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# AABB News

- 4 AABB Foundation Events Support Innovative Research
- 6 Highlights from the 2024 AABB Annual Meeting
- 22 Achieving Your Wellness Goals for the New Year

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HOUSTON  
OCTOBER 19-22

## Annual Meeting Issue





# Help Change Lives this Holiday Season



This season of giving, your gift to the AABB Foundation can make a life-changing impact. When you give, you help to fund vital scientific research that offers hope to millions of patients throughout the world.

Thanks to the generosity of our community, research grants from the AABB Foundation have supported over 200 innovative scientists, enabling them to make critical medical breakthroughs—and with your help, the next groundbreaking discovery is within reach.

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**Join us in our mission of fueling innovative research today by making your donation at [aabb.org/contribute](https://aabb.org/contribute).**



## Contents

aabb | **2024**  
HOUSTON  
OCTOBER 19-22



6

## Highlights from the 2024 AABB Annual Meeting

Thousands of members of the blood and biotherapies community gathered in Houston for a successful event.



### COLUMNS & INTERVIEWS

President's Message

**2 Greetings from the New AABB President**

AABB Foundation

**4 AABB Foundation Events Support Innovative Research**

Insider's View

**18 2024 AABB Annual Meeting Attendees Share Their Experience**

Social Media

**14 #AABB Champs: Annual Meeting Recap**

Be Well

**22 Achieving Your Wellness Goals for the New Year**

White Coats

**24 Chloe Homich, MLS(ASCP) CMSBB, CQA(ASQ): Cultivating Knowledge in Blood Banking**

### DEPARTMENTS

**27 Of Note**

**28 Calendar**

## Greetings from the New AABB President

**T**he 2024 AABB Annual Meeting has come and gone, and I am still brimming with enthusiasm and energized by its successful outcome! It was rewarding to connect with members of the blood and biotherapies community in Houston to collaborate, learn and discuss critical issues facing our field. I attended my first AABB Annual Meeting in 2006 in Miami – and I have not missed one since. For me, the AABB Annual Meeting has become a must-attend event and is always a highlight of the year.

As the new AABB president, I want to first extend a big thank you to my predecessor, Aaron Tobian, MD, PhD, for leading our Association throughout the past year. His work and leadership have guided AABB's success and helped to advance the field of blood and biotherapies throughout the world, and I applaud him for his efforts and dedication.

It is a true honor and privilege to serve as president of an organization that has been vital to me throughout my career. When I first learned about AABB, I was told that this Association was the "professional home" for the field. That has certainly been the case for me; AABB has provided me with immense benefits throughout my career – from the knowledge I have gained through the education programs and my participation in the Annual Meetings, to my membership on committees, and to the strong connections I have made with countless fellow AABB members. I am proud to be part of an Association that continues to drive advancements in quality and safety throughout the world – and has done so for more than 75 years. I take seriously the responsibility



Meghan Delaney,  
DO, MPH

to build on this Association's history and legacy during my term as president.

### Expanding AABB's Commitment

Looking ahead, I believe we can continue to expand AABB's commitment to our members, while further cultivating our global role. AABB is well positioned to assist in these efforts and to use this opportunity to help advance public health and improve lives globally. In particular, we are taking steps to expand our work in the Middle East. We are also continuing to work with facilities internationally to help them achieve the Quality Certificate, which is a key step in advancing quality and safety.

AABB is a membership organization. As such, it serves as members' professional home and Association. I welcome your feedback and encourage you to let me, or any of my colleagues on the Board, know how we can better support your goals and meet your needs and those of the community we are proud to serve. I look forward to serving and collaborating with you this year. ■

Meghan Delaney, DO, MPH  
AABB President

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# The AABB Foundation's 2024 Annual Meeting Events Support Innovative Research

By AABB Foundation Staff  
Contributing Writers

**T**he AABB Foundation events held during the 2024 Annual Meeting offered attendees a chance to experience the Foundation's mission of fueling innovative research with in-person opportunities for networking, engaging in research discussions and celebrating researchers who are leading the field.

## Reception for Research – A Party With a Purpose

The 2024 Annual Meeting kicked off with the AABB Foundation Party With a Purpose, sponsored by American Red Cross and HemoCue America, for a celebration of the Foundation's philanthropic supporters and its newest honorees.

In addition to recognizing the AABB Foundation grant recipients, scholars, Award for Innovative Research recipient and Hall of Fame inductees for 2024, the Dale A. Smith Award established by Fresenius Kabi for groundbreaking work in the application of technology

to the practice of transfusion medicine or biotherapies was presented.

## Run, Walk and Sleep-In for Research

Many Annual Meeting attendees rose early to participate in the Run for Research 5K run/1-mile walk to raise awareness and support for the AABB Foundation mission.

