

2024

COMMUNITY REPORT



Hoxworth
BLOOD CENTER
UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI 



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Saving Lives Close To Home Since 1938

*Community
Research
Education*

Our **MISSION**

To enhance the well-being of patients in our service area by assuring a reliable and economical supply of the safest possible blood, by providing innovative hemotherapy services, and by promoting research and education programs in transfusion medicine.

Our **VISION**

Hoxworth Blood Center will be recognized for saving and improving lives in our community with safe and reliable blood and innovative cell therapies.

As we reflect on 2024 — our 86th year of lifesaving service to the Greater Cincinnati community — we are both humbled and inspired by the remarkable legacy that surrounds us. Since our founding in 1938, Hoxworth Blood Center has proudly stood as the region's sole provider of blood products, driven by the mission of Saving Lives Close to Home. Since that time, we have expanded to offer a host of blood-related services, including Apheresis, Cellular Therapy, Blood Research, and Transplant Immunology. Every donor, staff member, volunteer, and partner plays a vital role in making that mission possible.

This year marked a meaningful new chapter for Hoxworth, as we, Dr. Caroline Alquist and Dr. David Oh, were honored to step into our roles as Interim Co-Directors in June 2024. We have embraced this responsibility with deep gratitude for the foundation laid by those who came before us and look forward to a bright Hoxworth future.

While change can bring challenges, it also inspires reflection and renewal. In 2024, Hoxworth Blood Center continued to exemplify the core values of the University of Cincinnati: Engagement, Innovation, and Impact.

We engaged more deeply with our community than ever before — forging partnerships with local organizations, hospitals, and civic leaders to meet the evolving needs of our region. Our dedicated team worked tirelessly to ensure a safe, sufficient, and diverse blood supply, critical access to life-saving apheresis therapies, and uninterrupted solid organ transplant and cellular therapy care. All these accomplishments underscore the importance we plan on inclusive and equitable healthcare access for all.

Innovation remained at the heart of our operations. Our research division advanced critical discoveries in transfusion medicine, while clinical services continued to deliver world-class patient care. Through new collaborations, educational initiatives, and process improvements, we laid the groundwork for sustainable growth and lifesaving excellence well into the future.

Above all, we focused on making an impact. Every blood donation, transfusion, procedure, transplant and research breakthrough is a testament to the collective power of people coming together for a greater purpose. Our work touches the lives of patients facing cancer, trauma, organ failure, and countless other medical challenges. Together, we provide not just blood products, but hope, healing, and the promise of tomorrow.

As we look ahead to 2025, we do so with tremendous optimism, knowing that the spirit of Hoxworth — built over 86 years of service — remains as strong and resilient as ever. To our generous donors, steadfast staff, trusted healthcare partners, and supportive community: thank you. Your dedication allows us to continue Saving Lives Close to Home, and your belief in our mission continues to inspire every step we take.

With deepest appreciation,



Caroline Alquist, MD, PhD
Co-Director, Chief Transplant &
Cellular Therapies Officer



David Oh, MD, MHA
Co-Director, Chief Medical Officer



An Internationally Recognized Leader in Transfusion Medicine

Hoxworth Blood Center, University of Cincinnati, is the only blood center in the Greater Cincinnati area serving Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana. Hoxworth collects, tests, processes, and distributes blood and blood components to more than 30 area hospitals and medical facilities. Additionally, Hoxworth provides numerous clinical services to area hospitals.

Founded by Dr. Paul I. Hoxworth in 1938, Hoxworth has become an internationally recognized leader in transfusion medicine. Today, Hoxworth has a staff of more than 300 full-time and part-time employees in 21 departments and a complement of more than 100 volunteers.

Hoxworth Senior Leadership Team



Caroline Alquist
MD, PhD

Interim Co-Director; Chief Transplant & Cellular Therapies Officer and Director; Transplantation Immunology, Apheresis, & Cellular Therapies Divisions



David Oh
MD, MHA

Interim Co-Director; Chief Medical Officer; Division Director, Clinical Services



Nick Leibold
MBA

Chief Financial Officer/ Executive Director of Business Administration



Judith Gonzalez
BS, MT(ASCP), CLS, CABP

Executive Director, Operations



Janice Habel
BS, MT(ASCP)

Division Director, Quality Assurance & Regulatory Affairs



Jennifer O'Connor
MSTM, MLS(ASCP)^{cm}, SBB^{cm}

Division Director, Laboratories



Michael Wilson
MS

Division Director, Donor Operations



Jen Milthaler
BS

Division Director, Marketing & Communications



Melissa Knight

Senior Business Administrator

Community Advisory Board

Dick Aft, PhD, Philanthropic Leadership

Nicholas Apanius,
Messer Construction Co.

