COMMUNICATIONS

Ortho Dedication

From the Editor:

The editors of *Immunohematology* are grateful to Ortho Diagnostics Systems, Inc., for its generous contribution in support of the publication of this issue. Ortho is a leading worldwide manufacturer of reagents for the blood bank. It has a history of leadership in the blood bank field, including development of monoclonal antibodies for blood grouping, infectious disease screening tests such as HCV testing, and Rh immune globulin. In addition, Ortho has a tradition of supporting educational endeavors in the field of blood banking.

We thank Ortho Diagnostics Systems, Inc., for its continuing support.

Recognition and appreciation of such donations in no way represents Red Cross endorsement of any company or product.

Delores Mallory
Editor-in-Chief

The Use of Pooled Reagent Red Cells

To the Editor:

We were surprised to read the article by Shulman et al.1 which states that little data has been published to support the use of unpooled reagent red cells for pretransfusion antibody detection.

A study carried out by us in 19852 tested 105 sera known to have weak, warm-reacting clinically significant alloantibodies. We showed that 12 percent of alloantibodies were undetectable and a further 23 percent were detectable microscopically only when pooled reagent red cells were used; the same reactions were easily detectable macroscopically when individual reagent red cells were used. It was concluded that the sensitivity of pretransfusion screening tests is unacceptably reduced when pooled reagent red cells are used. It was further recommended that screening red cells should be used individually for pretransfusion testing as well as for screening of sera from antenatal patients for detection of alloantibodies.

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The above letter was sent to Dr. Shulman, who offered the following reply.

A Comment on “Reagents for the 1990’s”

From the Editor:

*Immunohematology* is honored to present “Reagents for the 1990’s,” a report of the monoclonal reagents meeting that was organized by the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in cooperation with the International Society of Blood Transfusion and the International Committee for Standardization in Haematology. Manufacturers and users of monoclonal reagents met with the sponsors in November 1990 to discuss manufacturing and characterization of monoclonal reagents. The editors believe that the information in the report will have an impact on those readers of *Immunohematology* who will be using greater amounts and kinds of monoclonal reagents in the future as the supplies of polyclonal reagents decrease. We look forward to receiving your comments.

It is also a privilege to include an invited review by Dr. Marilyn Telen, which was presented at the fourth AABB/ARC Reference Laboratory Conference held in Fairfax, Virginia, on March 22–24, 1991. Another presen-