



**South Texas
Blood & Tissue Center**

H**Heartlines**

Serving the community for over 35 years.

Spring/Summer 2011

QualTex Laboratories Opens Satellite in Georgia



Ribbon cutting ceremony participants: Nick Masino, Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce, VP of Economic Development; Brenda Robbins, Statewide Project Manager, Georgia Power; Scott Jones, VP QualTex; Kornelius Bankston, Project Manager, Georgia Department of Economic Development; Linda Myers, Executive VP, QualTex; Norman D. Kalmin, MD, CEO/President and Medical Director QualTex; Dennis Stahl, Chair Board of Directors, STBTC/QualTex; Shirley Lasseter, Gwinnett County District One Commissioner; Emory Morsberger, Board of Directors, Georgia Department of Economic Development; Jenny Kalmin; Irma Villarreal, VP QualTex

QualTex Laboratories, which originated in San Antonio as a business unit of South Texas Blood & Tissue Center (STBTC), has expanded with the opening of a satellite laboratory in Norcross, Georgia, near Atlanta. QualTex Laboratories is the largest independent testing laboratory in the U.S., providing infectious disease testing services to blood banks and plasma centers worldwide.

STBTC established QualTex Laboratories in 2007 and it is now the largest department of STBTC, testing more than seven million samples for 275 customers in 2010, employing 200 dedicated professionals in San Antonio, and expecting to add another 100 skilled employees during the next three years in Georgia. The new facility will be capable of replicating all QualTex Laboratories services and testing over eight million samples annually.

Dignitaries from Texas and Georgia attended the April 7th grand opening of the new facility, including Dr. Norman D. Kalmin, President and CEO of QualTex Laboratories; Dennis Stahl, Chairman of STBTC Board of Directors; Emory Morsberger, member of the Board of Directors for the Georgia Department of Economic Development;

Shirley Lasseter, Gwinnett County District One Commissioner; and Nick Masino, Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce Vice President of Economic Development.

The Norcross facility went into production June 1, testing whole blood for customers and enjoying the ease of transporting samples through the Atlanta International Airport. "Our customers on the eastern seaboard have enthusiastically embraced this move," according to Dr. Kalmin, who added, "Finally, after almost a year of renovation, calibrations, validations, audits and licensing, the system is up and running. And thanks to the expert training provided by our San Antonio staff, we're able to ensure the same high quality service at both locations. We have begun transitioning some of the testing from San Antonio to Georgia and plan to attract new customers and diversify our services in order to increase testing volumes."

The mission of QualTex is to support global public safety and includes all the communities served by South Texas Blood & Tissue Center. This state-of-the-art testing laboratory provides services to more than 250 national and international clients. To maximize efficiencies, the

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Message from the President

Mary Beth Fisk, Interim President & COO

For 25 years I have had the pleasure of working in the clinical laboratory and blood banking fields, prior to joining STBTC 16 years ago. I continue to be a passionate supporter of STBTC, with a strong faith in its ability to foresee and accommodate the growing and rapidly changing needs of the hospitals and clinics we serve. I've been with this organization through the most aggressive growth chapter in its history and I deeply respect the professionalism of our staff, the vision of our Board of Directors and the support of this community. With these strengths, we will continue the advancements that are the hallmark of the South Texas Blood & Tissue Center.

In recent years it has been my privilege to be involved in the blood bank as well as directly involved in the launch of STBTC's Tissue Program and to witness the good that has been achieved for thousands of patients because of the selflessness of donor families. I have been honored to work with the elected officials, medical professionals and ardent supporters who have helped us to visualize, create, build and sustain the Texas Cord Blood Bank – and to see the miraculous healing that umbilical cord blood from healthy births has made possible in children and adults. In the many years of involvement with the National Marrow Donor Program, I have been amazed by the altruism of the thousands of South Texans who have registered to donate the restorative gift of peripheral blood stem cells and bone marrow to a stranger.

