INSIDE:
BRIEFLY NOTED.........2
A Patient with Unexplained Platelet Function Results ..................................3
Research Journal Digest .5
WORD IN WASHINGTON .................................................................5
INFECTION DISEASE UPDATE ....................................................6
GLOBAL NEWS .................7
PEOPLE.................8
MEMBER NEWS........8
December SMT Journal
Club Webinar.................9
ABC Awards of Excellence
Call for Nominations
Now Open .................................9
Upcoming ABC Webinars
– Don’t Miss Out!.........9
2020 ADRP Award
Nominations Available 10
2020 ADRP Annual
Conference Now
Accepting Abstracts....10
ABC 2020 Meetings & Workshops .............................11
CALENDAR.........................11
POSITIONS...................12

2019 #40
November 22, 2019

Please Note: The ABC Newsletter will not be published on November 29th. We will resume regular publication on December 6th. Thank you for your continued interest.

ABC Encourages BPAC to Seek Data in Support of Cold Stored Platelet Use in Non-trauma Settings

America’s Blood Centers (ABC) issued a statement on behalf of its member blood centers during the U.S. Food and Drug Administration’s (FDA) Blood Products Advisory Committee (BPAC) on Friday, November 22nd in Silver Spring, M.D. ABC Board President Mike Parejko, chief executive officer of Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center (Davenport, Iowa), presented the association’s position on the use of cold stored platelets in blood transfusions.

The statement highlighted the challenges surrounding the currently required 3-day expiration, while conveying the opportunity for potential significant impact of extending the expiration date thereby making the widespread use of cold stored platelets more feasible for blood centers. According to a recent survey of ABC members with an 86 percent response rate, representing close to 7 million in terms of annual collections, 41 percent of ABC member blood centers indicated they have or are in the process of seeking a variance for the use of cold stored platelets with 65 percent indicating that they will seek an expiration period of 14 days.

More than 75 percent of respondents plan to provide cold stored platelets to trauma hospitals, while 70 percent believe cold stored platelets would serve rural and geographically distant hospitals. More than 50 percent of respondents plan to explore providing cold stored platelets for use in labor and delivery, as the current variance is for trauma settings only. For these reasons, ABC asked the committee and FDA to:

• seek data that would support use of cold stored platelets in these and other settings and not limit it only to trauma situations; and
• to think broadly in their consideration of cold stored platelets and to seek data that would support expeditious decision making by the agency once the data is available.

The complete statement is available on the ABC public website.

More in-depth coverage of the BPAC meeting will be published in the next issue of the ABC Newsletter.

(Source: ABC BPAC Statement, 11/22/19)
BRIEFLY NOTED

The American Red Cross (ARC) has revised its position on the U.S. Food and Drug Administration’s (FDA) 12-month deferral on men who have sex with men (MSM). ARC is aligning their MSM position more directly to their humanitarian mission. The revised position states “[a]s a scientifically-based interim step, the Red Cross encourages the Food and Drug Administration to consider reducing its deferral time for men who have sex with men from twelve to three months while further options are evaluated for the United States.” The complete statement is available on their website. America’s Blood Centers position remains, “America’s Blood Centers and its members are committed to maintaining a safe and available blood supply and treating all potential donors with fairness, equality, and respect. To that end, we strongly support ongoing research initiatives designed to determine if donor-screening alternatives based on individual behaviors, not based on sexual or gender identity, will provide equivalent or superior transfusion safety. We encourage the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to continue its examination of deferral criteria for men who have had sex with men (MSM) to ensure the use of rational, science-based deferral periods that are applied fairly and consistently among blood donors.” ABC member blood centers can find updated talking points on MSM on the ABC Member website.

