

ASFA 2017 Annual Meeting Post-Conference Report

May 3 - 6, 2017 • Westin Beach Resort & Spa • Fort Lauderdale, Florida





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Executive Summary

The American Society for Apheresis (ASFA) hosted its 38th Annual Meeting in Fort Lauderdale, Florida from May 3 – 6, 2017. The meeting was a great success with approximately 548 participants including registered delegates, exhibitors and other corporate representatives from 27 different countries. Conference delegates included Physicians/PhDs (37.41%), Allied Health Professionals (38.14%) and Industry Professionals (24.45%).

The Apheresis Review Session took place as a pre-conference activity at the Westin Beach Resort & Spa in Fort Lauderdale on May 3rd. 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 103 participants and a series of informative lectures, the Review Session was a great success.

The 38th Annual Meeting continued providing a number of new and exciting features including a 5K Fun Run with proceeds going to the B+ Foundation, an education session hosted by the International Affairs Committee, 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 (61.79%) and Allied Health Professionals (38.21%). The abstracts were graded by the Abstracts Committee and those that were accepted were published in the Journal of Clinical Apheresis. Backed by popular demand, the People's Choice Poster Abstract Award returned for its second year. 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 (*Michaela Mayhew, MSc*)
- Best Abstract Award (*Robert Weinstein, MD*)
- Best Abstract Award (*Reinhard Klingel, MD, PhD*)
- Junior Investigator Abstract Award (*Jennifer Crimmins, MD*)
- People's Choice Poster Abstract Award (*Suzanne Thibodeaux, MD, PhD*)

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

- Francis S. Morrison Lecture Award (*Susan F. Leitman, MD*)
- Lecturer Award (*Jan Hofmann, MD, MPH, MSc*)
- Presidential Award (*Marisa B. Marques, MD*)
- SHS Award (*Darlene Cloutier, MT, HP*)

The ASFA 2017 Annual Meeting received generous support from four corporate sponsors and eighteen exhibitors. The corporate sponsors held various symposia, focus groups and gave unrestricted grants for the educational program and awards.

Overall, ASFA's 38th Annual Meeting was a great success. We are excited to be hosting the 39th Annual Meeting in Chicago, Illinois from April 25 – 28, 2018 at the Hilton Chicago.

Introduction

The American Society for Apheresis (ASFA) officially formed in 1981 and has been the proud host of 38 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 Beach Resort & Spa, Fort Lauderdale on May 3th. 103 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 2017 Annual Meeting Scientific and Educational Program covered all aspects of apheresis medicine over the span of three days (May 4 – 6, 2017). The 2017 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 2017 Annual Meeting Program](#) for a complete summary of the presentations given and note that the majority of [conference presentation slides](#) are now available online.

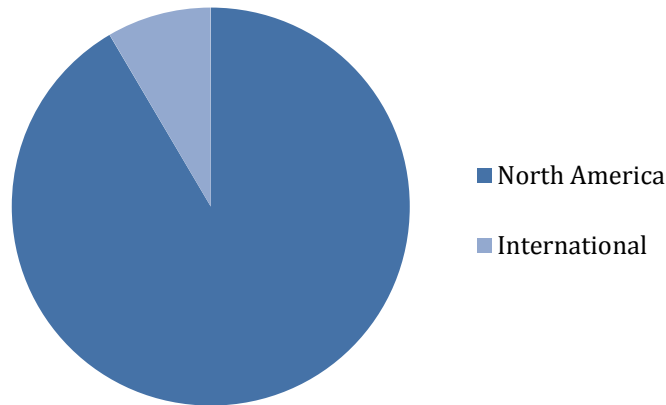
Participation Statistics

The ASFA 2017 Annual Meeting attracted approximately 550 delegates from 27 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	492	89.78%
Asia	3	0.55%
Australia	5	0.91%
Europe	25	4.56%
Middle East	10	1.82%
South America	13	2.37%

Figure 1 – Delegate Breakdown by Region

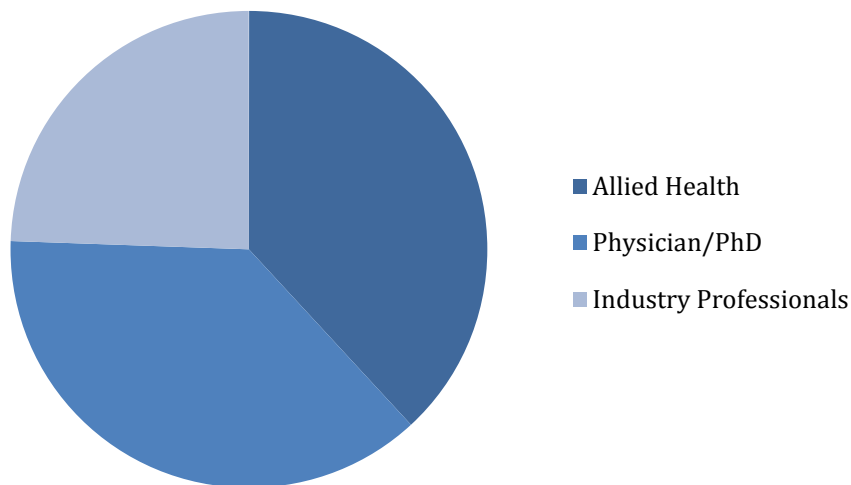


The ASFA 2017 Annual Meeting delegates were made up of physicians/PhDs, allied health professionals and industry professionals who practice donor or therapeutic apheresis medicine. Please refer to Table 2 and Figure 2 for more detail.

