Register Now

The 2023 AABB Annual Meeting is the place to catch up on the latest research and developments in the blood and biotherapies field.

aabb.org/annual-meeting

Member Registration Opens Wednesday, May 31.
General Registration Opens Wednesday, June 7.
Maximizing Quality Assurance Efficiency

Quality assurance professionals share their insight to help facilities maximize quality assurance efficiency while navigating challenges and turbulent times.

Simon T. Bailey: 2023 AABB Annual Meeting Keynote Speaker

Bailey returns to deliver a keynote message on elevating the workplace culture and building an inclusive environment.
Committed to Quality and Safety

ABB’s priority is to advance optimal donor and patient quality and safety. Throughout the decades, key tenets have remained central to our mission, such as our profound dedication to members, advancing the field through standards and accreditation, advocating on behalf of the field, supporting the dissemination of cutting-edge research and providing high-quality educational resources.

The Association’s standards and accreditation programs demonstrate our unwavering focus on quality and safety and reaffirm our field’s commitment to providing optimal care for donors and patients. In addition, our commitment to lifelong learning and our dedication to training and cultivating tomorrow’s workforce helps to strengthen the field for the future.

Driving Quality

ABB’s members drive quality, innovation and safety from the front lines. This issue of AABB News highlights the critical importance of quality assurance in our field. Our first feature article focuses on maximizing quality assurance and provides insight from AABB institutional members to help facilities navigate through challenges and focus their efforts. The second feature highlights Simon T. Bailey, our keynote speaker for the 2023 AABB Annual Meeting’s General Session, to take place in-person on Oct. 14 in Nashville, Tenn. In addition, we are proud to debut a new recurring column in this issue: “Committee and Subsection Corner,” to inform members about volunteer opportunities and the work of AABB’s committees. We’re also excited to highlight the AABB Assessor Program and its impact on the field.

Friendly Reminder

The 2023 AABB Annual Meeting will be back in-person in Nashville, Tenn., October 14-17. This is a friendly reminder to register now for the lowest early-bird rate, as the full-meeting registration will increase after July 19. AABB staff and committee members are planning a wonderful meeting for attendees. You don’t want to miss it. I hope to see you there!

Brian Gannon, BA, MBA
AABB President
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AABB Congratulates the 2023 AABB Foundation Early-Career Scientific Research Grant Recipients

By Kendra Y. Applewhite, MFA
Managing Editor

AABB and the AABB Foundation are pleased to announce the recipients of the 2023 Early-Career Scientific Research Grants. The AABB Foundation awards grants for investigator-initiated original research in all aspects of blood banking, transfusion medicine and biotherapies. Since its inception in 1983, the AABB Foundation has awarded more than $11 million to early-career investigators through its Scientific Research Grants Program. Many AABB Foundation early-career grant recipients have conducted influential research and gone on to become leaders in the field. Listed below are this year’s recipients and their research projects, as well as some insight from each awardee on the importance of receiving the grant. AABB and the AABB Foundation congratulate this year’s recipients.

**Tessa Barrett, BSc (Hons), PhD**

**Assistant Professor**

**NYU Grossman School of Medicine**

**New York City, N.Y.**

**Project Title:** Perioperative Bleeding: Study of Novel Platelet Candidates and a Diagnostic Transcriptomic Signature

**Research Content Area:** Hematology / Coagulation and Patient Blood Management

“The generous support of the AABB Foundation of our research has the potential to change the bleeding risk assessment landscape by providing new mechanistic insight and translatable tools to prevent and treat major bleeding. Our research is a substantive departure from the status quo for bleeding risk scores, by using –omics data we aim to generate a “blood biopsy” to inform acquired bleeding risk. We anticipate this project will facilitate the development of a personalized and precise tool to predict acquired bleeding risk.”

