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Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center Implements Unique Training Methods at Mobile Operations Complex

In 2009, Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center (The Blood Center), headquartered in Houston, opened its 85,000-square-foot Mobile Operations Complex (MOC), which was originally built to replace the center's onsite warehouse that was destroyed in an electrical fire in 2005. Since the facility's opening, it has become much more than just a warehouse and launching point for mobile blood collection units – it also houses a number of innovative blood center employee training programs.

During America's Blood Centers' Human Resources & Employee Training/Development (HR/TD) Workshop, attendees were able to tour the MOC, which is home to the Mobile Collections Department, serving as the launching site for more than 6,000 mobile blood drives each year. Attendees were able to learn about a number of The Blood Center's employee training programs, and many reported that they were impressed by the state-of-the-art facility, life-like simulation training, integration of web-based learning methods, and other unique programs presented during the MOC tour.



Attendees at ABC's HR/TD Workshop tour Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center's Mobile Operations Complex where trainees can practice phlebotomy on mannequin arms.

“Overall, I was very impressed with our tour of Gulf Coast's center ... The training area was quite notable,” said workshop attendee, Margaret Hannan, manager of Donor Operations at Blood Bank of Delmarva. “The training areas were well-equipped, functional spaces that would clearly facilitate successful learning. I very much enjoyed the presentations by the various members of their training team, and found their willingness to share their program success to be very beneficial.”

The MOC hosts a number of training programs including new-hire training for collections staff, apheresis training, team lead training, and some refresher/re-

(continued on page 3)



OUR SPACE

ABC CEO Christine S. Zambricki, DNAP, CRNA, FAAN

The Buck Stops ... Where?

America's Blood Centers' board of directors owns responsibility for the performance of ABC. As is the case with any organization, the buck stops with the directors and officers. Granted, boards hire, evaluate, compensate, and retain a CEO with the expectation that this individual will oversee the operations of the enterprise. But in doing so, boards must step up and not blindly follow the lead of the CEO. Rather, they must spend considerable time on strategic issues such as oversight, planning, enviro-scanning and assessing organizational risk. ABC's board is doing just that.

With the belief that the future is the most important focus, ABC's board is committed to spending 25 percent of their meetings on fiduciary oversight (operational excellence) and 75 percent on strategy.

The board recently met in Washington, D.C., and spent the majority of the meeting conducting strategic thinking. Among other accomplishments, the board approved the fiscal year 2015 budget, evaluated partnerships with outside organizations, coordinated future bylaw revisions, developed a path to maximize alignment of the Foundation and ABC strategy, and forged a financial plan and organizational structure consistent with the strategic plan.

The board is committed to ongoing development to support the effective leadership of ABC. To that end, David Nelmark, ABC's legal counsel, presented the legal responsibilities of a board of directors, available to ABC members at <http://bit.ly/1umStcW>.

In recognition of the important role that ABC staff plays in the execution of board strategy, the board members visited ABC's headquarters for a reception with staff in ABC's newly renovated office (see page 8 for a photo of the reception). If you were there you would know the answers to these questions.

1. Which ABC board member loves soap operas?
2. Which ABC staff member is an expert on types of salmon?
3. Which ABC board member holds an increasingly popular bluegrass music festival for the public on his farm? *(see answers at the bottom of the page)

The CEO role can be very lonely. To support and retain a high performance CEO, the board must work to understand and respond to key strategic issues, and must also recognize and support the contributions of not just the CEO, but the staff who dedicate their hearts and souls to advancing the organization. ABC members can be assured that the board has their back in fulfilling their individual and collective responsibilities and that your CEO is not acting alone.

**Answers: 1. Dave Green, 2. Betty Klinck, 3. Chris "Yasgur" Staub*

Christine S. Zambricki

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

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Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center MOC (continued from page 1)

training courses, said James Randle, manager of Donor Collections Training at The Blood Center. The eight-week new-hire training program is the largest training program hosted at the MOC, allowing new collections staff not only to learn about, but to actually practice donor screening and phlebotomy in a classroom setting before training in the field.

“The training rooms at the MOC are truly state of the art, whereby they allow us an opportunity to train new staff and incumbent apheresis staff in the use of our donor processing software, as well as screening and phlebotomy, outside of the production environment,” said Mr. Randle. For example, new trainees practice phlebotomy several times on a mannequin arm in a simulated blood banking scenario, “becoming comfortable with the process before stepping foot into an actual blood collection environment,” added Mr. Randle.

The Blood Center’s training programs employ a mix of traditional instructor-led training, role-play activities, reading Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), and web-based training methods to ensure that trainees remain engaged and have a chance not only to learn the new material, but also to practice their skills and ask questions. “The technology available to us in the MOC allows us to step out of the instructor-led pieces for certain training so that the trainees are able to move at their own pace,” said Mr. Randle.

Web-Based Learning. The e-learning training modules also decrease the cost and inconvenience of having to make trainers available to teach all of the programs, said Ward Scott, The Blood Center’s instructional development manager. The center began converting some of its training programs to a paperless, web-based platform in 2000 and now has about 80 active e-learning programs, most focusing on content that does not change frequently, such as current good manufacturing practices (cGMP), blood-borne pathogen, and safety training.

