



ABC NEWSLETTER

CURRENT EVENTS AND TRENDS IN BLOOD SERVICES

Visit ABC's Web site at: www.americasblood.org

2021 #27

July 30, 2021

INSIDE:

BRIEFLY NOTED.....	2
RESEARCH IN BRIEF	3
Registration Remains Open for 2021 ABC Medical Directors Workshop & Summer Summit	4
Webinar: Why Automation?	4
REGULATORY NEWS....	5
WORD IN WASHINGTON	6
MEMBER NEWS.....	7
GLOBAL NEWS	9
COMPANY NEWS	9
CALENDAR.....	10
POSITIONS.....	11

Please Note: The ABC Newsletter will not be published on Aug. 6th. We will resume regular publication on Aug. 13th. Thank you for your continued interest.

Transfusion Care Hospice Bill Introduced with Bipartisan Support

Sens. Jacky Rosen (D-Nev.), John Barrasso (R-Wyo.), and Tammy Baldwin (D-Wis.) [announced](#) in a news release on July 29th the introduction of the “Improving Access to Transfusion Care for Hospice Patients Act of 2021.” According to the announcement, the legislation “would carve out payment for transfusion services within the hospice Medicare benefit, billing Medicare for transfusion separately. Patients needing this care would be able to continue to receive it outside of the hospice bundle, while still receiving full hospice benefits. Currently, many patients needing transfusions to maintain quality of life (due to conditions such as leukemia, lymphoma, or myeloma) often wait much longer to opt into hospice because they can lose access to transfusion care when they do so, given that such care currently is paid for out of a capped hospice benefit amount. Hospices are allowed to cover transfusions, but it is very costly, so few patients can afford to do so on a regular basis when in hospice care.”

“Blood transfusions are a demonstrated palliative measure to improve quality of life for many patients with a life limiting illness,” said America’s Blood Centers Chief Executive Officer Kate Fry-Cicero, MBA, CAE in the news release. “This important bill ensures patients can receive transfusions while also benefiting from the holistic care afforded under the Medicare hospice benefit.” The bill also received endorsements from the American Red Cross and the Myelodysplastic Syndromes (MDS) Foundation, Inc. “About 70 percent of all patients suffering from Myelodysplastic Syndromes (MDS) develop a regular blood transfusion dependence in the course of their disease,” added Audrey Hassan a patient liaison at MDS Foundation. “Since their anemia is refractory, they are in need of blood transfusions. The benefits of blood transfusions for MDS patients undergoing palliative care are significant and can improve their quality of life.”

America’s Blood Centers will continue to provide updates on this bill and its other advocacy efforts as they become available. Please contact [Diane Calmus, JD](#), senior director of Federal Government Affairs, with any questions or comments.

(Source: Sens. Jacky Rosen, John Barrasso, and Tammy Baldwin Joint [News Release](#), 7/29/21) ♦

BRIEFLY NOTED

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [issued](#) a “Save the Date” for the “Hereditary Hemorrhagic Telangiectasia (HHT) in 2021: Diagnosis and Advances in Treatment” webinar. It is scheduled for August 19th from 2-3 p.m. EDT. Registration is [open](#). According to the announcement, the webinar’s objectives are:

- “[I]st common presentations and an approach to the diagnosis of HHT;
- [d]escribe some of the challenges with anemia management in HHT and strategies that may be helpful in its management; and
- [d]escribe the HHT Treatment Guidelines and recognize the emergence of systemic antiangiogenic therapies as a treatment modality.”

HHT is an autosomal dominant bleeding disorder due to abnormal blood vessel formation affecting approximately 1 in 5,000 individuals. Bleeding manifestations occur in nearly all patients, characterized by recurrent nosebleeds and/or chronic gastrointestinal bleeding. Bleeding commonly leads to iron deficiency anemia, which can be severe and result in dependence on regular support with iron infusion and red cell transfusion.”