Deirdre Murphy Beluan,
The Health Collaborative

Bernie Calonge, Marsh (Retired)

Chris Carle,
St. Elizabeth Provider Network (Retired)

Alfonso Cornejo,
Hispanic Chamber Cincinnati USA

Philip Diller, MD, PhD,
UC College of Medicine

Andrew Filak, MD,
UC Academic Health Center

Rick Hall, Fidelity Investments

Renee Mahaffey Harris,
Closing the Health Gap

Helen Hartmann, Morgan Stanley

DJ Hodge, iHeartMedia
Markets Group - Cincinnati

Bret Marshall, CTI Clinical Trial
& Consulting Headquarters

Neha Matta, JD, Frost Brown Todd

Carol Metzger, University of Cincinnati

Valerie Miller, DXC Technology

Matt Morgan,
Grant County School District

Grant Mussman, MD,
Cincinnati Health Department

Colleen O'Toole, PhD,
The Health Collaborative (Retired)

Jamie Rausch, GE Aerospace

Ronald Sacher, MD,
Hoxworth Blood Center

Mark Schlachter, Heavy Metal Mark

Robert Sinkhorn, Centric Consulting LLC

Miska Spaulding,
Kroger Precision Marketing, 84.51°

Jillian Waters,
St. Elizabeth Dearborn Hospital

Karen Yunker,
St. Elizabeth Hospital Edgewood

Hoxworth by the Numbers 2024

Blood Collections by Product

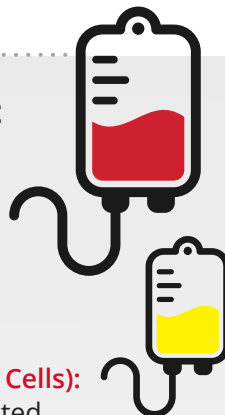
Units Collected: 118,898

Whole Blood: 77,288 Platelets: 24,988

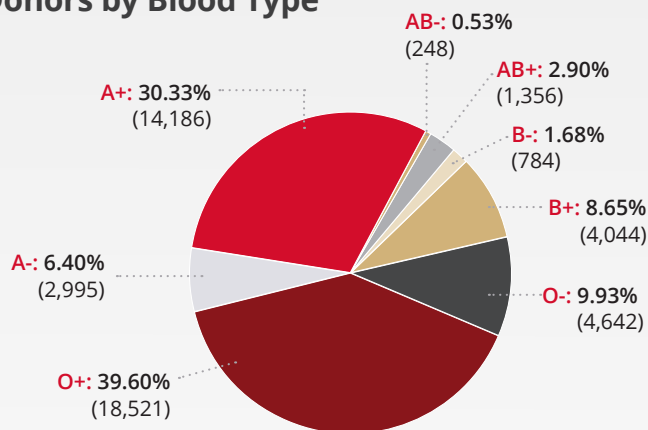
Red Cells: 12,727 Plasma: 2,352



Best Month (Platelets + Red Cells):
October – 12,600 units collected



Donors by Blood Type



Blood Collections by NDC + Mobile Drive Partners

Donor Centers: 82,675 (70.0%)

Businesses: 17,800 (15.0%)

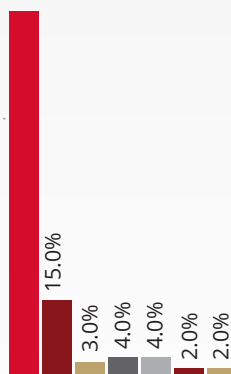
Hospitals: 4,106 (3.0%)

Faith Based: 4,270 (4.0%)

High Schools: 4,429 (4.0%)

Colleges: 2,739 (2.0%)

Other: 2,879 (2.0%)



Donor Profile

Unique Donors: 54,375

First-time donors: 10,169

Female: 29,839 (54.88%)

Male: 24,166 (44.44%)



Donors by Age

24 and under: 8,858 (16%)

25-39: 11,014 (20%)

40-60: 21,014 (39%)

60+: 13,163 (24%)



Number of Donors by Neighborhood Donor Center (NDC) Location

Blue Ash: 17,082

Ft. Mitchell: 16,970

Anderson: 13,876

West: 11,007

North: 11,223

Tri-County: 5,968

Central: 5,549



Mobile Drive Collections

Number of Mobile Drives: 1,265

Total Units Collected (*Red Cells, Platelets, Plasma*): 36,223

Fundraising

Jan 1, 2024 – Dec 31, 2024

Total Raised: \$71,195.22

Number of Donors: 146

Golf Outing Fundraiser: \$52,170



Hoxworth Blood Center Welcomes New Interim Leadership: Co-Directors Dr. Alquist & Dr. Oh



*Dr. David Oh and Dr. Caroline Alquist;
below left: Dr. Alquist and Dr. Oh at
the new interactive Blood Exhibit at the
Cincinnati Museum Center; below right:
Dr. Oh and Dr. Alquist Christmas caroling
with staff*

On June 3, 2024, Hoxworth Blood Center, University of Cincinnati, welcomed its new interim co-directors, Caroline Alquist, MD, PhD, and David Oh, MD. Both associate professors at UC's College of Medicine, Dr. Alquist and Dr. Oh brought with them extensive experience in blood bank administration. Dr. Alquist, who also serves as chief transplant and cellular therapies officer, continued her leadership in clinical patient care, focusing on apheresis, transplant immunology, and blood management. Dr. Oh, the center's chief medical officer, utilized his background in operational optimization and blood donor recruitment to oversee critical aspects of blood supply and transfusion medicine.

