

2010 #7

February 19, 2010

INSIDE:

Our Space: The Plasma Supply: Part 1	2
Delmarva Names Two New Vice Presidents, in Two New Positions	3
Registration Deadline for Annual Meeting is Fast Approaching!	4
ABC Works with Donate Life America to Encourage Blood and Organ Donation	4
Blood Systems CIO to Give Overview of HL7 Initiative at Annual Meeting.....	5
STOPLIGHT: Status of the ABC Blood Supply, 2009 vs. 2010.....	7
Central Texas Raises Donor Weight Requirement After Switching to Bigger Bag	11
Next Blood Shipment to Haiti will be on Tuesday	12

Study Raises Questions About the Safety of Plasma from Male Versus Female Donors

A study published online last week is raising questions about the safety of using plasma only from male donors. A team of researchers found that patients who had cardiac surgery had fewer poor outcomes if they received plasma from female donors, instead of from male donors.

The results of the study, which will be published in *The Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery*, surprised the researchers. They are contrary to data that links antibodies sometimes found in women's plasma to occurrences of transfusion-related acute lung injury (TRALI). This data has led the AABB, since November 2006, to recommend that blood collection and transfusion facilities implement TRALI risk reduction measures, which include using only high plasma-volume components that have come from men or from women who have not been pregnant (see *ABC Newsletter*, 12/18/09).

The authors are careful to emphasize that their results “neither support nor refute blood systems’ decisions to limit the use of female plasma to reduce TRALI,” and they assert the need for further studies of outcomes in patients undergoing cardiac surgery and other patients. However, their results suggest that there may be unanticipated negative effects of limiting the use of plasma from female donors.

Background information. TRALI is characterized by non-cardiogenic pulmonary edema and hypoxia, and it usually occurs within six hours of a transfusion. In fiscal years (FY) 2005 through 2008, it represented 51 percent of confirmed transfusion-related fatalities reported to the Food and Drug Administration’s Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research (CBER), according to a report released by the Food and Drug Administration this March (see *ABC Newsletter*, 3/6/09).

However, as TRALI risk reduction measures have been put into place, the number of fatalities has fallen. In FY 2008, they represented only 35 percent of transfusion-related fatalities. Plasma from female donors – particularly those who have had pregnancies and are more likely to have antibodies associated with TRALI (see *ABC Newsletter*, 9/18/09) – is often recovered and shipped to pharmaceutical companies, who fractionate it and use it to make other medical products.

(continued on page 7)



OUR SPACE

By ABC CEO Jim MacPherson

The Plasma Supply: Part 1

Globally, the plasma supply for “further manufacturing” is very complex, and while it is improving, it still doesn’t meet all patient needs. I’ll talk about problems in developing countries next week. Here I’ll talk about the situation in the US.

The US has been called the “OPEC” of plasma because the major global plasma pharmaceutical companies (e.g., Baxter, CSL Behring, Grifols, Octapharma, and Talecris) get much of their plasma from US sources. They use it to make albumin, clotting factors, and intravenous gamma globulin (IVIG), and IVIG drives the current market.

About 25 percent of the plasma worldwide used in making pharmaceuticals comes from volunteer donors; that is, it is plasma not needed for transfusion (usually referred to as “recovered plasma”). In the US, the voluntary sector uses the profits from the sale of this excess plasma to subsidize the price of blood, something hospitals don’t often appreciate. The rest comes from individuals who sell their plasma. Paid donors have higher rates of disease markers, but since the AIDS tragedy, the commercial sector has done a great job improving quality. Perhaps most importantly, they do not use a plasma donation until the individual subsequently returns and tests negative for all disease markers. This keeps any viral load from undetected infectious donors within the limits in which pathogen inactivation technology can work to prevent “breakthrough” infections.

What the commercial industry still hasn’t mastered is the boom/bust cycles of plasma and finished product seen repeatedly over the decades. Just a few years ago patient advocates were in a panic due to potentially life-threatening shortages of IVIG. Today, there is reportedly a glut of paid donor plasma, and there are rumors that some plasma centers may need to close. Unlike in the voluntary sector, it is harder to manage individuals who show up wanting (and in this economy often needing) to sell their plasma.

Does that mean we will once again see a shortage of plasma pharmaceuticals 18 to 24 months from now? Certainly no one wants that, and the commercial sector appears committed to patient needs. Yet, that also means a greater responsibility to manage the supply chain to assure that shortages won’t recur.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. MacPherson'.

[Jmacpherson@americasblood.org](mailto:jmacpherson@americasblood.org) 

The *ABC Newsletter* (ISSN #1092-0412) is published 46 times a year by America’s Blood Centers® and distributed by e-mail. Contents and views expressed are not official statements of ABC or its Board of Directors. Copyright 2010 by America’s Blood Centers. Reproduction of the *ABC Newsletter* is forbidden unless permission is granted by the publisher. (ABC members need not obtain prior permission if proper credit is given.)

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

America’s Blood Centers

President: Thomas Schallert

Chief Executive Officer: Jim MacPherson

ABC Newsletter Editor: Robert Kapler

Managing Editor: Anne Carroll, PhD

Classified Advertising Manager: Deanna Du Lac

Annual Subscription Rate: \$372

(Residents, Fellows and SBB Students: \$120)

Send subscription queries to:

ddulac@americasblood.org

America’s Blood Centers

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

Tel: (202) 393-5725

Send news tips to: newsletter@americasblood.org.

Delmarva Names Two New Vice Presidents, in Two New Positions

The Blood Bank of Delmarva has named Roy Roper as its new vice president of Administrative Services and Ellen Kellom as its new vice president of Technical Services. Both are new positions in the organization.

“As our organization continues to grow to meet the needs of area hospitals, we are excited that Roy and Ellen have become a part of our leadership team,” said Bob Travis, president and CEO of Blood Bank of Delmarva. “They bring a significant amount of experience to their positions, particularly from the health care and blood banking industry, and it will be invaluable in guiding Blood Bank operations into the future.”



Mr. Roper will be responsible for all operational administrative departments within the organization, including Accounting, Information Technology, Marketing, Public Relations, Membership, Donor Scheduling, Facilities, and Purchasing.

Before joining the Blood Bank, Mr. Roper served as president of Roper Consulting Group, a management consulting firm specializing in improving organizational operations and effectiveness. He is an accomplished healthcare executive with 25 years of experience in sales, customer management, operations, organizational development, and change.

Prior to Roper Consulting Group, Mr. Roper worked extensively in the managed care and pharmaceutical industries, holding key leadership roles at Cigna, United Healthcare, and AstraZeneca.

Mr. Roper received a master of science degree in Organization Development from American University, is an adjunct faculty member at Wilmington University, and serves as an advisory board member to the University of Delaware’s graduate program in Organizational Effectiveness.

Ms. Kellom will oversee all technical departments, including Donor Services, Laboratory, and Product Management.

Ms. Kellom, before she joined the Blood Bank, served as director of Laboratory Services with the Cancer Treatment Centers of America at the Eastern Regional Medical Center in Philadelphia, where she played a key role in the start up of that location, as well as the Phoenix site. She also has a decade of management experience working for Aurora Healthcare as a laboratory supervisor and for the BloodCenter of Wisconsin, where she obtained her training as a Specialist in Blood Banking (SBB) and managed a donor collection site, among other duties.



A native of Michigan, Ms. Kellom holds a master of science degree in Transfusion Medicine from Marquette University. She received a bachelor of science degree in Applied Biology from Ferris State University, in addition to MT and SBB certification from the American Society of Clinical Pathologists. Ms. Kellom is a CAP inspector and lead assessor for AABB.

Blood Bank of Delmarva, which is based in Newark, Del., provides blood for the 17 hospitals in Delaware and on Maryland’s Eastern Shore. ♦



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

INSIDE ABC

Registration Deadline for Annual Meeting is Fast Approaching!

