

Blood Bank Association of New York State 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting  
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The Blood Banks Association of New York State held its 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting on June 5-6, 2008 at the Turning Stone Resort & Casino in Verona, NY. Due to the success of the meeting held at this location in 2005 it was decided to return to this site for the 2008 meeting which was originally planned for the Rochester area. While educational opportunities are the main focus of the annual meeting, the resort also provided a wide range of entertainment for those who chose to bring members of their families and friends. In addition to a wide variety of dining experiences at 21 different restaurants, attendees and their guests could also play a round of golf at one of the three championship golf courses at the resort, could try their luck in the casino, relax at the world-class spa or could attend a show or movie offered at the 800 seat Showroom.

The 2007 Annual Meeting Planning Committee consisted of Karen Lare, MT(ASCP)SBB and Debra Masel, MT(ASCP)SBB (Co-Chairpersons); Rachel Elder, MD; Joanne Becker, MD; Thomas Lightfoot, MD; Beth Murwin, BB(ASCP); and Kevin Pelletier, MT(ASCP). The meeting was comprised of three programs. The Scientific Program was intended to target the interests of physicians and supervisors, the Nursing Program was planned to attract nursing and transfusion service staff and the Technical/Serologic Program was geared to the interests of those who primarily perform laboratory testing. On the Wednesday preceding the meeting, arrangements were made with the AABB National Office to provide a New Assessor Training workshop. This workshop was held at the resort and offered the opportunity to obtain training as a new assessor to those who were unable to travel to other cities or states where similar training sessions were offered as part of national or regional meetings.

On Thursday morning, the Scientific Session focused on the topic of Hemovigilance. Neil Blumberg, MD, Director of Clinical Pathology and Laboratory Medicine and Medical Director of the Blood Bank at the University of Rochester Medical Center, Strong Memorial Hospital presented "The Unintended Consequences of "Quality" - A Severely Jaundiced//Dyspeptic View of GMPs, QM and Administrative Overkill". Ann Eder, MD, PhD Executive Medical Director of the American National Red Cross Biomedical Services presented "The Hemovigilance Program of the American Red Cross". Dr. Eder discussed the data collected through the American Red Cross Hemovigilance program and how it was used to make policy decisions, modify practice and increase awareness of transfusion complications. Judith Woll, MD retired CEO of the Community Blood Center/Community Tissue Services in Daton, OH discussed "Hemovigilance: Ensuring Blood Safety from Donor to Recipient". The morning Scientific Session concluded with a presentation by Barbee Whitaker, PhD. titled "US Hemovigilance Coming Soon".

Molecular testing and techniques was the primary focus of the Technical Program running concurrently with the Scientific Program on Thursday morning. Laura Cooling, MD, MS gave a talk entitled "Molecular Techniques for Dummies" which was very well received by attendees of the session. She provided an overview of molecular biology, from DNA and codons to high-throughput technologies such as gene chips. Sunitha

Vege, MS followed with a talk on Methods in Molecular Testing and Case Studies”. Sunitha reviewed with attendees techniques currently used in molecular testing laboratories and also discussed the move towards automation. After the morning break, Marion Reid, PhD gave an excellent presentation on “Applications of Molecular Testing in Transfusion Medicine”. Dr. Reid discussed limitations of hemagglutination testing and how DNA based assays could be used to overcome these limitations.

The Scientific Session continued in the afternoon with a focus on tissue banking. This topic was one requested by the BBANYS membership who were employed in hospital blood banks and were now being asked by their facilities to incorporate tissue banking into their transfusion services. The first presentation was given by Joan Burke, LFT, CTBS and was titled “Tissue- It’s Not Kleenex or Puffs!”. Ms. Burke’s presentation focused on the hospital’s role in tissue donations and the differences between organ and tissue donation. Regulations regarding donation were reviewed as well as processing and distribution of tissue. This was followed by a presentation titled “Tissue Distribution in the Hospital: The Role of the Transfusion Service” given by Judith Woll, MD. Dr. Woll reviewed the JCAHO requirements for tissue handling in the hospital and discussed ways in which transfusion services were involved. Two additional presentations followed the mid afternoon break. The first was “Bones, Tendons, Ligaments, WHAT???” given by Sheryl Tran, PhD and the last speaker of the session, Jeanne Linden, MD, MPH, gave a presentation titled “New York State Department of Health Regulation of Tissue Banks and Non-Transplant Anatomic Banks”.

