ASFA NEWS/UPDATES

Read below to learn about some of the many improvements that have been made to the ASFA website and other current news.

Renew your ASFA Membership before December 31, 2012 and be entered to win an iPod shuffle.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- Electronic or Printed Subscription to the Journal of Clinical Apheresis
- Reduced Rates on Monthly Webinars
- Reduced Rates for the ASFA Annual Meeting
- Reduced Rates for Educational Resources and Materials
- Subscription to the member-only ASFA Newsletter
- Access to the member-only Facilities Directory
- Access to the member-only ASFA Discussion Forum
- Option to participate in ASFA Committees
- Free registration to the ASFA Journal Club

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL INSTRUCTIONS

1. Click here to sign-in to your ASFA membership
2. On the right-hand side, select "Manage Profile"
3. Scroll down and click on the “Membership” icon under “Account History”
4. Click on the “Securely renew your membership now”
5. Fill out appropriate information to renew your membership electronically

Take advantage of the ASFA forum for members only. This is a great way to connect with other Apheresis Professionals and get your questions answered or help others by responding to their questions. This is a great method to meet different professionals in your field and get a different perspective.

Click here to login: http://asfa.malachite-mgmt.com/login.aspx?
APHERESIS JOURNAL CLUB – COMPLIMENTARY MEMBERSHIP BENEFIT

The American Society for Apheresis is excited to offer a new benefit for members, the Apheresis Journal Club (AJC). The AJC will be an 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. The first session was held in October with great success. Journal Clubs are held quarterly at 12PM ET, the schedule is as follows:

- January 18, 2013 at 12:00PM ET
- April 19, 2013 at 12:00PM ET
- July 19, 2013 at 12:00PM ET

To register for the January Journal Club, please click here.

This activity is a joint effort of the Education Committee and the Apheresis Physician Committee.

ASFA 2013 – 34TH ANNUAL MEETING – SAVE THE DATE

The ASFA 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. ASFA, officially formed in 1981, has been the proud host to 33 highly successful scientific conferences.

DATE: MAY 22–25, 2013
PLACE: SHERATON DOWNTOWN – DENVER, COLORADO

Click here to take advantage of early bird registration (closes April 22, 2013).

Don’t forget to also register for Breakfast with the Experts, seats fill up fast!

- Click here to register for May 24, 2013 Session
- Click here to register for the May 25, 2013 Session

ASFA 2013 preliminary program is now available; to view the full program click here.
ASFA 2013 – CALL FOR BEST PRACTICES

DO YOU FEEL THAT YOUR FACILITY HAS UNIQUE STRENGTHS? DO YOU HAVE A PRACTICE THAT YOU FEEL OFFERS A UNIQUE PERSPECTIVE ON OR ANSWERS TO A COMMON APHERESIS PROBLEM?

ASFA 2013’s Networking Breakfast is offering an opportunity to share your organization’s best practices for the benefit of the entire apheresis community! The Allied Health Committee hopes to present 10 tables of members from throughout the apheresis community and have them discuss their best practices with Networking Breakfast attendees in an informal ‘speed dating’ atmosphere. (i.e. attendees will be encouraged to change tables at fixed intervals).

The Networking Breakfast will be at the ASFA 2013 Annual Meeting on May 23, 2013 from 7:00AM-8:00AM. The moderators will be required to network with other delegates about their best practices and provide a poster and other sample materials.

If you would like to set up a table at the networking breakfast where you can share your facility’s endeavors and successes with attendees, please submit a brief description of your best practice or SOP and a brief summary about why this practice is uniquely beneficial to the ASFA Head Office at ASFA@apheresis.org by January 7, 2013.

If you have any questions or need more information, please feel free to e-mail ASFA Head Office at ASFA@apheresis.org.

ASFA COMMITTEE UPDATES

Awards Committee

THE ASFA AWARDS COMMITTEE IS SEEKING YOUR INPUT FOR THE 2013 ASFA SOCIETY AWARDS TO BE PRESENTED AT THE ASFA 2013 ANNUAL MEETING. THE FOLLOWING AWARDS WILL BE PRESENTED AT THE 34TH ANNUAL MEETING TO A CURRENT MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING:

SOCIETY FOR HEMAPHERESIS SPECIALISTS (SHS) AWARD – CRITERIA INCLUDE:

• Member of the Society who shows visible participation in the activities within ASFA, demonstrates sincere commitment to the practice of apheresis, and has emerged as a leader and role model for allied health members in the field of apheresis.

LECTERATOR AWARD – CRITERIA INCLUDE:

• Member of the Society who has consistently contributed to the Society as a speaker, teacher, or mentor.

PRESIDENTIAL AWARD – CRITERIA INCLUDE:

• Member of the Society for at least 3 years who has consistently made major contributions to, and performed outstanding service for the Society over a number of years.

