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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear colleagues,

At the time of writing (first week of August 2024), I am working intensively together with dr Teguh Triyono and his staff of the local organizing committee to prepare the 18th Congress of the World Apheresis Association in Yogyakarta Indonesia. The conference is a joint meeting with the Faculty of Medicine of Universitas Gadjah Mada / Dr Sardjito Hospital Yogyakarta Indonesia, the Indonesian Association of Clinical Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, the Indonesian Association of Transfusion Medicine, the Indonesian Association of Hematology and Blood Transfusion, Unit Donor Darah Pusat Palang Merah Indonesia (UDD Pusat PMI, the blood transfusion service of the Indonesian Red Cross), Indonesia Yayasan Laskar Apheresis

Berbagi, the Indonesian Association of Neurology (TBC), the Indonesian Association of Transplantation (TBC), in collaboration with the working parties, Clinical Transfusion and Global Blood Safety of the International Society of Blood Transfusion.

I am so enthusiast being back in the South East Pacific Region with WAA, this time in the wonderful Yogyakarta in Indonesia. In Yogyakarta are dozens of schools and universities, including Gadjah Mada University which is the country's largest institute of higher education and one of its most prestigious universities. Yogyakarta with its classical Javanese arts and culture. Kotagede is a neighborhood famous for being the center of silverwork in Yogyakarta.

Together with the scientific committee we were able to compose a scientific program and two workshops fitting to the situation in and requests from Indonesia and surrounding countries. This would have not been possible without the help of our sponsors. Dr. Teguh and I are very thankful to all of them.

Apheresis in children..... We all know that children are not small adults. Therefore, to help our colleagues with building an apheresis program for pediatric patients, we organized a specific workshop with experts in apheresis from all over the world. I am extremely thankful to Terumo BCT which was willing to sponsor this event. A second important issue in transfusion medicine is avoidance of antibody development, especially in a female of child bearing age and multi-transfused patients. Essange Reagents was willing to organize the second workshop covering this subject.

Many of you will read this message in Yogyakarta at the WAA meeting. Selamat Datang in the historical Royal Ambarrukmo Hotel in Yogyakarta and enjoy the scientific part of the meeting and the culture of the island of Java. Also enjoy the gala dinner experiencing Indonesia food and culture.

WAA OPERATIONS OFFICE

311-150 Montreal, Road  
Ottawa, Ontario K1L 8H2 CANADA

Phone: (613) 748-9613

Fax: (613) 748-6392

[waa@worldapheresis.org](mailto:waa@worldapheresis.org)

<http://worldapheresis.org>

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18<sup>th</sup> International Congress of the World Apheresis Association  
Yogyakarta, Indonesia. September 11<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>, 2024

# WAA August 2024

The WAA Newsletter is Produced by  
The WAA Operations Office:

311-150 Montreal, Road  
Ottawa, Ontario K1L 8H2 CANADA

Phone: 613-748-9613

Fax: 613-748-6392

[waa@worldapheresis.org](mailto:waa@worldapheresis.org)

Please direct comments, questions or  
submissions to the contact above.

WEBSITE: [www.worldapheresis.org](http://www.worldapheresis.org)

## OUR SPONSOR

We are delighted to bring you information from the member societies of the WAA. This newsletter has been sponsored by TERUMO, a major corporation providing the sophisticated devices that make our apheresis procedures possible. To them, many thanks for their continued support. To all of you, please stay safe and we wish you the very best!



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## Nineteen member-organizations of the WAA in 2024

