



In a Different Vein

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

**Vol. XXIII, No. 3
Summer, 2003**

President's Message

*by Michelle Tuson, BS, MT(ASCP)SBB
MABB President*

I hope everyone is having a good summer and that you survived the big blackout. The fall meeting is coming up fast. Make plans now to attend!



Dr. Drew has worked hard to put together a dynamic and varied program, sure to interest both new and seasoned technologists. Many vendors will be on sight to show us what's new in blood banking. Please join us for an educational and networking experience. If you have not yet received a program, call Janet Silvestri at the MABB Administrative Office (586) 573-2500 or you can download the brochure with registration form from the MABB website (www.mabb.org). Make sure to register early for this NOT TO MISS EVENT!

Sue Bowers and the Education Committee have been very busy behind the scenes. The MABB Lecture Series started in April is scheduled to finish in November. The series has moved to St. Joseph Mercy Hospital/ Ann Arbor for the final lectures. Attendance has been very good. A big thank you goes out to the committee as well as all the dedicated speakers who have given so generously of their time in lecture preparation and presentation.

After a successful RAP session on West Nile Virus in May, a RAP session on blood utilization with featured speakers Dr. Martha Higgins, Dr. Rob Davenport, and Dr. Mary Jo Drew is scheduled in Grand Rapids at Michigan Community Blood Centers. Blood utilization is a very new topic because it affects current practices, budgetary ramifications and even legal implications. It will be a very interesting and worthwhile afternoon.

Bacterial contamination of platelets will be the topic of a second Fall RAP Session on October 16th. This will be an opportunity to meet with your colleagues to hear about ways to comply with the new CAP/AABB requirements. This controversial topic is sure to generate interesting conversation for the evening. Dr. Laura Cooling and a representative from the American Red Cross will be speaking, joined by a representative from Pall Medical Corporation. Thanks to Pall Medical Corporation and Jerry Ragozine for helping with this event.

Finally, my personal thanks to everyone who has been involved in all of our varied educational endeavors this year, whether as a planner, speaker, worker-bee, or attendee. You are the reason the Michigan Association of Blood Banks can continue to provide educational opportunities for professionals in our field. The MABB is here to help keep Blood Banking professionals in the state of Michigan current with what is happening in the field of immunohematology, and to provide networking opportunities to know and share with others in our field. Your participation is key to the achievement of this goal. I will be looking forward to seeing and greeting you at our upcoming events and completing yet another successful year for the MABB.

Calendar of Events

MABB Forty-Ninth Annual Meeting
September 10-11, 2003
DoubleTree Hotel • Romulus

MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF BLOOD BANKS

Administrative Office
P.O. Box 3605
Center Line, MI 48015-0605
(586) 573-2500 • (586) 573-7058 Fax
Web Site: mabb.org

In a Different Vein is a quarterly publication of the Michigan Association of Blood Banks. Current and archived issues of this publication are available at the MABB web site: mabb.org.

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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(248) 652-5275 • e-mail: mdepouw@crittenton.com

Bruce Newman • American Red Cross
313-833-2651
e-mail: newmanb@usa.redcross.org

Ann Steiner • Ortho-Clinical Diagnostics
1 (800) 421-3311, 5, 2, Ext. 4103
e-mail: asteine2@ocdus.jnj.com

Submission deadline for next issue is 9/26/2003

2003 MABB OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Michelle Tuson, BS, MT(ASCP)SBB

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MaryJo Drew, MD, MHSA

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LeeAnn Weitekamp, MD
Margaret Wilde, MT(ASCP)SBB

NOTICE TO ALL CURRENT MEMBERS OF THE MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF BLOOD BANKS

THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF BLOOD BANKS (MABB) IS CURRENTLY REVIEWING THE ASSOCIATION BY-LAWS AND POLICIES. BOTH THE BY-LAWS AND POLICIES OF THE ASSOCIATION WILL BE REVISED AT A MEETING OF THE MABB EXECUTIVE BOARD TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2003, AT A SITE TO BE DETERMINED. ALL CURRENT PAID MEMBERS OF THE MABB WILL RECEIVE FURTHER NOTICE REGARDING THIS MEETING INCLUDING A HARD COPY OF THE REVISIONS AND NOTICE OF THE TIME, LOCATION AND MAP. ALL CURRENT PAID MEMBERS WILL BE ABLE TO VOTE ON ALL REVISIONS TO THESE DOCUMENTS EITHER IN PERSON AT THE MEETING OR BY PROXY.