(Source: CDC [Announcement](#), 7/29/21)

A report [published](#) in *Science Magazine* states that a 3-month moratorium has been placed on five public research institutions in France that study prions, “—a class of misfolding, infectious proteins that cause fatal brain diseases—after a retired lab worker who handled prions in the past was diagnosed with Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD), the most common prion disease in humans.” The publication added that “[a]n investigation is underway to find out whether the patient, who worked at a lab run by the National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food and Environment (INRAE), contracted the disease on the job. If so, it would be the second such case in France in the past few years. In June 2019, an INRAE lab worker named Émilie Jaumain died at age 33, 10 years after pricking her thumb during an experiment with prion-infected mice. Her family is now suing INRAE for manslaughter and endangering life; her illness had already led to tightened safety measures at French prion labs.”

(Source: *Science Magazine*, [France issues moratorium on prion research after fatal brain disease strikes two lab workers](#), 7/28/21) ◆

The *ABC Newsletter* (ISSN #1092-0412) is published by America’s Blood Centers® and distributed by e-mail. Contents and views expressed are not official statements of ABC or its Board of Directors. Copyright 2021 by America’s Blood Centers. Reproduction of the *ABC Newsletter* is forbidden unless permission is granted by the publisher. (ABC members need not obtain prior permission if proper credit is given.)

ABC advocates for and advances policies that promote the role of independent blood centers in providing life-saving blood products and recognize the continuous need for a safe and robust blood supply. ABC exists to advocate for laws and regulations recognizing the essential role that independent blood centers play in the health care system; promote partnerships, policies and programs that increase awareness about the need for blood donation; and serve as a thought-leader in the advancement of evidence-based medical and scientific solutions related to health and safety.

America’s Blood Centers

Chief Executive Officer: Kate Fry

Chief Medical Officer: Rita Reik

Editor: Mack Benton

Subscriptions Manager: Leslie Maundy

Annual Subscription Rate: \$390

Send subscription queries to

memberservices@americasblood.org

America’s Blood Centers

1717 K St. NW, Suite 900, Washington, DC 20006

Phone: (202) 393-5725

Send news tips to newsletter@americasblood.org.



RESEARCH IN BRIEF

Findings of a Hemovigilance System Monitoring Reports of Donor Reactions. An article published in *Vox Sanguinis* stated that “[i]n response to a desire to benchmark and compare donation complication rates as well as transfusion reactions between countries and hemovigilance systems (HVS), the International Haemovigilance Network (IHN) developed the ‘ISTARE’ database (International Surveillance of Transfusion Adverse Reactions and Events) for annual capture of national aggregate h[e]movigilance data...From 2008, national HVS entered annual aggregate data on donor complications in the ISTARE online database.” The researchers noted that “[r]eactions were captured according to severity level (mild, moderate, severe)...The present analysis was conducted retrospectively...Twenty-four HVS provided figures for donations and for one or more years: the median number of years per system was 7, IQR 2–8...All but one HVS were national, with one (North American) HVS providing data from a large, multi-state-based blood establishment.” The authors explained that [t]he total number of country years (CY- submitted data for one year) was 138, covering 154.8 million (M) donations...The overall complication rate was 6.3/1,000 donations, and the median country rate was 3.2 complications/1,000 donations (IQR 1.1–10.1)...One or more severe reactions were reported in 113/138 CY (84.1 percent) [but] varied considerably between HVS.” The researchers stated that “[v]asovagal reactions (VVR) were the most commonly reported complication with overall incidence 4.6/1000 donations and median country rate 3.1/1000 donations (IQR 0.6–7.7)...Rare complications [were reported] such as generalized allergic reaction (0.10 per 100,000 cases in 40 CY) [and] major blood vessel injury (0.12 per 100, 000, [in] 6 CY).” Eighteen HVS “provided separate data for complications of whole blood donation (WBD) and apheresis (89 CY, 101.6 M WBD and 26.3 M apheresis donations)...[T]he median country rate of vasovagal reactions was 3.4/1,000 WBD (IQR 1.0–9.1) and 1.5/1,000 apheresis procedures (1.0–4.2)...Reported hematoma rates were higher for apheresis than for WBD: the median per HVS was 39/100,000 WBD (IQR 31–116) vs. 417/ 100,000 apheresis (IQR 69–557).” The authors concluded that “[i]nternational reporting allow[ed] HVS to study rates of different types of blood donation complications.” “Variability of reporting practices and of severity assessment between countries impair[ed] the feasibility of comparisons between HVS.”

