



## Office of Faculty Development

### Pathology & Immunology



**Brenda Grossman, MD** was born in Savannah Georgia, the middle of three sisters. She grew up in a warm, supportive environment among sprawling Live Oak trees and sandy beaches. Her interest in medicine began at an early age when an acquaintance of the family died of childhood leukemia. Her first encounter into the medical world was during her summers of college when she worked in a hometown hospital clinical laboratory as a phlebotomist and plating microbes. She attended medical school at the Medical College of Georgia, followed by a residency in internal medicine at the University of Cincinnati. She momentarily tilted toward infectious disease, but ultimately was most attracted to

hematology. Among a close, tight-knit group of co-residents (and one of two women in a class of 23) she met her husband, Steve Brody, who is Professor of Medicine in the division of Pulmonary and Critical Care at Washington University.

Brenda and Steve moved to Atlanta after Brenda was accepted in the Hematology and Oncology Fellowship program at Emory University in Atlanta. They enjoyed living in Atlanta, which at the time was blossoming with new restaurants, arts, music and she reconnected with many friends and family in Georgia. During that time, Brenda's interest focused on transfusion medicine. After completing her Hematology/Oncology Fellowship, she began a Transfusion Medicine fellowship. Here she found her niche, highlighted by a small, highly interactive group of academicians/clinicians.

Her next move was instrumental and set the course of her career in transfusion medicine. She and Steve moved to Washington D.C., where she took a post - doctoral trainee position at the Red Cross National Plasma Development Laboratory. Mentors there were national and international leaders in blood banking and transfusion medicine. Moreover, she was introduced to investigators and clinicians throughout the country. She was asked to join the Red Cross National Headquarters Blood Operations in downtown Washington, where she provided medical support to the Blood and Plasma Operations of the National ARC. She regularly worked with the top leadership of the organization and became part of the national policy decision making process, co-authoring national medical policy on donor selection criteria, donor notification and counseling and donor deferral. It was also during this time that her son, Peter was born.

Looking for a more tame placed to grow a family, St. Louis came into the picture when she was offered medical directorship of the Red Cross, Missouri-Illinois Blood Center and the St. Louis National Red Cross Infectious Disease Testing Lab. She provided medical oversight for collections, manufacturing, distribution, and donor counseling, and reference and infection disease laboratory.

In 2001 Dr. Grossman transitioned to hospital-based transfusion medicine and resident training when she joined the Department of Pathology at Saint Louis University (SLU). She served as the medical director of the hospital's blood bank, apheresis center and stem cell laboratory. To expand her skills and gain additional research tools, Dr. Grossman earned a Master of Public Health at SLU. During this time, she was also an active member of the AABB, serving on many committees, guideline work-groups, and the board of directors. She was also an associate editor of 3 editions of the AABB Technical Manual.

In 2009 she joined the faculty at Washington University in the Department of Pathology & Immunology, Division of Laboratory and Genomic Medicine where she continued to promote resident and fellow training by serving as the associate program director for the clinical pathology residency until 2018 and transfusion medicine fellowship training program to the present.

Her focus when not at work has been her son and family, not to mention family's two Australian Labradoodles, Butters and Mocha. Family fun includes annual travels to a major US city (until Covid-19), trips to South Korea, Europe, Hawaii, Alaska and many other places. Food is always involved! Her hobbies include reading (including about five years of exclusively reading women detective mysteries), knitting, baking, birdwatching, and just being outdoors.

