Ochsner Recognized Among Top 100 Hospitals

Last month, Thomson Reuters released its annual study identifying the 100 top U.S. hospitals based on their overall organizational performance. The 10 areas measured, such as adherence to clinical standards and patient safety, are boosted by the use of information technology.

The Thomson Reuters 100 Top Hospital: National Benchmarks study evaluates performance in 10 areas: mortality, medical complications, patient safety, average length of stay, expenses, profitability, patient satisfaction, adherence to clinical standards of care, and post-discharge mortality and readmission rates for acute myocardial infarction, heart failure, and pneumonia. The study has been conducted annually since 1993.

"This year's study magnified the value that 100 Top Hospital award winners provide to their communities," said Jean Chenoweth, senior vice president for performance improvement and 100 Top Hospitals programs at Thomson Reuters. "Even during the economic downturn, the 100 Top Hospitals maintained a profit from operations while raising the bar for clinical quality and patient satisfaction. The insistence of these hospitals’ leaders – their boards, executive teams and medical staffs – on overall excellence makes the difference."

Among those recognized was South Central Association of Blood Banks Institutional Member, Ochsner Medical Center – New Orleans, LA.

(continued on page 2)
President’s Message

Nancy Haubert, President

As I write my first presidential message, I reflect back on the annual meeting just held in San Antonio. It was a great meeting and I am truly honored to serve as the 53rd president of this outstanding association! The educational sessions were of the highest quality, as were the presenters, award lecturers and award winners. I want to thank all of the members, vendors, committees, central office staff and institutions that helped to make the meeting a success. The addition of the Immunohematology Reference Lab (IRL) conference to this year’s meeting further enhanced the quality and range of educational offerings. Although its addition was last minute, the conference was very successful and we hope to host again next year in Las Vegas, during our joint meeting with the California Blood Bank Society (CBBS). This should prove to be another remarkable meeting, so I hope you start making plans now to attend the Joint Meeting at the Mirage in Las Vegas April 26-29, 2011.

A new initiative for this year was the development of a SCABB packet for lab week. The SCABB Board of Directors, Membership Committee and Central Office put together a packet consisting of blood bank quizzes and lab-related puzzles, membership information, and a coupon for a SCABBinar (which also served to lead potential new members to the website). With the help of some institutional and individual members, the packets were sent to numerous hospitals and laboratories throughout our region to help them celebrate lab week, and of course to raise awareness of the benefits of SCABB membership! We received considerable feedback that indicated the recipients were thrilled with the celebration packet. We also hope to repeat this initiative for Blood Collector’s Week coming up this fall.

You may be asking, why did SCABB initiate the Lab Week and Blood Collector’s week projects, and why should we be interested in adding the IRL conference to our annual meeting? The answer is simple, membership. Maintaining, let alone growing, our membership continues to be our greatest challenge as an association. Members are the foundation of everything we do and our reason for being. Our mission: To provide opportunities for members to enhance their abilities to deliver quality blood services, is all about us—as members we have to serve ourselves.

Being an active member of SCABB has been an important part of my life, and of who I am professionally.

(continued on page 7)

SCABB Welcomes New Board of Directors

L-R Diane LeChuga - DDII, James Giacoletti - DDII, Christie Loe-Malone - Treasurer, Jose Garcia - President Elect, Jeannie Gardner - Secretary, Kirk Kitchen - Vice President, Nancy Haubert - President, Dennis Harpool - Immediate Past President. Not pictured: Nancy Mowry DDII, David Gremillion DDIII, Tom Choi DD At Large.

Local Arrangements Committee: “Mission Accomplished”!

San Antonio’s downtown river walk set a great mood for the Annual Meeting. The Ed Moore Memorial Golf Tournament was a great success. Our golfers enjoyed the course and the camaraderie. We started off our mission with Olympian, Josh Davis, motivating us all. Once the ribbon cutting ceremony opened the exhibits there was no holding back as to what was to come.

The rain came and ensured that all our runners at the “FUN RUN” had plenty of fluids for the adventure that no one expected. Thankfully the weather cleared up for the evening as everyone reunited at the South Texas Blood & Tissue Center for a wonderful evening of dining, mariachis, and dancing.

Thank you to everyone who helped with putting this meeting together and ensuring that it was a great success.