Along with my colleagues, I am proud of the enormous growth and achievements of QualTex Laboratories that you'll read about in this issue of Heartlines. And our Blood Center is the source and the inspiration of all the developments that have followed and it continues to be one of the most respected, technologically advanced blood centers in the country. My longtime relationship with the American Association of Blood Banks keeps me in touch with industry colleagues throughout the country and it is a testament to this community that the STBTC is held in such high regard nationally.

These are times of challenge in the health care industry – to implement cost-cutting efficiencies while maintaining the highest quality. We are partnering with clinics and hospitals to help them achieve their goals through innovative business practices, good stewardship of our resources, improved communication and pioneering solutions.

STBTC is positioned to be a national leader in regenerative medicine – the future is happening now and our experience and focus on cord blood, bone marrow, peripheral blood stem cells and other cutting edge work in this field will be our strengths moving forward.

I am grateful to this community, to all who donate in so many ways to help their fellow citizens, to the Board for their confidence in my ability to lead the Center and to the remarkable staff that works hard around the clock to meet our customers' needs.

Mary Beth Fisk has 15 years of experience in the tissue banking field and over 25 years in blood banking and administration. She is a Certified Medical Technologist (MT) with a focus on specialization in blood banking; a Certified Quality Auditor for the American Society for Quality (ASQ); and a Certified Tissue Banking Specialist (CTBS). She serves in leadership positions with the national blood, cellular therapy, and tissue banking professional standard-setting organizations; and serves in numerous capacities with the National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP), the American Association of Blood Banks (AABB), America's Blood Centers (ABC) and the American Association of Tissue Banks (AATB). She presently serves on the Board of Governors of the AATB as treasurer.

STBTC's Board of Directors

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Message from the Chairman of the Board



Dennis Stahl

On April 14, the STBTC Board of Directors accepted the resignation of Dr. Kevin J. Land as CEO/President & Medical Director. We subsequently asked longtime Executive Vice President, Mary Beth Fisk, to step in as Interim President & COO. We are fortunate to have a leader of her caliber – a veteran medical executive with 16 years of experience at STBTC who has played a key role in many of the Center’s bold technological advances. At a time when regenerative medicine is offering a spectacular field of opportunities, we believe that no one is better positioned to take the helm than Mary Beth, whose vision and leadership helped bring the Tissue Services Department and the Texas Cord Blood Bank to life. She knows the STBTC culture, the staff, our partners and our customers and she has the intelligence, leadership qualities, experience, integrity and passion to lead the Center. This step is good news for the South Texas Blood & Tissue Center and we welcome Mary Beth into this new role.

QualTex Grand Opening continued from page one



QualTex Laboratory staff from Atlanta and San Antonio had an opportunity to meet one another personally at the grand opening event.

San Antonio and Norcross laboratories will share STBTC support services, including project management, computer services, financial services, communication and quality assurance. The fully-operational back-up site will allow QualTex Laboratories to expand and diversify services, and provide an uninterrupted safety net of disaster preparedness to ensure seamless service for its worldwide customers.

Dennis Stahl, Chairman of the STBTC Board of Directors, said, “In the changing and competitive health care industry, it is important for STBTC to continue to be cutting edge and to deliver high quality value at a fair price to its customers. This new QualTex facility is one way in which we are accomplishing that, while giving our European and East Coast customers more efficient geographic access to QualTex.”

The QualTex Laboratories expansion is an investment in the future that provides a revenue source and expands the Center’s services, positioning it to diversify, attract global business, provide high quality services at competitive costs, and operate as a leader in scientific technology.



The new laboratory has the capability to perform all the services and testing of the San Antonio facility.

The Gift of Blood Donation

Have you ever wondered why our donors donate? Why they take the time from their busy schedules to stop by a mobile unit or drive over to a neighborhood donor room? What motivates them? Here are a few responses.

