**ASFA MISSION**

ASFA is an organization of physicians, scientists, and allied health professionals whose mission is to advance apheresis medicine for patients, donors and practitioners through education, evidence-based practice, research and advocacy.

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**ASFA UPDATES**

**Membership Renewal**

As 2015 is fast approaching we would like to take this opportunity to remind you to renew your ASFA membership! ASFA membership runs with the calendar year and 2014 membership will expire on December 31, 2014.

Learn more about the exciting benefits offered in 2015 and how to renew below.

**MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS**

- Electronic Subscription to the Journal of Clinical Apheresis
- Free Registration for Educational Webinars
- Reduced Rates for the ASFA Annual Meeting
- Reduced Rates for Educational Resources and Materials
- Subscription to the members-only ASFA Newsletter ‘Spin Column’
- Access to the members-only Facility Directory
- Access to the members-only ASFA Discussion Forum
- Subscription to the ASFA Newsflash
- Option to participate in ASFA Committees
- Option to participate in the quarterly ASFA Journal Club

**ASFA 2015 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL INSTRUCTIONS**

1. **Click here** to sign-in to your ASFA account
2. On the right-hand side, select “Manage Profile”
3. Scroll down and click on the “Membership” icon under “Invoicing, Payments & History”
4. Click on the “Securely renew your membership now”
5. Fill out appropriate information to renew your membership electronically
6. Select “Bill me” if you would like to send in a cheque to ASFA Head Office*
   Select “Credit Card” if you would like to pay electronically online

*Please note that your membership will not be renewed until payment is received.

The ASFA Board of Directors is committed to listening to the needs of the membership in order to continue developing the Society for the future. Please feel free to contact ASFA Head Office at asfa@apheresis.org with any questions or comments about your ASFA membership.
2015 Annual Meeting

The 36th ASFA Annual Meeting will be held in San Antonio, Texas from May 6 - 9, 2015 at the Grand Hyatt. Mark your calendars and save the date – we hope to see you there!

The theme of the 2015 Annual Meeting is Infectious Diseases and Apheresis. The exciting program will include scientific symposia, education sessions, oral and poster abstract presentations, interactive case studies and discussions, networking opportunities and much more!

REGISTRATION FEES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Early Bird Rate (on or before March 27, 2015)</th>
<th>Member</th>
<th>Non-Member</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Allied Health/Resident</td>
<td>$345 USD</td>
<td>$505 USD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Physician/Industry Associate</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regular Registration Rate (on or after March 28, 2015)</th>
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<th>Non-Member</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Allied Health/Resident</td>
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<td>$605 USD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physician/Industry Associate</td>
<td>$600 USD</td>
<td>$805 USD</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Early bird registration ends on March 27, 2015 – don’t miss out on the savings! Visit the ASFA Annual Meeting webpage to learn more about activities taking place at the meeting, registration fees and abstract submission.

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION – DEADLINE APPROACHING!

The American Society for Apheresis (ASFA) invites apheresis professionals to submit abstracts for presentation at the ASFA 2015 Annual Meeting, to be held at the Grand Hyatt, San Antonio, Texas from May 6 - 9, 2015. Abstracts are welcome from both ASFA members and non-members and there is no limit to the number that an individual may submit.

Physicians, scientists, and allied health professionals are encouraged to submit abstracts on all aspects of apheresis medicine, including research, clinical, educational, or administrative topics/projects.

Abstracts will be considered for presentation in one of the following formats:

- Oral: A 10-minute oral presentation by an author plus 5 minutes for questions
- Poster: A visual display. An author must be present at the Thursday Evening Poster Session on May 7, 2015. Posters will be displayed for the entire conference.
- Character Maximum Limit: 3,000 characters (exclude spaces).
- Character Minimum Limit: 500 characters

Abstracts should be submitted only if an author intends to attend the meeting and present the abstract if accepted. Abstract submissions containing individual or affiliation names within the body of the abstract will be reviewed but will not eligible for awards. Those presenting abstracts will be responsible for their own travel and meeting expenses.

