ASFA 2019 Annual Meeting
Post-Conference Report

May 14-18, 2019 ● Hilton Portland Downtown ● Portland, Oregon
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Executive Summary
The American Society for Apheresis (ASFA) hosted its 40th Annual Meeting in Portland, Oregon, May 14-18, 2019. The meeting had record-breaking attendance with over 650 participants including registered delegates, exhibitors and other corporate representatives from 27 countries. Conference delegates included Physicians/PhDs (31%), Allied Health Professionals (52%), and Industry Professionals (17%).

The Apheresis Review Session took place as a pre-conference activity at the Hilton Portland Downtown on May 15th. 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 the ASCP Board of Certification. With 128 participants and a series of informative lectures, the Review Session was a great success.

The State of the Science Conference on Extracorporeal Photopheresis (ECP) took place on May 14th, 2019 with 136 registered delegates attended this two part consensus conference. Every three years, ASFA holds a special pre-conference activity to assist with the scientific advancement of a niche topic in apheresis. The first part consisted of field experts highlighting the most up-to-date, scientifically-based concepts key to the mechanism(s) underlying ECP’s antigen-specific immunogenic and tolerogenic efficacy. The latter part had delegates participating and discussing on five breakout topics. The congregation reconvened for a deliberation, which will be compiled into a consensus manuscript.

The 40th Annual Meeting provided a number of exciting features including a 5K Fun Run with proceeds benefiting the Hemophilia Foundation of Oregon, dinner symposia, delegate tour of Oregon Health & Science University, the Vascular Access Tips & Tricks Hands-on Education Session, and a 40th Annual Meeting Celebration.

141 abstracts were submitted to the ASFA 2019 Annual Meeting; a 40% increase in submissions from ASFA 2018. The abstracts were scored by the Abstracts Committee and accepted abstracts were published in the Journal of Clinical Apheresis. The People’s Choice Poster Abstract Award returned for its fourth year. Delegates had the opportunity to vote for the best poster and the winner was announced at the ASFA Annual Business Meeting.

The following five abstract awards were presented:

- Allied Health Abstract Award (*Michelle Tumbaga-Flores, BSN, RN, HP(ASCP)*)
- Best Abstract Award (*Reinhard Klingel, MD, PhD*)
- Best Abstract Award (*Sarah Makhani, BA*)
- Junior Investigator Abstract Award (*Gustaaf de Ridder, MD, PhD*)
- People’s Choice Poster Abstract Award (*Hollie Lynn Benson, MT(AMT)*)

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

- Francis S. Morrison Lecture Award (*Jeffrey L. Winters, MD*)
The ASFA 2019 Annual Meeting received generous support from two educational grants, 22 exhibitors, and one award sponsor.

Overall, ASFA’s 40th Annual Meeting was a great success. We are excited to celebrate the 41st Annual Meeting in Austin, Texas from May 6-9, 2020 at the Renaissance Austin Hotel. We hope to see you there!

Introduction
The American Society for Apheresis (ASFA) officially formed in 1981 and has been the proud host of 40 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 Hilton Portland Downtown in Portland, Oregon on May 15th. 128 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. Delegates could attend the Apheresis Review Session at no additional cost provided they take the QIA Exam after the Review Session.

Conference Program
The ASFA 2019 Annual Meeting Scientific and Educational Program covered all aspects of apheresis medicine over the span of three days (May 16-18, 2019). The 2019 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. The scientific sessions were carefully selected around the increasing role of apheresis in cellular and gene therapy.

Please review the ASFA 2019 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 2019 Annual Meeting attracted approximately 653 delegates from 27 countries. Approximately 89% of the attendees originated from North America while about 11% traveled from another region. 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>North America</td>
<td>589</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South America</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia/New Zealand</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle East</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The ASFA 2019 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>Physicians</td>
<td>182</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allied Health</td>
<td>299</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industry Professionals</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Abstract Submission
A total of 141 abstracts were submitted for presentation at the ASFA 2019 Annual Meeting. Eight abstracts were selected to be presented during the Plenary Abstract Session; 16 abstracts were selected for the Oral Concurrent Sessions and 99 abstracts were chosen as poster presentations. Of the 141 abstracts, 50% were submitted by physicians/PhDs and 50% 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 2019 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 Michelle Tumbaga-Flores, BSN, RN, HP(ASCPCM) for the abstract titled ‘IMPROVED COLLECTION OUTCOMES USING HIGHER HEPARIN CONCENTRATION WITH THE SPECTRA OPTIA CMNC PROGRAM’

