

About the Authors

Steven R. Pierce, SBB(ASCP)

Born in Louisville, Kentucky, Steve Pierce was working on a PhD in mammalian ecology at the University of Kentucky when he was drafted into the US Army. The Vietnam War was raging and the Army hoped to take advantage of his science background by making him a field medic. Somehow he managed instead to get assigned to the medical laboratory school at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas. He abided most of this new endeavor—except for blood bank, which he disliked—but he loved San Antonio, so when he was offered further training in blood banking, combined with an opportunity to stay in San Antonio, he took it. He worked there at the Brooke Army Hospital Blood Bank until the Army, realizing they had not sent him anywhere, shipped him to Landstuhl, Germany, and the USAREUR Blood Bank. All this proved much more satisfactory than being a field medic in Vietnam.

When he returned to civilian life, having seen the world and having no great desire to return to graduate school, he attended the Specialist in Blood Banking training program just beginning at the Community Blood Center in Dayton, Ohio, under the guidance of his new “Mom,” Delores McGuire Malory. Delores despaired of his ever graduating, but somehow he did—as much through Delores’s determination as his own. He was helped along by his fellow student, Ruth Mougey, and by Delores introducing him to everybody who was anybody in the field of blood banking. One of them, Malcolm Beck, was just becoming the technical director at the Community Blood Center of Greater Kansas City and persuaded Steve to join him in the immunohematology reference lab. There he stayed until his retirement in 2002, becoming along the way a supervisor and assistant technical director of Clinical Services.

Although never as distinguished as his coauthor, Steve enjoyed the challenges of finding rare donor units for patients both locally and nationally. He tagged along with Malcolm, investigating especially polyagglutination and other anomalous serological results, and he was involved in the discovery of the KN antigen KAM (since renamed KCAM). His greatest accomplishment was in always hiring superb people to work in his lab and make him look better than he was. He was invited to join the Invitational Conference of Investigative Immunohematologists, served on its steering committee from

1999-2001, and is delighted to be allowed to continue to participate still.

Mainly through the influence of Delores, he became active in the AABB, giving workshops at the Annual Meeting and throughout the country as part of the Regional Workshop Committee. He served two terms on the Technical Manual Committee (12th and 13th editions), was an I&A inspector, and was on the Publications Committee and the Immunohematology Reference Laboratory Standards Program Unit. From 1981-1985, he served as district director on the AABB Board of Directors. In 2002, he received the Ivor Dunsford Memorial Award.

After retirement, Steve expected to spend his time gardening. Instead, he has become obsessed with the history of transfusion and blood groups. He is a dull group A₁, R₁r.

Marion Elizabeth Reid, FIMBS, PhD, DSc (Hon.)

Marion Reid was born in Winchester, England. She trained as a medical technologist at the North East Metropolitan Blood Transfusion Service, Brentwood, England, under the guidance of Maggie Kenwright and Laurie Marsh. During this time, Brentwood was a center in the UK randomized RhIG clinical trials so she saw firsthand the value of research involving blood group in helping patients. Marion’s training at Brentwood culminated in the qualification of Fellow of the Institute of the Institute of Medical Laboratory Technology (as it was then named; now the Institute of Biomedical Science), specializing in hematology, blood transfusion, and blood group serology.

Marion furthered her education by obtaining a Master of Science degree in clinical science from the San Francisco State University, California, and a PhD degree in biochemistry from the CNAAB in Bristol, England (under the guidance of David Anstee and Narla Monhandas). She has worked in immunohematology reference laboratories in the UK (North East Metropolitan Blood Transfusion Service, International Blood Group Reference Laboratory) and in the United States (New York Blood Center, New York; in California, Spectra Biologicals, Central California Red Cross in San Jose, and San Francisco General Hospital).



Marion served on numerous committees, was on a handful of editorial boards, and was a reviewer for several journals. She also mentored MSc and PhD students. Marion has an extensive serological, biochemical, and molecular knowledge of blood groups and their application to clinical practice and human genetics. Her research was supported by several grants, including a United States National Institutes of Health SCOR grant (1996 to 2011), which led to a patent. Marion's research was focused on improving processes to help patients receive the correct blood transfusions. Her research and access to blood samples with complex blood group antibodies led to the publication of over 400 peer-reviewed articles, reviews, chapters, and books. One book that she co-authored, the *Blood Group Antigens FactsBook*, is a well-used and respected reference manual for everyday use in immunohematology laboratories.

As a recognized expert, she has been honored by numerous professional awards, including three lifetime achievement awards (International Women in Transfusion Award, Emily Cooley Memorial Award, and James Blundell Award). She was conferred an honorary Doctorate in Science by the University of Plymouth (Devon, England). Marion lectured domestically and internationally, and she shared her knowledge and experience with different types of audiences—from peers to elementary school children. She ran educational programs (called *Bloodology*) about blood and blood donation at the Brooklyn Children's Museum in New York, the American Natural History Museum in New York, and the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia. She is group A₁, R₂r.

In retirement, in addition to her interest in the history of blood groups, she enjoys making things from green wood and as a member of the Pole-Lathe Turners and Green Woodworkers, she is a bodger.