BOOK REVIEW

*Policy Alternatives in Transfusion Medicine.* James P. AuBuchon, MD; Lawrence Petz, MD; and Arlene Fink, PhD, eds. Bethesda, MD: American Association of Blood Banks (AABB) Press, 2001. Softcover, 226 pp. List price: $105, member price: $75. Stock #022005. To order: e-mail: sales@aabb.org or fax: (301) 951-7150.

This reviewer found *Policy Alternatives in Transfusion Medicine* to be an excellent book and, in fact, so compelling, interesting, and readable I completed it in one day.

In his preface, Dr. AuBuchon states that the “book was written to provoke the reader into considering the dilemmas in which blood banking in transfusion medicine professionals now find themselves.” Indeed, the book does just that. In addition, it offers the reader a substantial amount of current information that otherwise is difficult to access. This includes considerations of ethical principles by Sugarman and Devine, legal principles by Lipton, Parker, and Mullikan, and economic principles and an overview of health-care payment systems by Rice and AuBuchon.

The book also covers policy issues and infectious disease screening, pathogen inactivation for cellular components, bacterial contamination, and under- and mis-transfusion in sections written by such noted authorities as Blajchman, Dodd, Busch, Linden, and Kleinman.

Perhaps even more interesting and valuable is a chapter entitled, “Desired Directions for Transfusion Medicine,” which includes perspectives from knowledgeable authors, featuring “A Recipient’s Perspective,” “A Health-Care Policy Analyst’s Perspective,” “A Surgeon’s Perspective,” and “A Perspective from Transfusion Medicine.”

In short, *Policy Alternatives in Transfusion Medicine* is timely, informative, well-written, and unique in its coverage and perspectives. I highly recommend this work for anyone interested in the principles that provide the foundation for much of our current practice in transfusion medicine, as well as for its future.

Christopher D. Hillyer, MD
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