Citation: Wiersum-Osselton, J.C., Politis, C., Richardson, C., Goto, N., Grouzi, E., Marano, G., and Land, K.J., [Complications of blood donation reported to haemovigilance systems: analysis of eleven years of international surveillance](#). 2021 *Vox Sang*; 116: 628-636.

Contributed by Richard Gammon, MD, Medical Director at OneBlood 💧

Upcoming ABC Webinars – Don’t Miss Out!

- **Why Automation? Webinar** sponsored by Macopharma – August 11th from 2 – 3 p.m. (EDT). [Registration](#) is open and complimentary.
- **“Rising from Adversity Towards Renewed Resilience” Webinar** – August 12th from 3 – 4 p.m. (EDT). More details coming soon.
- **ABC QA Forum Call** – August 19th from 2 – 3 p.m. (EDT). More details coming soon.
- **ABC Human Resources Forum Call** – August 25th from 3 – 4 p.m. (EDT). More details coming soon.





America's Blood Centers®
It's About *Life.*

INSIDE ABC

The programs and services described in the Inside ABC section are available to ABC member blood centers and their staff only, unless otherwise specified.

Registration Remains Open for 2021 ABC Medical Directors Workshop & Summer Summit

[Register](#) today for America's Blood Centers (ABC) [2021 Medical Directors Workshop and Summer Summit](#). The Summer Summit and Medical Directors Workshop will take place in-person in Cleveland, Ohio August 4th-6th. Virtual registration options also exist for those unable to attend including group discounts for virtual registration to allow as many blood center staff members to participate as possible. The program is available [here](#). ABC is working with its event location partner to ensure the safety and well-being of all attendees in accordance with local, state, and national guidelines.

Webinar: Why Automation?

Please join us for the “Why Automation?” webinar sponsored by Macopharma on August 11th at 2 p.m. EDT. [Registration](#) is open to everyone. The webinar will feature a panel of community blood center speakers sharing their experiences in automation. At the conclusion of the webinar, attendees will be able to:

- [d]escribe how automation can ensure that they are able to make the most out of every drop of blood by utilizing advanced technology in blood collection and component processes;
- [use] estimated blood volume features to lead to a safer donation for each donor; and
- [identify] the benefits of [using] automation in blood collection and component manufacturing.

Note: The content of this sponsored event was developed independently from the ABC continuing education program. Opinions expressed during these events are those of the faculty and are not necessarily a reflection of ABC's opinions, nor are they supported, sponsored, or endorsed by ABC. Continuing education (CE) or continuing medical education (CME) credits are not offered. ♦

Upcoming ABC Webinars – Don't Miss Out!

- **Why Automation? Webinar** sponsored by Macopharma – August 11th from 2 – 3 p.m. (EDT). [Registration](#) is open and complimentary.
- **“Rising from Adversity Towards Renewed Resilience” Webinar** – August 12th from 3 – 4 p.m. (EDT). More details coming soon.
- **ABC QA Forum Call** – August 19th from 2 – 3 p.m. (EDT). More details coming soon.
- **ABC Human Resources Forum Call** – August 25th from 3 – 4 p.m. (EDT). More details coming soon.



REGULATORY NEWS

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Cellular, Tissue, and Gene Therapies Advisory Committee (CTGTAC) will **hold** its next meeting virtually September 2nd-3rd from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. EDT according to notice published in the *Federal Register* on July 26th. The meeting will include open discussions on the toxicity risks of adeno-associated virus (AAV) vector-based gene therapy products." Other topics being addressed are:

- oncogenicity risks due to vector genome integration and safety issues identified during preclinical and/or clinical evaluation;
- recommendations on vector integration and oncogenicity risks;
- discussion and recommendations on hepatotoxicity issues;
- recommendations on thrombotic microangiopathy issues;
- recommendations on non-clinical findings of neurotoxicity, especially related to the dorsal root ganglion toxicity issues; and
- discussion and recommendations on clinical findings of neurotoxicity, based on brain MRI studies.

