New Treatments for Blood Diseases
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Gene Therapy and the Future of Hemophilia Treatment
Gene therapy holds promise as a treatment for hemophilia, but questions remain as to which patients will benefit most.

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The Expansion of Sickle Cell Treatments
Novel pharmacotherapies are helping to expand treatment options for patients with sickle cell disease.

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AABB History: A Look Back at Our Association Since 2010
In recent years, AABB continued to evolve as the field of blood and biotherapies evolved.
Expanding Treatment Options for Blood Diseases

For many years, patients with blood diseases—including sickle cell disease and hemophilia—had limited therapeutic options. But recent research advancements are opening new treatment opportunities—and helping to provide improvements in quality of life for patients with these conditions.

This issue of AABB News takes a deep dive into the latest in treatment options for blood diseases. The first feature article, beginning on page 6, highlights how, after decades of research, gene therapy as a treatment for hemophilia may soon become a reality. This is what patients with hemophilia, and the doctors and researchers addressing this condition, have dreamed about for years; it represents an important step closer to a cure.

Our second feature article, beginning on page 12, examines the latest novel treatment options for patients with sickle cell disease. Pharmacotherapies—including hydroxyurea, L-glutamine, crizanlizumab and voxelotor—have expanded the ways in which sickle cell disease can be treated and managed and have helped many patients become less dependent on transfusions.

It has been fascinating to observe the advances made in this area of our field in recent years—one that is all the more important when we realize the direct impact it has for thousands of patients worldwide.

AABB Annual Meeting
The 2022 AABB Annual Meeting is almost here. I always look forward to the AABB Annual Meeting, but this year is especially important. This will be the first time that the blood and biotherapies community has had the opportunity to gather together since 2019 and I know many of us in the field—myself included—are really looking forward to seeing old friends and colleagues again, while meeting new acquaintances too. We’ll also have the opportunity to celebrate our Association’s 75th anniversary and reflect on our community’s impressive history and promising future.

There is certainly a lot of excitement in store for this year’s Annual Meeting and I look forward to sharing that with hundreds of fellow AABB members. See you in Orlando! ▲

Dana Devine, PhD
AABB President
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The 2022 AABB Annual Meeting, taking place Oct. 1-4 in Orlando, Fla., will feature the latest research and top education sessions in the field of blood and biotherapies. Some of the most notable research and education sessions will be presented by previous recipients of National Blood Foundation (NBF) Early-Career Grants.

NBF grant recipients often expand on the work funded by their early-career grants and continue to advance the field through critical research. Their research is often presented at the AABB Annual Meeting, reaffirming the importance of the NBF as a critical influence helping to promote scientific knowledge in the field of blood and biotherapies. At this year’s Meeting, approximately 20% of all accepted scientific abstracts involved research conducted by one or more NBF grant recipients. NBF grant recipients were involved in three of the abstracts selected for this year’s plenary session, as well as 14 additional oral abstracts and 56 poster abstracts.

In addition, NBF grant recipients will be presenting some of the most highly anticipated sessions of this year’s Meeting. Highlighted here are some of the key sessions presented by NBF alumni.

Jansen N. Seheult, MB BCh BAO, MSc, MS, MD

**ST01: Novel Data Science Techniques in Blood Banking/Transfusion Medicine: State-of-the-Art and Future Directions**
Saturday, October 1, 2022
8:30 AM – 9:30 AM

Larry Luchsinger, PhD

**ST06: New Frontiers for Unmanipulated Cord Blood as Well as Its Derivatives**
Saturday, October 1, 2022
8:30 AM – 9:30 AM

Krystalyn E. Hudson, PhD

**ST01: Novel Data Science Techniques in Blood Banking/Transfusion Medicine: State-of-the-Art and Future Directions**
Saturday, October 1, 2022
11:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Jose Cancelas, MD, PhD, and Steven L. Spitalnik, MD

**SN04: Innovations in Blood Storage to Prevent Red Blood Cell Damage**
Sunday, October 2, 2022
8:30 AM – 9:30 AM
David Roh, MD

**MN07:** Transfusion Strategies for Intracerebral Hemorrhage: Evidence, Guidelines, and Novel Approaches  
Monday, October 3, 2022  
10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Larry Luchsinger, PhD

**MN09:** Oral Abstract Session – Platelets and Novel Therapeutics  
Monday, October 3, 2022  
10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Jeffrey L. Carson, MD

**MN10:** Landsteiner-Alter Award and Lectureship  
10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Robert Nickel, MD, MSc

**MN23:** Effects of Transfusion on Bone Marrow Health and Transplant Outcomes in Sickle Cell Disease  
Monday, October 3, 2022  
3:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Chester Andrzejewski, PhD, MD, and Sean Stowell, MD, PhD

**MN28:** Under-Recognized Complications of Transfusion  
Monday, October 3, 2022  
4:30 PM – 5:30 PM