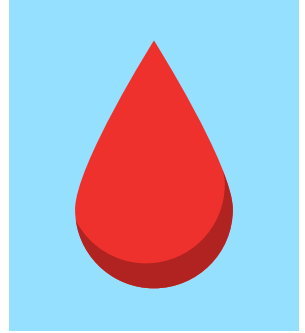


# MNABB NEWSLETTER



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September, 2025 / Vol. 04

## On the Home Stretch — A Few Weeks Until the MNABB Conference (October 8)

As we count down the final weeks to the MNABB Annual Conference on October 8th, anticipation is building across our community. This gathering is more than a date on the calendar — it's a chance to exchange knowledge, strengthen connections, and explore the future of blood banking together.

The months leading up to the conference have been filled with preparation, collaboration, and continued dedication to advancing safe, effective transfusion medicine. Every contribution — from research and innovation to daily clinical practice — helps lay the foundation for the conversations and insights we'll share this fall.

In this edition of the MNABB newsletter, you'll find important updates, reminders, and opportunities to engage as we approach October 8th. Thank you for bringing your passion, expertise, and commitment to this vital work. We can't wait to see you at the conference!

### What you will find in this issue:

- Our Mission
- Letter from the Past President
- 2025 Save the Date/Get Ready
- 2025 Scholarship
- Blood Bankers Recommend
- Words from Vendors
- A Word from AABB
- Bylaw Changes MNABB
- 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 Past President of MNABB – Georgette Benidt

## My Time on the MnABB Board

On October 8th I will officially resign from the MnABB board. I have been part of MnABB since 2008 holding multiple different roles in the organization. Stepping down is bittersweet as I have really enjoyed serving our Transfusion Medicine colleagues, but the time has come.

Why did I join the organization back in 2008? I wanted to make a difference in our society and raise awareness of what we do. I started as a member-at-large but quickly moved into other roles over my time. I have stepped away from the board a few different times but always remained a member.

It has been my pleasure to serve as your President from 2021-2024 as well as two other times in the past. Why was I allowed to be the President for three years? It turned out that the incoming President stepped down, so I remained on to help cover the absence. Then, of course, COVID hit, and we did not have a conference, so we all remained in our roles.

There are many lessons that I have learned over my time on the board that I would like to share with you. I have never regretted joining this organization and strongly encourage you to consider being part of it.

First, everyone that serves on this board are volunteers. We dedicate our time and resources to promote the blood bank community. Every one of us brings a distinct set of skills but we all work to make this organization successful. This is important for you, the members, so you get quality conferences to attend.

Second, it takes a village to pull a conference together. I have learned that you need to be firm and resourceful when you are looking at dates and locations. Considerations include cost, menu options, parking, speakers, and attendees. This is not as easy as it looks. Everyone comes together to help plan the best way to allocate our resources for our members.

Third, networking with the other health systems in this state has been invaluable. When issues arise in our organization, and they will, having contacts to reach out to is a blessing. I have made so many acquaintances that have become friends. Connections with other caring professionals have made my life full.

Fourth, vendor connections are always great! You may not be the person in charge of ordering supplies, but you CAN bring back products and suggestions to your leadership that might work in your organization. The vendors that we bring in are always so supportive and willing to meet with you to discuss ways to improve your job. It has been wonderful to meet and interact with so many of them.

Lastly, the presentations that I have listened to at our conferences as well as the ones I have presented have helped me to achieve greater satisfaction with why we do what we do. Transfusion Medicine may seem like it does not change, but it is constantly evolving. We strive to bring new concepts to you so you can continue to improve your knowledge.

It has been my pleasure to serve on this board. I would encourage all of you to continue to attend the meetings. If you have a desire to advance your knowledge, make connections, and make a difference, join the board. You will not regret it!





# **2025 CONFERENCE**

## **MNABB 2025 Annual Conference – October 8**

Mark your calendars – the **MNABB 2025 Conference is almost here!** Join us on **Wednesday, October 8 (7:30 AM – 4:30 PM) at St. Cloud State University’s Atwood Memorial Center** for a full day of cutting-edge education, professional networking, and shared passion for blood banking. From drone delivery innovations to breakthroughs, our sessions will deliver insights for everyone in the field.

Registration is open now at [mnabb.com](https://mnabb.com) – spread the word and invite colleagues, students, and fellow enthusiasts to be part of this dynamic gathering!

We’re also excited to share our current list of registered vendors:

Werfen • Cerus Corporation • Haemonetics • MAK-SYSTEM • Grifols • Fisher Healthcare • Thermo Fisher Scientific • Bio-Rad Laboratories • Alba Bioscience

A special thank you to Visit Greater St. Cloud for their support in helping us host this event – explore all that St. Cloud has to offer at [visitstcloud.com](https://visitstcloud.com).

Finally, for those traveling in, the Best Western Kelly Inn still has rooms available! A special rate of \$119 + taxes is available using the code “2025 MNABB CONFERENCE.” Please note: this rate can only be reserved by phone at 1-320-253-0606.

**We can’t wait to see you in St. Cloud for a day of learning, connection, and inspiration!**

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## **2025 SCHOLARSHIP INFO**

We’re excited to share that MNABB will award two scholarships in 2025, with the recipients to be revealed very soon! A sincere thank you to all who applied – your enthusiasm, dedication, and commitment to advancing transfusion medicine truly reflect the strength of our community.