Please note that current Board members are not eligible for awards. If you know of an outstanding Society member that you would like to nominate, please complete the form below and send a current CV to ASFA Head Office via e-mail at asfa@apheresis.org or fax 604-874-4378.

http://www.apheresis.org/~ASSETS/DOCUMENT/2013%20Annual%20Meeting/ASFA%20Award%20Nomination%20Form%20Fillable.pdf

Final nominations are at the discretion of the Awards Committee.


Membership Committee

Darlene Rahn and Lee Clough

MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

We’re excited to announce the kick off of the Mentorship Program at the upcoming Annual Meeting in May 2013. I think we all remember the dazed, lost feelings of our first Annual Meeting and our hope is to alleviate that stress for new attendees. As new attendees sign up, those who mark the box as new members will have their contact information forwarded to the Membership Committee. From there, the new attendee information will be sent to one or two Mentors. Some of our seasoned members will be asked to be Mentors and
their role is a simple one – contact the new attendee and ask what questions they may have. Don’t forget to mention the sessions that require extra registration. Then during the Meeting, try to meet up with your new attendee, perhaps try to have lunch or dinner together once, and most important, introduce them to as many people as you can that may help them in their own area of expertise. If you need to find a Mentor please look for our bright new buttons.

Even if you are not a first time attendee and would like to have more assistance navigating the meeting or making contacts, please notify ASFA Head Office so you can be paired with a mentor! If you always wanted to be introduced to say, Dr. Sarode, but didn’t know how, just find a mentor at the meeting or stop by the Membership booth and we will get you that introduction!

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

You’re voice makes a difference! American Society for Apheresis will only benefit you if you get involved. You get out of it what you put into it. Even if you only have an hour a month, surely there is something you can do to get involved. Choose a committee you are interested in and passionate about and you’ll be surprised at how quickly you will see the benefit. Working together with a committee offers ideas and best practices. Opportunities are there for you to become a leader within the ASFA Organization. Associating yourself with a professional organization like ASFA appears to other industry folks as if you are investing in your future. Most companies are selective when choosing employees/promotions and most companies will tend to go towards people who are involved with professional organizations that hold high standards. As a leader in ASFA you also have the opportunity to utilize all your great ideas and make a difference within the organization. Please look at the ASFA website at www.apheresis.org and check out the responsibilities of each committee to see what you may be interested in. For those already serving on a committee, we thank you for the wonderful work you’re already doing!

ABSTRACTS COMMITTEE

In January 2012, the Abstract Committee reviewed and graded the abstracts that were submitted for presentation at the 2012 Annual Meeting in Atlanta, GA. Twenty-six abstracts were selected for oral presentation and 38 abstracts were selected for poster presentation. The Therapeutic Apheresis Best Abstract Award [sponsored by Therakos] went to Jason Brazelton, MD for his abstract “Are elevated cardiac markers associated with increased mortality in patients with TTP”. Jenny Petkova, MD was awarded the Donor Apheresis Best Abstract Award [sponsored by Therakos] for her abstract “HPC collection by apheresis: the impact of HPC(A) product hematocrit on collection efficiency”. Edwin Burgstaler, MT, HP(ASCP) won the Allied Health Award for his abstract “Plerixafor plus G-CSF mobilization results in similar CD34+ cells to total nucleated cell ratio and number of freezer bags as G-CSF only” and Neil Shah, MD was awarded the Junior Investigator Award [sponsored by United Blood Services] for his abstract “Therakos: New extracorporeal photopheresis system, CELLEX, offers superior lymphomononuclear cell collection in addition to shorter treatment times and lower extracorporeal volumes over the old standard, UVAR-XT”. In 2012, the Abstract Committee, for the first time, awarded Best Poster Awards. The Donor Apheresis Best Abstract Poster Award went to Ratti Ram Sharma, MD for his abstract “Frequency of adverse events in plateletpheresis donors in regional transfusion centre in north India”. Nicole DeSimone, MD received the Therapeutic Apheresis Best Abstract Award [sponsored by ITxM] for her abstract “The role of plasma exchange in the management of neuromyelitis optica”.

Currently, the abstract committee is eagerly awaiting the abstract submissions for the upcoming 2013 Annual Meeting in Denver, CO. Please submit your abstracts online. The deadline is December 12, 2012 (and there will NOT be an extension this year). We are looking forward to exciting abstract sessions in 2013!

