



In a Different Vein

A NEWSLETTER OF THE
**MICHIGAN
ASSOCIATION
OF
BLOOD BANKS**

Vol. XIV, No. 3

Summer, 2001

President's Message

by Sharon Cisco, MT(ASCP)SBB

Are You Ready for the 47th Annual Meeting?

Excitement is building for the **Annual Meeting** to be held September 12th and 13th. **Linda Cardine** and her committee have not only assembled an excellent variety of topics, but have incorporated an innovation to the afternoon Exhibitor breaks. "Chocolate Decadence" and "An Apple a Day" should bring some fun to the time spent visiting the booths and renewing professional contacts.

Dr. Harvey Klein, the president of the American Association of Blood Banks, will be speaking in the morning and afternoon sessions on Wednesday. **Marilyn Moulds** from Gamma Biologicals is this year's Kay Beattie Lecturer. **Sharon O'Callaghan**, from the FDA, will be speaking on Biological Product Deviation Reporting, and **Dr. Marion Petrides** from the University of Mississippi will be speaking on Computer-Aided Education for Transfusion Medicine. Also, our local MABB experts will cover a variety of other topics. This is a meeting you don't want to miss!

Once again I want to thank the **Michigan Community Blood Center** for sponsoring the Kay Beattie Lecture. MCBC has sponsored this lectureship for several years and we are grateful for their ongoing support. The **Southeastern Michigan American Red Cross** became an MABB sponsor for our meeting last year and is returning this year to sponsor Dr. Harvey Klein's lectures. We thank you for your continued generosity. This type of financial assistance allows the MABB to present nationally renowned speakers while keeping the cost of attendance down.

Membership - Congratulations to **Jan Keersmaekers** and her committee on a successful renewal and enrollment period. Membership is over goal for the year by twenty-seven and still climbing. Thank you to all those individuals, physicians and institutions that have renewed your support of this vital state professional organization, our MABB.

Correction: In the Spring 2001 issue of "In A Different Vein," we inadvertently listed new member **M. Elizabeth Atkinson, MD** of Michigan Community Blood Centers as M. Elizabeth Atkins, MD. We apologize for the error.

Hello and welcome to our new members (as of July 31, 2001):

Pamela Bevier, MT(ASCP)
Borgess Medical Center

Laura Cooling, MD, MS
University of Michigan

Kathy Ellis, MT(ASCP)
Sturgis Hospital

Michelle Elsesser MT(ASCP)
Sparrow Hospital

Carla James, MT(ASCP)
Alpena General Hospital

William Kline
American Red Cross/SE Michigan Region

Sebrena Page-Anderson, MT(ASCP)
St. Joseph Mercy-Oakland

Tracey D. Resendez, MT(ASCP)
POH Medical Center

Sara Westbury, MT(ASCP)
DMC/Sinai Grace

I hope you will enjoy and benefit from the many opportunities your MABB offers and I look forward to greeting you in person at our events.

We have received dues from **Abbott Diagnostics, American Red Cross/SE Michigan Region, Bryan Biologicals, Inc., GAMBRO BCT, Inc., Ortho-Clinical Diagnostics**, and **Pall Medical** as Corporate members. Thank you to these companies for offering your continued support of the MABB goals to bring educational opportunities to Blood Bank professionals in the state of Michigan.

In addition to our corporate members, the following companies will be exhibiting at the MABB Annual Meeting, September 12th-13th, **Baxter Healthcare Corp., FFF Enterprises, Helmer Labs, MSA Marketing/Jewett, Inc., and Terumo Medical Corp.** Their presence at our meeting will provide our membership with another occasion to learn about a variety of products and services. Please make sure to stop by the exhibits and visit with your vendors.

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**MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION
OF BLOOD BANKS**

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In a Different Vein is a quarterly publication of the Michigan Association of Blood Banks.

Please feel free to submit any articles, announcements, advertisements, or case studies to *In a Different Vein*. Items of a personal note regarding colleagues are also welcome.