Winners of the 2010 Ed Moore Memorial Golf Tournament were:

1st Place
Team: Fed Ex
Jim Rutledge
Chris Coffin
Jeff Steinberg

2nd Place
Team: Matthews Specialty
James Boone

Last Place
Team: STBTC
Belinda Flores
Nora Navarette
Delma Belmares
Tess Carrillo

Winners of the 2010 Fun Run were:

Male “Over 50” - Kirk Kitchen
Female “Over 50” - Kelley Schall

Female “Under 50” - Octavio Navarro

Ochsner Recognized Among Top 100 Hospitals

Major Teaching Hospitals

- University Medical Center-Tucson, AZ
- UC San Diego Medical Center-Hillcrest-San Diego, CA
- Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center-Chicago, IL
- Northwestern Memorial Hospital-Chicago, IL
- Rush University Medical Center-Chicago, IL
- NorthShore University Health System-Evanston, IL
- Advocate Lutheran General Hospital-Park Ridge, IL
- Ochsner Medical Center-New Orleans, LA
- Providence Hospital and Medical Center-Southfield, MI
- Mayo Clinic - Rochester Methodist Hospital-Rochester, MN
- University Hospitals Case Medical Center-Cleveland, OH
- Doctors Hospital-Columbus, OH
- Geisinger Medical Center-Danville, PA
- Vanderbilt University Medical Center-Nashville, TN
- Scott and White Memorial Hospital-Temple, TX

Major Non-Teaching Hospitals

- Advocate Good Samaritan Hospital-Bolingbrook, IL
Many thanks go to the South Texas Blood and Tissue Center’s hosting this year’s Award gala. Delicious Mexican food and the stylin’ sounds of the DJs kept the audience entertained throughout the event. President-Elect, Jose Garcia, wowed us with his DJ acumen, taking the mic on several occasions.

The 2010 Presidents Award of Merit, Outstanding Individual was presented to Laura Sugg, ATI Training Center. Nominated by Carter BloodCare in Bedford, Laura was recognized for her commitment and efforts in consistently increasing donor collections. She multiplied the school’s three annual drives to five, and is always willing to pull together extra drives based on community needs. She is credited with creating a day and a night shift for each drive to better accommodate students. In 2009, ATI blood drives collected a total of 530 units, more than five times the previous year’s total. Laura’s efforts with ATI are a tremendous help, especially during the summer slump when grade schools and traditional universities are out. In addition to her work with Carter BloodCare, Laura works with various projects including the National Marrow Donor Program, the food and toy drives for the Ronald McDonald House, as well as the health department to make sure all students are updated on necessary shots. The people who work with Laura Sugg say the success of ATI blood drives are directly linked to Laura’s passion for the mission. It is evident that her job as chairperson is more than a job, and a blood drive is more than an event.

Nominated by Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center in Baton Rouge, the 2010 Award of Merit, Contribution, was presented to Laura Sugg, ATI Training Center. Nominated by Carter BloodCare in Bedford, Laura was recognized for her commitment and efforts in consistently increasing donor collections. She multiplied the school’s three annual drives to five, and is always willing to pull together extra drives based on community needs. She is credited with creating a day and a night shift for each drive to better accommodate students. In 2009, ATI blood drives collected a total of 530 units, more than five times the previous year’s total. Laura’s efforts with ATI are a tremendous help, especially during the summer slump when grade schools and traditional universities are out. In addition to her work with Carter BloodCare, Laura works with various projects including the National Marrow Donor Program, the food and toy drives for the Ronald McDonald House, as well as the health department to make sure all students are updated on necessary shots. The people who work with Laura Sugg say the success of ATI blood drives are directly linked to Laura’s passion for the mission. It is evident that her job as chairperson is more than a job, and a blood drive is more than an event.

Dr. Matthew Gottlieb Rising Star Award was presented to Lisa Fults. Since joining SCABB, Lisa hit the ground running participating in a variety of activities. Lisa presented at the 2007 SCABB annual meeting as well as at the AABB annual meeting an oral abstract titled ‘Alternative Method for QC of leukoreduced RBCs Using Total Hgb in Place of percent RBC Recovery, as well as two poster presentations; “Automation Enhances Component Production, and Evaluation of Repeat Incomplete Filtrations. She has co-authored two articles for the PULSE. Currently Lisa is the co-chair of both the Technical Scientific Committee and Local Arrangements Committee.

The Cornerstone Award was presented to the South Texas Blood and Tissue Center and its subsidiary QualTex Laboratories, which have contributed significantly to the success of the South Central Association of Blood Banks for many years. This organization has been an avid supporter of the Association and this year is no exception as evidenced by twelve South Texas and QualTex employees currently serving the association via committees and the board of directors! Furthermore, at the annual business meeting, the voting delegates accepted the nomination slate electing Jose Garcia as President-Elect, who 2011 will become the 54th President of the association.

Congratulations to all the award winners and to everyone for a fantastic meeting and award event.

Check out 2010 Annual Meeting & Exhibit Show photos at www.scabb.org>Annual Meeting

Protégé Profile - Matthew Poncin

I am excited about the year ahead of me in the SCABB Mentor/Protégé program. I have been with Carter BloodCare (CBC) for seven and a half years. I worked three years in the Component Production Lab, two years at CBC’s Satellite Children’s Medical Center of Dallas Transfusion Service before transferring to my current position as a lab assistant in the Reference and Transfusion Lab (R&T). I enjoy my job and blood banking tremendously. It’s a new challenge everyday, and I plan on making it my career. In addition to working full time in R&T, I am going to school in the evenings, and work PRN in the Blood Bank for St. Paul University Hospital at UT Southwestern.