Vijay Bhoj, MD, PhD, 2024 Award for Innovative Research recipient, greeted the crowd with welcome remarks, while others who preferred spending their early mornings sleeping participated by choosing to Sleep-In for Research. Run for Research was supported by Abbott, Fresenius Kabi and Johnson & Johnson.

Through fundraisers such as these, and many other individual and institutional donations, the AABB Foundation was able to award \$600,000 in funding for critical early-stage research grants in 2024.

## Research Symposium

This year's premier scientific showcase highlighted a series of short, powerful talks from recent AABB Foundation grant recipients whose cutting-edge research has the potential to move the field forward in all aspects of blood banking, transfusion medicine and biotherapies.

Krystalyn Hudson, PhD, chair of the AABB Foundation Scientific Research Grants Review Committee, welcomed the presenting researchers:

- **Yan Zheng, MD, PhD, 2024 AABB Foundation Scholar**  
*Developing RHtyper for automated RH genotyping using next generation sequencing data*
- **Vijay Bhoj, MD, PhD, 2024 Award for Innovative Research Recipient**  
*Stories in Cell Therapy*
- **Sean Stowell, MD, PhD, 2015 AABB Foundation Scholar**  
*Antibody-mediated Immunosuppression*

Visit [aabb.org/foundation](https://aabb.org/foundation) to meet this year's AABB Foundation honorees in a special recognition video.



Vijay Bhoj, MD, PhD; Chance John Luckey, MD, PhD; Jose Cancelas, MD, PhD, CABP; and Yan Zheng, MD, PhD, at the Party With a Purpose Reception.





Attendees participated in the Run for Research 5K run/walk to support the foundation.

(Right) Foundation grant recipients Francesca Vinchi, PhD, and Angelo D'Alessandro, PhD, presented their latest research work at the ABBB Foundation Scholars on Stage in the Exhibit Hall.



At the Research Symposium, past president of ABBB Foundation, Jose Cancelas, MD, PhD, CABP, also facilitated a panel conversation with 2024 ABBB Foundation Hall of Fame inductees, Chance John Luckey, MD, PhD; and Jo-Anna Reems, PhD, MT(ASCP)SBB, who discussed their research programs and the impact of receiving research funding from the Foundation in the early stages of their careers.

### Scholars on Stage

New this year, the ABBB Foundation Scholars on Stage in the Exhibit Hall featured previous grant recipients, Francesca Vinchi, PhD; and Angelo D'Alessandro, PhD, who presented their latest research work.

Introduced by ABBB Foundation scholar Krystalyn Hudson, Vinchi discussed her Foundation-funded project and findings on the role of heme-activated macrophages in sickle cell disease complications. ABBB Foundation President Richard Schäfer, MD, FRSB, introduced D'Alessandro, who discussed how his lab has leveraged technologies and seminal findings from his ABBB Foundation grant to develop a research program on omics in transfusion medicine.

### Research & Development Summit Hosts Panel on Artificial Intelligence

Sponsored by HemoCue America, The Research and Development (R&D) Summit for blood center executives and business leaders centered on recent innovations in artificial intelligence and how it advances the field. "The Research and Development Summit

engages us in critical conversations, so we can share ideas and solve challenges to change the

lives of patients and blood donors," said Summit moderator Tony Casina, MT(ASCP)SBB. "For the blood and biotherapies community, the promise and progress of artificial intelligence cannot be overstated. There are many benefits for those we all serve, but we are also mindful of its potential limitations."

The presentations at the Research and Development Summit covered a broad range of topics that included:

- **Approaches to blood inventory management** (Jansen Seheult, MD, MBBCh, MS, MSc, FCAP)
- **Donor engagement and retention tools** (Ruchika Goel, MD, MPH, CABP)
- **Online search engine ads and messaging to first-time and repeat donors** (Tho Pham, MD)
- **Technological advances in genomics for donor blood typing** (Celina Montemayor-Garcia, MD, PhD)
- **Machine learning in donor management and transfusion safety** (W. Alton Russell, PhD)
- **Brand management and artificial intelligence** (Clifford Numark, MSc, MPA, JD) ■

*To learn more about the ABBB Foundation and its mission of fueling innovative research, please visit [www.aabb.org/foundation](http://www.aabb.org/foundation).*

**Want a quick introduction to artificial intelligence and machine learning?**

Scan the QR code below to hear from Dr. Na Li, assistant professor at University of Calgary.



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Shaping the Industry



# HIGHLIGHTS of the 2024 AABB Annual Meeting



The 2024 AABB Annual Meeting in Houston brought together thousands of professionals in the field of blood and biotherapies from throughout the world. In the following pages, *AABB News* presents summaries of some of the top research and scientific sessions at the Meeting.

*\*Find additional coverage of the Annual Meeting at [aabb.org/news-resources/news/aabb-newsfeed](https://aabb.org/news-resources/news/aabb-newsfeed).*