Send articles to editors:
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-or-

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1 (800) 322-6374 Ext. 4103

2000 - 2001 MABB OFFICERS

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Peggy Stoe, MT(ASCP)SBB, CQA, ASQ
Michelle Tuson, BS, MT(ASCP)SBB
Margaret Wilde, MT(ASCP)SBB

**Will Thomas Jefferson Be Attending
the Annual Meeting?**

by **Linda Cardine**
President-Elect

President Thomas Jefferson was a man of many interests. He loved to tinker and invent. Historians report that an invitation to his house for dinner meant that you would be fed and his staff and daughter would be very attentive. Jefferson might or might not be dining with you. Sometimes, he would become so involved with his current project that he would forget that he had invited you. Do our speakers feel that way about our annual meeting? We are so enthusiastic when we are planning the meeting. We really do mean to attend, but projects and other commitments keep us from actually being there. Please make the meeting a priority. Our speakers and the committee really **need you to be there**. Thank you.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE
47TH ANNUAL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 12th AND 13th
AT THE AIRPORT DOUBLETREE HOTEL**

The 47th Annual Meeting is fast approaching. Change is the only constant in life, so there will be some changes this year driven by finances and attendee feedback. The meeting is scheduled for **two** days instead of three; Wednesday, September 12 and Thursday, September 13. The management session will be presented as a RAP session on Wednesday evening. The location is again near the airport, but the hotel chosen this year is the Doubletree Hotel at 31500 Wick Road. Even the food has changed. Instead of an exhibitor's wine and cheese party, there will be Exhibitor's Breaks each day with sinfully sweet treats to eat.

What hasn't changed is the commitment from the MABB to present a sound scientific program. Our exhibitors will be there to support and educate us. The speakers are well qualified and enthusiastic. Some familiar faces will be on the podium as well as some "new" to Michigan audiences. Mark your calendar and get ready to participate! Please see the complete agenda for both days on page 3.



MABB 47TH ANNUAL MEETING

Wednesday ~ September 12th ~ Agenda

- 8:15** Sharon Cisco, MT(ASCP)SBB, president of the MABB, will open the session welcoming members and guests.
- 8:30** **AABB Future Direction ~ Harvey Klein, MD**, president of the AABB will address the role of the AABB as a patient advocate and let us know what plans the organization is making for the future.
- 9:15** **New Blood Bank Methodologies and How They Affect Our Test Results ~ Marilyn Moulds, MT (ASCP) SBB**, VP of Reference and Educational Services at Immucor, Inc./Gamma Biologicals, Inc., will share her insight into new methodologies. What is in our future and how will it affect our test results?
- 10:00** **Questions and Answers**
10:15 **Break and Exhibits**
- 10:45** **Cellular Blood Therapy ~ Harvey Klein, MD**, Chief of the Department of Transfusion Medicine at the National Institutes of Health, will switch from his role as AABB president to his role as a prominent researcher. He will keep us abreast of the exciting field of cellular blood therapy.
- 11:30** **Biological Product Deviation Reporting ~ Sharon O'Callaghan**, Consumer Safety Officer with the FDA, will answer the who, what, where, when, why and how about Biological Product Deviation Reporting. Be brave and be the first to ask if your institution is doing it right.
- 12:15** **Questions and Answers**
- 12:30** **LUNCH AND EXHIBITS (Little Italy Pizza & Pasta)**
- 1:30** **MABB Business Meeting**
- 2:00** **Apheresis in Thrombotic Thrombocytopenia Purpura: What's the Right Thing to Do? ~ Dr. Judith Andersen**, hematologist and oncologist at the Karmanos Cancer Institute, will present the latest scientific data about Thrombotic Thrombocytopenia Purpura. She will discuss treatment strategies involving therapeutic apheresis.
- 2:45** **Exhibitor's Break — "An Apple A Day Keeps the Doctor Away" ~ Sweet Apple Treats**
- 3:15** **Prenatal Transfusion Practices ~ W. John Judd, FIBMS, MIBiol**, has authored a "Practice Guideline: Prenatal and Peri-natal Immunohematology Revisited," on behalf of the AABB Scientific Section Coordinating Committee. He will delve into the controversial world of pre-natal transfusion practices. How much testing is enough? Who can you trust?
- 4:00** **Pre-natal Testing Case Studies** presented by Louann Dake, MA, MT (ASCP) SBB, Pat Fedoronko MT (ASCP) SBB, and E. Ann Steiner MT (ASCP)SBB (Case Studies are always our favorite!)
- 4:30** **Questions and Answers**
- 5:00** **Adjourn**

