

2016 #16

May 13, 2016

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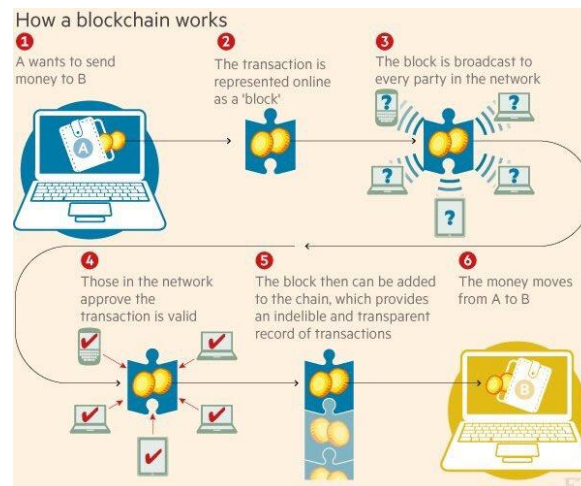
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Please Note: The *Newsletter* will be getting a new look! Expect to see some layout and formatting changes coming soon.

Can a New Business Model Revolutionize the Blood Industry?

Turn to the business section of any major news outlet and one will find streams of articles related to the blockchain model and how it is reshaping a number of industries—from the financial marketplace to healthcare. Considered by many in the financial and information technology sectors as the most important computing invention in a generation, blockchain has been labeled revolutionary. Former Treasury Secretary, Larry Summers, has said that uses of blockchain are "overwhelmingly likely" to change the financial industry. Students at the University of Edinburgh Business School in the United Kingdom seemed to agree, and applied blockchain principles to analyze if the model would work for their nation's blood system.



Bitcoin via blockchain model explained graphically from the Financial Times

Simply put, blockchain is a peer-to-peer method to facilitate and track transactions through technology. Blockchain is a data structure, or platform, that creates a ledger, or list of transactions, that is extremely difficult to change. For the blood community, the blood supply-chain and donor record management are two areas to which authors have considered applying the blockchain structure. Its first implication, however, was in the financial world with bitcoins, a kind of online

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OUR SPACE

FABC President-Elect Pascal George

The Re-Birth of FABC

Pressed by fundamental changes in our industry, ABC conducted a strategic planning exercise two years ago and developed a clear definition of its priorities, including education, and brought renewed energy to our association. Soon, the need for a larger vision and relevance spread to the Foundation, which made supporting the ABC Professional Institute (API) the theme of its fundraising campaign.

The concept of an industry resource dedicated to educating its employees, from basic knowledge expected of the frontline (Blood 101) to leadership and board development, was very well-received by our business partners. Amongst other things, it was big, it was bold, it was easy to understand, and it also differentiated FABC from what is often construed as a competing enterprise, the National Blood Foundation (NBF) of the AABB. Where the NBF is supporting research in transfusion science and medicine, the API is supporting the development of blood center employees and leadership—saving individual members the time and money needed to develop and maintain their own program by using a much wider base of knowledge and larger scope of expertise. Please note that the FABC will continue to focus on financially supporting the development of the API for ABC members for the time being.

Our 18-month campaign was very successful, resulting in one of the strongest fundraising years in FABC history—so much so, that we decided to extend the campaign by three months to end June 30, 2016. As of today, I am delighted to report that we have crossed the half-million dollar mark! But we still need another \$300,000 to reach our goal. One potential obstacle in achieving what will be a remarkable feat is our industry partners' perception that blood centers have been slow in supporting a project that will benefit them. I thank the many of you who have responded to my appeal and contributed at the individual or organizational level. But I am reaching out to those who are still pondering, 'Why?' If making a simple donation does not appeal to you, you might please consider participating in the upcoming golf tournament at the summer meeting in Hawaii. Or you may want to contribute in industry and join the FABC board. Finally, if you have concerns of any kind, please, express them so we can address them.

