

## 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Awards of Excellence Recipients Announced

America's Blood Centers (ABC) is pleased to announce the recipients of the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Awards of Excellence and the Foundation for America's Blood Centers' (FABC) Annual Awards, which will be presented on the evening of Monday, March 27, from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., during the 55<sup>th</sup> ABC Annual Meeting. These awards recognize individuals and organizations that have made outstanding contributions in promoting blood donation and improving transfusion medicine.

### Thomas F. Zuck Lifetime Achievement Award

The Thomas F. Zuck Lifetime Achievement Award honors an individual for a lifetime achievement of the application of clinical/medical and scientific research to improve methods of blood collection and safety/efficacy of products provided to patients. This year the award is being presented to Merlyn Sayers, MBBCh, FCP, PhD, President and CEO of Carter BloodCare.

Dr. Sayers was born in Reading, England, and attended medical school at the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa. Graduating in 1968, he focused on research in iron and red cell metabolism.

After immigrating to the United States in 1977, he did fellowships in hematology, oncology, and transfusion medicine before joining the Puget Sound Blood Center (now Bloodworks Northwest) and the faculty of the University of Washington, Seattle, in the Division of Hematology, Department of Medicine. He relocated to Dallas, Texas in 1996 as the chief executive officer for Carter BloodCare, the community independent blood program for North Central Texas, and was appointed to the faculty of the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in the Department of Pathology.

Dr. Sayers has more than 85 publications in the area of transfusion medicine, including many publications on infectious disease risk and iron status. He has served as the Vice Chairman of the Washington State Board of Health, Chairman of the FDA Blood Products Advisory Committee, and President of America's Blood Centers. Board responsibilities have included the Dallas Fort Worth Hospital Council Foundation, The National Blood Foundation, and the International Council for Commonality in Blood Banking Automation.



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## OUR SPACE

Kate Fry, ABC's Chief Administrative Officer

### A Strategic Focus on Donors

With ABC and ADRP joining forces last fall, we gained not only a tremendous asset in the world of donor recruitment, but strategically positioned ourselves to confront the future challenges of a changing donor demographic. The ABC/ADRP partnership will not only provide first-class educational opportunities to various disciplines at the center-level, but will also ensure that as a community and association we have even greater resources to confront regulatory changes to donor qualifications and an ability to monitor trends on an international level.

With ADRP becoming an international division of ABC, a new subscriber model was launched to include individuals from around the world involved in blood center collections, communications, donor recruitment, and marketing. New networking opportunities have been launched to connect these important individuals within the blood center as never before, allowing for the sharing of resources, ideas, and intelligence.

If you have not seen it already, I encourage you to view the new offerings through [ADRP on their website](#). While on the website, sign up for the ADRP newsletter, *The Drop*, to stay current on the multitude of activities occurring throughout the year and [register to become an ADRP subscriber](#)—note that ABC member center employees receive discounted pricing. ADRP webinars are also available through the [ABC Professional Institute \(API\) Learning Portal](#).

Perhaps most exciting is the revamped ADRP Annual Conference this year, occurring May 1 to 3 in Chicago, Ill. The expanded conference will incorporate the ABC Fund Development, Communications and Donor Management Workshop and Collections education track from the Quality and Technical Workshop to offer donor services professionals even more educational opportunities in one place. Roughly one-third of all sessions will qualify for Professional Acknowledgment for Continuing Education (P.A.C.E.) credits for the first time, adding even greater value to attendees. The conference will launch with a half-day blood drive coordinator workshop as well as a global forum. To register click [here](#).

We hope you will encourage your staff to become involved in ADRP throughout the year and attend the conference in May. We look forward to seeing you there. 💧

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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.

#### America's Blood Centers

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Dear Colleagues,

ABC is seeking to fill the position of Chief Medical Officer this summer. So that an optimal transition will occur, I would like to enlist your efforts to identify candidates to fill this important position. If you personally are interested in learning more about this opportunity, or know of other highly qualified colleagues that you believe should be considered, please communicate this interest to me at [czambricki@americasblood.org](mailto:czambricki@americasblood.org). All communication will be held in strictest confidence.

The ABC Chief Medical Officer is responsible for implementing strategies and tactics, consistent with the best scientific and medical evidence and regulatory requirements, that support ABC's mission, maintain our values, and realize our vision. The CMO works as part of the ABC Senior Executive Team (SET) to communicate ABC's issues to members, regulators, legislators, and external groups and mobilizes ABC members and professional staff to achieve the strategic goals of the organization. The CMO serves as a public advocate for ABC, maximizing the organization's public presence as a national leader in shaping the future of blood banking, transfusion medicine, and cell therapies.

Sincerely,

Christine Zambricki, CEO







**Featured Topics**

- HLA Testing & TRALI Mitigation
- Whole Blood – What's Old is New Again
- Cybersecurity for Quality & Technical Professionals
- Making the Leap to Process Improvement

**For registration information, visit [www.bit.ly/abc\\_meetings](http://www.bit.ly/abc_meetings).**

Scholarship opportunities are available to ABC members.

Sponsorship opportunities available. Contact Jodi Zand at [jzand@americasblood.org](mailto:jzand@americasblood.org) for details.

**Hotel Information**

DoubleTree by Hilton Omaha Downtown  
Hotel room rate: \$144 + tax



ABC is proud to sponsor this meeting in historic Omaha, Nebraska. We are bringing quality and technical professionals together and will provide both educational updates and an opportunity for networking. The value of different perspectives enriches this event and provides a platform for the discussion of issues that cross common boundaries.

*—Louis M. Katz, MD, CMO, America's Blood Centers*



**America's Blood Centers<sup>®</sup>**  
**Professional Institute**



## 20TH ANNUAL AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE (continued from page 1)

“He is particularly known for his eloquent voice on behalf of the blood donor, a voice that is often not heard in our deliberations. He speaks of donor health and donor attitudes with authority and persuasion,” wrote Susan Rossmann, MD, PhD, ABC President and Chief Medical Officer of Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center. “Recently, he has been a prominent figure in the discussions of iron status in blood donors, and has established programs in donor screening for diabetes.”

