

ASFA 2023 Annual Meeting Post-Conference Report

April 26 – 28, 2023 • Renaissance Minneapolis Hotel - The Depot • Minneapolis, MN





Contents

Executive Summary.....	2
Introduction	3
Apheresis Review Session.....	3
Conference Program	3
Participation Statistics	4
Abstract Submission	5
Abstract Awards	6
Society Awards.....	7
Supporters and Exhibitors	8
Conference Support.....	8
Overall Conference Evaluation	10
ASFA 2023 Annual Meeting	10
Conclusion.....	10

Executive Summary

The American Society for Apheresis (ASFA) hosted its 44th Annual Meeting in Minneapolis, Minnesota from April 26 – 28, 2023. The meeting was well attended with 454 participants including registered delegates, exhibitors and other corporate representatives from 16 countries. Conference delegates included Physicians/PhDs (28%), Allied Health Professionals (59%), and Industry Professionals (12%). As of June 15th, there were 110 on-demand registrants.

The Apheresis Review Session took place in-person for the first time since 2019 on April 26th. Several 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 80 participants and a series of informative lectures, the Review Session was a success.

The 44th Annual Meeting provided several exciting features, including the Breakfast with the Experts, the Vascular Access Tips & Tricks Education Session, a delegate tour at the National Marrow Donor Program, and a reception with a live band performance. The venue was also a historic landmark, which was previously a train station.

A total of 99 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 38, Issue 3: June 2023.

The following five abstract awards were presented:

- Allied Health Award (*Anthony Miller RN, BSN, QIA*)
- Junior Investigator Award (*Nalan Yurtsever, MD*)
- Best Abstract Award (*Julie Le*)
- Best Abstract Award (*Mercè Boada, MD, PhD*)
- People's Choice Poster Abstract Award (*Sam Martinez, BSN, RN, CNN*)

To honor outstanding individuals in the field of apheresis, the following ASFA society awards were presented at the Opening Remarks and Awards Presentation:

- Francis S. Morrison, MD Memorial Award Lecture (*Joseph Schwartz, MD, MPH*)
- Presidential Award (*YanYun Wu, MD, PhD*)
- Lecturer Award (*Nancy Dunbar, MD*)
- Lecturer Award (*Volker Witt, MD*)
- SHS Award (*Antonia Hagen-Coonrad, BSB/MG*)

The ASFA 2023 Annual Meeting received support from three sponsors, and 15 exhibitors.

Overall, the 44th Annual Meeting was a great success. We are excited to celebrate the 45th Annual Meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada from April 17 – 19, 2024 at the Mirage. We hope to see you there!

Introduction

The American Society for Apheresis (ASFA) officially formed in 1981 and has been the proud host of 44 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 on April 26th. 80 registered delegates participated in this important educational activity. The 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 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 session.

Conference Program

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

The Annual Meeting began on Wednesday, April 26 with our Society Awards Presentation to honor this year and the two previous years' awardees. The Scientific portion of the meeting immediately followed, focusing on apheresis research. Our Education track began later in the day focusing on program management and professional development during the pandemic and from an international perspective. We closed Wednesday with the Francis Morrison Memorial Lecture, honoring Dr. Joseph Schwartz, as well as two successful receptions - The New Member and First Time Attendee Meet and Greet and the Qualification in Apheresis Recognition Reception.

Thursday morning began with the Breakfast with the Experts, featuring roundtable discussions with experts in the field on 12 unique apheresis topics. Our Scientific sessions followed with a session examining apheresis registries. Thursday afternoon included the very popular Vascular Access – Tips and Tricks education session, which was a live, interactive session demonstrating different types of vascular access for apheresis. This was followed by the first abstract session, as well as an Education session dedicated to pediatric apheresis. The day ended with a blast with the Reception featuring Dr. Mambo's Combo.

Friday morning also began with the Breakfast with the Experts with 14 different apheresis topics, followed by the Journal of Clinical Apheresis (JCA) Special Issue 2023 session. Our Closing Symposium was held that afternoon which focused on Cellular Therapies and Donor Research. The Meeting concluded with the ASFA Forum Live, a panel session where participants can ask questions and discuss with the experts.

Please review the [ASFA 2023 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, 2023.

