



## Conference report: AABB Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, USA

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### **1. Overview**

The AABB Annual meeting is an annual event, organized by the Association of American Blood Banks. The 2014 meeting took place from the 25<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> of October 2014 at the Pennsylvania Conference Centre, Philadelphia, USA. The meeting was structured into four educational tracks with five focused sub tracks, with the theme ‘Learning, Networking, Science’.

### **2. Oral presentations**

The major highlight of my attendance was the opportunity to give a presentation on the acquisition cost of blood in Zimbabwe, a talk which went on very well. The opportunity to share my research work at a well-established international conference was indeed priceless.

I also attended several sessions in which researchers and blood transfusion specialists made their presentations. The major highlights for me were the sessions on Risk-based Decision Making for Blood Safety and Cost Repositioning for Transfusion Services in The Era of Ongoing Reimbursement Changes, which I found very informative and exciting. The first session took us through the framework for standardizing approaches in Risk-based Decision Making for Blood Safety. Through an interactive, ‘speed-dating’-style format, this educational session provided participants with ideas and contacts for implementing cost repositioning mechanisms. The organization and discharge of these sessions were superb.

### **3. Poster presentation**

I took time to attend the poster session where I interacted with several poster presenters. A couple of posters were directly related to my work, but the overall opportunity to interact and network with other researchers was quite enriching. I also visited my colleague, Tonderai’s poster that was nicely designed.



# T-REC PhD Fellowship

*“Building Research Capacity of Blood Transfusion Services in Africa”*

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## **4. Networking**

The AABB Annual Meeting provided me with tremendous networking opportunities with several researchers both young and established. I managed to exchange contacts with several of them with the hope of maintaining active interaction and possibly collaborate on issues of common interest.

## **5. Acknowledgements**

The T-REC consortium is acknowledged for all the support.