

2026 AABB Future Leader Transfusion Medicine and Biotherapies Fellow Scholarship Awards Program

Policy Statement

The AABB Future Leader Transfusion Medicine and Biotherapies Fellowship (TMBF) Scholarship Awards are made available annually to promote interest in research, development and continuing education, in the field of transfusion medicine, including cellular therapies. Any applicant with an MD, DO, PhD, or equivalent degree who is a current fellow or completed their fellowship in the preceding 24 months of the time of application for this award in a transfusion medicine, cellular therapy, or a related program (e.g. hematology, or hematology/oncology, immunology, cell therapy manufacturing) or a training program that includes at least one continuous year in transfusion medicine or cellular therapy training may apply.

Applications are available online and may be in one of three categories:

1. Scientific paper reporting experimental work. The work may be an original concept, extension of a major concept or application of a procedure or concept in transfusion practice, blood utilization, hematopoietic stem cell transplantation, blood collections and processing, blood donor recruitment and safety, donor or therapeutic apheresis, hemostasis, cellular therapies, regenerative medicine or other transfusion medicine topics.
2. Analytical or interpretational review on transfusion medicine or cellular therapy topics suitable for publication in a professional journal.
3. Innovative educational syllabus on transfusion medicine or cellular therapy topics using traditional or advanced technology modalities.

The project should be independent of any submission for the AABB Future Leader TMBF Scholarship awards. The research project must be the original work of the fellow. The design of the project and responsibility for its execution must be substantially the work of the applicant. The initiation of and a substantial portion of the project must have occurred during their fellowship.

All application submissions:

- Must be received no later than **September 4, 2026**
- Must be submitted electronically
- Must not have been submitted for peer review to any medical or scientific journals prior to this submission
- Must be no longer than 3,000 words on a subject pertaining to blood banking or a related field
- Must be submitted with a version completely devoid of any and all identification, this includes any names of individuals or facilities involved in the study
- Must include an abstract of no more than 250 words
- May include attachments such as video, website or other novel technologies as supplements to the original paper.

An application submission deadline date of **September 4, 2026** has been established for each year of competition – including this year for the 2026 Annual Meeting. Please note that electronic copies of your scientific paper and application forms will be required. Entries must be electronically received by the National Office on or before September 4, 2026.

Applicants may submit more than one entry; however, no fellow may receive more than one award.

Entries must be less than 3,000 words of a subject pertaining to blood banking or a related field. **Papers over 3,000 words, excluding abstract, tables and figures, references, video, websites and other novel technologies, will be disqualified.** The manuscript should be submitted to the AABB National Office, with the appropriate covering letter, before the assigned deadline and should follow the format used by authors wishing to submit a manuscript to *Transfusion*. (These instructions appear in each January issue.)

Scientific papers should describe materials and methods used, including experimental design, in sufficient detail to enable other scientists to evaluate or duplicate your work. Reviews should analyze or interpret the subject and not just restate the literature. Educational entries should include a brief summary reviewing the need for the program, how the program is innovative, and a list of references. EDIT AND PROOFREAD CAREFULLY. SUBMIT THE ORIGINAL AND FINAL VERSION. Retain a copy for your files.

The paper itself must not in any way identify the applicant or any other individual or facility that may compromise the anonymity of the submission. It is requested that applicants submit two copies of their paper; the first with a title page that includes title, applicant name, facility affiliation, and other identifying information, and the second with a title page that includes the title ONLY. Decisions of the evaluation committee are final. Grades and evaluation comments are confidential and are not available for distribution.

Applicants may submit more than one entry; however, no student may receive more than one award. The scholarship awards are presented at the 2026 AABB Annual Meeting at the Transfusion Medicine Subsection Coordinating Committee Business Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia. All individuals selected for a scholarship are expected to present at the TMSCC Business Meeting on their project as a part of their acceptance of the award. Payment will be made after the winners have completed the studies in a transfusion medicine program or a training program that includes at least one continuous year in transfusion medicine or cellular therapy training. Entries are accepted only with the understanding that the manuscript has not been or will be published or printed elsewhere, prior to the decision of the AABB judges for the award.

Understanding that all entries are property of AABB, AABB has the rights to post the 2026 winning manuscripts on the AABB Web site as an educational resource for future, interested applicants to the program. For any questions, please contact the Standards Department at standards@aabb.org.

Submit your entry and the AABB Future Leader Scholarship Application form to the following address by **September 4, 2026** to the following address:

AABB Future Leader TMBF Scholarship Awards Program
Transfusion Medicine Fellows
Attn: Standards Department
AABB
4550 Montgomery Avenue
Suite 700, North Tower
Bethesda, MD 20814-2749
Standards@aabb.org