



World Apheresis Association

NEWSLETTER

April 1, 2016

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Message from the WAA President

Dear Colleagues and Friends,



Paolo Perseghin, MD
President, WAA

The next WAA meeting will be held in the magnificent city of Paris in spring 2016 (April 27-29). The Meeting will be co-organized jointly by SFH and WAA and the scientific committee will include representatives from SFH, WAA and ESFH.

The ESFH will be charged with the educational program for international guests. The program, drafted by the committee has received your suggestions and proposals about possible topics.

In the field of apheresis, both from a technical and a clinical point of view, there are so many exciting topics to be discussed or revised due to the emerging scientific evidence. In 2014, for instance, the Ebola outbreak in some central African countries resulted in many thousands of infected people with roughly a 50 % mortality rate and, to date, in more than 7,000 deaths. In many instances, local health systems proved to be inadequate to face the challenge, and only the support given locally by international non-profit organizations such as *Medecins sans Frontieres*, Emergency and others proved effective in reducing the death toll.

Furthermore, in many instances several infected individuals survived Ebola thanks to appropriate, even if somehow empiric, supportive treatment. This included antibiotics, hydration and hemocomponent support, the latter including plasma collected from convalescent patients either by processing whole blood units or, when the collection had been performed in more industrialized countries, by using donor apheresis devices (http://www.euro.who.int/_data/assets/pdf_file/0011/268787/Use-of-Convalescent-Whole-Blood-or-Plasma-Collected-from-Patients-Recovered-from-Ebola-Virus-Disease-for-Transfusion,-as-an-Empirical-Treatment-during-Outbreaks-Eng.pdf).

What role could be better played in this field by an international scientific society? As reported by Olivier

Garraud, current WAA secretary, on behalf of the whole WAA board (*World Apheresis Association letter to the WHO: the World Apheresis Association urges the development of preparedness plans to make specific plasma available when urgently needed*, *Transfus Apher Sci.* 2014 Dec;51(3):2-3. doi: 10.1016/j.transci.2014.11.007) our intervention should be aimed to increase local professionals' skills and preparedness to fight epidemic outbreaks, at least by ensuring adequate and effective medical treatment, including transfusion support.

Needless to say, all the above is costly, and will require both financial support by national and international authorities and local health personnel training. The latter should be one of our tasks, and I consider it worthwhile to foster this aim possibly with the support of companies operating in the field. It could seem to be ambitious but I think that it should be considered of general interest both from a scientific point of view and even from an economic point of view. In fact, if we should try to estimate all the Ebola epidemic-related costs (medical interventions from abroad, sanitary controls performed all over the world at customs, etc), it would be for sure less costly to set up and improve appropriate and efficient task forces.

Moreover, more and more clinical data are being collected on therapeutic apheresis safety procedures and on patients' clinical outcome through the efforts made by different national registries. Thus, we should put our data together within the WAA registry to rapidly get more scientifically sound evidence, mostly for those emerging indications for apheresis, such as for patients with antineuronal antibodies or for those who undergo immunoadsorption or immunomodulating procedures, for instance.

Finally, I would like to thank, in advance, Dr Farhad Heshmati, President of the SFH, and Prof. Loïc Guillevin, past-President and founder of the WAA, for their commitment and advice in organizing the 2016 SFH and WAA meeting. On behalf of the whole WAA board, I wish you all the best for 2016 and I hope to meet you in Paris!

Sincerely yours,
Paolo Perseghin, MD
President WAA

WAA Operations Office
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Contents



THE WAA NEWSLETTER

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submissions to the contact above.

WAA WEBSITE

www.worldapheresis.org

Message from the World Apheresis Association President	Cover
Message from the Incoming WAA President	Page 3
Welcome from the 2016 International Congress Presidents	Page 4
Société Française d' Hémaphérèse	Page 6
European Society for Haemapheresis	Page 7
Brazilian Society of Hematology, Hemotherapy and Cell Therapy	Page 8
International Society for Apheresis	Page 9
American Society for Apheresis	Page 10
European Society for Artificial Organs	Page 11
Italian Society of Hemapheresis and Cell Manipulation	Page 12
Turkish Society of Apheresis	Page 13
The Canadian Apheresis Group	Page 14
The Korean Society for Apheresis	Page 15
Indian Society for Apheresis	Page 16
Allied Health	Page 17
Cohn—de Laval Award	Page 18
WAA Turns 30!	Page 20

WAA goals and purposes

1. To provide an organization through which all professional societies dedicated to research and/or clinical practice in apheresis can communicate and collaborate;
2. To foster global collaboration in scientific investigation, research, clinical applications, education, and exchange of information relating to apheresis and allied fields in clinical and laboratory medicine;
3. To facilitate the availability of safe and effective apheresis techniques for the collection of donor cells and plasma as well as the removal or modification of blood constituents in disease;
4. To encourage and advance high standards of administrative and technical performance in the field of apheresis;
5. To manage a worldwide registry of patients treated by therapeutic apheresis.

The member-organizations of the WAA (alphabetically) are:

ASSOCIATION NAME	ACRONYM	PRESIDENT	REPRESENTING
Associação Brasileira de Hematologia, Hemoterapia e Terapia Celular	ABHH	Dima Tadeu Covas	Brazil
Asociación Mexicana de Medicina Transfusional A.C.	AMMTAC	Angel Guerra Marquez	Mexico
American Society For Apheresis	ASFA	Eileen Karr	USA
Canadian Apheresis Group	CAG	Gail Rock	Canada
Chinese Society of Infectious Diseases	CSID	Jinlin Hou	P. Rep. of China
European Society for Artificial Organs	ESAO	Thomas Groth	Europe
European Society for Haemapheresis & Haemotherapy	ESFH	Miguel Lozano	Europe
Hellenic Haemapheresis Society	HHS	John Dervenoulas	Greece
Indian Society for Apheresis	ISA	Rakesh Srivastava	India
International Society For Apheresis	ISFA	Wladimir Szpirt	International
Korean Society for Apheresis	KSFA	Kyou-Sup Han	Korea
Philippine Society of Hematology and Blood Transfusion	PSHBT	Jose Antonio S. Quitevis	Philippines
Société Française d' Hémaphérèse	SFH	Farhad Heshmati	France
Società Italiana di Emaferesi	SIdEM	Patrizia Accorsi	Italy
Turkish Society of Apheresis	TSA	Fathi Demirkan	Turkey

The WAA Board representative (Councilor) of each association, is listed on the left side of the front cover.