Through the API, we have the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to help re-shape our industry. I hope you will seize the day. 💧

pgeorge@cjbcblood.org

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

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Can a New Business Model Revolutionize the Blood Industry? (continued from page 1)

encrypted currency. Blockchain, the underlying structure behind bitcoin, can be taken out of the financial realm and be thought of as an exchange network for dealings between peers, including the exchange of information or physical items. The structure was built to create a marketplace free from fraud and without intermediaries, and still using high levels of encryption—for example, in [bitcoin](#)'s application the intermediary would be the bank. The structure has been labeled by some as the Trust Protocol. By using a blockchain structure, one ensures there is value and trust between the two parties exchanging information or goods in an encrypted environment.

“I find it very instructive to look at the other industries, like banking, airline, and agriculture cooperative industries and analyze their business models and practices. Understanding other industry models can aid in us identifying opportunities to help us innovate our own business model and manage our cost structure,” said David Green, President of the blood centers division for ABC member Blood Systems Inc. “However, we just have to remain mindful of the differences between blood banking and other industries to avoid unintended consequences.”

The current U.S. blood supply may be not be amenable to the blockchain model for a number of reasons. One is the industry depends, historically, on the availability of excess blood to accommodate unexpected needs that may or may not materialize. That excess invariably entails waste for which blood centers are not subsidized. “Due to a steady decline in utilization for the past six years, we have experienced challenges in matching supply with demand. In addition to that decline, the complexities inherent in managing multiple variables within our inventory – blood types, different product codes, antigen negative units, product dating and specialized services – make effective inventory management difficult, so creative application of other industry solutions may help us adapt our practices” said Mr. Green.

Because blockchain was born with a financial structure in mind, excess and its associated costs are faults. The real-time demand and fulfillment of a blockchain network is what drives its stability and security when applied to the banking industry. Bitcoins are “mined” and exchanged for goods. Because there is only a finite number of bitcoins, 21 million, there is inherently no excess problem.



In the spring and fall, donors, many of them high school students, are more readily available than at other times of the year. When the winter and summer breaks hit, centers may experience a dip in donations. This imbalance of supply and demand is one in which a blockchain model, in theory, might help improve production planning efforts.

But the blood supply may not be suited to run on real-time method. Hospitals must be prepared when disaster occurs, which means a reserve amount of blood and different types of blood and blood products need to stay on-hand within, at minimum, the region. Having no excess means moving blood products around a region to keep the balance of supply and demand—which may prove more costly than product reserves.

“It’s also important to note we rely on the goodwill of our donors. Unlike other industries where they have a high degree of control over their entire production supply chain, we partner with our communities in order to deliver on our mission,” noted Mr. Green.

While platelets last for only five days, red blood cells can last for 42, frozen plasma for a year. To turn

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Can a New Business Model Revolutionize the Blood Industry? (continued from page 3)

away reserves, which are typically not beneficial for many other industries, would be a disaster for the blood industry.

Another area in the medical industry where blockchain has been applied is electronic medical records. According to a recent Brookings Institution study, there were 1,500 data breaches within the healthcare industry, affecting 155 million Americans, in the past six years. Because the blockchain structure relies on encrypted transmission of data from one peer to another and no third-party storage of the data, the model could present a low-risk option for those worried about securing donors' personal identifying information (PII), such as social security numbers or home addresses.

The need to make patient medical history and data easily transferrable is great. However, many health care centers lack the resources and/or training needed to ensure donor or patient PII is kept safe from hackers. Using a blockchain structure, only the necessary donor information could be transmitted via use of multi-signatures as a way to validate the record or by sharing of data in an aggregate, encrypted, manner. Eliminating the intermediary, i.e. the blood center, increases data security and removes the cost, time, and resources associated with storing and securing PII.

Losing this treasure trove of "[big data](#)" on donors could be seen as a negative for blood centers, but the losses could be reconcilable.

"Big data in blood banking is crucial toward advocacy efforts," said Mr. Green. "If we know what patient demand trends look like, we can be in a position to better prepare for what is coming down the road for demand. But there is a sensitivity here. Having a huge database you can gain some benefit, but individual data protection is crucial."

Further analysis of donor records in a blockchain structure could warrant merit. Blockchain may not be a viable solution for industry on a supply-chain level, but analyzing other aspects, like donor records, using a blockchain model might prove useful toward figuring out a new methodology.

"The application of theoretical concepts from one industry to another often reveals otherwise unseen opportunities. Perhaps so in this case, but I think the risk management realities will likely outweigh any returns from applying a purely financial management approach to blood reserves," said Mr. Green.