“E-learning benefits employees because they can access the training at their convenience, as opposed to when it’s convenient for the training department,” said Mr. Scott. “The various training modules become available depending upon the date of hire, so we can schedule trainings for new-hires to coincide with the on-boarding process. And of course, it’s consistent, ensuring that everybody’s getting the same message all the time.”

He added that The Blood Center is constantly revising and updating the e-learning content, as well as adding new training modules as requested by blood center staff. Creating a new e-learning program is an “iterative process,” with the training department first creating a quick rough draft and conducting several rounds of editing and fine-tuning to create the final product, a process that can take as little as a week to as long as a couple of months, depending on the subject, said Mr. Scott.

He recommends that blood centers looking to make the switch to web-based learning keep a focus on the return on investment by focusing on programs that can be reused many times. He also noted that with the numerous e-learning authoring programs available today, training developers do not need a ton of technical experience, but rather require concentration on the instructional design of the training.

Interactive Training for Trainers. Attendees at ABC’s HR/TD Workshop also learned about how The Blood Center has recently revamped its “training for trainers” program by integrating more interactive components. Blood centers often struggle with creating programs to prepare staff to train others, and often the most experienced person in a given department becomes a trainer with little preparation for educating others, said Lainie Deterling, manager of Technical Training at The Blood Center.

(continued on page 4)

Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center MOC (continued from page 3)

In 2004, The Blood Center launched the “training for trainers” program to prepare trainers and set qualifications for these individuals before they become responsible for training others. This year, The Blood Center redesigned the program into an interactive workshop, rather than relying solely on lecture-based learning, said Ms. Deterling. Trainees now spend half a day of the two-day training program actually preparing their own training plan and then practice delivering the training to one another using the techniques learned during the first day of the program.

Trainees are now more engaged during the program, as they complete exercises throughout the workshop, with the trainer lecturing for about 40 percent of the time and trainees participating in activities the rest of the time, said Ms. Deterling. “Training for trainers” focuses heavily on the “learning curve” concept, which entails being able to evaluate and recognize a trainee’s skill level and understanding of the materials and tailoring the training to meet that individual’s needs.

Thus far, The Blood Center has received positive feedback from those who have undergone the revamped training for trainers program, and the center has plans to incorporate more interactive learning into its cGMP training, said Ms. Deterling.

Unique Training Programs. Not only has The Blood Center focused on integrating new learning methods to existing training, but the staff has also worked to introduce new, unique training programs. During the workshop, Tom Sauer, manager of Training & Development at The Blood Center, and Trinn Speicher, a senior training specialist, presented the center’s program for preparing “team leads” for mobile blood drives.

The team lead training program allows tenured staff who have advanced past the entry level phlebotomist, but are not quite ready for a supervisory role, to take on a leadership position by overseeing mobile blood drives, while still under the direction of a mobile drive supervisor. The program was launched in November 2012 following complaints from mobile managers that there were too few mobile supervisors for these employees to take leave, yet they were not comfortable prematurely promoting staff to supervisor roles.

“This program allows us to do a step-up to the supervisor role with the added benefit that it enables management to see potential supervisors function in that role before they are promoted,” said Mr. Sauer. “Sometimes people may think they want to be a supervisor, but when they finally get into the role they step back and say ‘this is not for me.’ This introduces a smaller step for people who may be willing to give it a try.”

The Blood Center now conducts this one-day training program about three to four times a year, graduating about a dozen staff members each year. Mr. Sauer notes that much of the success of this program comes as a result of close consultation with the management and subject matter experts to determine the technical content and incorporate best practices and practical advice from seasoned experts. For example, the training includes a focus on communication guidelines and how to deal with difficult situations that may arise at a blood drive. Team lead trainees also participate in role-playing exercises, such as practicing meeting with blood drive chairpersons.

The Blood Center began a new program in December 2013 to train phlebotomists to drive mobile donor coaches, said Mr. Randle. The center has put 10 phlebotomists through this training in the first five months. Trainees take a week-long training class to gain a commercial drivers license permit and

(continued on page 5)

Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center MOC (continued from page 4)

then are paired with a driver mentor, who teaches them to drive the coach and eventually become licensed coach drivers.

“It is a small cost to pay (for the training) to have fully trained, fully capable phlebotomists to drive the donor coaches, as opposed to the struggles we endured with commercial drivers and trying to teach them to screen donors, what a blood pressure is, how to use our computer systems, and all of the other activities performed on a blood drive,” said Mr. Randle.

The Blood Center’s training staff continues to look for new and innovative ways to deliver training and engage employees in their learning. ♦

Jay Menitove to Retire as Community Blood Center of Greater Kansas City’s President, CEO, and Medical Director

Jay E. Menitove, MD, a leader in the blood banking community for more than 35 years, retired on May 30 from Community Blood Center of Greater Kansas City, Mo., (CBC) after 17 years as the center’s president, CEO, and medical director.

Dr. Menitove joined CBC as the organization’s executive director in 1997, after serving as medical director at the BloodCenter of Wisconsin from 1980 to 1991 and deputy medical director of Medical Services at Hoxworth Blood Center in Cincinnati from 1991 to 1997.