As last week's newsletter made clear, America's Blood Centers' Annual Meeting in Fort Lauderdale next month will be full of informative and entertaining events: presentations, meetings, receptions, discussions, a "Science Meets Operations" interactive program, the 13th Annual Awards of Excellence Banquet, and many opportunities to socialize with your colleagues from across the country and around the world.

Make sure you're a part of the fun by registering by next Friday, Feb. 26. For details, visit our Members Web site at <http://members.americasblood.org> and refer to MCN 10-010. The registration link also will lead you to information about the hotel, the Westin Beach Resort Fort Lauderdale, and nearby airports. If you need help or have any questions, please contact Lori Beaston at lbeaston@americasblood.org or (202) 654-2901.

ABC Works with Donate Life America to Encourage Blood and Organ Donation

In an effort to raise awareness of the importance of donating not only blood, but also organs, eyes, and tissue, America's Blood Centers (ABC) paired with Donate Life America for National Donor Day, which was observed for the 13th time this Valentine's Day.

The partnership between ABC and Donate Life America highlights the fact that the need for blood and the need for organs often are intertwined. Such was the case for Buster Foster, a resident of Amarillo, Texas, who received not one, but two liver transplants two years ago. During his treatment, he also needed 68 pints of blood.

Tom Schallert, president of ABC, said that "40,000 units of blood are needed every day in America, many of which go to support organ transplantation. ABC is proud to partner with Donate Life America to celebrate National Donor Day 2010 and educate the public on the important relationship between blood and organ donation."

ABC and Donate Life America used Valentine's Day to encourage individuals to celebrate their love by giving the gift of life by becoming regular blood donors and registering to become organ and tissue donors. Feb. 14 also was National Donor Day, a holiday founded in 1998 to educate the public about the importance of donating blood, organs, tissue, and marrow.

Donate Life America is a not-for-profit alliance of national organizations and state teams across the US. It hopes to inspire people to save and enhance lives through organ, eye, and tissue donation. It has a vision of an organ, eye or tissue transplant for everyone in need. Donate Life America manages the national brand for donation, Donate Life, and assists in mobilizing the transplant community and its many partners to ensure that each state has an effective system for allowing individuals to designate themselves as donors. More information about Donate Life America is available at www.donatelife.net.

(INSIDE ABC continued on page 5)

INSIDE ABC (continued from page 4)

Blood Systems CIO to Give Overview of HL7 Initiative at Annual Meeting

Jonathan Harber, chief information officer at Blood Systems and chair of the ABC HL7 Special Interest Group, will give a talk at the ABC Annual Meeting on an initiative to develop a new information technology (IT) interface standard for blood centers. The presentation, titled “Standardization: Brave New World for Blood Center IT Systems,” will describe the need for and benefits of a common IT interface standard, offer reasons for extending the HL7 standard into the blood center environment, and lay out the process for developing and adopting a standard through the group that he chairs.

As it stands, the Food and Drug Administration regulates blood establishment computer software (BECS) via two pre-implementation protocols: the first is the FDA’s 510(k) clearance process for medical devices, including software systems, and the second involves blood center validation to ensure that software performs appropriately in the blood center setting.



Blood Centers Missing Out. “The problem is that no standard interface exists for blood center computer systems and devices,” Mr. Harber said. “This means that devices and software systems lack ‘plug and play’ interoperability both inside the blood center and between the blood center and the transfusion center.” In addition, he noted, because most blood centers are too small to develop new systems, and BECS software vendors are considered a niche industry, “blood centers are missing out on IT advances and the efficiencies they bring, advances already enjoyed by many other industries.”

The need for a new IT standard was expressed during a multi-organizational BECS conference held in Silver Spring, Md., in July 2008. Speakers from more than a dozen blood centers, national organizations such as ABC and AABB, federal regulators, and software manufacturers gave presentations, followed by meetings of breakout groups that worked to come up with possible solutions.

Conferees not only called on FDA to make the 510(k) process more transparent, consistent, interactive, and streamlined, but also called on blood centers and the industry to work together to develop more open software platforms and architectures.

ABC HL7 Subcommittee Formed. In response to the need for greater interoperability, ABC’s IT Steering Committee formed a new subcommittee in early 2009 to develop a system-to-system interface standard. Such a standard would facilitate data transactions between donor registration, suitability, and management software systems in blood centers and eventually between blood centers and hospital transfusion centers. Called the ABC HL7 Special Interest Group (SIG), the panel is named after an international information exchange interface standard that is widely used by hospital departments, hospital systems, their suppliers, physicians, and so on.

The ABC HL7 SIG took up the work of a previous non-ABC HL7 special interest group that disbanded for logistical reasons. The group is now composed of IT experts from five ABC member centers. Serving in a consultant capacity are a representative from the International Council for Commonality in Blood Banking Automation and five BECS software manufacturers.

Why HL7? While other standards exist (such as List2A and Auto 3A) that provide a well-defined message structure, they identify a limited number of data elements – too limited for the standard to be used in

(continued on page 6)

INSIDE ABC (continued from page 5)

a plug-and-play manner. Using HL7 as standard for exchange of blood bank data has the potential to allow blood bank integration with hospital customers and their systems because it is a standard already in use by many hospitals. The standard will also allow a number of other initiatives, such as radio frequency identification systems, to be more readily implemented, and it will be an important component of blood centers' ability to connect to the national health IT infrastructure that the Department of Health and Human Services has been working on for the past two years.

HL7 SIG Project Scope. The HL7 SIG has been working for several months on the first phase of the project. First, the group broke down the donor experience from the time the donor walks into the door until blood is drawn. These events include donor registration, medical screening, and phlebotomy. The group has also defined the "trigger events, message types, and segments" for these events and is in the process of determining and mapping the data elements needed for the standard and to create messaging that conforms to defined HL7 standards.

"In many respects, this is a very ambitious project," Mr. Harber said. "Fortunately, the project has been approved by the HL7 international organization, and we are working closely with staff there to ensure that our standard conforms to its pre-established parameters. We also have an incredibly hard-working and talented group. I'm very happy with the progress we have made so far."

Mr. Harber will speak during the ABC Members Meeting in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., on the morning of Tuesday, March 23. The HL7 SIG will then hold an all-day meeting to continue working on the nuts and bolts of the standard.

Ask ABC

Editor's Note: The ABC Newsletter periodically answers questions posed by members of America's Blood Centers in a recent survey.

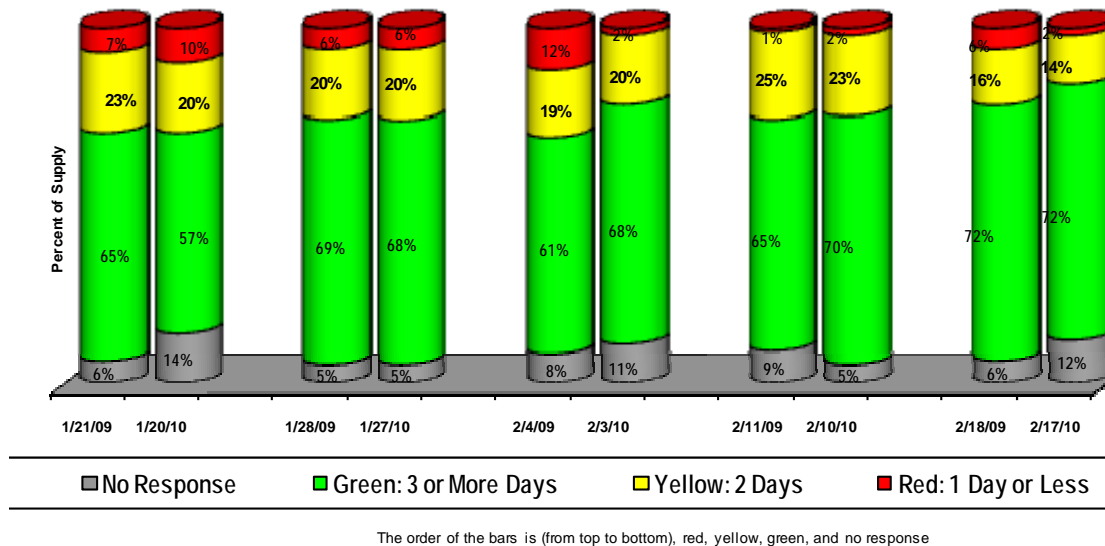
Q: What resources are available for ABC members working in finance?