The Thursday afternoon serologic program consisted of two speakers. The first, Terry Scofield, BS, MT(ASCP) gave an interactive presentation entitled “Taking Compatibility Testing Problems to the Street”. This session was unique in that it involved participation of the attendees which actually determined the direction of the case presentation discussions. The final presentation of the session was given by George Wilner, MD. Dr. Wilner graciously filled in when the speaker originally scheduled for the session was unable to attend. Dr. Wilner gave a very interesting presentation on “The Hypercoagulable State”.

The annual meeting continued on Friday morning with the Scientific Program, Nursing Program and Technical Program. Jonathan Waters, MD, gave the first presentation of the Scientific Program titled “The Transfusion Committee’s Role in Blood Management”. Dr. Waters discussed how to build a blood management program and how the transfusion committee can participate to make that happen. Aryeh Shander, MD then gave a very interesting and informative presentation on innovations in the area of bloodless surgery. Two additional presentations were given after the morning break. Jay Herman, MD presented a talk on the assessment and management of platelet refractoriness in which methods to identify potential cases of refractoriness, proper assessment and appropriate testing were discussed. Dr. Herman also discussed changes in platelet dosing, transfusion frequency or the need for matched platelet products in refractory patients. The session ended with a presentation given by John Burch, MD on the running of an effective transfusion committee where suggestions were given on how a hospital transfusion committee could be more effective in improving transfusion practice.

The Nursing Program ran concurrently and was comprised of talks given by four speakers on various nursing related transfusion topics. Thomas Lightfoot, MD provided a very informational and interesting overview on blood components. He presented a

basic overview of component preparation, storage and clinical indications. Practical issues involved in the administration of components were also discussed. The second presentation was given by Toni Smith, EdD, RN, FNAP, CNA-BS and JoAnn Popovich, MS, RN, CNA-BC. The presentation focused on the integration of Joint Commission National Patient Safety Goals into safe blood administration practices. A process for competency based education for blood administration and quality monitoring at a unit level was presented. Patricia LaMarche presented the third talk of the session which involved pediatric and neonatal transfusion. Her talk centered on the unique needs of infants and children requiring blood transfusion. The final presentation of the session was given by Robertson Davenport, MD on transfusion reactions. Dr. Davenport's talk focused on the recognition and management of transfusion reactions from the nursing perspective.

In response to a last minute request by the membership for a session devoted to case studies, a Technical Program session was added to Friday morning. Four speakers provided presentations of various case studies. Nedda Howk, MT(ASCP)SBB, Juliane Breh, MT(ASCP), Laurie Delia, MT(ASCP)SBB and Laura Cooling, MD, MS presented a wide array of different case studies. Topics included cases involving hemolytic disease of the newborn, identification of underlying alloantibodies in the presence of a warm autoantibody, identification of individual antibodies when multiple antibodies are present, Ax subgroup identification in a patient, identification of both high incidence and low incidence antibodies, ABO typing discrepancies in children requiring long term nutritional support, hemolysis in a bone marrow transplant patient and investigation of the cause of post partum hemolysis in a patient as well as other case studies of interest. All of the case study presentations given were well received and appreciated by the attendees present.

The Oneida Room was the center of activity with the presentations taking place in adjacent rooms. Vendor booths were arranged around the perimeter of the Oneida Room, giving the attendees the opportunity to visit, ask questions and obtain information on the products and services available from the various vendors during breaks, lunch, and the Thursday evening reception. BBANYS is very grateful and appreciative for the support of the vendors participating in this year's meeting. A listing of the vendors who were in attendance appears later in the Newsletter along with other special contributions that were made to support the meeting. The financial contributions made by vendors allow the organization to continue to provide educational opportunities centered on transfusion related topics with nationally known speakers.

As part of the tradition of the meeting, many raffle prizes were given out to the attendees. Many of the vendors contributed prizes as well as BBANYS. Attendees were eligible to receive a prize by completing raffle tickets as they visited vendors. Every attendee was eligible to win one raffle prize thereby giving more of the meeting attendees a chance to win a raffle gift.

The success of this meeting is attributed to the hard work and efforts of many individuals. The presenters, the attendees, the planning committee and the staff of the Turning Stone Resort all played a key roll in making this meeting one that many look forward to attending annually. Please mark your calendars for next year's meeting which will take place in New York City on June 4-5, 2009. Please plan on attending the meeting and taking a bite out of the Big Apple!

