



FABB TIMES

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Nieves Losa, FABB President, Welcomes you to the New FABB Times!



Welcome the new FABB which will keep you what is going on with association of Blood s' members the year.

I am excited to announce that the upcoming FABB Conference & Trade Show will be held in Beautiful Miami Beach on Thurs.

June 3rd and Fri. June 4th, 2010. The Board of Directors and I ask everyone to encourage others outside of blood banking to attend the upcoming conference which promises to be *Beyond Expectations!*

To get updated info log on to our website at www.floridaabb.com

[2010 FABB Conference](#)

Loews Miami Beach Hotel
1601 Collins Avenue
Miami Beach, Florida 33139

FABB Room Rate: \$189. per night + taxes & fees.

This rate is extended for any FABB members/attendees from Tues. 6/1/09—Sun. 6/6/09

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FABB Conference Topics & Highlights

Administration Tract

"Laugh for the Health of it" – *Humor therapist, Elaine M. Lundberg* takes a humorous yet practical approach to wellness & stress management. She educates, motivates and helps incorporate positive humor into your personal & professional lives. Come prepared to learn how to take your work seriously, but yourself lightly!

Recruitment Tract

"Healthy Body, Healthy Business" - *Health Facilitator, Shall Adams* teaches key steps to eating healthy in demanding circumstances, ways to start raising your energy and how to implement nutritional principals & culinary skills in a fun and motivational way. Learn how a healthy body is critical to success

Other topics to come...

- Achieving Goals
- HR Legal Issues
- Today's Economy 101
- Ropes Course Challenge
- And more...

South Florida Activities

Things to do with the Kids...

- Miami Children's Museum
Admission = \$15 per person
- Jungle Island
Children 3-10 = \$23.49
Adults = \$29.91
- Miami Seaquarium
General Admission = \$35.95
Kids(3-9yrs old) = \$26.95

Adults Having Fun!

- Miami Beach Nightclubs
(admission varies by location)
- Vizcaya Museums & Gardens
Admission = \$15 per person
- Hard Rock Casino
(Free Entrance, but bring \$\$)
- Improv Comedy Club
(Free admission w/coupon)

Shopping & More

- Bayside Shops
- Lincoln Road Mall
- Sawgrass Mall
- Bal Harbour Shops
- Jet ski / Boat Rentals
- Miami Beach Sun & Sand!!

FABB is offering 2 Scholarships to attend the 2010 Conference & Trade Show!!

All Laboratory Personnel interested in applying for a Chance to Win should contact Judy Smith at jsmith@fbsblood.org

H1N1 and the Blood Supply—VIGILANCE IS KEY by Richard Gammon, M.D.

The H1N1 virus was first detected in the United States in April 2009. The virus spreads in much the same way as the regular seasonal influenza spreads. On June 11, 2009 due to the ability of the virus to spread, the World Health Organization (WHO) raised the pandemic alert to Phase 6 as more than 70 countries were reporting cases of human illness.¹

The professional organization of the blood banking industry, AABB, has created an Interorganizational Task Force on Pandemic Influenza and the Blood Supply (Flu Task Force). Fortunately, at the time of print, the task force has not reported any significant adverse impact on blood collections in the US.²

Should the H1N1 mutate and the strain become more virulent, the blood supply could be adversely impacted from a reduction in donors as individuals become unwilling or unable to present for donation. Although there may be a decrease in demand due to cancelled surgeries, blood collections would need to remain sufficient to meet patient needs.

It should be noted that the influenza virus has never been recognized as transfusion-transmissible, but there is very limited evidence of influenza viremia in the day or two before illness onset from prior seasonal strains. There is no data about such asymptomatic viremia with the current outbreak

strain.²

To ensure that there is an adequate blood supply, centers including Florida's Blood Centers, are reviewing and refining pandemic plans. This includes having adequate supplies and protection for both blood center staff and donors entering the collection facility.²

Donors would be encouraged to make and keep appointments during a pandemic. This would include those who had recovered from infection. Affecting the blood supply will be donors who are not feeling well or febrile on the day of collection, as well as those donors who contact the blood center post donation to report they are not feeling well.³

If the pandemic was limited to certain sections of the US, AABB would coordinate regional and national movement of blood components, if feasible, to areas in which blood collections would have to be temporarily suspended. In the event of a pandemic affecting a blood center's service area, regular timely communication would be established with the hospitals about the overall status of the component inventories. This would ensure as much advance warning as feasible if there are developing shortages.²

Hospital transfusion services will want to review

their pandemic plans as well. This may include triaging potentially limited component inventories to those most likely to benefit from transfusion (e.g., pediatric patients, trauma patients). Effective blood management by both the blood center, the hospital and its medical staff is the best way to assure maximum benefit from transfusion therapy if a shortage would develop.²

Five manufacturers are making candidate vaccines that can be tested in clinical trials that will be conducted over the summer months with the intent to have a vaccine available for the 2009-10 influenza season. An Australian firm, CSL, initiated human trials of the vaccine in mid July, with US trials to follow.^{1,4-6}

In summary, while there is not currently cause for concern about the US blood supply, blood collection centers and transfusion services and their professional organizations must continue to remain vigilant to the threat of H1N1 and other emerging pathogens. The best way to combat any risk is to maintain a level of preparedness. This will mitigate the threat of shortages and allow for an adequate blood supply to maintain quality patient care.

Sources:

1. CDC web site—06/09
2. AABB Association Bulletin 09-03 (4/30/09)
3. AABB Task Force on pandemic influenza and Blood Supply—



Poolside Games at the Loews

(For FABB Conference Attendees & Family)

Wed. June 3rd, 2010

7:00pm — 10:00pm

Games, Prizes and Fun for all!



Florida Blood Banking Under Review by Michael Huey

The Florida Senate is examining the manner in which blood banks operate in Florida. The Senate's Committee on Health Regulation is reviewing issues including:

- State and federal regulation of blood banks.
- Market competition within the industry.
- Pricing of blood/blood products.
- Corporate structure.

- Business arrangements/practices.

This review comes on the heels of "negative" blood banking articles by state newspapers. FABB and its member blood banks are fully cooperating with the Senate staff who are currently reviewing state and federal regulations, preparing questionnaires to be submitted to blood banking officials and visiting one or more blood banks. The Committee's report and any

suggested statutory changes are expected to be completed by January 2010.

During the interim, we anticipate one or more Senate Committee meetings will be devoted to this topic. These meetings will be conducted at the Capitol complex in Tallahassee and we will notify members as soon as meetings are scheduled. In the meantime, we will be arranging "educational" meetings throughout the state where FABB and individual blood banks can inform legislators regarding

the importance of blood banking and the need to avoid regulatory actions that might interfere with the ability of our organizations to continue to meet the blood supply and quality needs of our communities. We will need the assistance of all members of the industry to properly educate legislators and legislative staff.

Mike Huey is a partner in the statewide law firm of Gray-Robinson and practices in the Tallahassee office. He has represented FABB for more than 30 years. His phone number is 850-577-9090 and his email address is mike.huey@gray-robinson.com