Dr. Sayers’ research interests center on community and public health, particularly amongst teenagers.

### **William Coenen President’s Award**



The Bill Coenen President’s Award is given every year to an ABC member for his/her service and commitment to the members of America’s Blood Centers. This year the award is being given to President and Chief Executive Officer of OneBlood, Donald D. Doddridge, MT(ASCP).

“Don Doddridge has been recognized over the years as a leader in our community, a man who is forward thinking and trustworthy. He has been President of ABC and has supported and promoted ABC in many ways. It’s a pleasure to be able to recognize him at this time,” wrote Dr. Rossmann.

Mr. Doddridge has more than 40 years of blood banking experience as the CEO of OneBlood, CEO of Community Blood Centers of South Florida, for 15 years prior to arriving at OneBlood, and as the Chief Operating Officer of Florida Blood Services for 20 years before becoming President and Chief Executive Officer in 2002. Mr. Doddridge also serves as the current Chairman of Creative Testing Solutions, the largest independent blood donor testing non-profit organization in the U.S.

He has held leadership positions in multiple professional associations serving as President of the Board of Directors for AABB, ABC, and the Florida Association of Blood Banks.

He is the past chairman of the AABB Inter-Organizational Task Force on Domestic Disasters and Acts of Terrorism and is on the President’s Advisory Council. Mr. Doddridge is also past chairman of the International Council for Commonality in Blood Bank Automation and is a member of the International Who’s Who of Professionals.

Mr. Doddridge’s accomplishments and contributions have earned him AABB’s John Elliot Memorial Award in 2005, the Distinguished Service Award in 2003, and the Administrator of the Year Award in 1994.

An engaged citizen, Mr. Doddridge is an active member of the Suncoasters and the Rotary Club of St. Petersburg and has served as President. He is a longtime member of the St. Petersburg Area Chamber of Commerce and has been an Elder of the First Presbyterian Church since 1989.

### **Larry Frederick Award**

In 1982, as an on-duty police officer, Larry Frederick was struck by a car going 65 miles an hour. Mr. Frederick's life was saved by 110 pints of blood given by volunteer blood donors. He went on to become one of the most eloquent and avid spokespersons for blood donations in America. An award in his name was established to



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## 20TH ANNUAL AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE (continued from page 4)

honor an individual for their community leadership in raising awareness for the need of blood donations. This year is the first year the award will be presented jointly by ABC and ADRP, an international arm of ABC. The award will be presented to Steven DeLorenzo, North Hunterdon High School guidance counselor and National Honor Society advisor.

Mr. DeLorenzo began working with New Jersey Blood Services, a division of New York Blood Center (NYBC), in 2002. Mr. DeLorenzo and National Honor Students at his high school coordinate the blood drives four times a year, including a reunion for alumni each August. NYBC has ranked North Hunterdon High School as number one for the last 10 years in top high school blood drives for the tri-state area. During the 2015 to 2016 school year, the high school's blood drives collected 1,386 units of blood.

“I am extremely humbled to have been named the 2017 Larry Frederick Award winner presented by America's Blood Centers,” DeLorenzo [told the NJ.com](#). “Although it is greatly appreciated, this award is not about me, but rather a reflection of the amazing school and community that we call home.”

## **ABC Outstanding Blood Drive of the Year**



For 40 years, the San Diego Blood Bank (SDBB) has partnered with Comic-Con International San Diego to host the Robert A. Heinlein Blood Drive at the annual Comic-Con International Convention. Visionary science-fiction author Robert A. Heinlein founded the drive in 1977, as he suffered from a rare blood disorder. He asked that this blood drive be started at Comic-Con and gave his autograph to those who donated blood.

Every year, the San Diego Blood Bank collects hundreds of units of blood products over the course of the four-day drive. Nearly 1,200 units were collected over the four-day period last year, with donors receiving an exclusive Captain America T-shirt in coordination with Marvel Comics. One highlight from the drive was a visit from Ryan Wilcox, a San Diego high school student who is battling cancer. Last year Wilcox was visited by on-screen Captain America, Chris Evans along with co-stars Robert Downey Jr. and Gwyneth Paltrow.

Over the last 40 years, the Robert A. Heinlein Blood Drive has collected over 17,800 units of lifesaving

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## 20TH ANNUAL AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE (continued from page 5)

blood products. By hosting a blood drive at Comic-Con International, SDBB is able to be a part of one of the largest events in San Diego, exposing the blood center to 130,000 attendees and potential donors every year.

### **ABC Outstanding Public Relations Campaign**

Many anniversary celebrations are viewed as a simple one-dimensional event with pre-packaged messaging and an anniversary logo. However, the Blood Bank of Hawaii (BBH) had a distinctive campaign in mind for their 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary.



After special consideration was given to organizational needs at the senior leadership level and key messaging, the public relations team at BBH identified all stakeholders, vehicles for communication, and target media. They then sketched out a comprehensive year-long plan with objectives, timelines, and goals for their anniversary campaign.

The year-long campaign integrated all public relations components (branding, print, broadcast, social media, and events) for the greatest impact and reach to all stakeholders. The campaign took the bookend approach with a big launch in January and culminating with a large splash in December. BBH layered stories using timely events to hook media—including the *ABC Newsletter*—and garnered support throughout the rest of the year by intermingling several events branded with their 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary to sustain the PR buzz.

### **Blood Community Advocate of the Year**



The Blood Community Advocate of the Year award honors individuals who demonstrate leadership, commitment, or extraordinary service in advocating on behalf of ABC member blood centers and the blood community. This year the award is bestowed upon Danielle Stanek, DVM, Medical Epidemiologist for the Zoonotic and Vector-Borne Disease Program of the Florida Department of Health.

