ASFA 2021 Annual Meeting
Post-Conference Report

May 12-15, 2021
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Executive Summary
The American Society for Apheresis (ASFA) Board of Directors made the difficult decision not to proceed with an in-person meeting, originally scheduled for May 12-15, 2021 in Minneapolis, Minnesota due to the ongoing coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. In lieu of an in-person meeting, ASFA hosted its second virtual meeting.

The Virtual Apheresis Review Session Refresh took place on pre-conference day Tuesday, May 11. The 2021 Review Session Refresh included a live Q&A with 2020 & 2021 expert speakers to help apheresis professionals prepare for the Qualification in Apheresis (QIA) exam offered by the ASCP Board of Certification. With 104 participants, 11 on demand presentations and two new sessions, the Virtual Review Session Refresh was a great success.

The ASFA 2021 Virtual Annual General Meeting on Tuesday, May 11 and was attended by 150 ASFA members.

65 abstracts were submitted to the ASFA 2021 Annual Meeting. The abstracts were scored by the Abstracts Committee and accepted abstracts was published in the Journal of Clinical Apheresis Volume 36, Issue 2: April 2021.

The following four abstract awards were included in the ASFA 2021 Virtual Meeting:

- Allied Health Abstract Award (Tomas Armendariz, BSN, RN, QIA (ASCP))
- Best Abstract Award (Jay S. Raval, MD)
- Best Abstract Award (Volker Witt, MD)
- Junior Investigator Abstract Award (Sharanya Ramakrishnan, MD)

To honor outstanding individuals in the field of apheresis, the following ASFA society awards were presented at the ASFA 2021 Opening Remarks on Thursday, May 13, 2021:

- Francis S. Morrison Lecture Award (Chester Andrzejewski, Jr, PhD, MD)
- Lecturer Award (Jay S. Raval, MD, PHD)
- Presidential Award (Joseph Schwartz, MD, MPH)
- SHS Award (Lindsay Palomino, BSN, RN, HP(ASCP))

The ASFA 2021 Annual Meeting received support from five sponsors, and eight exhibitors.

Overall, the second ASFA Virtual Meeting was a great success. We are excited to explore future virtual educational opportunities to advance apheresis medicine.
Introduction
The American Society for Apheresis (ASFA) officially formed in 1981 and has been the proud host of 41 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.

Virtual Apheresis Review Session Refresh
The Apheresis Review Session took place on the pre-conference day Tuesday, May 11, 2021. 104 registered delegates participated in this important virtual educational activity. This educational session provided a review of basic education in apheresis – including instrumentation, clinical applications, donor eligibility, regulatory considerations, donor and patient care, donor and therapeutic access issues, and more. This session is critical for individuals preparing for the Qualification in Apheresis Exam.

The 2021 Review Session Refresh included access to 11 on-demand educational presentations, two new on-demand session (How to Study for the QIA exam and the Value of QIA & How to Prepare for an Inspection), access to a live Q&A session with 2020 and 2021 review session speakers. Delegates could attend the Review Session Refresh at no additional cost provided they are taking the QIA Exam after the session. Registered attendees can access all live and pre-recorded sessions until June 2022.

Conference Program
The Organizing Committee produced an outstanding program with a special focus on Technology in Apheresis Medicine. The meeting began on Wednesday, May 12 with a combined International Society of Apheresis (ISFA) and American Society for Apheresis one-day scientific symposium. It highlighted the broad range of apheresis technologies used internationally by colleagues around the globe, and how these technologies have been deployed as part of the global strategy to produce effective therapies targeted at COVID-19 treatment.

The ASFA meeting then featured educational sessions on Thursday, May 13, which covered a variety of donor and therapeutic apheresis topics with special emphasis on the multiple challenges associated with vascular access.

Friday featured both selected cellular therapy topics with an update on convergence of accreditation requirements and regulations. Friday afternoon featured developments in extracorporeal photopheresis with a review of new extracorporeal photopheresis devices.

