

Preface

ON BEHALF OF THE EDITORS, Authors, and many reviewers, I am pleased to introduce the 21st edition of the AABB *Technical Manual*. The 21st edition conveys the latest information in blood banking/transfusion medicine, an introduction to key biotherapy/cell therapy areas, and as always, some well-established material. Using the model developed by previous editorial teams, we tried to pair new authors with seasoned veterans to bring a fresh perspective to the content, allowing for continuity as new authors in the current edition are considered for primary authors in a future edition. I am grateful for the steady guidance and hard work of Associate Editors Meaghan Delaney, DO, MPH; Sue Johnson, MSTM, MT(ASCP) SBB^{CM}; Louis Katz, MD; and Joseph (Yossi) Schwartz, MD, MPH. We learned a great deal from the authors, expert committee members, AABB staff, and the editors of past editions.

The *Technical Manual's* excellence is safeguarded by a stringent peer-review process. Each chapter underwent an initial review by the editors for content and style, followed by reviews from numerous AABB committee members who provided focused expertise as well as comments on readability. Compliance experts then conducted a final check to ensure the most up-to-date information on the standards, guidance, and regulations that help govern the activities in which readers engage. These extra steps provide a high level of confidence that the *Technical Manual* is a reliable resource for our community.

The overall structure and content of the *Technical Manual* is adjusted periodically by survey responses and feedback from AABB

membership. For the 21st edition several key measures were taken to focus the content and reduce redundancy. We have also continued the practice of posting the methods and appendices online, with access available to users of either the print or digital formats. These measures were very successful and, as a result, few structural changes were necessary for this edition.

Content improvements, however, continued unabated. Some highlights include expanded coverage of biotherapy/cellular therapy, updates in molecular testing, highlights of changes in pediatric and neonatal transfusion practice, alignment of the *Technical Manual* with the 2023 American Society for Apheresis (ASFA) Clinical Practice Guidelines, and the latest information on relevant transfusion-transmitted diseases. Topics such as disaster preparedness, blood shortages, and convalescent plasma have been influenced by the COVID-19 pandemic and are covered in chapters throughout the book. Other key updates resulted from the May 2023 release of new federal regulations on donor deferrals and the subsequent revision of the donor history questionnaire.

It has been a privilege to work with the talented and dedicated staff at AABB and the transfusion medicine/blood banking community that helped to produce this edition. On behalf of the editors, authors, and reviewers we hope you enjoy using the 21st edition of the *Technical Manual* and find it a useful reference tool.

Claudia S. Cohn, MD, PhD
Editor in Chief