Posters Sought for Annual Meeting

The MABB Education Committee is actively seeking poster submissions for this fall's meeting, September 10 & 11, 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.

Any questions regarding 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!

The Education Committee Proudly Presents Fall 2003 RAP Sessions —

Blood Utilization: Use it or Lose It!

Thursday, October 9, 2003
1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Michigan Community Blood Centers
1036 Fuller • Grand Rapids, MI 49501

Featured Speakers

Robertson Davenport, MD

Medical Director • Blood Bank & Transfusion Service
University of Michigan Hospitals
“Setting Transfusion Audit Criteria”

Martha Higgins, MD

Medical Director • Transfusion Service
St. John Hospital
“No Transfusion Committee — No Problem”

Mary Jo Drew, MD

Division Head of Transfusion Medicine &
Medical Director of the Blood Bank • Henry Ford Hospital
“Blood Utilization Review — Can You Manage It?”

Bacterial Testing of Platelets

Thursday, October 16, 2003
6:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Holiday Inn • Gateway Centre
5353 Gateway Centre • Flint, MI 49501

Featured Speakers

Laura Cooling, MD

Associate Medical Director • Transfusion Service
University of Michigan
“The ‘Bugs’ in Bacterial Testing of Platelets”

Pall Medical

“Pall BDS Method”

American Red Cross/Great Lakes

“Rationale for Testing”

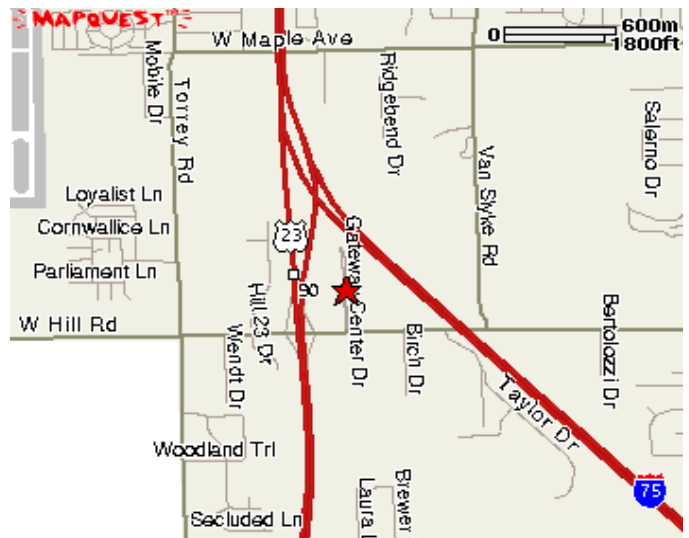
**FLIERS AND REGISTRATION FORMS WILL BE MAILED TO ALL MABB
MEMBERS AND POSTED ON THE WEBSITE AT: www.mabb.org**

For additional information contact Margaret Wilde • 313/745-2536 or via e-mail: mwilde@dmc.org

Map to Michigan Community Blood Center:



Map to Holiday Inn • Gateway Centre:



MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF BLOOD BANKS

TRANSFUSION MEDICINE UPDATE 2003

TRANSFUSION SAFETY:
EVERY STEP OF THE WAY

Forty-Ninth Annual Meeting

Doubletree Hotel • Detroit Airport
31500 Wick Road
Romulus, MI 48174

September 10th and 11th, 2003



MABB 2003 ANNUAL MEETING REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____

Credentials MT(ASCP) SBB MD
(check all that apply) PhD Other _____

Institution _____

Home Work

Preferred Mailing Address _____

Telephone **Work** _____
 Home _____

Type of Member _____ **Year Joined** _____
(see letter code below)

MABB Membership Dues

A = Individual Non-Physician \$30.00
P = Individual Physician \$60.00
I = Institution \$75.00

NOTE: If you are not currently an MABB Member and wish to join at this time, you may register at the member rate and pay your membership dues with this registration.