(Sources: ARC Announcement, 11/21/19; ABC MSM Talking Points, 11/21/19)

National Public Radio (NPR) is reporting that physicians for a patient undergoing treatment for sickle cell disease (SCD) using the gene editing tool CRISPR are seeing encouraging results thus far. According to the latest report from NPR, which is following one of the patients participating in the study in hopes of the CRISPR treatments providing her with healthy red blood cells following infusions of genetically modified bone marrow cells that will result in the production of fetal hemoglobin. Doctors are “very, very excited” by the progress to date but acknowledge that results thus far are preliminary and limited to a single patient. “This preliminary data shows for the first time that gene editing has actually helped a patient with sickle cell disease,” said Hayder Frangoul, MD of the Sarah Cannon Research Institute in Nashville, Tenn. “This is definitely a huge deal...We are hoping it is [a success but] it is still too early to celebrate.” Vertex Pharmaceuticals and CRISPR Therapeutics are performing the study that is currently enrolling as many as 45 patients in the U.S., Canada, and Europe. “I think it’s enormously exciting that we’ve reached a point where gene editing using CRISPR is being applied to sickle cell disease,” said Francis Collins, MD, PhD, director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to NPR. “To be able to take this new technology and give those people a chance for a new life, which it really would be, is a dream come true.” According to an earlier report from NPR in October, a similar treatment was applied to a patient with beta thalassemia earlier this year and that individual’s edited cells did begin functioning in the bone marrow.

(Sources: NPR, Gene-edited ‘supercells’ make progress in fight against sickle cell disease)
A Patient with Unexplained Platelet Function Results

A case recently reported in *Laboratory Medicine* described a 70-year-old female with a history of hypertension and a cerebral aneurysm who was scheduled for pipeline embolization device (PED) placement, a relatively new therapeutic option to treat a complex cerebral aneurysm. Thromboembolic events and in-stent thrombosis are major risks, owing to the prothrombotic nature of intravascular bare metal stents. Pro- and postprocedural dual antiplatelet therapy is standard, and aspirin and clopidogrel are the typical treatment regimen. Clopidogrel is an irreversible P2Y12 inhibitor which decreases platelet activation, dense granule release, and glycoprotein (GP)-IIb/IIIa activation. Clopidogrel is a prodrug which requires hepatic activation. Certain P450 enzyme polymorphisms are associated with clopidogrel resistance. Rates of resistance have been reported in the range of 16–50 percent. Prasugrel and ticagrelor are known to be more potent inhibitors of P2Y12 than is clopidogrel, and multiple studies have demonstrated significant reductions in the rate of death from vascular causes, myocardial infarction, or stroke in patients taking prasugrel and ticagrelor compared with clopidogrel. For this reason, clopidogrel is often replaced by prasugrel or ticagrelor.

In this case after 13 days of treatment with aspirin and ticagrelor, VerifyNow showed a P2Y12 reaction unit (PRU) value of 216, approximately five times the mean PRU of other patients on the same regimen. The VerifyNow assay is widely used to assess the antiplatelet effects of P2Y12 receptor blockers. Some have made a link between high on-treatment platelet reactivity as assessed by VerifyNow and post–percutaneous coronary intervention ischemic event occurrence during clopidogrel therapy. Platelet reactivity and ticagrelor resistance was confirmed with light transmission aggregometry (LTA), which detects platelet aggregation after the addition of various agonists to platelet-rich plasma by measuring the change in light transmission. A close correlation between ADP-induced platelet aggregation measured by LTA and P2Y12 occupancy and ischemic events has been demonstrated in numerous studies. In this patient, LTA showed a maximum aggregation of 34 percent and final aggregation of 20 percent.

When higher than expected platelet reactivity was noted, the case was postponed. Antiplatelet therapy was switched to prasugrel and aspirin was continued. Thirteen days later, the PRU value remained at 181. The PED was placed without complications, however, due to the high PRU value, the patient was given abciximab, another GP IIb/IIIa inhibitor. At discharge the PRU value decreased to 107 and the patient was prescribed an antiplatelet regimen of aspirin and prasugrel.