INCOMING PRSIDENT: MESSAGE FROM DR. WILLIAM CLARK



Dr. William F. Clark
President—Elect

Dear Members of the World Apheresis Association

As incoming president of the WAA I look forward to having the opportunity of meeting with you and gaining your involvement, insights and assistance over the next 2 years in achieving our mutual goals. As your chairperson, nephrologist and member of the CAG I will strive to avoid being nephro or CAG centric. The WAA, as an international organization, is

responsible to a variety of national organizations and needs to commit itself to serving its membership effectively.

Acknowledgements

Before addressing future plans I wish to recognize and thank the previous WAA Board and in particular the President Dr. Paolo Perseghin who has done such an excellent job in helping to reorganize and re-align the WAA as well as the CAG office to ensure a functioning infrastructure to co-ordinate the WAA activities. I also wish to recognize and thank Gail Rock for her successful editorship of the WAA journal Transfusion and Apheresis Science.

Registry, Apheresis Training key to Future Agenda

In regard to my future agenda I will try to be as inclusive and transparent as possible. I will take as a personal mandate in conjunction with member societies and existing infrastructure supporting and coordinating two major areas within the WAA purview. The first area is that of supporting the WAA registry and improving its uptake throughout the member organizations and also seeking funding to provide

greater infrastructural support for this very important exercise. A great deal of work has already been done but the WAA needs to provide more active support both financial and planning. It is extremely important to have an effective registry that can act as a platform for future randomized control trials in the area of apheresis. There is no doubt that many of the diseases we deal with are rare and in order to have the appropriate numbers to test efficacy of treatment eg. Refractory TTP, we will need international collaboration. With a stronger Registry the WAA can act as an ideal platform to facilitate these types of studies.

The second major area of WAA activity should be directed toward educational functions related to both credentialing for apheresis programs, operators and technicians in relation to existing programs to offer a streamlined process in conjunction with involved partners to coordinate with our national scientific societies a robust educational and accreditation program.

Looking Forward to a Collaborative Future

We also look forward to seeking greater collaboration with our national scientific societies in securing stronger involvement by industry in financing our registry and educational programs. We also look forward to 2018 and hopefully together we will have established a more robust, better financed registry that has acted as a platform for at least one or two RTC's and have a recognized accredited educational program for the WAA in conjunction with our national scientific societies.

I look forward to meeting and working with YOU!

Bill Clark, MD FRCPC FACP FASN FCAHS

The World-Wide WAA REGISTRY

The WAA Registry is another resource available to member societies for data entry and analysis. As a volunteer registry, it assists in quality assessment and improvement, as well as the formation of Evidence Based Medicine.

In 2002, the WAA decided to start a world-wide registry of therapeutic apheresis procedures including collection of blood stem cells. The aim is to gain insight into the internationally used indications, extent of treatment and adverse events (either due to

procedures or devices) and to facilitate contacts among centers when treatment indications are rare and experience limited. Each center enters non-patient-identifiable data (coded). After the end of each year the center receives a file of entered data.

We invite you to join the registry. Registration and data retrieval is at no cost for registering centers.

Go to www.worldapheresis.org for more information.

**FRENCH SOCIETY
FOR HEMAPHERESIS**
CONGRESS PRESIDENT :
FARHAD HESHMATI



**WORLD APHERESIS
ASSOCIATION**
WAA PRESIDENT :
PAOLO PERSEGHIN

**INTERNATIONAL
JOINT CONGRESS**

April 27-29, 2016
Les Cordeliers - Faculty of Medicine, Paris



WELCOME !



Dr. Paolo Perseghin
President, WAA

FROM THE CONGRESS PRESIDENTS



Dr. Farhad Heshmati
SFH & Congress President

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

The next WAA meeting will be held in the magnificent city of Paris in the spring of 2016 (April 27-29). The meeting will be co-organized jointly by SFH and WAA.

The scientific committee includes the WAA apheresis opinion leaders and other specialists coming from France and from all over the world and covering various medical specialties such as Hematology, Nephrology, Internal Medicine, Immunology, Blood Transfusion, etc.

Moreover, ESFH will contribute to drafting the educational program for international guests.

Based on the contributions and questions of our participants, we anticipate the scientific success of the congress.

Each WAA congress is an occasion to strengthen the cooperation between different society members, and to bring new ones into the "family". On purpose, we invited several society presidents from new countries to attend our congress for the first time.

Apheresis technology progresses, it is getting customized for the patients, thus becoming more efficient and more selective. Benefiting from a sustained R&D investment from suppliers and partners, the protocols are safer, allowing us to gain more experience in underexplored clinical situations

Apheresis centers are able to better comply with the European and international rules of transfusion and cell therapy. Another benefit from the congress will be to deal with the obligations of Continuous Professional Development (CPD), with medical and paramedical education and evaluations. This is why we included several educational sessions organized and chaired by internationally recognized colleagues, allowing us to meet CPD obligations.

In the field of apheresis, both from a technical and a clinical point of view, there are many exiting topics to be discussed or revised due to emerging scientific evidence.

For instance in 2014, the Ebola outbreak in some central Africa countries resulted in many thousands of infected people with a roughly 50 % mortality rate and in more than 7,000 deaths. In many instances, local health systems proved to be inadequate to face the challenge, and only the support given locally by international non-profit organizations such as Médecins sans Frontières, Emergency and others was effective in reducing the death rate.

Furthermore, in many instances, infected individuals survived Ebola thanks to appropriate, even if somewhat empiric, supportive treatment. This last included antibiotics, hydration and hemocomponent support, the latter including plasma collected from convalescent patients either by

processing whole blood units or, when the collection was performed in more industrialized countries by using donor apheresis devices (http://www.euro.who.int/_data/assets/pdf_file/0011/268787/Use-of-Convalescent-Whole-Blood-or-Plasma-Collected-from-Patients-Recovered-from-Ebola-Virus-Disease-for-Transfusion.-as-an-Empirical-Treatment-during-Outbreaks-Eng.pdf).

More recently, the wide dissemination of the Zika virus epidemic might be potentially of some concern regarding blood procurement and TTD in southern America and in several Eastern countries.

So, what role could be played in this field by an international scientific society? As we earlier reported, (*World Apheresis Association letter to the WHO: the World Apheresis Association urges the development of preparedness plans to make specific plasma available when urgently needed*, [Transfus Apher Sci](#). 2014 Dec; 51(3):2-3. doi: 10.1016/j.transci.2014.11.007), our intervention should be aimed at increasing local professional skills and preparedness to fight epidemic outbreaks, at least by ensuring adequate and effective medical treatment including transfusion support.

