

AATM meeting with AABB in Bethesda-HQ, USA

An important inter-organizational meeting was organized between AATM and American Association of Blood banks (AABB) on 17th April, 2017 in AABB head quarter at Bethesda, USA. From AABB, Mr. Tom Hopkins (CEO), Ms. Christine Bale (Vice President), Ms. Kathy Loper (Senior Director) and Dr. N. Choudhury (Secretary General) represented AATM in this meeting. It was agreed in this meeting that AABB Blood Bank (BB) accreditation will be extended to all member countries and AATM will play an important role in this process. AATM is organizing a hand holding program for BB in member countries which needs assistance to achieve this award. AABB has also agreed to organize wet workshop programs in AATM member countries starting from 2017. AABB has started recently a distant learning course named, 'Cell Therapies Certificate Program' with Gorge Washington University. AABB has offered special discount for all AATM members who wanted to pursue this program. It was also agreed on principle that 'second joint regional congress of AATM and AABB' will be organized in the second half of 2018 in an AATM member country. The meeting ending with vote of thanks to the chair and a group photograph of members was taken at the end.

Workshop on Implementation Research in International Blood Availability and Transfusion Safety in Low and Middle Income Countries

National Institutes of Health (NIH), Govt. of USA organized one workshop on research on blood availability and transfusion safety from 18-19th April, 2017 in Bethesda, MD. The objectives of the workshop were to identify key research priorities for improving global blood availability and transfusion safety in low and middle income countries. Dr. N. Choudhury, Secretary General of AATM was invited by NIH as a representative of South Asia for active contribution in this workshop on the basis of publications and international standings. One representative from each WHO region was invited to formulate research projects and to find out workable solutions on 'blood availability' and 'blood safety'. The process is on and important workable solutions are expected out of this extra-ordinary workshop.