Sources: [Business of Blockchain](#) website; University of Edinburgh [press release](#); *Reuters*, [Commentary: Five myths about the Blockchain revolution](#), May 12, 2016.

Ryan A. Collins A., Wisniewski K. *et al.* [Effectiveness of Multiple Initiatives to Reduce Blood Component Wastage](#). *American Journal of Clinical Pathology*. March 2015. 329-335. ♦

ABC Calendar of Events

ABC offers a variety of meetings, workshops and virtual opportunities for education and networking as well as participation in ABC business. The [calendar of events](#) includes annual and summer meetings, board meetings, workshops, and webinars, and details will be updated as confirmed. We look forward to your support and participation!



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

INSIDE ABC

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

ABC Board of Directors Kicks off FY17 with Chicago Meeting

The ABC Board of Directors convened on May 10 to 11 in Rosemont, Ill., marking the first meeting of the Board in Fiscal Year 2017 (FY17). With 100 percent of the board members in attendance, the board focused discussion on key strategic issues impacting ABC and ABC members now and into the future.

One of the issues impacting ABC is developing closely-knit relationships with other key medical organizations like the American Hospital Association (AHA). To that end, one of the highlights of the board meeting was a two hour enviro-scanning session with Kim Byas, regional executive of the AHA. The Board identified opportunities for future collaboration, beginning with the legislative and regulatory arenas in Washington, D.C. Working with the dynamic and matrixed organizational structure of the AHA, ABC seeks to strengthen the relationship between hospitals and blood centers in local communities, with a strong focus on education and achieving a mutual value proposition.

With over 30 years of experience in health care administration, Mr. Byas provided an overview of the current state of the hospital world from the economic, legislative and strategic perspective. ABC members can access his presentation, the AHA Environmental Scan document, and the 2016 to 2018 AHA Strategy Map as presented to the ABC Board of Directors on the [ABC member website](#).

ABC members are fortunate to have the wellspring of talent, enthusiasm and wisdom that has come together to create the FY17 Board of Directors. ABC welcomes the newly seated board members Jim AuBuchon, MD, FCAP, FRCP, from Bloodworks Northwest; Linda Gerber from Rock River Valley Blood Center; Joe McCormick from Coffee Memorial Blood Center; and Mike Parejko from Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center, and wishes to express strong appreciation for the continued dedication and volunteer spirit of our continuing board members. ABC members are encouraged to contact any member of the [ABC Board of Directors](#) or ABC CEO [Christine Zambricki](#) with comments or questions.

Links for Life Golf Tournament



Kick off the ABC Summer Meeting in style by participating in the 6th Annual Links for Life Golf Tournament! The tournament will take place on Monday, August 1, at the Kaneohe Klipper Military Golf Course, a Marine Corps golf course located on the Kaneohe Bay in Oahu, Hawaii. Consistently ranked as one of the world's best military courses, Links for Life golfers will be treated to a first-class golf experience.

“This championship military course is bordered by the dramatic green velvet Koolau mountain range on one side and Pacific Ocean laced with white sand beaches on the other. The layout is challenging, yet enjoyable. And the bonus—you have a great reason for any bogey saying the gorgeous Hawaii setting distracted you,” said Albert Yoza, chief financial officer at Blood Bank of Hawaii and golf enthusiast.

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Links for Life Golf Tournament (continued from page 5)

Transportation will be provided to and from the ABC Summer Meeting hotel, the Hilton Waikiki, to the golf course. Registration includes lunch, cart, green fees, snacks and drinks on the course, and a tournament goodie bag. Shotgun start will begin at 12:30 p.m. After the tournament, golfers will be transported back to the Hilton for a reception and dinner, including awards such as, longest drive, closest to the pin, and winning team.

Registration is \$200 per golfer for any ABC member, including spouses and family members. You can register through your Summer Meeting registration or contact [Lori Beaston](#). Industry partners are also welcome and encouraged to attend. Please contact [Jodi Zand](#) for sponsorship opportunities.

