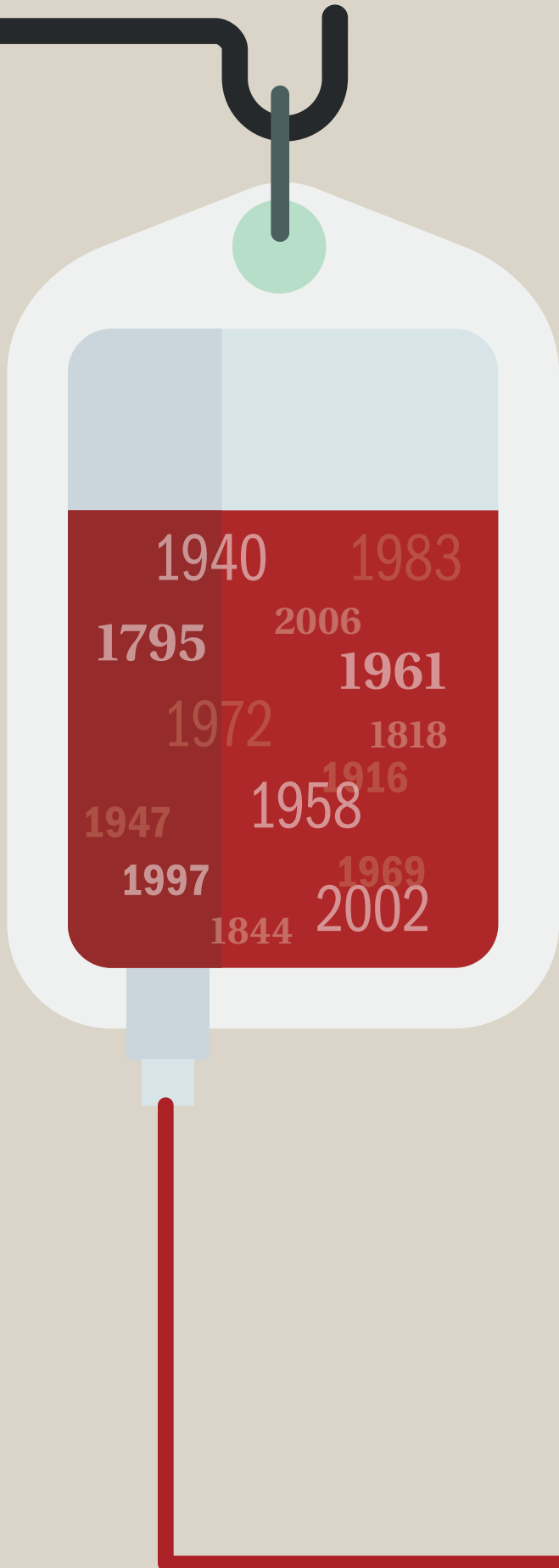


# Abbreviated Timeline of Great Moments in Transfusion Medicine History



**1628**

> English physician William Harvey discovers blood circulation, followed shortly by the earliest known attempt to transfuse blood.

**1665**

> First successful blood transfusion (dog to dog) performed by Richard Lower in England

**1667**

> Jean-Baptiste Denis in France and Richard Lower separately report successful transfusions from lambs to humans; transfusing blood from animals to humans banned within 10 years because of reactions.

**1795**

> In Philadelphia, American physician Philip Syng Physick performs the first human blood transfusion, although he does not publish this information.

**1818**

> British obstetrician James Blundell performs first successful transfusion of human blood to treat postpartum hemorrhage.

**1840**

> Samuel Armstrong Lane, aided by Blundell, performs first successful whole blood transfusion to treat hemophilia in London.

**1867**

> English surgeon Joseph Lister uses antiseptics to control infection during transfusion.

## 1873-1880

> Physicians in U.S. transfuse milk to humans (from cows, goats and humans).

## 1884

> Practitioners replace milk with saline to decrease adverse reactions.

## 1901

> Karl Landsteiner, an Austrian physician, discovers first three human blood groups, which he labels A, B and C; C is later renamed O.

## 1902

> Landsteiner's colleagues Alfred Decastello and Adriano Sturli add a fourth blood type: AB.

