Apheresis Principles and Practice 4th edition has been significantly updated and reorganized into three volumes: therapeutic procedures, component donation, and cellular therapy applications. Volume 1: Therapeutic Apheresis is consistent with the most recent American Society for Apheresis guidelines from the Journal of Clinical Apheresis 8th special edition.

WHAT’S NEW FOR VOLUME 1?

› Most recent evidence-based guidelines for therapeutic apheresis
› Tandem procedures (plasma exchange performed with ECMO, dialysis, or CVVH)
› Updated and expanded coverage of many diseases including:
  • Acute disseminated encephalomyelitis
  • Paraproteinemic demyelinating neuropathies: chronic acquired demyelinating polyneuropathies
  • Focal segmental glomerulosclerosis
› Addition of new diseases not included in the previous edition:
  • Antibody-mediated encephalitis
  • Steroid-responsive encephalopathy associated with autoimmune thyroiditis
  • Vasculitis
  • Thyroid storm

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New Therapies for Sickle Cell Disease

A better understanding of the disease, the evolution of gene editing techniques and increased awareness of social biases that have thwarted treatment advancements, are now advancing development of promising new therapies.

Cellular Therapies Fueling New Treatment Options for Hemoglobinopathies

Researchers are increasingly looking to cellular therapies to advance therapeutic options for patients.
Patients with blood disorders often require frequent transfusions as part of their treatment. Because of this, those of us working in the transfusion medicine and biotherapies field sometimes get to know some of these patients personally. We might see them on a regular basis and develop a rapport with them. In doing so, we may gain insight into the challenges of their condition.

We also may come to understand how reliant such patients are on a strong and diverse blood supply. While a stable and sufficient blood supply is a key public health issue for everyone, it is of particularly critical importance for patients who require frequent transfusions to maintain optimal health. Their need for appropriately matched blood is ever-present and its availability can make a significant difference in their overall quality of life.

This month’s issue of AABB News focuses on blood disorders, the most common of which is, of course, sickle cell disease. It is perhaps fitting that we highlight blood disorders in the month following National Blood Donor Month in January, one of the issues we highlighted was the critical need for a diverse blood supply. As part of our celebration of National Blood Donor Month in January, one of the issues we highlighted was the critical need for a diverse blood supply. This is of the utmost importance because, as we all know, a diverse blood supply can help providers find appropriately matched blood for patients in need.

New Treatments on the Horizon

As our two features in this issue highlight, various advancements in the treatment of sickle cell disease and other blood disorders have been made in recent years. In fact, this area of research is flourishing and new therapeutic options may be not far off.

The first feature article in this issue, beginning on page 8, examines the state of treatment for patients with sickle cell disease and explores new therapies currently under investigation. The second feature, beginning on page 14, looks at experimental biotherapeutic options that may one day change the way we treat blood disorders.

This is a fascinating area of our field with much potential. We can hope that as research continues, therapeutic options for blood disorders will proliferate, potentially helping us ease the burden for these patients.

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AABB and the National Blood Foundation (NBF) are proud to present the names of those who made a donation to the NBF and its Research and Education Trust Fund in 2020. Their generosity helped give eight deserving early-career researchers funding to conduct studies that may advance the field and help further their career in transfusion medicine or biotherapies.

AABB and the NBF laud the giving spirit behind these donations with a special thanks to recurring donors who remain committed to our mission, those who donated to the NBF for the first time and those who made anonymous donations.

Many previous grant recipients have leveraged their grant-funded research into a successful career, becoming industry experts and leaders whose scientific contributions continue to advance the field and improve patient treatment and safety.

Thank you for supporting the NBF’s mission to fuel innovative research for the benefit of donors and patients.

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**Supporters of the NBF Invest in the Future of the Field**

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"The support of my research through the NBF grant has alleviated a significant financial burden on my lab and will allow me to pursue my research much more rapidly. My long-term goal is to direct the scientific approaches of laboratories and organizations towards translational approaches to science with the ultimate goal of producing new transfusion therapies to treat diseases of the blood."

—Larry Luchsinger, PhD
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“This grant benefits me in several important ways: it allows me additional time in my position to further establish my own research program, it connects me with fellow transfusion medicine researchers and clinicians, and helps me to develop a respected reputation as a strong independent scientist.”
—Robert H. Lee, PhD
University of North Carolina
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