Finding Donors for Much More Than Common Types of Blood
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Recruiting Donors with Rare Blood Types
Finding rare blood begins near home but may eventually lead to a worldwide search.

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Will Demand for Type O Whole Blood Grow the Donor Pool?
What began as military collection of low-titer O whole blood to treat traumatic hemorrhage has begun to enter civilian settings.

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Recruiting Donors for New and Emerging Products
Recruiting donors for biotherapies takes time and planning.
President’s Message

Donations Take Many Forms

In January, the United States celebrated the 50th anniversary of National Blood Donor Month. First celebrated in 1970, the month is an apt time to reflect on the power of blood donors and how they play a critical role in health care.

AABB celebrated blood donors throughout National Blood Donor Month — and we will continue to highlight the importance of blood donations and honor the altruism of those who donate. AABB values those who make a difference — from those who help one to three patients by donating a unit of blood, to those who make a monetary donation that supports a beginning researcher’s first independent investigation. In fact, our new strategic plan emphasizes our renewed focus on donation and recruitment.

Highlighting Donor Recruitment

It is appropriate that following National Blood Donor Month, the theme for this issue of AABB News is donor recruitment. In the subsequent pages, we focus on donation and donors, as well as AABB’s mission of improving lives by making transfusion medicine and biotherapies safe, available and effective worldwide, by providing content aimed at sparking conversations on different types of donations.

The three feature articles in this issue examine recruiting individuals to donate different types of cells and tissues to be used in biotherapies research and treatments.

The National Blood Foundation column highlights another type of donation, by acknowledging and thanking those who contributed to the NBF in 2019.

Looking Ahead

In late January, I had the pleasure of meeting with the rest of the AABB Board of Directors at the AABB office. We discussed continuing to operationalize the strategic plan announced last year. Some of the efforts currently in the works include hiring a new vice president of biotherapies and launching a new, greatly improved AABB website later this year. Be on the lookout in the near future for more details about the meeting. AABB will continue to respond to your needs and provide optimal value for you — the backbone of our community.

Beth Shaz, MD
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ABB and the National Blood Foundation (NBF) are proud to present those who made a donation to the NBF and its Research and Education Trust Fund in 2019. Their generosity helped give six deserving early-career researchers the means to conduct studies that may advance the field and lead them into a career in transfusion medicine or biotherapies.

ABB and the NBF laud the giving spirit behind these donations with a special thanks to recurring donors who remain committed to our mission, those who donated to the NBF for the first time and those who made anonymous donations.

Many previous grant recipients have leveraged their grant-funded research into a successful career, becoming industry experts and leaders whose scientific contributions continue to advance the field and improve patient treatment and safety.

Thank you for supporting the NBF’s mission to fuel innovative research for the benefit of donors and patients.

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