



World Apheresis Association Newsletter

Inside This Issue

Message from the President of the WAA	Page 1
Message from the Past President of the WAA	Page 3
American Society for Apheresis (ASFA)	Page 4
Asociation Mexicana de Medicina Transfusional A.C.	Page 6
Australian & New Zealand Apheresis Association (ANZSBT)	Page 7
Canadian Apheresis Group (CAG)	Page 9
European Society for Artificial Organs (ESAO)	Page 10
European Society for Hemapheresis (ESFH)	Page 11
Asociation Latinoamericana de Aféresis y Terapias celulares (ALAYTeC)	Page 12
International Society for Apheresis (ISFA)	Page 14
Japanese Society for Apheresis (JSFA)	Page 15
The Italian Society of Hemapheresis & Cell Manipulation (SIEM)	Page 16
Joint WAA and ESFH Congress 2010	Page 18
Upcoming Events	Page 19
Preliminary Program Joint Congress Interlaken 2010	Page 20

Message from the President of the WAA

I am honoured to be the President of the World Apheresis Association. This distinguished association represents 17 member societies world-wide. I am glad to be able to welcome three new member societies that were approved during the recent election held by the board in Buenos Aires. Those societies are the Chinese Society of Infectious Diseases, The Korean Society for Apheresis and the Mexican Society for Transfusion Medicine.

Contact with member societies

The homepage will be updated as soon as possible to include all new information on local activities, and the executive of member societies. The executive board of each member society of the WAA is encouraged to contact the WAA board to get support for a local course or congress of the WAA.

Post-graduate apheresis courses

During the next year, as the President, I will support the drive to increase the numbers of post graduate courses in Therapeutic Haemapheresis, as well as courses that are intended to increase knowledge of the practical use of devices and techniques used in this field, including stem cell collection. This includes courses and activities that cover immunological alterations such as photopheresis, leukapheresis by filtration or selective separation, and retransfusion of cells after specific manipulations. These courses can be held in conjunction with local congresses or without direct connection to a congress. My suggestion to those arranging such courses is that they include local lecturers and companies; but do not forget the possibility of inviting specialists from other countries as this may help to further increase knowledge. If there is a lack of financial support within a local organization, the WAA board can discuss the possibility of providing some financial assistance for such courses.

Research and development by quality assessment

I will support quality assessment and improvement, and evidence

*Next WAA board meeting:
Interlaken, Switzerland
September 2, 2010*

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WAA Board of Directors

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CSID:	Yu Mao
KSFA:	Han Ik Shou
AMMTAC:	Amalia G Bravo Lindoro

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based medicine. This can be done, in part, by further developing the WAA apheresis registry. Data can be entered free of charge. The data file is returned to the individual centre at the end of each year, or upon request by the centre. By being a centre that supports the registry with data, you demonstrate to the community that you are eager to support the safety, efficacy, development and research of the therapeutic approaches that the WAA registry offers (www.waa-apheresis.org). The registry now also contains outcome variables for several diseases.

How can we compare outcome data?

Centres that do not use apheresis for the treatment of specific diseases are also encouraged to enter data into the registry. The centres that do not use apheresis will enter the same data as the centres that do use apheresis; the only difference between the two is that centres that do not use apheresis will mark the procedure as “No Treatment/Control”. This will be a very important group for comparison. In principle, centres from the same country can be considered to have almost the same treatment resources at their hospitals. For example with Guillain Barree, some physicians may prefer apheresis while others may prefer immunoglobulins or other treatment options.

To foster global scientific investigations and collaborative research, including clinical applications, the WAA home page (www.worldapheresis.org) will include a web page that allows researchers to look for cooperative centres for multicenter studies. Using this web page they can announce messages and requests. Requests for such announcements can be sent to bernd.stegmayr@medicin.umu.se.

For Clinicians

A location on the home page will enable colleagues to enter a request for help in looking for those who have experience in the treatment of rare diseases.

Allied Health persons

Since the WAA represents societies world-wide with members who are nurses, technicians and other individuals besides physicians, I aim to install a position within the Executive board for one Allied Health person representative. At present this position is not formally established on the Executive board. We support the initiative of persons and companies who would like to arrange courses for this group of members and we will open a web page for such announcements on the homepage (www.worldapheresis.org).

The WAA journal

Transfusion and Apheresis Science represents the overall WAA

activities. I encourage all readers to consider supporting our journal by sending contributions to the content describing their experience and knowledge as a clinician, a researcher or both. For more information see “Links” on the homepage.

Future aspects

In the future I see possibilities for removing donor and patient-specific antibodies to help stabilize aggressive disease and to maintain good function of transplants.

Rheological approaches will offer improvement in organs that suffer from hypoperfusion or aim to establish the circulation within the penumbra of an infarction to limit the extent of the lesion. This will have to be balanced with the use of adequate replacement fluids containing for example fibrinolytic factors, coagulant factors and immunocompetent and modulating factors that help to balance the effect caused by the removal/loss of substances caused either by the disease or by the apheresis procedure.

Bernd Stegmayr
President of the WAA
December 2009

Message from the Past President of WAA

Dear Members of the WAA;

Noritoshi Shibuya
Contact Information
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shubuyan@san.bbfg.jp

During my presidency, I tried to address several issues which still await solution; these are: first, to entice new societies to join the WAA - especially those from Asian countries; second, to expand the educational programs for apheresis physicians and technicians from underdeveloped countries and support technical training in apheresis engineering in the leading nations; and third, to make further efforts to search for a financial base that could lead to a solution to the long standing issues within the WAA.

First of all, to my great joy we recruited three new societies to the association in March of last year. The Mexican society (AMMT), the Korean society (KSFA) and the Chinese society (CMA) all applied for membership in the WAA and were approved at the WAA Board meeting at the 12th Congress in Buenos Aires. Now, the WAA represents 17 national and international societies as an umbrella organization. We are doing great!