It must be emphasized that all of the above is costly, and will require both financial support by national and international authorities and local health personnel training. This latter consideration should be one of our tasks, and we consider it worthwhile to foster this aim possibly with the support of companies operating in the field.

It could seem to be ambitious, but I think that it should be considered of general interest both from a scientific point and from an economic point of view. In fact, if we try to estimate all the Ebola epidemic-related costs (medical interventions from abroad, sanitary controls performed all over the world at customs, etc...), it will certainly be cheaper to set up and improve appropriate and efficient task forces.

Moreover, more and more clinical data are being collected on the safety of therapeutic apheresis procedures and on patients' clinical outcome through the efforts made by different national registries. Thus, we should put our data together within the WAA registry to rapidly get more scientifically sound evidence, especially for those emerging indications for apheresis, such as for patients with anti-neuronal antibodies or

for those who undergo immuno-adsorption or immuno-modulating procedures.

During the congress two awards will be given:

The first, the **WAA Cohn de Laval** award, has been given to **Prof. Paul Hocker**. In 1979 he was appointed Head of the Intensive Blood Bank in Wien and from 1992 Head of the Dept. for Transfusion Medicine. Prof. Hoecker has twice been President of ESFH.

He authored more than 200 scientific papers and has been an invited speaker in countless meetings. His main publications focused on cellular therapies and various aspects of apheresis and red cell treatment. In the last years Prof. Hoecker has devoted himself to educational issues.

The second, the **SFH Award**, will be presented to **Pr Loic Guillevin**: he is a founding member of the French Hemapheresis Society, its General Secretary, President and currently Honorary President. He was a founding member of the World Apheresis Association, and was its Treasurer and then President as well as a founding member of the Cohn de Laval Foundation and Treasurer. He has published more than 800 papers (Pubmed), many in the field of Apheresis.

Finally, we thank our industrial partners, societies and laboratories for their financial support.

Thanks again to the scientific and organizing committees for their contribution to the success of the congress.

Now ... enjoy the congress

...and enjoy Paris.



FRENCH SOCIETY FOR HEMAPHERESIS
CONGRESS PRESIDENT : FARHAD HESHMATI

WAA WORLD APHERESIS ASSOCIATION
WAA PRESIDENT : PAOLO PERSEGHIN

INTERNATIONAL JOINT CONGRESS

April 27-29, 2016
Les Cordeliers - Faculty of Medicine, Paris

FRENCH SOCIETY FOR HEMAPHERESIS

SFH welcomes the world to Paris - April 2016 !

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L. GUILLEVIN

Dear colleagues,

Dear friends,

The organization of the WAA/SFH joint congress is an exceptional event for us. We could organize a similar meeting in 2018, but we do not know when (and if) we (or our successors) could be able to host such an event in Paris again.

We have invited the WAA apheresis opinion leaders and other specialists coming from France and all over the world covering Hematology, Nephrology, Internal Medicine, Immunology and Blood transfusion, as members of the scientific committee and as speakers. We thank them for their precious contribution.

International Congress Program: The final program is very rich, touching all of the apheresis fields and is available on the website of the congress (<http://www.waa-sfh-congress2016.org>).

The French legislation progress concerning permanent education which is soon going to be mandatory with a 3-year program for each physician and also the problems related to Conflict of Interest that prohibits the laboratories and companies from supporting the physicians in the congress limits their participation. Despite all these restrictions, we have organized three educational sessions in English and two special ones for the French attendants. We thank our usual industrial partners for being so loyal.

Such an event is a rare occasion to meet new colleagues from many countries and share experiences with them, but also to discuss future actions, cooperation and to evaluate the past for a better future.

Another good news: selected oral presentations and abstracts will be



F. Heshmati MD, PhD
President, SFH

published in the next Transfusion Science Apheresis issue (after the congress).

A little bit about the French society for Hemapheresis: every two years we have organized a new national congress. The next one will be held in the historic city of Montpellier (Mediterranean coast) by the SFH and a local committee (Drs Pascal Latry and Tarik Kanouni).

Educational Day, 2017: In addition, between the national congresses, we organize an educational day in **Paris (Cochin hospital)** and the next one is in **November 2017**.

As requested by law in France, the professional societies together form a national professional council in charge of evaluation and proposals for permanent education.

So we are now working together with 3 other societies (Haemovigilance, Cell Engineering and Cell Therapy, and Blood Transfusion) forming the National Professional Council (CNP-SVTT) aimed at improving professional permanent education at a national level, including apheresis.

The French society board of directors renews half of the members every two years and the current BOD is listed on the right.

In conclusion, I would like to express my special thanks to Dr Françoise Driss, General Secretary and Dr Samir Saheb, Treasurer for their permanent support and help.

Enjoy Paris, enjoy the congress!

Sincerely yours,

Farhad Heshmati, MD PhD

Congress President

**President of the
French Society for Hemapheresis**

**President of the
National professional Council V3TC**



www.hemapherese.fr

EUROPEAN SOCIETY FOR HAEMAPHERESIS



M. Lozano
President, ESFH

Dear Colleagues of WAA.

During 2015, the European Society for Hemapheresis has been working on several activities which are explained as follows.

One of the actions has been to modify the current website of the Society which, although for many years has meet the needs of ESFH, has to be updated according to the current standards of hand-held devices and security. It is expected that the change will be carried out during 2016.

A course of **Train the Trainer in Apheresis for Nurses** was held in Vienna (Austria) between the 5th and 6th of February of 2015, organized by the ESFH and coordinated by the Past-President, Dr. Hans Vrieling.



ESFH Past-President
Hans Vrieling

The course dealt with the different aspects of the apheresis procedures from basic knowledge such as hematology, physiology or different types of calculations to specific characteristics of exchange procedures or pediatric apheresis. The course had 14 attendees coming from around Europe (Austria, Belgium, Great Britain, Italy, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the Netherlands) and the USA.

ESFH decided that since in 2016 will be held the XVI WAA /French Society for Hemapheresis in Paris, the Society will not organize the bi-annual meeting that was supposed to be organized in 2016 to avoid duplicities and competition for resources which are every year more and more limited.

