



The Department of Transfusion on Medicine Specialist in Blood Bank Technology Program

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) Clinical Center, America's research hospital, is located on the NIH campus in Bethesda, Maryland. Through clinical research, clinician-investigators translate laboratory discoveries into better treatments, therapies, and interventions to improve the nation's health.

The Department of Transfusion Medicine (DTM) Specialist in Blood Bank (SBB) Training Program was established in 1966. Many of its graduates are now technical supervisors, education coordinators, quality assurance specialists, or reference technologists at some of the nation's finest blood banks and transfusion services. Others have joined commercial companies in reference and education capacities. The program is a 1-year course (July–July) in advanced blood bank technology. The NIH Clinical Center Blood Bank, SBB Technology Program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (www.caahep.org) upon the recommendation of the AABB Committee on Accreditation of SBB Programs.

The curriculum includes formal and informal teaching sessions covering basic and advanced serological techniques, blood donations, genetics, molecular immunohematology, viral disease testing, blood preservation and storage, component therapy, apheresis, hazards of transfusion, immunology, human leukocyte antigen (HLA) and transplantation, blood bank administration, and other relevant topics. Participation is encouraged at monthly departmental blood bank Journal Club presentations, Laboratory Services Section's continuing education opportunities, and weekly transfusion medicine conferences. Students complete rotations in the DTM Laboratory Services Section, which includes an AABB-Accredited Immunohematology Reference Laboratory and an ASHI-accredited HLA Typing Laboratory. A rotation in the Blood Services Section of the DTM provides experience in donor recruitment, screening, phlebotomy, and apheresis procedures. Experience in infectious disease testing and hematopoietic transplantation is obtained through rotations in both the Infectious Diseases and Cell Processing Sections of the DTM. Rotations off-site address neonatal/pediatric transfusion practices and specialized testing procedures, such as IgA and monocyte monolayer assays.

With the guidance of a senior DTM staff member, each student is required to pursue an in-depth project suitable for presentation and/or publication. The project may concern a research issue in blood banking, a case study with a review of the literature, or an educational project.

Interested applicants should contact:

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