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# Transfusion medicine illustrated. The first Cardeza donor center: attracting donors who do not wish to see blood.

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# **The First Cardeza Donor Center: Attracting Donors who do not wish to see Blood**

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Running Title: Attracting Donors who do not wish to see Blood

## **The First Cardeza Donor Center: Attracting Donors who do not wish to see Blood**

The Cardeza Foundation for Hematologic Research is the Division of Hematology of the Department of Medicine of Jefferson Medical College of Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia, PA. It was formally incorporated in 1941 with an endowment from the Cardeza family. The purpose of the endowment was to establish a Foundation for Hematologic Research including a Transfusion-Plasma unit. Thus a Blood Bank was established in the Cardeza Foundation. At that time blood was collected in glass bottles in the presence of a technician and a physician as shown in Photograph 1. Universal precautions did not exist at that time: no gloves were used, blood was collected in a hand-held glass bottle, the technician is set-up for mouth suction and the amount of blood to be collected seems to be determined by sight. This photograph might have been an overplay for the media to spread the news about blood banking. Details about donor screening, anticoagulants used and storage were not available in our rerecords.

Once the donor center was established many donors were available but they were set aback by the sight of blood. The solution to the problem was to partition the donor center in such a way that the donor will not see blood and will not see other donors. Privacy might have been another reason for the partition. Photographs 2A and 2B show how this was done. Photograph 2A shows the partition from the technician's side and Photograph 2B shows the partition from the donor's side. This practice continued to the late 1940's or early 1950's.

Partitions to separate donors from collectors, rather than from each other, were introduced by Russia in the 1930's and were used in the USSR for many years. Moreover, the practice of

donating blood through a window was used by the French in 1939 as was previously described in *Transfusion Medicine Illustrated* (Transfusion, 2011; 51(10):2064-2065). We are not aware, however, if this practice was used somewhere else in the US in addition to Philadelphia.

## Legends to Photographs

### Photograph 1

Local media Announcement of the establishment of the Blood Bank in May 1941

### Photograph 2A

The technician's side of the partitioned donor center. The donor will not see the collected blood. The partition is composed of squares that can be opened and closed.

### Photograph 2B

Three donors, each in a separate cubicle, do not see the blood or each other.

### Photograph 3

The donor's side of the partitioned donor center. Notice that the donor is in a separate cubicle and will not see other donors or their blood in adjacent cubicles.