As the cord blood industry continues to advance, AABB's goal is to be a valued partner and resource for the leaders of this field. As you may know, AABB is currently engaged in the process of reviewing and updating our strategic direction. At last year's AABB Annual Meeting, we launched the "Reimagine AABB" campaign and invited members to share their opinions with us about how we can best serve the fields of transfusion medicine and cellular therapies. As we continue to move AABB forward, we want to ensure that the cord blood industry's needs are being met.

The cord blood field is vital to AABB. For many years, our Association has been committed to supporting and promoting cord blood banking and its clinical applications. AABB is a leader in standards development and in the accreditation of cord blood banks. In addition, AABB hosted the International Cord Blood Symposium for the past several years. Although AABB will not be hosting this event this year, our commitment to cord blood remains strong and we continue to help advance the field through educational offerings and the support of research.

In lieu of the Symposium this year, AABB is offering events for both industry and professionals in the cord blood field at our 2019 Annual Meeting, which will be held Oct.19-22 in San Antonio. This event will feature educational sessions and the latest research on a variety of key topics related to cellular therapies – including cord blood. In addition, AABB's Annual Meeting always includes an exhibition hall featuring new technological innovations from our industry partners, as well as a plethora of networking opportunities. The AABB Annual Meeting is a preeminent event for professionals in the fields of transfusion medicine and cellular therapies and I invite you to attend. Registration for the 2019 AABB Annual Meeting will open in June.

AABB further supports the cord blood industry by offering all AABB members participation in our Cord Blood Subsection, which meets regularly to discuss critical topics and to develop resources to support the field. AABB will also partner with the Cord Blood Association in the program development for the Cord Blood Connect Conference, which will be held in September in Miami.

For additional information about AABB's cord blood-related activities, please contact AABB's Center for Cellular Therapies at celltherapy@aabb.org.