“Dr. Stanek’s collaborative and close involvement with the blood centers in Florida has been invaluable in maintaining the safety of the blood supply during outbreaks of dengue, chikungunya, West Nile Virus, and most recently the Zika virus,” wrote Rita Reik, MD, FCAP, Chief Medical Director at OneBlood. “We in the blood banking community, and the public, owe a great debt of gratitude to Dr. Stanek for her past and ongoing work and leadership in the area of arboviral diseases and protection of the blood supply in the State of Florida – a state which has become a role model for dealing with arboviral disease outbreaks.”

Dr. Stanek earned a Bachelor of Science in Microbiology in 1985 and a doctorate of veterinary medicine (DVM) in 1989, both from the University of Florida. She has experience with large and small animal veterinary practices, human and veterinary diagnostics, and wildlife disease investigations. Her work with diseases and toxins having negative health impacts on both animals and people led her to her current position as the Medical Epidemiologist for the Zoonotic and Vector-borne Disease Program at the Florida Department of Health. At her current job, Dr. Stanek tracks reports of diseases such as rabies, brucellosis and Zika virus that are spread to humans from animals or insects. She also provides information on how to prevent these illnesses.

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## 20TH ANNUAL AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE (continued from page 6)

Dr. Stanek has served as the key contact, coordinator, and implementer for blood center/Department of Health initiatives in Florida that focused on prevention of disease spread through blood donation. She was “instrumental in coordinating and fostering cooperative and effective relationships with the Department of Health, blood centers, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and research teams involved in the national REDS III Zika research study,” added Dr. Reik.

### **Corporation of the Year Award**

The Streets of New York, New York style pizza and pasta restaurant in Arizona, first partnered with United Blood Services, Arizona, in 2012 and offered all December blood donors a voucher for a free pizza. Since then, they have sponsored seven blood donor campaigns and six Saving Arizona post-holiday events, which is Arizona’s largest blood drive that also attracts many of their own employees to donate. Since the inception of the partnership, Streets of New York has donated over \$1 million in blood donor thank you gifts, helping to attract 68,924 blood donors during the most critical times of the year to maintain blood supplies.



*Streets of New York President Lorrie Glaeser and D-Backs Player Gonzo visiting Phoenix Children's Hospital.*

In addition to sponsoring blood donor appreciation campaigns and community-wide blood drives, they have also brought numerous innovative promotional elements each time to increase community awareness. As the official pizza for the Arizona Diamondbacks and Phoenix Suns teams, they used their influence to secure programs offering co-branded T-shirts to fans who become new blood donors. The Streets of New York participated as a major contributor to the international Missing Type campaign and supported other media efforts by recruiting D-backs baseball legend Luis Gonzalez, whose contributions have resulted in numerous TV and print-media stories, bi-lingual (Spanish and English) interviews, and public service announcements.

Winners will be presented their awards at the *Awards of Excellence* event, hosted by the FABC, at the ABC Annual Meeting on Monday, March 27. We congratulate all the award winners and thank everyone who sent in nominations this year. ♦

### **We Welcome Your Articles**

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



America's Blood Centers  
It's About Life.

## INSIDE ABC

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

### Make Your Vote Count!

The member voting representative or alternate must be present on March 26 at the ABC Members Meeting in Arlington, Va., or complete a proxy ballot form prior to March 26, to vote for the ballot issues listed below. ABC bylaws require two-thirds of members (45 members) to be present, and three-fourths affirmative vote of those present is required to revise the bylaws.

ABC Members will vote on the following ballot items at the ABC Member Meeting:

1. To elect ABC Board & Officers

The ABC Nominating Committee has prepared a slate of candidates to fill the vacancies in the Board of Directors. The slate and bios are included in this [MCN](#).

2. To approve changes to ABC Bylaws

The ABC Bylaws Committee recommends revision in two major categories: Board Composition and Succession Planning. The Board of Directors fully supports the proposed changes and they have been reviewed by legal counsel. To review the bylaw changes, click [here](#).

3. To approve nominations for ABC Emeritus Membership

The ABC Membership Committee has reviewed the nominations and recommends a “yes” vote to approve Dean Eller and Jacquelyn Fredrick for emeritus membership as established in the ABC bylaws.

A webinar will be moderated by ABC CEO Christine Zambricki on March 16 at 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. (EDT) to discuss the proposed bylaw changes as well as the board composition. To join the webinar, click [here](#).

### Director of Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research (CBER) to Speak at ABC Annual Meeting



Peter Marks, MD, PhD, director of the CBER at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) will speak during the Advocacy Forum on Tuesday, March 28, at the ABC Annual Meeting.

Dr. Peter Marks received his graduate degree in cell and molecular biology and his medical degree at New York University. He completed his residency in Internal Medicine and a fellowship in Hematology/Medical Oncology at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, where he subsequently joined the attending staff as a clinician-scientist and eventually served as Clinical Director of Hematology.

Dr. Marks then moved on to work for several years in the pharmaceutical industry on the clinical development of hematology and oncology products prior to returning to academic medicine at Yale University

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where he led the Adult Leukemia Service and served as Chief Clinical Officer of Smilow Cancer Hospital. He joined the FDA in 2012 as Deputy Center Director for CBER and became the CBER Director in 2016. Dr. Marks is board certified in internal medicine, hematology and medical oncology, and is a Fellow of the American College of Physicians.

### A New Talent Show Contestant Strikes a Key!



Carolyn Young, MD, has been playing the piano since she was six years old. A finalist in the Presidential Scholars/Arts Recognition and Talent Search, Dr. Young won the Senior Concerto Competition in 1981. She has performed with the Florida State University Symphony Orchestra and the University of Florida Symphony Orchestra.



Torn between studying to become a physician or a concert pianist, she asked her parents for advice. Her father told her to go into music because, “you’ll get married and your husband will support you, anyway,” which her mother countered by calling that thinking “old school.” Her father’s reverse psychology worked and she decided to pursue medicine, but she continued piano lessons through medical school. In recent years, Dr. Young can still be found playing piano when she has time, mostly at church or for residents at a senior center called Scandinavian Home. You can [view and/or vote for her playing her mother’s favorite song](#), Chopin’s “Etude Opus 10, Number 3” for her ABC’s Got Talent-Season II performance.

