Action employer. CBC provides equal employment opportunities (EEO) to all employees or applicants and will not discriminate in its employment practices due to an applicant's race, color, religion, age, sex, national origin, and veteran or disability status. CBC is a Pro Disabled & Veteran Employer. Qualified candidates should apply online at www.carterbloodcare.org/.

Blood Donor Recruiter. Make a difference in the lives of others putting campaign, sales, and leadership skills to work enlisting blood drive sponsors and recruiting blood donors. The Blood Donor Recruiter is a public ambassador, consistently representing Hoxworth Blood Center, University of Cincinnati in a professional manner to meet the needs of patients in the Tri-State area. This position will manage assigned blood drive accounts in a defined territory; implement account-specific plans to develop, maintain, and build blood drive groups. Position requires an outgoing personality, attention to detail, persistence, and resourcefulness. Daily driving to visit accounts requires valid driver's license and reliable transportation. Excellent computer and social media skills expected. UC offers great benefits including tuition remission. Minimum requirements: bachelor's degree with one (1) year experience; -OR- Associate's degree with three (3) years' experience; -OR- five (5) years' experience. Experience must be in sales or marketing. The University of Cincinnati is an affirmative

action/equal opportunity employer/M/F/Vet/Disabled. Apply online here: <http://bit.ly/1GgmAXg>.

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

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) or by fax to (202) 393-5527. (For a more detailed announcement in the weekly "Meetings" section of the Newsletter, please include program information.)

2015

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

May 12. **Technical Writing for Regulatory Submissions Workshop, Washington, D.C.** More information and registration details can be found [here](#).

May 13. **FDA Blood Products Advisory Committee Meeting, Silver Spring, Md.** More information is available [here](#). Contact: Bryan Emery, Bryan.Emery@fda.hhs.gov.

May 18-20. **FDA & Biomedical Engineering Society: Frontiers in Medical Devices Conference, Hyattsville,**

Md. More information and registration details can be found [here](#).

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

(continued on page 15)

CALENDAR (continued from page 14)

May 11-12. **HHS Symposium on Accessibility and Development of Tissue Products for Emergency Preparedness, Washington, D.C.** More information can be found [here](#).

May 27-28. **FDA Science Forum, Silver Spring, Md.** More information and registration details can be found [here](#).

June 11-13. **13th International Cord Blood Symposium, San Francisco, Calif.** The agenda, registration details, and other information can be found [here](#).

June 4. **NEJM Innovation in Healthcare Leadership Webinar: A New World – Competition. Consolidation. Integration.** To register, click [here](#).

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

June 23-24. **AdvaMed Workshop: FDA Submissions Strategy, Washington, D.C.** More information is available [here](#).

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.

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.

Sept. 28-29. **2nd Global Symposium on "The Future for Blood and Plasma Donations," Dallas, Texas.** Contact: e-mail: info@pifa.nl. More information available [here](#).

Dec. 1-2. **IPFA Workshop on Improving Access to Plasma and Plasma Products in the Southern Africa Region, Stellenbosch (Cape Town), South Africa.** Contact: e-mail: info@pifa.nl. More information available [here](#). ♦