Thursday ~ September 13th ~ Agenda

- 8:15** Sharon Cisco, MT(ASCP)SBB, president of the MABB, will welcome members and guests.
- 8:30** **New Techniques in Cardiac Surgery — Implications for Blood Transfusion ~ James Martin, MD**, cardiac surgeon from St. Johns Health System, uses blood bank services every day. What does he know that we should know? Find out what new techniques are available in cardiac surgery. Will these techniques affect blood inventories?
- 9:15** **Graft vs. Host Disease/Irradiation of Blood Products ~ Martha Higgins, MD** is the chair of the Transfusion Practices Committee of the AABB. Dr. Higgins will review recent cases of transfusion-associated graft vs. host disease (TA-GVHD) and implications for appropriate risk reduction. A comparison to preventative measures for other transfusion risks will also be discussed.
- 10:00** **Questions and Answers**
- 10:15** **Breaks and Exhibits**
- 10:45** **Apheresis Collection of Blood Products ~ Bill Kline**, Director, ARC Business Operations, will explain the strategies, benefits and pitfalls of apheresis double red cell collections.
- 11:30** **Importance of Antibody Identification and the People Who Perform the Testing: Kay Beattie Lecture recipient, Marilyn Moulds, MT(ASCP) SBB**, will discuss antibody identification. The people who perform the testing are as vital as the testing itself. Where are the serologists of the future?
- 12:15** **Questions and Answers**
- 12:30** **LUNCH AND EXHIBITS (Chicken Caesar Salad & Potato Bar)**
- 1:30** **Computer Aided Education in Transfusion medicine: Design and Implementation ~ Marion Petrides, MD**, Blood Bank Director at the University of Mississippi, is involved in innovative teaching strategies in the blood bank. She will show us how computer assisted learning can be fun!
- 2:30** **Exhibitor's Break — "Afternoon Delight" ~ Chocolate Decadence**
- 3:00** **Transfusion Reactions ~ Laura Cooling, MD**, Assistant Medical Director at the University of Michigan, will discuss Saturday Night Fever. It's all about the dance we do when transfusions don't go as planned and how the judges (FDA) view our performance.
- 3:45** **Transfusion Reaction Case Studies** presented with a clinical viewpoint by Timothy Mervak, MD and Mary Jo Drew, MD.
- 4:30** **Questions and Answers**
- 5:00** **Adjourn**

DINNER AND RAP EVENING SESSION 5:30 - 8:30 P.M.

"Why am I in the Blood Bank? —

Caring for Ourselves and Our Patients"

presented by Barbara Mannor, MT(ASCP)

Can't get away for the whole day? Come and join us for an informative evening. Dinner is included.

YOU, member and participant, ***are the reason for our annual program. We need increased attendance and participation in order to continue to offer high quality seminars such as this in the future. Please make room in your schedule to be a part of this educational opportunity.***

President's Message

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Thank You and Good Luck! Dr. Brad Eisenbrey has officially resigned from the MABB Executive Board as Secretary/Treasurer as of June 19th. As was mentioned in the last newsletter, Brad has received a promotion in the Michigan Air National Guard and is very involved in the responsibilities of his new position. Although he cannot continue in his role on the Executive Committee, he will remain a loyal supporter of the MABB. Again thank you for believing in the MABB enough to dedicate many hours of your time and efforts over the years to secure the financial stability of this organization. Your contribution will last well beyond your term of office.

Congratulations to Pat Fedoronko on being appointed by the Executive Committee as interim Secretary/Treasurer of the MABB. Pat was kind enough to step up to the challenge mid-year. Thank you Pat!

In A Different Vein - Special notice this year should be made of our excellent newsletter. **Mary DePouw** and her committee of contributors have done a superior job in assembling MABB news and reviews for every interest. Knowing "what's going on" is vital to keeping us together as an organization. Thank you to Mary and her team of reporters for keeping us informed.