During his tenure at CBC, the organization grew its revenue from \$18 million to \$45.2 million. His accomplishments include helping the center to become one of the first US blood centers to adopt ISBT 128, now the global standard for identification and coding of medical products of human origin. CBC also became the first center in the country to provide an antibody registry. Dr. Menitove also directed the organization as it built an award-winning infectious disease testing laboratory, and engaged state legislatures in Kansas and Missouri, which resulted in both states passing legislation permitting 16-year-olds to donate; more than 5,000 of whom donate annually.



“I have had the pleasure over the years of working both with Jay on various blood banking committees and working for Jay during my time at the Community Blood Center,” said Bill Coenen, America’s Blood Centers’ chief financial officer. “He has never hesitated to be a teacher, mentor, or a source of guidance for me. It is great to know that he will continue to be a presence by serving on a national blood banking committee.”

Aside from his work in Kansas City, Dr. Menitove has worked in the blood community on a national and international scale, serving as AABB president from 2008 to 2009. Currently, he is an associate editor of the journal, *Transfusion*, a member of the Department of Health and Human Services’ Advisory Committee on Blood and Tissue Safety and Availability, a clinical professor of pathology and laboratory medicine at the University of Kansas, and a clinical professor of internal medicine at University of Missouri, Kansas City. During his tenure at CBC, Dr. Menitove authored or co-authored 39 articles, textbook chapters, editorials, or commentaries in more than 140 publications.

“The Kansas City community is forever grateful for having one of the premier leaders in the blood

(continued on page 6)

Jay Menitove Retires (continued from page 5)

banking industry lead our center for the past 17 years,” said Mark Schmidlein, president of CBC’s board of directors. “Dr. Menitove is one of the most influential professionals in blood banking and through his strategic and tactical thinking, our organization has thrived and helped to save hundreds of thousands of lives locally. We are saddened to see him leave, but thankful for the position in which he has left the organization. He worked tirelessly each day to make our organization the best it could be.”

Louis Katz, MD, ABC’s chief medical officer, added, “I first met Jay at the beginning of the AIDS epidemic and have considered him a valued mentor and friend since then. Many other blood bankers like me, I’m sure feel the same way. We will miss his wise counsel.” (Source: CBC press release, 5/30/14) ♦

RESEARCH IN BRIEF

Two studies published in *Blood* provide further insight into the pathogenesis and, potentially, the mitigation of transfusion-related acute lung injury (TRALI). One study, by Christopher G. J. McKenzie, PhD, and colleagues from Toronto, Canada, examined the mechanism of antibody-mediated TRALI, while the other, conducted by Christopher Silliman, MD, PhD, and colleagues at ABC member Bonfils Blood Center in Denver, demonstrate the use of a novel filter to reduce the risk from transfusion red blood cells (RBC). Despite the implementation of excellent efforts to reduce TRALI from high plasma volume components (plasma for transfusion and apheresis platelets). TRALI remains the leading cause of transfusion-related fatalities according to the Food and Drug Administration and international hemovigilance systems. A commonly associated pathogenic factor is donor white blood cell antibodies (human leukocyte [HLA] class I or class II, or human neutrophil antigen antibodies [HNA]) directed to recipient antigens. One suggested TRALI mechanism is that antibodies bind neutrophils, resulting in neutrophil activation that disturbs pulmonary endothelial barrier function. In research using a mouse model, McKenzie *et al* question this proposed mechanism by demonstrating that antibodies bind monocytes (instead of neutrophils), leading to increased interleukin-8 (IL-8) levels that result in a neutrophilic pulmonary infiltrate and subsequent TRALI. The authors write that their results “suggest a two-step process for antibody-mediated TRALI induction: the first step involves an antibody binding its cognate antigen on monocytes, generating macrophage inflammatory protein 2 (MIP-2)-chemokine production that is correlated with pulmonary neutrophil recruitment; the second step occurs when antibody-coated monocytes contribute to lung damage.” They hypothesize that “modulating these early events could be considered a therapeutic target to minimize or abrogate the TRALI.” “Current strategies to eliminate plasma and platelet products that may contain HLA or HNA antibodies have resulted in donor and product loss, which could be unsustainable if fully applied to platelet products and if applied to RBC products,” writes Beth H. Shaz, MD, of New York Blood Center, in an accompanying editorial. Silliman *et al.* show that pre-storage RBC filtration used to absorb antibodies and lipids, as well as white blood cells and platelets, decreases TRALI-associated antibodies and neutrophil-priming activity of the unit, mitigating TRALI in an animal model. “The development of a filter that removes TRALI-causing substances, both antibodies and bioactive mediators, from the blood product is innovative, provides a TRALI mitigation strategy for RBC products, and offers a future alternate means of increasing the safety while maintaining an adequate blood supply,” writes Dr. Shaz.

Citations: McKenzie CG, *et al.* Peripheral blood monocyte-derived chemokine blockade prevents murine transfusion-related acute lung injury (TRALI). *Blood*. 2014 May 29;123(22):3496-503.

Silliman CC, *et al.* Experimental prestorage filtration removes antibodies and decreases lipids in RBC supernatants mitigating TRALI in vivo. *Blood* 2014 May 29;123(22):3488-95.