Limited club rentals are available for \$50 per set. Please contact [Jodi Zand](#) for more info on rentals. Don't miss this chance to help fund educational initiatives. Golf skill is not required, just the ability to come out to a beautiful location, and support a great cause. As Kevin Belanger, CEO of Sheppard Community Blood Center and former Links for Life Chair, said about Kaneohe Klipper, "The Marines do it right, a great ocean front course with view of the mountains and a great time for fellowship."

Future Leader Scholarship Deadline

May 13, today, is the last day to apply for a Future Leader Scholarship from America's Blood Centers. Scholarship recipients will obtain \$1,200 in funds to help pay for registration fees and

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AMERICA'S BLOOD CENTERS

54TH SUMMER MEETING

America's Blood Centers®

It's About *Life*.

“In the late 1700s, Polynesian navigators voyaged thousands of miles of open ocean and discovered Hawaii.

Using modern day wayfinding techniques, together we will explore ways to navigate the challenging times ahead facing the blood banking industry. Let the island host culture inspire us with its Aloha Spirit, high energy of world-famous Waikiki, natural beauty, entrancing hula and the thrill of fire knife dancing. Discover our paradise this summer.”

– *Kim-Anh Nguyen, MD, PhD, president and CEO, Blood Bank of Hawaii*



Honolulu International Airport (HNL) is served by most major airlines. Visit <http://www.honoluluairport.org>.

August 1-4, 2016 – Honolulu, HI
Hilton Waikiki Beach on Kuhio
special room rate: \$240 + tax

Future Leader Scholarship Program

Supported by the FABC, these scholarships offer non-C-suite blood center executives the opportunity to advance professionally by attending the ABC Summer Meeting. Details available upon registration.

Registration Fees

ABC Summer Meeting: \$760
Non-members (non-vendor), contact Lori Beaston at lbeaston@americasblood.org for invitation and registration fees and information.

Meeting Schedule

Monday August 1:
Links for Life Golf Tournament
Links for Life Golf Reception

Tuesday, August 2:
Medical Directors Workshop
Hospitality/Networking

Wednesday, August 3:
SMT Forum
Blood Center Leadership Forum
Host Event by Blood Bank of Hawaii
Hospitality/Networking

Thursday, August 4:
ABC Members Meeting

For sponsorship opportunities contact Jodi Zand at jzand@americasblood.org.



INSIDE ABC (continued from page 6)

any supplemental travel and hotel costs associated with attending the annual summer conference this year in Honolulu, Hawaii. ABC is committed to helping its member blood centers and their staff grow and develop the next generation of leaders. Scholarship applicants must be non C-suite level blood center staff members who are nominated by a C-level staff member. Applicants must not have received a previous ABC scholarship for at least three fiscal years prior, April 1 to March 31. [Submit an application today!](#) ♦

RESEARCH IN BRIEF

An updated model of the European Up Front Risk Assessment Tool (EUFROT) can be used to estimate the risk of transfusion transmitted diseases (TTDs) from donors, details an April 2016 study in *BMC Infectious Diseases*. Estimates can be deduced from the model that may help support health administrators when communicating with the public and when to implement safety interventions regarding TTDs. Using generic formulas and data from the 2007 chikungunya outbreak in Italy and the 2007 to 2009 chronic Q fever outbreak in the Netherlands, the EUFRAT model was extended “to characterize and model risk of disease transmission from traveling donors to blood safety.”

Citation: Mapako T., Oei W. *et al*, Modelling the risk of transfusion transmission from travelling donors. *BMC Infectious Diseases*. 2016. DOI 10.1186/s12879-016-1452-z.

Dengue virus (DENV) antibodies may increase Zika virus (ZIKV) infectivity according to a study published in the journal *bioRxiv*. Dengue and Zika viruses are closely related at the sequence level and co-circulate in large areas of the world. Pre-existing DENV immunity may enhance ZIKV infections and could increase disease severity. Through a mechanism known as antibody-dependent enhancement, anti-DENV antibodies are associated with severe DENV infections. Anti-dengue human monoclonal antibodies were shown to cross react with, but not neutralize, ZIKV and to enhance ZIKV infection in cell culture. Further studies are needed to develop a clear understanding of how ZIKV and DENV interact—which will be critical to understanding ZIKV pathogenesis and for developing effective DENV and ZIKV vaccines.

