

PRODUCT SAFETY UPDATE

- * **MacoPharma has announced that Swiss and Austrian health regulators have granted approvals for the company to market its *THERAFLEX Methylene Blue (MB) Plasma Procedure*, which is used for viral inactivation of single units of therapeutic human plasma.** SwissMedic, the responsible regulatory authority in Switzerland, has given marketing approval directly to MacoPharma, but Swiss transfusion centers using the procedure will need to demonstrate, through data capture at individual sites, that coagulation factor quality and stability are retained.

The Austrian Drug Surveillance Institute (ARGES) has granted marketing authorization exclusively to the Transfusion Center at the University Clinics of Innsbruck. Other Austrian transfusion centers that would like to use the *THERAFLEX MB Plasma Procedure* must first individually submit an application to ARGES. These approvals follow the second marketing authorization granted by the Paul-Ehrlich-Institute to the Blood Center of the **GERMAN RED CROSS** chapters of NSTOB/Springe. Market authorizations for the *THERAFLEX MB Plasma Procedure* have also been obtained in **Russia and Ukraine**, and it is under registration in **Khazakhstan**. The *THERAFLEX MB Plasma Procedure* effectively inactivates all enveloped viruses currently tested, and is effective as well against certain non-enveloped viruses, including parvovirus B19. This procedure, which has an excellent safety record and has been in use in **Europe** for more than 10 years, with over four million units of plasma transfused. It replaces the cumbersome quarantine-and-retest procedure for fresh frozen plasma still used in many countries.

PEOPLE

- * **AMERICA'S BLOOD CENTERS** named **Thomas Schallert** president-elect at its annual meeting last month in New York City. He will assume his new post in February 2009. Mr. Schallert has served as administrator at Northern California Community Blood Bank in Eureka, California since 1990. Previously, he held a number of increasingly responsible positions at the American Red Cross Blood Services region based in Los Angeles.
- * **HAEMONETICS** has appointed **Peter Allen** to the newly created position of chief marketing officer. He will assume responsibility for global marketing of the company's full product portfolio, in addition to his current responsibilities as president of the Donor Division. Mr. Allen joined Haemonetics in 2003 in the latter role, after a 20-year career in the health care and medical products industries.