A: ABC hosts a financial management workshop every other year. The workshop brings together those working in finance at member blood centers to learn, network and share resources pertinent to their discipline. The last workshop, held in Denver, addressed topics such as fraud prevention, rolling forecasts, supply chain management and other various hot topics in finance. The next financial management workshop will be scheduled for fall 2011, with details available closer to the workshop date. ABC members also have the opportunity to discuss and share with peers by joining the ABC CFO ListServ and/or the ABC Finance Committee. For more information on finance resources or the ABC accounting services department, please visit the Members' Web site at <http://members.americasblood.org>. ♦

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 Newsletter Editor Robert Kapler at rkapler@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 cycle.

STOPLIGHT: Status of the ABC Blood Supply, 2009 vs. 2010



Study Questions the Use of Male-Only Plasma (continued from page 1)

Methodology. This study, led by Mark Stafford-Smith, MD, a professor of anesthesiology at Duke University School of Medicine, focused on whether the gender of plasma donors is related to pulmonary dysfunction and death or prolonged hospitalization after cardiac surgery. The researchers did a retrospective case-control study, analyzing the outcomes experienced by 2,157 patients who had cardiac surgery from June 1, 1995, until June 30, 2002.

Of those, 1,069 patients received plasma from only male or from only female donors. Based on the number of units transfused and the surgery dates, the researchers created 390 matched pairs of donors and compared their outcomes.

Findings. Dr. Stafford-Smith and his colleagues found that recipients of plasma from only female donors had lower incidence of pulmonary dysfunction (5.9 percent) compared to patients who received plasma only from male donors (10.8 percent). Recipients of plasma from females also had lower rates of death or hospitalization for more than 10 days (9 percent), compared to those who received plasma from only males (16.4 percent).

However, the two groups had similar long-term survival rates. For both groups, escalating plasma transfusion was associated with increased 30-day mortality.

The results suggest that using plasma from only male donors may contribute to post-operative problems that, while they are not as serious as TRALI, are more common. One member of the research team, Nicholas Bandarenko, MD, told the *Times* that the findings suggest that there may be a variety of complications associated with the use of plasma, and that restricting plasma donation to male donors is not likely to eradicate all of them.

Celso Bianco, MD, executive vice president of America’s Blood Centers, indicated that the study’s conclusions need to be carefully considered because they are based on a retrospective case-control study in

(continued on page 8)

Study Questions the Use of Male-Only Plasma (continued from page 7)

which the precision of matching is crucial to the results. Furthermore, more patients – particularly non-Caucasian patients – received plasma from only male donors than received plasma from only female donors. Also, more patients who had had strokes or who had received the anticoagulant heparin received plasma only from male donors.

Finally, Dr. Bianco said, “It is important to note that physicians were not fully aware of TRALI at the time of this study,” and he pointed out that no cases of TRALI were reported in the study. (Source: *The Los Angeles Times*, 2/11/10)

Citation: Welsby IJ, *et al.* The relationship of plasma transfusion from female and male donors with outcome after cardiac surgery. *J Thorac Cardiovasc Surg.* 2010 Feb 8. [Epub ahead of print] ♦

BRIEFLY NOTED

AABB posted a reminder this week that the deadline is Feb. 22 for submitting public comments on a proposed interim bacterial detection standard for the 26th edition of *Standards for Blood Banks and Transfusion Services*. The standard would require enhanced methods for bacteria detection in platelets derived from whole blood. If the standard is approved in its current form, all AABB-accredited facilities would need to use bacteria detection methods that have been approved by the Food and Drug Administration or have been validated to provide a level of sensitivity equivalent to an FDA-approved method. Information related to the development of this interim standard was included in Association Bulletin #09-04. More details are available at [www.aabb.org/Content/Programs and Services/Standard Setting Activities/intstdplatelets.htm](http://www.aabb.org/Content/Programs_and_Services/Standard_Setting_Activities/intstdplatelets.htm).

Canadian Blood Services (CBS) is creating a national online database of potential organ donors. According to CBS’s Web site, Canada is one of the only countries in the western world that does not have a national, coordinated system for organ and tissue donation and transplantation. Instead, health systems in each Canadian province collect information about organ donors and identify people who need transplants – but the systems are not linked. Furthermore, many potential donors are not being accessed. In Manitoba, for example, people sign organ donor cards through Manitoba Public Insurance, but doctors are only accessing about 25 percent of those potential donors, according to Peter Nickerson, a member of CBS’s organ committee. Dr. Nickerson says a national online registry could double that number. CBS is currently collecting input from the public about the database, both online at www.blood.ca/speakup and at public consultation sessions such as one held last Saturday in Winnipeg. CBS’s registry is being funded through the provincial health systems, and Dr. Nickerson said CBS hopes to be able to present a finalized plan to provincial health ministers by this fall. (Sources: <http://speakup.dialoguecircles.com>, accessed 2/18/10; CTV Winnipeg, 2/11/10)

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently launched the first national surveillance system to monitor adverse events in patients who receive blood transfusions. The system, which went live on Feb. 9, will allow the CDC to summarize national data, which will then help improve understandings of how to prevent adverse transfusion events such as reactions to blood products, medical errors, and process problems. The system, called the Hemovigilance Module, is part of CDC’s National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN), an Internet-based surveillance system that allows healthcare-associated infection data to be tracked and analyzed. The Hemovigilance Module was developed by CDC in collaboration with AABB. Representatives from the private sector transfusion

(continued on page 9)

BRIEFLY NOTED (continued from page 8)

medicine community also contributed, through the US Biovigilance Network. Matthew J. Kuehnert, MD, director of the CDC's Office of Blood, Organ, and Other Tissue Safety, called the system "an important advancement in monitoring the safety of transfusions for patients nationwide." Previously, transfusion-related events were monitored by facilities on their own. Now, hospitals that join the Hemovigilance Module will have access to standardized data analysis tools, as well as an opportunity to see how their data compare to other hospitals throughout the US. CDC provides the module – as well as training and ongoing user support – at no cost to hospitals and healthcare facilities. CDC is now encouraging healthcare facilities to enroll in the new system. Further information is available at www.cdc.gov/nhsn. (Sources: CDC press release, 2/18/10; AABB, 2/10/10)

Olympic snowboarder Chris Klug, who will compete in Alpine snowboarding in Vancouver on Feb. 27, is using his time in the spotlight to draw attention to the importance of organ donation.

Nearly 20 years ago, Mr. Klug was diagnosed with primary sclerosing cholangitis, a rare degenerative bile duct condition that required a liver transplant. Nine years later, in 2000, he had the transplant at the University Hospital in Denver, Colo. He did very well with his recovery and was back to snowboarding in less than two months. In fact, less than two years after his surgery, he won a bronze medal at the 2002 Olympics in Salt Lake City. In 2004, Mr. Klug founded the Chris Klug Foundation, which is dedicated to promoting lifesaving donation and improving the quality of life for donors, donor families, organ transplant candidates, and recipients. The foundation has a grassroots initiative, Donor Dudes, that provides donor awareness materials and information for Donor Dudes chapters at high schools and college campuses nationwide. Donor Dudes aims to educate young people about the importance of organ and tissue donation, and to increase the number of people who are taking action. More information about Mr. Klug and his foundation is available at www.chrisklugfoundation.org.

