

2009 PRESIDENT'S AWARDS OF MERIT

Congratulations to the Awards of Merit recipients, who are being recognized for their promotion and support of voluntary blood donations.

Outstanding Individual:

This award is presented to an individual who has made a significant contribution to the blood resources of a blood collection facility, either by coordinating blood drives, donating large quantities of blood, or recruiting large numbers of blood donors over a long period of time.



John Armitage, MD
Oklahoma Blood Institute

Nominated by - Oklahoma Blood Institute, Oklahoma City, OK

Citation: Global Blood Fund was the vision of John Armitage, M.D., Oklahoma Blood Institute president and chief executive officer, to encour-

age those with a passion for international health improvement to donate blood locally, and have an avenue of international outreach to impact blood safety and supply. Through GBF, OBI is assisting blood centers in developing countries by helping them acquire equipment and expertise necessary to ensure a safe, local blood supply. Donors are given the opportunity to decline the regular donor appreciation item to allow OBI to give GBF a monetary donation of similar value. Donors are inspired to "doubly give" by their life-saving gift of blood, and through supporting financial needs of blood centers in underdeveloped countries. Frequent donors receive loyalty points redeemable for merchandise on OBI's Member's of Life website store and they may designate their points for a GBF contribution.

Dr. Armitage's inspiration was to find a way for local donors and, hopefully, blood centers nationally, to have international reach. In six months, Members of Life donors opted to donate 166,000 points to GBF. Nineteen designated GBF blood drives have resulted in 500 blood donations.

Dr. Armitage's passion for helping other world citizens in need of a safe blood supply is paramount for the future of blood banking.

Outstanding Contributions:

This award is presented to a group or financial contributor to the blood banking profession which has shown spectacular long-or short-term results.



Bob Moore Saturn

Nominated by - Oklahoma Blood Institute, Oklahoma City, OK

Citation: Bob Moore Saturn (BMS) has been a committed partner for 11 years with Oklahoma Blood Institute sponsoring a major campaign for maintaining Oklahoma's and North Texas' blood supply. Over a two month period, BMS partnership features a concentrated emphasis to drive donors to blood centers or mobile blood drives across a 523+ mile region during one of the toughest collection times of the year. Even in these rough economic times, especially for car dealerships, BMS stepped up to the plate to support the importance of blood donations by donating two cars for the 2008-2009 campaign. Donors have the opportunity to win a new car or \$15,000 from BMS. Additionally, BMS hosts two major blood drives on one day at their dealerships for a special One day, one car promotion. Blood Donors who donate on that day are entered into a second drawing to win a second, new car or \$10,000. The drive culminates with the grand finale on February 14th Saturn's National Donor Day when two lucky donors win their choice of cars or cash.

The BMS drive is the largest, most successful drive in Oklahoma. In the past 6 years, 22,000 new donors have been added to the OBI donor base, and 142,000 units of blood have been donated. Because of the collaborative efforts of BMS and OBI, 60% of all Saturn blood donations nationwide come from Bob Moore Saturn.



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Larry L. Trow Memorial Education Award

This award is presented to an individual who has significantly contributed to the promotion of education in the field of immunohematology within the South Central Region.

Marie Holub, MA Ed, MT (ASCP) SBB

Citation: Marie Holub, Education

Coordinator for Blood Systems Laboratories, is responsible for developing and teaching the Blood Bank Technology Program in sponsorship with UT Southwestern Medical Center. Marie successfully co-developed a hybrid, distance learning program for aspiring SBB students with a 100% success rate. Besides maintaining her full time job, Marie has been adjunct faculty providing immunohematology courses for ASU and Gateway Community College. Marie assists BSL in meeting the state of California license requirements by providing semi-annual courses to fill the educational gaps for staff qualifications. Since 1979 Marie has actively provided blood bank lectures, abstracts, posters and articles ranging from comparison of techniques to current topics in blood banking and complex immunohematology case reviews to innovative teaching methods through long distance web-based learning. Her presentations have been given at state, regional and national meetings to include AZ State Clinical Laboratory Sciences, SCABBinar's, SCABB Regional Workshops, SCABB and AABB annual meetings. Two of her recent presentations have been for South Central on Testing Blood Donors for Chagas Disease and Adult Education in the Blood Bank Technology Program. The range of knowledge and topics that Marie is able to present makes her a valued member of the blood banking community.



Dr. Matthew Gottlieb Rising Star Award

This award recognizes a blood bank professional who has been a member of SCABB more than one year but less than five years and has contributed to the origination either by serving on a committee, writing articles for Pulse, presenting an abstract at the annual meeting or a combination thereof.

Stephanie Babin

Nominated by: Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center, Baton Rouge, LA

Citation: Few blood bankers can hope to claim the variety of expertise and experiences that Stephanie Babin can claim. This multi-talented blood banker has made significant contributions to her employer, community and to the South Central Association of Blood Banks.

Some of the contributions she has made to SCABB:

1. Contributing member of Donor Collections and Recruitment Committee.
2. Submitted and won three nominations for President's Award of Merit
 - 2008 Outstanding Individual Contribution - Chuck and Jean Wilson
 - 2006 Outstanding Group – Diocese of Baton Rouge
 - 2004 Outstanding Individual Contribution – James Strubb
3. Submitted an article to Pulse, an abstract for the 2009 Annual Meeting, she will be a program presenter for the 2009 Annual Meeting and will participate in the 2009 Protégé Mentor program.