Their leadership team will guide Hoxworth in supporting over 30 regional hospitals, ensuring high standards of quality, safety, and innovation. The leadership change followed the departure of José Cancelas, MD, PhD, who served as director and CEO since 2018 and moved on to join Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston. 💧



Improving the Donor Experience: Hoxworth's New Thank You Email

In November 2024, Hoxworth Blood Center launched a new initiative to improve the donor experience. Donors now receive email updates about where their blood is used, giving them a direct connection to the lives they've impacted. This replaces the previous system of mailed letters, offering a faster, more convenient way for donors to learn how their donation helps local patients.

Each time a donor's blood is used, they'll receive an email detailing the hospital or medical facility that benefited, whether it's aiding cancer patients at the University of Cincinnati Medical Center or providing critical care at Cincinnati Children's Hospital. Hoxworth partners with over 30 local hospitals across the Greater Cincinnati area, ensuring that every donation plays a vital role in Saving Lives Close to Home.

By streamlining this process, Hoxworth not only improves communication, but also reinforces our commitment to showing donors the tangible impact of their generosity. This initiative is just one example of how Hoxworth continues to prioritize and enrich the donor experience while saving lives in our community. 💧



2024 EMPLOYEE MILESTONES:

Employee Growth = 8.75%

January 1, 2024 = 292

December 31, 2024 = 320

Promotions: 12

Celebrating Significant Anniversaries

Claire Ackemyer, Admin
35 Years

Tina Haas, Records Management
34 Years

Darrell Bronston, Materials Mgmt
25 Years

Andora Brown, Quality Assurance
25 Years

Tina Sandfoss, Sr HR Consultant
25 Years

Kathleen Glahn, Blood Donor Recruiter
20 Years

Lisa Snider, Donor Services Field Mgr
20 Years

Randall Martinez, Biomedical Specialist
15 Years

Mollie Bell, Asst Director,
Immunohematology & QC Lab
10 Years

Shailaja Hegde, Research Associate
10 Years

Jina Johnson, Donor Care Technician
10 Years

Larry Limbacher, Materials Mgmt Coord
10 Years

Teresa Peasley, Donor Relations Coord
10 Years

Charles Wade, Blood Bank Tech
10 Years

Matthew Ware, Materials Mgmt Coord
10 Years



Lists of LIFESAVERS

Our many partnerships with colleges, businesses, hospitals, faith organizations, schools, and community organizations are as vital to our blood supply as our individual donors.

2024 Blood Collections: Our Top 10 community blood drive partners collected a total of 14,873 units of blood.



COLLEGE PARTNERS:

1. **University of Cincinnati: 1,478**
2. Xavier University: 393
3. UC (Blue Ash, Clermont, Medical): 304
4. Northern Kentucky University: 143
5. Mount St. Joseph University: 87
6. Ivy Tech Community College: 57
7. Thomas More University: 47
8. UC Greek Week: 42
9. Hamilton County Educational Services: 35
10. IBEW: 32

**2,618
UNITS**

FAITH PARTNERS:

1. **Knights of Columbus, Bright: 232**
2. St. Columban Catholic Church: 178
3. St. Anthony of Padua: 172
4. Trinity Lutheran Church, Mt. Healthy: 162
5. Switzerland Baptist Church: 127
6. St. Maximilian Kolbe Catholic Church: 116
7. Main Street Baptist Church: 110
8. St. Timothy Catholic Church: 103
9. St. John the Evangelist: 100
10. Florence Methodist Church: 96

1,396
UNITS

BUSINESS PARTNERS:

1. **Kroger: 1,733**
2. P&G: 570
3. Montgomery Inn: 538
4. Western & Southern: 413
5. J&J MedTech Community: 348
6. GE: 302
7. Graeter's Ice Cream: 277
8. LaRosa's: 251
9. MedPace: 244
10. Countryside YMCA: 230

4,906
UNITS

HOSPITAL PARTNERS:

1. **TriHealth: 1,212**
2. Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center: 1,033
3. St. Elizabeth Healthcare: 1,003
4. Bon Secours Mercy Health: 519
5. Highland District Hospital: 303
6. Margaret Mary Health: 260
7. The Christ Hospital: 249
8. UC Health: 177
9. Cincinnati VA Medical Center: 87
10. Adams County Regional Medical Center: 39