Spring Workshop was a success thanks to the efforts of co-chairs, **Deb Bose, Michelle Bensette, Kathryn Watkins** and their committee. Attendance for the seminar was good and there were many "1st Timers" to an MABB activity. Registration for the wet workshop was disappointing and consideration is being giving to possibly discontinuing this phase of the project. If you feel strongly that the wet workshop should continue to be offered, please let the Education Committee Chairman, Dr. Mary Jo Drew, know of your opinion.

Education Committee - Dr. Mary Jo Drew and her committee are busy planning their next big events, the **RAP Session** and **Poster Session** at the Annual Meeting. The RAP topic- "**Why am I in the Blood Bank? — Caring for Ourselves and Our Patients**"— looks especially timely. This is a very important subject not only for management staff, but for bench techs as well. Revitalizing the workplace needs everyone's participation. Also please don't hide your star under a bushel. We need participants in the **Poster Session**. This is an opportunity for you to share your facility's "best of practice" or help others take advantage of the lessons you have learned. Contact Dr. Mary Jo Drew at 313/916-1573 for information regarding submitting a poster. The **Cyberconference** chaired by **Sharon Zimmerman** will be held on October 23rd. Several excellent topics are planned.

Scholarship Awards - The MABB awards three scholarships to MABB events, one for the Annual Meeting and two for Spring Workshop. The awards are named in honor of past members of our profession who have believed in the importance of education either through the MABB or throughout their career.

One should feel that it is an honor to be recognized as an MABB Scholarship Award recipient. Yet recently the number of submissions has been very poor. **Peggy Stoe** has taken on the project of revising the applications to make them more "user friendly". A call for submissions for the Saeed Award is in this newsletter. Please help us honor a worthy recipient by filling out an application for yourself or a co-worker today!

MABB on the Web! – www.mabb.org is now the official MABB website name. Thank you to **Peggy Stoe** and **Janet Silvestri** for taking on the revitalization of the website. The registration fee for the name was only \$70 for two years. **Sandro Silvestri**, Janet's husband, was able to arrange through a friend a hosting service for our site. Thank you to **CompuAid, Inc. (CAI)**, for hosting our site free of charge. Located in Warren, MI, CompuAid has been in business for many years and provides facility management, networking, and internet services. The company's primary partners are **Les Millichamp** and **Joe LaFrance**. They have a long history of doing charitable work and have provided free services to non-profit organizations for many years. We are very grateful for their generosity. Sandro has done a lot of the legwork in getting MABB registered under our new domain name, mabb.org, and has worked closely with Compu-Aid to set up the proper technical infrastructure. He also structured the MABB Membership Database which tracks all of our membership information. Many thanks to Les, Joe, and Sandro for their generosity and wonderful expertise! A special thank you also is extended to **Dr. John Gerlach**, who was our original "webmaster." Dr. Gerlach structured our original website that was posted through Michigan State University's server. He brought us to where we are today, and for that we are very thankful! Janet will be working on the contents of the site and plans to introduce our new site at the fall meeting.

SBB Lecture Series - I will be releasing a flyer at the Annual Meeting to ask for possible participants to register their interest. The SBB Lecture Series, offered every other year by MABB, is a yearlong project that involves over 50 lectures offered at the amazing cost of only \$150 per student. The purpose of the series is to prepare participants to take the SBB Exam. Many have used the series to refresh their knowledge or as a continuing education program for their employees. It is a very thorough set of lectures, which covers every aspect of Blood Banking including all blood groups, transfusion practices and management basics. To present such a program, a minimum number of participants must be registered or the series will be postponed for another year. If you are interested, contact me at 313/465-8516 or ciscos@usa.redcross.org. Also I am looking for an outstate site that would be interested in participating.

Thank You to all the members who have participated in the many projects and events MABB has sponsored this year! You keep MABB alive and vibrant! Your efforts and your enthusiasm will benefit you and others as we work to unravel the mysteries of science, overcome the obstacles presented by budgetary restraints and wade through the muddy waters of regulatory requirements....Together! **Your MABB is there for you!**

Cyberconference Features Current Topics

The Fall Northern Michigan Teleconference, affectionately known by MABB members as the Cyberconference, will be broadcast live October 23, 2001, from 1:00-5:00 p.m., from satellite hookup sites based in Ann Arbor and Grand Rapids, MI. This year's slate of topics promises to stimulate much discussion during this live, interactive educational session.