Along with Stephanie's commitment to SCABB she has worked in blood banking for over 18 years. During that time she has presented a poster at the 2008 AABB Annual meeting, conducted the first Mobile Apheresis Platelet Drive for OLOL, used the first Platelet drive as a guide to schedule and grow the platelet program. Stephanie was then invited by the Blood and Tissue Center of Central Texas to speak about 2RBC and Platelet Program. Stephanie has worked tirelessly to schedule, promote and coordinate Sunday blood drives at area churches. In 2008 her church groups conducted 85 blood drives producing more than 3000 donations. She typically visits all of her weekend drives and frequently assists with screening and collection as needed. Stephanie Babin's contributions, her range of experiences and her passion for her ministry sets organizational and industry standards. She has been a SCABB member for 3 years. She desires to become more involved in SCABB. Stephanie is exactly why the Rising Star Award was created.

Cornerstone Award

This award is presented to an individual or institutional Member of the association who has contributed in an extraordinary way to the success of the South Central Association of Blood Banks. Recipients of this award are recognized for a contribution, landmark event, or new endeavor that helps sustain the association or promotes its growth and prosperity.



Blood Systems, Inc. and its subsidiaries, Blood Systems Laboratories and United Blood Services, have contributed significantly to the success of South Central Association of Blood Banks for many years. Since 2006, Blood Systems has provided sponsor-

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ships totaling more than \$40,000. These contributions have contributed to Annual Meeting perks such as the Cyber Café and the Member Orientation luncheon; to Annual Meeting social events such as the 50th Anniversary Awards Banquet and three Past President's Receptions; to general sponsorships used to sustain the Association; to technological contributions for enhancement of the SCABB website; and to the education of the profession through Exhibit Hall booths and SCABBinars.

Blood Systems, Inc. supports education and volunteer involvement of their employees. This is evidenced by SCABB membership of over 55 Blood Systems employees. Not only are Blood Systems employees active in the Association but many have served on the Board of Directors as Past President, President, President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer and/or District Director. Many more have served as Committee Chairs and Committee Members. Others have served to educate members by being speakers and exhibitors.

Blood Systems mission statement is as follows:

Blood Systems exists to make a difference in people's lives by bringing together the best people, inspiring individuals to donate blood, producing a safe and ample blood supply, advancing cutting-edge research and embracing continuous quality improvement.

Blood Systems was founded in 1943 as the Salt River Valley Blood Bank in Phoenix, Arizona, today Blood Systems is one of the nation's oldest and largest blood service providers. Their non-profit community blood centers, United Blood Services and Blood Centers of the Pacific, provide blood, blood components and special services to patients in more than 500 hospitals in 18 states, from California to the Gulf Coast, from the "Tip o' Texas" to the Canadian border.

Blood Systems, Inc. has certainly made a difference in South Central. They have brought to the Association their blood bank expertise, they have allowed their employees to give SCABB some of their precious time and they have ultimately impacted the profession through inspiring other members to make a difference in their own place of employment. For these reasons and the supporting data above, South Central is pleased to acknowledge Blood Systems, Inc as the inaugural recipient of The Cornerstone Award.



Barbara Veal, BS, MT (ASCP)

Sol Haberman Scholarship Award

The Sol Haberman Scholarship Award originated in 1970 to honor Sol Haberman for his pioneer work in blood group immunology. This award is given to a student of an approved or accredited SBB program anywhere within the United States

IgG blocking: An alternative red cell treatment method for phenotyping

Background: Removal of IgG from red blood cells (RBCs) with a positive direct antiglobulin (DAT) is necessary prior to antigen typing with antisera reactive by the antiglobulin test (IAT). The traditional methods using chloroquine diphosphate (CDP) and EDTA glycine acid (EGA) have been successful to obtain DAT-negative RBCs; however, these methods are usually time-consuming or require a complex procedure. Additionally, some RBCs resistant to IgG reduction are occasionally encountered. This study evaluated the effectiveness of a reported simple, rapid, and inexpensive IgG "blocking" (IgG(B) method by performing further parallel testing with CDP and EGA.

Study Design & Methods: A total of 59 RBCs with w+ to 4+ DAT were treated in parallel using CPD, EGA and IgG(B). CDP and EGA treatments were performed following published procedures. For IgG(B), washed packed RBCs were prepared from 30 drops of 3-5% cell suspension; 20 drops of anti-IgG were added and incubated at room temperature (20-26°C) for up to 2 hours or until a negative DAT was obtained; and the RBCs were washed 4 times with isotonic saline and resuspended to a 3-5% cell suspension. Treated RBCs with a negative DAT were typed for the K, S, s, Fya, Fyb, Jka and Jkb antigens. RBCs that did not seroconvert to DAT negative after the initial treatment were retreated up to three total treatments until a negative DAT is obtained.

Results: Of the 59 samples tested, 57 (97%) showed agreement in antigen typing using all three methods. Antigen typing of RBCs treated with IgG(B) showed no significant difference compared to CDP ($p=0.34$) and EGA ($p=0.35$). Twelve samples (20%) remained DAT positive after the initial CDP treatment, one (2%) after EGA treatment and six (10%) after IgG(B) treatment. Discrepant K, Fya and Jka antigen typing results were observed in three of 59 (5%) of samples.

Conclusion: IgG(B) blocks cell-bound IgG based on the ability of DAT-positive RBCs to adsorb anti-IgG. This study confirmed previous finding that IgG(B) compared well with CDP and EGA for IgG reduction and additionally showed that up to three total treatments can be performed on RBCs that did not seroconvert after the initial treatment. IgG(B) can also be used as an adjunct method when CDP or EGA treatment is incomplete.

Author: Barbara A Veal, BS, MT (ASCP), Gulf Coast School of Blood Bank Technology.