I have planned my quarterly projects on paper and can’t wait to get started on them. I am working on submitting an abstract/poster and I want to be a moderator at the SCABB annual meeting next year.

One project that I am most excited about is serving on the committee to help with inventory management using the new Haemotronics freezing method. This new freezing method is a closed system that allows a 14-day expiration when the unit is thawed. However, to use this method the units must be frozen within six days of collection. A new process must be implemented to manage the antigen negative and rare units at CBC.

Another project that I am excited about is creating job classifications for lab assistants because I believe this is going to be the most challenging of all tasks. Not many laboratories currently use lab assistants and those that do only use them for a limited amount of job responsibilities. I am ready for what lies ahead of me and the challenges that come with it.
A Summary of the DRC Workshops at 52nd Annual Meeting

Are you frustrated that you cannot get that new piece of needed equipment because your department is inefficient and spending more money than it is saving? Are you embarrassed about that bald spot you have on your head because you have been scratching it too hard attempting to figure out how to have donors donate the product your center needs? How many bottles of aspirin have you gone through attempting to write one quality performance review for each issue of the PULSE.

By describing personal experiences and the use of written examples, Dustin was able to demonstrate the effect a well written review can have on an employee. Much of the information Dustin provided will be useful to those thinking of creating a Lean environment and gather with their peers.

A blood center can save money by training and retaining quality employees. By being able to write an effective performance review and counseling, a leader is able to give their employees the feedback to better themselves and be a positive representative of their company.

Dustin Conover from Oklahoma Blood Institute discussed the three phases of developmental counseling. By describing personal experiences and the use of written examples, Dustin was able to demonstrate the effect a well written review can have on an employee. Much of the information Dustin provided will be useful to those thinking of creating a Lean environment and gather with their peers.

A blood center can save money by training and retaining quality employees. By being able to write an effective performance review and counseling, a leader is able to give their employees the feedback to better themselves and be a positive representative of their company.

Dustin Conover from Oklahoma Blood Institute discussed the three phases of developmental counseling. By describing personal experiences and the use of written examples, Dustin was able to demonstrate the effect a well written review can have on an employee. Much of the information Dustin provided will be useful to those thinking of creating a Lean environment and gather with their peers.

A blood center can save money by training and retaining quality employees. By being able to write an effective performance review and counseling, a leader is able to give their employees the feedback to better themselves and be a positive representative of their company.
The Technical and Scientific committee was “on a mission” to provide a variety of educational programs that allowed participants to learn and communicate about various topics in our field. Many of the sessions also introduced innovative ways for using technology in blood banking.

The Technical/Scientific program began with an interesting collection of case studies presented by Dr. Barbara J. Bryant, Norberto D. Velasquez Jr. and Larry Burk. Dr. Bryant described intrauterine and exchange transfusions for severe hemolytic disease of the fetus and newborn when no compatible donor blood is available. Norberto Velasquez presented practical techniques that could help resolve seemingly complex antibody problems and Larry Burk discussed two cases of transfusion-related hemolysis.

A presentation of Stem Cells and Biotechnology Applications by Dr. Mary Pat Moyer explained how her company uses stem cells from fat, blood, bone marrow and skin to develop therapeutic cells and tissues that can be used as “Cell Therapy Products.” She also explained the re-programming of different cell types, which may be used in the future to help patients that have lost tissues to cancer or other disease. Federico Rodriguez followed Dr. Moyer with an overview of How to Develop and Implement a Cellular Therapy Quality Management Program that Works. His program highlighted all of the steps and actions that need to be taken to implement a well-structured Quality Management program for a cellular therapy laboratory.

Rodeina Davis gave an excellent presentation on the continued research of RFID at The Blood Center of Wisconsin. She shared updates since last year’s meeting and the assessment results for transfusion services. John Kling from Digi-Trax gave us a glimpse into technology of the future. He discussed technology used for communicating with the new generation of donors via their cell phones and an RFID label that could track time and temperature of a product.

The Technical Scientific Roundtable discussions included exchanges on testing, donor collections, computer information systems, and component production. Participants met in small groups to discuss various topics in their fields including the change from MT to CMS licensure for techs in the testing session as well as donor computer file problems in the information systems discussion. Those who attended were able to learn about subjects related to their work, as well as to network with others in their field.

The presentation of oral abstracts brought authors from several different areas of blood banking to discuss the abstracts they submitted to SCABB. Technical/Scientific abstracts included Adverse Reaction Due to Hemolytic Anti-I and Subsequent Autoantibody Mimicking Anti-U presented by Gloria Mathur, and Improvements in Nucleic Acid Testing: Implementing the Roche s201 TaqScreen MPX Testing Platform presented by Courtney Harper.

