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Executive Summary

The American Society for Apheresis (ASFA) was pleased with the return of the Annual Meeting in an in-person setting. The 43rd Annual Meeting took place in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania from May 4 – 6, 2022. The meeting was well attended with 443 participants including registered delegates, exhibitors and other corporate representatives from 16 countries. Conference delegates included Physicians/PhDs (35%), Allied Health Professionals (48%), and Industry Professionals (17%). As of June 15th, there were 146 on-demand registrants.

The Organizing Committee could not foresee the meeting attendance due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and its effect on vaccination and masking mandates. As such the meeting was condensed from its usual 3.5 days to just 3 days. This resulted in the Apheresis Review Session being postponed until after the meeting to take place virtually. After further consideration, the Allied Health Committee concluded to cancel the Apheresis Review Session for 2022 as new Qualifications in Apheresis (QIA) exam questions will be introduced in the Summer of 2022.

The 43rd Annual Meeting provided a number of exciting features, including the Expert Lounges (formerly called Breakfast with the Experts), the Vascular Access Tips & Tricks Education Session, a delegate tour at the Penn Medicine Cellular Therapy Program, and a reception at the Mütter Museum.

A total of 81 abstracts were submitted for the meeting. The abstracts were scored by the Abstracts Committee and accepted abstracts were published in the Journal of Clinical Apheresis Volume 37, Issue 2: April 2022.

The following five abstract awards were presented:

- Allied Health Abstract Award (Jerel Lee S. Malong, RN, QIA)
- Best Abstract Award (Poyyapakkam Srivaths, MD, MS)
- Best Abstract Award (Oluwatoyosi Onwuemene, MD, MS)
- Junior Investigator Abstract Award (Nnaemeka Ibeh, DO, MS, MLS(ASCP)CM)
- Junior Investigator Abstract Award (Nicolas Mercure-Corriveau, MD)

To honor outstanding individuals in the field of apheresis, the following ASFA society awards were presented at the Opening Remarks and Awards Presentation on Thursday, May 4, 2022. An honorable mention was given to the 2020 and 2021 society award recipients.

- Francis S. Morrison Lecture Award (Marisa B. Marques, MD)
- Presidential Award (Michael Linenberger, MD, FACP)
- Lecturer Award (Huy P. Pham, MD, MPH)
- SHS Award (Christopher Chun, BS, MT(ASCP), HP)
The ASFA 2022 Annual Meeting received support from one educational grant, three sponsors, and 14 exhibitors.

Overall, the 43rd Annual Meeting was a great success. We are excited to celebrate the 44th Annual Meeting in Minneapolis, Minnesota from April 26 – 29, 2023 at the Renaissance Minneapolis Hotel, The Depot. We hope to see you there!

Introduction
The American Society for Apheresis (ASFA) officially formed in 1981 and has been the proud host of 43 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 was cancelled for 2022 as new Qualifications in Apheresis (QIA) exam questions will be introduced in the Summer of 2022.

Conference Program
The Organizing Committee crafted a program focusing on novel and emerging applications and indications of apheresis.

The 43rd Annual Meeting began on Wednesday afternoon with the Society Awards Presentation to honor this year and the two previous years’ awardees. The Scientific portion of the meeting began immediately after, focusing on the use of apheresis therapies for hemoglobinopathies. The Education track began later in the day focusing on a donor apheresis from both a US and international perspectives. Wednesday concluded with the Francis Morrison Memorial Lecture, honoring Dr. Marisa Marques.

The scientific symposia continued Thursday with a session examining apheresis in prothrombotic diseases. Thursday afternoon included the very popular Vascular Access – Tips and Tricks education session, which provided a live, interactive session demonstrating different types of vascular access for apheresis. This was followed by ASFA Forum Live, a panel session where participants asked experts questions. The first abstract session took place Thursday afternoon.

Friday morning started with the Plenary Abstract session. The Closing Symposium that afternoon focused on novel indications for apheresis.

