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.

COUNTDOWN TO THE 2015 ASFA ANNUAL MEETING

Eileen Galvin-Karr, RN, BSN, HP(ASCP)

As the co-chair with Dr. Yara Park and Dr. Laura Cooling of the Organizing Committee of the 36th ASFA Annual Meeting, I would like to invite you to join us in San Antonio this May and enjoy a wonderful opportunity to learn current trends and topics in the field of apheresis. ASFA 2015 is the premier event to network with your current colleagues while establishing new contacts and connections in your specific areas of interest.

I am excited to spotlight some of the changes for the 2015 ASFA annual meeting. The Red Blood Cell Exchange in Sickle Cell Disease Consensus Conference will take place pre-conference on Tuesday May 5th. This conference brings together Sickle Cell Disease experts who will present their specific areas of focus and facilitate discussion for establishing consensus amongst attendees on treatment modalities.

We will continue to offer three Breakfast with the Expert sessions facilitated by apheresis professionals with a variety of expertise in the field. New for this year, two of our tables will be provided in Spanish and the ‘Graduate Medical Education’ session will now be presented at four Breakfast with the Experts tables over three days. Please be sure to review the variety of topics before arriving to the meeting and pick your favorite. This year all three sessions will be first come-first served, no prior registration will be necessary so plan to arrive early– the tables fill up fast!
Our industry sponsors will now offer corporate lunches on Thursday and Friday as well as continuing to offer evening educational programs with dinner. While at the meeting, look in the corporate program booklet for specific topics of these events and plan to participate, learn and have fun!

Be sure to attend the poster session on Thursday evening where close to 100 presenters will display their work and be available to answer your questions. It is another wonderful opportunity to share experiences with a wide and diverse range of skilled individuals who will impress us with their best work in donor and therapeutic apheresis. While there, enjoy a reception of cocktails and hors d’oeuvres.

The ASFA Annual Business meeting will take place on Friday, May 8, immediately after lunch; coffee and dessert will be served. Please join us this year to honor Dr. Robert Weinstein for his many years of service as the JCA Editor in Chief!

To continue with our tradition, there will be three scientific and eight education sessions. The Opening Combined Symposium will present different opinions of the use of apheresis in the treatment of infectious diseases along with moderated discussion periods. These should prove to be enlightening discussions! The Scientific Symposium will focus on infectious diseases from both a donor and therapeutic perspective, while the Closing Combined Symposium will give you a glance at the rare uses of apheresis in the treatment of infectious diseases. The eight Education Sessions will cover a variety of topics such as pediatric apheresis, a joint session with the ANNA and regulatory challenges, among others.

In summary, we sincerely hope to see you at the Grand Hyatt along the famous riverwalk in San Antonio!

To learn more about the 2015 ASFA annual meeting, review the preliminary program or register for the meeting, please visit the conference web page.

Pre-Conference Activities

RED CELL EXCHANGE IN SICKLE CELL DISEASE: A CONSENSUS CONFERENCE

The ASFA Sickle Cell 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 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 Consensus Conference Organizing Committee, chaired by Ravi Sarode, MD and Bruce Sachais, MD, has worked hard to ensure a number of interesting topics to be covered by exciting expert speakers in the field.

- **Topic 1:** Pathophysiology of Sickle Cell Disease - Martin H. Steinberg, MD, Boston University
- **Topic 2:** Acute Chest Syndrome (ACS) – Keith Quirolo, MD, UCSF Benioff Children’s Hospital
- **Topic 3:** Cerebrovascular Accidents (CVA) - Michael DeBaun, MD, Vanderbilt University
- **Topic 4:** Pulmonary Hypertension - Mark Gladwin, MD, University of Pittsburgh
- **Topic 5A:** Red Cell Exchange Procedure – Standard and Isovolemic Hemodilution (IHD) RBCx for Chronic Transfusion Therapy - Haewon Kim, MD, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia
- **Topic 5B:** Selection of Red Cells - Araba Afenyi-Annan, MD, University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill
- **Topic 6:** Technical and Nursing Aspects - Cathy Hulitt, RN, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia

View the full Preliminary Program online and don’t forget to register for the Consensus Conference! ASFA Members receive a $100 registration discount!

Apheresis Review Session

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 over-
view 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.

Register Now

FACT Workshop
This training workshop is designed to explain the requirements for FACT accreditation of cellular therapy programs, with special emphasis on apheresis collection facilities. FACT representatives will be in attendance to clarify the intent of the FACT-JACIE Standards, provide inspectors tips for conducting inspections, and assist programs in organizing and preparing for the accreditation process.

Register through the FACT website

ASFA UPDATES

2015 REIMBURSEMENT GUIDE
The 2015 Reimbursement Guide is now available through ASFA Access exclusively for ASFA members!

Review the updated Reimbursement Guide by logging into your ASFA member account and navigating to the members-only online resources portal, ASFA Access.

Currently, the 2015 Reimbursement Guide is available only to ASFA members.