Dr. Laura Cooling of the University of Michigan Hospitals Blood Bank will open the conference with a talk on "Survival Rates of ABO Incompatible Platelet Transfusions," a topic that has stirred controversy throughout the country. **Pat Fedoronko, MT(ASCP)SBB**, blood bank system manager at St. Johns Hospital, will then present an update on "Biological Product Deviation Reporting for Transfusion Services", which will include helpful tips for those of us still struggling to meet these new requirements.

Serologic case studies will then be presented by **Louann Dake, MS, MT(ASCP)SBB**, Red Cell Reference Laboratory Coordinator at the University of Michigan Hospitals; **Jeff Trimble, MT(ASCP)SBB**, Director of the Red Cell Reference Laboratory at Michigan Community Blood Centers; and **Kathy Warnes, MT(ASCP)**, of Munson Medical Center.

To round out the program, **Dr. LeeAnn Weitekamp** of Michigan Community Blood Centers and **Dr. Mary Jo Drew** of Henry Ford Hospital Blood Bank will present a discussion on "The Continuing Saga of Leukoreduced Blood Products," focusing on both hospital and blood center perspectives of this issue.

Any questions regarding sites and hookups for this satellite broadcast may be directed to Sharron Zimmerman at 231/935-3030. Many thanks to Sharron for the fine job she has done setting up this year's conference. Registration forms will be mailed to the membership in early September and will be available at the Annual Meeting.

Posters Sought for Annual Meeting

The MABB Education Committee is still actively seeking poster submissions for this fall's meeting, September 12 & 13, at the Doubletree Hotel in Romulus, MI. This year's meeting features a wide variety of speakers and topics and promises to be both practical and thought-provoking.

Any technical, administrative, educational, or clinical topic is welcome to be submitted in a poster format. A brief abstract should be submitted to Dr. Mary Jo Drew by September 4, 2001, at the following address:

Mary Jo Drew, MD, MHSA
Division Head, Transfusion Medicine
Henry Ford Hospital Blood Bank
2799 W. Grand Blvd.
Detroit, MI 48202

Any questions regarding abstract submissions or poster displays should be directed to Dr. Drew at 313/916-1573, or by email at mdrew1@hfhs.org. Let's all participate to make this a truly stimulating meeting!

Membership Update

by Jan Keersmaekers, MT(ASCP)SBB

WANTED:
Individuals in the area of blood banking who want to expand their knowledge in the field. Great opportunities available for networking at seminars and workshops.

Interested in this opportunity?
BECOME A MEMBER OF THE MABB! For information or a membership application, contact Janet Silvestri at the MABB Administrative Office (810) 573-2500 or e-mail: janet@hfcc.net.



MABB Executive Committee Meeting

19 June 2001, ARC NTL, Detroit

The President, Sharon Cisco, called the meeting to order at 1530. In attendance were Linda Cardine, Mary Jo Drew, Peggy Stoe, Margaret Wilde, Michelle Tuson and Pat Fedoronko. Sharon Zimmerman and Brad Eisenbrey joined by phone.

Minutes: Minutes from the previous meeting (21 February 2001) were distributed. Minutes were approved.

Financial Report: The Financial Report for the months ending May 31, 2001 was distributed. The current membership is 303 members. Brad Eisenbrey announced his resignation as Secretary/ Treasurer due to additional responsibilities with the United States Air Force. The entire Board wished Brad much success with his endeavors and thanked him for his years of dedicated service to MABB. His resignation was accepted.

COMMITTEE REPORTS –

Education Committee: Mary Jo Drew presented the Education Committee activity report. The **Spring Workshop** was successful. Although attendance was down for the wet workshop the lecture attendance was at the 1999 level. The lecturers and topics were excellent. Due to the low attendance at the wet workshop next year they may go to a one-day seminar. The next **RAP Session** will be a dinner meeting on September 12th along with the Annual Meeting. The possible topic is "Staffing in the new millennium – how to recruit, retain, and revitalize employees". No speaker has been designated yet. Sharron Zimmerman reported that **Cyberconference**, scheduled for October 23rd, is well underway. The letters have been sent to speakers and flyers will go out September 1st. Topics include **ABO incompatible platelet transfusion** (Dr. Laura Cooling); **BPD Reporting for Transfusion Services** (Pat Fedoronko); **Case Studies** (Louann Dake, Jeff Trimble, Kathy Warnes); and **Leukoreduced blood components** (Drs. Drew and Weitekamp). The **SBB Review** was cancelled due to low registration. The **Management Seminar** will not be held this year. Management topics will be incorporated in the annual Meeting and RAPS sessions. Submissions for the **Poster Session** are due August 15th. A reminder will go in the newsletter.

