



## GETTING PLUGGED IN

### Meet Mentee: Linda Song, MD, MSPH

Linda Song, MD, MSPH, is a clinical fellow ('22-'24) at the National Institutes of Health's department of transfusion medicine and Center for Cellular Engineering. She completed her residency training at the University of Maryland Medical Center in Baltimore, Md., during which she served as chief resident. She is board-certified in anatomic and clinical pathology, soon-to-be board eligible for transfusion medicine and a member of the Gold Humanism Honor Society. Although she still considers herself a bit of a 'pluripotent stem cell' when it comes to professional interests in transfusion medicine, she says she has always had a passion for medical education, professional ambassadorship and systems/operations improvement.

#### **AABB NEWS:** WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MENTORSHIP PROGRAM?

**SONG:** There are many reasons I was excited to participate in the AABB PEP mentorship program. I wanted to get more experience in transfusion medicine matters from outside of the institutions where I have trained and am currently training. Secondly, I just started my transfusion medicine fellowship and wanted to hit the ground running in terms of preparing for the job market and knowing how I should take advantage of my fellowship training time. Additionally, I wanted to become more familiar with other AABB members and find out more ways to be involved in the Association.

#### **AABB NEWS:** CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT YOUR EXPERIENCE? WHAT DID YOU DISCUSS/WORK ON DURING YOUR SESSIONS?

**SONG:** Despite being several time zones away, Dr. Al-Riyami was always gracious and kind when finding time to speak with me—even doing it quite late in the evening so that we could line up our schedules. We spoke primarily about ways to get more involved in the community: through AABB committees and taking part in the AABB assessor program; through ISBT participation; and through various conferences. Additionally, she shared her own recent training experiences and reasons to dive into biotherapies.

#### **AABB NEWS:** WHAT KEY TAKEAWAY POINTS DID YOU LEARN FROM YOUR MENTOR?

**SONG:** Get involved! After working with her, I didn't hesitate to sign up for junior committee memberships when the opportunity arose. Committees are not

only a great way to meet people but also a great way to get involved with work and research in topics you are interested in. Biotherapies is a fast-growing field, so I need to take advantage of the built-in training and get even more involved in the biotherapies department during my two-years of transfusion fellowship at NIH.

#### **AABB NEWS:** HOW WILL THIS EXPERIENCE AND LESSONS LEARNED DURING THE MENTORSHIP PROGRAM HELP YOU ADVANCE IN YOUR CAREER IN TRANSFUSION MEDICINE?

**SONG:** I know this experience has really put me into the right gear to get my transfusion career going! I will continue to have an amazing mentor in Dr. Al-Riyami and am also now equipped with the knowledge and tools to dive into participation with AABB and its many members.

#### **AABB NEWS:** WHAT DID YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT THE PROGRAM?

**SONG:** Other than getting to meet and know someone in the transfusion medicine world, it would be getting to hear about someone else's story of getting into this field and how this field is ever-growing, which is confirmation that we are all life-long learners. I can't wait to meet Dr. Al-Riyami and others at the next AABB Annual Meeting!