Leslie Cooper presented her Sol Haberman Scholarship award-winning abstract Cryopreservation of Peripheral Blood Progenitor Cells by Uncontrolled Rate Freezing at -95degrees Using Cryoprotectant Containing a Final Concentration of 5% Dimethyl Sulfoxide.

Dr. Barbara Bryant opened another case study session with Topical Granulocyte Concentrates for Chronic Wound Healing in a Patient with Leukocyte Adhesion Deficiency-1. She described LAD-1 disease, and outlined how she treated a wound patient who had the disease with concentrates of granulocytes applied topically to heal her chronic wounds. Gloria Mathur followed with Identification of a Rare Antibody to a High Prevalence Antigen Ata. She discussed the different methods used in her lab to resolve a case involving a rare antibody. Cheri Jennings presented a case study detailing how her lab helped a transfusion recipient when serologic results could not provide a reliable answer. She outlined the use of HEA testing alone or in conjunction with serologic results.

The session on Donor and Patient Protection began with Dr. Beth Hartwell’s presentation on how product recalls affect both the blood center and the customer transfusion service. This session focused on the regulations governing recalls as well as how recalls are managed from the perspectives of the blood center and hospital blood bank. Dr. Barbara Bryant then presented Iron Replacement Therapy in the Routine Management of Blood Donors. She discussed a study on donors that were deferred for low iron blood levels, and how an iron replacement protocol affected the subsequent chance of deferral for these donors.

The Ask the Experts session had Dr. Barbara Bryant, Dr. Beth Hartwell, Dr. John Armitage, and Dr. Joann Moulds answering questions about various blood bank topics. As always lively discussion ensued between the panel and the audience.

The Technical/Scientific Award Lecture was Mission Impossible? Safe Transfusion of Autoimmunized Patients presented by Joann Moulds. Dr. Moulds discussed the risk of transfusing patients that have already been transfused numerous times, and touched on the need for a regional and/or national antibody patient database.

Dr. Harvey Alter presented The Karen Williams Memorial Lecture entitled So Many Viruses, So Little Time. He discussed the new emerging threats to the blood supply and how pathogen reduction would offer a new paradigm for the elimination of a vast array of agents even those that have not been discovered yet. He implied that development of a pathogen reduction methodology that could be applied to all blood components would be the magic bullet and is worth pursuing.
The Administrative Program lived up to its high expectations and was very well received at this year’s Annual Meeting. Outstanding speakers and lively interaction all led to great educational opportunities for attendees.

We had standing room only for our first session, Managing Your Blood Center in Today’s Economic Times, featuring Pat McEvoy President, Blood Center Division, Blood Systems and Dr. John Armitage President and CEO, Oklahoma Blood Institute. John and Pat both shared great information on how their centers managed fluctuating blood needs and inventories focusing on staff, hospital customers and drive coordinators. We learned that when faced with this new world these centers rose to the challenge and implemented cost saving initiatives and programs that allowed them to continue successful operations. Attendees were given many good ideas on how they can apply these same initiatives to their operations.

Dr. Louis Katz Executive Vice President, Medical Affairs, Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center was as always both entertaining and informative as he presented at two sessions during this meeting. The first session, Pandemic Pandemonium, focused on H1N1 and the impact of this virus in our communities and blood supply. Dr. Katz has a strong background in community health that added an interesting perspective. His second session gave us insight into the emerging Xenotropic Murine Leukemia Virus-Related Virus (XMRV). The impact of XMRV on our industry is still not known as many things about the virus cannot yet be answered.

Project Management was presented by Becky Tipton Director of Project Management for Blood Systems and Crystal Bunch Director Technical Marketing for Pall Medical. Becky and Crystal walked through a real life project focusing on many of the nuances of the process of project management. These experts provided many pointers and solid suggestions to help ensure a better process for project management.

Dr. Frank Nizzi VP Clinical Services, Blood Systems Inc. provided an excellent session on blood utilization. He shared Blood Systems experience in partnering with several of their large hospital customers on blood management programs. These programs not only look at blood usage but all aspects of the blood bank operations to find cost savings and efficiencies. There is currently much interest in this topic from both the blood center and the hospital and Dr. Nizzi provided many aspects of the program that could be very beneficial to all layers of the Transfusion Medicine industry.

This year the administrative program was pleased to include a session focused on Information Technology coordinated by our Information Technology committee. Robin Nozick provided an overview of the new ISBT validation guidelines v2, an explanation of the “life-cycle” of software, and a comparison of testing versus validation. Robin stressed the importance of organization and utilizing an experienced project manager to oversee the project.