However ESFH will participate in the organization of the Paris meeting and will award a prize to the best poster presentation. ESFH has just learnt and is proud to announce that **Prof. Dr. Paul Hoecker**, the secretary of the Society, will receive the WAA Cohn de Laval award as recognition of his long standing dedication and commitment to the field of the apheresis.

For 2018, ESFH has received a bid from Dr. Nelly Carpio of La Fe University Hospital from Valencia, Spain, to organize the ESFH international meeting there jointly with the annual meeting of the Spanish Society of Blood Transfusion and Cellular Therapy. The bid was approved by the Board of Directors of ESFH and now is awaiting the approval of the Board of Directors of the Spanish Society.

Miguel Lozano, MD, PhD
President of ESFH

Miguel Lozano, MD, PhD
President, ESFH

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**For scientific support, and information on
European aspects of Apheresis,
visit the ESFH website:
www.esfh.eu**



BRAZILIAN ASSOCIATION OF HEMATOLOGY, HEMOTHERAPY AND CELL THERAPY

WAA's welcomes new member-society: ABHH, May 2015



In May, 2015 the Brazilian Association of Hematology, Hemotherapy and Cell Therapy officially became the newest member-society of the WAA.



Dimas Tadeu Covas,
MD, PhD
President, ABHH

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Website:
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Some facts about the ABHH

- ABHH is a non-profit, Civil Association;
- It has 2,515 members;
- It represents physicians devoted to the practice of hematology, blood transfusion, cell therapy as well as other professionals in related fields.

In 2016, in partnership with International Societies, ABHH will host several scientific activities in Brazil, including:

- **Highlights of ASH in Latin America:** in partnership with the American Society of Hematology (ASH). Porto Alegre-RS, April 29th – 30th
- **2nd IBAM CLL 2016:** International Workshop Ibero American on Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia. In partnership with Latin American Group on CLL. São Paulo-SP, September 23rd – 24th
- **Highlights of ISBT:** in partnership with International Society of Blood Transfusion.

Florianopolis-SC,
November 10th – 13th

- **Annual Meeting:** Brazilian Congress of Hematology, Hemotherapy and Cell Therapy. H E M O : Florianopolis-SC, Nov. 10th – 13th

Committee Regional Meetings

- Red Cell and Iron: São Paulo-SP, June 24th
- Myelodysplastic Syndrome: São Paulo-SP, June 25th
- Transfusion Medicine: Gramado-RS, August 5th – 6th

Distance Education and E-learning programs

- Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia and Hodgkin Lymphoma
- Myeloproliferative Neoplasms Including Chronic Myeloid Leukemia
- Plasma Cell Disorders (Myeloma)

Submitted by:
Dimas Tadeu Covas, MD, PhD
President, ABHH

**REVISTA BRASILEIRA
DE HEMATOLOGIA
E HEMOTERAPIA**
BRAZILIAN JOURNAL OF HEMATOLOGY AND HEMOTHERAPY

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- Scientific journal
- Trimonthly publication
- Circulation 3.000 copies
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- Scientific output rate similar to Chinese and other emerging Countries publications
- Indexation: PubMed Central, PubMed Medline, Scielo, Scopus Database, Lilacs, Extramed
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- Thrombocytopenia: ITP, TTP, and aHUS
- Sickle Cell Disease
- Myelodysplastic Syndromes
- Myeloproliferative Neoplasms
- Acute Promyelocytic Leukemia
- Acute Lymphocytic Leukemia
- Transfusion Medicine

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR APHERESIS

International organization disseminates latest in apheresis technologies and clinical applications



W. Szpirt
President, ISFA
and 2017
ISFA Congress

*Dear Apheresis
Colleagues,*

ISFA is in the middle of an exciting period and new activities in Europe. The European Group – ISFA has been founded and the 4th Dresden International Symposium on Therapeutic Apheresis was a

great success in March 2016. I would like to congratulate **Prof. Bernd Hohenstein** and **Prof. Ulrich Julius** and colleagues on the perfect meeting organisation.

A new educational meeting is in preparation for the autumn of 2016, the efforts to activate young fellows and nurses will probably give more involvement and better member awareness.

The **11th ISFA 2017 Congress** will take place on **May 17th to 20th** in the wonderful Tivoli centre in **Copenhagen, Denmark**. We will discuss how to expand the indications for Apheresis, present the latest achievements and try to combine

the experience of the medical and bioengineering communities in order to refine our tools and techniques.

Latest results on the field of transplantation, stem cell production, eclampsia, coagulation disorders, IgE-mediated diseases, small vessel vasculitis, severe dyslipidaemias make our clinical procedures more valuable and recognisable.

ISFA is the only International society for Apheresis mainly composed of individual members. Almost 500 members from all over the world join us today. The main objective of ISFA is to disseminate, on an international basis, the latest and up-to-date Apheresis technologies and to foster their clinical application enabling as many patients as possible to benefit from Apheresis through the efforts of ISFA.

See you in Copenhagen for the 11th ISFA Congress, May 17th - 20th, 2017.

Warm regards,

W. Szpirt (Denmark)
President, ISFA
and 2017 ISFA Congress
www.isfa2017.dk

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S. Oda (Japan) • L. Li (China)

The 11th ISFA Congress

17.-20. May 2017

in Copenhagen,
Denmark



TIVOLI
HOTEL



4th Dresden International Symposium on Therapeutic Apheresis

March 17 – 19, 2016 • Dresden, Germany

AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR APHERESIS

Exciting activities and educational programs

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Robert.Weinstein@umassmem
orial.org



Eileen Karr, RN,
BSN, HP (ASCP)
President, ASFA

The American Society of Apheresis (ASFA) would like to invite you to our 2016 annual meeting to be held at the Westin Mission Hills Golf Resort and Spa in Palm Springs, California from May 4-7, 2016.

The Organizing Committee, chaired by ASFA President-Elect, Bruce Sachais, has put together a cutting edge

program of scientific symposia, education sessions, oral and poster abstract presentations and interactive case studies and discussions. We look forward to seeing you there!

The past year has been a very exciting time for ASFA with many exciting accomplishments.

