COMMUNICATIONS

Letter From the Editor

December Theme Issue

More and more red cell reference laboratories have taken on the challenging tasks involved in platelet antibody screening and crossmatching. Some are also involved in white cell serology. The Editorial Board of Immunohematology met in October 1994 and recommended that the scope of the journal be extended to include the serology of platelets and white cells. The December 1995 issue therefore will be dedicated to articles on platelets and white cells. We are asking authors who have information that is relevant to the serology of these cells to submit papers by August 7, 1995, for publication in Volume 11, No. 4, in December 1995.

Already submitted and accepted for this issue are two case studies, one on granulocyte serology and one on the use of papain in routine platelet serology. In addition, Susan Rolih, Vice President of Technical Services of Immucor, Inc., the invited reviewer, will review the history of platelet crossmatching, including current testing and comparison to red cell crossmatching. Please share this information with the staff of your platelet and white cell serology testing laboratories and submit your paper for consideration for publication in the first platelet-white cell issue of Immunohematology. Be a pioneer and help make the December issue a success.

Delores Mallory
Editor-in-Chief

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TWO CONFERENCES SPONSORED BY THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF BLOOD BANKS (AABB)

Ensuring a Predictable Donor Base: Marketing Models for the 21st Century, September 10-12, 1995, in Denver, CO. This conference, sponsored by the AABB and the Council of Community Blood Centers, will provide participants with new marketing skills that will help increase blood collections, increase donor retention, and unify teams at blood centers. Key topics include market analysis, marketing models for statistical tools, developing an effective marketing plan, great marketing tips from blood bankers, community development, and crisis communication. Fees for this conference will be $450 before August 10, 1995, and $500 after that date. For more information, please contact the AABB Education Department at (301) 215-6482.

Apheresis: Update 1995, September 22-23, 1995, Chicago, IL. This conference, intended for professionals responsible for providing apheresis services, will cover anticoagulation, venous access, apheresis education, regulatory issues, leukocyte-reduced products, quality control, inventory control, indications for therapeutic plasma exchange, cellular reductions, pediatric procedures, affinity columns, peripheral blood stem cell transplantation cytokines in apheresis, and future trends. Fees for this conference are $325 before August 25, 1995, and $375 after that date. For more information, please contact the AABB Education Department at (301) 215-6482.

Monoclonal Antibodies Against Human Red Blood Cells and Related Antigens. This third international workshop is being organized by the—

• International Society of Blood Transfusion.
• Centre Régional de Transfusion Sanguine de Nantes.
• Institut National de la Transfusion Sanguine de Paris.
It will be held in Nantes, France, September 26-27, 1996. For information concerning the submission of antibodies or participation in the workshop, contact: Secretariat of the Third Workshop, Centre Régional de Transfusion Sanguine, 34 Boulevard Jean Monnet, BP 349, 44011 Nantes, France, Cédex 01, or fax (33) 40 12 3333.

Annual Symposium. The National Institutes of Health, Department of Transfusion Medicine, will present its 14th annual symposium, "Immunohematology and Blood Transfusion," on September 27, 1995. Expert speakers will address current topics in transfusion medicine. The symposium is free of charge, but registration is required. Contact: Karen M. Cipolone, NIH/CC/DTM, Bldg. 10, Rm. 1C711, 10 Center Drive MSC 1184, Bethesda, MD 20892-1184, or call (301) 496-8335.

SBB Program. The American Red Cross Blood Services, Southern Region, in affiliation with Grady Memorial Hospital, is accepting applications for the 1996 class. Students receive a stipend during the 12-month program. Qualified students may enter Georgia State University to pursue an MS degree. Graduate assistantships are available to help defray tuition costs.