Citations: Lauren M Paul, Eric R Carlin, *et al*. Dengue Virus Antibodies Enhance Zika Virus Infection. *bioRxiv*. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1101/050112>. ♦

BRIEFLY NOTED

An effective Zika virus (ZIKV) vaccine is still years away, announced Anthony Fauci, head of the U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases at a press conference on May 4, according to a [Science article](#). Phase one trials are planned to start with 80 people in September of this year. Advanced clinical trials would not start until the first quarter of 2017. Even with a vaccine, some researchers are predicting ZIKV will remain a low-level threat to Americans that will wax and wane, much like West Nile virus. (Sources: *Science*, [Zika vaccine efficacy trials could start in 2017](#), May 3, 2016; *National Geographic*, [Zika is Likely to Become a Permanent Peril in the U.S.](#), May 4, 2016.)

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BRIEFLY NOTED (continued from page 7)

Multiple papers converge on pathogenesis of fetal injury from Zika. Studies in *Science*, *Cell*, and *Cell Stem Cell* demonstrate Zika virus infection of neural progenitor cells and provide clues about the pathogenesis of fetal abnormalities, including microcephaly being recognized during the current epidemic. Infection is associated with cell death and dysregulation of the cell cycle, disruption of the growth of central nervous system organoids in vitro and abnormalities in infected mice. The results may provide models for further characterizing the observed adverse impacts (microcephaly etc.) of Zika infection on brain development.

Citations: Tang H, Hammack C, Ogden SC *et al.* Zika virus infects human cortical neural progenitors and attenuates their growth. *Cell, Stem Cell*. 2016. 18:587-90.

Garcez PP, Loiola EC, Madeiro da Cost R *et al.* Zika virus impairs growth in human neurospheres and brain organoids. *Science*. 2016. 352:816-18

Dang J, Tiwari SK, Lichinchi G *et al.* [Zika virus depletes neural progenitors in human cerebral organoids through activation of the innate immune receptor TLR3](#). *Cell Stem Cell*. 2016.

Li C, Xu D, Ye Q *et al.* [Zika virus disrupts neural progenitor development and leads to microcephaly in mice](#). *Cell Stem Cell*. 2016.

Nowakowski TJ, Pollen AA, DiLullo E *et al.* Expression analysis highlights axl as a candidate zika virus entry receptor in neural stem cells. *Cell Stem Cell*. 2016. 18:591–596

Miner JJ, Govero J, Noguchi KK *et al.* [Zika virus infection during pregnancy in mice causes placental damage and fetal demise](#). *Cell*. 2016. ♦

REGULATORY NEWS

On April 19, the House Appropriations Committee included language in the 2017 agriculture appropriations bill directing the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to suspend efforts finalizing its draft laboratory developed test (LDT) guidance. The Committee then directed the FDA to work with Congress to help pass legislation regulating LDTs. While the Advanced Medical Technology Association urged appropriators not to delay the FDA's plan, the American Clinical Laboratory Association praised the Committee for blocking FDA's final guidance over concerns it would stifle innovation. Joint comments from AABB, ABC and the American Red Cross on the original FDA draft guidance in 2014 supported some oversight of LDTs, but called for "exempting" some LDTs in immunohematology reference labs that were dependent on rare anti-sera as it would be in the best interests of patients with complex transfusion needs. The fate of the committee language is not clear. ABC will continue to monitor the developments and keep our members and readers informed. ♦

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 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.



THE WORD IN WASHINGTON

Upcoming Presidential and Congressional Elections

With elections on the forefront of everyone's mind, now is the time to get involved in the political process. ABC encourages members to vote and be active in educating political incumbents on the issues facing the blood industry.

If you are involved in any upcoming political campaigns in your state or on the national level, ABC staff would be delighted to hear from you. Additionally, if you are visiting your legislator at home on behalf of your blood center, send your story or pictures to [Mack Benton](#) with "ABC lobbying activity" in the subject line. Click [here for an up-to-date list of 2016 election dates by state and by date](#).

