

# MNABB NEWSLETTER



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March, 2026 / Vol. 05

## Advancing Blood Banking Together in 2026

As we step into 2026, we are filled with gratitude for the dedication, resilience, and passion that define Minnesota's blood banking community. Each new year brings fresh opportunities to learn, connect, and grow together, and MNABB remains committed to supporting the professionals who make this work possible every single day. Whether you are in the lab, in leadership, in education, or just beginning your journey in transfusion medicine, your contributions matter deeply to the patients and communities we serve.

This year promises continued momentum as we build on the successes of the past while looking ahead to new initiatives, educational opportunities, and meaningful collaboration across the state. MNABB exists because of the strength of its members, volunteers, and partners, and we are excited to continue fostering a community that values innovation, inclusivity, and shared purpose. Thank you for being part of this important work as we move forward together into another impactful year.

### What you will find in this issue:

- Our Mission
- Thank you for stopping by!
- 2026 Get Ready!
- Vendor Spotlight
- Blood Bankers Recommend
- 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.



<https://www.mnabb.com/>

MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION OF BLOOD BANKS



# THANK YOU FOR STOPPING BY!

## 2026 Clinical Laboratory Collaborative

We would like to extend a sincere thank you to everyone who attended the Minnesota Clinical Laboratory Collaborative. Your participation, engagement, and commitment to advancing laboratory medicine made this event a true success. Opportunities like this to come together, share knowledge, and strengthen our professional community are what continue to move our field forward.

Events like the Clinical Laboratory Collaborative highlight the importance of connection across disciplines and organizations. We are grateful for the time, energy, and expertise each attendee brought to the event. Your dedication to excellence in laboratory science does not go unnoticed, and we look forward to continuing to grow and collaborate with you throughout 2026.

*Thank you*



## 2026 CLINICAL LABORATORY COLLABORATIVE

**MARCH 19-20, 2026**

**Saint Paul College**  
235 Marshall Ave  
St. Paul, MN 55102

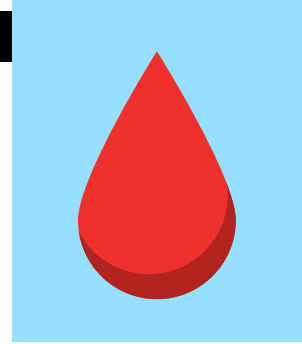


Where Luck and Learning Flow Together

- Student Day
- Vendor Exhibit
- PACE Credits
- Silent Auction

# LOOKING AHEAD TO THE MNABB 2026 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Bringing Minnesota Blood Bankers Together



While details are still coming together, we are excited to share that planning is already underway for the MNABB 2026 Annual Conference. This event continues to be one of the most anticipated opportunities each year for Minnesota's blood banking community to come together, learn, and connect in meaningful ways.

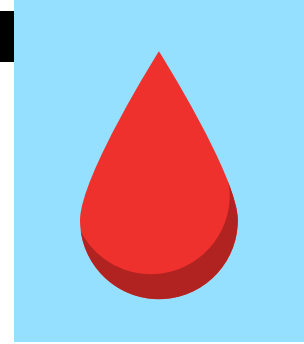
Our annual conference brings professionals from across the state into one space to share knowledge, explore advancements in transfusion medicine, and strengthen the relationships that make our community so impactful. Whether you are a returning attendee or considering joining us for the first time, this conference is designed to provide valuable education, engaging discussions, and opportunities to grow both professionally and personally.

We encourage you to keep an eye out for upcoming announcements as more details become available, including dates, location, speakers, and registration information. You can also check for updates on our [website](#).

We cannot wait to bring everyone together again for another year of learning, collaboration, and community.



**THANK YOU TO OUR  
VENDORS! TODAY WE  
HIGHLIGHT...**



**ThermoFisher**  
SCIENTIFIC

### **Advancing Blood Banking with Thermo Fisher Scientific**

MNABB is proud to share resources from industry partners who continue to support and strengthen the work happening in blood banking laboratories across our community. We would like to extend a sincere thank you to Thermo Fisher Scientific for providing this Blood Banking Solutions brochure to share with our members. Their continued support helps bring valuable insights and resources to professionals across Minnesota.

As outlined in the brochure, these solutions span “collection, preparation, analysis, [and] storage,” reflecting the full scope of modern blood banking operations. The materials also highlight the important role laboratories play in supporting “advanced therapies” and evolving processes within the field.

This brochure offers a helpful overview of technologies and products used in blood banking and laboratory settings and serves as a valuable resource for those looking to stay informed on tools supporting day to day operations and future advancements.

The full Thermo Scientific Blood Banking Solutions brochure is included as an attachment to this email. We encourage you to take a few moments to review and explore the information provided.



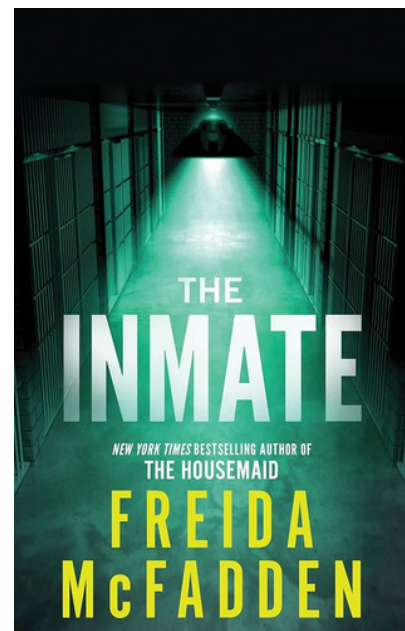


# WHAT ARE BLOOD BANKERS RECOMMENDING...

## Books to check out:

### ***The Inmate by Freida McFadden***

A fast paced psychological thriller that's hard to put down. The story follows a nurse who takes a job at a maximum security prison, only to come face to face with someone from her past who was convicted of a brutal crime. As the story unfolds, secrets, twists, and tension build in a way that keeps you guessing until the very end. If you're looking for something gripping and easy to get hooked on after a long shift, this is a perfect pick.



## Music to look into:

### **Zach Bryan**

Zach Bryan brings a raw, stripped down style of country and Americana that feels real and unfiltered. Known for honest lyrics and emotional storytelling, his music connects in a way that feels personal and grounded.

Popular songs to start with include "Something in the Orange," "Heading South," and "Burn, Burn, Burn." If you like music that feels genuine and reflective, he's absolutely worth a listen.

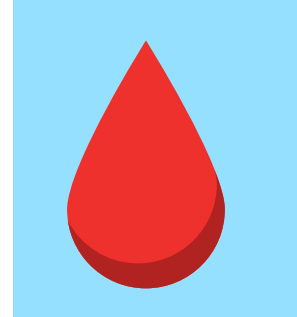


### **Have something to recommend?**

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



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## Thank You for Reading Our First Issue of 2026

Thank you for taking the time to read the first MNABB newsletter of 2026. Your support, engagement, and dedication to the blood banking community are what make this organization so meaningful and impactful.

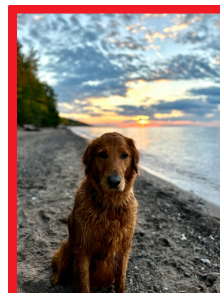
We look forward to connecting with you throughout the year and sharing more opportunities, updates, and resources along the way.

### 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 sons Asher and Bennett, and two goofy pups (Mowgli and Aldo). 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 2026 is going well so far! Keep living the dream!