Dr. Young has been with the Rhode Island Blood Center (RIBC) since 1995, and has been the Vice President and Chief Medical Officer there since 2004. Some people call her the “variance queen,” because she frequently applies for Food and Drug Administration and AABB variances. Dr. Young applies for these numerous variances, because she feels everyone who should be eligible to donate. For example, with the help of an AABB variance, RIBC was able to accept tattooed donors in 2002.

View the [rest of the contestants on our website](#) and donate to your favorite contestant! The funds will go to a good cause—helping fund the FABC! 💎

### 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 ABC Publications Editor Lisa Spinelli at [newsletter@americasblood.org](mailto:newsletter@americasblood.org) or fax them to (202) 393-1282. Please include your correct title and organization as well as your phone number. The deadline for letters is Wednesday to make it into the next newsletter.



## RESEARCH IN BRIEF

**Promising retrospective study for chronic dysimmune peripheral neuropathies (CDPN).** A retrospective study of therapeutic plasma exchange (TPE) as a treatment for CDPN patients suggests efficacy. Of the 206 patients receiving TPE in this 10-year retrospective study, four of the five (80 percent) paraprotein neuropathies patients and eight of the 11 (72.7 percent) chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyneuropathies patients responded significantly to the TPE. Six of nine (66.7 percent) anti-MAG neuropathy patients responded with a trend toward improvement on the Hughes score. None of the three Lewis-Sumner and two polyneuropathy, organomegaly, endocrinopathy, monoclonal plasma cell disorder, and skin changes (POEMS) patients showed any significant improvement. Authors concluded that a randomized trial would be very worthwhile in this disease for which there is no evidence-based treatment to date.

**Citation:** Codron P., Cousin M., Subra J.F., *et al.* Therapeutic plasma exchange in chronic dysimmune peripheral neuropathies: A 10-year retrospective study. *Journal of Clinical Apheresis*. March 1, 2017 online. DOI: 10.1002/jca.21530.

**The Food and Drug Administration published a modeling analysis of their variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob (vCJD) disease-deferral policy.** Investigators estimated that deferral of potential donors from the top three most at-risk countries for vCJD would maintain the blood safety level at current levels. Deferrals for the United Kingdom, Ireland, and France, combined with the current questionnaire, had essentially equivalent risk reduction as the current much more complicated approach at 89.3 percent and 89.8 percent respectively. Limiting the deferral could allow an additional 100,000 donors to enter into the donor pool and reduce the substantial anxiety and confusion inherent in telling donors their donation might pose risk to recipients.

**Citation:** Yang H., Huang Y., Gregori L., *et al.* Geographic exposure risk of variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease in U.S. blood donors: a risk-ranking model to evaluate alternative donor-deferral policies. *Transfusion*. March 5, 2017. DOI:10.1111/trf.13971.

**Zika virus (ZIKV) RNA found to last much longer in whole blood than plasma.** In a study of five immunocompetent patients (two men, three women) who had traveled to areas of the Americas endemic for the disease, results from a point-to-point comparison of Zika viral loads on both EDTA whole-blood and corresponding plasma samples were studied. Researchers extracted the RNA collected from patients and found the median duration of ZIKV was 22 days in whole blood and 10 days in plasma. The point-to-point comparison showed ZIKV RNA was quantifiable in 23 whole-blood specimens, but in only 10 plasma samples—suggesting that whole blood may be a more sensitive diagnostic specimen than plasma. The authors provide no data addressing the question of whether the RNA they detected represents infectious virus, or RNA without intact, infectious virus as may be the case with other flaviviruses.

**Citation:** Mansuy J.M., Mengelle C., Pasquier C., *et al.* Zika Virus Infection and Prolonged Viremia in Whole-Blood Specimens. *Emerging Infectious Diseases*. May 2017. DOI: 10.3201/eid2305.161631.

**A case report of gene therapy for sickle cell disease (SCD) provides proof of concept for the approach.** The cure for some severe SCD patients is allogeneic hematopoietic stem-cell transplantation, but fewer than 18 percent of patients have a matched sibling donor and morbidity from stem cell transplant is considerable. In this case report, a 13-year-old boy from Paris experienced complete clinical remission with correction of hemolysis and biologic hallmarks of the disease. He received an autologous transplant of stem cells transfected with an anti-sickling beta globin gene, after myeloablation with intravenous busulfan. Neutrophil and platelet engraftment were achieved within three months after and by one year

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RESEARCH IN BRIEF (continued from page 10)

after transplantation he had much lower levels of sickled red cells than before treatment. No sickle crises occurred by 15 months of follow up and levels of the transfected beta globin gene remained high. The authors noted that a longer follow-up is required to confirm the boy’s progress and to see if the safety profile changes.

**Citation:** Ribeil J.A., Hacein-Bey-Abina S., Payen E., *et al.* Gene Therapy in a Patient with Sickle Cell Disease. *New England Journal of Medicine*. March 2, 2017. DOI: 10.1056/NEJMoa1609677. ♦

**BRIEFLY NOTED**

**Patient-advocacy organizations receive substantial financial support and oversight from industry partners, reads a new report in the *New England Journal of Medicine* (NEJM).** In an analysis of 104 patient-advocacy organizations, 86 of them (83 percent) reported receiving financial support from industry and 37 (36 percent) reported at least one current industry executive on their governing board. Of those organizations receiving financial support and reporting the amounts (n=59), 23 (39 percent) are receiving at least \$1 million annually from outside companies. The authors of this analysis also found current disclosure practices are very limited and very few (12 percent) patient-advocacy organizations publish their policies. The authors did not define what they consider to be “conflicts” and did not provide evidence of undue influence for the money received.

**Citation:** McCoy M.S., Carniol M., Chockley K., *et al.* Conflicts of Interest for Patient-Advocacy Organizations. *NEJM*. March 2, 2017. DOI: 10.1056/NEJMSr1610625.

**The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) still has weaknesses in their information security systems.** A [new final report](#) on an audit from the Deputy Inspector General for Audit Services’ office, as performed by Ernst and Young LLP, found progress had been made to improve HHS’ information security program, but there was still work to be done to strengthen a number of IT systems to ensure the security of data and access to the system.