Please review the ASFA 2022 Annual Meeting Program for the program schedule.

Registered meeting attendees and new registrants can access recorded scientific and educational sessions on-demand until November 15, 2022.
Participation Statistics
The ASFA 2022 Annual Meeting attracted 443 in-person delegates from 16 countries. Approximately 93% of the attendees originated from North America while 7% were based in other regions. 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>411</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle East</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South America</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1 – Delegate Breakdown by Region

The ASFA 2022 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>212</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physician</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industry Professional</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Abstract Submission
A total of 81 abstracts were submitted for presentation. Eight abstracts were selected for the Plenary Abstract Session; 16 abstracts were selected for the oral concurrent sessions and 56 abstracts were chosen as poster presentations. Of the 81 abstracts, 60% were submitted by physicians/PhDs and 40% 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 accepted abstracts were published in the Journal of Clinical Apheresis Volume 37, Issue 2: April 2022.
Abstract Awards

ASFA was pleased to offer five best abstract awards in 2022. The Abstracts Committee was responsible for grading all 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 Jerel Lee S. Malong, RN, QIA for the abstract titled ‘It’s a Coin Toss: An Alternative Approach to ECP During the COVID-19 Pandemic’.

The Best Abstract Awards were given to the primary authors of two outstanding abstracts. This year’s recipients were Poyyapakkam Srivaths, MD, MS for the abstract titled ‘The First Report of the American Society for Apheresis Focal Segmental Glomerulosclerosis Multi-Institutional Registry’ and Oluwatoyosi Onwuemene, MD, MS for the abstract titled ‘Outcomes of Heparin-Induced Thrombocytopenia (HIT) Treated With Therapeutic Plasma Exchange: First Report of the ASFA HIT Registry’.

The Junior Investigator Abstract Award was given to the primary authors of two outstanding abstract submitted by a junior investigator who is a member of ASFA. This year’s recipients were Nnaemeka Ibeh, DO, MS, MLS(ASCP)CM for the abstract titled ‘The Use of Therapeutic Plasma Exchange for Treatment of Cast Nephropathy’ and Nicolas Mercure-Corriveau, MD for the abstract titled ‘Therapeutic Plasma Exchange in the Management of Stiff Person Syndrome Spectrum Disorders: A Case Series and Review of the Literature’.
Society Awards

ASFA presented four individuals with society awards for outstanding work in both apheresis medicine and within the society at the Opening Remarks and Awards Presentation on Thursday, May 4, 2022.

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 Marisa B. Marques, MD.

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 Michael Linenberger, MD, FACP.

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 Huy P. Pham, 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 Christopher Chun, BS, MT(ASCP), HP.
Supporters and Exhibitors
The ASFA 2022 Annual Meeting supporters, symposia supporters and exhibitors are listed below.

Conference Support
Platinum Level Supporters

Bronze Level Supporter

Symposia and Focus Group Supporters

Commercial Supporter

Exhibitors
The following organizations exhibited at the ASFA 2022 Annual Meeting:

- Alexion
- Baxter Healthcare Corporation
- BD
- Fresenius Kabi
- Kaneka Medical America, LLC
- Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals
Overall Conference Evaluation
As of June 15th, a total of 151 attendees completed the online conference evaluation. Considering all aspects of the meeting, approximately 87% of the attendees rated the overall educational activity as “Excellent” or “Very Good”. 98% of delegates felt the program met its stated objectives with approximately 95% of delegates stating that the content was relevant to their educational needs. 91% of delegates are comfortable attending in-person meetings now.

ASFA 2023 Annual Meeting

The 44th ASFA Annual Meeting will take place April 26 – 29, 2023. More information will be made available on the www.apheresis.org throughout the Fall of 2022.

Conclusion
Overall, the ASFA 2022 Annual meeting was a success during these unprecedented times when it is hard to predict how many individuals would be willing and able to attend a meeting in-person. The meeting 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.