Shaz BH. Bye-bye TRALI: by understanding and innovation. *Blood* 2014 May 29;123(22):3374-6. ♦



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INSIDE ABC

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

ABC, PPTA Leaders Meet to Discuss Mutual Interests

America's Blood Centers CEO Christine Zambricki, DNAP, CRNA, FAAN, and Chief Operating Officer Matt Granato, LL.M, MBA met with leaders of the Plasma Protein Therapeutics Association (PPTA) to discuss areas of mutual interest between the two organizations.

Representing PPTA at the meeting were Everett Crosland, JD, MSc, director of Federal Affairs; Carrie Zlatos, manager of Federal Affairs; and Mary Gustafson, vice president of Global Regulatory Policy. Dr. Zambricki and Mr. Granato were pleased to find a strong alignment of ABC's interests with those of PPTA. ABC will work closely together with PPTA in the future on issues such as increasing flexibility of plasma regulation, timeliness and transparency of the Food and Drug Administration, and reimbursement.



From left to right: ABC CEO Christine Zambricki, DNAP, CRNA, FAAN; ABC COO Matt Granato, LL.M, MBA; Everett Crosland, JD, MSc, PPTA's director of Federal Affairs; Carrie Zlatos, PPTA's manager of Federal Affairs; and Mary Gustafson, PPTA's vice president of Global Regulatory Policy

Notice: ABC Title Changes

Please note that America's Blood Centers has recently altered the job titles for certain executive leadership positions to align the titles more with ABC's strategic initiatives and with traditional executive leadership naming conventions. Other staff members have also undergone similar title changes. The new titles for these staff members are listed below.

- William M. Coenen, Chief Financial Officer (previously executive vice president, Finance);
- Matt Granato, Chief Operating Officer (previously executive vice president, Operations);
- Louis Katz, MD, Chief Medical Officer (previously executive vice president, SMTQR);
- Lori Beaston, manager, Conferences & Executive Services (previously manager, Conferences);
- Mack Benton, manager, Advocacy & Communications (previously manager, Communications);
- Betty Klinck, editor, Publications (previously editor, ABC Publications);
- Abbey Nunes, manager, Member & External Relations (previously manager, Member Services); and
- Jodi Zand, manager, Fundraising & Events (previously, director, Fund Development of the FABC).

(continued on page 8)

INSIDE ABC (continued from page 7)

ABC Board Members Enjoy Reception with ABC Staff



ABC Board of Directors Members Rob Purvis (left) and Diane Merkt (right) join Toni Mattoch, ABC's director of Quality Services, for a photo at the recent ABC staff reception.



Abbey Nunes, ABC's manager of Member & External Relations, and ABC President Dave Green, chat during the ABC staff reception.

ABC to Hold Second Webinar on Refreshing Audits

America's Blood Centers' Quality Education Committee recently announced that it will hold a webinar titled "Refreshing Audits, Part 2: Ensuring an Effective and Efficient Audit" on June 17 at 2 p.m. EDT.

The webinar will feature Eva Quinley, of MEDIC Regional Blood Center; Deborah Baedke, of LifeServe Blood Center; and Galen Kline, of Blood Systems, Inc., who will share strategies to plan and manage an audit, tools for systems and process audits and risk assessments, and auditing and business metrics.

ABC members can access webinar login details in MCN 14-059 at <http://bit.ly/1mTSIHy>.

ABC Requests Cases for Morbidity & Mortality Rounds at MD Workshop

America's Blood Centers is requesting cases to be presented during the Morbidity & Mortality Rounds session of ABC's Medical Directors' Workshop to be held in Seattle on Aug. 5 in conjunction with ABC's Summer Meeting.

ABC is soliciting interesting or unusual cases involving all aspects of blood banking from the donor room to the hospital. These can include donor reactions, transfusion complications, "new" indications for therapeutic apheresis, compliance issues, etc. These sessions allow ABC members to get real-time input from their colleagues. ABC will allow 5 to 10 minutes for the presentation and discussion of each case.

Those interested in submitting cases or issues for the workshop may contact Gary Levy, MD, at (318) 673-1463 or glevy@lifeshare.org. ♦



REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

America's Blood Centers Summer Meeting and MD Workshop August 5-7, 2014 – Seattle, WA Hosted by



Puget Sound Blood Center
blood services | medicine | research

Negotiated hotel room rate: \$195 + tax (Deadline July 11)
www.westinseattle.com

2014 Summer Meeting Schedule and Fees (Register by July 11)
Medical Directors Workshop and Summer Meeting: Aug 5-7 (\$725)
Summer Meeting: Aug 6-7 (\$625)
Medical Directors Workshop and SMT Forum: Aug 5-6 (\$445)
Medical Directors Workshop: Aug 5 (\$415)

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

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

“What could be better than summer in Seattle? Sunshine, mountains, islands, the ocean, and the opportunity to interact with your colleagues to learn how we can better move our field forward through sustainable growth and service to our communities.”

– James AuBuchon, M. D.
President & CEO

There are four (4) \$800 scholarships available to ABC members attending the Medical Directors Workshop to cover the cost of registration fees and help with travel expenses. Application and additional details included in registration.