**The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) will host a free national teleconference on health information technology (IT) and its role in patient care transitions next Wednesday, Feb. 24.**

The teleconference will be sponsored by AHRQ's National Resource Center for Health IT, and it will feature four presentations. Stephen Jencks, MD, MPH, will provide an overview of the current state of health IT and the challenges IT systems face in managing transitions in care. Brian Jack, MD, will share his research findings on how evidence-based health IT tools can enable systems integration across care settings. He also will discuss issues surrounding patient support and education, as well as the role of health IT in improving quality of care and supporting patients transitioning from the hospital to ambulatory settings. Terry Field, DSc, will speak about the role of health IT in supporting transitions in care in integrated delivery systems and other clinical settings. She will discuss her work in skilled nursing facilities, which focuses on transitioning complex elderly patients to home care. Dr. Jencks will conclude the teleconference with a discussion of health IT implementation issues at an institutional level and how the research findings presented by Dr. Jack and Dr. Field affect these implementation efforts. The conference will take place from 3 to 4:30 p.m., EST. More information and registration is available at <https://ahrq.peachnewmedia.com/store/seminar/seminar.php?seminar=3389>. ♦

REGULATORY NEWS

The new "Guidelines for Validation of Automated Systems in Blood Establishments" has now been published. The document, produced by the International Society for Blood Transfusion (ISBT), is

(continued on page 10)

REGULATORY NEWS (continued from page 9)

included in a supplement to this month's issue of *Vox Sanguinis*. It reflects changes in regulations and developments in methodologies since 2003, when the first version was published under a slightly different name. ISBT's guidelines are meant to promote "a standardized approach to the complexities of validation projects for critical computer systems and equipment in blood establishments," according to the document's introduction, and they are meant to be "relevant and applicable to all blood establishments," no matter how they approach validation. The document is available online at <http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/journal/123221940/issue>. **Citation:** Sampson J, *et al.* ISBT guidelines for validation of automated systems in blood establishments. *Vox Sang.* 2010 Feb;98 Suppl 1:S1-19.

A free Webinar will be offered on March 3 that will help answer questions related to the Food and Drug Administration's new guidance on cord blood. The guidance, which defines cord blood as a drug, requires cord blood banks to measure identity, potency, and quality of cord blood prior to its intended use. It was released in October 2009. The Webinar will be presented from 9-10 a.m., MST, by HemoGenix, a contract research service and assay development company, and it will specifically address the assays recommended in the guidance and comparable and alternative, validated assays. The Webinar also will address questions including:

- Are the recommended assays providing the required information?
- Can or are the assays validated?
- How is assay validation performed?
- What is cord blood "quality" and how is it measured?
- What is potency and how is it measured?
- How are potency, quality, and release related?

More information about HemoGenix is available at www.hemogenix.com, and interested parties can register for the Webinar at <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/899513016>.

The Food and Drug Administration this week announced a new safety plan for Erythropoiesis-Stimulating Agents (ESAs), which are used to treat chemotherapy-related anemia. Anemia drugs, including Aranesp and two others produced by Amgen – Epogen and Procrit – are given to cancer and kidney disease patients to boost red blood cell production and raise hemoglobin levels. ESAs are forms of the human protein erythropoietin, which stimulates bone marrow to make red blood cells. In April 2008, FDA required Amgen Inc. to establish this risk management program based on studies that found that ESAs caused tumors to grow faster and resulted in earlier deaths in some cancer patients. Amgen's risk management program, referred to as a REMS or Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy, requires healthcare professionals to provide their patients receiving an ESA with a Medication Guide that contains information for patients on how to safely use a drug. In addition, the company's APPRISE (Assisting Providers and Cancer Patients with Risk Information for the Safe Use of ESAs) program, which is part of the REMS, requires specific training and certification of healthcare professionals who administer chemotherapy to patients with cancer and counseling of their patients. It does not apply to patients being treated with an ESA for anemia due to other circumstances. Richard Pazdur, MD, director of the Office of Oncology Products in the FDA's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, said, "This new risk management program will help ensure that patients and their healthcare professionals have fully considered the benefits and risks of using ESAs." Amgen must ensure that healthcare professionals who treat patients with cancer register and maintain active enrollment in the ESA APPRISE program; complete a special training module on how to use ESAs in patients with cancer; and discuss the risks, benefits, and FDA-approved uses of ESAs with patients who have cancer before beginning a course of ESA treatment and document the discussion with a written acknowledgement from the patient. (Source: FDA press release, 2/16/10) ♦

MEMBER NEWS

Central Texas Raises Donor Weight Requirement After Switching to Bigger Bag

The Blood and Tissue Center of Central Texas increased its weight requirement for donors last month, after the blood center began using 500 milliliter (ml) blood bags for whole blood collection.

Because these bags hold slightly more blood (approximately 3 tablespoons) than the 450-ml blood bags used in the past, the minimum weight requirement for a whole blood donor was increased on Jan. 12 from 110 pounds to 123 pounds. The minimum weight requirement for platelet donors remains at 110 pounds.

Officials at The Blood and Tissue Center of Central Texas, located in Round Rock, said the change was made to help prevent post-donation adverse reactions. Most blood centers now are using the bigger bags, but weight requirements are “basically up to the blood center as long as they are not taking people below 110 [pounds],” AABB spokeswoman Jennifer Garfinkel said. The association does not have a way to track how many centers might have changed weight requirements after switching to the bigger bags.



Linda Printz, the center’s chief marketing officer, said she was unaware of other centers in Texas that increased the weight requirement after switching from 450-ml bags to the 500-ml bags. “We’re a fairly conservative bunch here,” Ms. Printz said. “We won’t compromise that safety factor.”

Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center in Houston uses the larger bags but hasn’t changed its weight requirements, which are different for teens: regular donors still must weigh a minimum of 110 pounds, but 16-year-olds must weigh at least 122 pounds. The center is evaluating whether donors are having reactions that would require an increase in weight, but they haven’t see that so far, spokeswoman Mary Richards said, noting that Food and Drug Administration weight guidelines have not changed.

Increasing the weight is most likely to affect teens, college students, and petite women. Milaka Falk, 42, of Oak Hill has been donating whole blood for nearly two decades and said she was “very upset” to learn of the change. She is 5 feet 2 inches tall, and her weight hovers around 113 pounds. She has an unusual type of blood – O-negative – and because it’s also negative for a common virus, her blood is suitable for infants. “I almost cried” over the news, Ms. Falk said, adding that she still intends to donate platelets. (Sources: Blood and Tissue Center of Central Texas Web site notice; *Austin American Statesman*, 2/9/10)

The Inland Northwest Blood Center (INBC) will be honored by the Spokane Valley Chamber of Commerce in Spokane Valley, Wash., as its 2009 Not-for-profit Organization of the Year. “The award honors one community organization making a difference in the region and is a tribute to our commitment to our donors and hospitals,” the blood center said in a press announcement. INBC provides all blood products to hospitals in a 150-mile region from Moses Lake in the west to the Montana border in the east, and from the Canadian border in the north to the Lewis-Clark Valley in the south.



**Inland Northwest
Blood Center**

Additionally, the blood center serves as the regional hub from the National Marrow Donor Program. INBC helps patients who need a bone marrow transplant to find a match. INBC is also the Gold

(continued on page 12)

MEMBER NEWS (continued from page 11)

Award Winner of National MarCom Award for outstanding marketing and communication of its annual summer blood donor program “Preserve Life.” INBC is the host and beneficiary of Spokane’s largest culinary gala, Epicurean Delight, an event that attracted about 1,200 people recently with record-breaking attendance. Epicurean Delight 2009 featured 30 of the most exquisite restaurants, paired with 30 of the finest wineries and microbreweries in the Inland Northwest for attendees to sample and judge. (Source: INBC press release, 2/4/10) ♦

HAITI EARTHQUAKE UPDATES**Next Blood Shipment to Haiti will be on Tuesday**

Wendy Trivisonno, director of Products and Operations at Blood Centers of America, reports that the next shipment of blood to Haiti will be on Tuesday. It will include six boxes, each with 25 units of blood. Community Blood Centers of South Florida will repack the units, which will include 100 O positive and 50 A positive units. No further information was available when the *ABC Newsletter* went to press on Friday, but blood centers that are interested in contributing to this or future shipments may contact Ms. Trivisonno at (401) 381-0600 or wtrivisonno@bca.coop.