- ASFA is pleased to announce the appointment of Jeffrey Winters, MD as the new Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Clinical Apheresis (JCA) as of June 1, 2015.
- ASFA hosted its 36th Annual Meeting at the Grand Hyatt in San Antonio, Texas in May 2015. The meeting was a great success with more than 550 attendees and 15 exhibiting organizations. The Annual Meeting showcased the work of renowned experts in the field of apheresis medicine as well as the extremely successful Red Blood Cell Exchange in Sickle Cell Disease Consensus Conference which took place as a pre-conference activity.
- ASFA hosted a very successful Regional Meeting on November 20, 2015 at the Bloodworks Research Institute in Seattle, Washington with over 100 attendees. The aim of this meeting was to provide improved topic specific learning and increased regional networking opportunities.
- The ASFA Special Issue Committee is in the final stages of the 2016 Journal of Clinical Apheresis (JCA) Special Review Issue, due for publication in June 2016. This issue continues the practice of systematic review and evidence-based approach in the grading and categorization of indications for therapeutic apheresis.
- The Principals of Apheresis Textbook committee has commenced work on the 6th edition, due to be published in 2017.
- We are proud to announce the launch of the

Qualification in Apheresis (QIA) exam developed in partnership with the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP). There are a total of 5 eligibility routes for taking the exam, including one for internationally trained apheresis specialists. Information regarding this exam can be found on the ASCP website: <http://www.ascp.org/Board-of-Certification/Qualification/Step-1/Qualification-in-Apheresis-QIA.html>

- ASFA continues to partner with the University of California San Diego, School of Medicine Continuing Medical Education to endorse the UC San Diego Essentials and Advances in Apheresis Therapies meeting. This meeting is held March 2-5, 2016 in San Diego, California.
- ASFA also partnered with the University Of Virginia School Of Medicine, Office of Continuing Medical Education to endorse the University of Virginia Therapeutic Apheresis Academy held from October 1 -3, 2015. The 2016 dates will be posted soon.
- Finally, ASFA has been working on furthering partnerships with external organizations, including American Society for Nephrology, American Society for Hematology, AABB, American Academy of Neurology, World Apheresis Association.

There are many more exciting and ongoing activities so please visit the ASFA website at www.apheresis.org, attend our educational programs or contact us to learn more.

We hope to see you at our 37th Annual meeting in Palm Springs, CA from May 4-7th!

Best regards,

*Eileen Galvin Karr
RNBSN HP (ASCP)*

President

American Society For Apheresis

**ASFA 37th
Annual Meeting**

**Palm Springs, CA
Grand Hyatt
May 4—7, 2016**



EUROPEAN SOCIETY OF ARTIFICIAL ORGANS

Active registry and other programs

The **European Society of Artificial Organs (ESAO)** is a society that covers research and development in the area of artificial and bioartificial organs with a focus on heart, kidney, liver and lung support and replacement.



ESAO members are represented by many different categories such as research, clinics and industry and work at the frontline of artificial organ research.

Apheresis is a part of these activities, including an **Apheresis Working Group** that is focused on a global cooperation of entry and analysis of registry data of all fields of apheresis. It covers more than 60,000 procedures collected in a prospective manner. It is open for any center, at no charge, to participate. This is part of the WAA apheresis registry system.

At each **ESAO congress** there are apheresis sessions including contributions about stem cell transplantation, immunoabsorption of transplant antibodies, bioartificial organ therapy, combined removal by apheresis with focus on many diseases of different organs.

The benefit is the feed-back of opinions and discussions between researchers from the various fields of expertise.

In addition to the Apheresis Working Group, other **working groups** are active within the ESAO: i.e.:

- **Education** (with Aleksandar Sikole as chair),
- **Heart Support** (Ulrich Steinseifer),
- **Liver Support** (Igor Sauer),
- **Tissue Engineering** (Nuno Neves),
- **Uremic Toxins** (Angel Argiles), and
- **yESAO** (Tom Verbelen and Simon Sonntag).

The next **ESAO Annual Congress** will be held in Warsaw Poland, September 14-17, 2016, with Piotr Ladyzynski as Congress President (abstract deadline March 31, 2016). More information can be found at <http://esao2016.ibib.waw.pl/>

The **ESAO Summer School** about 'Bridging Blood Pump Technologies with Organ Transplantation' will be organised by Gerard Rakhorst in Groningen, The Netherlands, July 14-15, 2016. Various surgical techniques and assessment of anatomical fitting of prototypes of artificial organs will be demonstrated in a human cadaver.

The Journal of the ESAO is the **International Journal of Artificial Organs** (12 issues per year) with website <http://www.artificial-organs.com/>. Submissions in the area of apheresis are highly welcome.

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Tel: (+43) 2732 893 – 2633;

eMail:

anita.aichinger@donau-uni.ac.at

If you are not yet a member of ESAO you are heartily welcome to register.

More information about the membership as well as future meetings can be found at our homepage www.esao.org.

Sincerely,

Thomas Groth
President of ESAO

Sunny Eloot,
Secretary

**Annual General
Congress
Warsaw, Poland
Belgium,
Sept. 14—17,
2016**

More Information:

**[http://
esao2016.ibib.waw.pl](http://esao2016.ibib.waw.pl)**

Italian Society of Hemapheresis and Cell Manipulation

Collaborative society focuses on education and training

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Patrizia Accorsi
President, SIdEM

Society of Haemapheresis and Cellular Manipulation.

Currently our membership is approximately 200 members. The majority being expert physicians in the apheresis field but steadily increasing with nurses and technicians in different fields involved in apheresis procedures.

SIdEM continues to increase its interactive activities thanks to the efforts and the collaboration established with other societies such as the **Italian Group of Bone Marrow Transplantation (GITMO)**, **Study Group for Blood Saving Strategies (ANEMO)**, **Italian Society of Nephrology (SIN)**, and the **Italian Nursing Group in Stem Cell Mobilization and Apheresis (GIIMA)**.

The National Institute of Health schedules several Round Tables during the year and has invited us to take part by presenting data collected in our Therapeutic Apheresis Registry.

These meetings are focused on defining various apheretic topics such as developing quality standards, legislation, clinical indications and reimbursements with the benefit to communicate and collaborate with other professionals.

*Dear
Colleagues
and
Friends.*

With great pleasure in 2015 I was elected to become the next President of the Italian

Every year SIdEM organizes scientific events (congress or updating courses). This year the Course will be held in Cagliari, Sardinia, home of spectacular scenery, sparkling sea with many attractions on April 15 - 17, 2016.



The program will address several topics such as productive and therapeutic apheresis, LDL apheresis, stem cell donor safety, haemopoietic stem cells, plasma treatment, plasma exchange, blood component for non-transfusion use and many more topics.

Although at the present time we are faced with some structural and growing difficulties, the SIdEM group continues to focus their energy towards the strengthening of the organization and the continuously growing knowledge related to the apheresis field.

