

ASFA 2024 Annual Meeting Post-Conference Report

April 17 – 19, 2024 • Resorts World • Las Vegas, NV





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Executive Summary

The American Society for Apheresis (ASFA) hosted its 45th Annual Meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada from April 17 – 19, 2024. The meeting was well attended with 609 participants including registered delegates, exhibitors and other corporate representatives from 24 countries. Conference delegates included Physicians/PhDs (26%), Allied Health Professionals (62%), and Industry Professionals (12%). As of June 15th, there were 62 on-demand only registrants.

The Apheresis Review Session took place in-person on the morning of April 17th. Several expert speakers came together to provide an overview of the theory and applications of apheresis medicine. With 118 participants and a series of informative lectures, the Review Session was a great success.

The 45th Annual Meeting provided several exciting features, including the Breakfast with the Experts, the Vascular Access Tips & Tricks Education Session, a Live Discussion Forum, and a Welcome Reception with Las Vegas icons - an Elvis Impersonator and Las Vegas showgirls.

A total of 148 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 39, Issue 2: April 2024.

The following five abstract awards were presented:

- Allied Health Award (*Mary A. Evans, RN*)
- Junior Investigator Award (*Kristina Sevcik, MD*)
- Best Abstract Award (*Kai Rogers, MD, PhD*)
- Best Abstract Award (*Volker J.J. Schettler, MD*)
- People's Choice Poster Abstract Award (*Sam Martinez, BSN, RN, CNN and Robee Ravago, 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 (*Christina Anderson, RN, BSN, HP*)
- Presidential Award (*Rasheed Balogun, MD*)
- Lecturer Award (*Joseph Schwartz, MD, MPH*)
- SHS Award (*Jennifer Collins, RN, BSN, QIA*)

The ASFA 2024 Annual Meeting received support from three sponsors, and 17 exhibitors.

Overall, the ASFA 2024 Annual Meeting was a success during with a high number of abstract submissions and 609 attendees representing 24 countries. We are excited to celebrate the 46th Annual Meeting in Montreal, Canada from April 9 – 11, 2025 at the Hotel Bonaventure Montreal. We hope to see you there!

Introduction

The American Society for Apheresis (ASFA) officially formed in 1981 and has been the proud host of 45 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 17th. 118 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. Delegates could attend the Apheresis Review Session at no additional cost, provided they take the Qualification in Apheresis (QIA) Exam after the session.

Conference Program

The Organizing Committee worked diligently to craft a program focusing on the current state and future indications of apheresis therapy. Several joint Scientific/Education sessions were planned to take advantage of our medical, nursing, and technical expertise. Like last year, the Apheresis Review Session was held on Wednesday morning. The meeting officially opened on Wednesday afternoon with our Opening Remarks and Society Awards Presentation. The Opening Symposium was focused on cellular therapy, including CAR-T and gene editing. We had a special guest, a patient who spoke about his experience as a recipient of CRISPR technology. We ended Wednesday with the Francis Morrison Memorial Lecture, honoring Christina Anderson, RN, BSN, HP.

Our joint sessions continued Thursday with a discussion of urgent vs. emergent indications. The Education program began later in the morning with a focus on program management. Thursday afternoon included the very popular Vascular Access – Tips and Tricks education session, a live, interactive session regarding different types of vascular access for apheresis. Our third education session provided an overview of presenting your work and getting it published. The final education sessions occurred on Friday and covered lipoprotein apheresis, donor apheresis, and wellness.

Our Scientific program continued Thursday with the Plenary Abstract session. Due to the record-setting number of high-quality abstracts submitted this year, there were not one, not two, but three additional abstract sessions. On Friday, the Closing Symposium explored changes in practice that impact the use of apheresis.

Because it was our 45th Annual Meeting, we hosted a special Welcome Reception on Wednesday evening that was a total blast! Attendees had the opportunity to catch up with colleagues in a very Vegas environment, complete with showgirls and an Elvis impersonator. There was an additional occasion for networking at the Poster Networking

Evening on Thursday and our two Breakfast with the Experts sessions. And let’s not forget about our corporate lunch symposia that took place on Wednesday and Thursday!

Please review the [ASFA 2024 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, 2024.