The 12th WAA Congress, held in Buenos Aires, was finally held after many twists and turns caused by the current economic crisis that we are still facing. It was really disappointing that many of the world's foremost clinicians and researchers could not attend the meeting. Concerning the 12th Congress itself, as we all made many efforts to fulfill our obligations as best we could, it was a success. The 12th Congress could not have been completed without the economic cooperation of some specific industrial liaisons. In any case, we surely enjoyed the program and learned of many approaches regarding the latest developments in apheresis therapies for severe refractory diseases. Moreover, we had a good time enjoying the characteristic tourism in the Tango Country.

At this Congress, I found a new approach to activate the WAA Congress. It was a very rewarding experience that two symposia were held under the auspices of the ASFA and of the JSFA. Because the WAA is an umbrella society, organization of presentations will, I suppose, be managed and designed by each society. Now, we have to change our minds about how we have to strive for what we want, and to

run the WAA Congress actively and successfully for the future. We need to expand our horizons and establish tools for facilitating the international exchange of information on all aspects of apheresis.

Up to now, the new board has strived to develop programs for the Congress to serve physicians and technicians involved in apheresis every two years. Although I understand that the WAA has many objectives to accomplish, we also have to recognize the hard reality of our association that we are facing. How many societies are able to do an annual meeting? Is it really necessary to hold regular congresses every two years as the world federation of apheresis does? It may be sufficient to hold a meeting every three years, as it will be difficult for each society to hold a meeting every two years because of economic difficulties. Shall we reconsider what we should do as an association? I think that the time has come to reconsider the bylaws of the WAA. It is more than a quarter of a century since the WAA was founded in 1986 with eight societies. We need to have further discussions on this issue at the WAA Board meeting in Interlaken on September, 2010.

Second is the international registry. To facilitate inclusion of new patients in the registry, I am expecting increases in a number of apheresis procedures. The aim of this is not only to increase the recruitment of patients, but also to put together the experience of each national society and to have collaborative work within the WAA. This is closely related to the updated website and a newly designed registry system using the internet.

Third, I have to speak to the financial condition of the WAA. According to the financial report, it still has a positive balance. However, since 2006 most societies have not paid their annual dues, because of lack of an invoice for membership fees from the treasurer of the WAA office. This is a very serious problem. Why does the WAA office in Paris not work? We have to improve the poor income in relation to the unpaid dues soon. It is also important that our industrial liaisons support our association. In order to improve these relationships, it is necessary to arrange a liaison in each area (one in Asia, one in Europe and one in America). A liaison officer has worked hard to recall ILC, but it was so difficult for the ILC to join the Congress, not only because of the economic crisis but, also, a lack of interest in apheresis. In order to enroll companies in the association, we have to reconsider what the major interest and benefit are for companies to support the congress. This problem is open for re-examination.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all of the member societies and board members.

Noritoshi Shibuya, M.D.

Past President of the World Apheresis Association,

Adviser and Past President of the Japanese Society for Apheresis

American Society for Apheresis



The 30th Annual Meeting of the American Society for Apheresis was held from May 20-23, 2009 in San Diego, California. It was a very special meeting as many of the Past ASFA Presidents were in attendance. We celebrated with a very nice ceremony and reflected on our past achievements with a short history of ASFA delivered by Dr. Ed Taft. I am also pleased to report that despite difficult economic times the meeting was very well attended. The meeting was successful in delivering both scientific and social value to our members and guests. Dr. Jeff Winters, now President-Elect of the Society, is chairing the ASFA Annual Meeting Organizing Committee which is preparing our next annual meeting in New Orleans which we all hope will be even more successful.

Since the 30th Annual Meeting the ASFA members and the Board of Directors have been busy advancing many important initiatives outlined in the ASFA strategic plan. These initiatives span over scientific, educational and administrative issues related to our Society and the field of apheresis medicine.

A group of highly motivated individuals has prepared a new edition of Principles of Apheresis Textbook. This is a comprehensive review of different aspects of apheresis primarily focused on allied health and new practitioners of apheresis. It should be available in May 2010. For more experienced professionals Dr. Bruce McLeod is putting final touches on the 3rd edition of Apheresis: Principles and Practice. This book has been considered by many to be an invaluable resource for apheresis practitioners in the US. Other educational activities included presentation of 12 very successful webinars discussing different aspects of apheresis medicine.

The Apheresis Applications Committee is finalizing its 5th edition of the ASFA Special Issue. It is an updated version of the 4th edition, published in 2007 in the Journal of Clinical Apheresis, using the same “fact sheet” format. The major enhancement of this scientific work is the addition of recommendation grading consistent with the widely accepted “GRADE” system. Though this publication focuses primarily on the apheresis indications in the US, we hope to expand it by inclusion of participants from other countries in the future.

The Society has also worked hard on implementation of a policy manual which combines all ASFA policies. This work should streamline operations and governance of the ASFA. There has been an effort to include junior members in the committee work. This new initiative was met with overwhelming support and has reinvigorated our committees. In addition, revisions to the ASFA by-laws are being proposed as well as new pathways for identification and promotion of new leadership within the Society. We also entered the era of internet based communications, using *go-to-meeting* as our primary mode of conducting business by all committees and the BOD.

The ASFA website was completely re-designed so please visit www.apheresis.org to experience it. Other enhancements introduced this past year include transition to electronic distribution of the Journal of Clinical Apheresis and launch of the ASFA Corporate Membership Program.

There are many more ongoing activities so please visit our website, attend our meeting, or just contact us to learn more. We also hope to see many of you at the 31st Annual Meeting of the American Society for Apheresis in New Orleans May 26 - 29, 2010. For more details please go to www.apheresis.org.

Wishing all WAA member organizations a very successful year from all ASFA members.

Zbigniew “Ziggy” M. Szczepiorkowski, MD, PhD, FCAP
President, ASFA
Hanover, NH

Next ASFA annual meeting:

Arizona

June 1 – 4, 2011.

ASFA Board:

President:

Jeffrey Winters

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Asociación Mexicana de Medicina Transfusional AC

The Asociación Mexicana de Medicina Transfusional AMMTAC was constituted on December 13, 2001.

The mission of the AMMTAC:

Is to develop and upgrade the training of persons involved in Transfusion Medicine through high level educational activities, consensus and discussions that allow the exchange of ideas, through scientific technological information and academic development of its members to be able to increase transfusion safety in Mexico.

