Why is there a need for a handbook on tissue management? Human tissues have been recovered, stored, and transplanted in hospitals in the United States for almost 60 years, starting with the US Navy bone and tissue bank at the Naval Medical School. Eye banking was initiated in 1944 in New York City. Professional organizations for tissue processors (American Association of Tissue Banks, or AATB), eye banks (Eye Bank Association of America, or EBAA), operating room nurses (Association of periOperative Registered Nurses, or AORN), clinical laboratories (College of American Pathologists), blood banks (AABB), and hospitals (The Joint Commission) have all published standards for the management of human tissues for transplantation. Guidelines have been published, including the AABB’s *Guidelines for Managing Tissue Allografts in Hospitals.*

*Hospital Tissue Management: A Practitioner’s Handbook* is intended to be a single, consolidated, quick reference for answering the majority of likely questions posed to hospital personnel responsible for managing human tissues for transplantation. The intended audience is any blood banker, pathologist, operating room nurse, manager, or other hospital staff member who is managing, overseeing, or directly participating in a hospital’s purchasing, accepting, storing, distributing, tracking, tracing, or recalling of any human tissues intended for transplantation. A goal of the authors of this *Handbook* is to provide a “quick read” that will give an answer to a tissue management question in the time it takes to ride an elevator between floors in a larger hospital. References are kept to a minimum in order to keep this book sized for a labcoat pocket. When references are given, they direct the reader to a source for
expanded reading or more depth for a specific subject, rather than to an obscure source document.

The book has been organized to cover subjects in a logical order, beginning with an overview of the field of tissue transplantation and the scope of practice covered by this book, as applicable in the United States. Subsequent chapters address, in greater detail, infectious disease transmission and guidelines for supplier qualification, tissue preparation in the hospital, and autologous tissue storage, before considering the issues of centralization, regulations, and standards. AABB-accredited facilities will be accustomed to following requirements related to the handling of blood components and transfusion procedures that are easily transferable to the tissue transplantation setting in the hospital. Appendix 1 selects the AABB standards that specifically address tissue to offer a helpful “crosswalk” with similar applicable standards of the AATB, EBAA, and The Joint Commission. The volume concludes with a discussion of recalls applicable to tissue.

A collaborative effort of the AABB, AATB, and EBAA, this Handbook is a consensus document prepared by the AABB Tissue Committee. The Committee provided subject-matter experts, representing all three organizations, to prepare each section. The collaborating organizations, the editors, the authors, and the AABB Tissue Committee hope that readers find the contents useful.

References