Testing of platelet function before PED placement remains controversial. There is a paucity of studies supporting this practice. There is no literature assessing the outcomes of patients in relation to tests of platelet function and no clear laboratory cutoffs in patients on ticagrelor before PED placement. The authors stated that this was the first reported case of ticagrelor resistance in the context of pre-PED placement prophylaxis. They noted that the Scientific and Standards Committee of the International Society on Thrombosis and Haemostasis (ISTH) recently released a communication with recommendations on laboratory monitoring of P2Y12 inhibitors, which highlighted the lack of available data and called for new, larger, prospective studies to assess platelet function testing usefulness in different clinical settings.


*Contributed by Richard Gammon, MD, Medical Director at OneBlood*  ♦

**RESEARCH BRIEFS**

America’s Blood Centers welcomes contributions or briefs from guest authors for scientific/medical peer-reviewed published papers. The views/comments expressed in submitted articles from external parties are those of the author(s) and are not to be interpreted as the viewpoint of America’s Blood Centers. If you are interested in contributing a brief for potential publication please contact us [here](#).
BRIEFLY NOTED (continued from page 2)

Ambrosia has resumed operations under its original name after previously shutting down a majority of its sites and changing its name to Ivy Plasma. The organization caused a stir last year when it began selling infusions of plasma from young donors touting its alleged health benefits to treat aging and diseases such as Parkinson’s. Currently, individuals can receive a one-liter transfusion for $8,000 or a two-liter transfusion for $12,000. “Our patients really want the treatment,” said Jesse Karmazin, founder and CEO of Ambrosia to OneZero. “Patients are receiving plasma transfusions from donors ages 16 to 25 again.”

FDA issued a joint statement warning consumers about the potential dangers of receiving such treatments earlier this year. In the February statement from then FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb, MD and director of the FDA’s Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research (CBER) Peter Marks, MD, PhD, the agencies stated, ‘[o]ur concerns regarding treatments using plasma from young donors are heightened by the fact that there is no compelling clinical evidence on its efficacy, nor is there information on appropriate dosing for treatment of the conditions for which these products are being advertised. Plasma is not FDA-recognized or approved to treat conditions such as normal aging or memory loss, or other diseases like Alzheimer’s or Parkinson’s disease.” In spite of the concerns of regulators, Ambrosia will continue selling the controversial treatments. “People really like the Ambrosia name and brand, so Ambrosia is going to continue, said Mr. Karmazin. “The resounding response from people wanting to sign up was, ‘keep things the same.’ So that’s what we’re going to do.” Currently, the company has one facility open in San Francisco, Calif.

(Source: OneZero, Exclusive: Ambrosia, the young blood transfusion startup, is quietly back in business, 11/8/19; FDA & CBER Joint Statement, 2/19/19)
Research Journal Digest

The collection of journal articles below may be of particular interest to the blood banking community:

- The United States’ potential blood donor pool: updating the prevalence of donor-exclusion factors on the pool of potential donors – Transfusion
- Preclinical Detection of Prions in Blood of Nonhuman Primates Infected with Variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease – Emerging Infectious Diseases
- Donor Deferral Due to Low Hemoglobin – An Updated Systematic Review – Transfusion Medicine Reviews

WORD IN WASHINGTON

President Trump signed a short-term spending bill on November 21st to avert a shutdown of the federal government ahead of the midnight deadline. Both the Senate and the House passed a stopgap measure this week to fund the federal government through December 20th of this year. The continuing resolution followed the President signing a temporary spending bill on September 27th that covered all federal agencies, buying lawmakers more time to work towards a long-term spending bill.

