



Advancing Transfusion and Cellular Therapies Worldwide

7 March 2007

Dear Current Medical Director or Current Director of Transfusion Services,

This letter is to notify you that your facility has been selected for inclusion in the 2007 National Blood Collection and Utilization Survey (NBCUS) sample. This survey of 2006 activity, funded by the Department of Health and Human Services and conducted by AABB, is the fifth such national survey of blood collection and utilization. Your contribution to the NBCUS is important because at this time, it is the *only* source of this type of data for the United States. On your behalf, the data is used to support important initiatives, both legislative and regulatory. To accurately determine blood collection and use patterns it is essential to have most of the hospitals and blood collection centers participate. As a key person in your institution, we need your help to guarantee the success of this study.

We are contacting you to obtain critical advance information about your facility to facilitate survey administration and help make responding as easy as possible. To ensure that we are addressing the correct person in your facility, please take a moment to review the pre-printed section at the bottom of this letter and:

- 1) Name the appropriate person to complete the main part of the 2007 NBCUS and provide their phone and email contact information.
- 2) Check that the address we have is correct. If not, please update where appropriate.
- 3) Tear off, and return the information card in the enclosed pre-paid envelope.

If your hospital or blood center has specific data archival requirements for 2006 data, please initiate the appropriate measures now, so that you will have the information available in summer 2007, the expected time for mailing the survey.

The scope of the 2007 NBCUS has expanded to include additional areas of interest to the transfusion medicine community, in both hospitals and blood centers. It will include questions about your collection and/or utilization of blood and blood components, as well as questions about your facility's operations. New in this survey are questions on infectious disease and bacterial testing, blood usage, and biovigilance. There is an expanded section on cellular therapies as well as a section specifically devoted to questions relating to human tissue. For additional questions or information, contact Barbee Whitaker, Ph.D. (bwhitaker@aabb.org), Director, Data and Special Programs.

To see the value the survey results will offer, later this spring you will receive your copy of the 2005 Summary Report (from the previous survey), which will provide aggregate data that hospitals and blood centers submitted on the previous NBCUS. In addition, you can download the full 2005 National Blood Collection and Utilization Report from either the Department of Health and Human Services website www.hhs.gov or from AABB's website www.aabb.org, free of charge.

Thank you in advance for your prompt response to this request. We look forward to your participation in the 2007 National Survey.

Karen Shoos Lipton, JD
Chief Executive Officer

D. Michael Strong, PhD
President

Name of Facility: _____

Name of Facility Contact: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____