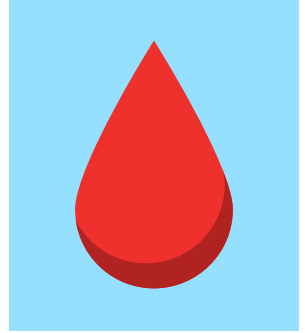


# MNABB NEWSLETTER



Issue 002/Page 1

14 July, 2025 / Vol. 04

## Mid-Year Reflections and Momentum — Summer 2025 with MNABB

As we reach the heart of 2025, we pause to reflect on the progress, resilience, and innovation that continue to define our blood banking community. From new research initiatives to impactful education programs, the first half of the year has been full of meaningful strides forward.

Summer is a perfect moment to reconnect, recharge, and refocus on the mission that unites us — ensuring safe, reliable transfusion care for all. Whether you're working at the bench, mentoring future leaders, or helping shape policy and practice, your contributions matter.

We're excited to bring you this mid-year edition of the MNABB newsletter, packed with updates, upcoming events, and opportunities to engage and grow. Thank you for being part of this vital community — here's to a strong and inspiring second half of 2025!

### What you will find in this issue:

- Our Mission
- Letter from the Vice 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.



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

MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION OF BLOOD BANKS



# Letter from the Vice President of MNABB



Hello!

My name is Kat, and I'm honored to serve as the Vice President of MnABB for the 2024–2025 term. I began my career in the lab 16 years ago as a generalist, but it didn't take long for me to discover my true passion—Blood Bank. Over the years, I've had the privilege of working with organizations such as Allina Health, Health Partners, Innovative Blood Resources, and currently, Fairview.

In addition to my clinical work, I've spent seven years teaching Immunohematology in the MLS program at St. Cloud State University. I genuinely enjoy breaking down complex Blood Bank concepts and watching students experience those "lightbulb" moments of understanding. My professional roles have included Generalist, Blood Bank Lead, and Serologist, and my passion extends beyond transfusion medicine to Quality and patient safety—ensuring that everything we do supports the best and safest outcomes.

My educational journey started at Rasmussen College, where I completed a two-year program and worked in the field to confirm my interest (spoiler: I absolutely loved it!). I then pursued a 2+2 program at SCSU to complete my Bachelor's degree. A few years ago, during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, I earned my SBB certification—an incredibly challenging yet rewarding milestone in my career.

Outside of work, I cherish time with my family. My wonderful husband and I have two young daughters—a three-year-old and a one-year-old—who keep life exciting and unpredictable. I also enjoy cooking, baking, and practicing archery in my spare time.

My goal as VP is to engage our blood bank community and network us together! We can learn so much from each other's practices, experiences, and teachings!

Kat





# **2025 CONFERENCE**

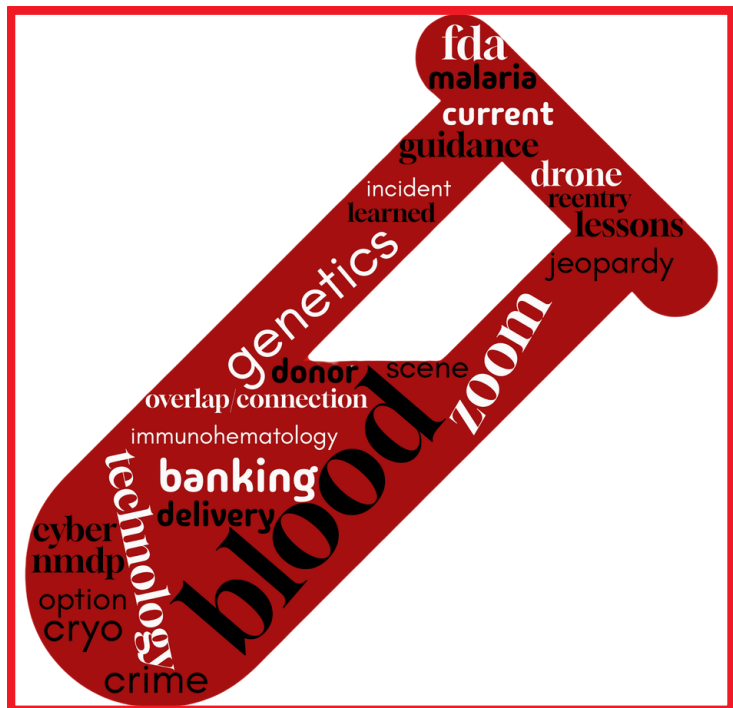
## What to expect and plan for this year!