A number of America’s Blood Centers’ (ABC) member centers contributed to the most recent shipment of blood to Haiti, which arrived in Port-au-Prince the evening of Feb. 10. The shipment included 175 units from the American Red Cross (ARC) and another 175 units from ABC, Blood Centers of America (BCA), and the National Blood Exchange. The shipment was received by the Pan American Health Organization, which then distributed it in Haiti. Last week, no shipment from the US was necessary, as the Irish Blood Transfusion Service stepped up its contribution for the week. This week, another shipment will be sent (see box above). BCA, ARC, and AABB are coordinating the shipments from the US. The units are donated and shipped at the individual blood center’s expense in boxes of 25 units each; the type distribution varies depending on needs. (Sources: ARC release, 2/12/10; *ABC Newsletter*, 2/12/10)

The Armed Services Blood Program (ASBP) has been sending blood shipments to two ships and the Naval hospital in Guantanamo almost daily, in order to help recovery efforts in the aftermath of the earthquake that struck Haiti on Jan. 12. The two ships are the USS *Bataan* and the USNS *Comfort*. Although many donors have asked whether the ASBP needs more blood because of its assistance to Haiti, officials assured them that their current supply is sufficient – although they also used the occasion to emphasize the importance of regular blood donations, which help maintain the inventory that is used in the immediate aftermath of tragic events like this earthquake. (Source: ASBP Newsletter, 2/2/10)



When Community Blood Center of the Ozarks (CBCO) held a blood drive at Missouri State University last week, donors helped relief efforts in Haiti both financially and with their blood. CBCO, which contributed blood to Haiti in late January, gave donors at the university the chance to exchange

(continued on page 13)

HAITI EARTHQUAKE UPDATES (continued from page 12)

their T-shirt gift for a donation that CBCO would make to area relief organization Convoy of Hope in their name. The effort raised \$984. That money will be combined with donations generated from blood drives in Arkansas earlier this month for a total donation of \$3,512. “We’re so pleased to open another avenue for our donors to make a difference,” said CBCO Executive Director Don Thomson. “Since we began helping area charities last December, our donors have touched so many lives outside of their incredible initial gift of blood. I’m proud to be associated with such a fine group that truly represents the giving spirit of the Ozarks.” (Source: CBCO release, 2/16/10) ♦

GLOBAL NEWS

An estimated 100,000 people in Bangladesh are infected with hepatitis B and syphilis every year due to unsafe blood transfusions, according to a report by Bangladesh Health Watch. The Health Watch report for 2009, the third since the first report was published in 2006, said that only 4 percent of the hospitals and clinics in the country implement government blood safety policies. The annual demand for whole blood varies from 250,000 to 350,000 units, but only half of those are screened for hepatitis B and C, syphilis, and malarial parasites before transfusion, according to the report. Another recent study shows that paid blood donors supply 70 percent of blood in the country, increasing the risk of transfusion-transmissible infections, including HIV. The proportion of the blood supply from paid blood donors fell to 60 percent from 90 percent in last decade, but it jumped again to 70 percent recently because of lax government regulation. The government’s safe blood transfusion program was started in 2000 in 98 public hospitals to promote voluntary blood donations. The Health Watch report said that factors that increase the risk of transfusing unsafe blood include ignorance, lack of public awareness, manpower shortages, lack of funding, inadequate lab facilities and screening products, and dishonest private proprietors. “Common citizens and even key staff members of the blood transfusion centers are unaware of the consequences of unsafe blood transfusions,” the report said, based on a study of more than 42 facilities during first half of 2009. The report says that four out of five centers do not have a government license or accreditation for blood transfusion safety, although many of them are supervised by the government’s Directorate General of Health Services. The Bangladesh Health Watch is a multi-organization network formed in 2006 to monitor health sector performance in the Southeast Asian nation. (Source: *The New Nation*, Bangladesh, India, 2/16/10) ♦

PEOPLE

Elaine Hanson, MD, has been elected the next president of San Diego Blood Bank’s Board of Directors. Dr. Hanson has served on the blood bank’s board since 2001. She also is a member of the Board of Directors of Planned Parenthood, and she has served on the Board of Directors of the University City Foundation for Public Schools, a nonprofit organization that provides supplemental funds for five public schools in San Diego. Dr. Hanson earned her Bachelor of Arts from the University of Iowa and her medical degree from the University of California, San Diego. Her specialty is obstetrics and gynecology. (Source: San Diego Blood Bank news release, 2/1/10)



(PEOPLE continued on page 14)

PEOPLE (continued from page 13)



Scott Caswell, who has worked for America's Blood Centers (ABC) and a number of ABC member centers, will become the new CEO for the Missouri-Illinois Region of the American Red Cross, the organization announced in an e-mail on Thursday. Mr. Caswell has been CEO of the Central Plains Region, headquartered in Wichita, Kan., since June. Before that, he was director of Donor Resource Development and Community Relations for the Community Blood Center, an ABC member center based in Appleton, Wis.; chief marketing officer for ABC; director of Public Affairs for Memorial Blood Centers, another ABC member, headquartered in Minneapolis, Minn.; and director of Development and Communication for the March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation. Mr. Caswell will move to the office in St. Louis, Mo., by

March 8, when his new position becomes official. 💧

INFECTIOUS DISEASE UPDATES

CHAGAS

A new study shows that more than 40 percent of the “kissing bugs” collected by researchers in Tucson, Ariz., carry the parasite that can cause Chagas disease. But while the number of bugs hosting the single-cell parasite is much higher in the southern Arizona city than had been thought, no human infections have been traced to bites that occurred in the state. Still, the results indicate that the risk of infection in southern Arizona may be higher than previously thought, the researchers concluded. The results could mean doctors are not looking for a disease that is rare in the US, or, more likely, that insects there don't act the same way as their cousins in South and Central America, or that the disease is a different strain, said Carolina Reisenman, PhD, a University of Arizona research biologist. She co-authored the study, which is to be published in the March 2010 edition of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention journal *Emerging Infectious Diseases*. The bugs, of the triatomine subfamily of the reduvid family, carry *Trypanosoma cruzi*, the agent for Chagas. “People have been bitten here for a long time, for decades, so my suspicion is we should see cases already if the transmission is efficient,” Dr. Reisenman said. More research will be needed before an explanation is found. Dr. Reisenman's team enlisted local residents to collect the bugs in and around their homes, and CDC researchers collaborated in the analysis, Dr. Reisenman said. Of the 164 insects turned over to researchers, DNA tests showed more than 40 percent carried the agent that causes Chagas disease. The only previous research, in the early 1960s, showed 4 percent of the kissing bugs around Tucson carried the disease. The study doesn't measure infection risks in other parts of the southern US, where the bugs are known to live and also carry the parasite. Chagas disease is endemic in poor areas in Latin American countries, where an estimated 8 million to 11 million people are infected, according to the CDC. In recent years, immigrants infected with Chagas have come to the US, and in 2009 the CDC estimated at least 300,000 migrants carried the disease. It also is known to be carried by kissing bugs in the southern US, although the disease is rare here, with only seven cases of locally acquired infection identified. Estimates on the number of worldwide deaths from Chagas per year range from 15,000 to 50,000. But the numbers are declining because of prevention and treatment efforts, said CDC researcher Ellen Dotson. Kissing bugs transmit the disease as they drink blood from humans, typically at night, and spread the parasite through feces. After a brief period of relatively minor symptoms, including a sore at the bite and a fever, the disease usually goes dormant. It re-emerges years or decades later, with severe heart or gastrointestinal problems in about 20 to 40 percent of patients. The study can be accessed at: <http://www.cdc.gov/eid/content/16/3/pdfs/09-0648.pdf>. (Sources: Associated Press, 2/10/10; ProMED e-mail, 2/15/10)

