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AABB News

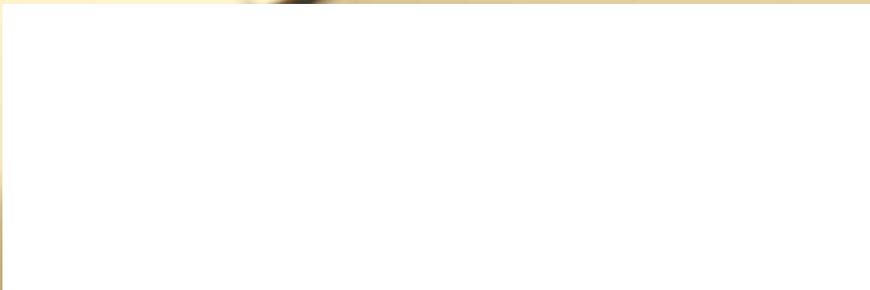
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¹ Benjamin R.J. Transfusion-related sepsis: a silent epidemic. *Blood*. 2016;127(4):380-381.

² Hong H, Xiao W, Lazarus HM, Good CE, Maitta RW, Jacobs MR. Detection of septic transfusion reactions to platelet transfusions by active and passive surveillance. *Blood*. 2016;127(4):496-502.

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AABB Partners With International Federation for Adipose Therapeutics and Science

First edition of Standards for Point-of-Care, Same-Day Adipose-Based Therapies available for comment.



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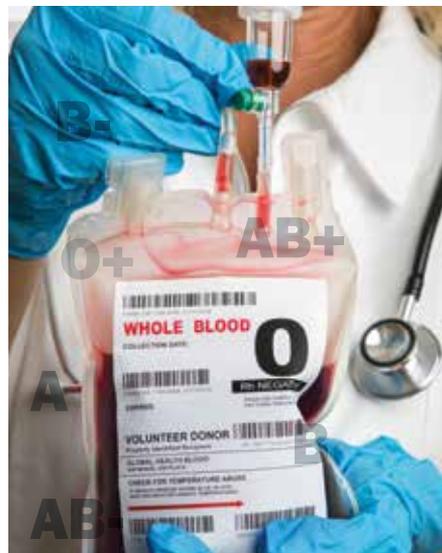
Accreditation Portal Open for Business

APEX brings the convenience of the internet to accreditation and assessment activities.

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AB #19-02: Recommendations on the Use of Group O Red Blood Cells

Association Bulletin addresses overreliance on O-negative blood.



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Standards and Accreditation Protect Patients and Facilities

Without accreditation, blood banks and transfusion services, cellular therapy programs and numerous other health organizations would have no way to demonstrate their commitment to providing the highest quality products and services. Standards — the basis for AABB's accreditation program — provide a roadmap for establishments to follow to ensure their processes, procedures and policies are based on widely accepted quality management systems and technical criteria.

This issue of *AABB News* focuses on different aspects of standards and accreditation. The first feature article, which starts on page 6, discusses how AABB has collaborated with the International Federation for Adipose Therapeutics and Science (IFATS) to produce the first edition of Standards for Point-of-Care, Same-Day Adipose-Based Therapies.

The second feature, beginning on page 10, highlights AABB's new Accreditation Portal — APEX — which streamlines the process for assessors and facilities by putting it online and enabling them to upload, store, organize and access documents, communicate with others and receive alerts for upcoming deadlines, missing information, etc.

The third feature article, on pages 14-16, describes the process by which the AABB Clinical Transfusion Med-



Michael F. Murphy, MD, FRCP,
FRCPath, FFPPath

icine Committee developed Association Bulletin #19-02, "Recommendations on the Use of Group O Red Blood Cells," to address the growing issue of the overuse of O-negative blood, which has created an imbalance between supply and demand for this product.

My Final Days as AABB President

This will be my last column as AABB president. As one of my final orders of business, I thank everyone who helped make this year such a success for AABB and a wonderful experience for me: my board of directors colleagues, AABB staff, and, most importantly, you — the members. You are the reason AABB exists, and your input this past year into AABB's new strategic plan has been invaluable.

The new strategic plan will be presented at the General Session at the upcoming AABB Annual Meeting. I am excited to share it with the membership.

At the close of the Annual Meeting, I will pass the gavel and the presidency to Beth Shaz, MD, the executive vice president and chief medical and scientific officer at New York Blood Center.

I wish all the best for the future to Dr. Shaz as she assumes the presidency and to the Association as it begins implementing its new strategic plan. ■

Michael F. Murphy, MD, FRCP,
FRCPath, FFPPath
AABB President

President

Michael F. Murphy, MD, FRCP, FRCPath, FFPPath

Chief Executive Officer

Debra BenAvram, FASAE, CAE

Vice President, Engagement

Julia Zimmerman

Director of Marketing and Communications

Jay Lewis, MPH

Managing Editor

Jerilyn Schweitzer, MA

Design and Production

www.touch3.com

Advertising

Contact Michael Lamattina

+1.781.388.8548

mlamattina@wiley.com

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+1.301.907.6977

Email: news@aabb.org

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Update on NBF's Scientific Research Grants Program

By Jerilyn Schweitzer, MA
Managing Editor

AABB Welcomes Incoming Chair of NBF Scientific Research Grants Review Committee

Jim Gorham, MD, PhD, assumed leadership of the Scientific Research Grants Review Committee on Oct. 1 and became a member of the National Blood Foundation Board of Trustees in his capacity as committee chair. Gorham is the chief of the Division of Laboratory Medicine in the Department of Pathology at the University of Virginia. He also serves as the medical director of the University's Blood Bank and Transfusion Services. Gorham, who received an NBF early-career Scientific Research Grant in 2000, is a 2017 inductee into the NBF Hall of Fame.