## 1907

> Ludvig Hektoen proposes crossmatching blood between donors and patients to check for compatibility.

> Reuben Ottenberg performs first typed and crossmatched blood transfusion in New York and recognizes Mendelian inheritance of blood groups.

## 1908

> Alexis Carrel, a French surgeon, devises method to prevent clotting: direct transfusion, or sewing recipient's vein directly to donor's artery.

## 1908

> Carlo Moreschi describes antiglobulin technique to reveal antigen-antibody reaction not visible to the naked eye.

## 1912

> Roger Lee and Paul Dudley White develop Lee-White clotting time; Lee demonstrates existence of "universal donor" and "universal recipient."

## 1914

> Long-term anticoagulants, including sodium citrate, permit storage of blood.

## 1915

> Richard Lewisohn develops indirect transfusion procedure using sodium citrate as anticoagulant.

> Richard Weil demonstrates feasibility of refrigerated storage of anticoagulated blood.

## 1916

> Francis Rous and J. R. Turner introduce citrate-glucose solution, enabling blood to be stored for several days post collection, facilitating indirect transfusion and allowing for establishment of first "blood depot" by Oswald Robertson.

## 1927-1947

> Landsteiner and his assistant, Philip Levine, discover new blood group antigen systems M, N and P, based on antibodies formed by rabbits injected with human red blood cells.

## 1932

> First blood bank established in a Leningrad hospital.

## 1937

> Bernard Fantus establishes first hospital laboratory capable of preserving and storing donated blood in U.S. and coins the term "blood bank."

## 1939/40

> Landsteiner, Levine, R.E. Stetson and Alex Weiner discover Rh blood group system, which is quickly recognized as cause of most transfusion reactions.

## 1940

> Edwin Cohn develops cold ethanol fractionation, which breaks down plasma into components and products, including albumin, gamma globulin and fibrinogen.

> John Elliott turns vacuum bottle into first blood container.

> U.S. government establishes national blood collection program.

> Charles R. Drew directs "Plasma for Britain" project, organizes first large-scale blood bank in U.S. and originates first mobile blood donation stations, or bloodmobiles.

## 1943

> J.F. Loutit and Patrick L. Mollison introduce acid citrate dextrose (ACD) solution, an anticoagulant that can be used in lower volumes and enables transfusion of greater amounts of blood and longer-term blood storage.

## 1943

> P. Beeson publishes classic description of transfusion-transmitted hepatitis.

## 1945

> Robin Coombs, Arthur Mourant and Rob Race describe use of anti-human globulin to identify "incomplete" antibodies.

## 1947

- > Baylor Hospital pathologist Joe Hill arranges “Blood Bank Institute” to give blood bankers opportunity to collaborate and attend discussions on topics of general interest.
- > Hill’s administrative assistant, Marjorie Saunders, sends questionnaire to blood banks asking if respondents want to join national association of blood banks; 78% of surveyed indicate they do.
- > At start of Blood Bank Institute, Saunders reads note from 67 attendees requesting formation of association of blood banks.
- > Saunders appoints committee, led by W. Quinn Jordan, to address request.
- > Final day of meeting, at general session, attendees vote to establish American Association of Blood Banks.

## 1948

- > Julius Davenport creates first AABB emblem, with motto “Vitae Custodes,” meaning guardians of life.

## 1950

- > Audrey Smith reports use of glycerol cryoprotectant to freeze RBCs.
- > Carl Walter and W.P. Murphy, Jr., introduce plastic bag for blood collection; replacing breakable glass bottles with durable plastic bags facilitates creation of blood collection system that allows safe and easy preparation of multiple blood components from single unit of whole blood.

## 1951

- > Bernice Hemphill establishes California clearinghouse for blood exchange.
- > Publication of first standards for blood banks, Standard Procedures and Methods of the Florida Association of Blood Banks.

## 1953

- > Development of refrigerated centrifuge.
- > AABB establishes national Blood Clearinghouse Program, a centralized system for exchanging blood and precursor to the National Blood Exchange.
- > Technical Methods and Procedures of the American Association of Blood Banks published.