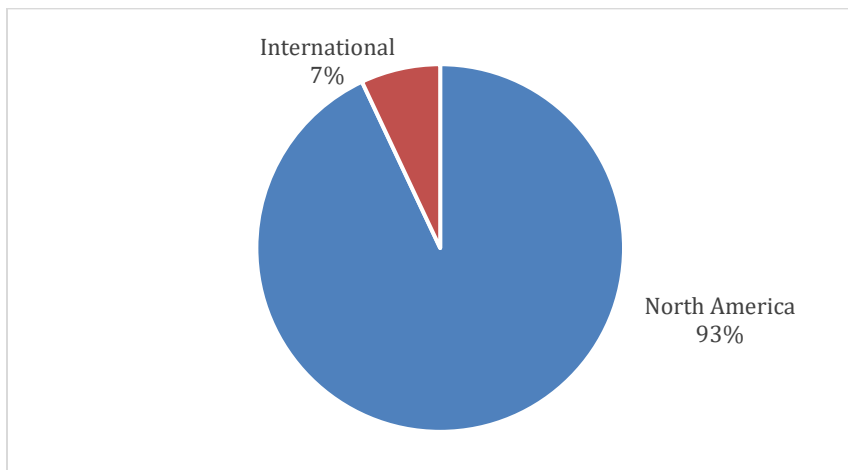
Participation Statistics

The Annual Meeting attracted 609 in-person delegates from 24 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

Delegate Breakdown by Region		
Region	Number of Attendees	Percentage of Total
North America	562	93%
Europe	32	5%
Asia	5	1%
Oceania	4	1%
South America	3	0%
Middle East	2	0%
Africa	1	0%

Figure 1 – Delegate Breakdown by Region

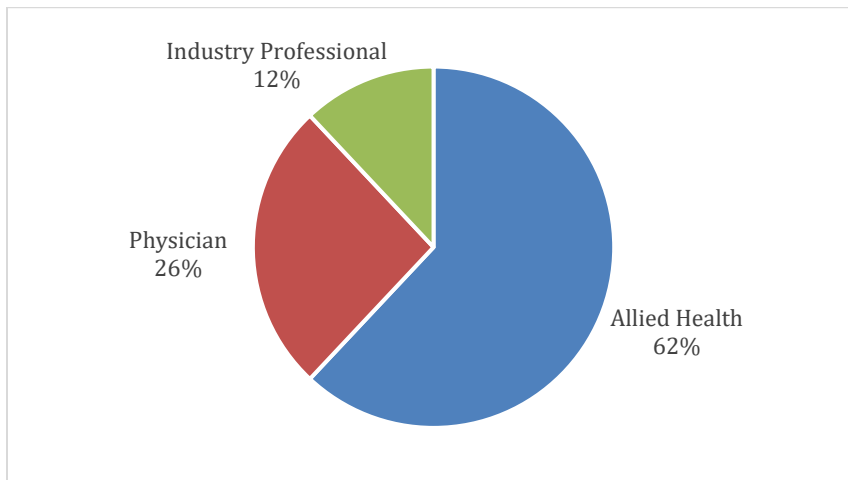


The Annual Meeting delegates were made up of physicians/PhDs, allied health professionals and industry professionals who practice donor or therapeutic apheresis medicine. Please refer to Table 2 and Figure 2 for more detail.

Table 2 – Delegate Breakdown by Profession

Breakdown by Profession		
Profession	Number of Delegates	Percentage of Total
Allied Health	379	62%
Physician	157	26%
Industry	73	12%

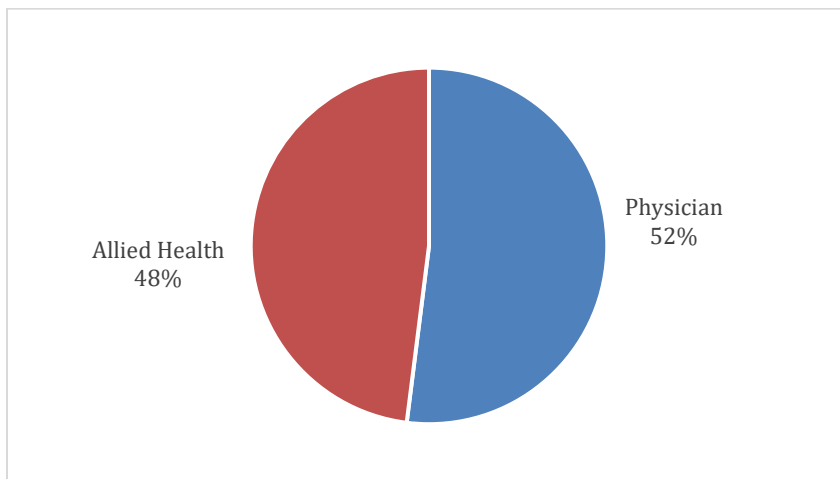
Figure 2 – Delegate Breakdown by Profession