(INFECTIOUS DISEASE UPDATES continued on page 15)

INFECTIOUS DISEASE UPDATES (continued from page 14)**H1N1**

The World Health Organization's emergency committee of experts will meet Tuesday (2/23) to decide whether the H1N1 flu pandemic has peaked, WHO's top flu expert, Keiji Fukuda, MD, said on Thursday. Dr. Fukuda said at a news conference that WHO's recommendation earlier on Thursday to include the H1N1 strain in vaccines for the next 2010/11 northern hemisphere flu season did not mean that the H1N1 influenza pandemic, declared last June, is over. (Source: Reuters, 2/18/10) ♦

**America's Blood Centers
IMPAQ III Sessions Coming to Virginia and Tennessee**

Participants in earlier IMPAQ III sessions have found the course to be extremely worthwhile and valuable:

- *“Presenters were very personable and obviously knowledgeable about the blood industry.”*
- *“I enjoyed the presentation, and the sharing of different perspectives. The speakers were both very knowledgeable, and kept my attention quite well.”*

To register: contact Lori Beaston at lbeaston@americasblood.org.

March 24-25 (register by March 15)

Host: Virginia Blood Services, Richmond, Va.

Hotels: **Crowne Plaza Richmond West**, 6531 W Broad St (1 mile to VBS) *reserve by March 2*;
Tel: (804) 285-9951 or (877) 227-6963; Rate: \$104; online or call and mention “AME.”

Embassy Suites Richmond-Commerce Center (adjacent to VBS), 2925 Emerywood Pkwy; Tel: (804) 672-8585; Rate: \$179, estimated.

The blood center will provide transportation from either hotel to the blood center.

Airport: Richmond International Airport (RIC), approx 17 miles.

April 6-7 (register by March 29)

Host: Blood Assurance, Chattanooga, Tenn.

Hotel: **The Chattanooga**, 1201 S Broad St; Tel: (423) 756-3400 or (800) 619-0018; Rate: \$119; online or call and mention code “344436.”

The blood center will provide transportation from this hotel to the blood center.

Airport: Chattanooga Metropolitan Airport (CHA) ♦

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

Classified advertisements, including notices of positions available & wanted, are published free of charge for a maximum of three weeks for ABC institutional members. There is a charge of \$100 per placement for ABC Newsletter subscribers & \$250 for non-subscribers. Notices ordinarily are limited to 150 words. To place an ad, contact Deanna Du Lac at the ABC office. Tel: (202) 654-2917; Fax: (202) 393-5527; E-mail: ddulac@americasblood.org.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE:

Director of Donor Relations. Make life-saving difference by joining dedicated staff of Michigan Blood. We have served Michigan communities for over fifty years & are seeking qualified individuals to serve in our new positions based in Grand Rapids area. You will lead achievement of statewide blood collection goals, by providing leadership for Donor Relations Department. You will be responsible for strategies, policies & practices req'd to attract blood donations to Michigan Blood. Individual will report to Vice President of Community Relations & provide vision & implement strategies regarding these areas. Qualifications include: post-secondary degree in marketing, sales, public relations or related field; minimum of eight years of progressively responsible exp. in management of related functions, preference given to marketing, sales & public relations exp. in blood bank setting. We offer competitive salary & exceptional benefit plan. If you have passion for health field, desire to be part of growing Michigan company & your strength is connecting with others or operations, please send resume, cover letter & salary history to: Michigan Blood, Attn: **HR (ABC-143)**, 1036 Fuller NE, PO Box 1704, Grand Rapids, MI 49501-1704. Visit our Web site: www.miblood.org. EOE.

Medical Director, Associate. Progressive blood & tissue bank located in Dayton, Ohio seeks Full-Time Associate Medical Director to support growing organization. Our ideal candidate will be board eligible or certified physician & must be eligible for licensure in states of Ohio & Indiana. Position will provide medical support for blood and tissue center operations, medical consultation for area physicians & other health care professionals, evaluate medical safety & suitability of donors & institutional processes. Salary commensurate with exp.; excellent benefit package including relocation benefits. If you are qualified candidate, please submit your CV to: Community Blood Center/Community Tissue Services®, Attn: **HR/JSW**, 349 S. Main St., Dayton, Ohio 45402. All inquiries are strictly confidential. Drug free workplace. EOE/AEE.

Manager of Product Inventory. Make life-saving difference by joining dedicated staff of Michigan Blood. We have served Michigan communities for over fifty years & are seeking qualified individuals to serve in our new positions based in Grand Rapids area. You will coordinate & optimize component distribution to hospital customers, including inventory analysis and tracking. This individual will report to Director of Hospital Services. Qualifications:

post-secondary degree; three to five years of related exp.; Lean Management &/or Six Sigma exp. pref'd. We offer competitive salary & exceptional benefit plan. If you have passion for health field, desire to be part of growing Michigan company & your strength is connecting with others or operations, please send resume & cover letter to: Michigan Blood, Attn: **HR (ABC-95)**, 1036 Fuller NE, PO Box 1704, Grand Rapids, MI 49501-1704. We site: www.miblood.org. EOE.

Manager 2, Quality Laboratory in Hoover, AL. BioLife Plasma Services, subsidiary of Baxter Healthcare, is industry leader in operating high quality plasmapheresis centers throughout US. This position is responsible for developing & deploying quality systems at BioLife testing facilities. Manages regulatory inspections & interprets applicable quality & regulatory requirements while managing Laboratory Quality organization. Monitors testing techniques & accuracy of all records & documentation done in lab. Provide Laboratory long-term objectives, budget, general policies & management guidance. Bachelors Degree in Medical Technology or related field. ASQ certification helpful. Minimum of five years management exp. in Clinical Laboratory, Quality, Manufacturing or related field. Strong leadership skills & demonstrated success in overseeing large team. Knowledge in Statistical Analysis, QSR, cGMP, CFR, USP & GDP plus. As global leader dedicated to building best team in healthcare, we offer competitive compensation & full benefits. To apply, please visit our career website at: <http://www.baxter.com/careers> or send your resume to: melissa.grabiner@baxter.com. EOE M/F/D/V.

Donor Recruitment Representative. United Blood Services seeks individual to fill position of Donor Recruitment Representative for Fort Smith, AR center. Responsible for achieving monthly & annual territorial goals through effective donor recruitment, as well as account & calendar management. Position also directs, educates & motivates volunteer blood drive coordinators & committee members to ensure success of blood drives. Ideal candidate will have favorable influence on everyone they meet, be self-motivated, personable, detail oriented & comfortable speaking in front of groups. Relevant Bachelor's degree or equivalent combination of education & exp. req'd. Background should reflect strong outside sales exp. & territory management to include public speaking, in order to be

(continued on page 17)

POSITIONS (continued from page 16)

considered. Strong computer skills are essential. Established ties with community organizations & resources would be helpful. Competitive salary with excellent benefit package including incentive program, company paid pension plan & matching 401k. Please send resume & salary history to: United Blood Services, 5300 South "U" Street, Fort Smith, AR 72903. Resumes will be accepted through **02/26/2010**. Ref. #**2010-0001**. Resumes may be emailed to: jpogue@bloodsystems.org. Pre-employment drug testing req'd. EOE M/F/D/V.

Market Research Analyst. Marketing Research Bureau, leading market research & publishing firm specializing in plasma industry seeks full-time analyst to conduct domestic & international market research. Position is based in New Haven, Connecticut. Successful candidate will have at least three years of exp. in biopharmaceutical market research, superior writing, telephone & presentation skills, intercultural awareness & foreign language abilities. Travel 20%. Full compensation package includes health & retirement benefits. Please e-mail your resume, writing sample & cover letter to: mrb_careers@earthlink.net. Web site: marketingresearchbureau.com.