We look forward to meeting you in the near future.

Patrizia Accorsi
President, SIdEM



TURKISH SOCIETY OF APHERESIS

Progress with education and standardization



President
Prof. Fatih Demirkan

The Turkish Society of Apheresis (TSA) was established at the end of 2000 as a non-profit organization.

Currently, TSA has more than 100 members from different disciplines of medicine, including physicians, apheresis technicians and nurses.

The main purpose of our association is to broaden the knowledge and proper application of apheresis science, supporting education and multicenter studies in Turkey and encourage multidisciplinary communication between colleagues.

Standardization, education and institutionalization are important aspects of TSA. Our society has made a great contribution with the preparation of the **Turkish Therapeutic Apheresis Centers Guide**, which was published on March 2010. As of 2015, we have 73 therapeutic apheresis centers and 12 education centers of therapeutic apheresis in our country. Between 2010 and 2013, a total of 44 physicians and 297 apheresis technicians/nurses were certificated on therapeutic apheresis. In 2015, more than 25000 therapeutic apheresis and approximately 5000 hematopoietic progenitor cell apheresis procedures were performed in Turkey.

Apheresis database planned

In order to facilitate and standardize data collection, we are planning to establish a TSA sponsored central therapeutic apheresis database in Turkey. On behalf of TSA, our members activated prospective and retrospective national thrombotic microangiopathy registries in 2015. We hope that results of the retrospective national TMA registry will be ready for submission at the end of 2016.

Hematopoietic cell transplantation (HCT)

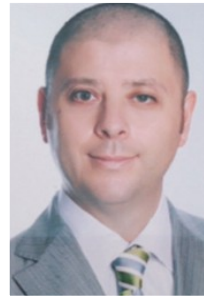
The members of our society have also made great contributions to the field of hematopoietic cell transplantation (HCT). Especially the last decade witnessed a remarkable increase in HCT activity in Turkey. In 2014, 696 pediatric and 2631 adult (total 3327) HCT were performed in our country. Corresponding transplant rates per 10 million inhabitants for autologous-HCT and allogeneic-HCT were 226 and 202, respectively.

Our members also actively participated in the establishment of the first HCT center in Uzbekistan in 2015. 2014 HCT activity report of Turkey and the story of establishment of the first HCT center in Uzbekistan will appear in the forthcoming issue of the **Transfusion and Apheresis Science** journal in 2016.

Following its foundation, TSA has organized more than 60 national apheresis courses, 10 national apheresis meetings, 15th European Hemapheresis ESFH Congress in 2005, and the 14th International Congress of the World Apheresis Association in 2012.

The 10th national meeting with nearly 900 participants was held in Istanbul (5-8 November 2015). During this meeting we organized an apheresis course for technical stuff, a transfusion course for physicians and hematopoietic cell transplantation course for nurses.

The **11th national meeting** of our society will take place in **Istanbul** at the end of **2016**. We are inviting all colleagues who are interested in apheresis science, to take part in this scientific journey in the fascinating city of Istanbul.



General Secretary
Assoc. Prof. Emre Tekgündüz



Turkish Society of Apheresis

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CANADIAN APHERESIS GROUP

Expansion of national registry: challenges and rewards

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Dr. Gail Rock
Chair, CAG

Dear Colleagues,

The Canadian Apheresis Group has had a challenging year. After celebrating our 35th anniversary as a nation-wide organization last year we have begun the process of setting up an expansion of our standard registry to include more information on the presentation and outcome of patients presenting with a TMA. As we all know, this includes a considerable number of TTP patients and the challenge always is to sort out the various categories of disease under the TMA heading as soon as possible so that optimal therapy can be delivered.

As has often been the case in our studies, there has been a challenge going through the various IRB committees in the country. I am told that this is not unique but I do find it interesting to see that a single protocol can elicit very different responses at different hospitals. However we are hopeful that within the next few months these difficulties will be resolved.

We are also challenged with the consideration of appropriate standards for apheresis training and practice. Because our population is

relatively small, and we have no physicians whose full-time position involves apheresis practice, it has been difficult to establish training programs. We have therefore considerable heterogeneity of knowledge and activity across the country, an issue which we feel strongly must be addressed in the near future. However once again there are resource limitations.

We are therefore greatly encouraged to see the development, by ASFA, of the credentialing program. Also, the International Forum section of Transfusion and Apheresis Science will publish, in a sequential manner, reports from different countries and organizations showing how they have addressed this issue. These examples will be useful for organizations like ours who are hoping to develop programs in the near future.

We note with great pride that the incoming president of the WAA is a Canadian, Dr. Bill Clark, from London, Ontario. Bill is a Nephrologist with many years of experience in the apheresis field and with some exciting ideas about the directions for the international organization. We look forward to working with the new board and the new President as they develop the programs of the WAA.

*Gail Rock PhD, MD, FRCP
Chair, Canadian Apheresis Group*



Canadian
Apheresis
Group



Groupe
Canadien
d'Aphérèse



Members of the Canadian Apheresis Group (CAG) and Canadian Association of Apheresis Nurses (CAAN), gathered in September 2015, in Gatineau, Quebec, to mark the 35th Anniversary of the CAG. Members of the CAG—one of the founding member-societies of the WAA—support the WAA with pride and look forward to working with the various member-societies to share information and improve apheresis practice around the world. The CAG collects data from over 40 centres, on all (over 15,000) plasma exchange procedures and on all stem cell procedures in the country in a national registry, which was expanded in 2015 to include data collection on the TMAs.

The Korean Society for Apheresis

Apheresis news and data update from Korea



Prof. Kyou-Sup Han, M.D.
President, KSFA

The Korean Society for Apheresis (KSFA) was established in 1999, and holds an annual symposium in February.

The Society consists of about 200 members including physicians and nurses.

The purposes of the KSFA are to foster collaborative research regarding collection, modification, removal, transfusion, transplantation, and cellular therapy of blood constituents.

The Society serves as an organization for education and exchange of information and ideas concerning apheresis among its members.

Recently, the KSFA has participated in the Asian Academy of Apheresis (AAA) which is mainly organized by Dr. Motoki Yonekawa in Sapporo Hokuyu Hospital to share information among neighbouring countries.

The President of KSFA is Professor Kyou-Sup Han, M.D. (kshanmd@snu.ac.kr) of the Seoul National University Hospital. The Executive of General Affairs is the Professor Hyun Ok Kim, M.D. (hyunok1019@yuhs.ac) of Yonsei University Hospital.