Abstract Submission

A total of 148 abstracts were submitted for presentation. Six abstracts were selected for the Plenary Abstract Session; 18 abstracts were selected for the oral concurrent sessions and 112 abstracts were chosen as poster presentations. Of the 148 abstracts, 52% were submitted by physicians/PhDs and 48% 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 39, Issue 2: April 2024.

Figure 3 – Abstract Submission by Profession



Abstract Awards

ASFA was pleased to offer five best abstract awards in 2024. 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 Mary A. Evans, RN for the abstract titled *‘Removal of Direct Oral Anticoagulants by Red Cell Exchange’*.

The Best Abstract Awards were given to the primary authors of two outstanding abstracts. This year’s recipients were Kai Rogers, MD, PhD for the abstract titled *‘A Murine Model of Extracorporeal Photopheresis as a Targeted Immunotherapy for Multiple Sclerosis’* and Volker J.J. Schettler, MD for the abstract titled *‘The German Lipoprotein Apheresis Registry - Summary of the Eleventh Annual Report’*.

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 Kristina Sevcik, MD for the abstract titled *‘The Optimized Parameters of Red Blood Cell Exchange by Apheresis in Transfusion-Dependent Thalassemia, a Small Case Series’*.

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 Wednesday, April 17, 2024.

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 Christina Anderson, RN, BSN, HP.

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 Rasheed Balogun, 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 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 Jennifer Collins, RN, BSN, QIA.

Photo Scavenger Hunt

ASFA introduced an exciting Photo Scavenger Hunt for the first time, engaging participants in a unique and interactive experience. Hosted through our event app, attendees accessed a curated list of tasks designed to explore the meeting venue and connect with fellow participants. The top five scorers will receive the upcoming Principles of Apheresis Technology - 8th Edition upon its release. This year, the top five participants were: Robee Ravago, Yeon Su Han, Marifel Axalan, Danree Vibar, and Karen Schaser.

The Photo Scavenger Hunt added a new dimension of enjoyment and friendly competition to the ASFA 2024 Annual Meeting. It encouraged attendees to actively engage with the conference environment, enhancing their overall experience. Winners were celebrated and announced via post-conference communication, amplifying engagement and enthusiasm throughout the event.

Supporters and Exhibitors

The ASFA 2024 Annual Meeting supporters, symposia supporters and exhibitors are listed below.

Conference Support

Gold Level Supporters



Bronze Level Supporter



Symposia and Focus Group Supporters



Exhibitors

The following organizations exhibited at the ASFA 2024 Annual Meeting:

- Alexion, AstraZeneca Rare Disease Unit
- BD
- Bel Air Pharmaceuticals
- BioLineRx
- DMMED Group
- Foundation for the Accreditation of Cellular Therapy
- Fresenius Kabi
- ICCBBA

- Kaneka Medical America, LLC
- Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals
- MEDICA SPA
- Miltenyi Biotec
- NMDP
- Sanofi
- Terumo Blood and Cell Technologies
- UC San Diego
- University of Virginia

Overall Conference Evaluation

As of June 15th, a total of 243 attendees completed the online conference evaluation.

- 93% of delegates rated the overall educational activity as “Excellent” or “Very Good,” up from 90% last year.
- 98% of delegates felt the program met its stated objectives, up from 96% last year.
- 96% of delegates noted the content was relevant to their educational needs, up from 93% last year.
- 87% of delegates prefer an in-person meeting to a virtual meeting, up from 86% last year.
- 85% of delegates felt on-demand sessions are a great benefit.

ASFA 2025 Annual Meeting



The 46th ASFA Annual Meeting will take place April 9 –11, 2025 at the Hotel Bonaventure Montreal in Montreal, Canada. More information will be made available on the [2025 Annual Meeting webpage](#) throughout Summer 2024.

Conclusion

Overall, the ASFA 2024 Annual Meeting was a success during with a high number of abstract submissions and 609 attendees representing 24 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.