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

AN EDUCATIONAL AND NETWORKING FORUM FOR PROFESSIONALS IN THE FIELD OF APHERESIS MEDICINE

ABSTRACTS WILL BE ACCEPTED BEGINNING:
Monday, September 17, 2012
ABSTRACT SUBMISSION DEADLINE:
Wednesday, December 12, 2012, 11:59PM PT

ASFA 2013 ANNUAL MEETING
DENVER, CO MAY 22 • 25, 2013
SHERATON DENVER DOWNTOWN, DENVER, COLORADO
RESEARCH CORNER – COURTESY OF THE ASFA RESEARCH SUB-COMMITTEE

Ed Wong, MD - Children’s National Medical Center

Highlights from the NHLBI sponsored “State of the Science Symposium in Therapeutic Apheresis”
November 28-29th, 2012

The NHLBI “State of the Science Symposium in Therapeutic Apheresis” that occurred November 28-29th, 2012 at NIH, brought together a plethora of apheresis related research ideas, concepts and proposals in the areas of cardiac disease, hematological-oncological diseases, potential diseases or conditions treatable by extracorporeal photopheresis (ECP), infectious disease, renal transplantation, atypical Hemolytic-Uremic Syndrome (aHUS), neurological disease, and other diseases or conditions. The organizing committee consisted of many individuals active in the field of Apheresis Medicine and ASFA including Laura Cooling, Jerome Gottschall, Joseph Kiss, Harvey G. Klein, Michael Linenberger, Paul Ness, Anand Padmanabhan, Bruce Sachais (ASFA liaison), Joseph Schwartz, Edward Snyder, Zbigniew M. Szczepiorkowski (co-chair), YanYun Wu (co-chair), Simone Glynn (NHLBI) and Phyllis Mitchell (NHLBI). The participants were welcomed by W. Keith Hoots, MD, Director, Division of Blood Diseases and Resources. Harvey Klein, MD gave the keynote speech, “Whither Apheresis”.

On the first day of the symposium specific topics/speakers were presented: protein A immunoabsorption treatment of acute autoimmune myocarditis (J. Winters), use of iD adsorption for peripheral vascular disease (P. M. Moriarty), TPE in patients with anti-PF4/heparin antibodies (B. Sachais), erythrocytapheresis in the management of pain in sickle cell disease (A. Padmanabhan), leukocytapheresis vs. cytoreductive chemotherapy in the management of adult hyperleukocytic acute myeloid leukemia (L. Connelly-Smith), mechanism of extracorporeal photopheresis (ECP, S. Sloan), ECP for treatment and prevention of graft-versus-host disease following allogeneic hematopoietic cell transplant (C. Kitko), ECP disease treatment opportunities (N. Ratcliffe), plasma exchange in thrombocytopenia associated multisystem organ failure (J. Carillo), apheresis for malignant pertussis (Y. Park), plasma exchange in the management of chronic idiopathic urticaria (C. Andrzejewski), apheresis for babesiosis, and a window on its pathogenesis (P. Krause), plasma exchange for immune desensitization to improve access to renal transplantation (R. Balogun/E. Wong), plasma exchange in atypical HUS treated with Eculizumab (M. Williams), feasibility of adsorption columns for desensitization/antibody mediated rejection in renal transplantation (C. Yamada), early plasma exchange in recurrent focal segmental glomerulosclerosis post renal transplantation (E. Wong), steroids vs. plasma exchange in neuromyelitis optica (NMO) and maintenance therapy for NMO (S. Morgan), IVIg versus TPE for acute myasthenia gravis associated with anti-MuSK (B. Shaz), TPE vs. IVIg in severe acute disseminated encephalomyelitis (M. Delaney/K. Pavenksi), rare neurologic diseases registry and biorepository (E. Meyer/S. Morgan).

On the second day of the symposium, participants ranked all the proposals presented in terms of medical importance, feasibility and enthusiasm and within each disease category. Please contact participants at the meeting for more information. In addition, ways in which NHLBI could possibly fund mechanistic and clinical research in Apheresis Medicine was discussed. NHLBI will now consider possible initiatives for funding apheresis research. ASFA will continue to follow any developments and keep our members informed.
Other research news:

Terumo BCT announces the launch of the Blood Safety Innovation Award. The international award is designed to support scientific and clinical research to enable new advances in blood safety in hematology, immunology and other related fields with up to $100,000 in grants. Clinicians, researchers and scientists at academic institutions and associations who are interested in blood safety across all device platforms are encouraged to submit an expression of intent, by the Dec. 31, 2012 deadline.

NHLBI: PARs for Selected Topics in Transfusion Medicine (R21/R01) have been renewed and Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOAs) are available at the following websites:

Selected Topics in Transfusion Medicine (R21)

Selected Topics in Transfusion Medicine (R01)

Please note that the renewed PAR for R21 is now numbered as PAR-13-025 and the renewed PAR for R01 is now numbered as PAR-13-026, with the former opening on January 16, 2013 and the latter opening on January 5, 2013. Both are expiring on January 8, 2017.