We can’t wait to celebrate together at the Annual Conference as we honor the two outstanding recipients and their contributions to the field!



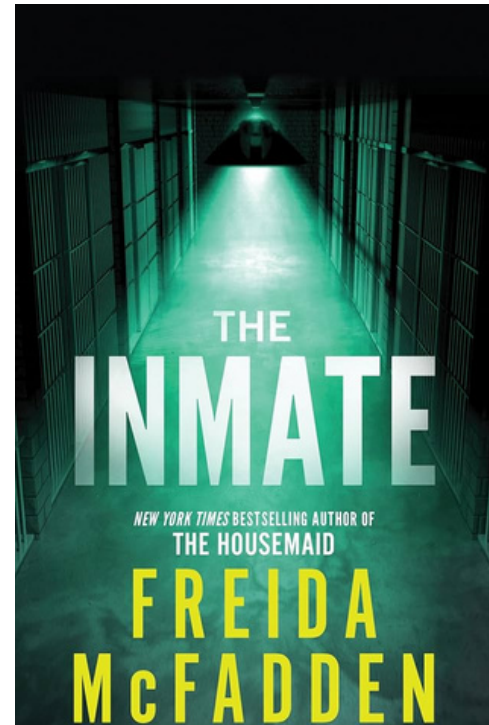


# WHAT ARE BLOOD BANKERS RECOMMENDING...

## Books to check out:

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

As a new nurse practitioner at a men's maximum-security prison, Brooke Sullivan must follow three rules: treat every prisoner with respect, keep her personal life completely private, and under no circumstances form attachments. But Brooke has already broken the rules. No one at the prison knows about her past with Shane Nelson — one of the most dangerous inmates within its walls. Years ago, Shane was the golden boy of her high school, her first love, and the star quarterback. Now, he's serving a life sentence for horrific crimes, convicted in part because of Brooke's own testimony. When their paths cross again behind bars, Shane hasn't forgotten the betrayal — and he's not about to let her forget either.



## Music to look into:

### **Coldplay**

If it's been a while since you last listened to Coldplay, maybe now is the perfect time to get back into them. Known for their soaring anthems and heartfelt ballads, the band has a knack for blending uplifting energy with reflective lyrics — music that works just as well for a study playlist as it does for unwinding after a long shift. From classics like Yellow and Viva La Vida to more recent tracks that experiment with fresh sounds, Coldplay offers a soundtrack of resilience, hope, and connection that feels especially timely.



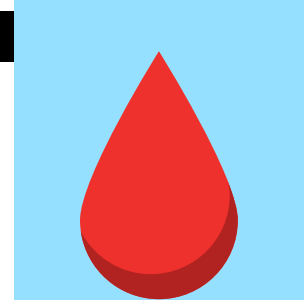
### **Have something to recommend?**

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!



## 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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For a list of worldwide office locations and contact information, visit [www.haemonetics.com/office/locations](http://www.haemonetics.com/office/locations)

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**HAEMONETICS<sup>®</sup>**



# A WORD FROM AABB

Spotlight on the 2025 AABB Annual Meeting



## Show Up For Science

At the 2025 AABB Annual Meeting

Show up for the future of blood and biotherapies – and stand alongside those leading the way. Be a part of the 2025 AABB Annual Meeting, where innovation and collaboration take center stage.



### All You Need to Know in One Place

AABB2025 supports your professional growth by connecting you with the science, expertise and community that drive progress.

- **Expand your network:** Build lasting relationships with peers, mentors and collaborators with whom you can connect to share insights and support.
- **Earn CME/CE credits:** Fulfill your continuing education requirements through both live and recorded education sessions.
- **Expert-led education:** Learn directly from the real-world experts who are currently working and leading advances in the field.
- **Stand with science:** Connect with a community who shares your commitment to evidence-based care and advancing the field together.

“



*“I like to attend the AABB Annual Meeting every year so that I can be up to date on the most recent advances. Regular attendance at the AABB Annual Meeting helps me think of new research ideas and directions.”*

-Galen Conti, MPH  
American Red Cross

Register Now! [aabb.org/annual meeting](https://aabb.org/annual-meeting)





## **PROPOSED BYLAW UPDATES**

As part of MNABB's ongoing commitment to clarity and growth, the Board has reviewed and updated the organization's bylaws. Attached to the newsletter email you will find the revised document with highlighted changes.

- The section previously titled "Purpose" has been updated to "Mission", with new bullet points added to better reflect our vision and values.
- All other highlighted areas represent newly added statements that strengthen and modernize our organizational framework.

Acceptance of this updated version will be voted on by the membership during the Fall Conference. We encourage you to review the proposed changes in advance so your voice can be part of this important decision.



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## Until Next Time – Thanks for Reading!

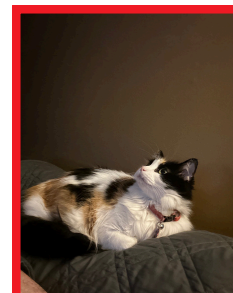
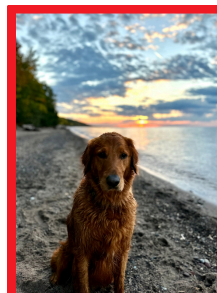
Thank you for taking the time to read the MnABB September 2025 Newsletter! Your dedication, curiosity, and passion for the world of blood banking are what keep our community strong and thriving. We're excited for everything this year holds and grateful to have you with us on the journey. Until next time—stay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

