



August 25, 2026

Erica Schwartz, MD, MPH, JD (RADM, USPHS, RET)
Director
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road
Atlanta, GA 30329

Dear Director Schwartz:

On behalf of the Association for Advancing Tissue and Biologics (AATB), congratulations on being confirmed and sworn in as Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). We look forward to working with you.

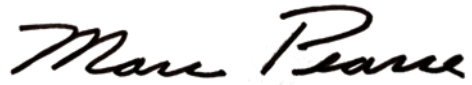
AATB is a non-profit organization dedicated to advancing the safety, quality, availability, and benefits of donated human tissue for transplantation worldwide. AATB achieves this through standards development, accreditation, education, and collaboration with regulatory partners to ensure donated tissue has the greatest impact on patient care.

The CDC is one of the regulatory partners AATB regularly collaborates with. Patient safety is our top priority, and preventing infectious disease transmission via tissue products is therefore a primary focus for organization. Following two rare but tragic *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (MTB) transmission events in 2021 and 2023, AATB acted to strengthen donor screening and tissue product safety by publishing the *AATB Standards for Tissue Banking*, 15th Edition (Standards). This document, which includes new requirements for tissue donor screening, was developed by a multidisciplinary working group, including infectious disease experts, using information from the CDC and other agencies. The requirements took effect on January 31, 2025, and are designed to provide robust, evidence-based criteria for donor screening and evaluation to prevent disease transmission in all tissue donors.

AATB is working to further strengthen donor screening processes by developing evidence-based guidelines to support tissue bank medical directors in stratifying risk based on a potential donor's medical history, circumstances of death, and the planned tissue processing approach. The guidelines will address specific high-risk scenarios and outline the minimum objective clinical data required to ensure a thorough and scientifically sound risk assessment. We welcome your feedback on these guidelines when they are published later this year.

Congratulations again on your new role. AATB stands ready and willing to assist the CDC in any way you deem appropriate.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marc Pearce". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Marc Pearce
President & CEO
Association for Advancing Tissue and Biologics