**An experimental treatment for hemophilia shows promising results.** Biotech startup Sparks Therapeutics, associated with Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, enrolled nine patients with hemophilia b and infused seven of them with an investigational bioengineered adenovirus-associated virus capsid with liver tropism. Twelve weeks after the infusion, patients infused experienced a mean FIX:C of 32.3 ±6.5 percent. No subjects required immunosuppression or demonstrated evidence of a cytotoxic immune response and no adverse events were experienced either related to the vector or procedure.

**Citation:** George L.A., Sullivan S.K., Giermasz A., *et al.* 3 Spk-9001: Adeno-Associated Virus Mediated Gene Transfer for Hemophilia B Achieves Sustained Mean Factor IX Activity Levels of >30% without Immunosuppression. American Society of Hematology 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting. December 4, 2016.



**The National Hemophilia Foundation (NHF), in conjunction with the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), recognizes March as Bleeding Disorders Awareness Month.** NHF presents the Red Tie Challenge for organizations and individuals to recognize and support the bleeding disorder community. “Because blood ties, embodied in the color red and the tie, are what bind our community together. The red tie is the new symbol for the bleeding disorders community,” said Val D. Bias, NHF CEO. “The color red also conveys strength, leadership, courage, determination

**BRIEFLY NOTED** (continued from page 11)

and, above all, empathy and love—qualities and emotions that define our community.” Some ideas for how people and groups can take part in the challenge include: recording a short video that shows how they wear a red tie and pledging their support for Bleeding Disorders Awareness Month, and/or posting to social media channels and encouraging fans and followers to take part in the challenge; and [donating to the bleeding disorders community](#). To find out more about the Red Tie Challenge, click [here](#). (Source: [NHF website](#))

**AABB announced a partnership with the George Washington University to offer a certificate in cellular therapies.** The online self-paced program consists of 12 modules and is designed to be completed within three months. Each new enrollment cycle, or cohort, starts on the first of each month and is accessible for up to 12 months after enrollment. For more information, visit [AABB Cellular Therapies Certificate Program page](#). 🔴

**INFECTIOUS DISEASES**

**The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported on Zika-related birth defects.** In a review of three surveillance programs’ data from Massachusetts, North Carolina, and Atlanta, Ga., CDC researchers found rate of birth defects consistent with Zika infections rose about 20-fold comparing 2016 to 2013 to 2014. There were 747 infants and fetuses with one or more of Zika-related defects (2.86/1000) from 2013 to 2014, and 26 among 442 completed pregnancies (58.8/1000) in 2016.

**Citation:** Cragan J.D., Mai C.T., Petersen E.E., *et al.* Baseline Prevalence of Birth Defects Associated with Congenital Zika Virus Infection — Massachusetts, North Carolina, and Atlanta, Georgia, 2013–2014. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*. March 3, 2017. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm6608a4>

**Researchers estimate the number of Zika infections in Puerto Rico (PR) using local blood donor testing data.** With data from the two largest blood centers in PR, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) researchers estimated 469,321 persons were infected with Zika virus during April to August 2016. The mean RNA-viremia duration was 9.9 days and the estimated cumulative incidence of Zika infection for the study period was 12.9 percent. These estimates were made with Zika RNA data from 21,643 blood donors to Banco de Sangre de Servicios Mutuos and Banco de Sangre del Centro Médico de la Administración de Servicios Médicos.

**Citation:** Chevalier M.S., Biggerstaff B.J., Basavaraju S.V., *et al.* Use of Blood Donor Screening Data to Estimate Zika Virus Incidence, Puerto Rico, April–August 2016. *Emerging Infectious Diseases*. May 2017. DOI: 10.3201/eid2305.161873. 🔴

**Save the Date!**

ABC QA Education Webinar  
“Risk Based Decision Making for Managing  
Nonconforming Products/Non-Complaint Conditions”  
March 21  
3 p.m. EDT



## WORD IN WASHINGTON

**Repeal and Replace Moves Ahead.** Republicans released an alternative to the Affordable Care Act (ACA), aka ObamaCare. Named the American Health Care Act (AHCA), the legislation was released late Monday and passed both the House Ways and Means and the Energy and Commerce committees on Thursday (the two committees who drafted the legislation). Speaker of the House Paul Ryan (R-Wisc.) publically announced he would like the House to vote on the bill by the first week of April. President Trump reminded Republican lawmakers, many of whom have dubbed the bill “Obamacare-light,” that amendments can be made to the bill after passage.

Some key factors [Politico](#) listed are that the bill would:

- Repeal the ACA's individual mandate and instead allow insurance companies to charge a 30 percent surcharge if consumers don't keep “continuous” insurance coverage.
- Preserve popular ObamaCare provisions like allowing children to stay on their parents' insurance plans until age 26 and requiring insurers to accept everyone regardless of pre-existing conditions.
- Shift Medicaid away from its current open-ended federal matching payments to a per capita cap model, which could force states to shrink their programs and possibly lead to millions of current enrollees losing coverage.
- Offer financial support to states that didn't expand Medicaid under the ACA by making a series of funding changes and reinstating disproportionate share hospital payments.
- Replace ObamaCare subsidies with new age-based tax credits ranging from \$2,000 to \$4,000 to help individuals pay for coverage.

Important for ABC Members:

- The proposals would be funded in part through cuts to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in its [Prevention and Public Health Fund](#). The accounts make up about 12 percent of the overall CDC budget.
- The medical device tax would be permanently repealed.
- The plan repeals the employer mandate for providing health insurance.
- The legislation repeals the limit of how much a person can put into a flexible spending account.

See the [bill text](#) and the [summary](#) from the Energy & Commerce Committee.

See the [bill text](#) and the [summary](#) from the Ways & Means Committee.

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO), a nonpartisan office, has yet to release predictions on the cost – aka “score” - of the AHCA. Their score takes into account how much governmental funding will be needed, the effects on the federal budget, as well as how Americans’ insurance coverage will be affected. This score could help sink or swim the bill, according to [Business Insider](#).