Administrative Director. Maimonides is Brooklyn's premier specialty care teaching hospital. We pioneer medical breakthroughs boast state-of-the-art clinical & information technology, train more medical residents than other hospitals in Brooklyn & regularly win awards from independent evaluators for quality of our care. We are compassionate, patient-centered & focused on employee participation & development. To qualify, you must be licensed by NYSDOH as Clinical Lab Technologist & have knowledge in all areas of blood banking & blood donor center activities. At least five years of recent supervisory/administrative exp. in blood banking in hospital setting pref'd. Ability to work flexible hours & be on call at all times will be expected. Ideal candidate will be highly organized, self-starter with good verbal & written communication skills, able to multitask & work in high stress environment. Knowledge of Microsoft Word & Excel is must. Knowledge of HCLL computer systems, blood bank automation & budget preparation plus. ASCP pref'd. We offer competitive compensation & comprehensive benefits package. Please apply on-line: www.maimonidesmed.org or send your resume with salary requirements, to: Human Resources Department, Maimonides Medical Center, via email: resumes@maimonidesmed.org or Fax: (718) 635-8157. EOE. Web site: www.maimonidesmed.org. Passionate About Medicine. Compassionate About People.

Medical Director/VP of Medical Affairs. Denver-based Bonfils Blood Center seeks Chief Medical Officer who works directly with President / CEO & acts as Bonfils' Regulatory Head. Responsible for ensuring medical & research direction; supports high-quality blood & components, laboratory testing, donor collections & counseling; hospital relations; product management; National Marrow Donor Program & clinical research. Responsible for consultative & support services that relate to care & safety of

donors & recipients. Individual will provide strategic direction to board & company. Oversees & provides direction to management responsible for Quality Assurance & Regulatory Affairs. Ensures alignment of goals & tactics in all divisions, with emphasis on continuity of company presence, image & performance, as they relate to donor base, community partners & community at large. Salary commensurate with exp. Full benefits & relocation expenses available. To apply, please visit Web site: www.bonfils.org, click on "employment." EOE/Drug free environment.

Medical Director. Community Blood Centers of South Florida, Inc. (CBCSF), serving southeast Florida metropolitan area from Key West to Palm Beach, seeks third medical professional. CBCSF draws 300,000 donations annually in support of 42 hospitals. Blood center is active participant with four bone marrow & solid organ transplant programs, two sickle cell programs, NMDP, performs in excess of 1000 therapeutic apheresis procedures annually & operates accredited red cell reference, HLA & stem cell laboratories. Successful candidate will be active as well in physician education, BB fellowship program, MT training & community outreach. Applicants must be board certified or eligible in Blood Banking. Competitive salary & benefits. Submit resumes in confidence to: Gladys Garcia, Medical Director Search Project, 1700 North State Road 7, Lauderdalehill, FL 33313-5006; or by e-mail to: ggarcia@cbscf.org. EOE M/F/D/V DFWP

Medical Director. LifeSouth Community Blood Centers, Inc. seeks medical director with two or more years of exp. in BB/TM. Position based at corporate headquarters in Gainesville, FL reports to Medical Officer. Responsibilities of position include providing medical direction to several regional centers in Florida, Alabama & Georgia with annual whole blood & apheresis collection of over 225,000 donors. Also included will be shared medical oversight of donor testing laboratory, reference lab, cord cell bank & therapeutic apheresis procedures. Applicant should be board certified in clinical pathology, hematology or other suitable specialty with board certification or eligibility in BB/TM and have or be eligible for licensure in Florida, Georgia & Alabama. Please submit cover letter & resume to: 4039 Newberry Rd., Gainesville, FL 32607, Attn: Dr. Kathleen Sazama or kjsazama@lifesouth.org. Background check req'd. EOE/DFWP

American Red Cross Mid-American Blood Services Division: Medical Director – Peoria, IL. Provide oversight for all medical aspects of regional blood center operations including reference laboratories, research, medical community relations & collections. Participate as part of management team & provide medical/technical expertise to our blood centers. Must be

(continued on page 18)

POSITIONS (continued from page 17)

board eligible, or certified in clinical pathology, hematology & eligible or certified in Blood Banking/Transfusion Medicine. Minimum seven years exp. in blood banking/transfusion medicine, or related field, or completion of blood banking/transfusion medicine fellowship req'd. Excellent benefits package. Send resume/CV to: Lisa Newell, American Red Cross: newelle@usa.redcross.org. Phone calls to (612) 290-8952. Web site: www.redcrossblood.org. EOE

American Red Cross Mid-American Blood Services Division: Assistant Medical Director – St Paul, MN. Responsible for shared medical coverage of regional blood center, immunohematology laboratory & neutrophil-platelet serology laboratory. Successful applicant will be eligible for appointment to transfusion services at University of Minnesota Medical Center transfusion service, which includes therapeutic apheresis & peripheral blood stem cell programs & Veterans Administration Hospital. MD or DO degree with post-graduate training in blood banking/transfusion medicine req'd. Must be board eligible, or certified in clinical pathology, hematology & eligible or certified in Blood Banking/Transfusion Medicine. Minimum five years exp. in blood banking/transfusion medicine, or related field, or completion of blood banking/transfusion medicine fellowship req'd. Excellent benefits package. Send resume/CV to: Lisa Newell, American Red Cross: newelle@usa.redcross.org. Phone calls to (612) 290-8952. Web site: www.redcrossblood.org. EOE

American Red Cross Mid-American Blood Services Division: Assistant Medical Director – Omaha, NE. Responsible for shared medical coverage of regional blood center with active therapeutic apheresis & peripheral blood stem program. Must be board eligible, or certified in clinical pathology, hematology & eligible or certified in Blood Banking/Transfusion Medicine. Minimum five years exp. in blood banking/transfusion medicine, or related field, or completion of blood banking/transfusion medicine fellowship req'd. Excellent benefits package. Send resume/CV to: Lisa Newell, American Red Cross: newelle@usa.redcross.org. Phone calls to (612) 290-8952. Web site: www.redcrossblood.org. EOE

Donor Services Operations Director. South Texas Blood & Tissue Center, San Antonio, Texas, seeks F/T professional to manage & coordinate all operations for Donor Services department to include collection of blood products (Apheresis, special collections & automated collections) on mobile blood drives & at fixed site locations. Our not-for-profit center serves more than 100 hospitals & clinics in 43 counties in the South Texas area. Qualifications required include Bachelor's Degree, blood banking exp., five years supervisory exp., MT (ASCP) or equivalent or RN pref'd. Offering competitive compensation, benefits, & relocation package. For information, please call SonJa Martinez at: (800)

292-5534, ext. 1030. To apply, e-mail resume to: hr_dept@bloodtissue.org or Fax: (210) 731-5581. EOE/AAP.