Check if you are applying for NEW membership along with your registration.

If you would like confirmation of registration, please indicate e-mail address: _____

PLEASE RETURN BOTH REGISTRATION FORM & FEE TO:
Michigan Association of Blood Banks
P.O. Box 3605 • Center Line, MI 48015-0605

SCIENTIFIC SESSION (circle appropriate day)

| <u>Single Day</u> | Wed | Thu | <u>LUNCH IS INCLUDED IN FEE</u> | |
|-------------------|-----|-----|---------------------------------|----------|
| MABB Member * | | | \$ 75 | \$ _____ |
| Non-Member** | | | \$105 | \$ _____ |
| Med Tech Student | | | \$ 30 | \$ _____ |

| <u>Both Days</u> | <u>LUNCH IS INCLUDED IN FEE</u> | |
|------------------|---------------------------------|----------|
| MABB Member* | \$125 | \$ _____ |
| Non-Member** | \$180 | \$ _____ |
| Med Tech Student | \$ 60 | \$ _____ |

Membership Dues \$ _____

TOTAL REMITTANCE \$ _____

* Each institutional member may send ONE non-member at the member rate. Others must be individual MABB members to qualify for member rate.

** Those non-members who apply for membership with this registration may register at the member rate and your membership will be valid through December 31, 2004.

If you require hotel accommodations, the DoubleTree Hotel is offering a special rate for the MABB of \$95.00 for single or double room if reservation is made by August 20, 2003. Call 734-467-8000 to make reservations.

PLEASE NOTE THAT VEGETARIAN LUNCHES ARE AVAILABLE.
 Please check if you prefer a vegetarian lunch.

MABB 49TH ANNUAL MEETING

Wednesday ~ September 10th ~ Agenda

- 7:30 Registration and Continental Breakfast
- 8:30 The "Bugs" in Bacterial Testing of Platelets ~
Laura Cooling, MD
There are more "bugs" in bacterial testing of platelets than the bacteria! Find out how hospital transfusion services can perform testing as painlessly as possible.
- 9:15 Transfusion Safety in the Hospital ~
Walter Sunny Dzik, MD
Transfusion safety and blood safety are not the same. Three danger points in the blood transfusion process can make transfusion unsafe at any speed!
Sponsored by American Red Cross, SE Michigan Region
- 10:00 Refreshments and Exhibits
- 10:45 Canadian Blood Services: An Overview ~
Patti Thorne
Blood services in Canada have undergone a sea change in recent years. Lessons can be learned by all transfusion professionals from this transition.
- 11:30 Transfusion Practice Case Studies ~
Coordinated by Sherwin P. Imlay, MD
Ann Alpern, MD
Laura Cooling, MD
Sherwin P. Imlay, MD
- 12:30 LUNCH AND EXHIBITS ~ *Baked Potato and Salad Bar*
(Vegetarian available upon request with registration)
- 1:15 MABB Business Meeting
- 1:45 Platelet Transfusion Therapy ~ Charles Schiffer, MD
Learn about updated criteria and clinical indications for platelet transfusion from a recognized local expert.
- 2:30 2003 Kay Beattie Lecture: Common Antibody Identification Errors and How to Avoid Them ~ Martha Rae Combs, BS, MT(ASCP)SBB
Antibodies can be sneaky—here today, gone tomorrow, hiding in the shadows. Find out how to outsmart them and prevent common errors in antibody ID.
Sponsored by Michigan Community Blood Centers
- 3:15 Refreshments and Exhibits ~ *"Chocolate Dream"* ~
Come float away...
- 4:00 Blood as Criminal Evidence ~ Peter Frade, PhD
CSI comes to the MABB! The stuff we test and transfuse every day has many stories to tell, if you just know how to put the evidence together.
- 4:45 Adjourn