The rules applying to abstracts are indicated on the Abstract Submission System and must be followed. All abstracts will be published in the Journal of Clinical Apheresis.

Abstracts can be submitted online through the ASFA 2015 Submission Site. Instructions for submission will be available on the Abstract Submission Site. Abstracts will NOT be accepted by email, mail, or fax.

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION DEADLINE: December 5, 2014

Pre-Conference Activities

RED BLOOD CELL EXCHANGE IN SICKLE CELL DISEASE CONSENSUS CONFERENCE

Pre-registration with ASFA and Additional Registration Fees Required

The ASFA Red Blood Cell Exchange in Sickle Cell Disease Consensus Conference will take place on Tuesday, May
5 as a pre-conference activity at the 2015 ASFA Annual Meeting at the Grand Hyatt in San Antonio, Texas.

Attendees of the ASFA Red Blood Cell Exchange in Sickle Cell Disease Consensus Conference will have a thorough understanding of definition, pathophysiology, diagnosis and management of sickle cell disease obtained through consensus amongst the world’s leading experts. This will be accomplished via a thorough discussion amongst the expert panelist and audience participation. The preliminary program will be available soon!

APHERESIS REVIEW SESSION

Pre-registration with ASFA and Additional Registration Fees Required

The Apheresis Review Session will take place on Wednesday, May 6 as a pre-conference activity at the 2015 ASFA Annual Meeting at the Grand Hyatt in San Antonio, Texas.

The Apheresis Review Session will provide a basic overview of the theory and applications of apheresis medicine. Experts in the field will provide a broad overview of each of the topics and participants will have an opportunity to work with case studies. The Review Session is an appropriate preparatory course for the Apheresis Qualification Exam, offered by ASCP.

The Apheresis Review Session fee includes: session materials, coffee breaks, and lunch.

Purchase your ticket for the Review Session on the ASFA website.

Journal Club

The ASFA Journal Club provides the opportunity for members to connect, discuss, and exchange ideas from current literature on apheresis topics. The sessions will utilize an interactive online format. Manuscripts for discussion will be selected from the Journal of Clinical Apheresis, the official publication of ASFA, and other leading journals.

To guide your review, discussion points will be provided. In addition, each session will be led by a moderator. The AJC will be offered quarterly. This activity is a joint effort of the Education Committee and the Apheresis Physician Committee.

The next ASFA Journal Club will take place on Friday, January 16, 2014 from 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm EST.

ASFA Access

ASFA Access is a section of the ASFA website exclusive to our members. Here you will find webinar recordings, the ASFA guidelines and reimbursement guide and more information related to apheresis.

Visit the webinar library to view webinars on topics such as Medications and Apheresis, Multiple Sclerosis and NMO, Hematologic Emergencies, Pediatric Apheresis and much more! In addition to the webinar library, ASFA Access allows members to view PDF copies of the JCA Special Edition and ASFA Guidelines.

We are excited to offer these resources fee to all of our members, log in to your ASFA member account and check out ASFA Access!

ASFA Head Office Holiday Schedule

Please note the ASFA Head Office will be closed December 22, 2014 through January 2, 2015. We wish you all a happy and healthy holiday season!
COMMITTEE UPDATES

Awards Committee
Chair: Beata Kwiatkowska, MD

The ASFA Awards Committee presents the following awards to outstanding ASFA members at the Annual Meeting. ASFA members are encouraged to nominate the colleagues that they feel are potential candidates for these honors. To view the list of past award recipients, please visit the Society Awards page on the ASFA website.

• **Lecturer Award**
The Lecturer Award of the American Society for Apheresis is bestowed upon a member of the Society who has consistently contributed to the Society as a speaker, teacher, or mentor. The nominee may have participated as an invited speaker in symposia or workshops as part of the allied health or scientific program. An appropriate nominee for this award will have repeatedly accepted invitations to appear on the program of the Annual Meeting or will have otherwise taken opportunities, on an ongoing basis, to fulfill the criteria of the Award as mentioned above. Eligible candidates must have been a member of the Society for at least 3 years at the time of their nomination. The prospective awardees must agree to be present at the Annual Meeting to receive the Award. Presentation of an award will take place at the Annual Business Luncheon. The deadline to nominate a colleague is Friday, December 12. [Click here](#) to download the nomination form.