In addition to these sessions there was administrative focus on the Ask the Experts panel with Dr. John Armitage adding his perspective as a CEO with much knowledge in all areas of blood center operations. Administrative topics were also represented in the Abstract presentations with a good variety of topics in all areas of the blood bank from recruitment to the lab.

Last but not least the Administrative Award Lecture was presented by Pat McEvoy with Blood Systems. Pat gave a thought-provoking talk on A World with Plenty of Blood. He challenged us to look at the possibility of a “new normal” where blood is never in short supply. He discussed the potential changes that might occur to both the blood center and hospital operations if this happen.

All in all it was an awesome meeting where ideas were sparked, friendships were made and renewed and passion for our noble industry was solidified in the important work we all do in meeting the blood needs of the patients we serve.

Meet Temperature Compliance Requirements for Safe Transport and Storage of Blood

...with Safe-T-Vue® Temperature Indicators and TRANS-VUE™ Temperature Indicating Devices

For use where temperature, not time, is the standard for blood temperature management

- Available in 6°, 8°, and 10°C indication temperatures
- Visually indicates whether blood may be reissued when returned*
- Improves quality assurance and promotes requirements of accountability during transport

*According to AABB and FDA temperature compliance requirements for storage and transport of blood products

For product literature or samples call 1-800-767-7643, e-mail: sales@williamlabs.com, or Fax: 1-860-749-1351.
A Summary of the DRC Workshops at 52nd Annual Meeting

On Friday he presented with Allyson Mabry from the Blood Center of Central Texas. They discussed how NextLevel Thinking worked with the employees of the Blood Center of Central Texas to create a service promise. As demonstrated with the use of video testimonial from upper management and line staff, it is clear how the creation of the service promise by the employees of the Blood Center of Central Texas has been positive for staff and donors. Eric and Allyson were able to show that allowing line staff to be more involved with how a blood center represents itself can have several benefits.

On Saturday, Eric gave a presentation on how to convert donors of a known blood type to donate the product needed at that time. Eric described the success of Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center’s Commit for Life program with two individuals involved in the program, Annetta Morris and Billie Johnson. They described how they were able to retain and inform donors about the benefits of donating a particular blood product through the use of email and phone contact. The success of the program was motivational. Also on Saturday Dr. Hany Kamel from Blood Systems Inc. described how United Blood Services converted to using Total Blood Volume criteria for young donors to decrease the potential of an adverse donor reaction. During the same session Sarah Williams from United Blood Services discussed the programs they have created to recruit and grow blood drives at Elementary, Middle, and High Schools.

Overall, the sessions provided by the Donor Recruitment and Collections Committee were informative and indicative of our constantly changing industry. The Donor Recruitment and Collections Committee was able to provide insight on how different blood centers are adapting to changes in the economy, donor demographics, and investment in our future blood donors. If the sessions provided by The Donor Recruitment and Collections Committee at next year’s CBBS/SCABB Joint Meeting in Las Vegas are even partially as informative as this year’s sessions, everyone should be in for quite an experience.

President’s Message

I have gained knowledge and have met so many people, who have in turn become friends, business contacts and associates, that I would otherwise have never gained or met—what a shame that would have been!

So I am asking each of you reading this to help us recruit a new member. It can be as easy as encouraging one of your co-workers to join, asking your vendor representatives to consider an associate corporate membership, or asking your employer to become an institutional member. There are benefits at all levels of membership. One of the items contained in the Lab Week packet was this list of reasons for joining a regional association like ours. This list hit home with me and I hope you will use these ideas to help recruit new members:

Top 10 Reasons to Join a Regional Association
1. Key contacts in your own backyard
2. Benefits that save you time and money (like PACE and CME approved educational sessions)
3. Low cost/High ROI
4. Networking and peer support
5. Membership lends credibility and professionalism
6. Trade shows (and ours is among the best!)
7. Professional development
8. The association does your homework for you (researching and delivering applicable resources)
9. Get to know your competition (on a friendly basis!)
10. An opportunity to get involved and help shape the industry

Nancy Haubert, President
Rebecca Golinski  
Creative Testing Solutions  
2900 Northhope Street  
Eueus, TX 76039  
Office: 817-412-6118  
jgolinski@biosystems.org  
Member Type: IND

Becky Miller  
Gem Refrigerator Company  
13163 Tacoma Place  
Fisher, IN 46038  
Office: 219-879-2446  
bmillier@gemref.com  
Member Type: IND

Deborah Hutton  
United Blood Services  
2523 48th Street  
Lubbock, TX 79413  
Office: 806-797-6804  
dhutton@bloods systems.org  
Member Type: IND

Sonia Weaver  
Hendrick Regional Laboratory  
650 Dutchess Avenue  
Abilene, TX 79606  
Office: 817-670-4297  
Sweaver29@insm.com  
Member Type: IND