Additional items of interest

- **The House and Senate returned to session this week.** If you plan to see your legislators at home after session has closed, let us know by [email](#).
- **With United Healthcare departing Affordable Care Act exchanges, other insurance plans are moving in and raising premiums,** reported the [Wall Street Journal](#) on May 5. ♦

GLOBAL NEWS


Health clinics in remote parts of Rwanda will be seeing blood delivered in a new, much faster way—via the sky. A fleet of 15 drones manufactured by California startup Zipline will deliver blood products and emergency medicine to 20 hospitals and health centers across Rwanda, starting in July. The medical transport company will make 50 to 150 deliveries per day. What once took days or weeks will now take hours, reports *CNET*. A health center worker in need of blood places an order via text, the order is prepared and launched. When the drone reaches its destination, it drops the parachuted package to the ground. The UPS Foundation and the Gavi Vaccine Alliance are partners of the pilot project. (Sources: *New York Times*, [Drones Marshaled to Drop Lifesaving Supplies Over Rwandan Terrain](#), April 4, 2016; Zipline [website](#); *CNET*, [Special Delivery: Zipline, UPS partner to carry medical supplies by drone to Rwanda](#), May 8, 2016.) ♦

INFECTIOUS DISEASE UPDATES

Deaths from hepatitis C (HCV) continued to increase according to the latest data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), as reported by the agency on May 4. The data shows HCV caused 19,659 deaths in 2014, opposed to 11,051 deaths in 2003, mostly among baby boomers—those between the ages of 56 to 71. Patients who died from complications due to HCV now outnumber those who died from 60 other infectious diseases combined, including the human papillomavirus, pneumococcal pneumonia and tuberculosis. Approximately 3.5 million people are estimated to be currently infected with HCV, according to a 2015 study by Edlin *et. al.* Blood transfusions have been essentially eliminated as a route of transmission since testing started and was enhanced during the 1990s. (Source: CDC press release, [Hepatitis C Kills More Americans than Any Other Infectious Disease](#).)

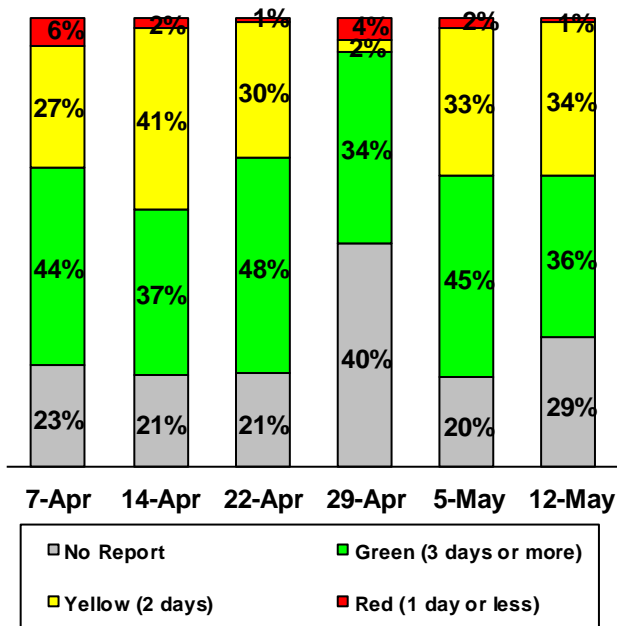
INFECTIOUS DISEASE UPDATES (continued from page 9)

Four weeks after immunization with the chimpanzee adenovirus 3 (ChAd3) vaccine, participants in an Ebola study who received a booster with modified vaccinia Ankara (MVA) vector had significantly higher virus-specific antibody responses than those who did not. This phase one study from the Centre for Clinical Vaccinology and Tropical Medicine at the University of Oxford, United Kingdom, contained 60 healthy adult volunteers—all of whom received the ChAd3 vaccine, and gave half of them an added booster dose of an MVA strain, encoding the same Ebola virus glycoprotein. The researchers found the virus-specific antibody responses in participants primed with ChAd3 remained positive six months after vaccination, but were significantly higher in those who had received the MVA booster.

