ASFA 2015 Annual Meeting
Post-Conference Report

May 6 - 9, 2015 ● Grand Hyatt ● San Antonio, Texas
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Executive Summary
The American Society for Apheresis (ASFA) hosted its 36th Annual Meeting in San Antonio, Texas from May 6 – 9, 2015. The meeting was a great success with approximately 560 participants including registered delegates, exhibitors and other corporate representatives from 25 different countries. Conference delegates included Physicians/PhDs (38.42%), Allied Health Professionals (39.50%) and Industry Professionals (22.08%).

The Red Cell Exchange in Sickle Cell Disease Consensus Conference took place as a pre-conference activity at the Grand Hyatt in San Antonio on May 5th. A number of expert speakers came together to discuss the definition, pathophysiology, diagnosis and management of sickle cell disease. With 174 participants and a panel of engaging and knowledgeable experts the Consensus Conference was a huge success.

An impressive number of abstracts were received this year with 120 submissions from both physicians/PhDs (74.17%) and allied health professionals (24.17%). The abstracts were graded by the Abstracts Committee and those that were accepted were published in the Journal of Clinical Apheresis.

The following six abstract awards were presented:
- Allied Health Abstract Award *(Edwin Burgstaler, MT, HP(ASCP))*
- Donor Apheresis Abstract Award *(James W. Smith, MD, PhD)*
- Junior Investigator Abstract Award *(Jaehyup Kim, MD, PhD)*
- Therapeutic Apheresis Best Abstract Award *(Yara A. Park, MD)*
- Best Donor Poster Abstract Award *(Antonio Greg Mercado, RN)*
- Best Therapeutic Poster Abstract Award *(Monica B. Pagano, MD)*

To honor outstanding individuals in the field of apheresis the following ASFA society awards were presented:
- Francis S. Morrison Lecture Award *(Edwin A. Burgstaler, MT, HP(ASCP))*
- Lecturer Award *(Christina Anderson, RN, BSN, HP(ASCP))*
- Presidential Award *(Ravi Sarode, MD)*
- SHS Award *(Irina Dobrusin, RN, BSN)*

The ASFA 2015 Annual Meeting received generous support from seven corporate sponsors and fifteen exhibitors. The corporate sponsors held various symposia and gave unrestricted grants for the educational program and awards.

Overall, ASFA’s 36th Annual Meeting was a great success. We are excited to be hosting the 37th Annual Meeting in Palm Springs, California from May 4 – 7, 2016 at the Westin Mission Hills Golf Resort and Spa.

Introduction
The American Society for Apheresis (ASFA) officially formed in 1981 and has been the proud host of 36 highly successful scientific conferences. The annual meeting is the only one of its kind that offers a focus on apheresis medicine in both the donor and patient settings. It is a key
educational and networking event for physicians, scientists and allied health professionals in the field of apheresis medicine.

**Red Cell Exchange in Sickle Cell Disease Consensus Conference**

The Red Cell Exchange in Sickle Cell Disease Consensus Conference took place as a pre-conference activity at the Grand Hyatt in San Antonio on May 5th. 174 registered delegates participated in this important educational activity. Support for this activity was provided by Terumo BCT and Fresenius Kabi USA, LLC.

The Planning Committee developed a number of key questions and a variety of topics to be considered by the panel of experts. The day-long meeting was conducted by two moderators and after each presentation there was an opportunity for open discussion and questions from the audience. The Red Cell Exchange in Sickle Cell Disease Working Group will now review the proceedings and produce an article to published in the Journal of Clinical Apheresis summarizing the discuss and the consensus reached.

Please review the [Red Cell Exchange in Sickle Cell Disease Consensus Conference Program](#) for a full list of speakers, moderators and the topics discussed.

**Conference Program**

The ASFA 2015 Annual Meeting Scientific and Educational Program covered all aspects of apheresis medicine over the span of four days (May 6 – 9, 2015). The theme of the 2015 Annual Meeting was Infectious Disease and Apheresis. The 2015 Organizing Committee structured the meeting to provide delegates with a roadmap of apheresis from the most basic overview to the innovations and advances in the field today.

Please review the [ASFA 2015 Annual Meeting Program](#) for a complete summary of the presentations given and note that the majority of [conference presentation slides](#) are now available online.

**Participation Statistics**

The ASFA 2015 Annual Meeting attracted approximately 560 delegates from 25 different countries. Approximately 90% of the attendees originated from North America while about 10% traveled from another country. Please see Table 1 and Figure 1 for more detail.

**Table 1 – Delegate Breakdown by Region**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Number of Delegates</th>
<th>Percentage of Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>504</td>
<td>90.48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>9.52%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The ASFA 2015 Annual Meeting delegates were made up of physicians/PhDs, allied health professionals and industry professionals who practice donor or therapeutic apheresis medicine. Please refer to Table 2 and Figure 2 for more detail.

### Table 2 – Delegate Breakdown by Profession

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Profession</th>
<th>Number of Delegates</th>
<th>Percentage of Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Allied Health</td>
<td>220</td>
<td>39.50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physician/PhD</td>
<td>214</td>
<td>38.42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industry Professionals</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>22.08%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Figure 2 – Delegate Breakdown by Profession
Abstract Submission

A total of 120 abstracts were submitted for presentation at the ASFA 2015 Annual Meeting. Eight abstracts were selected to be presented during the Plenary Abstract Session; sixteen abstracts were selected for the Oral Concurrent Sessions and ninety-nine abstracts were chosen as poster presentations. Of the 120 abstracts, 74.17% were submitted by physicians/PhDs and 24.17% by allied health professionals (refer to Figure 3). The submitted abstracts were based on all aspects of apheresis medicine, including but not limited to research, clinical, educational, or administrative topics or projects. All of the accepted abstracts were published in the Journal of Clinical Apheresis.