The vision of the AMMTAC:

To be the leading National Association in training and upgrading of professionals dedicated to the field of Transfusion Medicine with world-wide recognition.

Currently the association has 470 members from different professions related to Transfusion Medicine: 40% are medical doctors, 45% are chemists and related persons and 15 % are nurses, social workers and administrative staff.

Three honorary members appointed for their relevant action in the field of Transfusion Medicine in Mexico and other countries are:

- Dr. Héctor Rodríguez Moyado
- QFB Elisa Quintanar García
- Dra. Marcela Contreras

Three ex-presidents:

- Dr. Raúl Ambríz Fernández
- Dra. Araceli Malagón Martínez
- Dr. Daniel Romero López

Seven past AMMTAC congresses:

- 2003 Cancún , Quintana Roo
- 2004 Querétaro, Querétaro
- 2005 Mérida , Yucatán
- 2006 Zacatecas, Zacatecas
- 2007 Guadalajara , Jalisco
- 2008 Monterrey, Nuevo León
- 2009 Tuxtla Gtz, Chiapas

Average attendance has been about 1000 Transfusion Medicine professionals.

The next congress will be held in León, Guanajuato in the center of México and we expect an attendance of 1,300 people.

The AMMTAC has been an institutional member of the Ibero American Cooperative Group of Transfusion Medicine (G-CIAMT) since 2004, and it has built relationships with other International organizations such as the American Society for Apheresis (ASFA)

In 2009 the AMMTAC successfully bid to host the XXXII Congress of the



AMMTAC Board

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Amalia Gpe Bravo Lindoro

Vice president EBC

Julio Martínez Álvarez

Secretary

QFB. María del Carmen Santamaría Hernández

Treasurer

QFB. Elizabeth Guzmán Vázquez

Member of editorial activities

Jorge Espinosa Turcott

Member of academical activities

Sergio García Méndez

Member of admission

QFB. Clotilde Estrada Carsolio

*Next AMMATC
Congress:*

*Leon, Guanajuato,
Mexico*

September 15 - 18 2010

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International Society of Blood Transfusion (ISBT) which is now scheduled to take place in Mexico City July 7 to 12, 2012.

Dr. Amalia Bravo Lindoro
President of AMMTAC

The Australian & New Zealand Society of Blood Transfusion



Aims and membership

The Australian & New Zealand Society of Blood Transfusion (ANZSBT) has over 500 members from diverse scientific, technical, nursing and medical backgrounds working in blood transfusion and transfusion medicine. Formerly the Australasian Society of Blood Transfusion (ASBT), the Society changed its name in late 2002.

The broad aims of the Society are:

- Advancement of knowledge in blood transfusion and transfusion medicine
- Promotion of improved standards in the practice of blood transfusion
- Collaboration with international and other regional societies interested in blood
- Promotion of interest in research into blood transfusion and allied subjects
- Formulation of guidelines in key areas of transfusion practice

The number of nursing members continues to increase. This welcome development reflects the increasingly important role nurses play in improving hospital transfusion practice in Australia and New Zealand.

Annual scientific meeting

The Society holds an Annual Scientific Meeting in partnership with the Haematology Society of Australia and New Zealand, and the Australasian Society of Thrombosis and Haemostasis. The 2010 meeting will be held in Auckland from October 17-20. More information is available at: <http://www.haa2010.org>

The 2011 conference will be held in Sydney as a joint meeting with the Asia Pacific division of the International Society for Haematology.

Highlights of the past year include:

- Participating as a joint sponsor of the World Health Organization Global Consultation on Voluntary Non-Remunerated Donation held in Melbourne, Australia in June 2009. The key outcome of the meeting was the Melbourne Declaration, which urges national governments to take steps to achieve 100% voluntary non remunerated donation by 2020. The Declaration is available at: <http://www.who.int/worldblooddonorday/MelbourneDeclarationWBDD09.pdf>
- Progress on the production of new national transfusion clinical practice guidelines. These update the 2001 ASBT/National Health and Medical Research Council guidelines on clinical use of blood components. This initiative is being co-ordinated and funded by the National Blood Authority with expert input from a number of professional groups. The first guideline, on transfusion in critical bleeding, is anticipated to be released for comment in March 2010. Other guidelines covering perioperative transfusion practice, medicine and intensive care, obstetrics and

Next ANZSBT

Annual meeting:

Auckland, New Zealand

October 17-20, 2010

ANZSBT Board

President:

Erica Wood

Vice President:

Gina Aitken

Honorary Secretary / Membership

Nicole Staples

Honorary Treasurer

Richard Charlewood

Councillor

Simon Benson

Councillor, Transfusion Practitioner

Linley Bielby

Immediate Past President, Co-opted 2010

Peter Flanagan

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pediatrics, are currently in development or planned.

- Contribution to the consultation on the draft revision of the Evaluation and Quality Improvement Program (EQuIP) transfusion-related standard of the Australian Council on Healthcare Standards, and the National Safety and Quality Healthcare Standards of the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care. The availability of accreditation standards is a powerful tool to improve clinical transfusion practice in the hospital setting.
- Contribution of technical and financial support towards the work of a new national iron deficiency expert group. This group aims to explore barriers to, and mechanisms to improve, detection and treatment of iron deficiency, including in patients awaiting elective surgery, which is identified as a major contributor to potentially inappropriate transfusions. Comprehensive patient blood management activities are gaining momentum in Australia and New Zealand at the institutional, regional and national level.

Standing Committees

Research Committee

The Research Committee oversees the awarding of research grants from the Society. The current focus is on research to support transfusion medicine clinical practice improvement.

Clinical Practice Improvement Standing Committee (CPIC)

Recent activities of this committee have included a survey of current practices on informed consent for transfusion, a review of the Society's guidelines for irradiation of blood components, and progression of a revision of the guidelines on administration of blood components.

Transfusion Science Standing Committee (TSSC)

This group has overseen the development of the framework for preparation, storage and use of thawed plasma components, and provided input into the development of the National Pathology Accreditation Advisory Council standards for transfusion laboratory practice. Work has commenced on the development of a set of technical requirements for refrigeration of blood components.