4,882
UNITS

HIGH SCHOOL PARTNERS:

1. **Rising Sun High School: 142**
2. Little Miami High School: 133
3. Colerain Senior High School: 115
4. Southeastern Career Center: 115
5. West Clermont High School: 107
6. Conner High School: 103
7. Edgewood High School: 96
8. William Henry Harrison High School: 95
9. The School for Creative and Performing Arts: 83
10. Ryle High School: 82

1,071
UNITS

Community BLOOD DRIVES

Super Hero Ollie's Sidekicks Continue Saving Lives



Oliver "Ollie" Quinn Rodriguez was born in southern Missouri in February 2016. His parents, Krystle and Joseph Rodriguez knew something wasn't right within his first week of life. "He wasn't gaining weight despite eating around the clock and just didn't seem comfortable," says Krystle.

Ollie's health continued to decline. With very few answers, lots of questions and no diagnosis for Ollie, the mother of another Hoxworth Blood Center recipient reached out to Krystle. Super Cohen's mom, Carrie Bramlee contacted Krystle on Facebook, and offered to connect Krystle to Cohen's doctor at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center because the two kids had similar symptoms.

In 2022 Ollie had another health episode that required him to have continuous transfusions. Ollie never received a diagnosis for his disease, but it is a macrophage driven disease that affects every system in the body.

At that time, seeing the difference the blood products made for her son, Krystle contacted Hoxworth and worked to host a blood drive. Ollie didn't quite understand why he couldn't donate blood, but he was thrilled to meet every donor that came to his school, Harrison Elementary, for the blood drive in his honor. Sadly, after just two blood drives, Ollie passed away on May 2, 2024.

Ollie's family plans to continue hosting the blood drive at Harrison Elementary School to remember the impact their son had on so many people. Ollie was a happy boy, always smiling and laughing despite his illness. That's how his mom says she will remember her sweet boy.

"Ollie received countless blood products throughout his short eight years of life," Krystle says. "It is our family's honor to continue spreading awareness for the need of volunteer donors as well as hosting an annual drive to help replenish some of the precious lifesaving supply for others in need." ♦

Super Cohen: A True Miracle and Ongoing Inspiration



In 2024, Cohen Bramlee celebrated his 12th birthday by holding his annual blood drive, honoring both his birthday and transplant anniversary. Known as "Super Cohen," his incredible strength, resilience, and positive spirit have inspired many, including those who have donated blood to support his journey.

Diagnosed with a rare immune system disorder, Cohen has spent more than 800 days in Cincinnati Children's Hospital. Despite his challenges, he remains a beacon of hope. His blood drives serve as a celebration of his love for helping others and a powerful reminder of the importance of blood

donation. In 2024, Cohen's family celebrated a true miracle when he was released from the hospital just in time for Christmas.

Cohen continues to rely on frequent blood transfusions, and his family remains dedicated to raising awareness and inspiring others to donate. As Cohen's mother, Carrie, says, "Blood donors are real-life superheroes—just like Cohen." Their journey is a testament to the life-saving impact of blood donation and the power of community support. We are grateful for those who support Cohen and his family, and we encourage others to donate and become heroes, just like Super Cohen, by giving the gift of life. ♦

**Read more about
Super Cohen's story:**



HOXWORTH BLOOD DRIVES

Hoxworth held **1,265 total blood drives** that were hosted by local organizations across the Tri-State to collect 36,223 units of blood and platelets. Of the 1,265 total blood drives, **26 were honorary blood drives** that memorialize or support a recipient or an organization.

HONORARY BLOOD DRIVES:

Storm Bratchett Memorial Blood Drive: 169
Judy Morand Memorial Blood Drive: 82
Jessica's Blood Drives: 74
Ben Strong Giveback: 72
Blood Drive in Support of Tyler Darringer: 70
Team Super Cohen: 69
Pray Hope Believe Foundation (hosted by St. Ann): 67
Memorial Blood Drive for Tom: 60
Brynn's Birthday Blood Drive: 59
The Blenk Team / Comey & Shepherd Realtors: 57
Team Eddie Blood Drive: 56
Will's Warriors (Hoxworth locations): 53
Super Ollie's Sidekicks: 49
Nicholas R. Cordrey Foundation: 44
Teagan Tough: 41
Kaiden Issack: 34
Team Eli Blood Drive: 33
Belle Meade Friends of Molly: 33
#Ashton Strong Blood Drive: 32
Blood Drive in Support of Cameron Baur: 30
Blood Drive in Memory of Reco Gunnels: 27
Live Like Maya Foundation: 24
Indy Family: 23
Blood Drive in Support of Ron Klotz & Stuart Freeman: 23
Kelsey Chevrolet Blood Drive in Honor of Dani Kelsey Brosious, Joey Kelsey & Max DeSalvo: 13
Charlotte's Heart: 11

SPECIALTY BLOOD DRIVES:

Hoxworth held 49 on-site specialty blood drives in 2024, collecting a total of 3,630 units with 484 first-time blood donors joining our lifesaving mission.