Susan Wesch  
South Texas Blood and Tissue Center  
2111 IH 10 West  
San Antonio, TX 78201  
Office: 210-731-5555 ext. 1260  
susan.wesch@biodntissue.org  
Member Type: IND

Brandi Wright  
Carter BloodCare  
2205 Highway 121  
Bedford, TX 76021  
Office: 817-851-4801  
bwright@carterbloodcare.org  
Member Type: IND
Deletion in the gene that encodes the band 3 protein, a major integral RBC membrane protein, causes Sickled Hb. Areas in which SAO is prevalent correlate strongly with regions endemic to malaria infection. Previous studies have suggested that SAO, as with sickle cell disease, may confer some degree of protection against malaria infection (especially cerebral malaria infections), although this protection does not extend to placental malaria infections. Previous serological studies also suggested that SAO may suppress Duffy antigen expression, thereby explaining the mechanism by which SAO offers protection against Plasmodium infection, although other studies have contradicted this claim. The researchers in this study chose to use molecular and cytometric techniques to determine if there was a difference in Duffy antigen expression between individuals with SAO and those without.

The researchers collected blood by venipuncture or finger stick in EDTA anticoagulated tubes from healthy volunteers living in villages in the Madang Province in Papua New Guinea (an area in which SAO is known to be widespread). All samples collected were analyzed by flow cytometry using thiazole orange immunofluorescence to recognize bound anti-Fy6, a mouse monoclonal antibody which attaches to the first extracellular domain on the N-terminus of the Duffy glycoprotein (a site thought to correlate to the binding site for the P. vivax parasite). Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) studies were also performed to detect SAO mutations using standard techniques. In addition, peripheral blood smears were inspected for malarial parasites by light microscopy. Data from these studies was evaluated statistically using SPSS statistical software.

The major finding in this study was that the SAO trait did not result in suppression of Duffy antigen expression. Quite to the contrary, the researchers found that SAO individuals had a 10% increase in Duffy antigen expression versus the control group. This finding is unexpected given that the lack of Duffy antigen (due to a mutation that silences transcription of the FY gene) in Sub-Saharan African populations confers protection against Plasmodium infection. Thus, while it is known that the SAO trait affects many steps in the life cycle of P. falciparum, as well as confers partial resistance to invasion by P. knowlesi merozoites, and therefore offers a selective advantage against malarial infection, the mechanism by which SAO confers protection remains unknown. When comparing only reticulocytes from the patient samples, the researchers noted there was no statistically significant difference between groups, although a suggestive trend was present, and the reticulocyte group in whole had a greater expression of Fy6 versus mature RBCs. This may be expected as placental blood would contain a greater percentage of reticulocytes, and therefore not be afforded protection against malarial infection, as stated in the introduction. The increased expression of Duffy antigen was left unexplained by the researchers, although they suggested a decreased rate of Fy6 antigen loss from the RBC surface or differences in surface area between SAO and non-SAO RBCs may account for these findings.

My Conclusions:
I believe the researchers’ findings are completely unexpected, especially since we have been taught up to this point that the lack of Duffy antigen expression results in protection against Plasmodium infections. In addition, the independent evolution of changes to the Duffy membrane protein to combat malarial infections demonstrates the dynamic nature of the RBC membrane. The fact that this article is recent (2009) only reinforces how little we truly know about the functions of the RBC antigens that we have known the existence of for decades. I also found the researchers use of anti-Fy6 brilliant as no human anti-Fy6 antibodies have been discovered to date, thereby eliminating any false positive results.

Reviewed By: Stephanie Souza, MLS(ASCP) Clinical Laboratory Specialist Histocompatibility Laboratory Blood Systems Laboratories

Anthony brings to the component laboratory a very strong background in laboratory operations as well as strong personnel management skills. His understanding of the processes involved with the collection of the blood products through manufacturing will be a valuable asset to STBTC.

UTMB SBB graduation
UTMB SBB program graduated 14 students on March 5. Ten students were able to attend the graduation festivities. The 30th Annual L. Jean Stubbins Memorial Lecture was presented by Dr. Denise Harmoning. Her lecture was entitled A Global Look at a Collaborative Effort to Improve Blood Transfusion & Immunohematology in the Caribbean. The event concluded with a seafood dinner at Gaido’s, where graduation certificates were awarded, and entertainment was provided by a local comedian, John Jackshaw.

SCABB Members Celebrate National Laboratory Professionals Week
Celebrations were happening all over Texas as Labor Week was held April 2010
St. Luke’s Episcopal Hospital used the materials sent by SCABB as part of their activities for their Transfusion Service. Staff enjoyed the puzzles and participants were awarded with small gifts. Laura Korte, Manager of Transfusion Service added “We will certainly make use of the SCABBinar coupon as well!”
Coffee Memorial Blood Center took a different approach, and hosted an Employee Appreciation Week. The contests, food events, and other neat things were well-received by the staff. Part of the reason for the change is that they wanted to include the acknowledgement of Administrative Professionals.

