

# South Central Association of Blood Banks

# PULSE

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## Hot Topic!

### ISBT 128 Labeling System coming soon

Blood centers around the U.S. are getting ready for the new ISBT 128 labeling system for blood products. ISBT 128 will replace the old standard of blood labeling, ABC Codabar. The new system will be able to handle more product description codes than Codabar can produce. Code 128 results in fewer system and identification errors and fewer misreads on automated instruments.

ISBT 128 will enhance safety for transfusion recipients by creating a worldwide standard of information to be used in blood product labeling. In order to ease the transition from Codabar to ISBT 128, most blood centers will have methods for reading both label types. AABB, in Association Bulletin #05-12, established a May 1, 2008 implementation deadline for its accredited blood centers and hospital transfusion services. BB/TS Standards (24th edition) require that facilities have a written plan by November 1, 2006 for the implementation of ISBT 128.

In a world of increased globalization and multinational relief efforts, blood products often cross over the boundaries of nations and continents. International bar code standardization and informa-

tion on blood products will ensure that the necessary information is included on all blood products, regardless of their origin or destination. In the long run, labeling for standardization will result in lower operating costs, as it cuts down the need to translate or track blood that is imported from another facility. No date has yet been set for complete worldwide implementation, but most European and Middle Eastern countries have already switched to the new labeling system. Only one U.S. blood center is currently utilizing the new labels, but all branches of the U.S. military have made the transition.

Any facility that collects or modifies blood components or will apply ISBT 128 labels will need to register with ICCBBA (International Council for Commonality in Blood Bank Automation) and pay a registration fee. It is not necessary to be registered to receive ISBT-labeled blood components.

For more information on the ISBT 128 labeling system visit <http://www.ICCBBA.org>.



Happy  
Holidays

from  
South Central  
Association of  
Blood Banks



## IN THIS ISSUE

President's Message .....	2
TTP, Dr. Kresie .....	2
Distinguished Blood Banker .....	4
Foundation History .....	5



### Protégé Profile: Pam Ostboe Brings Fresh Ideas

By: Jim Rutledge

Past SCABB President Kathie Carlson currently serves as a mentor in the Protégé Mentorship Program (PMP) for Pam Ostboe, the customer service manager for Blood

Systems Laboratories in Tempe, AZ and Bedford, TX. "One of the neat things about our relationship," says Kathie, "is that I also benefit from Pam's fresh look at the Association."

"I look forward to becoming more active with SCABB committees," comments Pam. "As a new member of the Association, I've already seen a benefit in networking with other members."

As a direct result of Kathie's influence, Pam has gotten active in the strategic planning process as well as the history project. "We talk at least once a month." Helping to get Pam into the

network of blood bankers throughout our eight-state region is also a primary goal of the partnership. Kathie is also involving Pam in fundraising activities.

This is the second year of operation for the PMP, and the first full year with multiple protégé mentor pairs – five in addition to Kathie and Pam. The program offers opportunities to protégés to advance their professional careers by gaining access to people, processes and institutions that are part of the networks. Mentors not only benefit by building on their skills, but also by gaining the satisfaction of sharing their knowledge and experience. The ultimate beneficiary, however, is South Central Association of Blood Banks.

Stay tuned for the announcement of the 2007 protégés and their mentors.