(Source: The Washington Post, Trump signs short-term spending bill just ahead of shutdown deadline, 11/21/19)

(continued on page 7)
INFECTIOUS DISEASE UPDATES

Eastern Equine Encephalitis Virus

A commentary in *The New England Journal of Medicine* authored by researchers from the National Institutes of Health’s (NIH) National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) examines the threat of eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) in the U.S. Thirteen deaths in eight states this year have been attributed to EEE with 36 confirmed cases as of November 12th. EEE is a mosquito-borne illness that concerns the NIAID officials due to “the spike in cases in 2019 and the looming presence of other, potentially deadly arboviruses in the U.S. and globally.” The researchers identify the need for “a national defense strategy for arboviruses and other vector-borne diseases. Although the best way to address these viruses is not entirely clear, to ‘ignore them completely and do nothing would be irresponsible’,” they wrote. Last month, America’s Blood Centers’ Scientific, Medical, and Technical Committee published an MCN at the request of member blood centers on EEE virus. It highlighted that:

- There was unusual EEEV activity in parts of the U.S. this past summer;
- transfusion transmission has not been described, but transmission by an organ donor to allograft recipients has been (very recently);
- there are currently no recommended interventions to prevent the theoretically possible transmission by blood; and
- further information will be provided if relevant data accumulate.

Additional information is available to ABC members in **MCN 19-071**.

_Courtesy of ArboNET, Arboviral Disease Branch, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: EEE virus neuroinvasive disease cases reported by stat of residence, 2009-2018_


(Sources: NIH News [Release](#), 11/20/19; MCN [19-071](#), 10/11/19)
WORD IN WASHINGTON (continued from page 5)

Thomas Engels has been named the Administrator for U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ (HHS) Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). He previously served as the HRSA Acting Administrator since August 2019. Prior to joining HRSA, Mr. Engels worked as the Deputy Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Health Services from 2015–2019. According to the announcement, he will “oversee the execution of HRSA’s $11.7 billion annual budget [based on fiscal year 2019 figures] that is used to expand access to quality health care through an array of grants to state and local governments, health care providers, and health professions training programs.”

(HRSA Announcement 11/21/19)

GLOBAL NEWS

UNILAD, a British media organization, and Freedom to Donate, an organization advocating for individual risk-based assessments to replace the three-month blood donor deferral policy of men who have sex with other men (MSM) in the United Kingdom (UK) plan to launch the “Illegal Blood Bank.” The campaign aims to raise awareness of the UK MSM deferral policy, which both organizations feel is discriminatory. The groups are collecting blood from up to 30 sexually active men who have sex with other men at a London locale that they are calling the “Illegal Blood Bank.” The samples will be collected and tested by medical professionals according to the campaign creators who plan to announce how many of the samples could have been used if the MSM deferral policy did not exist. “Our position is simple – anyone who can safely donate blood should be able to,” said Ethan Spibey, founder of Freedom to Donate, according to a report in the Daily Mail. “We're aiming to raise awareness of the unfairness in blood donation on a huge scale and demonstrate the incredible potential of those thousands of gay and bi men who could potentially donate through an alternative model.” NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) issued a statement on its website that it is not affiliated with the campaign and that the initiative is not a part of the “For the Assessment of Individualised Risk” (FAIR) steering group, which includes UK blood services and external stakeholders from the LGBT+ community. “NHSBT is not involved in this campaign and the donation session is not linked to us. We are already working collaboratively with LGBT+ groups on blood donation, through the FAIR steering group,” said Dr. Su Brailsford, MD, a consultant in Epidemiology and Health Protection for NHSBT in the statement on the NHSBT website. “The FAIR group is using an evidence-based approach to explore if a more individualised blood donation risk assessment can be safely and practically introduced, while ensuring the safe supply of blood to patients. This work is not linked to the assessments being used in the Freedom to Donate campaign. “We want to give as many people as possible the opportunity to donate whilst continuing to ensure the safety of patients remains our number one priority.” The “Illegal Blood Bank” is planned for November 23rd.