Annual Meeting: Linda Cardine discussed Annual Meeting plans. Linda had prepared a handout for the meeting with the agenda, speakers and information for the registration brochure. Information on the activities for the two-day meeting and registration will be in the newsletter.

Membership Committee: Congratulations to the Membership Committee for already reaching goal. Individual Membership is 20 new members over goal and Institutional Membership is 4 over goal. Dr. Drew would like to work on physician recruitment. She feels MABB is a real networking opportunity for physicians that oversee transfusion services. A discussion was held on the possibility of the Membership

Committee taking on some additional public relations activities to advertise the MABB seminars. Jan Keersmaekers will be contacted.

Newsletter Committee: Margaret Wilde reported for the Newsletter Committee. The next newsletter will go out the end of July. All articles should be in by July 13th to Janet Silvestri. Here are the articles that need to be submitted: Poster session-Dr. Drew, Annual Meeting-Linda Cardine, Membership –Jan Keersmaekers, President's message – Sharon Cisco, Cyberconference-Sharron Zimmerman, Scholarships-Peggy Stoe, Saeed Award submissions, and Spring Workshop- Mary DePouw.

Nominations Committee: Sharron Zimmerman reported for the Nominations Committee. The Nominations Committee has selected Pat Fedoronko for the position of Secretary/Treasurer for 2002. A motion was made by Brad Eisenbrey to appoint Pat Fedoronko as interim Secretary/Treasurer for the remainder of 2001 to replace Dr. Eisenbrey due to his resignation. Second by Sharron Zimmerman. The motion was unanimously accepted.

Old Business-

MABB Web Site: The Web Site project was reported on by Peggy Stoe. Janet Silvestri and her husband are working with Peggy to place the MABB Web Site on a carrier that is more easily accessed than previously. Many suggestions were made on the information that the web site should display.

Founder's Award: Nominations were made and each Board member is to e-mail Sharon their vote.

Vi Williams and Emanuel Hackel Scholarships: There were no nominees for these scholarships. The funds will revert back to the general budget. It was discussed that more information needs to be sent out on these opportunities so that there will be more applicants.

New Business-

OABB Visit: Michele Tuson attended the Ohio state meeting. She reported that it was an informative meeting attended by approximately 33 of their membership. She extended an offer on behalf of MABB to exchange information on events and possibly work together on joint activities.

SBB Lecture Series: Sharon Cisco said that flyers will be distributed at the Annual Meeting and in the following newsletter asking for possible participants to register their interest. If the response is not enough the SBB Lecture Series will be postponed for another year.

Awards Form: Peggy Stoe has taken on the project to revise the MABB award application forms.

Adjournment: 1724

MABB 2001 Budget

	Income	Expense	Subtotal Income	Subtotal Expense
Membership				
Dues:				
Individual	200 x 30	6,000		
Corporate	10 x 50	500		
Emeritus	10 x 0	0		
Institutional	30 x 75	2,250		
Physician	27 x 60	1,640		
	277 Total		10,390	
Operations:				
Bank Services		240		
Staff Support		7,500		
Printing		2,000		
Postage		1,414		
Financial				
Compilation		525		
Dreyfus Acct	1,000			
	1,000	11,679	11,390	11,679
PROGRAMS				
Education Comm:				
Management Seminar	1,100	700		
RAP Session		400		
Cyberconference	1,000	1,000		
SBB Lecture Series		200		
SBB Review	1,000	1,000		
	3,100	3,300	14,490	14,979
Spring Workshop:	4,200	5,500	18,690	20,479
Membership Comm:		400		20,879
Newsletter Comm:		200		21,079
Bylaws Comm:		200		22,279
Archiving Comm:		100		22,379
Annual Meeting:				
Exhibitor's				
Fees	12 x 400	4,800		
Registration				
Fees	137	5,140		
Lunches	131	1,900		
Sponsorships		1,000		
Hotel &				
Transportation		11,940		
Planning Session		400		
Printing & Postage		500		
	12,840	12,840	31,530	34,219
Scholarship:				
Vi Williams	250	250		
Emanuel Hackel		250		
Sheik Saeed		250		
	250	750	31,780	34,969 (3,189)