This year, our annual symposium, the 16th Symposium of The KSFA, was held on February 25, 2015 in Seoul. Agenda topics were:

- 1) **Current status of apheresis in Korea,**
- 2) **Hematopoietic stem cell registry,**
- 3) **New Technology of therapeutic plasma exchange and its application in Europe,**
- 4) **Donor apheresis regulations: Global perspectives,**
- 5) **Plasmapheresis in a wide range of diseases: Updated guidelines,**
- 6) **Donor vein assessment for hematopoietic stem cell collection,**
- 7) **Drug removal by plasmapheresis,**
- 8) **Plasmapheresis in high immunologic risk: Focused on transplantation.**

Our next annual symposium (17th Symposium

of The Korean Society for Apheresis) will be held around 22 Feb 2016 in Seoul.

According to the presentation by Professor Kyou-Sup Han M.D., at the 16th Symposium of KSFA, we performed 925,195 apheresis procedures in Korea in 2014 employing about 1,000 apheresis instruments.

The majority (99%) of the procedures were done at the Blood Centers to collect plasma (719,835) and single-donor platelets (53,673). 141,653 Double-component collection (Plasma + Platelets) was also performed.

For donor plasmapheresis, PCS-2 (Haemonetics) and Auto-C (Fresenius Kabi) were equally used. For donor plateletpheresis, Amicus (Fresenius Kabi), MCS (Haemonetics), and Trima (Terumo) are being used.

In hospitals, 5,497 plasmapheresis, 3,042 hematopoietic stem cell collections, and 856 granulocyte collections were performed.

Cobe Spectra (Terumo) was the most popularly used instruments followed by Spectra Optia, Cobe 2991, CS 3000 (Kabi), MCS, Com.Tec, Plasauto-EZ (Asahi), KM8000 (Kuraray) in hospitals.

KSFA President:
Professor
Kyou-Sup Han, MD

(kshanmd@snu.ac.kr)

**Seoul National
University Hospital**

**Executive of General
Affairs**
Professor
Hyun Ok Kim, M.D.

(hyunok1019@yuhs.ac)

**Yonsei University
Hospital**

**17th Annual
Symposium**

**The Korean Society
for Apheresis
Feb 2016
Seoul, Korea**

We publish a regular journal, **Korean Journal of Blood Transfusion**, in conjunction with the Korean Society of Blood Transfusion three times a year.



KSFA



Korean Journal of Blood Transfusion
Abbreviation: Korean J Blood Trans-
fus

Acronym: KJBT

Title in Korean: 대한수혈학회지

Publication Frequency: Triannual

Publisher :
Korean Society of Blood Transfusion
The Korean Society for Apheresis

Language: Korean

The Indian Society for Apheresis

Growing society active on many fronts

ISA EXECUTIVE

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Vice-President

A. Lalchandani

Secretary

R. Rana

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S. Kaur

For further information
on the ISA organization
please Email:

rs6434444@hotmail.com



Dr. Rakesh Srivastava
President, ISA

The Indian Society for Apheresis (ISA)

was established in 1987.

ISA is a group of physicians, scientists, nurses, technicians, corporate

bodies and other responsible citizens of the country who are interested or active in the field of apheresis. As we approach 2016, the ISA continues to progress steadily with a membership of 249.

Presently, we are actively involved in expansion of apheresis services and research and development in the field of therapeutic apheresis in India. New Research Centers for Therapeutic Apheresis & Donor Apheresis are being established in more cities this year. A library was set up for professionals and the public.

An internet center has been already established for the benefit of students, medical fraternity and patients. Development of ISA Apheresis & Medical Research Center is a constant process with ever increasing scientific developments in the field.

This center is already attracting a large number of national and international patients because of its efficiency and economy combined with quality.

Currently, controlled trials are underway for the treatment of scleroderma, Ulcerative Colitis, bronchial asthma and ankylosing spondylitis to study the efficacy of apheresis in these and other routine indications.

ISA is also on the way to conduct and monitor clinical trials for new medical devices and in the treatment of HIV,

HCV, Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever and Oncology related disorders and complications.

ISA has served as a consultant to the Indian government on issues related to policy planning and implementation of apheresis. Active socio-medical work involving the organization of public lectures, seminars, video shows and free medical camps is being done. Field workers and health educators of ISA are participating in a community health education program.

Presently, our priority programs are fund raising and resource mobilization to permit us to achieve our scientific and humanitarian goals.

ISA is currently coordinating a program that will provide training courses in apheresis with the help of I.A.A. hospitals in a northern Indian state as a new state chapter.

An apheresis scientist exchange program is already active and the Indian *Journal of Apheresis*, a twice-yearly publication, is already in circulation.

Next year's annual scientific meeting will be held in August at Ghaziabad (U.P.). This meeting will have a wide variety of presentations by eminent and invited speakers from the country and overseas.

President: Rakesh Srivastava
Vice-President: A. Lalchandani
Secretary: R. Rana
Treasurer: S. Kaur

For further information on the ISA organization please contact:

Email: rs6434444@hotmail.com

Rakesh Srivastava,
President,

Indian Society for Apheresis



MESSAGE FROM ALLIED HEALTH REPRESENTATIVE

"When you are a nurse every day you will touch a life or a life will touch yours."

(anonymous)

**Submitted by
KERRI GALLO, RN CNeph(C)
WAA Allied Health Representative**

Nursing encompasses autonomous and collaborative care of individuals of all ages, families, groups and communities, sick or well and in all settings.

Nursing includes the promotion of health, prevention of illness, and the care of ill, disabled and dying people. Advocacy, promotion of a safe environment, research, participation in shaping health policy in patient and health systems management, and educations are also key nursing roles. (ICN, 2002).

Apheresis nursing is a specialized area of nursing practice including the delivery an extracorporeal therapy that remove or exchange blood cells and or plasma.

The patients we care for range from the critically ill in an intensive care unit to those who are stable in an outpatient setting.

The nurses have many names: a Apheresis Nurse or Plasmapheresis Nurse, Plasma Nurse, or PLEX



**Kerri Gallo (Canada)
Allied Health Liaison**

Nurse or, Exchange Nurse are a few to mention.

Specialist skills are required to care for apheresis patient. One such example is the ability to balance running an apheresis machine and monitoring a patient simultaneously.

Apheresis Nurses play a key role in advocating for their patients and their families and provide emotional and physical support.