Education Standing Committee (ESC)

Recent activities of this group have included a review of the Society website and consideration of possible approaches to increasing access to journals.

Working relationships

The Society works closely with a range of government and non-governmental groups including:

Governments and agencies including the National Blood Authority (Australia):

The Society has a key role in providing expert professional advice relating to transfusion practice. In addition to its role in the revision of the transfusion clinical practice guidelines (previous page), the Society has also been involved in the NBA Professional and Community Advisory Forum and the Haemovigilance Advisory Committee. The Society is also represented on a range of government transfusion practice improvement initiatives.

Royal Australasian College of Physicians, Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia, Royal College of Nursing Australia:

The Society is represented on the RACP/RCPA Joint Specialist Advisory Committee on Haematology, the Pathology Associations Committee (PAC) and has worked with Colleges on guidelines for transfusion

administration, technical requirements for thawed plasma and the development of the refrigeration requirements.

New Zealand Blood Service and Australian Red Cross Blood Service:

The Society has collaborative working relationships with the blood services in a number of areas. In Australia these include participation in the annual Strategic Blood Forum and the National Blood Transfusion Committee.

ANZSBT is affiliated with the following societies:

- Haematology Society of Australia and New Zealand (HSANZ) www.hsanz.org.au
- British Blood Transfusion Society (BBTS) www.bbts.org.uk
- International Society of Blood Transfusion (ISBT) www.isbt-web.org
- Australian Society of Medical Research (ASMR) www.asmr.org.au

More information about ANZSBT can be found at our website www.anzsbt.org.au including contact details, grant and awards and links to Society and other transfusion-related publications.



Canadian Apheresis Group
Groupe Canadien d'Aphérèse

Canadian Apheresis Group (CAG)

The Canadian Apheresis Group annual meeting was held in May 2010 jointly with the Canadian Association of Apheresis Nurses. Practitioners and nurses representing the 32 major participating centers of the CAG attended the meeting. Over the course of two days we undertook our annual data review and did a comparison with activities from previous years. In 2009 a total of 983 patients were treated with plasma exchange during which time we carried out 9063 plasma exchange procedures. Additionally, some 1500 stem cell procedures were performed to treat patients with various malignancies and other diseases.

This was the 30th annual meeting of the organization and one which caused much celebration. We had the opportunity to welcome various individuals who had been present at the start of this exciting therapy and those who have joined within the last few years. It was interesting to look back over the history of the group and see the evolution.

Highlights of the meeting were three scientific presentations by Dr. Reichenberg on Pathogen Inactivated Plasma describing the THERAFLEX MB-Plasma Solution, Dr. Traboulee on PLEX for Acute CNS Demyelination Disorders, and Dr. Klingel on Indications for Double-Filtration-Plasmapheresis (DFPP). Additionally, members of our own group presented data on neurological/metabolic and gastroenterological, hematological, renal/collagen vascular and dermatological, photopheresis, and miscellaneous disorders. We also took the opportunity to review ongoing and proposed studies.

Our Rituximab Study now has entered 14 patients from 8 centers and the Voluven Study (Voluven, low molecular weight starch vs albumin) is nearing completion. We are considering the development of a new protocol to look at PE for acute CNS demyelination disorders.

CAG Planning Group

Gail Rock, Chair
Ottawa, Ontario

Barrett Benny
Vancouver, British Columbia

Paul Yenson
Vancouver, British Columbia

William Clark
London, Ontario

Ronan Foley
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European Society for Artificial Organs (ESAO)



The Society

The European Society for Artificial Organs (ESAO) is an interdisciplinary platform for medical, biological, chemical and engineering specialists to develop new therapeutic tools for organ replacement and repair.

Founded in 1973 in Geneva, it focuses on translational research and the application of new devices and therapies.

Initially based on roots such as cardiovascular prostheses and dialysis, it deals today with a broad spectrum of technical, bioartificial and tissue engineered applications for all types of organs.

ESAO brings together specialists from research, application and industry, and is a discussion forum for teachers, students, researchers and users. Working groups on specific topics provide intensive discussion forums.

Annual congresses in different parts of Europe focus interests in particular fields. Winter schools “teach the teachers” on actual topics such as a recent session on Bioartificial Organs, Biocompatibility etc.

Awards are particularly given to promote young researchers. Our official Journal, the “International Journal of Artificial Organs”, serves to present the newest work and concepts in this broad field.

The ESAO working groups:

Several Working Groups have been installed to focus on particular topics of interest. They provide symposia dedicated to particular questions and are intended as discussion fora and a base for multicenter approaches and internationally distributed guidelines.

Working Group	Chair
Apheresis	B. Stegmayr (Sweden)
Education	D. Falkenhagen, (Austria)
Heart	Contact, J. Canizo (Spain), Prof. K. Affeld (Germany)
Liver Replacement	I. Sauer (Germany)
Tissue Engineering	R. Reis, N. Neves (Portugal)
Uremic Toxins (EUTOX)	R. Vanholder (Belgium)

For more details please contact our secretariat or the working group leaders (contact information is on our webpage www.esao.org).

Activities 2009

In September 2009, ESAO had its 36th general meeting at the Université de Technologie de Compiègne, France. This technical university has been a major contributor to the progress in artificial organs in Europe. The meeting was well attended with over 400 participants including many young researchers. The closure of the conference was

ESAO Board

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H. Schima

Past President

B. H. Walpoth

General Secretary

B. Glasmacher

Treasurer

J. Wojcick

Honorary President

H. Klinkmann

Next ESAQ

Annual Meeting:

Skopje Macedonia

September 8 – 11, 2010



ESAO Wichtig Award Presented

Mrs. Anita Schildberger receives the 2009 ESAO Wichtig Award in Compiègne.

FROM LEFT, Chief Editor of IJAO, Gerardo Catapano; Congress President Cecile Legallais; Mrs. Anita Schildberger; and ESAO President Bart Meyns.

celebrated in the historical, magnificent decor of the Compiègne castle.

In March 2009 the Winter School was organized in Kranska Gora, Slovenia.