Meet the Board

The Michigan Association of Blood Banks recently welcomed Pat Fedoronko to the Board of Directors, as Interim Secretary/Treasurer. Pat stepped up to the challenge when



Pat Fedoronko

Dr. Brad Eisenbrey resigned upon his promotion in the Michigan Air National Guard.

Pat was born in Highland Park, Michigan. She attended Highland Park High School and Junior College, and graduated from Wayne State University with a BS in Medical Technology. She did her internship at Hutzel Hospital and obtained her SBB while working there.

Pat retired for 18 years to raise her three children. During this time she was active in Girl Scouts (Leader and Neighbor Director), Cub Scouts (Den mother), and Boy Scouts (worked in Boy Scouts Committees).

She resumed her career, once again, at Mt. Carmel Hospital. Pat started working at Detroit Riverview Hospital three weeks after it opened. When the blood banks from Detroit Riverview and Macomb Hospital combined, she became the Corporate Blood Bank Manager. On affiliation with the St. John Health Care System, she became the System Blood Bank Manager. The affiliated hospitals are: St. John Hospital, St. John Macomb Hospital, St. John Detroit Riverview Hospital, St. John Oakland Hospital, St. John NorthEast Community Hospital, St. John River District and St. John North Shores.

Pat has been on the City of Riverview Library Commission for 22 years and was Treasurer for 20 years. She has one daughter, two sons, a grandson and a granddaughter. She enjoys reading, especially mysteries. She also enjoys growing (her husband says killing) indoor plants. At present she has 26 indoor plants.

We welcome Pat to the Board and thank her for her commitment to the MABB!

VASOVAGAL DONOR REACTIONS ~ HOW DANGEROUS ARE THEY?

QUESTION: For twelve years, I have been a nurse supervisor for whole blood collection in a blood center. On occasion, I managed a donor reaction where the donor was unconscious, had low blood pressure and a barely palpable pulse. In my experience, these donors recover. However, when the reaction was particularly prolonged, we called for an ambulance. Do donors with severe vasovagal reactions ever expire, and are there any permanent sequelae from these reactions?

ANSWER: Vasovagal symptoms occur in 2.0–2.5% of our donor population, based on large samples or yearly statistics. Only 0.1% of the donors faint (develop syncope), which is less than 5% of the reactors. Reactions are more common in high-school students than the rest of the donor population, 8.3–10.5% versus 1.2%. This is because youth and the first donation are predisposing factors for a reaction.¹ Other predisposing factors include low body-weight and past history of a vasovagal reaction, and there is also a psychological component because some donors faint in the history booth or after seeing another donor have a reaction (“epidemic fainting”). While there are predisposing factors, most donors having such factor(s) successfully donate, so predisposing factors should not preclude blood donation.

Most non-syncopal reactions occur during or shortly after phlebotomy while the donor is still in the donation bed (or chair), but syncopal reactions occur most commonly at the refreshment table. Blood center procedures are designed to protect the donor and minimize the risk of injury. Donors are carefully monitored during and after phlebotomy for vasovagal symptoms. Donors in the refreshment area in our blood center are instructed to sit with their feet flat on the floor and elbows and forearms on the table, so in case of a sudden faint, the donor falls forward onto the table and not sideways onto the floor. Unfortunately, 12% of the syncopal reactions occur after the donor leaves the site—usually within one hour.

