Foreword

Antibody identification studies range in difficulty from those that are relatively simple to those that are highly complex. The primary audiences for this document are those facilities and technologists "in the middle," ie, laboratories that support testing with a single antibody identification panel using the same method employed for antibody detection as well as laboratories that use multiple panels and special testing methods, allowing them to address the majority of antibody identification situations. The purpose of this *Guideline* is to assist transfusion services in the identification of antibodies in patients with a reactive pretransfusion antibody detection test, within the existing requirements and recommendations of the AABB *Standards for Blood Banks and Transfusion Services*[1] and *Technical Manual*.[2] Also included is information that may assist facilities in developing policies and procedures regarding antibody identification, and specific examples of antibody identification cases.

Although this document may serve as a training tool in the art of antibody identification and serologic problem resolution, it is assumed that the reader has knowledge of the basic concepts of antibody identification. It is expected that the most value gained from this document will be by readers who are already familiar with the material in the pertinent sections of the *Technical Manual*.

To aid users in selection of appropriate investigative options, this *Guideline* has been divided into three major sections: 1) routine testing and interpretation guidelines, 2) additional guidance and testing, and 3) unusual antibody identification situations. Case studies to illustrate each section and provide additional guidance are presented in the Appendices.

The Scientific Section Coordinating Committee (SSCC) oversaw the development of this *Guideline.* The SSCC appreciates the diligent efforts of the authors in compiling and interpreting the information

presented. Thoughtful input from numerous reviewers is also gratefully acknowledged. With the careful application of the concepts detailed herein, it is hoped that this *Guideline* will serve to advance donor and patient safety.

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