Blood Drive Partner | Units Collected | First-Time Donors

6th Annual Cincinnati Favorites | 1,450 | 165
Summer-long event, 11 partners, 55 drives

Cincinnati Art Museum | 56 | 5
Partnership with Taft Museum of Art, Contemporary Arts Center

Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park | 69 | 6

Montgomery Inn The Original | 146 | 11

Montgomery Inn The Boathouse | 474 | 33

Busken Bakery | 55 | 7

Cincinnati Reds Blood Drive | 236 | 34

FC Cincinnati Blood Drive | 181 | 28

Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Blood Drive | 95 | 24
Hosted by National Underground Railroad Freedom Center

Music Hall Blood Drives | 117 | 11
Seven participating local arts organizations

Queen City Blood Drives | 675 | 125
Featuring Cincinnati Cyclones and several community partners

Dr. Charles Drew 23 | 2
Hosted by Beta Iota and Allen Temple AME Church

Cincinnati Comic Expo | 53 | 33



To host a blood drive in your community, visit **hoxworth.org/donors/host**



APHERESIS

Hoxworth Blood Center's Apheresis Division, offering both fixed and mobile services, conducts over 1,500 procedures annually across 14 regional locations. Our work includes a broad spectrum of services, such as select blood component collections/infusions, research support, cellular therapy collections, and therapeutic procedures, all vital in advancing patient care.

2024 Highlights

Awarded the **Dendreon Rock Star Award** for a flawless 100% Apheresis success rate with no deviations impacting product quality.

Recognized for **Nationally Known Superior NDMP Product Quality**.

Car-T & Gene Therapies: Advancing cutting-edge treatments in collaboration with innovative therapies.

Casgevy: First collection on 5/29/24, supporting sickle cell patients.

2024 Apheresis Procedure Totals

Cellular Therapy Procedures

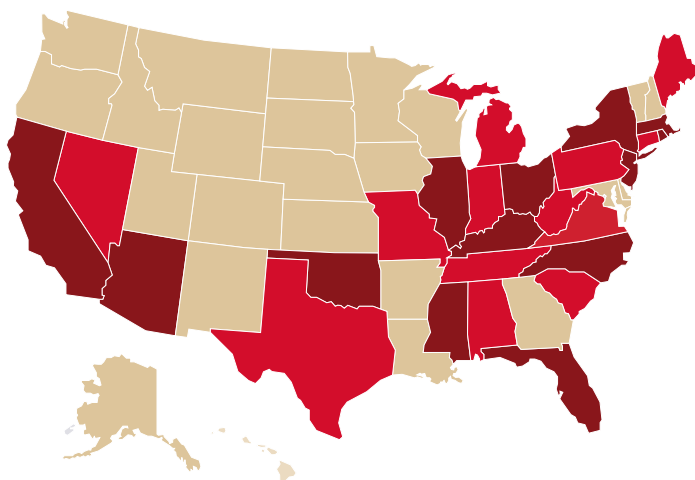
Hematopoietic Stem Cells.....	345
Mononuclear Cells.....	148

Therapeutic Procedures

Therapeutic Plasma Exchange (plasma replacement).....	508
Red blood cell exchange (red blood cell replacement)	312
Extracorporeal photopheresis (white blood cell treatment)	419
Leukocytapheresis (white blood cell removal).....	7
Thrombocytapheresis (platelet removal).....	1

WHERE DO YOU STEM FROM?

In 2024, people from all over the United States visited Hoxworth for stem cell donation.



Our Apheresis team plays an active role in supporting the community, participating in events like the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Light the Night Walk to fund research and ensure treatment access for blood cancer patients. We also support other causes such as Epilepsy, through the Emerald Miles 5K, and celebrate Cincinnati's history at the 50 West Mile.

Our Apheresis Division continues to set high standards for quality, innovation, and community engagement as we strive to make a meaningful impact on patient outcomes and public health.

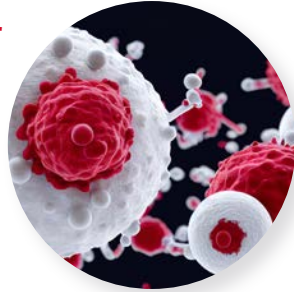


CELLULAR THERAPIES

Our Cellular Therapies Division provides clinical services to **5 bone marrow transplant programs**, supporting over **230 transplants annually**. Additionally this team supports translational research at UCH and CCHMC, including VSTs.