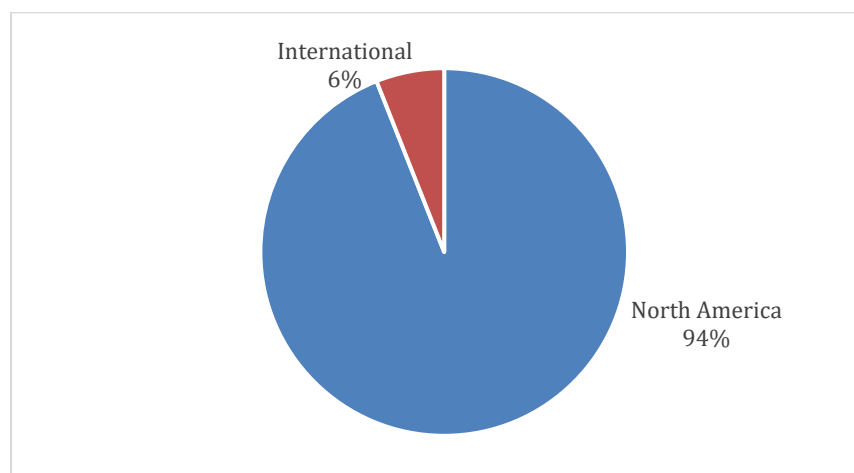
Participation Statistics

The Annual Meeting attracted 454 in-person delegates from 16 countries. Approximately 94% of the attendees originated from North America while 6% were based in other regions. Please see Table 1 and Figure 1 for more detail.

Table 1 – Delegate Breakdown by Region

Delegate Breakdown by Region		
Region	Number of Attendees	Percentage of Total
North America	426	94%
Europe	17	4%
Middle East	5	1%
Oceania	3	1%
South America	1	0%

Figure 1 – Delegate Breakdown by Region

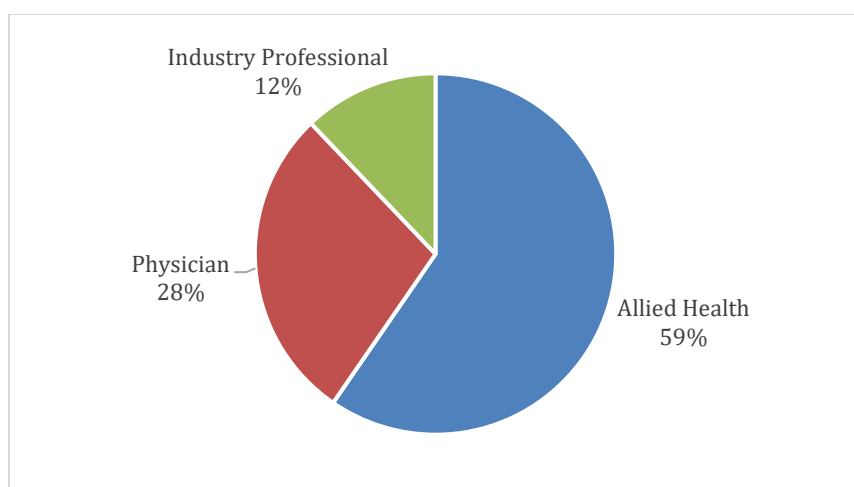


The Annual Meeting delegates were made up of physicians/PhDs, allied health professionals and industry professionals who practice donor or therapeutic apheresis medicine. Please refer to Table 2 and Figure 2 for more detail.

Table 2 – Delegate Breakdown by Profession

Breakdown by Profession		
Profession	Number of Delegates	Percentage of Total
Allied Health	270	59%
Physician	129	28%
Industry	55	12%