(continued on page 10)
Carter Blood Care’s Reference and Transfusion Lab dreamed up the first R&T Bake Sale to help raise money for the celebration. The R&T staff baked cookies, pies, cakes and candy. Word spread like wildfire, and co-workers from almost every department participated in the bake sale. They earned money for the Lab Week Celebration and their co-workers enjoyed the sweet treats. For the actual Lab Week Celebration, their theme this year was ‘Getting Results in R&T under the Sea.’ Most of the decorations were handmade. There was a paper brain teaser each day, a treasure hunt and a treasure cove. Each day of the week, the staff had lunch together. They feasted on take-out, a potluck, a breakfast and ended Friday with an ice cream social. What a yummy way to celebrate!

Corpus Christi Medical Center celebrated Lab week as “Viva Lab Vegas.” They enjoyed many activities, food and games in a lab full of dice, roulette wheels and ELVIS on the door of the break rooms. A new game which was created by all was for the staff to determine the blood types of their staff members. Here was the breakdown:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Blood Type</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>People</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>O Pos.</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>27 (people)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Pos.</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>12 (people)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B Pos.</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>7 (people)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AB Pos.</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>4 (people)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NEWS FROM DISTRICT II

UBS of New Mexico Recognized for Excellence

There was much to celebrate on April 22, when United Blood Services of New Mexico was honored with the Quality New Mexico Piñon Award, which recognizes businesses and organizations that are in various stages of their “Performance Excellence Journey.” United Blood Services was recognized for the first level: Commitment to Performance Excellence. Other levels include Progress toward Performance Excellence and Best-in-Class. Executive Director Elizabeth Waltman accepted the award on behalf of her staff. Staff members from Albuquerque, Durango, Farmington, and Roswell attended the luncheon. The Quality Awards are modeled on the Malcolm Baldridge National Quality Award. Ms. Waltman said that although the center has its own internal quality measurements and standards, having external inspections and feedback brought to light other ways in which the staff could improve. As a result, United Blood Services has seen improvement in the quality of its processes, which has helped efficiency.

Quality New Mexico is an organizational performance development group based in Albuquerque. (Editor’s note: This article was submitted by Charlene Smith, United Blood Services’ manager of Marketing and Communications/Media Relations.)

NEWS FROM DISTRICT III

Several members from District III are chairing, co-chairing or serving on various committees and are working hard to complete their charges. Many are planning their trip to Las Vegas in July for the Summer Board Meeting. Hospitals in the region, like others nationwide, are working hard to decipher the new Health Care Reform legislation. Blood supplies are getting a little tighter with summer approaching and high school graduations on the immediate horizon.

SCABB History & Archives Committee Fun Run Lap Quilts

The History & Archives Committee is collecting SCABB Fun Run and Miscellaneous T-shirts to make lap quilts for the SCABB history archive. The intent is to take T-shirts from the 1980s, 1990s and 2000 and make lap quilts from the 10 T-shirts from each decade. The first T-shirt we have is from 1981.

- From the 80s we are missing 82, 84 and 85.
- From the 90s, we need 93, 94, 97 and 98.
- From 2000 we need 02-05, 07 and 09.

We also have numerous “miscellaneous” T-shirts from 83, 87, 88, 89, 91, 92, 93, and 96, 2006 (some were Abbott sponsored). If you are willing to share any of the missing T-shirts, contact Marilyn Moulds at mmoulds@aol.com to arrange shipment.

If we have extras, we might make lap quilts for the SCABB Foundation to use for auction items.

Marilyn Moulds

BLOODMOBILE DONATED TO HAITI

In support of the ongoing relief efforts in Haiti, Matthews Specialty Vehicles, Inc. (MSV) donated a bloodmobile.

Greensboro, NC - After the devastating earthquake hit Haiti in January, people all over the world joined forces to aid in the country’s relief. When Matthews Specialty Vehicles was notified that the Mobile C.A.R.E. Foundation was making connections for vehicle transport to Haiti, Matthews relished the opportunity to contribute to relief efforts in Haiti. Thanks to the Mobile Health Clinics Network, MSV was able to put their stock Bloodmobile to good use. “We had this vehicle and knew it could do a lot of good in Haiti, we just didn’t know how to get it there,” said Brad Matthews, owner of MSV Vehicles. He added “It was perfect timing,” and “This is what partnerships are all about. We’re proud to work with all of these organizations to do some good where it’s really needed.”