Saturday morning concluded the meeting with direct input from patients and donors who shared their experiences. Saturday also included a review of the most current and relevant topics in apheresis management which include teleapheresis, the debate about the national coverage determination document and billing and coding for traditional apheresis.

Registered meeting attendees can access all live and pre-recorded scientific and educational sessions until November 15, 2021.
Participation Statistics
The ASFA 2021 Annual Meeting attracted approximately 564 delegates from 21 countries. Approximately 88% of the attendees originated from North America while 12% were based in other regions. ISFA members were offered the discounted member registration rate to attend the ASFA 2021 Annual Meeting (USD $100 off non-member registration rate) and five ISFA members took advantage of this promotion.

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 Attendees</th>
<th>Percentage of Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>North America</td>
<td>495</td>
<td>88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South America</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia/New Zealand</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle East</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1 – Delegate Breakdown by Region

The ASFA 2021 Virtual 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>281</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physician</td>
<td>231</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industry Professional</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 2 – Delegate Breakdown by Profession

Abstract Submission
A total of 65 abstracts were submitted for presentation at the ASFA 2021 Annual Meeting. Of the 65 abstracts, 40% were submitted by physicians/PhDs and 60% by allied health professionals (refer to Figure 3). 12 oral abstracts and 50 e-posters were presented during the Virtual Meeting. 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 Volume 36, Issue 2: April 2021.

Figure 3 – Abstract Submission by Profession
Abstract Awards
ASFA was pleased to offer four best abstract awards. The Abstracts Committee was responsible for grading all of the submitted abstracts and determining the recipients.

The Allied Health Abstract Award was 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 Tomas Armendariz, BSN, RN, QIA (ASCP) for the abstract titled ‘Minimizing Waste and Cost of Methoxsalen (UVADEX) in Extracorporeal Photopheresis: a Hospital-based Clinic Approach’.

The Best Abstract Awards were given to the primary authors of two outstanding abstracts. This year’s recipients were Jay Raval, MD for the abstract titled ‘The First Report of the American Society for Apheresis Thrombotic Thrombocytopenic Purpura Multi-institutional Registry: 2019-2020’ and Volker Witt, MD for the abstract titled ‘First Experience With a New Inline System for ECP in Children and Young Adults’.

The Junior Investigator Abstract Award was 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 Sharanya Ramakrishnan, MD for the abstract titled ‘Efficacy and Tolerability of Therapeutic Plasma Exchange (TPE) in Patients With Alcohol Related Acute on Chronic Liver Failure (ACLF) - a Case-control Pilot Study’.

Society Awards
ASFA presented four individuals with society awards for outstanding work in both apheresis medicine and within the society at the ASFA 2021 Opening Remarks on Thursday, May 13, 2021.

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 Chester Andrzejewski, Jr., PhD, MD, FCAP.

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 Jay S. Raval, 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 Joseph Schwartz, MD, MPH.

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 Lindsay Palomino, BSN, RN, HP(ASCP).
Supporters and Exhibitors
The ASFA 2021 Annual Meeting supporters, symposia supporters and exhibitors are listed below.

Conference Support
Platinum Level Supporters

Gold Level Supporters

Silver Level Supporters

Symposia Supporter

Exhibitors
The following organizations exhibited at the ASFA 2021 Virtual Meeting
Overall Conference Evaluation
A total of 151 attendees completed the online conference evaluation. Taking into account all aspects of the meeting, approximately 93% of the attendees rated the overall educational activity as “Excellent” or “Very Good”. 100% of delegates felt the program met its stated objectives with approximately 98% of delegates stating that the content was relevant to their educational needs. 95% of delegates would recommend a virtual ASFA meeting to a colleague.

ASFA 2022 Annual Meeting
The 43rd ASFA Annual Meeting will take place May 4-6, 2022. More information will be made available on the www.apheresis.org throughout fall 2021.

Conclusion
During these unprecedented times when an in-person conferences is not feasible, ASFA provided delegates with an engaging digital experience and networking opportunities with fellow apheresis professionals. Overall, the ASFA 2021 Virtual Meeting was a great success.