"It gives me a special feeling like I might make a bit of difference in someone's life. It doesn't take long, yet it helps someone out. My friends always ask me why I donate and I tell them there is no reason not to."
Lena O.

"Donating blood is one thing that costs us little more than time, but could mean the difference between life and death to another. Our blood is a very precious commodity, a gift that cannot be artificially made, but only give from one caring person to another."
Benjamin C.

"My dad survived a very serious heart surgery. He was given six units of precious blood. God and blood allowed him to stay and fill our hearts with joy, love and laughter for 3½ more years. Thank you, donors."
Norma R.

"I started donating regularly at work during semi-annual drives. Many of my co-workers were WWII vets. They considered donations a patriotic duty! Those of us who can, should!"
Francille R.



Media Organization of the Year



Promotions Director Jessica Rios

KABB Fox 29 was selected as the "Media Organization of the Year" by the Association of Donor Recruitment Professionals. KABB has hosted the "Give to Live" blood drive since 2006, helping collect over 2,365 units of lifesaving blood components, registering 212 people for the Be The Match Registry, and adding 111 donors to the Glenda Dawson Donate Life Texas Registry. Fox Promotions Director Jessica Rios received the award on behalf of her station.

"Thank you, San Antonio, for Loving Us!"



Heather & Michael Malcolm with Sydney

Military family Michael and Heather Malcolm traveled from Europe to San Antonio for the high-risk birth of their daughter. In December 2010, Sydney was born with a rare and incurable heart defect. Since then, her surgeries have required that she receive several blood transfusions. Sydney's family is grateful for everyone who has supported them through words of encouragement and blood donations.

In the Community

During National Donate Life Month, the tissue department thanked Guadalupe Regional Medical Center (GRMC) in Seguin for their participation in tissue education. A newly planted tree commemorates the generous donations of tissue donors and honors the families who made the selfless decision. More than 5,000 tissue graft components are distributed each year to help enhance people's lives. Sign up on the Donate Life Texas Registry at www.donatelifetexas.org.

Donnie Weeks, director of the tissue department, presented a plaque to Jeremy Roy, director of pastoral care at GRMC.



The Be The Match Marrow Registry partnered with the University of Texas at San Antonio, Texas State University and several community organizations to educate university students about cancer. Cancer Advocacy Movement for Colleges & Outreach (CAMCO) stresses the importance of cancer prevention, early detection and how students can help someone who has been stricken with the disease.

A total of 2,987 people registered as potential marrow/stem cell donors during these events.

San Antonio holds one of the largest Martin Luther King, Jr. marches in the country. The 2011 focus was on education with a special encouragement for marrow and blood donations. Pastor Otis Mitchell, MLK Commission Chair, said, "Focusing on education this year, we wanted to take this opportunity to educate the community about the need for marrow and blood donations, so that patients of all ethnicities have a second chance at life."

Two community members with sickle cell disease, Clarette Hardaway and Breanna Morgan, stand next to Dr. Alves, coordinator for the MLK blood drive.



To increase community awareness about life-saving donations, STBTC invited area students (ages 5-18) and their families to participate in the 2nd Annual Picassos under the Pavilion Chalk Art Festival last April. The event theme "Connect for Life" celebrated the donors and patients who connected through life-saving components such as blood, tissue, cord blood and marrow. Students expressed this theme through chalk artwork on the sidewalk in front of the Donor Pavilion.

The participants had fun while demonstrating their creative talents.

Giving Hope Through Research: PBSC Clinical Research

For many patients with leukemia or other blood disorders finding a cord blood or marrow match is only the first hurdle. The preparation for the transplant is intensive and there may be complications afterwards.

Peripheral blood stem cells (PBSC) from healthy adults are being used to test an investigational therapy in patients undergoing cord blood or marrow transplants. The intent is to help the donated cells grow and create a new blood making system.



Yvonne Ybarra, director of the South and Central Texas Be the Match program, was among the first to volunteer for the study.