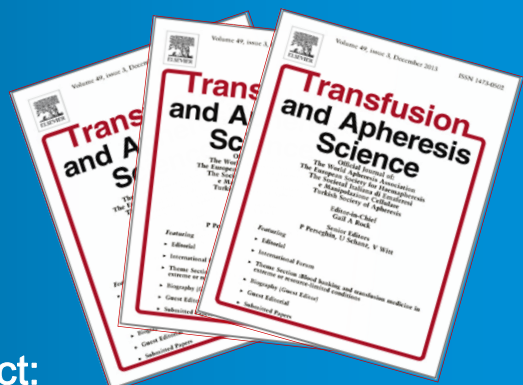
Participation in research and evaluation of evidence-based practice is a valuable aspect of the role to improve patient care and to improve patient outcomes.

Overall it is a challenging yet rewarding profession!

The "LISTENING POST"

The "Listening Post" is a regular, special section, published in each issue of Transfusion and Apheresis Science. It contains articles by and for Apheresis Nurses around the world.

Submissions welcome, please contact:
Listening Post Editor, Eduard Cojocari, at cag@cagcanada.ca



Prof. Dr. Paul Höcker: recipient, Cohn—de Laval Award, 2016



Univ. Prof. Dr.
med. Paul Höcker

Prof. Dr. Paul Höcker has made therapy, especially stem cells, and therapeutic outstanding contributions to the apheresis discipline of apheresis.

After his graduation as a specialist for internal medicine he became head of the Intensive Blood Bank at the General Hospital in Vienna, Austria, in 1979.

In this position he advanced the development of transfusion medicine in Austria, focusing on cellular

In 1986 he received his PhD as associate professor and in 1992 his full professorship when the University for Bloodgroup Serology and Transfusion Medicine was established.

In 2007, Prof. Höcker retired from the University but continued with research and practice in the field of apheresis and medical education. He is now working as a Medical Director and Consultant at Europlasma.

About the Cohn - de Laval Award

The Cohn De Laval Award is the WAA's most prestigious award, designed to recognize individuals who have made major scientific contributions to the discipline of apheresis or who have given outstanding service to the WAA or to the discipline.

The candidates may be practicing or retired. Usually one award is given every two years. The award, a bronze-cast engraved medal, is presented at the WAA Congress by the WAA President.

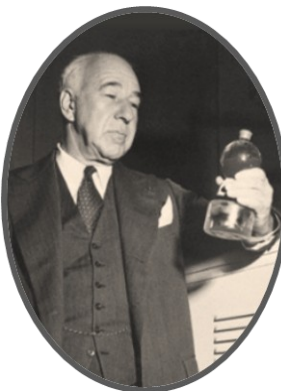
Those awarded are invited to present a special lecture at the Congress.

The Cohn—de Laval Award is named for two extraordinary pioneers of science whose ingenuity, discoveries and inventions were foundational to the evolution of the modern-day practice of apheresis science and medicine. The award is presented at each

International Congress of the World Apheresis Association in recognition of outstanding service and significant scientific contributions to the discipline of apheresis.

The Cohn—de Laval Award was first presented at the III International WAA Congress held in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, in April, 1990 to Prof. William Kolff and Dr. Isaac Djerassi, of the USA.

Previous award recipients include: Dr. Jeane **Hester** (USA), 2014; Dr. Bernd **Stegmayr** (Sweden), 2012; Dr. Akira **Yamamoto** (Japan), 2004; Dr. Gail **Rock** (Canada), 2002; Dr. Alvaro **Pineda** (USA), 2000; Dr. Harvey G. **Klein** (USA), 1996; Dr. Emil **Freireich** (USA), 1994; Dr. Zennya **Yamazaki** & Dr. Kohki **Ide** (Japan); 1992; Prof. William **Kolff** & Dr. Isaac **Djerassi** (USA); 1990.



Dr. Edwin Joseph Cohn, (1892—1953) an American biochemist, became famous for his work at Harvard Medical School on blood fractionation during World War II. He worked out the techniques for isolating the serum albumin fraction of blood plasma, which is essential for maintaining

the osmotic pressure in the blood vessels, preventing their collapse. Transfusions with purified albumin on the battlefield rescued thousands of soldiers from shock. After the war, Dr. Cohn worked to develop systems by which every component of donated blood would be used, so that nothing would be wasted.

Dr. Karl Gustaf Patrik de Laval, (1845—1913) a Swedish engineer, invented the earliest continuous flow centrifugation device in 1877. Although his initial device was a hand-cranked cream separator, he developed several types. Their success established the centrifugal separator as

a useful device in a variety of applications, including the separation of impurities in the petroleum industry, the separation of uranium isotopes in nuclear fuels, and in the design of early apheresis machines. He was elected to the Swedish Parliament in 1888 and later became a member of the senate.



The WAA Official Journal

One of the ways that the World Apheresis Association meets its goals (listed, Pg 1), is through the exchange of scientific information through our official journal, **Transfusion Science and Apheresis**, which is also the official journal of The European Society for Haemapheresis (ESFH), the Società Italiana Di Emaferesi e Manipolazione Cellulare (SIDEM) and the Turkish Society of Apheresis (TSA).



The WAA Newsletter

- Highlights important developments in apheresis
- Contains news from member Societies,
- Announces new member societies
- Details upcoming meetings and events
- Promotes the exchange of information
- Offers a networking opportunity for apheresis physicians and practitioners world-wide.



Thanks to Terumo for their generous support of this newsletter and the WAA Exhibit booth at the Paris congress.

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WAA CONGRESS HISTORY

- I—May, 1986, Tokyo, JAPAN
- II—May, 1988, Ottawa, CANADA
- III—April, 1990, Amsterdam, THE NETHERLANDS
- IV—June, 1992, Sapporo, JAPAN
- V—March, 1994, Texas, USA
- VI—November, 1996, Florence, ITALY
- VII—October, 1998, Sao Paolo, BRAZIL
- VIII—July, 2000, Perth, AUSTRALIA
- IX—September, 2002, Paris, FRANCE
- X—May, 2004, Miami, USA
- XI—March, 2007, Yokohama, JAPAN
- XII—March, 2009, Buenos Aires, ARGENTINA
- XIII—Sept., 2010, Interlaken, SWITZERLAND
- XIV—September, 2012, Istanbul, TURKEY
- XV—April, 2014, San Francisco, USA
- XVI—April, 2016, Paris, FRANCE

World Apheresis Association 1986 - 2016

1986 - 2016



Happy Anniversary !

