

## SUZANNE LEDIN MEMORIAL FOUNDATION MISSION AND GOALS

The **Suzanne Ledin Memorial Foundation** was established in 2003 as a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization. The Foundation is named in honor of Suzanne F. Ledin, MT(ASCP)SBB, whose lifetime devotion to excellence in public health, medical technology and blood banking is an inspiration to her colleagues throughout the world and, by way of the Foundation, is now an opportunity for future generations.

The mission of the Foundation is to support education and training in all aspects of blood banking, transfusion medicine, and related clinical laboratory endeavors. This mission is carried out through the following lectureship and scholarship awards:

The Foundation awards one annual **Suzanne Ledin Memorial Lectureship** in collaboration with the California Blood Bank Society (CBBS). This award recognizes an individual who is actively involved in education, training, research and/or practice of a scientific nature pertaining to transfusion medicine and blood banking. The recipient of this yearly award, selected independently by the CBBS Scientific Program Committee, presents the Suzanne Ledin Memorial Lecture at the CBBS Annual Meeting. The Foundation provides an honorarium and reimburses the lecturer's travel and lodging expenses.

In the fall of 2006, the Foundation began awarding scholarships for students enrolled in accredited Specialist in Blood Banking (SBB) programs. Every year, the **Suzanne Ledin Travel Award** will enable two SBB students, selected independently by the American Association of Blood Banks (AABB) Scientific Section Coordinating Committee, to travel to and attend that year's annual AABB meeting, with complimentary meeting registration and a generous grant for travel and lodging expenses. These merit-based scholarships are intended to provide SBB students with opportunities for education and scientific interaction.

The Suzanne Ledin Memorial Foundation acknowledges the generous support of the Chiron Foundation and other founding donors, and thanks Suzanne Ledin's many friends all over the world who continue to contribute to progress in blood banking and transfusion medicine.



SUZANNE LEDIN was born in 1947 in Huntington, Long Island, New York. She was the oldest child of Catherine Rose Smith and Robert Martin Fisher.

Suzanne began her lifelong dedication to laboratory science and biotechnology by working for Ryker Labs in San Fernando

Valley, California, during her last two years of high school. She graduated in 1965 from Bishop Alemany High School in Mission Hills, California. While studying Biology at the University of San Francisco, Suzanne worked as a laboratory technician on a contract for the Apollo Project. It was in this laboratory that Suzanne met her devoted husband George; they married in 1968. Suzanne graduated from USF in 1969 and in the next year trained at St. Mary's Hospital in San Francisco, earning her Medical Technologist license from the American Society for Clinical Pathology. Over the next seven years, Suzanne worked at various hospital laboratories in San Francisco and gave birth to her daughter Kathryn in 1970 and her son Alexander in 1977. Suzanne completed her MS in medical technology at San Francisco State University in 1978. She spent 1979 as an intern at Irwin Memorial Blood Bank (now Blood Centers of the Pacific), where she was one of the favorite students of Dr. Herbert Perkins, and was certified as a Specialist in Blood Banking in 1980.

After receiving her SBB, Suzanne worked briefly at Peninsula Memorial Blood Bank in Burlingame, California, before becoming assistant supervisor of transfusion services at the University of California, San Francisco's Moffitt Hospital. In 1989, Suzanne was hired by Genetic Systems Corporation, a Seattle-based biotechnology company that joined Sanofi Diagnostics in 1992. At Sanofi, Suzanne received many recognitions, including the very first Blood Virus Field Technical Representative of the Year award in 1992, and the Infectious Disease Specialist of the Year awards in 1996 and 1997. Looking for opportunities closer to home, Suzanne joined Chiron Corporation in October of 1998 as the first Director of the Chiron Nucleic Acid Testing (NAT) Training Laboratory. At Chiron, Suzanne designed, staffed, and supervised the NAT Training Laboratory, training many international laboratory groups. Her friendship and enthusiasm for her Chiron coworkers did not flag even after Suzanne was diagnosed with cancer in April 2001. She continued working with her team until a few months before her death on February 17, 2002.



## SUZANNE LEDIN MEMORIAL FOUNDATION



## Board of Directors

### Michael Breard, MS, MT(ASCP)SBB, CQA(ASQ)



Michael Breard is Division Director for AABB Consulting Services, which provides consulting in all areas of blood banking and cellular therapies to transfusion services, donor operations, tissue banks, stem cell facilities and others who might benefit from the expertise of the AABB. Michael received his BS in Medical Technology from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, his Medical Technology Training at Duke University and his MS in Medical Technology from California State University. He has over 38 years experience in blood banking including transfusion service, donor center, commercial manufacturing, project management and consulting. He is an active member of the AABB and the Project Management Institute, and a senior member of the American Society for Quality. Michael participates as director and/or speaker in international, national, state, regional and local conferences and serves on and chairs various committees for the AABB.

### George Garratty, PhD, FRCPPath



George Garratty is Scientific Director of the American Red Cross Blood Services, Southern California Region, and Clinical Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at the University of California, Los Angeles. He also directs the Red Cell Reference, HLA/Platelet Serology laboratories, and Community Education Program (including the SBB school) at the Red Cross. His research is mainly concerned with immune destruction of red cells and platelets. He has published more than 300 papers, is co-author of three textbooks, editor of six textbooks, and is an Associate Editor of *Transfusion*. He has been on several national committees, including the Standards, Annual Meeting, and Awards Committees of the AABB, and represented North America on the International Society of Blood Transfusion Council. In 1985 he was President of the California Blood Bank Society (CBBS). He has received numerous State, National, and International awards.