Additional information can be found on the FDA [website](#).

(Source: *Federal Register* [Notice](#), 7/26/21)

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) **published** a notice in the *Federal Register* on July 29th for the August 17th-18th Advisory Committee on Blood and Tissue Safety and Availability (ACBTSA) virtual meeting. As reported last week in the *ABC Newsletter*, the meeting will include discussions of the "recommendations to improve the supply chain and data infra-structure that supports the blood industry, especially during public health emergencies. In order to facilitate this discussion, key stakeholders from across the nation and around the world will present on hemovigilance, preparedness, inventory management systems, and other relevant issues." Both meeting days are tentatively scheduled to be full day meetings from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. EDT. The meeting agenda and any other accompanying materials will be available on the HHS [website](#) prior to the meeting.

(Source: *Federal Register* [Notice](#), 7/29/21)

A **notice** in the *Federal Register* on July 26th announced the next HHS Tick Borne Disease Working Group (TBDWG) meeting is scheduled to take place virtually on August 26th. As reported last week in the *ABC Newsletter*, "the purpose of the meeting is to "focus on plans to develop the next report due December 2022 on federal tick-borne activities and research, taking into consideration the 2018 and 2020 reports. The 2022 report will address a wide range of topics related to tick-borne diseases, such as, surveillance, prevention, diagnosis, diagnostics, and treatment; identify advances made in research, as well as overlap and gaps in tick-borne disease research; and provide recommendations regarding any appropriate changes or improvements to such activities and research." More information including the agenda will be made available on the HHS [website](#).

(Source: *Federal Register* [Notice](#), 7/26/21) 💧



WORD IN WASHINGTON

During a July 20th hearing of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP), U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Acting Commissioner Janet Woodcock, MD [testified](#) regarding the agency's Covid-19 response. As part of FDA's response to the public health emergency, Commissioner Woodcock indicated that the FDA's Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research (CBER) is "working on multiple fronts to address the COVID-19 pandemic including helping to ensure an adequate and safe blood supply. Other priorities of the agency described during the hearing were:

- "[e]xpediting clinical trials for vaccines and certain therapeutic biological products that hold promise to prevent or treat COVID-19 by providing timely interactions, scientific advice, and recommendations for specific sponsors, and generally through guidance documents;
- [s]upporting product development and facilitating the scaling up of manufacturing capacity for high priority products to treat COVID-19;
- [e]xpediting the review of Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) requests and Biologics License Applications (BLAs) for critical medical products to address COVID-19; and
- [p]roviding information to healthcare providers and researchers to help them submit expanded access IND requests to permit the use of investigational products for patients with COVID-19."

(Source: FDA [Announcement](#), 7/20/21)

Additional review of the Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System and Ambulatory Surgical Center Payment System Proposed Rule (CMS-1753-P) has found that most blood product reimbursements increased between 2.6-2.7 percent. The 60-day comment period for the proposed rule will end on September 17th with the final rule scheduled to be released in November. The rule also includes a proposed market basket increase of 2.5 percent reduced by a 0.2 percent productivity adjustment for an overall increase of 2.3 percent for hospitals meeting relevant quality reporting requirements. Please contact [Diane Calmus, JD](#), senior director of Federal Government Affairs, with any questions or comments on the proposed rule.

