March 4, 2013

Secretary of the Expert Committee on the Selection and Use of Essential Medicines
World Health Organization
Office of the EML Secretariat
Medicine Access and Rational Use (MAR)
Department of Essential Medicines and Health Products
20 Avenue Appia
CH-1211 Geneva 27

Re: Application for the Addition of Whole Blood and Red Blood Cells to the WHO Model Essential Medicines List and the WHO Model Essential Medicines List for Children

Dear Sir:

On behalf of the members of America’s Blood Centers, who supply half of the United States’ and one-quarter of Canada’s volunteer donor blood supply, we request the addition of Whole Blood and Red Blood Cells to the essential medicines lists (both WHO EML, WHO EMLc). We believe this will promote higher quality of care and improved outcomes for patients.

The provision of safe Whole Blood and Red Blood Cells that are used according to evidence-based guidelines is a key component of the health care delivery infrastructure in every country.


ABC’s members thank you for your consideration of this request and hope, for the sake of donors and patients, that our request will be endorsed by the WHO Expert Committee.

Sincerely,

Jim MacPherson
Chief Executive Officer

Louis M. Katz MD
Executive Vice President

Daniel A. Waxman MD
President