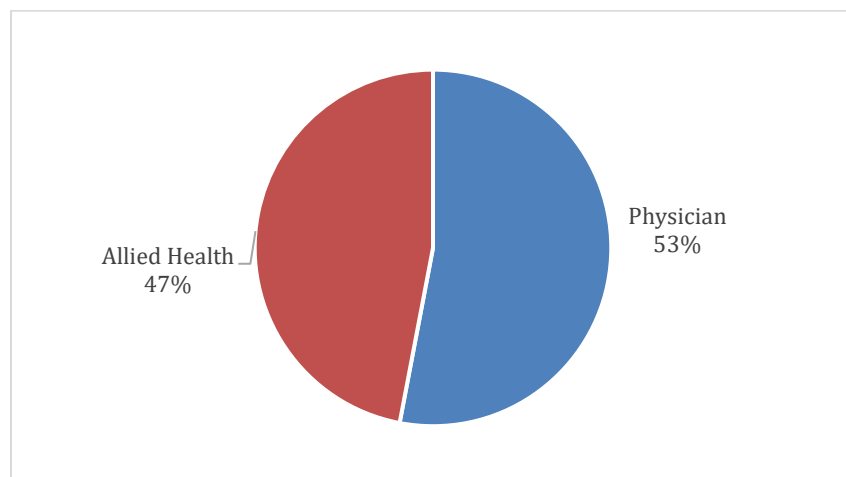
Figure 2 – Delegate Breakdown by Profession



Abstract Submission

A total of 99 abstracts were submitted for presentation. Six abstracts were selected for the Plenary Abstract Session; 12 abstracts were selected for the oral concurrent sessions and 75 abstracts were chosen as poster presentations. Of the 99 abstracts, 53% were submitted by physicians/PhDs and 47% 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 38, Issue 3: June 2023.

Figure 3 – Abstract Submission by Profession



Abstract Awards

ASFA was pleased to offer five best abstract awards in 2023. 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 Anthony Miller RN, BSN, QIA for the abstract titled '*The Effect of Increased Collect Pump Rate on Collection Efficiency in Hematopoietic Progenitor Cell Collection by Apheresis in Allogeneic Donors – A Single Center Analysis*'.

The Best Abstract Awards were given to the primary authors of two outstanding abstracts. This year's recipients were Julie Le for the abstract titled '*Platelets to Spare? The Impact of G-CSF Dosage and Packing Factor on Platelet Loss in 101 Mobilized Adult Healthy Donors: A Retrospective Study*' and Mercè Boada, MD, PhD for the abstract titled '*Effectiveness and Safety of Plasma Exchange with Albumin Replacement in Alzheimer's Disease: A Cohort Study of 128 Patients*'.

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 recipients were Nalan Yurtsever, MD for the abstract titled '*Lower Post-procedure White Blood Cell and Neutrophil Counts Predict Lower Endogenous Erythropoiesis with Chronic Red Cell Exchange (RCE) In Sickle Cell Disease (SCD)*'.

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 Award Lecture 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 Joseph Schwartz, MD, MPH.

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 YanYun Wu, MD, PhD.

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 Nancy Dunbar, MD and Volker Witt, 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 Antonia Hagen-Coonrad, BSB/MG.

Supporters and Exhibitors

The ASFA 2023 Annual Meeting supporters, symposia supporters and exhibitors are listed below.

Conference Support

Platinum Level Supporter



Gold Level Supporter



Bronze Level Supporter



Symposia and Focus Group Supporters



Exhibitors

The following organizations exhibited at the ASFA 2023 Annual Meeting:

- Alexion
- BD
- Be The Match BioTherapies
- BioLine Rx
- Curate Biosciences
- Fresenius Kabi
- Kaneka Medical America, LLC
- Machaon Diagnostics

- Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals
- Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals Medical Affairs
- Miltenyi Biotec
- Sanofi
- Terumo Blood and Cell Technologies
- UC San Diego
- University of Virginia

Overall Conference Evaluation

As of June 15th, a total of 247 attendees completed the online conference evaluation. Considering all aspects of the meeting, approximately 90% of the attendees rated the overall educational activity as “Excellent” or “Very Good”. 96% of delegates felt the program met its stated objectives with approximately 93% of delegates stating that the content was relevant to their educational needs. 86% of delegates prefer an in-person meeting to a virtual meeting.

ASFA 2023 Annual Meeting



The 45th ASFA Annual Meeting will take place April 17 –19, 2024 at the Mirage in Las Vegas, Nevada. More information will be made available on the [2024 Annual Meeting webpage](#) throughout Summer 2023.

Conclusion

Overall, the ASFA 2023 Annual Meeting was a success during with a high number of abstract submissions and over 454 attendees representing 16 countries. 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.