



On May 8–10, the American Association of Tissue Banks (AATB) gathered a diverse group of speakers and attendees at its annual Quality and Donor Suitability Workshop (QDSW) in Indianapolis to discuss updates on quality assurance procedures and best practices in determining donor suitability.

Following AATB President and CEO Frank Wilton’s welcome, Taylor McLean, a community relations coordinator at Indiana Donor Network, launched the QDSW with a connective purpose by sharing how her family benefited from tissue donation. The QDSW’s goals are to provide tissue banking and health care professionals with a better understanding of the steps in donor screening, guidance on how to implement a quality assurance program, and networking opportunities. This year’s QDSW organizers solicited feedback from attendees in an effort to continuously improve the workshop.

“The goal of the QDSW is to have folks take what they learned and apply into their current practice,” said Christopher Agle, Director of Business Development and Recovery Operations for UMTB Donor Services Foundation. “Ultimately, we hope to engage attendees to suggest future topics, serve on one of AATB’s committees and/or volunteer to speak on a webinar or future conference.”

The itinerary included updates on AATB’s standards, its accreditation program, and its committees and councils. The workshop also featured presentations and case studies on the quality assurance (QA) chart review process, corrective and preventative actions (CAPA), electronic training programs, plasma dilution, process validation for sterilization, boosting efficiency, birth tissue donation options, toxicology, and preparing for an audit.



Breakout round table discussions enabled smaller groups of attendees to interact at a more direct level with speakers and discuss best practices with colleagues throughout the industry. These more intimate, interactive sessions were the majority favorite by surveyed attendees. The second-place majority favorite was the “Ask The AATB” session. This session was a panel discussion focused on membership interaction and involvement with AATB committees and councils. The council chairs from the Program, Education, Scientific and Technical Affairs, Standards, and Membership Committees elaborated on their rules in the progression and development of the tissue banking and transplant industry and ongoing project and improvement initiatives.

Mirroring the vast array of content covered, the diverse professions represented at the QDSW enriched roundtable discussions, networking, and the attendees’ overall experience. The workshop was attended by tissue bank specialists, eye bank technicians, quality assurance staff, physicians who are medical directors and/or pathologists, physician specialists, nurses, and other health care professionals.

The QDSW energized its audience with valuable networking opportunities and presentations. Already, attendees have joined the AATB’s education and program committees, among others.

Interested in attending our next event? Check out our upcoming programs [here!](#)