Thursday ~ September 11th ~ Agenda

- 7:30 Registration and Continental Breakfast
- 8:30 What's This Thing Called TRIMA?~
Bill Davey, MBA, MT(ASCP)
The new wave of automated donor collection has hit the beach in Detroit! Find out about how to get the most out of our shrinking donor pool.
Sponsored by Gambro BCT
- 9:15 Update on FDA Biological Product Deviation Reporting ~ Sharon O'Callaghan
So what's been learned from all those BPD reports we've agonized over submitting? Let the FDA's expert tell you!
- 10:00 Refreshments and Exhibits
- 10:45 New Horizons in Blood Management
Gregory P. Derderian, DO, FACOS
More testing, fewer donors, more blood-intensive treatments! New methods of blood conservation promise to help s-t-r-e-t-c-h our limited blood resources.
Sponsored by Ortho Biotech, L.P.
- 11:30 Serology Case Studies ~
Coordinated by Jan Hamilton, MT(ASCP)SBB
Louann Dake, MA, MT(ASCP)SBB
Alisa Michalishyn, MT(ASCP)CLS
Colleen Olsen, MT(ASCP)SBB
- 12:30 LUNCH AND EXHIBITS ~ *Hoagie Plate*
(Vegetarian available upon request with registration)
- 1:15 Donation & Transfusion Complication Surveillance ~
Linda Chambers, MD
Learn how a new national database of blood donation and transfusion complications may help to improve safety for donors and patients.
Sponsored by Charter Medical, Ltd.
- 2:00 Team Building Techniques ~
Sharon Cisco, MT(ASCP)SBB
Learn practical techniques for building and maintaining effective, motivated work teams to meet the challenges of transfusion medicine in the years to come.
- 2:45 Refreshments and Exhibits ~ *Strawberry Fields ~ A garden of sweet delights!*
- 3:30 Hot Topics in Transfusion Medicine ~
Lee Ann Weitekamp, MD
Step right up for a surprise basket of up-to-the-minute info sure to inform and even inspire. Even we don't know what she'll talk about!
- 4:15 Adjourn

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.

Scholarship Opportunities Still Available!

There are three scholarship opportunities available to offset the cost of attending the 2003 MABB Annual Meeting, September 10-11, 2003.

EMANUEL HACKEL SCHOLARSHIP

Scholarship Amount: \$250

Open to: any medical technologist in the field of immunohematology, blood banking, or histocompatibility.

SHEIKH SAEED MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Scholarship Amount: \$200

Open to: any medical technologist or physician-in-training in the fields of immunohematology, histocompatibility, or blood banking.

VI WILLIAMS SCHOLARSHIP

Scholarship Amount: \$125

Open to: any non-supervisory medical technologist working in the field of immunohematology.

(Scholarship descriptions are detailed on the next page)

Send completed application to:

Michigan Association of Blood Banks
 P.O. Box 3605
 Center Line, MI 48015-0605
 or fax to: (586) 573-7058
 or e-mail: janet@hfcc.net

**ALL NOMINATIONS MUST
 BE MADE BY A MEMBER
 OF THE MABB
 (YOU MAY NOMINATE YOURSELF)**

Nominee Information

Which application are you applying for:

Vi Williams Emanuel Hackel Sheikh Saeed

Name:

Address:

Blood bank affiliation:

Telephone number:

e-mail:

How will the nominee benefit from attending the Annual Meeting? (use additional pages if necessary)

Vi Williams Memorial Scholarship

Ortho Clinical Diagnostics sponsors the Vi Williams Scholarship. Applicants are eligible for a \$125 scholarship.

The Vi Williams Scholarship is in memory of Vi Williams, who died in 1983. She was the Chief Technologist at William Beaumont Hospital in Troy and was a very active member of MABB, especially the Education Committee. She is most remembered for her commitment to quality in education and medical technology.

The scholarship is available to any non-supervisory medical technologist working in the field of immunohematology. The applicant must be a member of MABB at the time of application. The applicant must explain in writing how they would benefit from attending the Annual Meeting. The award will be presented during the MABB Business Meeting on September 10, 2003.