• **SHS Award**
The Society for Hemapheresis Specialists was the first national organization in the United States which provided a forum for the professional development of technical specialists in the field of apheresis. In the ensuing decades since the founding of SHS, its members contributed to the maturation of apheresis as a medical specialty and to the growth of the American Society for Apheresis in to the principal platform for organized apheresis activities in North America. This award commemorates the pioneering efforts of SHS 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. The award will be presented at the Business Lunch at the Annual Meeting.

Membership Committee
Chair: Darlene Rahn, MT, HP(ASCP)
Author: Sonja Vozniak, RN, BSN NCIII

While it is the ASFA Membership Committees’ responsibility to recruit and retain members of the society, we would not be able to do so without your help and for this we are thankful. The committee members have worked hard, with input from the Board of Directors, to come up with new and innovative ideas for recruitment and retention of members.

Our biggest project has been the continued development of the Mentorship Program. The goal of this program is to offer support and expertise to new ASFA members. At the ASFA & WAA Joint Conference, membership committee members were assigned a mentee and were encouraged to contact one another. Even though we all had good in-
intentions, unfortunately, a few new attendees or members did not feel supported. For us, one person not feeling supported is one too many. We all remember how overwhelming and intimidating it can be at your first conference and our goal is to devise a concrete, solid plan to ensure first time attendees and new members have a positive experience. The Mentorship Program was developed to ensure everyone that requests a mentor will have one available to them. If you are interested in mentoring or being mentored, look for the mentoring program application on the ASFA website in the near future.

As stated above, it can be overwhelming and intimidating to come to an Annual Meeting with hundreds of apheresis professionals. I remember my first year. I had many questions; How will I ever navigate throughout this conference venue? What presentations should I attend? Should I join a committee? Should I go to the networking breakfast? Oops, did I even register for the breakfast? How do I make sure this conference is beneficial for me and the program I am affiliated with? I was fortunate because I traveled with a co-worker and was lucky enough to be approached by Darlene Rahn, the Chair of the Membership Committee. She guided us through the conference and managed to recruit a new ASFA Membership Committee member at the same time! It is our goal that the Mentorship Program mentees will be just as fortunate to have an inspiring and beneficial experience at the next conference.

Let us help. We want to be available to all, especially our new attendees or members. To be more available, the Membership Committee’s booth will be next to registration next year so we won’t be missed. Please stop by for assistance or just to say hello. If you do miss us at the membership booth, just look for any attendee with a ‘Mentor’ button for assistance and guidance.

It is truly an exciting time for everyone. We look forward to seeing you next year at the Annual Meeting in San Antonio, Texas. But until then, Happy Holidays!

ABSTRACTS COMMITTEE
Chairs: Wanda Koetz and Anand Padmanabahan

The Abstract Committee is getting ready to start reviewing and grading the abstracts submitted for the 2015 meeting in San Antonio. We will be using a new software package for managing and tracking the abstracts this year. You may already have experienced the software change if you’ve submitted an abstract. Hopefully your experience with using the software was a positive one. The Committee is grateful to the Malachite staff for researching and selecting this new and improved software.

The Committee would also like to thank Dr. Mark Brecher and Dr. Ravi Sarode for their years of service on the committee. They have stepped off the committee effective this fall. Their expertise and insight will be greatly missed. We have added several new members to the committee and look forward to working together.

The Committee encourages everyone to seriously consider submitting an abstract for either oral presentation or poster for the upcoming 2015 meeting. We hope to have a record number of quality submissions for the meeting. Looking forward to seeing you all in San Antonio!
ASFA LEADERSHIP AND CONTACT US
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December 2014