Gorham told *AABB News*, "It is truly an honor to work with this amazing group of people. I look forward to helping them and the NBF in what I consider the sacred duty of selecting the very best proposals from among a cadre of brilliant young researchers. Scientific applications to the NBF represent the vanguard of new discovery in transfusion science," he added, "and I feel privileged to be able to help our field and the young scientists seeking to establish their foothold in it."

He recounted that the NBF early-career Scientific Research Grant was the first grant he ever received as a newly independent investigator running his own research lab around 20 years ago. "I still remember the thrill that went through me when I heard back from the NBF, that they were validating and supporting my research efforts so early in my career," said Gorham. "I was able to parlay that early support into other grants, including coveted National Institutes of Health R01s."

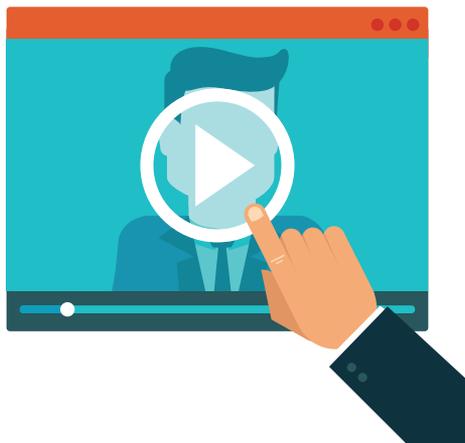
Gorham said he was eager to give back to the NBF as soon as possible. Consequently, he said, he has been a loyal committee member and grant reviewer for the past 15 or so years. "My fellow committee members are unbelievably smart, caring and engaged scientists who understand the importance of the NBF's mission and of advancing research in our field," he said.

The previous chair of the Scientific Research Grants Review Committee, Jeanne Hendrickson, MD, completed her term on Sept. 30. Hendrickson, a professor of laboratory medicine, the medical director of the Apheresis Service and the associate director of the Transfusion Medicine Service at the Yale School of Medicine, began serving on the committee in 2015. She has been a member of the NBF Board of Trustees since 2015, as well, and was inducted into the NBF Hall of Fame in 2016. AABB and the NBF are grateful to Hendrickson for her service.

NBF Introduces 2 eCasts Aimed at Helping Early-Career Researchers Attain Funding

AABB offered two new eCasts in 2019 to help early-stage researchers prepare strong grant applications for early-career funding opportunities, including the NBF's Scientific Research Grants Program, and successfully navigate the early challenges of a career in research. eCasts are 60-90 minute online educational sessions in which expert speakers discuss topics of interest; many eCasts are available on demand after the original live air date.

One of the eCasts, "**Show Me the Money! NBF Grant**





James Gorham, MD, PhD



Jeanne Hendrickson, MD

Funding for Early-Stage Investigators,” focused on preparing participants to create a competitive application for the NBF early-career grant program. Speakers included several recipients of a Scientific Research Grant. The incoming chair of the Scientific Research Grants Review Committee, Jim Gorham, MD, PhD, described the program and gave important application dates for the 2020 grant cycle. A long-time Scientific Research Grants Review Committee member discussed the application scoring system and provided insights into what grant reviewers look for in an application. A recent grant recipient spoke about the resubmission process and the value to be gained from the educational component of the grant program and reviewer critiques.

Another eCast, **“Leveraging Early-Stage Funding for Career Development,”** highlighted the next steps early-stage researchers can take to further their career after receiving an initial grant. NBF Scholars (who have completed their NBF grant-funded research project) at different stages in their career, discussed opportunities to promote advancement, including manuscript publishing, poster presentations and industry collaboration, in addition to the great value provided by mentors to new investigators.

Both of these eCasts, which aired previously, are available as On-Demand presentations. For additional information, visit AABB.org > Professional Development > eLearning > eCasts On-Demand.

AABB Thanks 2019 Members of NBF Council on Research and Development

AABB and the NBF extend a warm thanks to those who supported the NBF’s mission by serving on the Council on Research and Development (CORD) in 2019. The Council includes representatives from major contributors who champion the NBF’s mission and provide financial and intellectual support

to guide NBF activities and advance the fields of transfusion medicine and cellular therapies. These supporters include Abbott, the American Red Cross, Beckman Coulter, Blood Centers of America, Canadian Blood Services, Cerus, the Coastal Blood Foundation, Fresenius Kabi, Grifols, HemoCue, Immucor, New York Blood Center, Ortho Clinical Diagnostics, Quotient, Roche, Terumo BCT, Vitalant and WellSky.

NBF Accepting Applications for Early-Career Scientific Research Grants

The NBF is currently accepting applications for the 2020 early-career Scientific Research Grants cycle. Since 1983, the NBF has awarded over \$10 million to more than 200 early-career investigators for original research projects in all aspects of blood banking, transfusion medicine, cellular therapies and patient blood management.

Application instructions, submission and eligibility criteria, a link to the application form and additional information on the NBF early-career Scientific Research Grants Program are available online at www.aabb.org/grants.

The deadline to submit a grant application is Dec. 1, 2019. ■

The NBF fuels innovation in transfusion medicine and cellular therapies for the benefit of patients and donors by awarding scientific research grants to early-career investigators for original research. Visit AABB.org > Research > NBF for additional information or to make a donation.