Emanuel Hackel Scholarship

The Michigan Association of Blood Banks sponsors the Emanuel Hackel Scholarship to defray the cost of attending the Annual Meeting. Applicants are eligible for a \$250 scholarship.

Dr. Hackel is professor emeritus at Michigan State University. He has been a long time supporter of the MABB.

The scholarship is available to any medical technologist in the field of immunohematology, blood banking, or histocompatibility. An MABB member must nominate the recipient or an MABB member may nominate him/herself. To apply, the nominee must explain how they would benefit from attending the Annual Meeting. The MABB Board of Directors will select the recipient and the award will be presented during the MABB Business Meeting on September 10, 2003.

Sheikh Saeed Memorial Scholarship

The community of blood bankers in Michigan has been fortunate to benefit from the teaching and leadership of an excellent mentor, Dr. Sheikh Saeed. Dr. Saeed was very active in education of technologists and physicians in blood banking and transfusion medicine. He was always willing to share his knowledge and experience with us neophytes. Dr. Saeed also worked tirelessly on behalf of the MABB. His tragic sudden death in 1995 was a shock to all his friends and colleagues. The Sheikh Saeed Memorial Scholarship will help perpetuate the tradition of lifelong learning that Dr. Saeed exemplified.

The Michigan Association of Blood Banks is pleased to offer the Sheikh Saeed Memorial Scholarship of \$200 to defray the cost of attending the Annual Meeting. Dr.

Saeed was a past President and an active participant in the MABB for many years. He was particularly involved in the Annual Meeting. Dr. Saeed was deeply committed to the education of technologists and physicians in blood banking and transfusion medicine.

The Sheikh Saeed Memorial Scholarship is open to any medical technologist or physician-in-training in the fields of immunohematology, histocompatibility, or blood banking. An MABB member must nominate the recipient. A member may nominate his/herself. The recipient will be selected by the Board of Directors based on how the nominee would benefit from attending the Annual Meeting, and the award will be presented during the MABB Business Meeting on September 10, 2003.

"Lessons Learned from the Blackout"

August 14, 2003 was a wakeup call for many of us. The unexpected power failure was an equalizer, which challenged people and systems without consideration for their importance.

The lights had not been out long when there was opportunity for process improvement, you might say. The techs knew the drill; we had practiced many times since our construction started a year ago. This was different it lasted longer and was more widespread.

After receiving 25 evacuated patients from North Oakland Medical Center, I called Pat to see if they had any blood to go with the patients they sent. The blood had been sent to St Joes in Pontiac where more of the patients had been sent. Fortunately the patients we received did not require transfusion.

Red Cross was forced to distribute blood exclusively for emergencies. Since the traffic lights were not working, it wasn't clear when it would arrive if we did need it. Elective surgeries and outpatient tests were postponed so our inventory remained stable.

We guarded that blood in its cool refrigerator with envy. Although the interior temperature remained in range, the alarm had to be silenced every 5 minutes.

I since discovered that power failure warnings could be set to ring every half hour instead of 5 minutes and that the condenser alarm temperature could easily tolerate a 10 degrees higher setting.

Emergency power strips need to have every outlet tested periodically and extension cords and fresh batteries are good to have on site.

The nurses and lab assistants implemented a relay plan where the nurse on the 6th floor delivered a specimen to the 5th floor; a person from there relayed it to the 4th. Personnel from each floor never had to go more than one flight of stairs

Even though the hospital has surge protectors, we unplugged equipment not in use that contained any type of computer. Many ideas are still being discussed for process improvement. In an attempt to learn from our experiences, I invited a few techs from varying size hospitals to share their stories with the blood bank community.