(Source: CMS Proposed Rule, 7/19/21)

An international Joint Cybersecurity Advisory [developed](#) by the U.S. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), the Australian Cyber Security Centre (ACSC), the United Kingdom's National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC), and the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) described the top 30 vulnerabilities targeted by "malicious cyber actors." According to the [document](#), "[i]n 2020, cyber actors readily exploited recently disclosed vulnerabilities to compromise unpatched systems. Based on available data to the U.S. Government, a majority of the top vulnerabilities targeted in 2020 were disclosed during the past two years. Cyber actor exploitation of more recently disclosed software flaws in 2020 probably stems, in part, from the expansion of remote work options amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The rapid shift and increased use of remote work options, such as virtual private networks (VPNs) and cloud-based environments, likely placed additional burden on cyber defenders struggling to maintain and keep pace with routine software patching. Four of the most targeted vulnerabilities in 2020 affected remote work, VPNs, or cloud-based technologies. Many VPN gateway devices remained unpatched during 2020, with the growth of remote work options challenging the ability of organization to conduct rigorous patch management... In 2021, malicious cyber actors continued to target vulnerabilities in perimeter-type devices. Among those highly exploited in 2021 are vulnerabilities in Microsoft, Pulse, Accellion, VMware, and Fortinet. CISA, ACSC, the NCSC, and FBI assess that public and private organizations worldwide remain vulnerable to compromise from the exploitation of these CVEs. Malicious cyber actors will most likely continue to use older known vulnerabilities, such as CVE-2017-11882 affecting Microsoft Office, as

(continued on page 7)

WORD IN WASHINGTON (continued from page 6)

long as they remain effective and systems remain unpatched...Organizations are encouraged to remediate or mitigate vulnerabilities as quickly as possible to reduce the risk of exploitation. Most can be remediated by patching and updating systems. Organizations that have not remediated these vulnerabilities should investigate for the presence of IOCs and, if compromised, initiate incident response and recovery plans. See the Contact Information section below for how to reach CISA to report an incident or request technical assistance.

(Source: Joint Cybersecurity [Advisory](#), 7/28/21) ♦

MEMBER NEWS

Vitalant is launching the Vitalant Innovation Center in Denver, Colo., a key part of the Vitalant Research Institute. The organization is investing in the Innovation Center as part of its commitment to advancing the science of transfusion medicine. The center will provide scientific research and translational development expertise to design innovative processes for Vitalant and bring new products to the patients it serves. Translational science and development involve taking research knowledge and putting it into practical use to make an impact that shapes the practice of blood banking and transfusion medicine. The Vitalant Innovation Center will provide a venue for evaluating productivity and efficiency improvements outside of normal blood center operations. The center will also prepare and distribute investigational blood products for clinical trials. Vitalant aims to attract pioneering vendors and investigators as partners focused on transforming transfusion medicine, which will provide a funding stream to support accelerated innovation and deliver industry-leading products and services. Construction on the new center is scheduled to begin in early 2022 to create space for additional contract manufacturing and expanded equipment, software, and product evaluation capacity. The new space will expand Vitalant Research Institute’s capacity to collect research donor blood and blood components and expand biorepository capacity in Denver to source cryopreserved samples. The development and rollout of the new Vitalant Innovation Center is led by Susanne Marschner, PhD, vice president of Research and Scientific Programs at Vitalant Research Institute. Dr. Marschner recently joined Vitalant, bringing with her more than 20 years of experience in the field of cell biology and immunology, most recently in her leadership role in global scientific affairs with Terumo Blood and Cell Technologies. If you have any questions about the Vitalant Innovation Center, please [contact](#) Dr. Marschner.

(Source: Vitalant Announcement, 7/28/21)