Table 2 – Delegate Breakdown by Profession

Delegate Breakdown by Profession		
Profession	Number of Delegates	Percentage of Total
Allied Health	209	38.14%
Physician/PhD	205	37.41%
Industry Professionals	134	24.45%

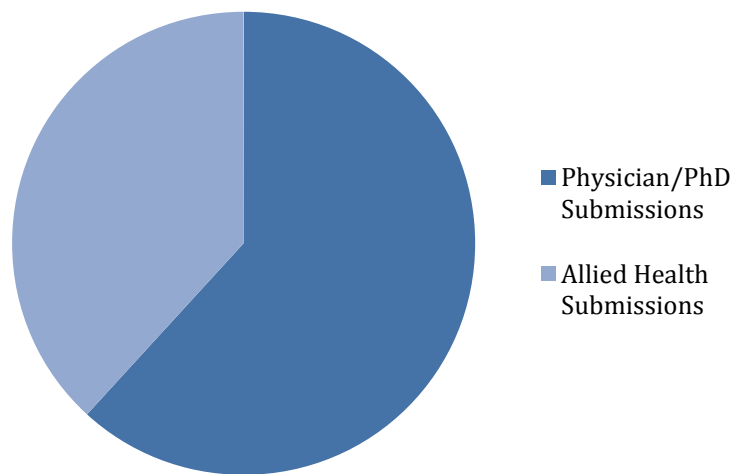
Figure 2 – Delegate Breakdown by Profession



Abstract Submission

A total of 123 abstracts were submitted for presentation at the ASFA 2017 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-seven abstracts were chosen as poster presentations. Of the 123 abstracts, 61.79% were submitted by physicians/PhDs and 38.21% 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 2017 Annual Meeting. All accepted poster abstracts were eligible for the People's Choice Poster Abstract Award where delegates had the opportunity to vote for 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 Michaela Mayhew, MSc for the abstract titled '*Ultrasound-Guided Peripheral Cannulation Reduces the Need for Central Venous Catheterization to Undertake Apheresis Procedures*'.

The Best Abstract Awards are given to the primary authors of two outstanding abstracts. This year's recipients were Robert Weinstein, MD for the abstract titled '*A Liquid Calcium + Vitamin D Supplement is Effective Prophylaxis against Hypocalcemic Toxicity During Apheresis Platelet Donation*' and Reinhard Klingel, MD, PhD for the abstract titled '*Clinical and Molecular Characterization of Patients with Lipoprotein(A)-Hyperlipoproteinemia and Progressive Cardiovascular Disease Treated by Long-Term Lipoprotein Apheresis*'.

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 Jennifer Crimmins, MD for the abstract titled '*RBC Alloantibody Formation is not Associated with RBC Age in Pediatric Sickle Cell Disease Patients Receiving Chronic Apheresis RBC Exchange.*'

The ASFA Abstracts Committee continued to offer 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 Suzanne Thibodeaux, MD, PhD for the abstract titled '*More Efficient Exchange Of Sickle Red Blood Cells Can Be Achieved By Exchanging The Densest Red Blood Cells On The Spectra Optia: An In Vitro Study.*'

Society Awards

ASFA presented four individuals with society awards for outstanding work in both apheresis medicine and within the society at the ASFA 2017 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 Susan F. Leitman, 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 Jan Hofmann, MD, MPH, MSc.

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 Marisa B. Marques, 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 Darlene Cloutier, MT, HP.

Supporters and Exhibitors

The ASFA 2017 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



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Symposia and Focus Group Support



Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals

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Unlocking the Potential of Blood



Miltenyi Biotec



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5K Fun Run Support



Award Supporter



Exhibitors

The following organizations exhibited at the ASFA 2017 Annual Meeting:

- Alexion Pharmaceuticals
- AngioDynamics
- Bard PV
- Baxter Healthcare Corporation
- Fresenius Kabi USA, LLC
- Fresenius Medical Care
- Kaneka Pharma America, LLC
- Machaon Diagnostics
- Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals
- Miltenyi Biotec
- NanoEntek Inc.
- Norfolk Medical Products, Inc.
- Octapharma
- Sanofi Genzyme
- Seattle Cancer Care Alliance
- Terumo BCT
- UC San Diego Health System
- University of Virginia Therapeutic Apheresis Academy

Overall Conference Evaluation

A total of 283 attendees completed the online conference evaluation. Taking into account all aspects of the meeting, approximately 95% of the attendees rated the quality of the conference as “Excellent” or “Very Good”. All delegates felt the program met its stated objectives with approximately 77% of delegates stating that this activity will change the way they practice.

ASFA 2017 Regional Meeting



ASFA is proud to announce that the 2017 Regional Meeting will be held at the Columbia University Medical Center, New York, NY on October 27, 2017. The ASFA Regional Meeting was created in order to fulfill the unmet need for a smaller and more intimate apheresis educational meeting. The goals of this meeting are to provide improved topic-specific learning and to provide an additional educational and networking opportunity for apheresis professionals, especially for those who may be unable to travel to the Annual Meeting.

The corporate opportunities are already available on the [2017 Regional Meeting webpage](#). More information including the registration fees and preliminary program will be available next month.

ASFA 2018 Annual Meeting



The 39th ASFA Annual Meeting will take place from April 25 – 28, 2018 at the Hilton Chicago in Chicago, Illinois. More information regarding corporate opportunities, abstract submission and

pre-conference activities along with the preliminary program will be made available on the [2018 Annual Meeting webpage](#) throughout summer 2017.

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

Conclusion

Overall, the ASFA 2017 Annual Meeting was a great success with a high number of abstract submissions and over 500 attendees representing 27 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 meeting will be the ASFA Regional Meeting taking place in New York, New York while the next annual meeting will take place in Chicago, Illinois. We look forward to seeing you again soon!