The American Hospital Association wrote a [letter to the House](#) urging them to wait until the CBO could determine coverage estimates before Congress proceeds, “with formal consideration” for AHCA. The American Medical Association (AMA) also [weighed in against the proposal](#), saying they “cannot support the AHCA as drafted because of the expected decline in health insurance coverage and the potential harm it would cause to vulnerable patient populations.”

ABC will continue to follow this story and keep our members abreast of the changes being made that could impact our members and our member blood centers’ benefits plans. 💧



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"The 2016 ADRP Conference was a perfect blend of Recruitment & Collections content. To hear leaders in our industry from around the world share best practices was priceless.

*—Pamela B. Rascon, Director, Community Resources, Sheppard Community Blood Center, GA*

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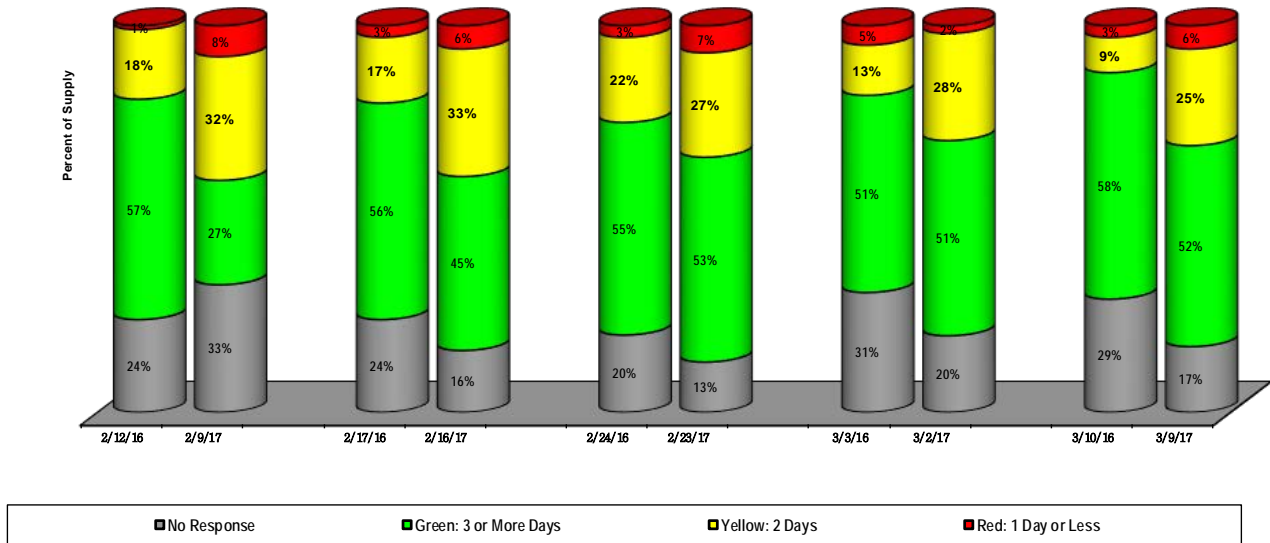
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**STOPLIGHT®: Status of the ABC Blood Supply, 2016 vs. 2017**



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



**Register for the March ADRP Webinar**

ADRP is proud to announce the “Engaging Partners to do More Than Recruit Blood Donors” webinar on March 16, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. EDT, as presented by Amanda Farrell, Director of Donor Recruitment, Unyts.

On this webinar you will hear how one family has made it their mission to create a lifesaving legacy for their son. Their passion created an army of supporters, with a mission to save lives. To read more about this webinar and to register, visit the [events page on the ADRP website](#). ♦



## PEOPLE

### J. Daniel Connor to retire; Blood Systems launches CEO search



Blood Systems President and CEO J. Daniel Connor has announced plans to retire. The Blood Systems Board of Trustees has launched its search for his successor. Mr. Connor will remain in the role he has held for the past 21 years until a new CEO is named and a successful transition is completed, likely within the next several months.

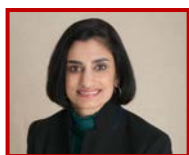
“Dan has been both a visionary game-changer and a rock-steady leader for Blood Systems,” said John S. Lewis, chairman of the Blood Systems Board of Trustees. “When he joined Blood Systems, Dan brought with him tremendous respect for the organization’s legacy and high aspirations for its future. The hallmark of his work here is the establishment and cultivation of our strong quality culture.”

“I continue to have the highest expectations for Blood Systems and great appreciation for the people who work here,” Mr. Connor said. “Along with my pride in our culture of quality, if I had to single out one thing I’m most proud of it would be the leadership team. Every day, they challenge and support both me and the organization and push all of us to be better for the donors, patients, and communities we serve.”

Thinking about the next person who will sit in his chair, Mr. Connor said, “It’s essential for the organization to choose a leader who understands, supports and lives Blood Systems’ RITE values of respect, integrity, teamwork and excellence. It’s personally important to me that that person respects our employees and volunteer blood donors. And I hope that person will continue the vision of seeking like-minded partners to continue to grow Blood Systems into a strong, national presence.”

After briefly working as an auditor in the Chicago office of Ernst & Young, Mr. Connor began his blood banking career some 43 years ago at Chicago’s North Suburban Blood Center, which eventually became LifeSource (coincidentally now part of the Institute for Transfusion Medicine, which became part of Blood Systems on March 1). He became CEO of the Southern California Region of the American Red Cross Blood Services in Los Angeles and Orange County in January 1992 and took the Blood Systems helm in September 1995.

He served as president of AABB in 2007 to 2008, and is a proud recipient of that organization’s 2001 Bernice Hemphill Award (now the Hemphill-Jordan Leadership award) that honors leaders from the transfusion medicine and cellular therapy community who have made significant contributions in the areas of administration, quality programs, law and/or government affairs. Mr. Connor is a past-chair of the National Blood Foundation and has served on a number of committees with AABB and America’s Blood Centers. He was president of ABC’s predecessor, the Council of Community Blood Centers, in the early 1980s.