ASFA Announces New Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Clinical Apheresis!
The American Society for Apheresis (ASFA) is thrilled to announce that Dr. Jeffrey L. Winters, MD, has been appointed as the new Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Clinical Apheresis (JCA)!

Dr. Jeffrey L. Winters graduated with high distinction from the University Of Kentucky College Of Medicine in Lexington Kentucky in 1993. His postgraduate training consisted of an Anatomic/Clinical Pathology residency in the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at the University of Kentucky and a Transfusion Medicine/Blood Banking fellowship in the Division of Transfusion Medicine at the Mayo Clinic, Rochester Minnesota. He is certified by the American Board of Pathology in Anatomic Pathology, Clinical Pathology, and Blood Banking/Transfusion Medicine. Dr. Winters is currently an Associate Professor of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology in the Mayo College of Medicine and is the Medical Director of the Mayo Clinic Therapeutic Apheresis Treatment Unit, a fifteen-bed unit performing approximately 3,000 therapeutic apheresis procedures annually. Dr. Winters is actively involved in ASFA and was President of ASFA from 2010 to 2011. He has also served on the Apheresis Applications Committees responsible for the 2000, 2007, 2010, and 2013 therapeutic apheresis guidelines, published in JCA Special Issues. Dr Winters has also been an associate editor for the JCA and was an editor and author for Apheresis: Principles and Practice 3rd edition and Therapeutic Apheresis: A Physician's Handbook 2nd, 3rd, and 4th editions. Dr Winters has been an author on 94 peer-reviewed publications, of which 63 deal with apheresis.

Dr. Winters will work with Dr. Robert Weinstein, MD, to transition into the Editor-in-Chief role and his appointment will be effective June 1, 2015.

ASFA looks forward to the continued success of the JCA with this new leadership!
Upcoming Webinars

One of the benefits offered with your ASFA membership for is free webinar registration! We are excited to provide our members with a number of expert speakers presenting on interesting topics.

MARCH 2015

**Topic:** General Apheresis  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 18, 2015  
**Time:** 12:00 - 1:00 pm EST  
**Speaker:** Sergio Torloni, MD

This webinar will cover modalities of therapeutic apheresis including plasmapheresis, photopheresis, Selective absorption columns.

The talk will concentrate mostly on plasmapheresis and the diseases for which apheresis is used. Basic description of pathologies of TTP/HUS, Guillain Barre Syndrome, Eaton Lambert, Myasthenia Gravis will be addressed. There will be emphasis on replacement fluids, fluid shifts during the procedure. Principles of ECP (“Photopheresis”) and LDL cholesterol selective removal (affinity column) will be briefly mentioned.

This seminar is directed to Nurses, Apheresis operators and Physicians who want to know more about procedures, instrumentation as well as more advanced modalities such as ECP and LDL apheresis

APRIL 2015

**Topic:** Atypical HUS  
**Speaker:** YanYun Wu, MD

Visit the [Webinars section of the ASFA website](#) to register for any of the upcoming webinars. Don’t forget to log in to your ASFA account to receive complimentary registration!

Don’t forget – if you are unable to attend the live presentation you can watch the recording through [ASFA Access](#). ASFA Access, the online education portal exclusive to ASFA members, contains past webinar recordings, the 2015 Reimbursement Guide and more!

ASFA’s on Facebook!

Have you visited the ASFA Facebook page? ‘Like’ our page on Facebook to stay up to date with all of the latest ASFA news, events and to network with other apheresis professionals that are active on social media.

Next Journal Club

The American Society for Apheresis is excited to offer members the opportunity to participate in the Apheresis Journal Club (AJC). The AJC provides an opportunity for members to connect, discuss, and exchange ideas from current literature on apheresis topics. The sessions 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 Journal Club will take place on **Friday, April 16 from 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm EDT**. Log in to your ASFA account and [register](#).

ASFA Exhibit Schedule

ASFA participates at a number of meetings throughout the year. Stop by the ASFA booth to say hello, learn more about your ASFA membership benefits or just to say hi!

- **March 12 – 14, 2015:** ASFA at 3rd Annual UC San Diego Essentials & Advances in Apheresis Therapies, San Diego, CA
- **April 18 – 25, 2015:** ASFA at AAN, Washington, DC
COMMITTEE UPDATES

Allied Health Committee

*Chairs: Alicia Garcia, RN and Margaret Hannan, LPN, AT (ASCP)*

The Allied Health Committee (AHC) has been working hard to develop an exciting educational program for the upcoming AFSA Annual Meeting in San Antonio. In addition to developing session topics that address the essentials of apheresis medicine, we have also concentrated on developing topics containing new and interesting information for members who regularly attend the ASFA Annual Meeting. These include topics such as photopheresis anticoagulation, collection of platelets using Platelet Additive Solution (Interisol), a new platform for blood prime, indications for instrument quality control and validation, and inspection preparedness. The (AHC) is fortunate to be made up of many apheresis professionals who have been involved with ASFA for some time. With their invaluable help, we have focused on recruiting a number of new speakers and session chairs for this year’s annual meeting to help increase involvement and bring fresh, new information and participation to our meetings. Much like the Membership Committee, the AHC is planning to use a mentoring program this year to ensure that new speakers and session chairs have a positive experience and are provided any support they may need.