Hoxworth Blood Center and Cincinnati Children's Advance T-Cell Therapy

Since 2017, Hoxworth Blood Center has partnered with Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center to advance viral-specific T-cell (VST) therapy, a groundbreaking treatment for vulnerable patients, especially those recovering from bone marrow transplants. VSTs are specialized immune cells programmed to target and fight specific viruses, offering vital protection to immunocompromised patients whose immune systems are too weak to combat infections independently. In the past seven years, more than 1,200 VST infusions have been performed, benefiting both pediatric and adult patients. This success highlights the expertise and commitment of Hoxworth's cellular therapy teams, who produce these specialized cells through a meticulous process requiring about two weeks of work by highly trained technologists. As the division continues to innovate, this collaboration is set to expand into new research areas in 2025. The success of VST therapy exemplifies Hoxworth's dedication to advancing immunotherapy and improving patient outcomes, positioning the center at the forefront of cellular therapy advancements.



2024 Cellular Therapy Procedures

Allogeneic (healthy donor) transplants.....	168
Autologous (self donated) transplants.....	137
Viral Specific T cell (VST) infusions	244

Hoxworth Unveils State-of-the-Art Cleanroom to Advance Cellular Therapies and Meet Growing Demand

In Summer 2024, Hoxworth Blood Center proudly opened its new state-of-the-art ISO-certified cleanroom, marking a significant milestone in our mission to meet the growing demand for hematopoietic stem cell therapy, immunotherapy, and gene therapy products. This new facility nearly doubles our production capacity, and the cleanroom will be essential for the safe and efficient production of specialized cellular therapies, ensuring the highest standards of quality and safety. This advancement highlights Hoxworth's ongoing commitment to innovation, patient care, and the development of cutting-edge therapies in partnership with the region's medical and scientific community.



left: The Cell Therapy team in 2024; right: New state-of-the-art ISO-certified cleanroom

Clinical RESEARCH

The Clinical Research department is a global leader in transfusion medicine innovation and one of only four research centers available for niche, blood center specific testing. As an integral part of the Blood Center, our studies explore cutting-edge methods for processing and preserving red blood cells, platelets, and plasma; innovative treatments to eliminate pathogens; and the development of advanced testing techniques. See below for our work in 2024.

Sponsor	Protocol #	Study Summary
1 TerumoBCT	CTS-5091	Testing of non-DEHP plastic kits for Trima RBCs stored for 42 days.
2 BARDA	Biotin- year 1 (Base Period)	Validate biotinylation of RBCs as an alternative method to radiolabeling for regulatory studies of RBCs.
3 BARDA	Biotin- year 2 (CLIN-001)	Clinical study with biotin.
4 Cerus	CLI00182	Evaluate pathogen inactivated RBCs stored for 35 days.
5 Preservation Bio	PB-001	Evaluation of cold stored platelets stored for 14 days.

Neeta Rugg is a seasoned professional in transfusion medicine research, bringing extensive expertise, leadership, and motivation to this specialized field. With a strong background in Biological Sciences, she has developed expertise in blood banking research and development, spanning both industry and government collaborations in drug and device studies. Throughout her career, she has successfully managed multiple research projects, excelling in staffing, budgeting, project management, and data management. Her collaborative efforts with fellow researchers have contributed to advancements in the field through peer-reviewed publications. Neeta's dedication and experience continue to drive innovation in transfusion medicine.



2024 PUBLICATIONS

Since its beginning, Hoxworth Blood Center, University of Cincinnati, has been dedicated to advancing the hemotherapy field. All Hoxworth divisions aim to bridge fundamental research with clinical care, and are committed to enhancing the quality, safety and effectiveness of the blood and hematopoietic cell therapies. Hoxworth research includes clinical, basic, and translational transfusion medicine and transplant research. Hoxworth faculty and staff have published many prestigious, peer-reviewed, national and international journals. In 2024, Hoxworth Blood Center made notable contributions to the field. For a complete listing, go to <https://hoxworth.org/research-education/research/publications.html>.

Research & EDUCATION

Hoxworth Blood Center's Dr. Xuefeng Wang Advances Understanding of Cell Biology with NIH Grant and Breakthrough Research



Hoxworth Blood Center's

Dr. Xuefeng Wang, an associate professor at the University of Cincinnati's College of Medicine, is pioneering groundbreaking research on integrins, proteins that help cells adhere to surfaces. His lab's focus on

integrins and their role in immune responses, such as phagocytosis, is shedding light on how white blood cells fight infections by pulling pathogens off surfaces and ingesting them.

In recognition of his significant contributions, Dr. Wang was awarded a five-year, \$2.3 million grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to further his study of blood platelets, macrophages, and integrin tension. This research is expected to provide insights into platelet

behavior during clot formation and the impact of cell tension on immune function.