**Seema Verma confirmed.** The Senate voted 54 to 44 in favor of her nomination on Thursday. The final vote will come Friday night, but is expected to be pushed until Monday. (Source: *The Hill*, [Senate advances Trump’s Medicaid, Medicare pick](#), March 9, 2017) ♦





## MEMBER NEWS

**The Indiana Blood Center (IBC) and the Girl Scouts of Central Indiana partnered up.** During two blood drives, donors at IBC locations got to take home a package of Thin Mints in exchange for their donations. “Blood donors know that cookies are always waiting for them after they’ve done their good deed, and who wouldn’t love a Thin Mint,” said Deana Potterf, chief communications officer for Girl Scouts of Central Indiana, told the Indianapolis Star. “The cookie promotion with the Girl Scouts is a great way to reward loyal donors,” Andrea L. Fagan, director of public relations and marketing for IBC, said. “It also gives us a chance to showcase the Girl Scouts’ commitment to community service and leadership development.” (Source: *Indianapolis Star*, [Trade your blood for a box of Thin Mints](#), February 28, 2017)

**The Rhode Island Blood Center (RIBC) announced last week that they are retiring their 14-year-old incentive program, Seasons Pass.** The rewards program donated local artists work to blood donors who donated blood or blood products up to four times per year. In its place, a new program is under development that will award donors based on the number of donations they give each year. A tiered-system, the new program—as of yet unnamed—will offer more choices to donors. The new program is under development and awaiting approval. “They’ll be from gift cards, to blood donor T-shirts and apparel,” said Eric St. Peter, public relations coordinator with RIBC. (Source: RIBC press office; NBC10News [RIBC Unveils Final Print in Seasons Pass Incentive](#). March 2, 2017) ♦

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## CALENDAR

### 2017

Mar. 24-28. **Annual Meeting, America's Blood Centers, Washington, D.C.** Contact: ABC Meetings Dept. Phone: (202) 654-2901; e-mail: [meetings@americasblood.org](mailto:meetings@americasblood.org).

Mar. 25. **Board Meeting, America's Blood Centers, Washington, D.C.** Contact: ABC Meetings Dept. Phone: (202) 654-2901; e-mail: [meetings@americasblood.org](mailto:meetings@americasblood.org).

April 4-5: **CBER Blood Products Advisory Committee, Silver Spring, Md.** For the agenda and more information, click [here](#).

April 6. **FDA Public Workshop: Emerging Tick-Borne Diseases and Blood Safety, Bethesda, Md.** This workshop has been planned in partnership with AABB, ABC, NIH and more. For more information, click [here](#).

Apr. 18-19. **Heart of America Association of Blood Banks (HAABB) 50th Annual Spring Meeting, Kansas City, Mo.** For more information and to register, go to <http://www.haabb.org>.

Apr. 18-19. **Transfusion Safety Officer & Patient Blood Management Seminars (Basic & Advanced Programs), St. Petersburg, Fla.** If you are interested in taking part in one of these new and engaging programs, please contact: [Cathy Shea](#), Executive Assistant or call (727) 568-1151.

May 1-3. **ADRP 2017 Annual Conference, Chicago, Ill.** More information and registration is available [online](#).

May 16-17. **[IPFA/PEI 24<sup>th</sup> International Workshop on "Surveillance and Screening of Blood-borne Pathogens"](#), Zagreb, Croatia.** To register, click [here](#).

May 17-19. **Cellular Therapies and Transfusion Medicine in Trauma and Critical Care-Looking Towards the Future, San Francisco, Calif.** Presented by Blood Systems, Blood Systems Research Institute, and the University of California San Francisco. For more information, or to register, click [here](#).

June 6-8. **Technical & Quality Workshop, America's Blood Centers, Omaha, Neb.** Contact: ABC Meetings Dept. Phone: (202) 654-2901; e-mail: [meetings@americasblood.org](mailto:meetings@americasblood.org).

June 17-21. **27<sup>th</sup> Regional Congress of the ISBT, Copenhagen, Denmark.** Click [here](#) to register for the event.

July 26. **Transfusion Safety Officer & Patient Blood Management Seminars (Advanced Program), Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.** If you are interested in taking part in one of these new and engaging programs, please contact: [Cathy Shea](#), Executive Assistant or call (727) 568-1151.

Aug. 1-4. **Summer Meeting, MD Workshop & Golf Tournament, America's Blood Centers, Providence, R.I.** Contact: ABC Meetings Dept. Phone: (202) 654-2901; e-mail: [meetings@americasblood.org](mailto:meetings@americasblood.org).

Aug. 4. **Board Meeting, America's Blood Centers, Providence, R.I.** Contact: ABC Meetings Dept. Phone: (202) 654-2901; e-mail: [meetings@americasblood.org](mailto:meetings@americasblood.org).

Sept. 11-12. **[IPFA/BCA 3<sup>rd</sup> Global Symposium on The Future for Blood and Plasma Donations](#), Atlanta, Ga.** [Registration is now open.](#)

Nov. 7-8. **Transfusion Safety Officer & Patient Blood Management Seminars (Basic & Advanced Programs), Jacksonville, Fla.** If you are interested in taking part in one of these new and engaging programs, please contact: [Cathy Shea](#), Executive Assistant or call (727) 568-1151.

Nov. 8-10. **10<sup>th</sup> World Federation of Hemophilia Global Forum, Montreal, Canada,** For more information and to register, click [here](#). ♦

## CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

Classified advertisements, including notices of positions available and wanted, are published free of charge for a maximum of three weeks per position per calendar year for ABC 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 Maundy at the ABC office. Phone: (202) 654-2917; fax: (202) 393-1282; e-mail: [lmaundy@americasblood.org](mailto:lmaundy@americasblood.org).

