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Transcends PEPFAR

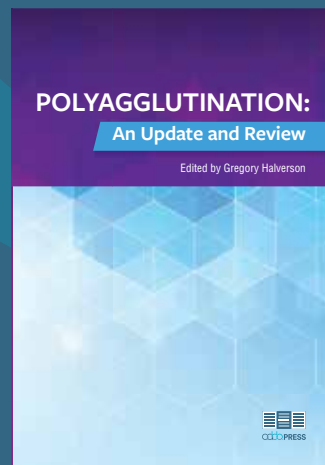
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Highlights From the 2022 AABB Virtual Annual Meeting

The blood and biotherapies community came together for the 2022 AABB Virtual Annual Meeting in early November. Although AABB's in-person Annual Meeting – scheduled for Oct. 1-4 in Orlando, Fla. – was thwarted by Hurricane Ian, the virtual meeting offered an opportunity to share knowledge, advance research, network and celebrate AABB's 75th anniversary. In this issue, we present highlights of the event.

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Introducing the AABB Foundation

AABB's National Blood Foundation has officially been relaunched as the "AABB Foundation." In addition to the new name, the relaunch includes updated branding and an expanded mission for the Foundation.



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Greetings From the New AABB President



Brian Gannon, BA, MBA

Greetings to my fellow AABB members. I am truly honored to begin my year of service as president of this Association. It is a particularly meaningful honor for me, because I am well aware of the important contributions this Association makes to advancing patient and donor health and safety, and I have been awed by the dedication and fortitude of AABB's members throughout my career.

My career in blood banking now spans 34 years – during which time I have always worked for an AABB-accredited facility. From my earliest days in the field, serving as COO of Belle Bonfils Memorial Blood Center in Denver, it was instilled in me that AABB accreditation was a mark of distinction and that AABB represented high quality and value for the field. Through my subsequent positions as president and CEO of The Blood Center in New Orleans and now as president and CEO of the Gulf Coast Regional

Blood Center in Houston, I continue to see how important AABB is. Facilities throughout the world rely on AABB to help them achieve the highest levels of quality and safety and to help advance professional development among those working in the field.

As I have become more involved in AABB – including my service on the Board of Directors since 2017 and my two-year term as chair of the Disaster Task Force – it has become increasingly apparent to me that this is a remarkable Association, comprising thousands of dedicated and talented professionals, deeply committed to their careers, the field, and to the donors and patients they serve. It is truly humbling to now serve as your president.

Addressing Challenges

As I begin my presidency, I am aware that our field continues to face various challenges – many of which have been exacerbated during the pandemic. AABB will continue to address these challenges and provide tools and resources for our members. I look forward to collaborating with many of you as we adjust to the so-called “new normal” and continue moving forward from the pandemic. Through collaboration, our field can work together to address and solve the challenges we face.

This is a particularly exciting time for our Association as we continue to mark 2022 as AABB's 75th anniversary. There are many reasons to be proud: our impressive and influential history and our many years of supporting the field through its evolution and many advancements. Today, AABB

is continuing to expand our value and resources for our community, while preparing for the future. I'm proud to be beginning my presidency at this historic moment – while we honor our impressive past and lay the groundwork for the next 75 years.

A Collaborative Membership Organization

Throughout my presidency, I intend to ensure members' voices are heard and members needs are being met. AABB is a membership organization; as such, it serves as members' professional home and Association. Members' contributions and input drive our Association and the work it does – and the field is stronger because of this collaboration.

AABB comprises a wide breadth of members, all of whom contribute valiantly to the blood and biotherapies field. I want to ensure the wide variety of perspectives and voices in our community are given a platform and can help influence our Association's direction. That is why, throughout my presidency, I welcome and encourage all members' feedback and ideas. Please let me, any of my colleagues on the Board, or our CEO Debra BenAvram, know how AABB can meet your needs and those of the community we are proud to serve.

Thank You

As I assume the presidency, I am aware that I am the latest to hold this position in a long line of dedicated and brilliant leaders. It is humbling to consider those that served as your
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President's Message

president before me and I thank those that paved the way and helped our Association maintain its strength and influence.

In particular, I thank my immediate predecessor, Dana Devine, PhD, for her strong leadership throughout the past year. There were no shortage of challenges, but Dr. Devine willingly met and adeptly addressed them at every turn. Our community has been fortunate to have her at the helm for the past year.

Thank you also to the other

members of the AABB Board of Directors; I am honored and fortunate to serve alongside you as we continue to steer our Association. Finally, I thank my fellow AABB members for your continued work, dedication and enthusiasm. I look forward to continue our collaboration throughout the next year and beyond. ■



Brian Gannon, BA, MBA
AABB President

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