

**For Immediate Release**  
July 16, 2010

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## **BLOODCENTER HOSTS INTERNATIONAL HEMATOLOGY SYMPOSIUM Nobel Prize Winner Featured Speaker**

BloodCenter of Wisconsin's Blood Research Institute will host "Hematology and Transfusion Medicine: Current Science to Clinical Practice" on Tuesday, July 20 and Wednesday, July 21, 2010 at the Pfister Hotel, 424 E. Wisconsin Avenue in Milwaukee.

The symposium is as a tribute to the career of Richard H. Aster, MD, senior investigator at the Blood Research Institute and former CEO of BloodCenter of Wisconsin. Dr. Aster is internationally recognized by his peers as an outstanding scientist and physician. His contributions to hematology and transfusion medicine are many and varied. He is celebrating his 40<sup>th</sup> year at BloodCenter and 40 years of consecutive NIH funding. Platelets and the body's immune reaction to platelets have been the focus of Dr. Aster's research. Areas of major emphasis have been matching of platelets for transfusion, molecular properties of platelet antigens and pathogenesis of drug-induced immune thrombocytopenia.

Nobel Laureate Peter C. Agre, MD is the keynote speaker. Dr. Agre shared the 2003 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for discovering aquaporins, a family of water channel proteins found throughout nature responsible for numerous physiological processes in humans and implicated in multiple clinical disorders. He will discuss their impact in blood research.

Several other presenters from organizations such as the National Institutes of Health, Rockefeller University, Harvard Medical School, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and the University of Toronto will hold sessions on studies and discoveries in immunohematology, stem cell biology, platelet biology, thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura and transfusion sciences.

BloodCenter of Wisconsin is a private, Wisconsin-based, non-profit organization and is one of only four blood centers in the United States with a significant blood research program. Its Blood Research Institute (BRI) is devoted solely and uniquely to blood-related research.

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