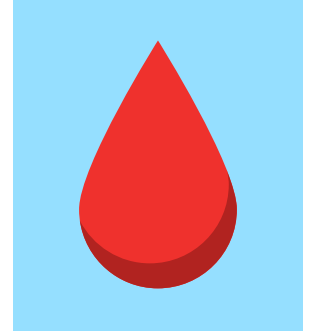


# MNABB NEWSLETTER



Issue 001/Page 1

18 April, 2025 / Vol. 04

## Kicking Off 2025: A Bold Year for Blood Banking

Welcome to 2025 – a year brimming with promise, progress, and purpose for blood bankers everywhere! As we step into this new chapter, we're energized by the advancements in our field, the strength of our community, and the unwavering mission that unites us. Whether you're innovating at the bench, educating the next generation, or supporting transfusion medicine behind the scenes, this year holds opportunities to learn, connect, and grow. We're thrilled to launch our first MNABB newsletter of the year and can't wait to share the exciting updates, events, and inspiration we have in store. Here's to a fantastic year ahead in blood banking!

### What you will find in this issue:

- Our Mission
- Letter from the President
- 2025 Save the Date
- 2025 Scholarship Information
- Blood Bankers Recommend
- Words from Vendors
- About the Author
- Suggestions for the Future



## Our Mission as MNABB

We are dedicated to:

- Provide educational opportunities and to support the education of those practicing Blood Banking and Transfusion Medicine in order to encourage high standards of service in blood product collection, testing, and administration throughout the state of MN.
- To foster, promote, aid, and encourage additional activities that may extend the best possible blood banking service throughout the state of MN.
- To encourage communication and networking between Blood Banking and Transfusion Medicine professionals.
- To increase the visibility of Blood Banking and Transfusion Medicine and those working in this field.



## Letter from the President of MNABB



Hello Blood Bank Enthusiasts!

I would like to introduce myself. Some of you have heard the highlights at the 2024 MNABB Fall Conference so I'll try to sprinkle in some fun nuggets. I am a 2006 graduate of Minnesota State University Mankato (Go Mavs!) and the Medical Laboratory Science program of Hennepin County Medical Center (now Hennepin Healthcare). My first 11 years as an MLS were at Hennepin starting in Night shift Core Lab and then moving to Microbiology where I found my love of Molecular Biology and lab education. I am a night shifter through and through so I returned to the hours I love most and joined Innovative Blood Resources (at Memorial Blood Centers) Donor Testing Laboratory as Assistant Manager on the Night Shift in 2017. This works great with my husband and children's schedules.

My hobbies include (but not limited to) motorcycling, softball, board games, going to any performance for music or theater that my kids are in, and Travel. My trips this year include a family trip to Playa del Carmen, CLC in Duluth followed by girl's weekend, and Covered Bridge Festival in Indiana with my sisters for our shared birthday. Yes, they are twins and they were born on my 9th birthday. I definitely don't use any of that information for a password! I hope you enjoy this newsletter and that it brings you something to discuss with your peers, friends, and family.

May your shelves be stocked and phone calls be filled with good news!

Angie Dahl, MLS(ASCP)<sup>cm</sup> MB<sup>cm</sup>





# **2025 CONFERENCE**

## What to expect and plan for this year!

Mark your calendars! The MNABB 2025 Conference is coming your way on **Wednesday, October 8**, and you won't want to miss it. We're gathering at **St. Cloud State University's Atwood Memorial Center in beautiful St. Cloud, MN**, for a full day of cutting-edge topics, professional networking, and all-around blood banking enthusiasm. With sessions covering everything from drone delivery to genetic breakthroughs, there's something for everyone. Registration opens soon – so stay tuned to our website [mnabb.com](https://www.mnabb.com) and spread the word: **all blood bank enthusiasts are welcome!**



**We can't wait to see everyone in person this fall!**

Whether you're a familiar face or joining us for the first time, the MnABB Conference is all about connecting, learning, and celebrating our shared passion for blood banking. Let's make this gathering one to remember!