(Sources: Daily Mail, Campaigners launch an ‘illegal blood bank’ for gay and bisexual men in protest against Government rules which stop them donating while sexually active, 11/15/19; NHSBT Statement, 11/15/19)

The Australian Red Cross Blood Service announced that it has rebranded to Australian Red Cross Lifeblood as of November 15th. According to the announcement, the new name represents all the ways that the organization impacts lives in Australia such as blood donation, organ matching, and tissue typing. “We are a world leader in blood safety, and while blood is still at the core of what we do, we are now so much more than blood,” said Australian Red Cross Lifeblood CEO Shelly Park in a news release. “We now provide safe, donated breastmilk to babies in newborn intensive care units across New South Wales and South Australia. We provide critical organ matching services allowing life-giving transplants to take place, (continued on page 8)
GLOBAL NEWS (continued from page 7)

and next year in Western Australia we are embarking on a pilot to provide a reliable supply of donated stool for faecal microbiota transplants to treat patients with life-threatening digestive system infections. The name Lifeblood reflects the role we play in the Australian community now and into the future, but also celebrates our generous donors who are the lifeblood of Australia.” Also, the organization announced a new website and that an eight-part reality television series, entitled “Giving Life,” is airing in Australia to provide a behind the scenes look at the lives impacted by the work of Australian Red Cross Lifeblood. “Giving Life’ shows for the first time the real, often moving, and always inspiring, stories of the people who give, receive, and make life possible and we can’t wait to share them with you,” added Ms. Park in the news release. “From the blood besties who receive regular transfusions together to the surfer who narrowly escaped death after a brutal encounter with a tiger shark, “Giving Life” looks at it all. We hope these stories will inspire and motivate you to join our amazing donors as the lifeblood of Australia.”

(Source: Australian Red Cross Lifeblood Announcement, 11/15/19)

PEOPLE

Richard Aster, MD is being recognized at the American Society of Hematology (ASH) Annual Meeting with Wallace H Coulter Award for Lifetime Achievement. Dr. Aster’s career at Versiti spans close to 50 years as he has served as senior investigator at the Versiti Blood Research Institute. He is being honored for his commitment to improving patient care through his work on blood-related disorders which includes patented work that improved preparation, storage, and matching of platelets for transfusion. “ASH believes Dr. Aster embodies many of the attributes of Wallace Coulter, such as his love of investigation, creativity, tenacity, and generosity,” said ASH President Roy Silverstein, MD in a Versiti news release. “Dr. Aster exhibits a genuine passion for hematology and has set a high bar for excellence in research, mentorship, and patient care.” The award will be presented to Dr. Aster next month in Orlando, Fla. “I have enjoyed every minute of this long journey, and I am humbled and deeply grateful to receive this recognition,” added Dr. Aster in the news release.

(Source: Versiti News Release, 11/19/19)

MEMBER NEWS

Central California Blood Center (CCBC) held a blood drive this week hosted by three members of the Fresno City Council in honor of the victims of a mass shooting that killed four and wounded 10 other individuals. Council members Miguel Arias, Esmeralda Soria, and Nelson Esparza encouraged members of the community to support the efforts of CCBC in ensuring that a safe and available blood supply is there for patients in need. “We’ve seen close to a 20 percent increase on donors coming out to our centers in the last two days,” said Ersilia Lacaze, CCBC Director of Marketing and Community Development to GVWire.com. “That equates to several hundred units more than what we’d typically have. We are extremely grateful for the outpouring of support from our community and ask that folks keep coming out to continue to build our inventory.”

(Source: GVWire.com, Whether it’s giving blood or money, help start the healing, 11/19/19)
December SMT Journal Club Webinar

The ABC Scientific, Medical, and Technical (SMT) Journal Club Webinar on December 5th at noon eastern will feature the articles below:

- Blood transfusion for deep space exploration ([Transfusion]);
- Blood utilisation and transfusion reactions in adult patients transfused with conventional or pathogen-reduced platelets (British Journal of Haematology); and
- Transfusion of pathogen-reduced platelet components without leukoreduction ([Transfusion]).

Additional details including login information to join the webinar are now available to ABC members.