Sea-Tac Airport (SEA) is served by all major airlines.
Visit www.portseattle.org/sea-tac/pages/default.aspx for more information.

BRIEFLY NOTED

The Department of Health and Human Services recently published a progress update on Healthy People 2020 – a comprehensive set of 10-year, national goals and objectives for improving the health of Americans. Howard K. Koh, MD, MPH, Assistant Secretary for Health and colleagues, published a commentary on May 28 in *The Journal of the American Medical Association* highlighting some of the progress made on these initiatives and areas that could use improvement according to the Healthy People 2020 report, available at <http://1.usa.gov/1hp7szs>. “The data demonstrate areas of both improvement and continued need,” wrote Dr. Koh. Healthy People 2020 features Leading Health Indicators to focus attention on the leading causes of preventable death and illness; these 26 indicators from 12 topic areas offer high-priority targets for which concerted action could lead to major improvements for public health. On the positive side, 14 percent of the 26 Leading Health Indicators (54 percent) have documented improvement, and four have met or exceeded their Healthy People 2020 targets. With respect to nutrition, physical activity, and obesity, the percentage of adults meeting federal guidelines for aerobic physical activity and muscle-strengthening activity has also met the 2020 target. Further progress extends to injury and violence, with the age-adjusted rate of homicides decreasing to reach, and even exceed, the Healthy People 2020 target. Other areas reflecting improvement include that more individuals who are HIV positive know their status and the number of infant deaths decreased, along with an improvement in preterm live births. However, the new data also showed no improvement for 11 of the 26 indicators (42 percent), and of those, three showed worsening health outcomes. For example, indicators of major depressive episodes in adolescents and suicides reflect worsening outcomes. The data showed no detectable

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BRIEFLY NOTED (continued from page 9)

change in the indicator related to diabetes control. Dr. Koh also discussed progress toward the goal of achieving health equity and eliminating disparities, as well as the role of the Affordable Care Act in improving the health of Americans. Dr. Koh's commentary can be viewed at <http://bit.ly/1hCoDta>. (Source: Healthy People 2020, Leading Health Indicators: Progress Update, 3/31/14)

Citation: Koh HK, *et al.* Healthy People 2020: a report card on the health of the nation. JAMA 2014 May 28. [Epub ahead of print] ♦

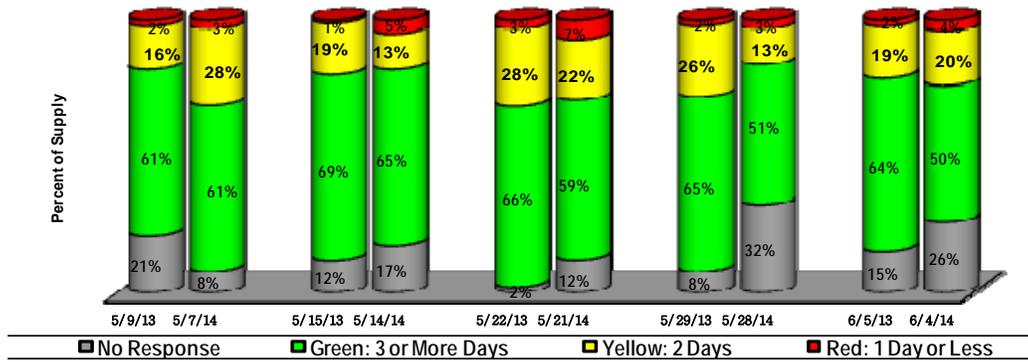
REGULATORY NEWS

The Food and Drug Administration announced on June 2 that it has launched openFDA, a new initiative designed to make it easier for web developers, researchers, and the public to access large, important public health datasets collected by the agency. Through this online database, FDA has released a large amount of data on drug side effects that it hopes will lead to new applications and research. Under the openFDA project, the agency has released more than 3 million reports on adverse drug events and medication errors recorded between 2004 and 2013. These kinds of reports were previously only available after completing lengthy Freedom of Information Act requests. Through openFDA, the agency will make these data accessible in a structured, computer readable format that will make it possible for technology specialists, such as mobile application creators, web developers, data visualization artists, and researchers to quickly search, query, or pull massive amounts of public information rapidly and directly from FDA datasets on an as needed basis. OpenFDA uses a search-based Application Program Interface to collect large amounts of existing publicly available data, offering developers the ability to search through text within this data, ranking results much like a search using Google. "The openFDA initiative leverages new technologies and methods to unlock the tremendous public data and resources available from the FDA in a user-friendly way," said Walter S. Harris, MBA, the FDA's chief operating officer and acting chief information officer. "OpenFDA is a valuable resource that will help those in the private and public sectors use FDA public data to spur innovation, advance academic research, educate the public, and protect public health." FDA is phasing in openFDA beginning with an initial pilot program involving millions of reports on drug adverse events and medical errors that have been submitted to FDA from 2004 to 2013. The agency plans to add other data including recalls in the future. More information can be found at open.fda.gov/, and the press release is available at <http://1.usa.gov/1n9Vx9l>. (Source: FDA press release, 6/2/14) ♦