## 2025 SCHOLARSHIP INFO

### Unlock Your Potential!

We're thrilled to announce that **MNABB will be offering two scholarships in 2025!** Whether you're a student or a professional looking to grow in the field of transfusion medicine, this is a golden opportunity to support your journey. **Stay tuned for full details when registration opens – and don't miss your chance to apply!**







# WHAT ARE BLOOD BANKERS RECOMMENDING...

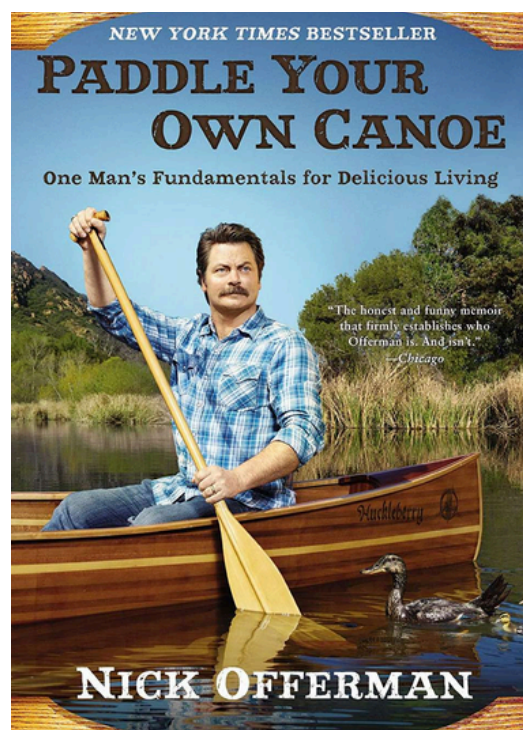
## Books to check out:

### ***Paddle Your Own Canoe by Nick Offerman***

Parks and Recreation actor and Making It co-host Nick Offerman shares his humorous fulminations on life, manliness, meat, and much more in this New York Times bestseller.

Growing a perfect moustache, grilling red meat, wooing a woman—who better to deliver this tutelage than the always charming, always manly Nick Offerman, best known as Parks and Recreation's Ron Swanson? Combining his trademark comic voice and very real expertise in woodworking—he runs his own woodshop—Paddle Your Own Canoe features tales from Offerman's childhood in small-town Minooka, Illinois—"I grew up literally in the middle of a cornfield"—to his theater days in Chicago, beginnings as a carpenter/actor and the hilarious and magnificent seduction of his now-wife Megan Mullally. It also offers hard-bitten battle strategies in the arenas of manliness, love, style, religion, woodworking, and outdoor recreation, among many other savory entrees.

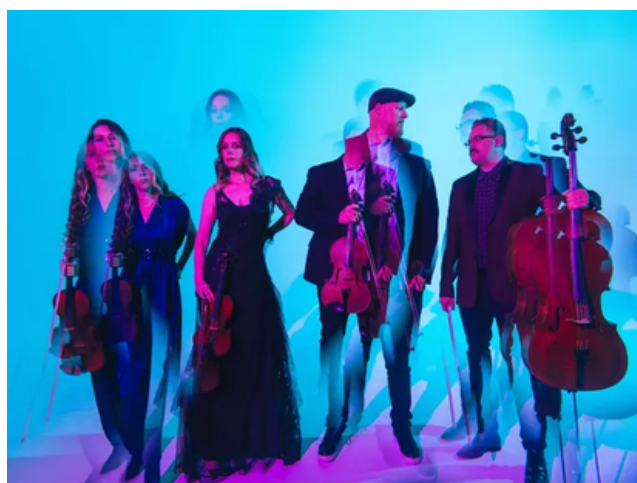
A mix of amusing anecdotes, opinionated lessons and rants, sprinkled with offbeat gaiety, Paddle Your Own Canoe will not only tickle readers pink but may also rouse them to put down their smart phones, study a few sycamore leaves, and maybe even hand craft (and paddle) their own canoes.



## Music to look into:

### **The Vitamin String Quartet (VSQ)**

The Vitamin String Quartet (VSQ) is known for their unique string arrangements of popular contemporary songs, and these covers have been prominently featured in the Netflix series Bridgerton. VSQ's covers add a unique blend of classical and modern music, often used to evoke emotions and enhance scenes in the show.