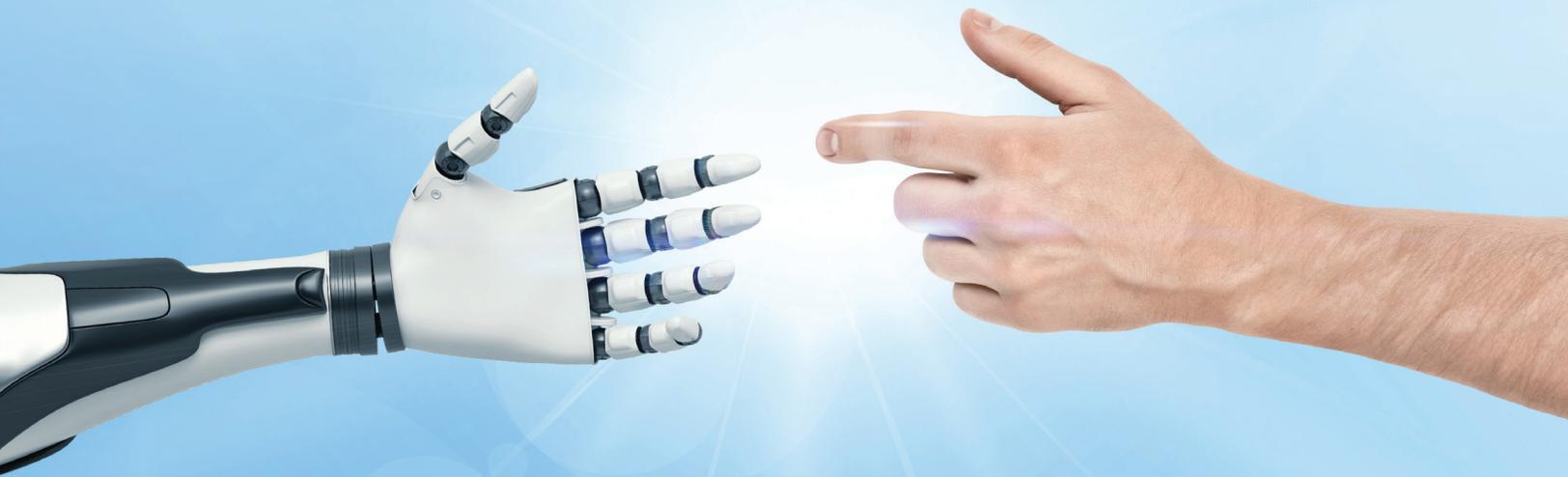
Contributed by Jill Frier, Strategic Communications Manager at Vitalant

San Diego Blood Bank recently [welcomed](#) California Senate President *pro Tempore* Toni Atkins to its headquarters to raise awareness for blood donation. Sen. Atkins is a blood donation advocate. She is currently working towards reaching the 1-gallon milestone and took the time to donate on this occasion, while encouraging other eligible individuals to schedule appointments to donate to prevent blood shortages. Sen. Atkins was elected in 2016 to the state senate and assumed the role of President *pro Tempore* in 2018.

(Source: San Diego Blood Bank [Announcement](#), 7/20/21) ♦

Left to Right: San Diego Blood Bank Chief Executive Officer David Wellis, PhD with Sen. Toni Atkins during her recent donation.





Procleix Panther System

The Future is Now

Power up your lab with the Procleix Panther System, featuring Automation Ready Technology (ART), now available with customizable configurations designed to improve automation and operational flexibility.



Learn more about this empowering innovation at www.procleix.com

SCREENING



GLOBAL NEWS

NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) recently [partnered](#) with 20th Century Studios to encourage individuals to schedule appointments to donate blood. With the upcoming release of the studio's film titled "Free Guy," co-stars Ryan Reynolds and Jodie Comer shot a [video](#) promoting blood donation. According to the announcement, "[i]n the movie we meet Guy (Ryan Reynolds), a bank teller who discovers he is actually a background player in an open-world video game. He decides to become the hero of his own story. Demand for blood is rising and patients need you more than ever. You can be a hero." Zeeshan Asghar, manager of National Partnerships at NHSBT, [told Hot World Report](#), "[t]here is a real shortage of male and young people giving blood so we particularly need hero donors from those groups to help us save more lives. We're delighted to have the support of Ryan and Jodie with their entertaining and engaging video about the lifesaving power of blood donation, which will help us to reach the people we need to become the donors of the future. The NHS needs 400 new donors every day to maintain the blood supply." The movie will be released in theaters August 13th.