The ESAO winter school traditionally focuses on a specific topic with a smaller number of participants and the goal of 'teaching the teachers'. This year's program was oriented to anticoagulation in artificial organs and cardiovascular risk and of kidney.

Coming activities

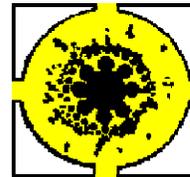
ESAO plans to have its 37th annual meeting in Skopje, Macedonia, September 8 - 11, 2010. The society will focus again on research in apheresis, artificial heart, kidney, liver, lung, pancreas and skin, biomaterials, cell and gene therapy, implants, stents and vascular prostheses and tissue engineering. The exceptional location in the historic city of Skopje promises an enjoyable social time.



Annual meeting locations are fixed for 2011 in Porto, Portugal for the joint ESAO-IFAO meeting; and for 2010 in Rostock, Germany.

EASO
www.esao.org/index.php

European Society for Hemapheresis (ESFH)



Dear member,

This is a warm welcome from the ESFH president at the beginning of the 2010 New Year.

First I would like to give you some information about the ESFH activities in the last year. The outstanding event was the joint meeting of the ESFH and the French Apheresis Society in Paris in November 2009. The meeting was well attended and we had a fruitful discussion with our European colleagues. The annual postgraduate course was held on one day and covered therapeutic apheresis and peripheral stem cells as topics. The second day of the meeting was reserved for apheresis registries and free communications. Presentations from the Paris meeting are available as pdf-files on the homepage of our society (<http://www.esfh.de>).

The ESFH board met once in Bern, Switzerland and focused on future activities of the ESFH. Paul Höcker, now has the position of a coordinator of foreign affairs. The district directors are as follows: Milan Blaha (Eastern Europe), Behrouz Mansouri-Taleghani (Central Europe) and Volker Witt (Non European Countries).

The next ESFH congress will take place in Interlaken, Switzerland from September 2 – 4 2010. It will be a joint meeting with the World Apheresis Association together with the Blood Transfusion Service of the Swiss Red Cross and the Swiss Association of Transfusion Medicine. Behrouz Mansouri-Taleghani from Switzerland will be the ESFH congress president. We found a nice location at the Casino Kursaal Interlaken and are now busily working on the program. It will be announced in an update on our website. I'm sure that the interesting scientific program with dedicated speakers will make your attendance worthwhile. You are

cordially encouraged to come up with your thoughts and scientific input for this congress to form a strong apheresis platform.

Best regards

Rainer Moog, MD, PhD
ESFH President

Asociación Latinoamericana de Aféresis y Terapias celulares (ALAyTeC)

Fifty-two prestigious professionals from Germany, Austria, Brazil, Canada, China Denmark, USA, Spain, France, Slovenia, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia Sweden and Uruguay, shared their experiences in the practice of apheresis on an international level at the WAA/ISFA 2009 meeting in Buenos Aires.

It was the first time, that in a World Congress, two educational symposia were held at the same time. The first one, by the Grupo Latinoamericano de Hemaféresis (GLHEMA), was led and organized by local doctors and technicians (from Buenos Aires) and was attended by heads of services from renowned institutions. The topics were developed by technicians from transfusion medicine whose excellent level of knowledge reached every level of expectation.

The second symposium was specifically organized and led by experts from the American Society for Apheresis (ASFA). This is the first time that this society has presented a scientific program on their specialty in Latin America. Both events, unprecedented in their kind, were the starting point and set a trend for the next World Congress.

More than five hundred people attended, including professionals and technicians from Europe, Asia, Mexico, Latin America (Uruguay, Chile, Perú, Bolivia, Venezuela) the USA, Canada and Argentina. In order to facilitate the participation and understanding of all attendees, the congress had simultaneous language translation. Also, to acknowledge their attendance, certificates were given to the audience after every speech and at the end of the WAA-ISFA 2009 Congress.

Apart from the congress, several social activities were held for foreign and local attendants. On the 17th, Rivero Laboratories invited the foreign speakers to a beautiful dinner in a place near the river in Puerto Madero as a way of making them feel welcome. On the 18th, the organizing committee held the Opening Ceremony with a welcome cocktail. On the 19th, there was a Tango Night and on the 20th, we held the Closing Ceremony including a dinner, show and dance, which also was supported by Rivero Laboratories.

Additionally, reunions and assemblies of the World Apheresis Association board as well as for the International Society for Apheresis board and the Grupo

ESFH Board Members

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Rainer Moog

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Espinosa (Bol.)

Technical Coordinator
Nestor A. Zani (Arg.)

Latinoamericano de Hemaféresis board took place during the congress. These reunions were held in order to renew authorities. Dr. Mario Figueroa was reelected to the position of General Secretary of the WAA and was also elected as Vice president of the ISFA.

During the GHLEMA assembly, it was decided that the name of “Grupo Latinoamericano de Hemaféresis”(Latin American Hemapheresis Group) would be changed to the “Asociation Latinoamericana de Aféresis y Terapias celulares” (Latin for American Association for Apheresis and Cell Therapies) or the ALAyTeC, based in Buenos Aires. The president elect for ALAyTeC was Dr. Mario Alberto Figueroa.

Abstracts and posters were presented throughout the Congress and, many of them were then published in the Event's Program handed out to every attendee. On the 18th, at the symposium entitled “Japan visits the future” topics referring to new areas of therapeutic apheresis were developed, such as: dilated cardiomyopathy; therapeutic strategies for Hepatitis “C”; the treatment of chronic inflammatory disease of the digestive system; treatment of neurological disorders; and treatment of rheumatoid arthritis. In the afternoon of that same day, regulatory aspects were addressed, including: statistics, protocols and economic aspects.

On the 19th, the talks were aimed at cardiovascular diseases with presentations on LDL cholesterol, Lp(a), immunoadsorption, idiopathic dilated cardiomyopathy, Lp(a) apheresis and its relation to “stroke”, therapeutic apheresis in autoimmune diseases, such as intestinal disease, (IBD) autoimmune bullous dermatosis and selective apheresis in renal diseases. Also, multiple sclerosis treatment (MS), and optic neuromyelitis were addressed, as was plasma exchange in vasculitis. Dr: Gail Rock (Canada) discussed the process for pathogen inactivation of plasma and Dr. Beata J. Kwiatkowska (EE:UU) shared her experience with the new Optia machine.

