

# ASFA 2016 Annual Meeting Post-Conference Report

*May 4 - 7, 2016 • Westin Mission Hills Golf Resort and Spa • Palm Springs, California*





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## Executive Summary

The American Society for Apheresis (ASFA) hosted its 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Palm Springs, California from May 4 – 7, 2016. The meeting was a great success with approximately 520 participants including registered delegates, exhibitors and other corporate representatives from 25 different countries. Conference delegates included Physicians/PhDs (36.61%), Allied Health Professionals (42.58%) and Industry Professionals (20.81%).

The Apheresis Review Session took place as a pre-conference activity at the Westin Mission Hills in Palm Springs on May 4<sup>th</sup>. A number of expert speakers came together to provide an overview of the theory and applications of apheresis medicine to help apheresis professionals prepare for the Qualification in Apheresis (QIA) exam offered by ASCP. With 146 participants and a series of informative lectures, the Review Session was a great success.

The 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting introduced a number of exciting new features including a 5K Fun Run with proceeds going to the Ree Wynn Foundation, an education session hosted by the International Affairs Committee, the launch of the People's Choice Poster Abstract Award and a joint education session with AABB.

An impressive number of abstracts were received this year with 123 submissions from both physicians/PhDs (67.48%) and allied health professionals (32.52%). The abstracts were graded by the Abstracts Committee and those that were accepted were published in the Journal of Clinical Apheresis. A new award, the People's Choice Poster Abstract Award, was introduced this year. Meeting delegates had the opportunity to vote for the best poster and the winner was announced at the Annual General Meeting.

The following five abstract awards were presented:

- Allied Health Abstract Award (*Patricia Fredrich, RN, BSN*)
- Best Abstract Award (*Edwin A. Burgstaler, MT, HP(ASCP)*)
- Best Abstract Award (*Rachel Sirignano, MD*)
- Junior Investigator Abstract Award (*Kristina Annah Davis, MD*)
- People's Choice Poster Abstract Award (*Caroline Alquist, MD, PhD*)

To honor outstanding individuals in the field of apheresis the following ASFA society awards were presented:

- Francis S. Morrison Lecture Award (*Mark E. Brecher, MD*)
- Lecturer Award (*Laura Cooling, MD, MS*)
- Presidential Award (*Edward Wong, MD*)
- SHS Award (*Regina Rohe, RN, BS, HP(ASCP)*)

The ASFA 2016 Annual Meeting received generous support from four corporate sponsors and nineteen exhibitors. The corporate sponsors held various symposia and gave unrestricted grants for the educational program and awards.

Overall, ASFA's 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting was a great success. We are excited to be hosting the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Fort Lauderdale, Florida from May 3 – 6, 2017 at the Westin Beach Resort and Spa.

## Introduction

The American Society for Apheresis (ASFA) officially formed in 1981 and has been the proud host of 37 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.

## Apheresis Review Session

The Apheresis Review Session took place as a pre-conference activity at the Westin Mission Hills, Palm Springs on May 4<sup>th</sup>. 146 registered delegates participated in this important educational activity. The Review Session provided a basic overview of the theory and applications of apheresis medicine. Experts in the field provided a broad overview of each of the topics and participants had an opportunity to work with various case studies. The Review Session served as a preparatory course for the Qualification in Apheresis (QIA) Exam, offered by ASCP and also covered the steps necessary to apply, test, and become Qualified in Apheresis. Rooms were made available during two sessions at the Annual Meeting for delegates to take the QIA exam.

The Speakers and Chairs developed a number of questions related to the material covered during the Review Session for the pre-/post-activity tests. These ACS-approved tests qualified participants for CME credits.

## Conference Program

The ASFA 2016 Annual Meeting Scientific and Educational Program covered all aspects of apheresis medicine over the span of three days (May 5 – 7, 2016). The 2016 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 2016 Annual Meeting Program](#) for a complete summary of the presentations given and note that the majority of [conference presentation slides](#) are now available online.