ASSOCIATION NAME	ACRONYM	PRESIDENT	COUNTRY
1. Associação Brasileira de Hematologia, Hemoterapia e Terapia Celular	ABHH	Dima Dante Langhi Jr.	Brazil
2. Asociación Mexicana de Medicina Transfusional A.C.	AMMTAC	Lucía Zamudio Godínez RN	Mexico
3. American Society For Apheresis	ASFA	Laura Collins, RN	USA
4. Canadian Apheresis Group	CAG	Gail Rock	Canada
5. Chinese Society of Infectious Diseases	CSID	Guiqiang Wang	China
6. European Society for Artificial Organs	ESAO	Piotr Ladyzynski	Europe
7. European Society for Haemapheresis & Haemotherapy	ESFH	Miguel Lozano	Europe
8. Hellenic Haemapheresis Society	HHS	Eirini Grapsa	Greece
9. Hematological Rare Diseases Society	HRDS	Mehmet Ali Erkurt	Turkey
10. Indian Society for Apheresis	ISA	Rakesh Srivastava	India
11. International Society For Apheresis	ISFA	Andre Kaplan	International
12. Israeli Transfusion Medicine Working Group	ITMWG	Vered Yahalom	Israel
13. Korean Society for Apheresis	KSFA	Chae Seung Lim	Korea
14. Philippine Society of Hematology and Blood Transfusion	PSHBT	Marilou A. Abiera	Philippines
15. Société Française d' Hémaphérese	SFH	Farhad Heshmati	France
16. Società Italiana di Emaferesi	SidEM	Angelo Ostuni	Italy
17. Turkish Society of Apheresis	TSA	Fatih Demirkan	Turkey
18. The Association of Hematologists and Transfusiology of Uzbekistan	UHTO	Saidov Alonur Bakhtinurovich	Uzbekistan
19. YLAB	YLAB	Mila Rahmania	Indonesia

## ***CONT'D Message from the President***

Others can't joint for whatever reason. The speakers are requested to participate by giving their presentations in short papers to be published in a special section of Transfusion and Apheresis Science, the official journal of the WAA.

With this message, I also have to say goodbye to you as president of the World Apheresis Association. I pass the baton to professor Yossi Schwartz. I hope that apheresis became more known, especially in parts in the world with a lower or middle income and that bringing knowledge to all increases the safety for our patients, children and adults. I am sure that Yossi will well lead the WAA. Success, Yossi!

Having said this, I end with Teman-teman terkasih. Saya berharap Anda semua mendapatkan konferensi yang sengat baik dan akan dikenang untuk waktu yang lama karena topik-topik ilmiahnya yang luar biasa dipadukan dengan budaya besar Indonesia

(dear friends, I wish you all a very good conference that will be remembered for a long time for its excellent scientific topics combined with the great Indonesian culture).

August 9th, 2024 Hans  
Vrieling MD, PhD WAA  
President



## **ABOUT THE WORLD APHERESIS ASSOCIATION**

### **THE WAA GOALS AND PURPOSES ARE**

- to provide an organization through which all
- professional societies dedicated to research and/or clinical practice in apheresis can communicate and collaborate;
- 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;
- 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;
- to encourage and advance high standards of administrative and technical performance in the field of apheresis;
- to manage a worldwide registry of patients treated by therapeutic apheresis.

## WAA INCOMING PRESIDENT

Dr. Schwartz received his M.D. from the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology in 1985 and his Master's in Public Health from Columbia University in 2013. He has made several key contributions to advancing the field of Transfusion Medicine and Cellular Therapy, focusing on process and evidence-based practices, including treatment access, quality assurance improvement, and cross-functional collaboration. Dr. Schwartz is also extensively involved with the American Society for Apheresis (ASFA) guidelines on the use of therapeutic apheresis and the FACT-JACIE Cellular Therapy standards. He is the recipient of several prestigious awards, including ASFA's Presidential Award and the AABB Hemphill-Jordan Leadership Award, which recognize significant contributions to the fields of Transfusion Medicine and Cellular Therapy.



## THE COHN DE LAVAL AWARD



The World Apheresis Association is pleased to announce that Dr. Robert Weinstein is the recipient of the Cohn de Laval Award this year. The **Cohn de Laval Award** is the WAA's most prestigious award, designed to recognize individuals who have made major contributions to the discipline of apheresis. Usually, one award is given every two years. The award, a bronze-cast engraved medal, is presented at the International Congress of the World Apheresis Association by the WAA President. Those awarded are invited to present a special lecture at the Congress.

Dr. Weinstein is a Phi Beta Kappa, Magna Cum Laude graduate of Brandeis University, Waltham, Massachusetts, where he majored in chemistry. After graduating from the New York University School of Medicine in New York City, he completed an internship and residency in Internal Medicine at the University of Miami Affiliated Hospitals program in Miami, Florida.

He returned to New England as a fellow in hematology at the Beth

Israel Hospital, Boston, where he stayed after completing his fellowship, and ultimately gained an appointment as Assistant Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School. In 1985 he joined the Division of Hematology/Oncology at St. Elizabeth's Medical Center of Boston, a Tufts Medical School affiliate, where he established a program in therapeutic and donor apheresis. He later directed the Hematology and Transfusion Medicine section of the Division and became Professor of Medicine at Tufts. In 2006 he became the founding Chief of the Division of Transfusion Medicine at the UMass Memorial Medical Center, and University of Massachusetts Medical School, Worcester, Massachusetts, where he served as Professor of Medicine, Pathology and Nursing and, among other duties, co-Director of the "Host Defense and Blood" course in the first-year medical school curriculum, until November 2019. He is now Professor Emeritus in the Department of Medicine.