Located in Greensboro, NC, MSV manufacturers custom designed specialty vehicles for several industries and is one of the leading bloodmobile and mobile health manufacturers in the nation. MSV has held a national contract for bloodmobiles with the American Red Cross for the past six years and have been a member of the Mobile Health Clinics Network for over five years. “It’s always been a pleasure to build vehicles that make such a big difference in the world. I’m delighted to be a part of this project.” said Dennis Hoag, who has been the sales director at Matthews for over 18 years.

The 40-foot Bloodmobile donated by MSV includes four contoured blood donor beds, one enclosed interview room, three large benches, a desk with many cabinets and several storage compartments. “There are so many uses for a vehicle like this during this challenging time. There’s great potential for this bloodmobile to make a difference in Haiti. We are proud to be in a position to make this donation and humbled by the experience,” said Dennis Hoag. The vehicle also includes two onboard generators, a leveling jack system, three roof-top A/C units, two baseboard heating units, and a back-up monitor for safety.

The partnership between MSV and the Mobile Health Clinics Network has enabled MSV to contribute to the disaster relief efforts while the Mobile C.A.R.E. Foundation works to bring the efforts of so many people together. Their hard work and time is greatly appreciated by Matthews, who is grateful for this opportunity and looks forward to future collaborations.

Mobile C.A.R.E. Foundation works to bring the efforts of so many people together. Their hard work and time is greatly appreciated by Matthews, who is grateful for this opportunity and looks forward to future collaborations.
A greener approach to whole blood processing...
Reduce waste and create a more effective blood management approach with Acrodose℠ Platelets

Rethinking your blood management strategy...
Is your blood center thinking of effective ways to better utilize existing resources in today’s economic environment?

Making use of every component....
Acrodose™ Systems allow your blood center to maximize the use of whole blood platelets, making them a more cost effective option than apheresis platelets, and making use of this essential third component from WB collections.

© 2010, Pall Corporation. Pall, PALL, and Acrodose are trademarks of Pall Corporation. ® indicates a trademark in the USA. Acrodose and Redefining the Business of Blood℠ are service marks of Pall Corporation. GN10.5408

TEXAS Meeting Highlights Vendor Partners

Bandages; Biomedical Testing Instruments; Beam Therapy Units; DIN Label Sets; Testing Solutions; Sealers; Refrigerators/Freezers; Blood Processing Devices; Web Bases Solutions for Management and Much More!!

The 2010 SCABB Annual Meeting Exhibit Hall hosted a sold out crowd! From the Folklorico dancers to the Cash Cube everyone truly enjoyed themselves. Thanks so much to all the companies and exhibitors for your continued support in these tough economic times. It’s in times like these that we all come together to support each other and in providing the much needed resource to save lives.

Throughout the year, should the opportunity present itself, please reach out to our exhibitors for your supply, equipment and resource needs.

• Abbott
• Andover Healthcare Inc.
• Beckman Coulter, Inc.
• Best Theratronics
• Bio-Rad
• CaridianBCT
• Computype, Inc.
• Creative Testing Solutions
• Fenwal, Inc.
• Fresenius Kabi / Kentec Medical
• Gem Refrigerator Company
• GenesisBPS℠
• GTI Diagnostics
• Haemonetics
• Helmer
• HemoCue, Inc.
• Immucor, Inc.
• Incept
• Integrity Medical Solutions
• International Specialty Products
• Master-Blit Products
• Matthews Specialty Vehicles, Inc
• Mediware Information Services, Inc.
• Next Level Thinking
• Nouvation
• Novartis
• Ortho Clinical Diagnostics
• Pall Medical
• Pevco
• Progenika, Inc.
• QualTex Laboratories
• Quotient Biodiagnostics
• Rainbow Scientific, Inc.
• R. F. Nozick & Associates
• Roche Diagnostics Corporation
• STI (Separation Technology, Inc.)
• Tape-O Corporation, A Dome Company
• Terumo Transfusion
• ThermoGenesis Corp
• Typenex Medical
• U.S. Coach Company, Inc.
• UnitedPharma
• Global Med Technologies/Wyndgate Technologies

ANNUAL MEETING SPONSORS

A special thank you to our corporate sponsors.

PRESIDENT’S CIRCLE
Blood Systems

BENEFACCTOR

HAEMONETICS®
THE Blood Management Company

SPONSOR

FRIEND

SUPPORTER
The Gambro BCT service, quality, and commitment you know with a new name

Gambro BCT is changing its name. For years you’ve known us as the company that has brought you innovation, quality and service through products such as the Trima Accel® Collection System and the Vista® Information System.

As the time came to change our name, we wanted to reflect the values and strengths that make us unique. CaridianBCT, our new name, emphasizes two key ideas; 1) the care, quality, and service that we deliver to customers, donors, and patients. 2) Our global focus and our innovation approach to meeting customer needs.

“I believe CaridianBCT embodies the key ideals and values of caring, hope and partnership that our company and products have always represented to our customers.”

Leslee Simon-Blum
Senior Product Support & Training Specialist