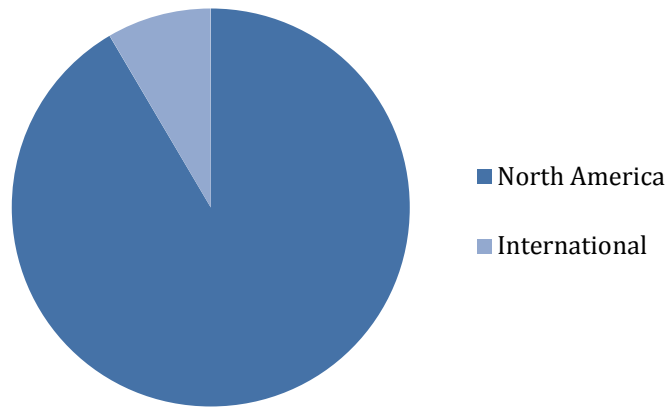
## Participation Statistics

The ASFA 2016 Annual Meeting attracted approximately 520 delegates from 25 different countries. Approximately 92% of the attendees originated from North America while about 8% traveled from another country. Please see Table 1 and Figure 1 for more detail.

**Table 1 – Delegate Breakdown by Region**

Delegate Breakdown by Region		
Region	Number of Delegates	Percentage of Total
North America	478	92.10%
Africa	2	0.39%
Asia	11	2.12%
Australia	2	0.39%
Europe	14	2.70%
South America	12	2.31%

**Figure 1 – Delegate Breakdown by Region**

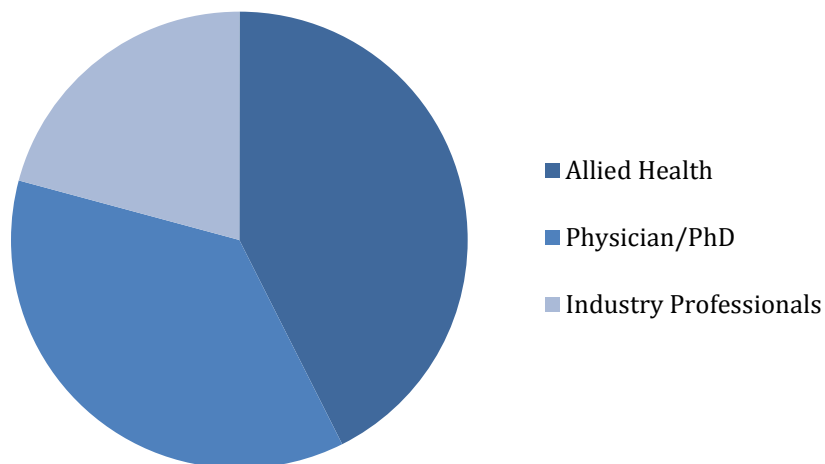


The ASFA 2016 Annual Meeting delegates were made up of physicians/PhDs, allied health professionals and industry professionals who practice donor or therapeutic apheresis medicine. Please refer to Table 2 and Figure 2 for more detail.

**Table 2 – Delegate Breakdown by Profession**

Delegate Breakdown by Profession		
Profession	Number of Delegates	Percentage of Total
Allied Health	221	42.58%
Physician/PhD	190	36.61%
Industry Professionals	108	20.81%

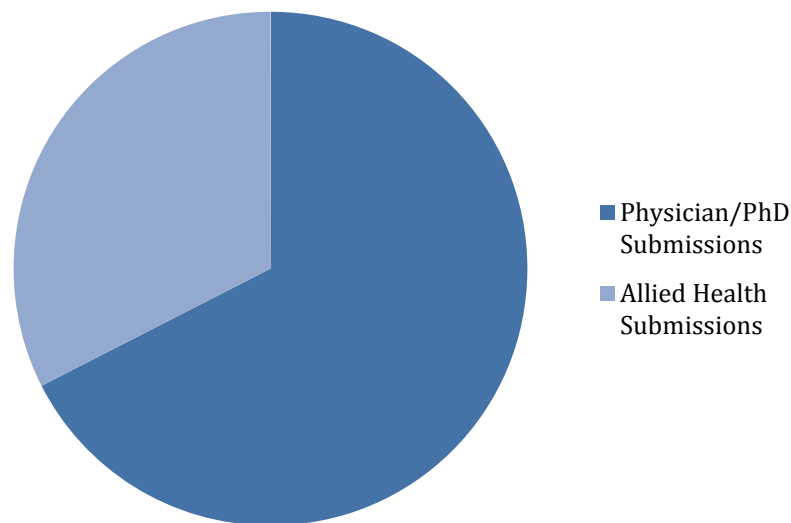
**Figure 2 – Delegate Breakdown by Profession**



## Abstract Submission

A total of 123 abstracts were submitted for presentation at the ASFA 2016 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 123 abstracts, 67.48% were submitted by physicians/PhDs and 32.52% 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, and administrative topics and 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 five best abstract awards. The Abstracts Committee was responsible for grading all of the submitted abstracts and determining the recipients of most of the awards at the ASFA 2016 Annual Meeting. All accepted poster abstracts were eligible for the newly introduced People’s Choice Poster Abstract Award where delegates had the opportunity to vote for the poster the best poster.

