Preface

The AABB Press book *Practical Guide to Transfusion Medicine* was received by pathology staff, residents, and technologists with open arms from the moment it was released. Prior to the publication of *Practical Guide*, students relied primarily on the AABB *Technical Manual* as their standard reference text. However, for some, delving into the *Technical Manual* proved to be overwhelming. In contrast, the accessible style and high-yield content of *Practical Guide* was particularly attractive to residents who would be faced with on-call transfusion issues, clinical transfusion service rotations, and eventually the clinical pathology board exam.

As the authors of that volume explained, it was a book they wished was available during their early careers. Those of us lucky enough to benefit from the book have prospered. However, there has been no clear way to evaluate a student’s progress in learning the material. From the need for evaluation the seeds of *Practical Self-Assessment for Transfusion Medicine Professionals* were planted.

The questions in the present volume were written by residents who, like so many of our colleagues, struggled through transfusion medicine rotations and ultimately took and passed the clinical pathology board exam. Both authors became interested in blood banking and subsequently became medical directors of transfusion services at their respective hospitals.

It is the authors’ intent that these question-and-answer pairs are used in the same manner in which they were conceived—to evaluate retention of the material covered in *Practical Guide*. We will be very pleased if this resource incites in readers an interest in the dynamic world of transfusion medicine.

George Leonard, MD, PhD
Michael Licata, MD