Dr. Weinstein has served as chair of the Hemapheresis Committee of AABB and chair of the Committee on Practice of the American Society of Hematology. He is past-president of the American Society for Apheresis, and of the World Apheresis Association. He served as Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Clinical Apheresis from 2004 to 2015.

## ASFA New Board of Directors and Officers

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Dear Colleagues,

We are pleased to have successfully held our 45th Annual Meeting from April 17 – 19, 2024.

Apheresis Review Session took place in-person, which provided a basic overview of the theory and applications of apheresis medicine. The session was enjoyed by 118 attendees.

The meeting had an outstanding program with a focus on the current state and future indications of apheresis therapy. The Annual Meeting hosted over 600 registered delegates, exhibitors and other corporate representatives from 24 countries.

Breakfast with the Experts was also a success, where delegates had breakfast and took part in roundtable discussions with experts of 33 unique apheresis topics.

ASFA is also pleased to announce our 2024 Society Award Winners at the ASFA Annual Meeting. Congratulations to the Presidential Award recipient, Rasheed Balogun, MD, Lecturer Award recipient, Joseph Schwartz, MD, MPH, SHS Award recipient, Jennifer Collins, RN, BSN, QIA, and Francis S. Morrison, MD Memorial Lecture Award recipient, Christina Anderson, RN, BSN, HP. New Board of Directors and Officers were also elected at the ASFA 2024 Annual Business Meeting.

On-demand sessions are available through the virtual platform until November 15, 2024.

More information: <https://www.apheresis.org/page/2024>

Other activities to share:

- Our annual Apheresis Awareness Day will be celebrated on Tuesday, September 17th, 2024. We hope you can join us.

More information: <https://www.apheresis.org/page/AAD2024>

- The 2025 ASFA Annual Meeting is scheduled to take place April 9 – 11, 2025 in Montreal, Canada. More information: <https://www.apheresis.org/page/2024>

- Apheresis Qualification: ASFA, in partnership with the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) Board of Certification (BOC), previously launched an apheresis qualification called 'Qualification in Apheresis (QIA)'. As of February 22, 2024, we have 254 apheresis professionals with this qualification. More information: [www.apheresis.org/QIA](http://www.apheresis.org/QIA)

- ASFA will publish the Principles of Apheresis Technology – 8th Edition by the end of 2024. This textbook provides a basic overview of the theory and application of apheresis.

Sign up for Updates: <https://www.apheresis.org/page/pat8signup>

- ASFA presented the Ninth Edition of the JCA Special Issue in 2023. After more than 2 years of engaging collaborative work, and rigorous critical review, this edition discusses 91 fact sheets for therapeutic apheresis diseases and medical conditions, with 166 indications, which are separately graded and categorized within the listed fact sheets. ASFA members can access the Special Issue free of charge, using the JCA Online Access. More information: [https://www.apheresis.org/page/JCA\\_Online\\_Access](https://www.apheresis.org/page/JCA_Online_Access)



# INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR APHERESIS

ISFA's sole mission is to serve and satisfy the needs of the members of the Society and others involved in the field of apheresis technologies.

## Dear colleagues,

The value of the apheresis treatment has been recognized in many fields of medicine. For this treatment to continue developing, it is imperative that we expand our knowledge of medicine, biology, and engineering in order to refine our tools and techniques.

ISFA is the unique international society for apheresis mainly composed of individual members.

Almost 700 members from all over the world have joined us since established. The main objective of ISFA is to disseminate on an international basis the most up-to-date apheresis technologies and their clinical applications so that all may benefit from the efforts of ISFA. ISFA has the subdivision in Europe, The European Group - International Society for Apheresis e.V. (E-ISFA). We have started to discuss the collaborative activity between ASFA.

