Preface

ON BEHALF OF the 100+ contributors to this book, it is my pleasure to introduce you to the 19th edition of the AABB Technical Manual. To assure readers of a continuously renewed and refreshed approach to the contents, approximately one third of the chapters for each edition are written by a new lead author, with lead authors generally serving for no more than two editions. Similarly, the editors (including myself) rotate on a staggered basis. Therefore, this will be the second and last edition for Dr. Connie Westhoff and me serving as editors. I am very pleased to introduce both Drs. Steven Spitalnik and Anne Eder as editors for this edition, and very grateful for the guidance and support of my three colleagues. While we strive to keep the contents and writing of the Technical Manual fresh and up to date, one thing that remains consistent is the tremendous level of peer review by members of the transfusion medicine community. Numerous AABB committee members reviewed and provided feedback on the drafts of these chapters. This extra step results in a longer production cycle, but the review by these experts makes for a better resource. No other textbook on transfusion medicine is subject to as great a level of scrutiny for accuracy and clarity of content, and consistency with both professional (AABB) and regulatory requirements.

Before starting work on this edition of the Technical Manual, we surveyed readers and users to determine their preferences on content, format, value in day-to-day operations, and value as a teaching tool. Respondents told us their most used, most favorite, least used, and least favorite chapters. As a reflection of this feedback, we have refocused the content on cellular therapies, retaining the chapter on transfusion support of stem cell transplantation, and having one other chapter on stem cell transplantation for a broader audience. Also a result of survey feedback, we consolidated some transfusion service topics that had appeared in multiple overlapping chapters. In the case of massive transfusion, however, we expanded coverage to address increased interest in this area. We have also added a new chapter on hemovigilance, highlighting the ever-increasing emphasis on national and international systems that recognize and identify the scope of transfusion recipient and blood donor complications, and categorize errors in both component manufacturing and transfusion processes.

Consistent with AABB being an international leader in transfusion medicine and cellular therapies, we tried where possible to provide content in this edition that is more inclusive of practices outside of the United States. We have also reorganized the presentation of content, so that chapters are grouped together as much as possible based on use in a blood collection center vs in a hospital setting. The chapters related to patient blood management have been placed among those related to “mainstream” transfusion activities, rather than among those on special patient populations.

Writing on behalf of the editors, authors, AABB committee members, and AABB office personnel, it is a tremendous privilege and honor to have produced this edition of the Technical Manual for the members of the transfusion medicine/blood banking community.

Mark K. Fung, MD, PhD
Editor in Chief