## 1957

- > AABB forms Inspection and Accreditation committee to monitor implementation of blood banking standards.

## 1958

- > AABB opens first national office in Chicago; publishes first edition of Standards for a Blood Transfusion Service (now titled Standards for Blood Banks and Transfusion Services).

## 1959

- > Max Perutz of Cambridge deciphers molecular structure of hemoglobin.
- > AABB establishes first rare blood donor file.

## 1961

- > AABB publishes peer reviewed research journal, *Transfusion*, first American journal devoted entirely to blood banking and transfusion technology.
- > Recognition that platelet concentrates can reduce mortality from hemorrhage in cancer patients.

## 1962

- > First antihemophilic factor (AHF) concentrate — to treat coagulation disorders in patients with hemophilia — produced through fractionation.

## 1964

- > Plasmapheresis introduced as method to collect plasma for fractionation.

## 1965

- > Judith Pool and Angela Shannon report method to produce cryoprecipitated AHF to treat hemophilia.

## 1967

- > Rh immune globulin introduced commercially to treat hemolytic disease of the newborn.

## 1969

- > S. Murphy and F. Gardner demonstrate feasibility of storing platelets at room temperature, revolutionizing platelet transfusion therapy.

## 1970

- > Blood banks move toward all-volunteer blood donor system.

## 1971

- > Hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg) testing of donated blood begins.

## 1972

- > Apheresis used to extract singular cellular component while returning remaining blood to donor.
- > Food and Drug Administration begins regulating blood and plasma.

**1979**

> Anticoagulant CPDA-1 extends shelf life of whole blood and packed RBCs to 35 days.

**1981**

> First case of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) reported.

**1983**

> Additive solutions extend shelf life of RBCs to 42 days.

**1984**

> Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) identified as cause of AIDS.

**1985**

> FDA approves enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA), first blood-screening test to detect HIV antibodies.

**1987**

> Development and implementation of two tests that screen for indirect evidence of hepatitis: hepatitis B core antibody (anti-HBc) and alanine aminotransferase test (ALT).

**1989**

> Testing of donated blood for human-T-lymphotropic-virus-I-antibody (anti-HTLV-I) begins.

**1990**

> Introduction of first specific test for hepatitis C — major cause of “non-A, non-B” hepatitis.

**1992**

> Implementation of testing donor blood for HIV-1 and HIV-2 antibodies (anti-HIV-1 and anti-HIV-2).

**1996**

> HIV p24 antigen testing of donated blood begins; although test does not completely close HIV window, it shortens window period.

**1997**

> U.S. government issues two reports suggesting ways to improve blood safety, including regulatory reform.  
> AABB founds National Blood Data Resource Center to collect, analyze and distribute data on all aspects of blood banking and transfusion medicine.

**1999**

> Blood establishments begin using nucleic acid amplification testing (NAT) under FDA's Investigational New Drug (IND) program; NAT employs testing technology that directly detects genetic materials from viruses, including HCV and HIV.

**2002**

> West Nile virus (WNV) identified as transfusion-transmissible.  
> FDA approves NAT for HIV and HCV.

**2003**

> FDA issues final guidance, “Revised Recommendations for the Assessment of Donor Suitability and Blood and Blood Product Safety in Cases of Known or Suspected West Nile Virus Infection.”  
> First West Nile virus-positive unit of blood intercepted.  
> FDA releases “Guidance on Implementation of New Bacteria Reduction and Detection Standard.”

**2005**

> FDA allows certain apheresis platelets collected for transfusion to be stored up to 7 days when tested with microbial detection system release test.  
> FDA's Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research publishes compliance program guidance for inspection of human cells, tissues, and cellular and tissue-based products (HCT/Ps).  
> FDA approves first WNV blood test to screen donors of blood, organs, cells and tissues.

**2006**

> AABB starts collaborating with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to create CDC National Healthcare Safety Network Hemovigilance Module.

**2014**

> FDA approves first U.S. pathogen inactivation systems for platelets and plasma.

**2017**

> FDA approves first two chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T cell therapies to treat cancer.

**2018**

> FDA grants emergency use authorization (EUA) enabling U.S. military to use freeze-dried plasma to treat hemorrhage in combat settings. ■