**Erika Marques de Menezes, PhD**

**Assistant Adjunct Professor of Laboratory Medicine**

**University of California San Francisco**

**Staff Scientist at Vitalant Research Institute**

**San Francisco, Calif.**

**Project Title:** Do Extracellular Vesicles Derived from Cold-Stored Platelets Act as Pro-inflammatory Mediators?

**Research Content Area:** Immunology / Immunohematology

“My AABB Foundation-funded research focuses on evaluating extracellular vesicles and their cargo using novel integrated and innovative approaches to reveal a novel measure of immune/inflammatory response for discovering predictors of a platelet storage lesion and elucidate new pathways that could be harnessed to provide more targeted therapies. I’m honored to receive this AABB Foundation award, and your generous support will provide the necessary training and preliminary data for my transition to research independence in the R00 phase and launch an independent, robust and successful program in extracellular vesicle research focusing on transfusion medicine and therapies.”
**Elliott J. Hagedorn, PhD**

Assistant Professor  
Department of Medicine, Section of  
Hematology and Medical Oncology  
Boston University and Boston  
Medical Center  
Boston, Mass.

**Project Title:** Stabilin Scavenger Receptors and the Trans-endothelial Migration of  
Blood Stem Cells

**Research Content Area:** Biotherapies

“Their extreme gratitude to have the support of the AABB Foundation’s Early-Career Scientific Research Grant. The funding from this award will be crucial in allowing my young lab to pursue exciting new research directions, work that could have important clinical implications for enhancing the targeted delivery of cell-based therapies, including bone marrow transplantation. It is an honor to be affiliated with an organization like AABB, with its rich and impactful history.”

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**Shang-Chuen Wu, PhD**

Postdoctoral fellow  
Joint Program in Transfusion  
Medicine, Department of  
Pathology,  
Brigham and Women’s Hospital,  
Harvard Medical School  
Boston, Mass.

**Project Title:** Innate Drivers of Adaptive Immune Responses Relevant to Transfusion Medicine

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**Julia Z. Xu, MD, MScGH**

Assistant Professor  
Department of Medicine, University of  
Pittsburgh  
Pittsburgh, Pa.

**Project Title:** Effect of Transfusion Modality on Hemorheology and Vascular Function in Sickle Cell Disease

**Research Content Area:** Patient Blood Management

“This thank you for your generous support. This funding will allow me to study the effects on simple red blood cell transfusion versus exchange transfusion on vascular health, blood flow and tissue perfusion in patients with sickle cell disease. This AABB Foundation grant will help me build my research program as an early-career investigator and successfully compete for future funding for larger projects aimed at optimizing the treatment of anemia in sickle cell disease globally.”
Patricia E. Zerra, MD

Assistant Professor, Pathology/Laboratory Medicine and Pediatrics
Emory University School of Medicine
Assistant Medical Director, Emory Special Coagulation Laboratory
Attending Physician, Aflac Cancer & Blood Disorders Center
Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta
Atlanta, Ga.

Project Title: Mechanisms Underlying Factor VIII-specific CD4 T Cell Activation in Mice With Hemophilia A

Research Content Area: Hematology / Coagulation

“I am absolutely thrilled to be selected as a recipient of the AABB Foundation’s Early-Career Scientific Research Grant. Support from this award will allow me to focus on identifying initiating immune events leading to factor VIII inhibitor formation with the goal of developing novel therapeutics for inhibitor prevention, leading to improved care for patients with hemophilia A. Moreover, as a physician-scientist in pediatric hematology, coagulation and transfusion medicine, this AABB Foundation grant provides me with the opportunity to gain key skills in the use of preclinical models to study the immune response to blood-borne therapeutics and facilitate the development of eventual translational approaches to study fundamental clinical questions at the interface of hemostasis and immunology.”

THANK YOU!

AABB and the AABB Foundation are grateful for the generous contributions from our Council on Research and Development (CORD) members and the many donors whose support helps to make the Early-Career Scientific Research Grants Program possible.

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