The committee is pleased to present three ‘Breakfast with the Experts’ sessions again this year, containing a number of new and exciting topics! For example, career paths in apheresis, credentialing of apheresis health physicians and practitioners, and information on ASFA leadership opportunities. We are also pleased to present several topics in Spanish for our Spanish-speaking members. Additionally, in an effort to provide more individuals the opportunity to participate in Breakfast with the Experts sessions, pre-registration for these sessions will not be required this year! Breakfast with the Experts sessions will be handled on a First-Come, First-Served basis, so plan to arrive early to ensure a place for your topic of interest!

Finally, the committee will soon be developing a subcommittee to begin work on the new edition of Principals of Apheresis textbook, due for publication in 2017.

The members of the AHC have been hard at work planning educational sessions that we feel will be interesting and beneficial for ASFA members. We hope you are planning to attend this year’s meeting, and look forward to seeing you in San Antonio!

Clinical Applications Committee

*Chairs: Laura Cooling, MD, MSc & Edward Wong, MD*

The Clinical Applications Committee (CAC) has been busy with several ongoing and upcoming projects. Two CAC abstracts from CAC subgroups have been accepted for oral and poster presentation at this year’s ASFA Annual Meeting in San Antonio. An additional abstract is being prepared for submission to the fall AABB meeting. In addition, three manuscripts are in preparation from the Research, Rare Disease and HPC subcommittees.

The ECP committee (chair, Jennifer Schneiderman), just formed last year, is near completion of a comprehensive survey of ECP practices. This survey should add considerably to our understanding of the state of ECP practices nationally and serve as a basis for more focused studies in the future. The Coagulation committee (chair Nicole Zantek) continues to refine an online, case-based survey of coagulation management in different patient scenarios. The online survey has undergone one round of beta-testing and is currently undergoing revision and editing. The HPC committee is near a first draft of a manuscript based on their 2014 plenary session presentation: “Donor Vein Assessment for Hematopoietic Progenitor Cell Collection: An International Survey by the ASFA HPC Donor Subcommittee.” The HPC committee is considering a project related to donor safety for its next project.

The Pediatric Apheresis committee (chair, Haewon Kim) has been working for over a year on a prospective, multi-institutional study of adverse reactions in pediatric apheresis procedures. The protocol, case report form, RedCap data fields and an IRB consent documents have been prepared. It is anticipated that formal IRB submission by current committee members will occur this spring.
The Rare Disease Registry, chaired by Dr. Ed Wong, is actively involved in four ongoing projects and offering support to pediatric adverse event project. A draft manuscript on Wilson’s Disease is near submission. Dr. Shanna Morgan will present the findings of 17 NMO patients at the plenary abstract session of the ASFA annual meeting. A fourth project, overseen by Dr. Monica Palanco, is investigating the outcomes of HES use in therapeutic leukocytapheresis. A poster summarizing the preliminary results for 83 patients from 3 institutions has been accepted for this year’s ASFA meeting. Dr. Chisa Yamada is currently analyzing the preliminary results of 11 MuSK-MG patients for future abstract submission to the 2015 AABB annual meeting.

In the future, the rare disease registry and research committees will be merged into a new ASFA Research Committee and independent of the CAC. This committee will focus on identification and prioritization of key research questions related to apheresis medicine, to facilitate networking of apheresis centers and practitioners, and most importantly, administrative and technical support of the ASFA registry. Current committee members will be invited to join the new ASFA research committee.

Membership Committee – Launch of the ASFA Mentorship Program!

Chair: Darlene Rahn, MT, HP(ASCP)
Article Written By: Lee Clough, BSN, RN, HP (ASCP)

Are you looking for an Apheresis Mentor for Pediatrics? Cellular Therapy? Collections? If you are new to Apheresis or just want to discuss your thoughts or treatment options for a specific patient, sign up for ASFA’s Mentorship Program. You can sign up when you register for ASFA’s 36th Annual meeting or at any time through the ASFA website!

You will be paired with an experienced Mentor that can discuss your issues or concerns via email, phone or in person at the meeting. The membership committee will pair you with the best mentor available. If the mentor is not at the annual meeting, the committee member will help you get in contact with your mentor.

If you are willing to participate as an ASFA Mentor, sign up on the website or when you register for ASFA’s 36th Annual meeting. Please list your expertise in the field of apheresis. If you haven’t had time to sign up, one of the current board members or one of the current membership committee members may ask you to help out during the meeting. If your expertise matches one of the requests for a mentor, the membership committee can pair you with a new or less experienced ASFA member for you to share your experiences with. We are very excited to be launching this exciting program to benefit the ASFA membership!

One of ASFA’s greatest strengths is the networking that happens at our annual meeting; we want to meet the new attendees, practitioners, and staff and help them expand and enhance their apheresis programs! Please sign up for the ASFA mentor program, your mentor may lead you to becoming the next ASFA president!
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