

Engleman honored with 2026 AABB Landsteiner-Alter Award

The Association for the Advancement of Blood & Biotherapies (AABB) has selected Edgar Engleman, M.D., as the recipient of the prestigious 2026 Landsteiner-Alter Award, the organization's highest scientific honor. This annual recognition celebrates individuals whose original research has profoundly influenced the fields of transfusion medicine or biotherapies on an international scale.



Dr. Engleman's distinguished career encompasses pioneering contributions to both blood safety and cellular immunotherapy – advances that have reshaped modern medical practice and improved outcomes for patients worldwide. He used his monoclonal antibody to CD4 to develop the first test to identify asymptomatic AIDS carriers, and SBC successfully screened blood donors with this test to prevent the transmission of AIDS via transfusion – years before HIV was discovered. A decade later, his research into immune cell biology and his experimental clinical trials performed on cancer patients at Stanford laid the groundwork for the first U.S. Food and Drug Administration–approved cellular therapy, a milestone that ushered cellular immunotherapies into mainstream cancer care and marked a new era in the treatment of malignancies.

Reflecting on the honor, Dr. Engleman remarked, *“Receiving this award is a tremendous honor, and I’m deeply grateful for the support that made it possible. Without the support of SBC during much of my career, the work that formed the basis for this recognition could not have been accomplished.”* His statement underscores the long-standing institutional relationships that help foster decades of groundbreaking research.

Dr. Engleman's scientific leadership extends beyond this key achievement. As a professor of pathology and medicine at Stanford University School of Medicine and Medical Director of the Stanford Blood Center, he has dedicated his career to understanding and manipulating the immune system to treat life-threatening diseases. His work has focused on harnessing and refining the body's own immune cells, including dendritic cells, to develop novel therapeutic strategies for cancer, transplant tolerance, and other immune-mediated conditions.

The Landsteiner-Alter Award was originally established in 1954 as the Karl Landsteiner Memorial Award, named after the scientist who discovered the ABO blood group system. It was renamed in 2021 to honor Nobel laureate Harvey J. Alter and recognizes scientists of international renown whose original research has significantly expanded the body of scientific knowledge in transfusion medicine or biotherapies.

AABB will formally honor Dr. Engleman at its upcoming Annual Meeting in October, where peers and colleagues will gather to celebrate his remarkable achievements and contributions to advancing patient care through scientific innovation.