Mary DePouw • Crittenton Hospital

- ✧ Emergency plugs don't always deliver emergency power.
- ✧ Downtime procedures that work well for 2 hours cause severe writer's cramp after 24 hours.
- ✧ Back-up air cooled compressors need emergency power.
- ✧ Can only do three flights of stairs before getting winded. Need to take the stairs more often
- ✧ It is hard to get dry ice from the shipping dock up several flights of stairs without elevators.
- ✧ Make your own peanut butter and jelly sandwiches taste great after several hours without food.
- ✧ Some light is nice even in store rooms.
- ✧ You can't have too many flashlights and batteries.
- ✧ It is important to know where the circuit breakers are located.
- ✧ You don't want to drink if you can't flush.
- ✧ Keep your gas tank at least half full.
- ✧ Keep some emergency cash available.
- ✧ It is NOT a good idea to empty a water bath before moving it to an emergency outlet if you don't have any water available to refill it.
- ✧ Sweat does not make your skin glisten.
- ✧ A sense of humor helps in all situations.
- ✧ It is best to be on vacation when a power outage strikes.
- ✧ Wear shorts and t-shirts when the AC goes out.
- ✧ Blood bank technologists are great. They just keep on going better than the energizer bunny.

Linda Cardine • Henry Ford Health System

Some comments and suggestions from Nancy Leland • Wm. Beaumont Hospital/Royal Oak

1. Wet and dry ice were quickly in a shortage, I recommend putting gel packs in your refrigerator and leaving them there so you can move blood product around without ice, and putting ice packs in freezer for the same reason.
2. When we had to move crossmatched blood to boxes with wet ice, we put the names of the patients with crossmatched blood on the outside of the boxes so we wouldn't have to open the boxes unnecessarily.
3. Be prepared to thaw plasma under warm running water if the power goes out.
4. My staff was ready when we went to "down time" procedures because we practice.
5. We have an "emergency" phone that is not connected to the hospital switchboard, so when the switchboard was jammed we had an incoming line.
6. We manually agitated the platelets to keep them viable.
7. When the room got very hot the smaller refrigerators had trouble maintaining temp, so we placed buckets of dry ice in the refrigerator to cool them down.

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO SHARED THEIR EXPERIENCE.
I WELCOME ADDITIONAL COMMENTS, EXPERIENCES AND SOLUTIONS FOR OUR NEXT EDITION.
PLEASE SEND TO: mdepouw@crittenton.com

Black Out 2003

Pat Carra • North Oakland Medical Centers

I knew that I had to go to work on Friday, August 15, 2003. I am the Section Leader of the Blood Bank at North Oakland Medical Centers (NOMC). I did not know exactly what I would be facing, but I knew that power was out in parts of Michigan, including my house, Ohio, New York and other areas. I decided to bring my lunch and water just in case – perhaps dietary would not be in. A lot of people were not going to work today.

I arrived to find security flagging me down. The person remembered I worked at NOMC, and directed me to the parking area. There were no arms on the gates. There was a huge hose across the road that I was told not to drive over. As I walked in, I could tell we were on generator so I walked up the stairs. It is only two flights of steps, but I am not used to taking the stairs anymore. Only one elevator works on generator. Because we had been on generator recently, I had an idea of where flashlights and extension cords were if we needed them.

The midnight techs informed me that the generator had died in the middle of the night and we were now on back-up generator. They had moved the blood out of the refrigerators, into ARC boxes and put the boxes in the walk-in refrigerator since that seemed to be the coolest place. They did a great job monitoring the units every half hour. I was told the back-up generator may not last, so the hospital was evacuating the patients.

I called the house director to see how many patients were left in-house. The house director told me they would be evacuating all of the patients. We discussed shipping the blood out and keeping six O neg units just in case. I called St. Joe's in Pontiac. Karen Griese at St. Joe's checked with Michelle Tuson. They would accept my units! They were wonderful! After we packed up the units, Karen met my driver at the ER and put our units in their system. I didn't know if I would see the units again.

Before actually shipping the units out, we had to move the units a couple of times to different refrigerators to keep them at proper temperature. Then our back up power died. The lab was totally in the dark. There was no air conditioning. It was hot and humid both outside and, more so, inside. We did have some flashlights and two windows at the end of the lab. Fortunately, it was daylight. Dietary supplied food and bottled water. Our pathologist, Dr. Hoddinott, went to Sam's Club and bought some coolers. His wife was going for dry ice for the Fresh Frozen Plasma (FFP) to either keep it or transfer it.

