



December 28, 2009

**2009**

**President**

Nancy Berliner, MD  
Chief, Hematology Division  
Brigham & Women's Hospital  
75 Francis Street  
Boston, MA 02115-6110  
phone 617-732-5840  
fax 617-264-5215  
nberliner@partners.org

**President-Elect**

Hal E. Broxmeyer, PhD  
Walther Oncology Center  
Indiana University School of Medicine  
950 W. Walnut Street, Room 302  
Indianapolis, IN 46202  
phone 317-274-7610  
fax 317-274-7692  
hbroxmey@upui.edu

**Vice President**

J. Evan Sadler, MD, PhD  
Washington University Medical School  
660 South Euclid Avenue, Box 8125  
Saint Louis, MO 63110-1093  
phone 314-362-9029  
fax 314-454-3012  
esadler@im.wustl.edu

**Secretary**

Charles S. Abrams, MD  
University of Pennsylvania  
School of Medicine  
421 Curie Boulevard, #912  
Philadelphia, PA 19104-6140  
phone 215-998-1058  
fax 215-673-7400  
abrams@mail.med.upenn.edu

**Treasurer**

Linda J. Burns, MD  
Division of Hematology,  
Oncology, and Transplantation  
University of Minnesota  
420 Delaware Street, SE  
Mayo MC 286/Room 14-154A Moos Tower  
Minneapolis, MN 55455-0341  
phone 612-624-8144  
fax 612-625-9988  
burns019@umn.edu

**Councillors**

Thomas Bensinger, MD  
David M. Bodine, PhD  
D. Gary Gilliland, MD, PhD  
Richard A. Larson, MD  
Stephanie Lee, MD, MPH  
Elaine A. Muchmore, MD  
Robert F. Todd, III, MD, PhD  
David A. Williams, MD

**Editors-In-Chief**

Cynthia E. Dunbar, MD, *Blood*  
Roy L. Silverstein, MD, *The Hematologist*

**Executive Director**

Martha L. Liggett, Esq.  
American Society of Hematology  
1900 M Street, NW, Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20036  
phone 202-776-0544  
fax 202-776-0545  
mliggett@hematology.org

The Healthy People 2020 Federal Interagency Workgroup (FIW)  
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20201

Re: Healthy People 2020 Proposed Blood Disorders and Blood Safety Objectives

To Whom It May Concern:

The American Society of Hematology (ASH) appreciates the opportunity to review and provide comments on the United States Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Healthy People 2020 proposed objectives. ASH represents over 16,000 clinicians and scientists committed to the study and treatment of malignant and non-malignant blood and blood-related diseases such as leukemia, lymphoma, sickle cell disease, anemia and hemophilia.

ASH commends HHS for creating a public forum that enables feedback from a broad range of stakeholders interested in priorities for promoting health and preventing disease, and the Society is pleased to see 18 of the proposed Healthy People objectives focused on Blood Disorders and Blood Safety (BDBS). The 18 objectives are consistent with ASH's mission to promote the understanding, prevention and treatment of blood disorders, and improve healthcare and patient outcomes with hematologic conditions.

ASH is supportive of the Blood Disorder and Blood Safety objectives. They are based on scientific evidence and are consistent with the Society's policies, goals and objectives. ASH would like to specifically comment on the following two objectives.

- *BDBS HP2020–2: Reduce hospitalization for sickle cell disease among children aged 9 years and under.*

Data Source: National Hospital Discharge Survey (NHDS), CDC, NCHS.

ASH is concerned with this objective as it is currently drafted. Hospitalization is often the standard of care at many institutions for children with sickle cell disease under the age of two with febrile illnesses as well as for sickle cell disease patients with acute chest syndrome and certain pain-related cases.

- *BDBS HP2020–16: (Developmental) Increase the proportion of children with sickle cell disease who receive penicillin prophylaxis from 4 months until 5 years of age.*

- a. Persons with hemoglobinopathies.*
- b. Persons with bleeding disorders.*

American Society of Hematology, 12/28/09

Potential Data Sources: Registry and Surveillance in Hemoglobinopathies (RuSH), NIH and CDC; Universal Data Collection (UDC), CDC.

ASH is supportive of the first portion of the comment, but recommends omitting the statement in part b (*Persons with bleeding disorders*) from this objective as not all patients with bleeding disorders are recommended to have penicillin prophylaxis.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments. ASH would be happy to speak with you further regarding the objectives and provide you with further pertinent information. Please contact ASH Government Relations Manager, Stephanie Kart at (202) 776-0544 or [skart@hematology.org](mailto:skart@hematology.org) for additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hal E. Broxmeyer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Hal" being particularly prominent.

Hal E. Broxmeyer, PhD  
President