THE WORD IN WASHINGTON

The Senate on Thursday confirmed the nomination of Sylvia Mathews Burwell to be secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services. Ms. Burwell, 48, was confirmed by a vote of 78 to 17, and has been director of the White House Office of Management and Budget since April 2013. She came to the White House from her position leading the Walmart Foundation – the retail chain's charitable organization. Prior to that, Ms. Burwell worked for the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and in President Clinton's administration under then-Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin. America's Blood Centers sent a letter in May urging the US Senate to confirm the President's nomination of Ms. Burwell, citing the need for more timely decisions from the Food and Drug Administration and Ms. Burwell's public and private sector management experience. This letter and other advocacy letters from ABC can be found at <http://bit.ly/1hhAhZY>. (Source: The New York Times, 6/5/14) ♦

STOPLIGHT®: Status of the ABC Blood Supply, 2013 vs. 2014



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

MEMBER NEWS

Last week, a group of physicians from Russia visited Community Blood Services (Unyts) in Buffalo, N.Y., to learn more about blood banking in the US. Each year, the International Institute of Buffalo hosts international professionals through Open World Leadership Program, administered by Congress. The program seeks to familiarize these delegates with their American professional counterparts to foster the exchange ideas and new information. Last week, six Russian delegates who are medical professionals specializing in cancer diagnosis, treatment, and prevention toured the Unyts facilities. They were interested in learning about the platelet donation program, as well as various ways in which organ donation relates to cancer treatment and research. Chris Staub, vice president of Community Blood Services (Unyts), provided them with an overview of the US blood banking system. He noted that they were particularly interested in learning about how blood bankers in the US persuade donors to give blood voluntarily and how non-profit blood centers compete and cooperate with one another. While the visitors were not physicians, they had an understanding of blood products, their indications for use, and of transfusion services, said Mr. Staub.



Chris Staub, vice president of Community Blood Services (Unyts), (fourth from right) discusses blood banking with medical professionals visiting from Russia.

OneBlood, located in Florida, recently sent a reminder to donors to give blood in preparation for hurricane and tropical storm season. “Hurricanes and tropical storms not only disrupt blood collections, but can potentially shut down blood center operations in certain regions, sometimes for several days. The most critical time for blood donations are prior to any storm or hurricane in order to sustain the blood supply during and immediately after the event,” stated OneBlood in a press release. OneBlood reminded donors in the statement that hurricane season takes place between June 1 and Nov. 30, and urged donors to give blood when weather conditions allow. OneBlood has also made a video available on its website to explain the importance of donating blood in preparation for stormy weather: <http://bit.ly/1nTrKVV>. (Source: OneBlood press release, 5/29/14)



MEMBER NEWS (continued from page 11)

In late April, Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center (The Blood Center), headquartered in Houston, became the first civilian organization to receive a license from the Food and Drug Administration to manufacture red blood cells (RBCs) using the Haemonetics ACP 215 Automated Cell Processor. The ACP 215 is a closed system that is used to process frozen blood units. Blood processed using this instrument can be stored for up to 14 days after being thawed, unlike units in an open system that have only a 24-hour shelf life. “There have been a number of times when a patient doesn’t get transfused within 24 hours, due to a variety of potential complications, so the unit has to be transfused to someone else or discarded,” Cheri Jennings, director of Technical Services, said in a statement. “This gives us more time to use that special unit for someone who really needs it.” The ACP 215 was developed for the Navy, which has been using it for years. Only a handful of civilian blood banks have this instrument, and Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center is the first to apply for and receive a license from FDA. The Blood Center has been using the ACP 215 since fall 2011 to provide units for patients in the Texas Gulf Coast region. The FDA license opens the door to send thawed units to blood centers across the American Rare Donor Program network with much greater flexibility for their use. Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center’s Consultation and Reference Laboratory processes approximately 1,400 units every month. This spring, The Blood Center launched a new marketing campaign, One 2 One, designed to recruit rare donors in the Texas Gulf Coast region, with the goal of increasing the number of rare blood units donated and frozen for future patient use. “We participate in the American Rare Donor Program, and people from across the country call us routinely for rare units. Because Houston is so diverse, we are fortunate to have a large supply of rare units,” said Ms. Jennings. “This will allow us to participate in that program more extensively and provide rare units to patients in need throughout the US.” (Source: Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center press release, 5/30/14) ♦



Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center Consultation and Reference Laboratory Assistant Manager Carla Collins prepares a rare unit on the ACP 215.

PEOPLE

Christine L. Speirs was recently named Puget Sound Blood Center’s (PSBC) chief quality officer, in this position she will be responsible for aligning total quality performance with business goals, PSBC announced in a May 29 press release. She will oversee all aspects of quality programs and systems, regulatory affairs and compliance, records management, and occupational health. “We enthusiastically welcome Christine to lead and advance our quality and compliance processes, and to continuously improve performance throughout our operations,” said James P. AuBuchon, MD, PSBC’s president and CEO. “She brings depth and breadth of experience achieved in quality assurance leadership roles in pharma, biotech, and medical research organizations.” Prior to joining PSBC, Ms. Speirs worked for 10 years with Dendreon Corp., culminating her time with the company as director of corporate quality compliance in 2010. In this role, she directed company-wide compliance programs, regulatory inspection processes, and customer service improvements. She also held management roles in US and global regulatory affairs and in quality oversight of clinical studies with Chiron Corp., along with coordination of clinical research projects with Pacific Coast Clinical Coordinators. “Quality is a cornerstone of our mission, and everyone at PSBC shares a dedication to achieving the highest quality patient care, full regulatory compliance, and sustained excellence in performance,” said Dr. AuBuchon. “Christine will help us deliver on that promise to the patients, families, hospitals, treatment centers, and communities across the Pacific Northwest who depend on us every day.” (Source: PSBC press release, 5/29/14) ♦