## POSITIONS

Also available on our [website](#)

**Medical Technologist.** Blood Bank of Hawaii is seeking a Medical Technologist (MT) to join our Laboratory team!! The candidate is responsible for: Conducting general laboratory tests and procedures in the donor blood testing section of the laboratory. Product testing in the components section. Patient testing in the Immunohematology Reference Lab, including but not limited to ABO grouping, Rh testing, antibody screening, and antibody identification to include complex work-ups. The ideal candidate will: Encompass a high standard for accuracy, follow-up and follow-through; thrive in an environment where problem solving is a necessity; work with team members ensuring compliance at all times, and will also be responsible for the administrative/supervisory functions offering support and guidance to personnel; and serve as a technical resource to hospitals and other departments outside their primary responsibility. Minimum qualifications include baccalaureate degree in Medical Technology or in a related science from an accredited college or university; Certified Medical Technologist by the ASCP; eligible for Clinical Laboratory Technologist license by the Department of Health of the State of Hawaii. Previous work experience as an MT in hematology and immunohematology is preferred; certification as a Specialist in Blood Banking (SBB) highly desirable. Visit our website at [www.BBH.org](http://www.BBH.org) to complete an online application.

**Blood Center Professionals Needed.** The Blood Connection is seeking to fill multiple positions for a new division located in the Raleigh/Durham, North Carolina area. The Blood Connection is headquartered in Greenville, SC, but has expanded operations and has an immediate need for the following: Departmental managers for Collections, Recruitment, and hospital services. Also hiring for Phlebotomists, Business Development Representatives, Donor Resources/Recruitment Territory Managers, On-Site Recruiters, Hospital Services personnel, and couriers. We are seeking to build a team of professionals who are looking to join a growing and expanding organization. The Blood Connection (TBC) is an Equal Opportunity Employer. EEO/Minority/Female/Disability/Vets. To apply please go to <http://thebloodconnection.org/everify/>.

**Sr. Business Officer-COO.** Hoxworth Blood Center seeks proven leader to oversee operations. Sr. Business Officer-COO responsible for developing strategic initia-

tives, improve organization performance, maintains financial health. Collaborates with managers to assure patient's needs are met; introduce innovation, services customers, assures positive relationships. Manages aspects of the Community Advisory Board; quarterly Management Report, Nominating Committee, Strategic Planning, By-Laws. COO expected to exert high degree of independence in decision making, functions within the policies, and guidelines of the center. Candidate must possess education/experience to manage highly regulated organization. Progressive, significant, successful experience desired; outstanding communication abilities, relationship development skills. Experience in management in the pharmaceutical industry, clinical good manufacturing process (cGMP) settings will be considered. Master's in Healthcare or Business; eight years in blood center; five years in positive management with multiple direct reports. The University of Cincinnati is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer /M/F/Veteran/Disabled. Apply to <https://jobs.uc.edu/>.

**Manager, Therapeutic Pheresis (Hoxworth Blood Center, Cincinnati OH).** This position leads team of RNs to ensure proper patient care and workflow in 24/7 apheresis service. Supervisory responsibilities include: planning, implementation of apheresis unit goals and objectives; maintaining all associated policies, SOPs in compliance with regulatory agencies; interaction with Research Associates to coordinate research projects involving blood donors; compile, analyze, present therapeutic quality data and develop/maintain budgets. Serve as a therapeutic RN. Teaching responsibilities include training and education for the apheresis RNs, medical students, residents, and fellows as it relates to therapeutic procedures. Requirements: Graduate of accredited professional nursing school. Experience required in nursing including three (3) years in intensive care, hemodialysis, emergency room, or apheresis. Experience must include one (1) year as supervisor. Current unrestricted RN license; must acquire Ohio license within 90 days of hire. The University of Cincinnati is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer/M/F/Veteran/Disabled. Apply online to [https://jobs.uc.edu \(#14181\)](https://jobs.uc.edu/#14181).

**Vice President, Finance.** This position is responsible for directing Blood Systems, its subsidiaries, affiliates,

(continued on page 20)

POSITIONS (continued from page 19)

and joint venture's treasury management, tax, debt compliance and credit and collections functions. Duties and Responsibilities: Acts as primary liaison with corporate banks, investment managers, related consultants, and the organization's external tax firm. Oversees the organization's tax function including annual Form 990's, property, sales and use taxes, and other general business tax and informational returns. Directs the organization's credit and collections function. Develops policies for extension of credit to customers and assigns credit limits. Directs investment managers and consultants to change investment policies, buy and sell orders, and implement other requests of the Finance & Investment Committee. Assists CFO with establishing financing arrangements such as letters of credit, lines of credit, leasing, and bond financings. Monitors debt covenants to ensure compliance. Prepares monthly, quarterly, and annual debt disclosures. Knowledge/Education Requirements: Relevant bachelor's degree in Finance or accounting required. Thorough knowledge of treasury management, finance, tax, investments, and internal controls required. Master's degree in Business Administration or Finance or CPA certification required. Ten years of related experience required. To include: Six years senior leadership experience. To view the full job posting and apply, go to <http://www.bloodsystems.org/careers.html>.

**Director of Donor Recruitment.** The Blood Connection (Greenville, SC) seeks qualified applicants for its Director of Donor Recruitment position. This position is responsible for developing and directing blood center's donor recruitment department/plans to achieve collection goals. Scope of responsibilities includes oversight of all mobile and fixed site recruitment (excluding automated). Requires the ability to oversee the daily operations, as well as strategically work toward the long-term goals. Must be able to facilitate all operational activities related to recruitment of donors and management of recruitment staff within the expected budgeted guidelines. Must be an effective leader and have the ability to adapt to change. Excellent salary and benefits including relocation package. Bachelor's degree required, demonstrated experience in sales/territory management skills, superb leadership and team building skills, excellent verbal and written communication and public speaking skills, computer literate. Prior blood center experience preferred. Five years related experience required with at least three years' supervisory experience. Successful candidate must demonstrate ability to work closely with Marketing and Collections Managers/Directors to facilitate efficient and effective blood drives. This position reports to VP Business Development/CTO. The Blood Connection (TBC) is an Equal Opportunity Employer. EEO/Minority/Female/Disability/Vets. To apply please go to <http://thebloodconnection.org/everify/>. 