A WORD FROM OUR CEO

The spring season is full of transformations — we see warmer temperatures, longer days, and flowers in bloom. Since spring is a time of growth and revitalization for all things in nature, now is the perfect time to consider saving a life by donating blood.

As we move closer toward the summer months, we tend to see a dip in blood donations; people are on vacation, schools are out, and everyone generally has so many other things to do that they put off donating blood. We hope you keep us in mind and pre-schedule your appointments during this time.

We also hope you’ll join us in recognizing those who are on the front lines of our lifesaving efforts by celebrating National Laboratory Professionals Week, National Volunteer Week, and National Nurses Week. (More info on the following pages.)

Thank you for your continued support and please remember to encourage friends and family to donate blood and help us save lives in our community and beyond.

Sincerely,

David Wellis, Ph.D.
Chief Executive Officer
National Volunteer Week (April 23 – 29, 2017) brings awareness to the contributions of volunteers and encourages others to donate their time to worthy causes. Take advantage of this week by thanking or recognizing one of our volunteers. You might even find an opportunity to volunteer yourself – check out our Volunteer page for more info!

NATIONAL NURSES WEEK

SDBB is recognizing the important role nurses play in healthcare during National Nurses Week, celebrated annually from May 6 – 12, and we hope you’ll join us.

The week-long celebration ends on the birthdate of Florence Nightingale, who is considered to be the founder of modern nursing. Nightingale advocated sanitary conditions and safe practices that reduced infection and raised survival rates of wounded soldiers during the Crimean War.

Today’s nurses ensure the delivery of quality healthcare to patients, families, and society as a whole. An annual Gallup Survey shows the public has ranked nursing as the top profession for honesty and ethical standards for 14 straight years. Feel free to recognize your favorite SDBB nurse throughout the week with handwritten notes, via social media, or simply a verbal “thank you.”
SDBB’s Component Production Lab receives, processes, and labels all blood products. Here, whole blood products are separated into plasma, platelets, and red cells, and the staff makes sure our blood products are safe for distribution.

Our Immunohematology Reference Lab provides expertise and support for our hospital customers and performs specialized testing on blood products for complex patient cases, allowing for the identification of multiple red cell antibodies. rare red cell antibodies.

Our Quality Control & Platelet Culturing Lab ensures the safety, purity, and potency of all products we distribute by making sure SDBB is in accordance with all state and FDA regulations.

SDBB’s Development & Research Lab is responsible for the innovation and creation of new blood-related products, services, and technologies. Next-generation production and manufacturing processes are developed in association with industry providers, allowing for the optimization of all units collected. Additionally, SDBB is participating in the Precision Medicine Initiative in collaboration with industry and academic institutions in the U.S.

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National Laboratory Professionals Week (April 23 – 29, 2017) provides an opportunity to increase public understanding of and appreciation for laboratory personnel — and recognize them for their efforts. SDBB has outstanding staff in our Cell Therapy, Research, Reference, Quality Control, and Components laboratories.

Our Cell Therapy Lab works with local hospitals to encourage expectant mothers to donate their baby’s umbilical cord. The processed cord blood cells are stored frozen in liquid nitrogen and listed on the National Marrow Donor Program’s registry, making them available for transplant to people around the world. This lab also does research on therapeutic stem cells from cord blood and tissue for the treatment of diseases like immune disorders, cancer, and regenerative medicine.
Don and Mary Wilkins

We have lots of great volunteers, and in this issue we’d like to recognize Don and Mary Wilkins. They’ve been volunteering with SDBB since 2010 and donors always have great things to say about them both. They volunteer every Saturday and have recently offered to put in more hours, so you may see them around more often.

Don says “Getting to know the donors, becoming friends with them and working with the great staff we knew we had made the right choice. They are all like family to us.”

Don also volunteers for the San Diego Police Department (Retired Senior Volunteer Patrol) which he has done for 21 years. Don and Mary enjoy traveling to Hawaii twice a year, doing jigsaw puzzles, reading, cruising and spending time with their spoiled cats. The couple, married 63 years, have 3 daughters, 3 granddaughters, 1 great granddaughter and a precious new great grandson named Landon.