Clinical Services Manager (#445). Inland Northwest Blood Center, located in beautiful Pacific Northwest, seeks full-time Clinical Services Manager to influence quality of clinical practice by managing resources/staff involved in Therapeutics/Marrow Program donor management programs, including managing schedule for staff performing therapeutic procedures/marrow program activities, coordinating activities between other departments/clinical services & coordinating medical director decisions into clinical practice; Graduate from accredited school for Registered Nurses with current licensure in states serviced by INBC/ability to obtain; four years related exp., including program management/supervision, preferably in areas of medical/surgical, ICU, hemodialysis/hemapheresis or transplantation medicine; Nurse Practitioner/Physician Assistant pref'd; ability to lift up to 25 pounds occasionally. Complete position description available upon request (800) 423-0151 x 4247. Competitive compensation/benefits package. Applicants must send/fax completed INBC Application. Attn: Human Resources, INBC, 210 W. Cataldo Ave., Spokane, WA 99201; Fax: (509) 232-4530. Applications are available on our Web site at: www.inbc2.org. EEO/AA

Director of Donor Service (Collections). Central California Blood Center, located in Fresno, CA, seeks business minded mgmt-focused individual to direct all aspects of blood donor program with annual draw of 70,000 +. Includes managing efforts of Donor Services Dept. including registration, donor evaluation, phlebotomy, care & handling of blood units, post donation, mobiles, field & hemapheresis. In addition, ensure regulatory compliance with all nursing SOP's & training requirements for CCBC Donor Services (Collections) staff. Strong leadership skills including prior management exp. & proficiency in process improvement strategy with implementation of initiatives req'd, MBA plus. Great benefits including medical, dental, vision & life insurance along with pension plan & 401 (k), long term disability & EAP. Send resume with salary history to: Central California Blood Center; ATTN: Adrienne Vanderberg, 3445 W. Herndon Ave., Fresno, CA 93722. E-mail: avanderberg@donateblood.org. Fax: (559) 224-1310. EOE

Director of Regulatory Compliance/Quality Assurance. Make life-saving difference by joining dedicated staff of Michigan Blood. We have served Michigan communities for over fifty years & seek qualified individuals to serve in our position based in Grand Rapids

(continued on page 19)

POSITIONS (continued from page 18)

area. You will direct & oversee Regulatory Compliance & Quality Assurance department which includes seven staff. You will be responsible for regulatory compliance with FDA & other regulators. Responsible for all external regulatory assessments. Also responsible for quality assurance through review of standard operating procedures, validation & qualification protocols, product QC, internal audits, GMP/GTP training & discrepancy/error management system. This individual will report to Vice President of Quality & Medical Services. Qualifications include at minimum, college degree in health related field, preferable bachelor's or master's degree & three to five years of related exp. Ideal candidate would be MT (ASCP) certified. We offer competitive salary & exceptional benefit plan. If you have passion for health field, desire to be part of growing Michigan company & your strength is connecting with others or operations, please send resume & cover letter to: Attn: **HR (ABC-136)**, 1036 Fuller NE, PO Box 1704, Grand Rapids, MI 49501-1704. Web site: www.miblood.org. EOE.

Director of Client Relations. Make life-saving difference by joining dedicated staff of Michigan Blood, growing organization that has served Michigan communities for over fifty years. We seek qualified individual to lead our efforts to continue that growth while improving connections with existing hospital clients. As service liaison to current & future hospital clients & other corporate customers, your main focus is business development & account relationship management. You will lead department responsible for expanding Michigan Blood services to new hospital clients & for enhancing client input & exp. You must be comfortable in variety of settings, from laboratory to corporate board room. Qualifications include Bachelor's degree in business or scientific discipline, at least five years of progressively responsible account management exp. & demonstrated ability implementing strategic objectives. This position requires prior working exp. in medical or scientific field, preferably in hospital laboratory. Ideal candidate is one trained in medical laboratory science with extensive sales &/or customer management exp. We offer dynamic & growing business environment, competitive salary & exceptional benefit plan. If your passion is healthcare & your strength is service, please send resume & cover letter to: Attn: **HR (ABC-36)**, 1036 Fuller NE, PO Box 1704, Grand Rapids, MI 49501-1704. Web site: www.miblood.org. EOE.

Med Tech II. Blood Bank – A Lab Career with Meaning! Are you a detail oriented laboratory professional looking for career change? United Blood Services of Arizona has excellent opportunity in QC Lab. Jump start your career by joining second largest blood bank in United States! (Some food for thought - average February temperature in Scottsdale is in high 60's!). Responsibilities include routine testing of products in accordance with guidelines, equipment maintenance &

compliance with policies & procedures. You will also provide skilled technical support in laboratory & perform quality control testing on components produced from blood & blood products. NOT morning person? This is schedule for you! This is second shift position & you must be able to work rotating weekends. Make difference in someone's life & come & work for best blood bank in US! Successful candidate must have certification in Medical Technology, or CLIA equivalent. Must be MT (ASCP) certified & have bachelor's degree in biology related field. BB or SBB pref'd. Prefer three years exp. with automation in hematology, blood bank & knowledge of blood products or SBB. This is very physical job - you must be able to stand for long periods of time, bend & lift up to 50 lbs. Generous benefit package provided, including medical & dental after 31 days. Pension plan & 401(k) plan. Tuition reimbursement after six months! Relocation assistance available! Send resume (#007) by **2/26/10** to: RSW, United Blood Services, 6220 E. Oak Street, Scottsdale, AZ 85257. Fax: (480) 675-5448; e-mail: rsampson-worth@bloodsystems.org. EE drug testing req'd. EOE/M/F/D/V.

Director, Marketing & Donor Recruitment. Join our dedicated team & help lead one of Lane County Oregon's most important non-profits during exciting period of growth & change. Lane Memorial Blood Bank is sole supplier of blood for all of Lane County's hospitals & their patients. This newly created position will implement re-branding initiative, develop marketing strategy & communications plan to launch brand & serve as primary PR spokesperson for blood center. Director will also oversee all donor recruitment activities to engage stakeholders, meet blood collection goals & ensure efficient use of resources. Requirements include degree in Marketing, Communications or PR; minimum of five years managerial exp., plus tele-marketing or tele-recruiting operations exp. Strong communication & presentation skills are must, plus ability to build high-performing team of professionals that will meet & exceed organization & department goals. Download application from www.lmbb.org & send completed application to: Mary Moses, Human Resources Director, Lane Memorial Blood Bank, 2211 Willamette Street, Eugene, OR 97405, or e-mail to: mmoses@lmbb.org.

Controller/Director of Accounting. Puget Sound Blood Center seeks Controller/Director of Accounting that would be responsible for financial operations of Blood Center including accounts payable, billing, payroll, cash management & external reporting functions. Principal responsibilities include responsibility for proper recording of all financial activity of Blood Center in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, implementing proper internal controls &

(continued on page 20)

POSITIONS (continued from page 19)

managing the Accounting Staff. Bachelor's degree in finance or accounting req'd for this position & CPA or master's degree pref'd. Five or more year's exp. in controller or assistant controller role with organization that has multiple business lines, supervising & developing staff. Demonstrated proficiency with Microsoft Office applications: Word, Excel, PowerPoint & Outlook, exp. with computerized accounting software. Exp. working in "lean" organization, Medicare cost reporting & healthcare/not for profit exp. pref'd. Interested applicants should send their resume to: HumanResources@psbc.org or Fax: (866) 286-8495. For more information, please visit our Web site: www.psb.org.

Director Technical Operations. LifeSource Blood Center is not-for-profit organization & major provider of products that support Chicago's blood supply. LifeSource's committed professionals believe in core values of providing reliable & safe blood products to community. LifeSource is made up of quality minded individuals who demonstrate team work, open communication, continuous learning & excellent customer service. LifeSource has exciting opportunity for right

individual to lead area of Technical Operations at their Glenview site. This department is responsible for manufacture, labeling & Quality Control testing of blood products. Director of Technical Operations should have ability to work in challenging & innovative environment where their leadership can make difference. Position is responsible for overall management of Manufacturing, Labeling & Quality Control departments inclusive of several direct reports. Candidate should demonstrate strong leadership & partnering skills, along with solid blood banking background. Director of Technical Operations will be responsible for assuring that all products manufactured are in compliance with FDA & AABB regulations. Past exp. in blood banking & regulated GMP environment must. Position requires minimum of five years exp. in laboratory management, preferably in blood center. Quality assurance in regulated environment is strongly recommended. BS in science req'd. ASCP certification in Blood Banking strongly pref'd. Candidate that is qualified & willing to acquire Specialist Blood Banking (SBB) will be considered. Competitive salary & benefit package. Relocation assistance may be provided. Please apply to this position at: www.lifesource.org or contact Nancy Sifuentes: (847) 803-7845. ♦