Figure 3 – Abstract Submission by Profession

Abstract Awards

ASFA is pleased to offer six best abstract awards. The Abstracts Committee was responsible for grading all of the submitted abstracts and determining the recipients of the following awards at the ASFA 2015 Annual Meeting.

The Allied Health Abstract Award is given to the primary author of an outstanding abstract submitted by an allied health professional who is a member of ASFA. This year’s recipient was Edwin A. Burgstaler, MT, HP(ASCP) for the abstract titled ‘Comparison of 3 Anticoagulant Techniques used During Hematopoietic Progenitor Cell Collection using the Terumo BCT Spectra Optia’.

The Donor Apheresis Abstract Award is given to the primary author of an outstanding donor apheresis-related abstract. This year’s recipient was James W. Smith, MD, PhD for the abstract titled ‘Hematopoietic Progenitor Cell Collection: A Comparison of COBE Spectra and Spectra OPTIA Collection Efficiencies Using ACD-A or ACD-A with Heparin Anticoagulation’.

The Junior Investigator Abstract Award is given to the primary author of an outstanding abstract submitted by a junior investigator who is a member of ASFA. This year’s recipient was Jaehyup
Kim, MD, PhD for the abstract titled ‘Comparison of Spectra Optia and COBE Spectra Apheresis Systems Performances for Red Blood Cell Exchange Procedures’.

The Therapeutic Apheresis Best Abstract Award is given to the primary author of an outstanding therapeutic apheresis-related abstract. This year’s recipient was Yara A. Park, MD for the abstract titled ‘Treatment of Thrombocytopenic Purpura Patients Remains Heterogeneous’.

The Abstracts Committee also judged the Poster Presentations at the ASFA 2015 Annual Meeting and presented two poster awards; the Best Donor Poster Award and the Best Therapeutic Poster Award.

The winner of the Best Donor Poster Award was Antonio Greg Mercado, RN for the abstract titled ‘Plerixafor Injection for the Mobilization of Allogeneic Donors’.

The winner of the Best Therapeutic Poster Award was Monica B. Pagano, MD for the abstract titled ‘Use of Hydroxyethyl Starch in Leukocytapheresis Procedures Does Not Increase Renal Toxicity’.

**Society Awards**

ASFA presented four individuals with society awards for outstanding work in both apheresis medicine and within the society at the ASFA 2015 Annual Meeting.

The Francis S. Morrison Lecture Award is presented to an individual that has made a lasting difference in apheresis on a national level. This award was first created to keep alive and honor the memory of Francis S. Morrison, MD, a leading apheresis professional. This year it was presented to Edwin A. Burgstaler, MT, HP(ASCP).

The Lecturer Award is bestowed upon a member of the Society who has consistently contributed to the Society as a speaker, teacher, or mentor. This year the award was presented to Christina Anderson, RN, BSN, HP(ASCP).

The Presidential Award is bestowed upon a member of the Society who has consistently made major contributions to, and performed outstanding service for the Society over a number of years. This year it was presented to Ravi Sarode, MD.

The SHS Award commemorates the pioneering efforts of the Society for Hemapheresis Specialists which have culminated in the high standards and sophistication which characterize the field of American apheresis. Its recipient is a hemapheresis specialist who has demonstrated sincere commitment to apheresis and who has emerged as a leader and role model in the field. This year the award was presented to Irina Dobrusin, RN, BSN.
Supporters and Exhibitors
The ASFA 2015 Annual Meeting supporters, symposia supporters and exhibitors are listed below.

Conference Support

Keynote Level Supporter

Gold Level Supporter

Bronze Level Supporter

Contributor Level Supporters
Exhibitors
The following organizations exhibited at the ASFA 2015 Annual Meeting:

- Alexion Pharmaceuticals
- Angiodynamics
- Asahi Kasei Medical America, Inc.
- Baxter Healthcare
- Fresenius Kabi USA, LLC
- Fresenius Medical Care/Apheresis Care Group
- Healthcare – ID
- Kaneka Pharma America, LLC
- Machaon Diagnostics
- Norfolk Medical
- Octapharma USA
- Terumo BCT
- Therakos
- UC San Diego
Overall Conference Evaluation
A total of 247 attendees completed the online conference evaluation. Taking into account all aspects of the meeting, approximately 94% of the attendees rated the quality of the conference as “excellent” or “good”. Approximately 98% of delegates felt the program met its stated objectives with approximately 74% of delegates stating that this activity will change the way they practice.

ASFA Annual Meeting 2016

The 37th ASFA Annual Meeting will take place from May 4 – 7, 2016 at the Westin Mission Hills Golf Resort and Spa in Palm Springs, California. More information on corporate opportunities, abstract submission and pre-conference activities along with the preliminary program will be made available on the 2016 Annual Meeting webpage throughout summer 2015.

We look forward to seeing you in Palm Springs for another successful meeting!

Conclusion
Overall, the ASFA 2015 Annual Meeting was a great success with a high number of abstract submissions and over 550 attendees representing 25 different countries. We provided an excellent forum for apheresis professionals to meet and discuss the past, present, and future of apheresis medicine and how apheresis can be used to treat infectious disease. Through the symposia, exhibit hall and the comprehensive conference program our delegates had ample opportunity to interact with both our corporate partners and fellow apheresis professionals. The next annual meeting will take place in Palm Springs, California – we look forward to seeing you there!