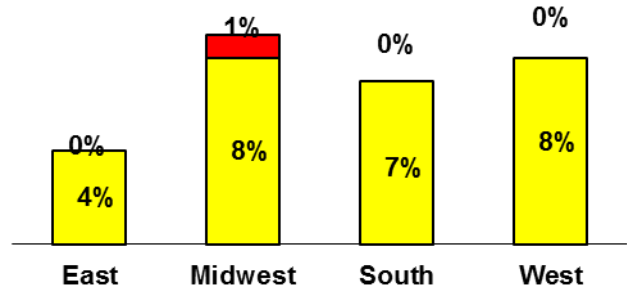
Citation: Ewer K., Tommy Rampling T., et al. A Monovalent Chimpanzee Adenovirus Ebola Vaccine Boosted with MVA. *New England Journal of Medicine*. April 2016. DOI: 10.1056/NEJMoa1411627. 

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

Total ABC Red Cell Inventory



Percent of Regional Inventory at 2 Days Supply or Less, May 12, 2016



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

Daily updates are available at:
www.AmericasBlood.org

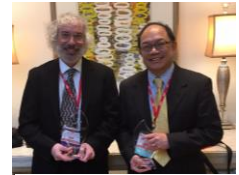


MEMBER NEWS

Hoxworth Blood Center held a local presentation of the award that ABC presented Care Center Animal Hospital in March. Awarded with the 2016 “Most Productive” blood drive during a ceremony at the annual Hoxworth Blood Center Volunteer Awards luncheon on Saturday, April 23, the blood center shared the spotlight with Care Center Animal Hospital, who was awarded for “Most Creative” blood drive in the medium blood center category. ♦

PEOPLE

The American Society for Apheresis recently awarded the annual Francis S. Morrison Memorial Lecture Award to Mark Brecher, MD, Chief Medical Officer of Laboratory Corporation of America. Dr. Brecher is an adjunct professor of pathology and laboratory medicine at the University of North Carolina, where he was previously the vice chair, and the Chief Medical Officer for the Laboratory Corporation of America. The award recognizes individuals who have made major contributions to the field of apheresis medicine and to apheresis professionals who have made a lasting difference in the field at the national level. ♦



Dr. Mark Brecher with Dr. Ed Wong, associate director of transfusion medicine at the Children's National Health System.

MEETINGS

June 9 - 11 **14th International Cord Blood Symposium, San Francisco, Calif.**

AABB, with support from the Cord Blood Association, will host the 14h International Cord Blood Symposium from June 9 to 11 in San Francisco, Calif. The scientific program brings all of the umbilical cord blood related fields of hematopoietic stem cell transplantation, banking, and potential in regenerative medicine together in one interactive three-day conference. The [program](#), registration details, and other information can be found [here](#).

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. You will be sent a writer's guide that provides information on style conventions, story structure, deadlines, etc.



August 1 - 4

ABC 55th Summer Meeting, Honolulu, Hawaii

Registration has begun for the ABC 55th Summer Meeting in Honolulu, Hawaii, hosted by Blood Bank of Hawaii, to take place August 1 to 4 at the Hilton Waikiki Beach on Kuhio Ave. It will feature the ABC Medical Directors Workshop and the Foundation for America’s Blood Centers Links for Life Golf Tournament. Contact [Lori Beaston](#) for more information.

September 8

FDA Public Workshop on Development of HCT/Ps, Silver Spring, Md.

This free, first-come, first-serve, public workshop titled [Scientific Evidence in the Development of Human Cells, Tissues, and Cellular and Tissue-Based Products Subject to Premarket Approval](#) was organized to identify and discuss scientific considerations and challenges to help inform the development of human cells, tissues, and cellular and tissue-based products (HCT/Ps) subject to premarket approval, including stem cell-based products. The workshop will take place at the FDA’s White Oak Campus, 10903 New Hampshire Ave., Building 31 Conference Center, Great Room in Silver Spring, Md.

September 12 - 13

FDA Public Hearing on HCT/Ps, Bethesda, Md.