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 Patricia Fredrich, RN, BSN for the abstract titled *‘Impact of a Data-Driven Prediction Algorithm for Blood Volume Processing in Peripheral Blood Stem Cell Collection’*.

The Best Abstract Awards are given to the primary authors of two outstanding abstracts. This year’s recipients were Edwin A. Burgstaler, MT, HP(ASCP) for the abstract titled *‘Paired Comparison of Therapeutic Plasma Exchange using the Fenwal Amicus vs. Terumo BCT Spectra Optia’* and Rachel Sirignano, MD for the abstract titled *‘Tandem Procedures Associated with Therapeutic Apheresis: A Multidisciplinary Approach at a High Volume Pediatric Center.’*

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 Kristina Annah Davis, MD for the abstract titled '*Impact of Platelet Count on CD34 Mobilization and Response to Plerixafor in Lymphoma Patients Undergoing Autologous Peripheral Blood Stem Cell Collection.*'

The ASFA Abstracts Committee launched the People's Choice Poster Abstract Award at this year's Annual Meeting. Meeting delegates voted for the poster they believed to be the best and the People's Choice Poster Abstract Award was presented at the Annual General Meeting. This year's recipient was Caroline Alquist, MD, PhD for the abstract titled '*Pediatric Therapeutic Plasma Exchange: Explaining the Big Picture to Little Patients.*'

## Society Awards

ASFA presented four individuals with society awards for outstanding work in both apheresis medicine and within the society at the ASFA 2016 Annual Meeting.

The Francis S. Morrison, MD Memorial 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 Mark E. Brecher, MD.

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 Laura Cooling, MD, MS.

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 Edward Wong, 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 Regina Rohe, RN, BS, HP(ASCP).



## Supporters and Exhibitors

The ASFA 2016 Annual Meeting supporters, symposia supporters and exhibitors are listed below.

### Conference Support

#### *Keynote Level Supporter*

# TERUMOBCT

Unlocking the Potential of Blood

#### *Platinum Level Supporter*



## Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals

#### *Bronze Level Supporters*



## **Baxter**

### Symposia and Focus Group Support



## TERUMOBCT

Unlocking the Potential of Blood



## 5K Fun Run Support



## Award Supporter



## Exhibitors

The following organizations exhibited at the ASFA 2016 Annual Meeting:

- Alexion Pharmaceuticals
- Angiodynamics
- Asahi Kasei Medical America Inc.
- Baxter Healthcare
- Cerus Corporation
- Fresenius Kabi USA, LLC
- Fresenius Medical Care/Apheresis Care Group
- Healthcare - ID
- Kaneka Pharma America, LLC
- Machaon Diagnostics
- Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals
- Mayo Clinic
- NanoEntek Inc.
- Norfolk Medical Products, Inc.
- Octapharma
- Sanofi Oncology
- Terumo BCT
- UC San Diego Health System
- University of Virginia Therapeutic Apheresis Academy

## Overall Conference Evaluation

A total of 315 attendees completed the online conference evaluation. Taking into account all aspects of the meeting, approximately 96% of the attendees rated the quality of the conference as “excellent” or “good”. Approximately 99% of delegates felt the program met its stated objectives with approximately 76% of delegates stating that this activity will change the way they practice.

## ASFA Annual Meeting 2017



The 38<sup>th</sup> ASFA Annual Meeting will take place from May 3 – 6, 2017 at the Westin Beach Resort and Spa in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. More information regarding corporate opportunities, abstract submission and pre-conference activities along with the preliminary program will be made available on the [2017 Annual Meeting webpage](#) throughout summer 2016.

We look forward to seeing you in Fort Lauderdale for another successful meeting!

## Conclusion

Overall, the ASFA 2016 Annual Meeting was a great success with a high number of abstract submissions and over 500 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. 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 Fort Lauderdale, Florida – we look forward to seeing you there!