(Source: MCN 19-077, 11/19/19)

**ABC Awards of Excellence Call for Nominations Now Open**

ABC members are encouraged to nominate blood donation sponsors, corporations, and advocates for the 23rd Annual Awards of Excellence. This year’s ceremony on Tuesday, March 10th will be in Washington, D.C. during ABC’s 58th Annual Meeting at the Ritz-Carlton (Pentagon City). Nominations are currently open until Wednesday, December 4th. Additional details are available in MCN 19-072 for ABC member blood centers. The online submission form is available here. ABC members are permitted to submit up to three nominations per category. The following awards will be presented during the awards ceremony and are currently open for nominations:

- ABC Outstanding Blood Drive of the Year
- Outstanding Public Relations Campaign
- Corporation of the Year Award
- Larry Frederick Award (jointly presented by ABC and ADRP)
- William Coenen President’s Award
- Blood Community Advocate of the Year Award
- Thomas F. Zuck Lifetime Achievement Award

A complete description of each award is available here. Please direct any questions about nominations or the awards ceremony to memberservices@americasblood.org.

(Source: MCN 19-072, 10/30/19)

**Upcoming ABC Webinars – Don’t Miss Out!**

- **SMT Journal Club Webinar** – December 5th from 12 – 1 p.m. (ET). Additional details and login information available here.
- **Irradiator Replacement at Blood Centers Webinar** – January 21st from 3 – 4:30 p.m. (ET). Additional details coming soon.
INSIDE ABC (continued from page 9)

2020 ADRP Award Nominations Available

Each year, ADRP honors individuals and organizations that have demonstrated outstanding service, accomplishments or leadership in blood banking. Blood centers are encouraged to nominate individuals and organizations. In addition to a complimentary conference registration, winners receive a commemorative award and recognition in the ADRP newsletter and website. The nomination deadline is December 31, 2019. This year’s award categories are:

Individual Awards
• Donor Recruiter of the Year
• Collections Team Member (Recruitment and Collections)
• Rolf Kovenetsky Leader of the Year
• Ron Franzmeier Lifetime Achievement
• Ronald O. Gilcher, MD

Organization Awards
• Media Partner
• Humanitarian Service
• Blood Drive (Most Creative and Most Productive)
• School Blood Drive (HS or College)

Additional information on the ADRP awards is available on the ADRP website.

(Source: ADRP Awards Announcement, 10/29/19)

2020 ADRP Annual Conference Now Accepting Abstracts

ADRP, an international division of America’s Blood Centers, is encouraging donor collections, donor recruitment, marketing, and communications professionals to consider sharing their knowledge at the 2020 ADRP Annual Conference by being a presenter. The call for speaker abstracts is open until December 31st. Topics that have been the most requested by attendees include:

• Leadership and team development:
  o Critical thinking
  o Time management
  o Staff adequacy and talent level
  o Managing change

• Blood Type Management:
  o Collecting correct units based on blood type
  o Maintaining inventory during time of need
  o Rebooking donors and drives with emphasis on time of need

• Donor and sponsor communication strategies:
  o Diversification of the donor base
  o Addressing donor apathy
  o Communications strategies

(continued on page 11)
INSIDE ABC (continued from page 10)

As the industry’s leading conference for donor facing professionals in the areas of collections, communications, marketing, and recruitment, this year’s focus, “Charting the Course to Excellence,” will delve into each step of the donor journey and provide proven solutions for how staff from all aspects of the blood center can work together to achieve the best possible outcomes. Additional information about the conference is available on ADRP’s website.

(Source: ADRP Abstract Submission Form, 10/10/19)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ABC 2020 Meetings &amp; Workshops</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Hotel</th>
<th>Registration Dates &amp; Fees</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>2020 ABC Annual Meeting</td>
<td>March 9&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;-11&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Washington, D.C.</td>
<td>Ritz-Carlton (Pentagon City)</td>
<td>More details coming soon!</td>
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<tr>
<td>ADRP 2020 Conference</td>
<td>May 19&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;-21&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Phoenix, Ariz.</td>
<td>Hyatt Regency</td>
<td>More details coming soon!</td>
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<td>2020 ABC Medical Directors Workshop and Summer Summit</td>
<td>July 21&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt;-23&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Cleveland, Ohio</td>
<td>Westin Downtown</td>
<td>More details coming soon!</td>
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Notes:
For the most up-to-date information on all events, members of ABC may check the calendar on ABC’s Member Site. Non-members may attend all events; information will be updated on ABC’s Public Site.