Dr. Wang's team recently published a study in *Nature Communications*, led by postdoctoral fellow Subhankar Kundu, highlighting how white blood cells use physical force to dislodge bacteria from human tissue. Their work has important implications for understanding immune responses to environmental pollutants and developing new therapies to combat infections and accelerate wound healing.

As the only U.S. blood center with an academic research arm, Hoxworth is proud to support the vital work of Dr. Wang and his team, whose research continues to push the boundaries of immunology and cellular therapy. ♦

Ramesh Chandra Nayak, Research Assistant Professor

Research in Dr. Nayak's laboratory is focused around understanding the epigenetic landscape and regulation of transcriptomic programs critical for quiescence, self-renewal and multi-lineage differentiation, and malignant transformation of hematopoietic stem cells and progenitors (HSC/Ps).

In addition, the lab models hematopoietic disorder using patient derived and gene-edited isogenic iPSCs, and hematopoietic cells regeneration from directed differentiation of healthy donor iPSCs.

Their research in the area of normal HSC/P biology, leukemic stem cells (LSCs), hematopoietic cell regeneration and disease modeling using iPSCs have been published in peer reviewed journals including *Journal of Clinical Investigation*, *Blood*, *Nature Communications*, *Cell Reports*, *Stem Cells Translational Medicine* and *Leukemia*.

For a complete list of publications and research, go to <https://researchdirectory.uc.edu/p/nayakrh>.



Transplantation Immunology Division



The Transplantation Immunology Division (TID) at University of Cincinnati's Hoxworth Blood Center is a state-of-the-art histocompatibility and immunogenetics testing laboratory.

Our Transplantation Immunology Division provides 24/7 laboratory services to support transplants, transfusions, and physicians making pharmacogenomic decisions and disease association diagnoses.

642 Regional Transplants in 2024:



385 KIDNEYS



75 HEARTS



182 LIVERS

472 STAT deceased donor HLA typings occurred in 2024. Around the clock availability of this HLA molecular typing service allows regional donations to have lifesaving impact across the nation.



Dr. Alquist is a triple-boarded transfusion medicine and histocompatibility pathologist, uniquely invested in the intersection of transplant services and transfusion medicine. She serves as Hoxworth Blood Center's Co-director, Chief Transplant & Cellular Therapies Officer, and Division Director of Apheresis, Cellular Therapies, Clinical Research, and Transplant Immunology Divisions. She is Cincinnati's only active ASHI-accredited HLA director to support all regional solid organ transplant and cellular therapy operations.



For more information on becoming an organ donor, visit <https://lifepassiton.org>

Mission MOMENTS

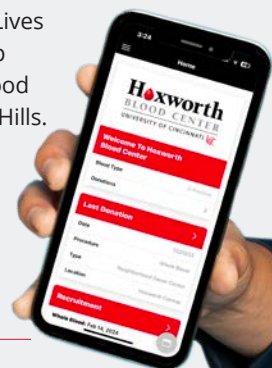
Pucks for Platelets: Honoring Cincinnati's Lifesaving Heroes

Hoxworth Blood Center partnered with the Cincinnati Cyclones to celebrate the dedication of high-frequency platelet donors through an exclusive Pucks for Platelets event. This initiative recognized platelet donors who gave three or more times in October and November, rewarding them with a VIP hockey experience at the December 17 Cyclones game. With over 378 platelet donors qualifying and more than 400 attendees, the event was a huge success, featuring perks like free tickets, VIP fan experiences, a Cyclones puck, and one lucky platelet donor, Zach Kreiner, dropped the first puck. Platelet donors play a critical role in saving lives, especially for patients battling cancer, trauma, and other serious conditions. Pucks for Platelets not only honored these dedicated donors but also reinforced the importance of platelet donation in the Greater Cincinnati community.



Improving the Donor Experience with the NEW Hoxworth Blood Donor App

Hoxworth introduced a groundbreaking mobile app in April 2024, bringing the mission of Saving Lives Close to Home directly to donors' fingertips. The free Hoxworth Blood Donor App, available in app stores, allows donors to seamlessly schedule donation appointments at their nearest Neighborhood Donor Centers in Anderson, Blue Ash, Ft. Mitchell, Clifton, West Chester, Tri-County, and Western Hills. Additionally, users can search for nearby community blood drives across Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana, making it easier than ever to find a convenient donation opportunity. Donors can also log in to their Donor Portal to manage their profile, check their blood type, and complete their QuickPass questionnaire before arriving at a donation site. The Hoxworth Blood Donor App can be downloaded by searching "Hoxworth Blood Center" in app stores or visiting Hoxworth.org.