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

Classified advertisements, including notices of positions available and wanted, are published free of charge for a maximum of three weeks per position per calendar year for ABC institutional members. There are charges for non-members: \$139 per placement for ABC Newsletter subscribers and \$279 for non-subscribers. A six (6) percent processing fee will be applied to all credit card payments. Notices ordinarily are limited to 150 words. To place an ad, contact Leslie Norwood at the ABC office. Phone: (202) 654-2917; fax: (202) 393-5527; e-mail: lnorwood@americasblood.org.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Medical Officer. The FDA's Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research, Office of Blood Research and Review, Division of Hematology Clinical Review, Clinical Review Branch (CRB) seeks a Medical Officer with a background in adult hematology to serve as a clinical reviewer of product applications. The CRB is responsible for the clinical review of blood-derived medical products and their recombinant or transgenic analogues used in a broad range of common and rare diseases. Applicants should have knowledge of clinical trial design. Examples of products reviewed by the CRB include: coagulation factors (including prothrombin complex concentrates), anticoagulation factors, oral anticoagulant reversal agents, novel blood components, immune globulins, c-1 esterase inhibitors, alpha-1 protease inhibitors, hemoglobin based oxygen carriers, heme-based products, fibrin sealants, and volume expanders. The reviewer will analyze clinical studies and recommend whether biologic products are safe and effective for human use. In addition, the incumbent will have the responsibility for the review of clinical trial design. This is an outstanding opportunity to work in an Office that is supported by cutting edge research. The successful candidate will participate in the FDA's mission of advancing and protecting public health. The position also offers opportunity for advancement. For details and to apply:

<http://www.fda.gov/AboutFDA/CentersOffices/OfficeofMedicalProductsandTobacco/CBER/ucm399005.htm>

Recruitment & Marketing Manager. Community Blood Center of the Carolinas (CBCC), located in Charlotte, NC is seeking a Recruitment & Marketing Manager. This position works in conjunction with marketing, recruitment and operations to ensure alignment of all marketing efforts for attainment of collection goals. This role oversees the coordination/execution of drives with Donor Recruitment and/or drive sponsor to identify donors, drive objectives/goals, campaign criteria and other considerations for donor recruitment. Position provides supervision of marketing and recruitment support staff and serves as liaison with Operations. Our ideal candidate has three to five years of supervisory experience in a blood banking or another medical environment; as well as marketing/PR, budget and strategic planning experience. Six Sigma or process improvement capabilities preferred. CBCC is a Drug Free Workplace/Equal Employment Opportunity Em-

ployer. Interested candidates should send their resume and salary requirements to cbccteam@cbcc.us.

Quality Assurance Assistant Director (BR004) - San Antonio, TX. QualTex Laboratories a subsidiary of BioBridge Global is seeking a QA Assistant Director. This person will manage the department(s) assigned, exhibit leadership and maintain knowledge of regulatory/quality requirements. Maintain excellent communication with all personnel. Bachelor's degree in Applied Science or equivalent required. Masters degree preferred. Five years lab experience required. Two years supervisory experience required. Computer experience required. Three years with good driving record required. Certified MT (CLS) or equivalent preferred. Categorical Specialty Certifications preferred. Visit our website at www.qualtexlabs.org. E-mail résumé to hr_dept2@biobridgeglobal.org. Call Human Resources (210) 757-9557. BioBridge Global and its subsidiaries are proud to be an EEO/AA-M/F/D/V/Genetic Data employer that maintains a Tobacco & Drug-Free Workplace. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, ethnicity, religion, sex, national origin, disability, veteran status, genetic data or other legally protected status.

Reference Laboratory Technologist. Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center (MVRBC) is offering a full time opportunity to join our team in our Springfield, IL facility. MVRBC is the exclusive provider of blood products and services to 85 hospitals in IA, IL, WI and MO. Our aim is to provide world-class blood products and services to communities in need. To achieve this, we need passionate, talented professionals to join our team. This individual will be performing antibody testing, antigen typing, and providing consultation to hospital staff as needed. This position is full time with a working schedule of Monday through Friday 3:00 pm to 11:00 pm, including on-call rotation for weekends and holidays. Candidates will possess MT/MLS certification with ASCP or equivalent. SBB is a plus, but not required. Ideally candidates will have three years of blood banking experience in the past five years. MVRBC offers an opportunity to be a part of a dedicated team

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POSITIONS (continued from page 13)

that makes us a recognized leader in the blood center industry, an environment that makes work/life balance a priority with a generous paid time off account, a fantastic benefit package and a competitive salary. Pre-employment drug screen and background check required. Interested candidates may visit <http://bit.ly/Q4V4mV> to apply. EOE: Minorities, Women, Veterans, Disabilities