CALENDAR

Note to subscribers: Submissions for a free listing in this calendar (published in the last issue of each month) are welcome. Send information to newsletter@americasblood.org or by fax to (202) 393-1282. (For a more detailed announcement in the weekly “Meetings” section of the newsletter, please include program information.)

2020


July 21-23. 2020 ABC Medical Directors Workshop and Summer Summit, Cleveland, Ohio. More details coming soon.
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: $1.39 per placement for ABC Newsletter subscribers and $2.79 for non-subscribers. A six (6) percent processing fee will be applied to all credit card payments. Notices ordinarily are limited to 150 words. To place an ad, e-mail newsletter@americasblood.org

POSITIONS

Laboratory Manager (Appleton, Wisc.) The Community Blood Center is seeking a Manager for our Laboratory Operations. This individual will have a passion for leading others, and experience leading laboratory testing, component, and hospital service activities. The Community Blood Center currently provides 20+ Wisconsin and Michigan hospitals with a full range of blood components. Responsibilities for this individual will include planning, managing and supervising all laboratory testing, component, and hospital service activities. Responsible for oversight of the activities of Laboratory staff and ensuring all processes are compliant and safe. Oversight consists of allocation of resources, monitoring, correcting, improving and updating all technical, regulatory, administrative, and personnel functions. This individual will be responsible for accomplishment of key department and organizational objectives including assigned goals, operational productivity targets, compliance measures and staff engagement metrics; ensuring compliance with quality control functions, documents and industry regulations; budget preparation and plan development to maintain or adjust operations as needed. The position requires a MT(ASCP) or equivalent and minimum two years lab experience, ideally with increasing levels of responsibility. Medical background or blood center experience with strong working knowledge of laboratory practices, equipment and regulations; excellent leadership, staff development and team building skills, in addition to budget preparation and monitoring skills, with a high level of data analysis skills. Apply at: https://www.communityblood.org/careers.

Donor Services Collections Operations Director. (Ada, Okla. and Ardmore, Okla.) This position will provide leadership and direction over all aspects of the Oklahoma Blood Institute Donor Services collection team for both mobile and fixed site operations. It is responsible for assessing, developing and implementing strategic plans to achieve donor services objectives and goals. Create a friendly competitive environment to motivate staff to achieve high system wide standings on all key performance metrics (loss rates, errors, 2RBC conversion, Global Blood Fund, etc.). Conduct routine meetings to communicate organizational vision, updates, and changes and recognize outstanding staff performance keeping morale high. Maintain adequate staffing levels. Make frequent visits to both fixed and mobile collection sites. Actively participate in internal and external assessments/inspections including corrective action plans and effectiveness checks as needed. Track and monitor inventory and collection goals, which include whole blood, automation rates, and WB conversion data. Analyze data and make adjustments to increase productivity. This includes working closely with recruitment to ensure projections are met. Prepare and manage department annual budgets. Bachelor’s degree in management or medical field. Minimum of five years’ leadership/management experience, and valid driver’s license. Competitive salary and excellent benefits package. How to Apply: http://obi.org/careers/