Without power, the temperatures in the freezer and refrigerators went up rapidly. I was told the truck bringing the dry ice would not be there until 1600. At 1200, the freezer was at -25C. 30 minutes later it was at -11C. I put my Blood Bank reagents in the cooler and used the melting FFP as ice on top.

Our Lab Manager was going to another Disaster Meeting at 1600. I wanted to wait until after the meeting to decide the fate of my last six O neg units. But the temperature in the

ARC box was rising 1 degree C every ½ hour. At 1515, the temperature was 5.5C. The units had to go. The power was not back on. I think this was very emotional for me - giving up my last six O neg units. The Blood Bank was officially closed.

North Oakland Medical Centers opened its ER Saturday morning. St. Joe's in Pontiac graciously returned our blood to us. Thank you, again for all your help.

Lessons learned from the Black Out: We have put together containers with flashlights, power cords, hand sanitizers, tarps, etc. so everyone knows where items are. For better communication, the red line ER phone to the outside is marked and everyone has its number (at home). The Lab is looking into our own supply of power for the walk-in refrigerator, so we can just put all reagents in the walk-in. Hopefully, our hospital generator will remain healthy in the future.



A Medium-size Hospital's Perspective

Marion Chung • Wm. Beaumont Hospital/Troy

The hospital initiated and mobilized the Disaster Response Plan shortly after 4:00PM. Emergency Generators that had been replaced and constantly tested (causing electric blips and bumps in the blood storage alarm systems) over the last two years, sputtered and roared to life. This allowed all the day shift employees to exit the parking lot when the gates finally lifted (not knowing that a Disaster Response had been initiated). The traffic light was non-functional, but all remained calm and left. Meanwhile, situations were monitored in house. 220V supported electrical units may be efficient, but 220V emergency power back ups are needed. All was functioning normally and peacefully, the phones were strangely quiet. No outside initiated calls could be transmitted to in-house; this included the SEM-ARC efforts to call about blood order availabilities (they didn't, but we couldn't tell). Calls initiated in-house to outside were sporadic as well as the cell phones' attempts. Blood and Component inventories storage conditions were maintained, Unfortunately the staff's environmental support system wasn't—HOT and muggy!!

Some water pressure for the toilets on the lower floors was restored Friday. There were no lights in the locker rooms, and flashlights were needed for the combination locks. The Cafeteria was minimally staffed and did provide sandwiches and bottled drinks to those that were in facilities. No lights and limited EC power to the kitchen and dietary units meant no coffee!! Staff was released when OR's cancelled and a holiday crew was maintained (realized later that we would have been unable to recall staff if needed). Finding gas was an effort, especially in the dark with no traffic lights, as well as a thinking about cleaning the refrigerator and grilling every thing that was going to go bad. Good thing that the blackout didn't last too long.

All in all, the lab functioned well. Things that could be perceived as a future problem are being identified, listed, and catalogued for further considerations and actions.

MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF BLOOD BANKS
P.O. Box 3605 • Center Line, MI 48015-0605



Job Posting

Henry Ford Health System seeks an experienced blood bank technologist (MT, ASCP) for full time midnight shift position. Great opportunity for experienced person to become a part of a terrific team. We offer flexible scheduling and a supportive environment. Perform routine and, if desired, complex testing to enhance your skills. Continuous education supported and encouraged. Competitive salary and benefits. Contact Linda Cardine at (313) 916-1572.



Blood Banker's Disaster Creed

**On my honor I will try to do my duty to
God and my country,**

**To help other people at all times of
disaster.**

**I promise to freeze more ice packs
hereafter.**

**I will waste less water to save for a
flush,**

**Lest we run dry and make someone
blush.**

**I will keep ample cords of extension
Just for power failure prevention.**

I'll stock a battery of every size

**In case Detroit light and power dies
I'll continually improve our plans for
disaster**

Til every crisis we are sure to master.