The Best Abstract Awards are given to the primary authors of two outstanding abstracts. This year’s recipients were Sarah Makhani, BA for the abstract titled ‘THERAPEUTIC PLASMA EXCHANGE PRACTICES IN NEUROMYELITIS OPTICA SPECTRUM DISORDER RELATED HOSPITALIZATIONS: RESULTS FROM A NATIONALY REPRESENTATIVE SAMPLE’ and Reinhard Klingel, MD, PhD for the abstract titled ‘REAL-WORLD STUDY: ESCALATING TARGETED LIPIDLOWERING TREATMENT WITH PCSK9-INHIBITORS AND 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 Gustaaf de Ridder, MD, PhD for the abstract titled ‘MODERN MORTALITY OF THROMBOTIC THROMBOCYTOPENIC PURPURA: LONGITUDINAL ANALYSIS OF 100 CONSECUTIVE PATIENTS IN A LARGE SINGLE-CENTER DATABASE’.

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 Hollie Lynn Benson, MT(AMT) for the abstract titled ‘TREATMENT OF PRIMARY FOCAL SEGMENTAL GLOMERULOSCLEROSIS ASSOCIATED NEPHROTIC SYNDROME WITH LDL-APHERESIS’.

Society Awards

ASFA presented four individuals with society awards for outstanding work in both apheresis medicine and within the society at the ASFA 2019 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 Jeffrey L. Winters, 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 Jill Adamski, MD, PhD.
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 Christine Fernandez, RN, MSN, OCN.

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 Robin Willis, RN, BSN, HP(ASCP).
Supporters and Exhibitors
The ASFA 2019 Annual Meeting supporters, symposia supporters and exhibitors are listed below.

Conference Support
Platinum Level Supporters

Bronze Level Supporters

Symposia and Focus Group Supporters

Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals
TERUMO BCT
Unlocking the Potential of Blood

Baxter
Fresenius Kabi
caring for life

Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals
TERUMO BCT
Unlocking the Potential of Blood

Alexion
Fresenius Kabi
caring for life

SANOFI GENZYME
Milenyi Biotec
5K Fun Run Supporter

Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals

Award Supporter

ITxM The Institute for Transfusion Medicine

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Exhibitors
The following organizations exhibited at the ASFA 2019 Annual Meeting:

- Alexion
- AngioDynamics
- Baxter Healthcare
- BD (formerly Bard Peripheral Vascular)
- Be The Match BioTherapies
- Cerus Corporation
- Fresenius Kabi
- Fresenius Medical Care/Apheresis Care Group
- Kaneka
- Machaon Diagnostics
- Mallinckrodt
- Mallinckrodt Medical Affairs
- Miltenyi Biotec
- Norfolk Medical Products, Inc.
- Novartis
- Octapharma
- Sanofi Genzyme
- Seattle Cancer Care Alliance
- Terumo BCT
- UC San Diego
- University of Virginia
Overall Conference Evaluation
A total of 284 attendees completed the online conference evaluation. Taking into account all aspects of the meeting, approximately 95% of the attendees rated the overall educational activity as “Excellent” or “Very Good”. Almost all delegates felt the program met its stated objectives with approximately 93% of delegates stating that the content was relevant to their educational needs.

ASFA 2019 Regional Meeting

ASFA is proud to announce that the 6th Regional Meeting of the American Society for Apheresis (ASFA) will take place November 22, 2019 at The Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland.

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 an additional educational and networking opportunity for apheresis professionals, especially for those who may be unable to travel to the Annual Meeting.

More information including corporate opportunities, registration fees and preliminary program will be available soon on [www.apheresis.org](http://www.apheresis.org).

ASFA 2020 Annual Meeting

The 41st ASFA Annual Meeting will take place May 6-9, 2020 at the Renaissance Austin Hotel in Austin, Texas. More information regarding corporate opportunities, abstract submission
and pre-conference activities along with the preliminary program will be made available on the [2019 Annual Meeting webpage](https://www.asfa.org) throughout summer 2019.

**Conclusion**
Overall, the ASFA 2019 Annual Meeting was a great success with a high number of abstract submissions and over 653 attendees representing 27 countries. ASFA 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 many opportunities to interact with both our corporate partners and fellow apheresis professionals.

The next meeting will be the ASFA Regional Meeting taking place in Baltimore, Maryland while the next annual meeting will take place in Austin, Texas. We look forward to seeing you again soon!