

## ○ Protégé Profile- Mandy Brown



This was my first year as a member of SCABB. I decided to kick off my membership by participating in the Protégé Program. I plan to attend the 2011 Annual Meeting and look forward to the opportunity to learn and network with others in my field.

I work for Blood Systems, Inc. as the Sr. Quality and Regulatory Specialist for the Creative Testing Solutions (CTS) Laboratories. It's been an exciting journey as CTS moves towards integration of our three laboratories and our goal of World Class Quality! Previously I worked as a Quality Specialist and as a Clinical Laboratory Specialist in Nucleic Acid Testing (NAT) at Blood Systems Laboratories. I have a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from Texas A&M University and a Master of Science in Health Care Administration degree from the University of Texas at Arlington. I am board certified as a Technologist in Blood Banking, BB(ASCP) and a Certified Quality Auditor (CQA) by the American Society for Quality.

My mentor is Dr. Geeta Paranjape, Medical Director of Clinical Services at Carter BloodCare. Dr. Paranjape has been very supportive and encouraging. I greatly appreciate her expertise and guidance on the development of my career.

**The Annual Business Meeting of South Central Association of Blood Banks will take place on Thursday, April 28th, 2011 at 5:45 pm at The Mirage Resort & Casino, Las Vegas, NV**

**At this time, there are no proposed Bylaw Changes.**

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### President's Message

Of course, the joint meeting sessions also offer cutting edge topics from "Fingerprint Donor Identification" to "Blood Pharming" and a wealth of subjects in between! The welcome reception and exhibit hall opening (wear a 60's outfit to this event!), continental breakfasts, lunches in the exhibit hall and the SCABB awards reception will offer wonderful opportunities at the joint meeting for networking and visiting with old friends and vendors or for making new contacts. All in all, the joint meeting promises to be exciting and informative. All You Need is Blood, the catch phrase for our meeting was intended to be a play on the Beatles song, *All you need is love*, because the Mirage is host to *The Beatles Love, Cirque du Soleil* show, but I think you can also say, "all you need is SCABB" as membership, involvement and meeting attendance can help you connect, learn and grow; as the Beatles tune goes:

"There's nowhere you can be that isn't where you're meant to be. It's easy."

Join us in Las Vegas and be where you're meant to be!

## ○ All You Need is Blood .....

If you find yourself singing along, then you are preparing for the 53rd Annual Meeting of South Central Association of Blood Banks in Las Vegas, Nevada.

The Joint Meeting with California Blood Bank Society is themed "All You Need is Blood!" and every attendee is encouraged to embrace the theme through the education sessions, exhibit hall and networking opportunities. An early start to your peace, love and blood journey begins on Monday, April 25th at the Ed Moore Golf Classic to benefit the SCABB Foundation. Hosted by the Badlands Golf Course - just 20 minutes from the Mirage, join colleagues and vendor partners at this pre-meeting event! Let's just hope your drive doesn't land your ball in "strawberry fields forever!" \$75.00 per player or \$300 for a 4 person team. Pre-registration required.

Tuesday, April 26th follow the "yellow submarine" in to the Grand Opening of the 2011 Joint Meeting Exhibit Hall. This evening will reveal the finest vendors in the industry as well as music, fun and entertainment of psychedelic proportions! How many "John Lennon" look-alikes can you spot?

Thursday, April 28th join the SCABB Board of Directors as they recognize those in the industry and local communities for their "beyond expectations" commitment to saving lives through blood donations. You are encouraged to "Act Naturally" and to showcase your inner 60's/70's vibe by dressing in period attire. Bell bottoms, flower power dresses, a little polyester? You know you still have it in your closet! A night of celebration, food and fun!

Throughout the meeting in the Exhibit Hall, you are invited to "Come Together" with attendees and vote for the best Exhibit Booth decorated in 60's/70's theme. Your completed ballot allows you entry to be drawn to participate in the Cash Booth which includes cash, discount and FREE prize coupons!

So "Get Back" to furthering your career and knowledge in the blood banking and transfusion medicine industry by attending this year's 2011 CBBS/SCABB Joint Meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada! "Don't Let Me Down", register now at [www.jointmeeting.net!](http://www.jointmeeting.net!)

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### XMRV-An Emerging Infection Case Study

that policy is still the most active form of CFS screening in the U.S. at this writing. Donors are not asked a specific question about having CFS on the standard donor questionnaire at this time. Many in the lay press and several patient advocate and blood safety groups have sharply criticized the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the blood industry for not acting specifically and definitively to permanently defer all donors with CFS from blood donation.

So where do we stand with XMRV? The answer is really quite simple, but unsatisfying: We just don't know for sure yet! The data, as outlined above, is conflicting, but the pressure on the blood industry to "do something" (partially external and partially self-imposed) seems to be mounting. In December 2010, the Blood Products Advisory Committee (BPAC) of the U.S. FDA heard presentations from the AABB task force mentioned above, as well as from representatives of the infectious disease testing industry and an advocate for patients with CFS. BPAC rejected the task force recommendations that voluntary self-deferral was adequate, and voted to recommend that FDA require a specific question about a history of CFS on the donor questionnaire by a vote of 9 to 4 (FDA has not formally mandated such a question at this time, however). The reality is that we don't even have a good way to test for the virus at this point, nor is there conclusive evidence that we need to do any-

thing beyond what is already being done to discourage individuals with CFS from donating blood.

The XMRV-CFS association and its subsequent effect on the blood banking industry is a great example of how difficult decisions can be in the HIV-influenced world we now inhabit. The "what do we do and when do we do it?" questions are challenging both ethically and scientifically, especially when the evidence is developing and sometimes conflicting and the answers are unclear. It seems that many in the public arena and in the blood industry, following the HIV calamity of the early 1980's, have embraced the so-called "precautionary principle" when considering the possible effect of a new infectious agent. This principle, as stated in 1998, is: "When an activity raises threats of harm to human health or the environment, precautionary measures should be taken even if some cause and effect relationships are not fully established scientifically". However, in the current environment of limited resources and a seemingly endless flood of emerging and novel infectious agents, those of us in this industry are put in the difficult position of trying to make wise choices based on limited information and evidence, making our best efforts to balance incomplete information and unease about the unknown with the desire to protect our recipients and donors as best we can.