The syndrome of vasovagal reactions after whole blood donation was reviewed recently.² The clinical picture of a severe vasovagal syncopal reaction is quite alarming because it resembles shock. The donor is unconscious, pale, has a low blood pressure, and a barely palpable pulse. The outcome fortunately is quite different from shock because donors with vasovagal reactions spontaneously recover, while individuals in shock progress downwards unless successfully treated. Treatment of a vasovagal syncopal reaction is aimed at donor protection and to speed the recovery. Appropriate treatment is to remove the needle, make sure the donor’s airway is intact, and place the donor in a Trendelenburg position (legs elevated). Stimulating the donor with a cold compress, ammonia salts, calling the donor’s name, and squeezing and shaking the donor’s arm may also shorten the reaction. Giving intravenous fluids, oxygen or other medications to the donor is unnecessary.

Donors generally lose consciousness for less than 30 seconds but it may extend in rare cases to as long as two minutes. Some donors may be lethargic and drift in and out of consciousness for a period of time. If the reaction seems prolonged or the donor’s recovery is not as rapid as expected, it may be appropriate to call for an ambulance and transfer the donor to an emergency room, where the donor can be monitored until full recovery.

The author is not aware of any donor-related deaths due to a vasovagal reaction, based on the medical literature, reports to the FDA, reports to American Red Cross, or a survey of 200 persons from multiple blood centers. While one does not like to speak in absolutes, it may be accurate to state that all donors recover from a vasovagal reaction. The only risk is traumatic injury, which may occur when the donor suddenly faints. In a recent study of 178 consecutive vasovagal syncopal reactions from 200,000 blood donations, we found that 14% of the donors sustained an injury, usually to head. Almost all of these injuries were minor, but three donors sustained a laceration (two were minor), and one donor developed a post-concussion syndrome.

Donors who have a reaction can return and donate in the future. If the pattern persists, the nurse may suggest that the donor consider not donating. Many donors, however, choose not to return. This was quantified at the 1999 AABB Annual Meeting.³ One hundred donors with a syncopal reaction in 1994 were matched with non-reacting control donors and followed for four years. Sixty-two percent of the controls returned while only 26% of the reacting donors returned. Upon return, 81% of the donors in the reactor group did well.

In summary, in our center, 0.1% of the donors develop syncope. Donors generally do well, but the event discourages future blood donation. The main risk is trauma. Approximately 15% of those who faint sustain a minor injury. Rarely, a donor may sustain a laceration and very rarely a fracture or post-concussion syndrome.

REFERENCES:

- 1 Trouern-Trend JJ, Cable RG, Badon SJ, et al: A case-controlled multicenter study of vasovagal reactions in blood donors: influence of sex, age, donation status, weight, blood pressure, and pulse. *Transfusion* 39:316-320, 1999.
- 2 Newman B: Donor reactions and injuries from whole blood donation. *Transfus Med Reviews* 11:64-75, 1997.
- 3 Cable R, Trouern-Trend JJ, Badon SJ (abstract). The effect of blood donor reactions on subsequent blood donations. *Transfusion* 39:114S, 1999.

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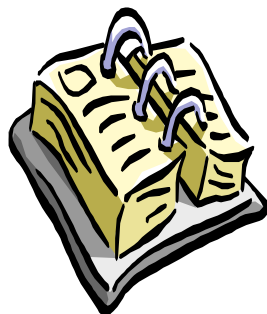


Calendar of Events

September 12th - 13th **MABB Annual Meeting**
DoubleTree Hotel
Romulus, MI

October 12th - 17th **American Association of
Blood Banks (AABB)
National Meeting**
San Antonio, TX
(for information go to
www.aabb.org)

October 23, 2001 **Cyberconference**
1:00 - 5:00 p.m.



AABB Audioconferences:

September 12, 2001 **2:00 - 3:00 p.m. (ET)**
Program #004247 **Standards for Perioperative
Blood Collection and
Transfusion**

Basic level audioconference to introduce the first edition of the AABB Standards for Peri-operative Autologous Blood Collection and Transfusion. Important requirements of these Standards and guidance regarding compliance will be discussed.

September 26, 2001 **2:00 - 3:00 p.m. (ET)**
Program #004248 **Out-of-Hospital Transfusion:
Nontraditional Transfusion
Situations**

Intermediate level audioconference will discuss issues involved in providing blood for both adult and pediatric patients in various settings. Issues in risk management and contract negotiation/approval will also be discussed.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON THESE CONFERENCES,
GO TO: www.aabb.org