Brazilian experts referred to their experiences in the study and selection of apheresis donors, the sociologic and anthropologic aspects of blood donation and, alternatives to transfusion and blood safety.

On the last day of the Congress, the topics were apheresis therapy in septic shock and liver failure, removal of cytokines in critically ill patients, extracorporeal photopheresis and immunoadsorption in HLA sensitised patients. Doctors Gail Rock and Ronald Strauss (EE.UU) talked about TTP and HUS. Dr. Volker Witt (Sweden) presented the Rituximab protocol and his experience in paediatric apheresis.

Closing the week's program, Uruguayan, Mexican and Argentinean experts developed the cell therapy symposium, which ended with a round table discussion on bone marrow transplantation, progenitor cell collection in adults and paediatrics, platelet transfusion support and an update on transfused granulocytes.

All of the presentations were of great scientific and educational value. To carry out such an ambitious program required great effort and economic support from the organizing society (GHLEMA). The local executive committee granted scholarships to more than fifty attendants (technicians, students and doctors).

We believe that it will be a long time before an event of this magnitude again occurs in our country; that is why we are so proud of being part of this great congress.

We thank all of the Argentinean companies and institutions who supported us, such as Rivero Laboratories (Dr. Pedro Rivero), Sistema y Equipos (System and Equipment) (Mascimo-Rosario), Menarini Laboratories, Hemoderivados Córdoba Laboratories, Presvac SRL, Abbott Laboratories, INCUCAI, Jehovah's Witnesses, and DIAMED, BA MEETINGS.

Apart from that, we want to specially thank the foreign companies, such as: Fresenius Kabi, Fresenius Medical

Care, and Asahi Kuraray (Japan). Thanks for having trust in the WAA-ISFA Argentina 2009 Congress.

My sincerest greetings and thanks to all the panelists and attendees who made it possible to hold this important international event in Argentina.

From Dr. Mario Alberto Figueroa, to all colleagues and members of WAA:

The realization of the WAA Congress as well as the ISFA Congress has caused Latin America to have more interest in the specialty of Apheresis in Argentina. Colleagues felt motivated and thrilled at the same time. This resulted in the agreement - considered for a couple of years by Dr. Mario Figueroa and some of the Committee Members - and resulted in the creation of the Sociedad Argentina de Aferesis y Terapias Celulares: SAAyTeC (Argentinean Society of Apheresis and Cell Therapies), which was recently established in Buenos Aires. Its members are:

President
Mario Alberto Figueroa

Vice Presidente
Daniel Berardi

President 12° Congress WAA
Dr. Mario A. Figueroa

General Secretary
Dr. Félix Nuñez

Treasurer
Jose Ferro

Organizing Committee:
President: WAA-ISFA 2009
President: Argentinean Society of Apheresis and Cell Therapies (SAAyTeC)
President: Latin American Association of Apheresis and Cell Therapies (ALAyTeC)
Vice President: International Society for Apheresis (ISFA)
Secretary: World Apheresis Association (WAA)

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Titular I: Susana Porrino
Titular II: Zulma L. Becerra
Suplente: Claudia Nonaka

Industrial Committee
Pedro Rivero
Jose Luis Mascimo

alaytec@gmail.com
saaytec@gmail.com

International Society for Apheresis (ISFA)

The International Society for Apheresis (ISFA) was officially formed in 1996 as a not-for-profit organization with the purpose of serving as an international organization for all professionals involved and interested in apheresis. A main objective of ISFA is to disseminate, on an international basis, information on the most up-to-date apheresis technologies and their clinical applications. Its membership consists of individuals and corporations. Presently there are approximately 466 individual members from 39 countries.

Congresses held to date:

1st Congress	1997	Kyoto, Japan	(Akira Yamamoto)
2nd Congress	1999	Saarbrücken, Germany	(Rolf Bambauer)
3 rd Congress	2001	Taipei, Taiwan	(Hou-Chang Chiu)
4th Congress	2003	Nashville, USA	(Ghodrat A.Siami)
5th Congress	2005	Rostock, Germany	(PeterSchuffwerner)
6th Congress	2007	Yokohama, Japan	(Tadao Akizawa)
7th Congress	2009	Buenos Aires, Argentina	(Andre Kaplan)



Next ISFA annual Congress:
Vienna, Austria
September 14-17, 2010.

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E-mail: isfa@belle.shiga-med.ac.jp

Last year we had our Joint 7th ISFA Congress meeting combined with the 12th WAA Congress meeting, March 17-20, 2009, in Buenos Aires, Argentina. It was a very successful Joint Congress. Professor Andre A. Kaplan was our Congress President and Professor Ghodrat Siami was ISFA president. Our organizing ISFA Committee consisted of Professor Peter Ivanovich, MD, FRCP; Paul Malchesky, E. Eng; Wolfgang Rambow, MD; Flora Sandra Siami, MPH, and Professor Ghodrat Siami, MD, PhD, FACP, FASN. Dr. Wolfgang Ramlow was elected as the new president of ISFA and Professor Kurt Defler as Congress President ISFA for 2011.

This year, 2010, we started our 13th year of publishing Therapeutic Apheresis and Dialysis. Tadao Akizawa, MD, is Editor-inChief, Dr. Paul Malchesky, Managing Editor and Angela T. Hadsell, Executive Editor of the journal. The editorial board members represent 11 countries. The journal is published every 2 months. Dr. Ramlow, President, is very active in promoting ISFA around the world. Our ISFA headquarters in Japan is run by Professor Tohru, MD, PhD, secretary treasurer and Yoshihiro Endo, MD.

Our 8th ISFA Congress will be in Vienna, Austria, September 14-17, 2010. Professor Kurt Defler President of the Congress and his two vice presidents Professor Wilfred Druml and Professor Sabine Schmaldients are working very hard along with Dr. Ramlow, president of ISFA, for a successful Congress. I promise you the Congress will be the best educational and social activity, organized by Professor Sabine Schmaldients and Professor Alice Schmidt. The organizing Secretary is Kuoni, E-mail ISFA@at.kuoni.com. Exhibition & Sponsoring is MAW, e-mail: maw@media.coat. For ISFA Vienna 2011 visit www.niere-hochdruck.at for more information on the program, abstract submission and registration.