(Sources: NHSBT [Announcement](#), 7/30/21; *Hot World Report*, [Ryan Reynolds and Jodie Comer Encourage Fans to Donate Blood](#), 7/30/21)

Australian Red Cross Lifeblood recently [announced](#) that it has become the country's first licensed fecal microbiota for transplant (FMT) manufacturer. "Lifeblood already has the expertise in supplying donated biological products from our blood and milk services, so becoming the first TGA-licensed FMT manufacturer has been a natural step to help us improve even more lives," said Lifeblood Executive Director Stuart Chesneau in a news release. "The new Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) licensing requirements are very important as they will ensure FMT products are safer for patients and consistently meet a high standard of quality. At Lifeblood we're always looking for more ways to help Australian patients through vital, life-giving biological products. Being able to easily access safe FMT has been a major roadblock in treatment for patients, so this is a very important step in making treatment more accessible to Australians in need." The TGA, Australia's regulatory agency, created new standards for implementation this month requiring non-hospital FMT manufacturers to be licensed.

(Source: Australian Red Cross Lifeblood [News Release](#), 6/22/21) ◆

COMPANY NEWS

Spark Therapeutics, a member of Roche Group, has [reported](#) findings from an ongoing phase I/II trial of its gene therapy candidate (SPK-8011) to treat patients with hemophilia A. According to a company news release, 16 of 18 trial participants that received the investigational gene therapy "resulted in sustained factor VIII (FVIII) expression in 16 of 18 participants with up to 4 years of follow-up...In the 16 patients with sustained FVIII expression, there was a 91.2 percent reduction in annualized bleed rate (ABR) and 97 percent reduction in annualized FVIII infusion rate (AIR) after vector administration. Administration of SPK-8011 in patients with hemophilia A resulted in an acceptable safety profile with no deaths and no FVIII inhibitor development with up to 4 years of follow-up. As previously disclosed, two of the 17 participants with over one year of data, lost FVIII expression due to a presumed cellular immune response to the AAV capsid that was unresponsive to immunosuppression." Spark Therapeutics Chief Medical Officer Gallia Levy, MD, PhD added, "[w]e are encouraged by the results from the phase 1/2 trial for investigational SPK-8011, which has been evaluated in the largest phase 1/2 gene therapy trial in this disease to date, and demonstrates continued response over time, a critical measure of a therapy's potential to transform lives for people living with this chronic condition. We remain focused on optimizing the dose and immune

(continued on page 10)

COMPANY NEWS (continued from page 9)

modulatory regimen in the phase 1/2 study and look forward to continuing our evaluation of this therapy in a [p]hase III study.” Spark Therapeutics believes the data, which was presented during the International Society of Thrombosis and Hemostasis (ISTH) 2021 Virtual Congress, “reinforce the ability of a [novel bio-engineered adeno-associated viral] (AAV) gene therapy targeting hepatocytes to achieve stable and durable FVIII expression with an acceptable safety profile.”

(Source: Spark Therapeutics [News Release](#), 7/21/21)

BioNTech SE [announced](#) that it is working on a malaria vaccine as part of a larger malaria project that aims to:

- develop a “safe” and “highly effective” mRNA malaria vaccine; and
- develop a “sustainable vaccine production and supply solutions on the African continent.”

BioNTech SE Chief Executive Officer Uğur Şahin, MD added in the news release, “[t]he response to the pandemic has shown that science and innovation can transform people’s lives when all key stakeholders work together towards a common goal. We are committed to bringing our innovations to those who need them most. We are more than grateful to be part of the joint efforts of the Eradicate Malaria project. Together with our partners, we will do whatever it takes to develop a safe and effective mRNA-based Malaria vaccine that will prevent the disease, reduce mortality, and ensure a sustainable solution for the African continent and other regions affected by this disease. Our efforts will include cutting-edge research and innovation, significant investments in vaccine development, the establishment of manufacturing facilities, and the transfer of manufacturing expertise to production sites on the African continent and wherever else it is needed.”

(Source: BioNTech SE [News Release](#), 7/26/21) ♦

CALENDAR

***Note to subscribers:** Submissions for a free listing in this calendar (published weekly) are welcome. Send information to newsletter@americasblood.org or by fax to (202) 899-2621. (For a more detailed announcement in the weekly “Meetings” section of the newsletter, please include program information.)*

2021

Aug. 4. **ABC Medical Directors Workshop, Cleveland, Ohio.** Registration is [open](#).

Aug. 5-6. **ABC Summer Summit, Cleveland, Ohio.** Registration is [open](#).

