Press Release

The U.S. and Europe Expand Blood Ties
America’s Blood Centers and the European Blood Alliance Renew Memorandum of Understanding

WASHINGTON (October 20, 2009) – NCCBB’s Thomas Schallert signed a new three-year agreement between the European Blood Alliance (EBA) and America’s Blood Centers of which he is president. As a result, America’s Blood Centers and EBA will continue to share information regarding new policies and regulatory changes in blood banking, while collaborating on projects such as benchmarking, regulatory convergence and supply-chain management. Additionally, the agreement identifies six specific areas to work on over the next three years:

- Identify existing America’s Blood Centers’ and EBA networking groups and projects for closer collaboration to leverage economies of scale;
- Define synergies in back office activities that would improve each organization’s effectiveness and efficiencies (including managing member networks, data warehousing, financial management & meeting planning);
- Cross-fertilize scientific, quality, medical and technical groups, learn from each other & identify best practices;
- Work with other blood alliances to identify and share best practices;
- Identify opportunities to develop, promote and collaborate with other regional organizations; and
- Identify opportunities to develop, promote and collaborate with other alliances based on areas of expertise, such as in cell therapies.

“Both organizations recognized that the day-to-day exchanges were working very well,” said Tom Schallert, president of America’s Blood Centers. “But, we also identified opportunities for deeper collaboration to take advantage of what each organization had in place and build on it, both operationally as well as in networking.”

The presidents of each organization signed the Memorandum of Understanding during the most recent EBA meeting.

“There is much we can do together to help our members,” said Jeroen de Wit, president of the EBA. “And there is much we can do to help all blood programs improve their operations through information sharing and networking.”

About America’s Blood Centers
Founded in 1962, America’s Blood Centers is North America’s largest network of community-based, independent blood programs. Recognized by the U.S. Congress for its critical work in patient care and disaster preparedness and response, the federation’s members operate more than 600 blood donor centers providing nearly half of the U.S., and a quarter of the Canadian blood supply. These blood centers serve more than 180 million people and provide blood products and services to more than 3,500 hospitals and healthcare facilities across North America. America’s Blood Centers’ U.S. members are licensed and regulated by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Canadian members are regulated by Health Canada.

Northern California Community Blood Bank
America’s Blood Centers President Thomas Schallert is the Administrator of NCCBB located in Eureka, CA. The Northern California Community Blood Bank serves Humboldt and Del Norte county communities by providing blood and blood products to local hospitals as well as maintaining resource sharing relationships blood centers in Sacramento, Santa Rosa and Palo Alto. These collaborations along with active membership in America’s Blood Centers and the California Blood Bank Society have allowed NCCBB to maintain staff, equipment, expertise and blood product inventories not typically sustainable in a rural setting.

NCCBB needs 60-70 donors each day and over 200 first time donors every month to meet these needs. The organization maintains 3 mobile units scheduled 6 days per week in locations throughout Humboldt and Del Norte Counties. Blood mobile and Center hours and answers to other questions can be found at the Blood Banks website (www.nccbb.org) or by calling (707) 443-8004.