### Mike P. Busch, MD, PhD



Mike Busch is Director of Blood Systems Research Institute and Vice-President for Research and Scientific Affairs of Blood Systems, Inc. (BSI), a national network of over 20 blood centers throughout the United States. He is an Adjunct Professor of Laboratory Medicine at the University of California, San Francisco. He is a member of the Transfusion Transmitted Diseases Committee of the AABB, the Medical and Research Advisory Committee of the Canadian Blood Services, and a former member of the US DHHS Advisory Committee on Blood Safety and Availability and the FDA Blood Products Advisory Committee. He is an Associate Editor of *Transfusion*, on the editorial board of *Transfusion Medicine* and the *Journal of Human Virology*, a reviewer for many other professional journals, and serves on blood-related scientific advisory panels for certain commercial manufacturers.

### Susan Johnson, MSTM, MT(ASCP)SBB



Sue Johnson is Manager of Immunohematology Services and Director of the Specialist in Blood Banking (SBB) Program at BloodCenter of Wisconsin, where she has taken an active role in the education of Clinical Laboratory Science students for over 20 years. Sue is a member of the Invitational Conference of Investigative Immunohematologists (ICII) and past president of both the Wisconsin Association of Blood Banks and the Milwaukee Area Blood Banker's Association. She has been an active member of the AABB for 25 years, serving on and chairing a variety of AABB committees, and acts as an Assessor for their Inspection and Accreditation Program. Sue led the AABB Scientific Section Coordinating Special Projects Workgroup in developing the Suzanne Ledin Travel Awards for SBB students.

### George Ledin Jr., JD



George Ledin Jr. is Professor of Computer Science at the California State University, Sonoma. He began his university career by doing research on portions of the Apollo Project. He met Suzanne at the University of San Francisco, where she was completing her undergraduate education and working on laboratory experiments under his supervision, married her in 1968, and supported her dedication to public health, laboratory technology, and blood banking throughout her life.

### Sally Caglioti, MT(ASCP)SBB



Sally Caglioti is Vice President of Laboratories for Blood Systems, Inc. (BSI), where she is responsible for the infectious disease, histocompatibility, hematopoietic progenitor cell, and immunohematology reference laboratories, and the blood donor testing laboratories in Arizona and Texas. Before joining BSI, she earned a BS in Medical Technology from Gannon College in Erie, PA, an SBB from Central Blood Bank in Pittsburgh, and was Director of Technical and Educational Services at the Oklahoma Blood Institute. An AABB member since 1978, she has served on numerous AABB and state blood bank association committees and educational programs, and was on the AABB Board of Directors from 1998 to 2006. Sally is a member of America's Blood Centers (ABC) and the South Central Association of Blood Banks, and co-chaired the ABC Nucleic Acid Testing (NAT) Task Force for the development and implementation of blood donor NAT in all ABC facilities, for which she received the ABC Thomas F. Zuck Lifetime Achievement Award in 1999.

### Kathryn E. Ledin, PhD, MPH



Katya Ledin has worked in public health research and disease control at the CDC, state and local health agencies, and universities since 1994, specializing in vector-borne and zoonotic diseases. Katya was inspired to pursue her career at a very early age by Suzanne Ledin's lifelong enthusiasm for applying scientific and medical knowledge to improve public health.

### Paul M. Ness, MD



Paul Ness is director of the Transfusion Medicine Division at The Johns Hopkins Hospital and professor of Pathology, Medicine, and Oncology at The Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland. Dr. Ness was the CEO and medical director of the Greater Chesapeake and Potomac Region of the American Red Cross Blood Services from 1983-1999. He has been a member of the AABB Board of Directors for many years and became President in 1999. He served on the editorial boards of *Transfusion* and *AABB Press* and became editor of *Transfusion* in July, 2003. He has been a member of the American Society of Clinical Pathologists Board of Registry Blood Bank examination committee and the FDA Blood Products Advisory Committee. Dr. Ness has written many articles for medical journals and is a co-editor of two comprehensive texts in transfusion medicine.

### Federico Rodriguez, MT(ASCP)SBB



Federico Rodriguez is Technical Director of the Stem Cell Processing Laboratory for Blood Systems Laboratories (BSL) in Tempe, AZ. He has been working in the Blood Bank, Immunohematology and Cellular Therapy fields since 1987. He earned his BS in Medical Technology from the Autonomous University of Nuevo Leon in Monterrey, Mexico, and, after working several years in a hospital-based blood bank, decided to earn his SBB from the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, TX. He is an active member of the AABB and ISCT and participates as a member in several committees within these organizations; he is also a FACT assessor. Federico serves as a mentor and lecturer for SBB students and really enjoys working with them.

## Suzanne Ledin Memorial Foundation

The Foundation is an IRS tax-exempt organization. Its Directors and Officers volunteer their service to the Foundation. Your contribution is appreciated and any amount is welcome.

Please write your check payable to the Suzanne Ledin Memorial Foundation and send it to:

SUZANNE LEDIN MEMORIAL FOUNDATION  
PO BOX 31424  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94131-0424

If you wish to receive an acknowledgment of your contribution or communicate with the Foundation, please provide the following (voluntary) information about yourself:

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## Thank You