Early registration for this public hearing to collect comments on the draft guidances relating to the regulation of human cells, tissues or cellular or tissue-based products will last until June 1. The hearing will take place at the Masur Auditorium, Building 10, 9000 Rockville Pike, in Bethesda. More information can be found [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 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.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Performance Improvement Specialist. The Stanford Blood Center is seeking a Performance Improvement Specialist. Under the direction of the Process Improvement Director, the Performance Improvement Specialist will develop, implement and manage approaches leading to continuous improvement of processes for the testing laboratories, blood manufacturing and operational departments. This includes driving change on process innovation projects across multiple departments, vendors or clients. Use business intelligence to help end-users analyze current and alternative processes that could lead to improved performance and goal-reaching. Work with key leaders to develop metrics to ensure operations are meeting outcomes, service and quality

objectives. Qualifications: Four (4) year college degree in medical technology, biology, life science or work-related field/discipline required. Three (3) years of relevant experience in a blood center, clinical laboratory, process/quality improvement, project management or relevant work-related field/discipline required. Certifications & Licenses: None required, however the following licenses or certifications are preferred: MT, CLS, or SBB; Lean Six Sigma certification; Project Management certification; Business Intelligence software certification (i.e., Tableau, SQL, Crystal). We are

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POSITIONS (continued from page 12)

not able to provide relocation or sponsorship for this position. For a complete job description & to apply online go to: <http://www.stanfordhealthcarecareers.com/> Job#36590. Thank you for your interest!

Quality & Regulatory Affairs Specialist. Stanford Blood Center is seeking a Quality & Regulatory Affairs Specialist. Under the supervision of the director of Quality and Regulatory Affairs, this position will perform the quality and regulatory affairs duties and responsibilities with special emphasis on safety by reviewing department procedures, training documents, product and equipment quality control (QC), change control processes and validations, and assist with development. Develop, perform and report departmental, system audits, and safety inspections. Perform Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) and safety training, trend analysis of events and quality indicators, root cause analysis, and process improvement; maintains compliance by enforcing applicable regulations and standards set by regulatory agencies and reporting. Qualifications include: Four year college degree and at least three years of blood banking and/or product/device manufacturing experience with solid familiarity of GMP, safety in a manufacturing setup, CAL-OSHA regulations. Exceptional attention to detail, organization skills, flexibility, prioritize tasks; effective communication skills verbal and written, collaborative interpersonal skills, problem solving, analyze/evaluate complex situations; work independently, initiate improvement ideas to enhance quality and safety programs; develop and train staff. Safety Management, Environmental Health & Safety Training, and/or Disaster Management Certification are highly desirable. For a complete job description & to apply online go to: <http://www.stanfordhealthcarecareers.com/> Job# 36898.

Medical Director (16000321). Blood Systems is seeking a full-time, clinically-focused Transfusion Medicine physician to join its Medical Affairs team. The Medical Director is responsible for coordinating communications between the blood center leadership in Denver, the local medical community, and Corporate Medical Affairs in Scottsdale, AZ. Responsibilities include consultation and visits with hospital staff and clinicians, patient blood management oversight, CLIA laboratory directorship, and medical direction to collections, manufacturing, research/specialized donations, NMDP and reference laboratory functions. Qualifications include an MD or DO, board certification in CP with board eligibility / certification in Transfusion Medicine (within two years of hire) or certification in IM or Pediatrics with Hematology certification. Fellowship training in Blood Banking / Transfusion Medicine or Hematology, or three years' experience at a blood center or hospital blood bank is required. Previous research experience is preferred. Current or prompt licensure will be

required within Colorado and neighboring states. Relocation assistance will be considered. For immediate consideration, please apply on our website www.bloodsystems.org no later Tuesday, May 31, 2016 – req. # 16000321. Blood Systems Inc. is an equal opportunity employer. EEO/Minorities/Females/Disabled/Veterans

Medical Technologist or Medical Laboratory Technician, PT. Blood Bank of Hawaii is seeking a state

licensed MT or MLT. Performs ABO/CMV testing, all general lab procedures including work in components, blood inventory and the blood releasing section of the Laboratory. Must possess an understanding and working comprehension of the scientific, technical and procedural aspects laboratory testing, general comprehension of immunologic and genetic factors that affect health and disease. Must have a practical understanding of quality control and be able to perform simple instrument maintenance. Must be able to report test results, quote ranges and specimen requirements. All tests and procedures are performed with the highest standard of professional performance and in accordance with established standards of ethic and medical technology. Has an appreciation of the roles of paramedical and other health related fields, keeping the benefit of the donor, patient, physician and community in mind. Apply online at www.BBH.org. ♦