ISFA Board

The 6th term (2009-2011)

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Japanese Society for Apheresis (JSFA)

Greetings from the Japanese Society for Apheresis (JSFA)

Dear Colleague

My name is Dr. Hiroshi Tsuda, and I was elected as the current JASFA president in 2008 after former president Dr. Noritoshi Shibuya. As the president of the JASFA, I would like to introduce our society. JASFA was founded in 1981. We have more than 1700 society members, and we publish the Japanese Journal of Apheresis (written in Japanese) and Therapeutic Apheresis and Dialysis (written in English). We have an annual scientific conference. In 2009, the meeting was held in Sapporo, and the congress president was Dr. Motoki Yonekawa. More than 850 members attended and 254 papers were selected for discussion.

This year, we will celebrate with a 30th anniversary conference. I was elected as this special congress president. Our program will cover up-to-date information on

*The 30th Anniversary
conference for JSFA:
Tokyo
November 4-6, 2010*

apheresis. We also plan to invite guest speakers from Asian countries to share their knowledge and experience. This special conference will be held at the Disney Ambassador Hotel in Tokyo, from November 4th to 6th, 2010.

I look forward to sending more news and topics of interest to share with WAA members through this newsletter in the future.

Yours sincerely,

Hiroshi Tsuda, M.D., Ph.D
President,
The Japanese Society for Apheresis
The 31th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Society

The Italian Society of Hemapheresis and Cell Manipulation (SIdEM)

The Italian Society of Hemapheresis and Cell Manipulation (SIdEM) renewed its Board and Scientific Committee in November 2009. The new Board is: Prof. Luca Pierelli, MD from Rome (President), Fernando Ravagnani, MD from Milano (Vice-President), Paolo Perseghin, MD from Monza (Secretary), Alessandro Mazzoni, MD from Pisa (Treasurer) and Patrizia Accorsi, MD from Pescara, Luciano Cazzato, MD from Bari, Gianluca Lodi, MD from Ferrara and Maurizio Soli, MD from Vicenza as Councillors, and finally Laura Salvaneschi, MD from Pavia (SIdEM past-President). The renewed Scientific Committee now includes Prof. Alberto Bosi, MD from Florence, Antonio Iacone, MD from Pescara, Giustina De Silvestro, MD from Padova, Prof. Paolo Rebulli, MD from Milan, Fabrizio Scatena, MD from Pisa and Prof. Alberto Zanella, MD from Milan. The initial efforts of the Board will be directed at maintaining strong and careful attention to the main fields of interest of this wide area of medical and biological sciences characterized by a multidisciplinary involvement in transfusion medicine, and in several other disciplines, including hematology, immunology, neurology, nephrology, hepatology, cardiology including support in organ transplantation, rheumatology, metabolic disease and clinical oncology. The focus on the different diagnostic and therapeutic strategies applied by apheresis and related activities in the above listed issues will be maintained along a unique and consistent line with the recent past of our Society. We will be looking at future challenges for our science and particularly at apheresis care in critically ill patients and with transplantation, graft and cell engineering and apheresis multi-component collection and use.

Therefore, a hot topic for our society is to develop a specific training pathway aimed at preparing health care professionals (physicians, biologists, lab technicians and nurses) for further involvement in the field of transfusion medicine and particularly, within apheresis units.

The following scheme will briefly detail the lines of specific activities which SIdEM will carry out through the leading work of its Board and Scientific Committee in the following two years:



SIdEM Board

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Vice-President

Fernando Ravagnani

Past President

Laura Salvaneschi

Secretary

Paolo Perseghin,

Treasurer

Alessandro Mazzoni

Councillors

Patrizia Accorsi
Luciano Cazzato
Gianluca Lodi
Maurizio Soli

SIdEM past-President

Patrizia Accorsi
Luciano Cazzato
Gianluca Lodi
Maurizio Soli

MD from Vicenza as Councillors

Laura Salvaneschi

- a) improvement of technical and scientific knowledge of applied apheresis procedures in our national transfusion centers;
- b) multi-institutional research and programs for the identification of shared efficacy indicators and parameters for efficiency enhancement in stem cell procurement, manipulation and transplantation;
- c) role assessment of transfusion medicine and hematology in the development of new strategies for cell therapy and tissue engineering, including identification of standards and authorization requirements for blood component usage in local hemostasis and tissue repair;
- d) planning and subsequent activation of 1st and 2nd level post-specialization “Master” courses in Transfusion Medicine and Cell Processing in cooperation with the Italian Society of Transfusion Medicine and Immunohematology (SIMTI) and the National Blood Authority (CNS);
- e) permanent monitoring of activity in blood component collection by apheresis at a regional and national level (institution of the apheresis blood component collection national registry) to define an optimal ratio of apheresis component procurement to conventional whole blood collection;
- f) set up and development of a permanent therapeutic apheresis national registry in cooperation with the Italian Society of Nephrology (SIN).

All of the above will be conducted by SIdEM in cooperation with the ESFA, WAA and other national and international societies and organizations which share the same scientific and medical interests in the field of plasma treatment, hematology, oncology, transplantation and cell therapies and engineering. Finally, the next SIdEM Adjournment Course will be held in Rome, September 23-25 2010 with Prof. Giancarlo Isacchi as the meeting President. The next SIdEM National Congress will be in Turin in September 2011.

*Next SIdEM National
Congress:
Turin, September 2011*



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Joint WAA and ESFH Congress 2010 Program

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

it is with immense pleasure that we invite you to attend the Joint Congress of the Interdisciplinary European Society for Haemapheresis and Haemotherapy (ESFH) and the World Apheresis Association (WAA) together with the Blood Transfusion Service of the Swiss Red Cross (BTS/SRC) and the Swiss Association of Transfusion Medicine (SATM), to be held in Interlaken from September 2 through 4, 2010. Interlaken, in the heart of the Swiss Alps and Europe, between the Lakes of Thun and Brienz and at the foot of the world-famous triumvirate of peaks, the Eiger ("Ogre"), Mönch ("Monk") and Jungfrau ("Virgin"), may be a meaningful symbol for what this meeting is aimed at.