Hoxworth Blood Center Honored with Cincinnati Community Awareness Transit Award

In 2024, Hoxworth Blood Center was honored to receive the 2023 Cincinnati Community Awareness Transit Award, presented by Adsplosure and Cincinnati Metro, which recognizes transit advertising campaigns that effectively engaged the public and raised awareness for critical causes throughout the city. Our campaign transformed Cincinnati's transit system into a moving call to action, reminding commuters and passersby of the life-saving importance of blood donation. With bold messaging, striking visuals, and innovative placement across Metro buses, we ensured that the need for blood donors remained top of mind as people traveled through their daily routines. Winning this award is a testament to the power of public awareness and the role that transit advertising plays in reaching diverse audiences. It also reflects the unwavering support of our donors, volunteers, and partners, who continue to help us make an impact.

Hoxworth VOLUNTEERS

*At the heart of the Hoxworth mission lies the invaluable contributions of our volunteers. Their dedication and support helps drive our daily operations forward, and in 2024, more than 100 Hoxworth volunteers gave more than 10,000 service hours toward **Saving Lives Close to Home**.*

Our volunteers play a pivotal role in fulfilling many needs, from picking up blood donations at our Neighborhood Donor Center (NDC) locations and mobile blood drives to ensuring seamless transportation of blood products to our Component Laboratory for prompt processing. Through their efforts, blood products reach our hospital partners across the entirety of our Tri-State service area, making a tangible impact on countless lives.

In addition to their logistical support, volunteers enhance the donor experience at our NDC's and larger blood drives. Whether they're offering a friendly presence in café areas, expressing heartfelt gratitude to donors for their lifesaving contributions, or ensuring donors' well-being before they depart, they embody the spirit of service and compassion.

Throughout the greater Cincinnati community and beyond, our volunteers are ambassadors for the importance of blood donation at community events, spreading awareness and encouraging participation in this vital cause.

In every aspect of our operations, our volunteers are indispensable and embody the spirit of generosity and selflessness that defines our organization. We are immensely grateful for their dedication to Hoxworth Blood Center. ♦



The continuous dedication of Hoxworth Blood Center Volunteers enables the organization to save valuable resources and allows us to focus on the needs of the donors and patients in our service area. We are beyond grateful to have such a strong team of volunteers at Hoxworth Blood Center!"

- Jamie Glahn, Manager,
Hoxworth Volunteer Services



Hoxworth IN THE COMMUNITY

10th Annual Golf Outing + Fundraiser

Hoxworth Blood Center, University of Cincinnati, held its 10th annual golf outing and fundraiser event on Thursday, September 19th, 2024, at Losantiville Country Club. The event was supported by 22 sponsors, 107 golfers, various Hoxworth staff & volunteers, making it a memorable day of celebrating saving lives close to home.

Deepest appreciation to the 2024 sponsors who made this event a reality — Adsplosure, Alpha Energy Solutions, Carnigie, Trinity Debt Management, LifeCenter, United Courier, Jeff Wyler Automotive Group, Outdoor Networks, WCPO, The Tom and Toni Bolser Foundation, Incept, BBCS, Matthews Specialty Vehicles, Chuck Kaiser (Linda and Chuck Kaiser Family), Colleen O'Toole (Honoring LifeCenter), Daniel's Textile Rental, Everything Cincy, Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, and Jamie Rausch (Jamie and Jonathan Rausch Hoxworth Community Advisory Board Member). Several organizations generously donated prizes, gift baskets, gift certificates, and other items for our raffle and online silent auction.

Participants were also gifted with a Hoxworth swag bag and treated to meals for the day by local Cincinnati Favorite restaurants Busken Bakery, Skyline Chili, and Montgomery Inn. Hoxworth's annual fundraising event makes a significant impact towards its lifesaving mission, and whether you were a player, sponsor, volunteer, or supported from afar, the contributions are invaluable. 📌



Hoxworth Blood Center and Cincinnati Museum Center Partner to Highlight Cincinnati's Commitment to Advancing Health

Hoxworth Blood Center is proud to sponsor the interactive Blood exhibit within Cincinnati Museum Center's new Advancing Health gallery, which opened in July 2024. This groundbreaking permanent exhibit takes visitors inside the human body, exploring how its systems function, how to maintain good health, and the medical innovations that restore it. Through engaging hands-on activities, visitors can ride the cardiovascular superhighway, zap bacteria, and simulate medical procedures, making health education both fun and interactive.

As the sponsor, Hoxworth highlights the critical role of blood donation in saving lives and provides a unique look into careers in blood banking for young visitors. Visitors can explore how blood donations support trauma victims, cancer patients, and those undergoing life-saving treatments. By featuring blood center careers, Hoxworth hopes to inspire the next generation of health care professionals while reinforcing the importance of a stable blood supply in our community. 📌

Hoxworth

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WAYS TO MAKE AN **IMPACT IN YOUR COMMUNITY**

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- | | |
|---|---|
| ✓ Make a lifesaving blood donation. | ✓ Host a blood drive and save countless lives. |
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LEARN MORE AT **HOXWORTH.ORG**