Mark your calendars! The MNABB 2025 Conference is coming your way on **Wednesday, October 8 (7:30 AM – 4:30 PM)**, 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 **IS OPEN**, go to our website [mnabb.com](http://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. **Head to our website to apply ([www.mnabb.com](http://www.mnabb.com))!**



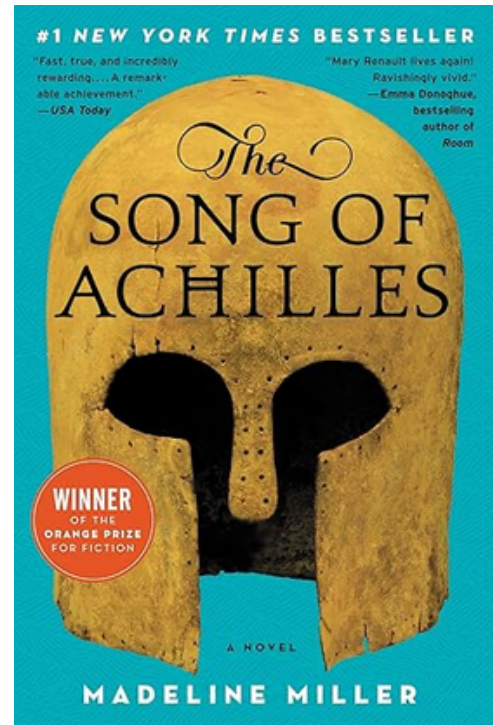


# WHAT ARE BLOOD BANKERS RECOMMENDING...

## Books to check out:

### ***The Song of Achilles by Madeline Miller***

A tale of gods, kings, immortal fame, and the human heart, *The Song of Achilles* is a dazzling literary feat that brilliantly reimagines Homer's enduring masterwork, *The Iliad*. An action-packed adventure, an epic love story, a marvelously conceived and executed page-turner, Miller's monumental debut novel has already earned resounding acclaim from some of contemporary fiction's brightest lights—and fans of Mary Renault, Bernard Cornwell, Steven Pressfield, and Colleen McCullough's *Masters of Rome* series will delight in this unforgettable journey back to ancient Greece in the Age of Heroes.



## Music to look into:

### **Alex Warren**

If you haven't yet added Alex Warren to your playlist, now's the time. Known for his emotionally honest songwriting and pop-driven sound, Alex has quickly made a name for himself in the music world. His songs blend vulnerability with catchy hooks, resonating with listeners navigating life's highs and lows. Whether through soulful ballads or upbeat anthems, Alex Warren's music offers both connection and inspiration — well worth a listen this summer.



### **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:



## Hospital Solutions

### Technologies for Advancing Patient Care



Hospitals go above and beyond to tackle the challenge of providing the highest standards of patient care.

Backed by over five decades of expertise in healthcare settings, our Hospital Solutions are designed to drive procedural effectiveness and elevate the patient experience.

#### Designed by blood bank experts. For blood banks. With your needs in mind.

#### SafeTrace Tx<sup>®</sup>

The SafeTrace Tx<sup>®</sup> transfusion management software delivers complete testing and transfusion history in a single, consolidated record to provide continuity-of-care across member locations. Extensive safety features help protect patients and seamless interfaces streamline clinical communications.



#### Support patient safety, maintain traceability and reduce costs.

The BloodTrack<sup>®</sup> modular suite of blood management and bedside transfusion solution acts as an extension of your Blood Bank Information System to optimize your hospital's blood supply chain and provide safe, secure and fully traceable remote blood storage.



#### BloodTrack<sup>®</sup>



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# MNABB NEWSLETTER



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## Until Next Time – Thanks for Reading!

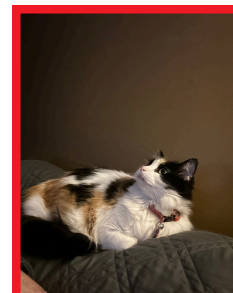
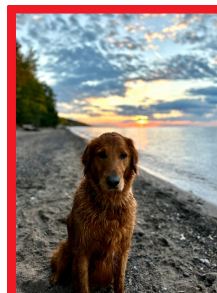
Thank you for taking the time to read the MnABB July 2025 Newsletter! Your dedication, curiosity, and passion for the world of blood banking are what keep our community strong and thriving. We're excited for everything this year holds and grateful to have you with us on the journey. Until next time—stay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