The focus will be on the main topics, to build bridges, and, in particular, to deal with specific aspects of Apheresis. Specific objectives of the Congress will therefore be: to discuss recent advances in basic research and their upcoming application in clinical practice, to intensify the dialogue with our colleagues from other clinical disciplines, and, last but not least, to foster young physicians and young talented scientists. To achieve these goals, the Scientific Program Committee will put all efforts together to prepare an interesting and stimulating program of Plenary Lectures and state-of-the-art Symposia that we hope you will find innovative and exciting. Moreover, we will organize Educational Sessions, Workshops and Training Meetings, and Corporate or Satellite Symposia in collaboration with sponsors. Your suggestions for the scientific program are very welcome.

The Interlaken Casino Congress Centre appears to be an ideal location for these activities. Railway lines and motorways connect Interlaken with the airports of Zurich, Geneva, Basel and Bern and with the most important cities in Switzerland and abroad. You can fly directly to Bern from London City, Munich and Bonn, to name just a few places. Thus, the frame is set for a stimulating atmosphere and a fruitful exchange of ideas and opinions. Apart from serious science, a variety of cultural and social activities are awaiting you. So, come to join us in Interlaken 2010, see your longstanding colleagues and meet new friends.

Looking forward to welcoming you to Interlaken 2010.



Bernd Stegmayr:
President WAA
Congress President WAA

Rainer Moog:
President ESFH

Behrouz Mansouri:
Congress President ESFH

President of the Swiss
Association of Transfusion
Medicine

Upcoming Events

1. Joint WAA and ESFH Congress 2010
Interlaken, Switzerland
September 2-4, 2010

17th Congress of the Interdisciplinary European Society for Haemapheresis and Haemotherapy (ESFH)

13th International Congress of the World Apheresis Organisation (WAA)

Blood Transfusion Service of the Swiss Red Cross (BTS/SRC)

Swiss Association of Transfusion Medicine (SATM)

Details are available on the Congress
 Website: www.swisstransfusion2010.org

2. WAA Board Meeting

Location: Interlaken, Congress Center, Switzerland

Date: September 2, 2010

Time: 5:30 pm – 7:30pm

For WAA executives and councillors of each WAA society only

3. ANZSBT Annual Meeting

Location: Auckland

Date: October 17-20, 2010

(The 2011 board meeting will be held in Sydney as a joint meeting with the Asia Pacific division of the International Society for Haematology)

4. ASFA Annual Meeting

Location: Scottsdale, Arizona

Date: June 1 - 4, 2011

5. CAG Annual Meeting

Date: May 2011

6. ESAO Annual Meeting

Location: Skopje Macedonia

Date: September 8-11, 2010

7. ISFA Annual Congress

Location: Vienna, Austria

Date: September 14-17, 2011

8. SidEM National Congress

Location: Turin

Date: September 2011

9. AMMTAC VIII Congress National

Location: Leon, Guanajuato

Date: September 15 – 18, 2010

10. XXXIInd International Congress of the ISBT

Location: Mexico City, Mexico

Date: July 7-12, 2012

11. JSFA 30th Anniversary conference

Location: Tokyo

Date: November 4-6, 2010



**See you in September at the WAA and ESFH Congress 2010
 Interlaken, Switzerland !**

Preliminary Program Joint Congress Interlaken 2010

Thursday Sept 2		Friday Sept 3			Saturday Sept 4	
Joint and satellite events		WAA and ESFH			WAA and ESFH	
08:30 – 10:00 Satellite Symposia	08:30 – 10:00 Operator Seminar Part I	08:30 – 10:00 Therapeutic apheresis: Adsorption technology part I	08:30 – 10:00 Stem cell procedures Part I	08:30 – 10:15 Laboratory Diagnostics	08:30 – 10:00 Operator Seminar Part III	08:30 – 10:00 BSD/SVTM
08:30 – 10:00 Japanese Soc Apheresis contribution	08:30 – 10:00 Operator Seminar Part I	08:30 – 10:00 Therapeutic apheresis: Adsorption technology part I	08:30 – 10:00 Stem cell procedures Part I	08:30 – 10:15 Laboratory Diagnostics	08:30 – 10:00 Operator Seminar Part III	08:30 – 10:00 Oral presentations national
10:30 – 12:00 Satellite Symposia	10:30 – 12:00 Operator Seminar Part II	10:30 – 12:00 Therapeutic apheresis: Adsorption technology part II	10:30 – 12:00 Stem cell procedures Part II	10:45 – 12:00 Transfusion management in emergency and operating room	10:30 – 12:00 Operator Seminar Part IV	10:30 – 12:30 Transfusion medicine research in Switzerland
10:30 – 12:30 Japanese Soc Apheresis contribution	10:30 – 12:00 Operator Seminar Part II	10:30 – 12:00 Therapeutic apheresis: Adsorption technology part II	10:30 – 12:00 Stem cell procedures Part II	10:45 – 12:00 Transfusion management in emergency and operating room	10:30 – 12:00 Operator Seminar Part IV	
12:00 – 13:45 Welcome of guests at the Industrial exhibition and buffet lunch	Coffee break and exhibition					
13:45 – 15:15 Opening Ceremony Joint session Platelet apheresis and transfusion I	Lunch, Posterwalks, Industrial exhibition + poster area					
	12:30 – 14:00					
	14:00 – 15:30 Therapeutic apheresis: TTP	14:00 – 15:30 Photopheresis as Therapeutic apheresis	14:00 – 15:35 Economy, risks, and transfusions safety			
	Coffee break and exhibition					
15:45 – 16:50 Platelet apheresis and transfusion II	16:00 – 17:30 Report from various registries	16:00 – 17:30 Mixed session oral presentations	16:05 – 17:30 Donation eligibility, donor and patient safety			
	17:30 – 19:30 Board meetings					
20:00 – 24:00 Gala Dinner- Kongressaal	Social event 10 th anniversary BSD Bern from 17:30					