### **Have something to recommend?**

Send me an email at  
[negro.alexander@mayo.edu](mailto:negro.alexander@mayo.edu)



# WORDS FROM OUR VENDORS!

We will give a shout out to our vendors throughout the year! Here is the next one:



## Werfen: Supporting Transfusion Medicine with Automation & Connectivity



### You're Under Pressure to Get It Right—Every Time. We Can Help.

In transfusion medicine, every decision matters. You're balancing complex antibody identification, increasing workloads, and a shrinking pool of experienced staff—all while ensuring the highest level of patient safety. The stakes are high, and the margin for error is nonexistent.

But what if there was a way to streamline the process while maintaining accuracy and efficiency?

### Meet ImmuLINK.

Designed specifically for blood banks and transfusion services, ImmuLINK is a software suite that enhances workflow efficiency and traceability through centralized data management and remote access. Your team can standardize processes and improve result consistency—no matter who is on shift.

### Eliminate Uncertainty with the Panel ID Algorithm

Misidentifying or overlooking antibodies can have serious consequences. That's why ImmuLINK integrates a powerful algorithm, aligned with the AABB Technical Manual and Standards for Immunohematology Reference Laboratories. It helps guide your team through antibody identification workflows with structured result interpretation.



SCAN QR code  
to see how ImmuLINK  
can transform your lab

### Why Labs Like Yours Choose ImmuLINK

- Enhanced Data Accuracy – Minimizes transcription errors by automating result transfers.
- Centralized Data Management – Access and manage results from multiple instruments and sites within a single system.
- Optimized Decision Support – Guides users through antibody identification workflows based on AABB-aligned criteria

*Your work is critical. You deserve a tool that supports your efforts in delivering safe, reliable transfusions—every time.*

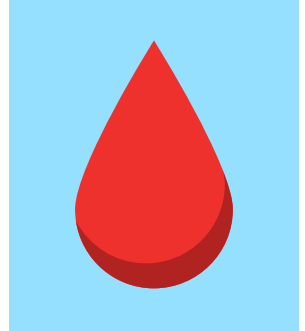
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## Until Next Time – Thanks for Reading!

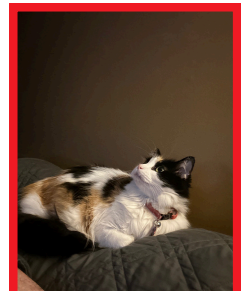
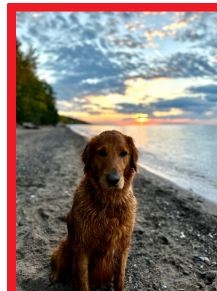
Thank you for taking the time to read the MnABB April 2025 Newsletter! Your dedication, curiosity, and passion for the world of blood banking are what keep our community strong and thriving. We're excited for everything this year holds and grateful to have you with us on the journey. Until next time—stay inspired, stay connected, and keep making a difference!

### A Note from Your Editor

Hi everyone! I'm Alex Negro, your MnABB Newsletter Editor. I currently work in the FISH (Fluorescence In Situ Hybridization) genetics lab at Mayo Clinic as an Assistant Supervisor. Though I've transitioned into the genetics world, I spent several formative years in transfusion medicine, including time as an Education Specialist in Donor Services, and still carry a strong connection to the blood banking community.

Outside of work, I'm a proud dad to my incredible baby Asher, two goofy pups (Mowgli and Aldo), and one mischievous cat (Gilly). I love spending quality time with my family, diving into music and motivational content, and staying curious about all things science.

My goal is to make this newsletter something you genuinely look forward to—so if you have ideas, features you'd love to see, or voices you'd like amplified, please reach out. This is your newsletter, and I'd love your help shaping it into something great!



## Suggestions for the future?

Have ideas or feedback? I'd love to hear from you! Feel free to email me at [negro.alexander@mayo.edu](mailto:negro.alexander@mayo.edu) with any suggestions. I'm excited to be working with such an incredible team! Hope your 2025 is off to a fantastic start!