Aug. 17-18. **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Advisory Committee on Blood and Tissue Safety and Availability (ACBTSA) (Virtual).** More information available [here](#).

Aug. 17-19. **2021 ADRP Conference, Kansas City, Mo.** Registration is [open](#).

Aug. 26. **HHS Tick-Borne Disease Working Group (TBDWG). (Virtual).** More information available [here](#).

Sept. 2-3. **U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Cellular, Tissue, and Gene Therapies Advisory Committee (CTGTAC) September 2-3, 2021 (Virtual).** More information available [here](#).

Sept. 15-17. **4th European Conference on Donor Health and Management, Hamburg, Germany.** Registration is [open](#).

Sept. 22. **11th Annual Symposium on Red Cell Genotyping 2021: The New Normal, Bethesda, MD (Hybrid).** For more information click [here](#) or contact [Natasha Leon](#).

(continued on page 11)

CALENDAR (continued from page 10)

Sept. 23. **NIH Clinical Center Department of Transfusion Medicine and The American Red Cross 40th Annual Immunohematology and Blood Transfusion Symposium (Virtual)**. For more information click [here](#).

Sept 27-30. **Advanced Medical Technology Association (AdvaMed) MedTech Conference, Washington D.C., and Minneapolis Minn. (Hybrid)**. Registration is [open](#).

Oct. 12-15. **American Association of Tissue Banks (AATB) Annual Meeting, Atlanta, Ga.** More information available [here](#). Registration is [open](#).

Oct. 17-19. **AABB Annual Meeting (Virtual)**. Registration is [open](#).

Nov. 3-4. **The Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) Industry Day (Virtual)**. More details available [here](#). 💧

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

Classified advertisements, including notices of positions available and wanted, are published free of charge for a maximum of three weeks per position per calendar year for ABC institutional members. There are charges for non-members: \$139 per placement for ABC Newsletter subscribers and \$279 for non-subscribers. A six (6) percent processing fee will be applied to all credit card payments. Notices ordinarily are limited to 150 words. To place an ad, e-mail: newsletter@americasblood.org

POSITIONS

Executive Director of Oklahoma Blood Institute (Ada, Okla.). The Oklahoma Blood Institute is seeking a “community spirited” professional to LEAD its Ada team in fulfilling the mission to recruit blood donors, drive sponsors, and volunteers and to store and deliver blood units for local hospitals. This public-facing, “visible” position not only requires an outgoing, bright, and energetic personality to foster relationships, but also demands detailed attention to planning, communication, regulations, finances, and personnel. Significant successes in project management and organizational expansion and entrepreneurship are desirable. Connectivity with regional leaders and access to key social networks would also be positives. The successful candidate will present and maintain a credible, positive image of the Oklahoma Blood Institute in the local community. He/She will act as a liaison between the Institute and the community, organizations, and residents. Applicants should be goal-driven self-starters who have strong interpersonal, organizational, and analytic skills. They should be able to motivate and inspire diverse constituencies including donors, sponsors, staff, and volunteers. Salary Range: Competitive salary, commission plan, and excellent benefits package including health, dental, vision, and life insurance, 401(k), paid time off, and holiday pay. How to apply: <http://obi.org/careers/>.

Manager, Reference Laboratory. OneBlood has an exciting and rewarding Management position for our Reference Lab in Jacksonville, Florida. Qualified candidates will possess a valid and current Florida Clinical Laboratory Supervisor license in Immunohematology or Blood Banking and a Specialist in Blood Banking (SBB) certification. A bachelor's degree in medical technology, healthcare, chemistry, biology, biotechnology or related field from an accredited college or university and five (5) or more years' experience in a related field or an equivalent combination of education, certification, training, and/or experience is required. Other Florida licenses may be required as needed. OneBlood offers competitive benefits, Paid Time Off, Student Loan Repayment Program, a FREE medical coverage option, 403(b) Retirement Plan, company-paid annual CEU training & CE Broker account and MORE! To apply visit our OneBlood careers website at www.oneblood.org/careers. 💧