Optimizing Blood Inventory, No Matter the Hurdles

Thomasson currently serves as the medical director of the Blood Bank and Transfusion Medicine Service at Boston Medical Center as well as the associate director of the Pathology Residency Program. His laboratory is CAP, AABB, and FACT-accredited. He has been a member of AABB since 2014; he currently serves on the DHQ-HPC Task Force and the Awards Committee.

AABB NEWS: WHAT DREW YOU TO THE BLOOD AND BIOThERAPIES FIELD IN GENERAL AND MORE SPECIFICALLY, BLOOD PRODUCT INVENTORY MANAGEMENT?
Thomasson: In residency, I had the opportunity to do a transfusion medicine rotation at a large outside hospital in New Orleans. The transfusion physician’s patient interactions were inspiring. On one particular consent, he drew a diagram to illustrate the apheresis process. I turned around, and to my surprise, the entire medical team was in the room taking notes as if they were in a lecture. It was a masterclass in bedside manner, teaching and communication and was the deciding factor in me pursuing a career in the field of blood and transfusion.

AABB NEWS: HOW HAVE YOUR PROFESSIONAL AND RESEARCH INTERESTS SHAPED YOUR CAREER?
Thomasson: Boston Medical Center has the busiest ED and trauma service in New England. With such an active service, I and other stakeholders are able to continuously refine our MTPs. Currently, we are working to optimize our MTP in pediatric patients. Our institution is also a safety net hospital and serves a very diverse patient population who are often underinsured. Thirty percent of our patients speak a primary language other than English. I have witnessed firsthand the benefits of having diversity in physicians, nurses, technologists, and phlebotomists, and its impact on patient compliance and outcomes. As the associate director of the pathology residency program and the diversity advocate for my department, I am able to promote inclusivity and diversity in recruitment efforts.

AABB NEWS: YOU PRESENTED A SESSION ON OVERCOMING INVENTORY MANAGEMENT HURDLES IN URBAN

Reggie R. Thomasson, MD, MS

Reggie R. Thomasson, MD, MS, is an assistant professor of pathology and laboratory medicine at Boston University’s Chobanian and Avedisian School of Medicine. He joined the faculty after completing his fellowship in blood banking and transfusion medicine at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center in Lebanon, N.H. While there, he was an instructor of pathology and joined the Program Evaluation Committee, Diversity Committee, and the Resident Committee. His professional and clinical interests include massive transfusion, blood product inventory management, sickle cell disease and diversity in medicine.
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