To conduct this research, the Cellular Therapy Program at South Texas Blood & Tissue Center is seeking volunteers to participate in the research. Participants who complete the course of study may receive up to \$600.

The program is looking for people of good, general health, between the ages of 18-45, and weighing at least 110 pounds. Participants must pass the pre-screen blood tests, health history and physical exam.

For details on the program, please contact the Cellular Therapy Program by calling Yvonne Ybarra at 210.731.5513.



Oscar Perez participated in the PBSC trial in late June. He did so because of a personal connection. Oscar says, "I did it because my little cousin has leukemia. I'm hoping this will help."

Texas Cord Blood Bank

In 2001, the State of Texas passed legislation to set up a public cord blood bank. This year marks the 10th birthday of the Texas Cord Blood Bank (TCBB).

As the Chairmen of the TCBB 2011 Birdies for Charity Campaign, Anna and Thad Ziegler reported that for this year's campaign, 19 donors contributed a grand total of \$12,750 (last year's fundraising total was \$6,350). The Foundation will receive additional incentive money at the end of the year for achieving The Personal Best Incentive (25% growth over last year's total) and an impressive #17 ranking in the Top 52 Charities.



Red and White Ball Co-Chairs Sam and Margie O'Krent announced that this year's Ball benefitting the Texas Cord Blood Bank will be held on Saturday, October 1, 2011 at the Marriott Rivercenter. Additionally, the Rick Cavanaugh Band, along with the Rene Saenz Quartet, will provide the entertainment again this year.



Meet the Molina Family

Since the age of three, Thomas Molina has battled acute lymphoblastic leukemia. Temporary victories were followed by exhausting chemotherapy and two more relapses. At age 14, Thomas's final hope for a cure was a transplant. Even though he is of mixed Hispanic and Caucasian origin – making a match more difficult – there were two very close cord blood matches stored in public banks. Thomas received his transplant in December 2009. He now has a chance at a long and healthy life thanks to the incredible generosity of two mothers.

His mother Lisa says, "I will never know who these mothers or children are, but will be eternally indebted to them. I firmly believe that when more couples learn about this risk-free, cost-free procedure, more lives like Thomas's will be saved."



Special Thanks to Our Media Partners



KENS TV

January 1-7 1,456

Y100 / KKYK

January 8-15 1,407

KAVU

February 8 -15 254

KGNS/Telemundo

February 17 35

Border Media

March 26 113

Hill Country Community

January 18 158

March 15 218

May 17 128

Fredericksburg Community

April 11 44

June 13 53

99.5 KISS

February 1-7 1,073

April 4 - 7 582

June 2-9 1,073

KSLR/KLUP

April 17 - 24 880

WOAI

June 27 -July 1 931

Univision Radio and Texas Public Radio also promoted special events to help increase blood donations.



Amelia Speer (left) and Gerald Perkins faithfully and cheerfully act out their belief in the importance of blood donation. Amelia recently donated her 50th gallon, while Gerald has completed 100 gallons. Both are regular visitors to the Donor Pavilion and the staff is always glad to see them.



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San Antonio, TX 78201

Serving the community for over 35 years.

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Donor Rooms

San Antonio:

Pavilion: 6211 IH 10 West

Northeast: 8527 Village Drive, Ste. 106

Shavano: 4079 N. Loop 1604 W., Ste. 102

Southeast: 3158 SE Military Drive, Ste. 104

Westover Hills: 10555 Culebra, Ste. 107

Victoria: 1109 Sam Houston Drive

New Braunfels: 651 N. IH 35, Ste. 830

Visit our website for current hours of operation:

www.southtexasblood.org



A short
drive...



can save lives.

This summer, STBTC is making a concentrated effort to see more donors in our fixed-site donor rooms. High gasoline prices make operating our mobile units increasingly expensive. Plus, donor rooms provide more donation options, such as dual red cells or platelets, which can maximize each donation for the desired component. For the donor room nearest you, visit our website: www.southtexasblood.org