



BloodSource®

News

For Immediate Release

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BloodSource Medical Director Assumes Additional Role

Sacramento, CA, September 21, 2006 - Patricia Kopko, M.D., Medical Director, has successfully completed the rigorous training program for qualification by the American Society for Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics (ASHI) and is now serving as the BloodSource Histocompatibility (HLA) Laboratory Director. Dr. Kopko has served as Medical Director of BloodSource since 2004.

The BloodSource HLA laboratory provides testing and support to the solid organ transplant community including three solid organ transplant centers and Golden State Donor Services, two bone marrow/blood stem cell transplant programs, in addition to general requests from our service area for matched plateletphereses and other clinical purposes.

Dr. Kopko initially became interested in histocompatibility and transplantation medicine five years ago when awarded a grant from the National Blood Foundation to further investigate the mechanism of Transfusion Related Acute Lung Injury (TRALI). At that time she began working with the BloodSource HLA laboratory, using a new, more sensitive technique to identify HLA antibodies. Her findings led to several publications, and she is considered a leading expert in this area of transfusion medicine.

Dr. Kopko is board certified by the American Board of Pathology and boarded in Clinical Pathology, Anatomic Pathology and Blood Banking/Transfusion Medicine. She joined BloodSource in 1997 as an Associate Medical Director for Transfusion Medicine. Dr. Kopko is a graduate of Atlantic Union College, where she completed her undergraduate work (BA, Math; BS, Chemistry), Brandeis University, where she completed a MA in Chemistry, and medical school at Loma Linda University.

Dr. Kopko spent the last three years in an intensive training program for qualification as HLA Laboratory Director. During the last two years, she was mentored by Dr. David Senitzer, HLA Director at City of Hope and interim HLA Director at BloodSource.

Dr. Kopko's HLA training included theoretical aspects, laboratory operations, and clinical consulting with physicians. She submitted to the ASHI Accreditation Review Board Director Training Review committee an extensive portfolio containing 50 case studies for each category for which BloodSource holds accreditation, which includes solid organ transplantation, bone marrow transplantation, transfusion support, and histocompatibility for non-transplant clinical purposes. The case studies included analysis of data, interpretative comments and clinical recommendations. This was followed by an oral exam conducted by ASHI committee members. Her qualification as an HLA Director met the education, training and expertise requirements specified in the ASHI Standards, UNOS Standards and Code of Federal Regulations, Title 42, Subpart 493.

The ASHI Accreditation Review Board said in their letter announcing Dr. Kopko's successful completion for HLA qualification, "*The examining committee felt that your performance was exceptional, demonstrating your intimate involvement with all aspects of the HLA operations.*"

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