# AABB-ISCT Joint Working Group

The American Association of Blood Banks (AABB) and the International Society for Cell and Gene Therapy (ISCT) collaborated to form the AABB-ISCT Joint Working Group (WG) following an in-person introduction at the International Cord Blood Symposium in San Francisco in June 2014. The group meets monthly and looks forward to collaborating on projects that will benefit the membership of both organizations.

The WG is comprised of four representatives from each organization, including one Board of Directors' member, two at-large members and one ex officio staff member in a non-voting role. Member terms are staggered at 2 and 3 years to provide continuity and support of project development. Each organization designates a co-chair to represent their association and serve as a liaison to their respective Board of Directors.

The WG charges include:

- Development of projects of common interest with the committee chairs of AABB's Cellular Therapy Section Coordinating Committee (CTSCC) and ISCT's standing committees
- Identification and appointment of candidates to serve on project team(s) per defined guidelines
- Promotion and distribution/publication of project deliverables
- Identification of areas for joint advocacy efforts

*Pooled Human Platelet Lysate:*

In 2015, the AABB-ISCT WG established its first project team to address issues concerning production and standardization of pooled human platelet lysate (pHPL) based on the increasing need for a non-animal derived source of cell culture growth supplement to support cellular therapy product development. The project team was composed of two co-leaders representing each organization (AABB and ISCT) responsible for reporting progress to the WG. The goal of the project was to identify gaps in the information on pHPL and barriers to its translational use in production of clinical grade cell therapy products. In 2017, the pHPL project team presented its progress at the AABB and ISCT annual meetings where they discussed: 1) standardization of pHPL production, 2) measures for evaluation and pathogen reduction treatment of pHPL products, and 3) differences between pHPL and fetal bovine serum (FBS)/fetal calf serum (FCS). This project team has prepared a manuscript that summarizes their findings offered as a joint submission to the *Transfusion* and *Cytotherapy* journals.

*Stability Program:*

A second project team is working on considerations for establishment of a cellular therapy product stability program. The aim of a cellular therapy product stability program is to establish a product's shelf life (expiration) and to define storage instructions. Due to the differences in product type and regulatory pathways, the establishment of a stability program has become an increasingly difficult task. A goal of this project team is to create reference documents and/or

other communication materials to help with the design of a stability program for hematopoietic progenitor cell (HPC) products including a standardized ‘template’ for use in performing stability testing of HCT/Ps. The project team members represent a wide selection of subject matter experts from academic institutions and industry.

**AABB acknowledges this contribution by Lizette Caballero, BS, MT(ASCP), Senior Supervisor,** UCSF Health – Blood and Marrow Transplant Laboratory**,** San Francisco, Calif., U.S.