Caroline Wrathall

In 2013, at the age of 7, Caroline was diagnosed with high-risk neuroblastoma. She underwent many rounds of chemotherapy and radiation therapy, and six rounds of antibody-driven immunotherapy. She also received several blood and platelet transfusions as part of her treatment.

Thanks to volunteer blood and platelet donors, Caroline is now clear of the disease! She loves to dance, read, play with medical equipment, and order people around.
Walter J. and Betty C. Zable Foundation Fund
New Bloodmobile

Every day when we see the faces of children like 12-year-old Aidan Good, who underwent a heart transplant and required multiple blood transfusions during surgery, we thank the doctors and nurses, the donors who give blood, and the generous financial contributors like the Walter J. and Betty C. Zable Foundation, which donated $300,000 to the San Diego Blood Bank for a new bloodmobile.

On behalf of the patients we serve, the San Diego Blood Bank extends our most sincere thanks to the Walter J. and Betty C. Zable Foundation Board of Directors for its vision, compassion for others, and firm belief in the value of the San Diego Blood Bank.

Aidan continues to receive treatment, including plasma transfusions due to his body rejecting his new heart. This bloodmobile will collect approximately 6,500 units of life-saving blood annually, helping Aidan and thousands more patients who need blood to survive.

Grossmont Healthcare District

San Diego Blood Bank Foundation staff thanks longtime Community Partner Grossmont Healthcare District Board of Directors, which has donated more than $650,000 for programs, services, and vehicles, like the new blood delivery van pictured here.

Big Business, Big Heart!

The San Diego Blood Bank’s Community Partners hold a special place in the hearts of patients and their families — patients like Hazel (left), who was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia (AML), a type of blood cancer, and needs a platelet transfusion weekly as she undergoes treatment. When blood recipients and their families learn about the generous funding received from Community Partners, they see a side of big business they’re not always aware of.

The San Diego Blood Bank is very grateful to our Community Partners for their loyal and generous support. On behalf of the thousands of patients who benefit from their generosity, we thank them for their partnership and vision.
The San Diego Blood Bank will launch a new version of MySDBB later this year. The new software will have lots of the same features, wellness profile access, donor history, and gallon totals, but now donors will be able to log in through social media.

More information coming soon!
FIRST ANNUAL SAN DIEGO PADRES SUMMER BLOOD DRIVE

The San Diego Padres are teaming up with the San Diego Blood Bank for the 1st Annual Padres Summer Blood Drive on **Tuesday, June 27**, at Petco Park’s Park at the Park!

Come out and save a life; meet the Padres players; and enjoy music, food, and fun for the whole family. The event is open to all, but donors will receive a pair of tickets to a Padres game, VIP line status for player autographs, and more.

Call 1-800-4My-SDBB to make your appointment.

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LIVE WELL SAN DIEGO 5K COMING SOON!

The San Diego Blood Bank and County of San Diego are joining forces again to bring you the Live Well San Diego 5K! This family-friendly event will be held the last weekend in July at the County of San Diego’s Waterfront Park, and will feature a Pet Zone, Kids Zone, and interactive fun for all ages.

The exact date, more information, and online registration will be coming soon to livewellsd5k.com
HOLIDAY HOURS

Please note our upcoming donor center holiday hours to coordinate your next blood donation appointment.

Easter Hours: Sunday, April 16
North County and Sabre Springs Donor Centers: CLOSED
Carmel Valley, Coastal Donor Center, East County, Gateway:
Open 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Memorial Day Hours: Monday, May 29
North County Donor Center: CLOSED
Carmel Valley, Coastal Donor Center, East County, Sabre Springs, Gateway:
Open 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

CONNECT WITH US

Saved a life by donating blood? Show us how you did it by tagging us in your photos during your time at a bloodmobile drive or donor center. Your photo may be featured on our social media!

You can also follow us on Instagram and Twitter or Like Us on Facebook to receive our latest news and updates.