Account Specialist. Community Blood Center, Inc. is searching for an Account Specialist with outstanding sales skills. If you are a self-confident, outgoing individual, who achieves established targets, we want to talk with you! As an Account Specialist, you will build relationships with area businesses, schools and communities, establishing blood drives to support our mission. Successful candidates will have the ability to recognize and act on sales opportunities, will exhibit a make-it-happen attitude, will build rapport easily, and will own a track record in reaching team and individual goals. Job Requirements: Bachelor's degree in business or related field. Proven track record in outside sales and customer service. Excellent communicator skilled at motivating action and at delivering presentations that engage others. Microsoft Suite computer skills required. Please submit your resume to: <https://home.eease.adp.com/recruit/?id=6794061>. Community Blood Center, Inc., 4406 W. Spencer St., Appleton, WI 54914. www.communityblood.org, www.facebook.com/cbloodcenter. An equal opportunity employer

Collection & Operations Planning Manager. The Collection and Operations Planning Manager will manage the forecasting, planning and scheduling of collection operations delivering results that support the organization's collection goals. Responsibilities to include: Conducting business analysis to support the growth, expansion and success of collection services for the blood center. Assist in the development and implementation of plans and budgets that are consistent with the priorities of the organization. Ensure that collection calendar scheduling requirements are met and that scheduling policies are followed. Provide statistical reporting and propose clear business rules for developing a strong annual blood collection calendar and donor strategy. Identify opportunities and initiatives that will support continued optimization for the blood center, and where appropriate, coordinate the efforts to execute improvements. Bachelor's degree required with an emphasis in business preferred. Minimum of seven years total work experience with two years of management experience related to analysis, systems, and project design and implementation required. Demonstrated skills, knowledge and experience in sales management practices and procedures. Knowledge of group dynamics, forecasting, customer service and the ability to effectively implement and oversee business processes. Excellent organizational skills and the ability to work

independently while developing a functioning team. Submit your resume to: <https://home.eease.adp.com/recruit/?id=9617561>. Community Blood Center, Inc., 4406 W. Spencer St., Appleton, WI 54914. www.communityblood.org

Medical Technologist CLS. San Diego Blood Bank (SDBB) is looking for a full time Medical Technologist CLS. Perform immunohematological studies on referred blood samples; may be called on for additional research, investigational, and/or process development. Provide training, educational and technical expertise. Support the SDBB safety, cGMP and Quality Plan. Participate in the reference lab on-call rotation, perform red cell blood grouping and antibody identification on donor and referred patient blood samples. Determine suitability for transfusion of donor units with discrepant ABO or Rh groups and unexpected red cell antibodies; perform pre-transfusion compatibility testing. Education: Bachelor of Science in Medical Technology or related field. Experience: Minimum two to three years in immunohematology reference laboratory. Molecular testing experience desirable. Certifications/Licenses: MLS(ASCP)CM / MT(ASCP) or equivalent experience; California Clinical Laboratory Scientist (CLS) license, or California Clinical Immunohematologist or Hematology Scientist license Specialist in Blood Banking, SBB(ASCP) or equivalent experience desirable. Apply on-line: <http://sandiegobloodbank.iapplicants.com/searchjobs.php>. The San Diego Blood Bank is an Equal Opportunity Employer. EOE/Minority/Female/Disability/Vets

Executive Medical Director. New York Blood Center, based in New York City, and one of the most comprehensive blood centers in the world, is seeking an Executive Medical Director (EMD) to oversee a team of Medical Directors, Physicians and other professional staff, as well as the transfusion medicine fellowship and other education programs. Reporting to the SVP/CMO, will you will ensure compliance with all regulatory bodies, encourage innovation/creativity, and lead all operational, research and medical initiatives put forth by the executive team to ensure integration and alignment with Medical Programs. Requires an MD or DO, BC in Transfusion Medicine, with NYS Licensure, three years of progressive management experience in a healthcare environment, and five plus years experience in transfusion medicine. The ability to make effective day-to-day operational decisions and develop strategic goals will be expected, as will the leadership skills necessary to support a growing medical agenda. We offer a competitive compensation package. Please email your CV to: JGibson@NYBloodCenter.org. EOE/AA M/F/V/D

Director Transfusion Services. New York Blood Center, based in Westchester, NY, is one of the most

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comprehensive blood centers in the world. We are currently seeking a proven leader to oversee our strategic expansion goals, an operational/capital budget, as well as the overall operations and administration for our Transfusion Services laboratories located at Westchester Medical Services and Nyack Hospital. You will also ensure compliance regulations are met and the highest level of quality laboratory testing services are provided, as well as administer training programs to ensure staff competency. You must be a strategic minded profes-

sional with a BS in Medical Technology, MT (ASCP) or equivalent, and NYS MT license. 10 years experience in a clinical laboratory environment, five plus years in leadership, and six years in transfusion services are all required. Superior leadership skills and the ability to effectively manage budgets and safely lead all transfusion service operations will also be expected. We offer a competitive compensation package. Please email resume to: JGibson@NYBloodCenter.org. EOE/AA M/F/D/V ♡