Director of Quality and Regulatory Affairs (Grand Rapids, Mich.) Versiti was founded with the belief that together, our blood centers can better serve patients’ urgent need for life-saving healthcare. We love what we do, and we’re looking for passionate individuals to join the Versiti family. We foster a diverse environment that affirms each employee’s dignity and worth, and we offer a chance to work with a team of compassionate people who provide lifesaving blood to our communities on a daily basis. Under the direction of the Chief Quality Officer provides leadership and direction for developing, implementing, and executing quality assurance processes and practices that support the manufacture of FDA-regulated biologics (blood and tissue). The primary responsibility is to lead the affiliate QA/RA/QMS function for these services and ensure that all activities meet regulatory requirements and result in high quality, safe, and effective products and services. Supports standardization of policies, processes, procedures, and practices across Versiti. Promotes culture of quality and compliance. Works effectively with other Quality Directors within Versiti to provide effective quality and compliance solutions and practices that advance Versiti Quality mission. Requirements: Bachelor ‘s degree in a scientific field from an accredited university; academic training or direct work experience in Master’s degree in a scientific field, business, health care or other related field preferred; previous experience working in a blood bank required; minimum five years’ experience in a regulated industry (biologics, pharma, or medical device), where change management, validation, and creation of SOPs (standard operating procedures) has been required and successfully implemented; a minimum of 3 years of direct management experience or progressively more responsible project management experience is required; prior experience participating and/or managing FDA inspections is required. Additional experience working with accreditation bodies and third-party auditors preferred. You can find the job posting and apply here. For further inquiries, please email Melissa Manley.

(continued on page 13)
POSITIONS (continued from page 12)

Executive Director. (Little Rock, Ark.) The Arkansas Blood Institute is seeking a "community spirited" professional to lead its Little Rock team in fulfilling the mission to recruit blood donors, drive sponsors, and volunteers and to store and deliver blood units for local hospitals. This public facing, “visible” position not only requires an outgoing, bright, and energetic personality to foster relationships, but also demands detailed attention to planning, communication, regulations, finances and personnel. Significant successes in project management and organizational expansion and entrepreneurship are desirable. Connectivity with regional leaders and access to key social networks would also be positives. The successful candidate will present and maintain a credible, positive image of the Arkansas Blood Institute in the local community. He or she will act as a liaison between the Institute and the community, organizations and residents. Applicants should be goal-driven self-starters who have strong interpersonal, organizational and analytic skills. They should be able to motivate and inspire diverse constituencies including donors, sponsors, staff, and volunteers. Salary Range: Competitive salary, commission plan, and excellent benefits package including health, dental, vision, and life insurance, 401(k), paid time off, and holiday pay. Apply: http://arkbi.org/careers/.

Reference Lab Manager. OneBlood is currently recruiting for a Lab Manager in our AABB-Accredited Immunohematology Reference Laboratory. This position provides leadership and technical expertise, manages staff, and performs training and quality activities for the staff responsible for performing basic through advanced testing procedures on patient and/or donor samples. Applicants must have a bachelor's degree in medical technology, biological science or related scientific field from an accredited college or university. Five or more years in a clinical laboratory, preferably blood banking environment, or an equivalent combination of education, certification, training and/or experience. Applicants must have SBB certification, as well as a valid and current Florida Clinical Laboratory Supervisor license, or eligible, in Immunohematology or Blood Banking. To apply and view a complete Job Description of this position, go to www.oneblood.org and click on the “Careers” tab. OneBlood, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer/Vet/Disability.

Medical Director. If you have a passion to join a team that is providing cutting-edge medical expertise in the areas of blood banking, transfusion medicine, immunohematology reference laboratories, therapeutic apheresis, cellular therapy and research, consider joining OneBlood as a Medical Director. Qualified candidates should possess a minimum of three years’ experience and a M.D. or D.O. degree with board certification in Clinical Pathology, Internal Medicine or Hematology and subspecialty board certified in Blood Banking/Transfusion Medicine by a Board Registry recognized by the American Board of Medical Specialties. Appropriate state licenses will be required as needed. Must meet the eligibility requirements to obtain appointments at hospitals served by OneBlood. This position includes the option of free medical coverage with a competitive benefits package, 403(b) retirement plan with company contribution plus a company match, company vehicle lease/allowance, paid holidays, and much more. This position will be based out of the Ft. Lauderdale, Florida area, with some of the most gorgeous beaches in the nation! If you want to join our life saving mission and team of dedicated employees, visit our “Careers” page at www.oneblood.org to learn more. OneBlood, Inc., a proven leader in blood banking, is an Equal Opportunity Employer/Vet/Disability. ♦