ISFA Congresses are to be held once every two years. Next congress, ISFA 2025 (ISFA 15th Congress), will be held 2025 in Bangkok, Thailand. The Congress President is Prof. Kriengsak Vareesangthip (Thailand). It will be held as a first joint congress with Thailand Society for Apheresis (TSFA). The Congresses will focus on Apheresis in Cardiology/Lipids, Immunology, Rheumatology, Neurology, Nephrology, Infectious Disease/Sepsis, Regulatory, Gastroenterology, Liver, and Dermatology. Additionally, we anticipate collaborating with other apheresis organizations to further advance the science and participants to the congress. We can work toward fulfilling the vision of medicine established by Hippocrates in the 5th century B.C.

We sincerely invite you to join our congresses.

Warm regards,  
K. Yamaji (Japan) President, ISFA

## ISFA Congresses & Congress Presidents

1st Congress	(1996.4)	Kyoto, Japan	A. Yamamoto
2nd Congress	(1999.4)	Saarbrücken, Germany	R. Bambauer
3rd Congress	(2001.1)	Taipei, Taiwan	H. C. Chiu
4th Congress	(2003.10)	Nashville, USA	G. Siami
5th Congress	(2005.5)	Rostock, Germany	P. Schuff-Werner
6th Congress	(2007.3)	Yokohama, Japan	T. Akizawa
7th Congress	(2009.3)	Buenos Aires, Argentina	A. Kaplan
8th Congress	(2011.9)	Vienna, Austria	K. Derfer
9th Congress	(2013.5)	Hangzhou, China	L. Li
10th Congress	(2015.5)	Cancun, Mexico	P. Moriarty
11th Congress	(2017.5)	Copenhagen, Denmark	W. Szpirt Y. Endo
12th Congress	(2019.10)	Kyoto, Japan	
13th Congress	(2021.3)	Dresden, Germany / <i>in Virtual</i>	A. Kaplan
14th Congress	(2023.6)	Berlin, Germany	B. Hohenstein
15th Congress	(2025.7)	Bangkok, Thailand	K. Vareesangthip

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**NEXT CONGRESS,  
ISFA 2025  
(ISFA 15<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS),  
WILL BE HELD  
2025  
IN BANGKOK, THAILAND.**

Dear colleagues,

The Korean Society for Apheresis (KSFA) based in South Korea has about 200 attending members including laboratory medical directors, physicians, laboratory technologists, nurses, researcher, and many dedicated individuals within the field of apheresis science. Operating under The Korean Society of Blood Transfusion (KSBT), the KSFA held our inaugural symposium in 1999, with the goals of promoting academic expertise and improving public health through advancements in apheresis techniques, utilization of apheresis blood products and in support of solid organ and hematopoietic stem cell transplantations.

The KSFA organizes annual symposiums featuring academic activities to foster best practices in apheresis, publication of educational materials and seeking international collaboration with relevant societies. Through these activities the KSFA aims to better serve the transfusion community and blood services by accomplishing advancements in medical science. We welcome all opportunities to expand knowledge and exchange expertise, and it is our pleasure to introduce the KSFA to the members of the WAA. We are happy to have successfully held our 24th symposium on September 7th, 2023. The following symposium will take place on September 11th, 2024, in Seoul Korea.

President, KSFA . Young-Ae, Lim - [apheresis.or.kr](http://apheresis.or.kr)



Website: [apheresis.or.kr](http://apheresis.or.kr)

Contact: [ksbt@kams.or.kr](mailto:ksbt@kams.or.kr)

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## UPCOMING EVENT

### THE 25TH SYMPOSIUM OF THE KOREAN SOCIETY FOR APHERESIS

11TH SEPT. 2024 | 12:30 – 17:30 | SEOUL NATIONAL UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL, BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH CENTER B1

## Our Official Journal “Transfusion And Apheresis Science”

Transfusion and Apheresis Science brings comprehensive and up-to-date information to physicians and health care professionals involved in the rapidly changing fields of transfusion medicine, hemostasis and apheresis. The journal presents original articles relating to scientific and clinical studies in the areas of **immunoematology, transfusion practice, bleeding and thrombotic disorders** and both **therapeutic and donor apheresis** including **hematopoietic stem cells**. Topics covered include the collection and processing of blood, compatibility testing and guidelines for the use of blood products, as well as screening for and transmission of **blood-borne diseases**. All areas of apheresis – therapeutic and collection – are also addressed. We would like to specifically encourage allied health professionals in this area to submit manuscripts that relate to improved patient and donor care, technical aspects and educational issues.





*Dear Colleagues and Friends*

*#portaunAmicoinSidEM*

SidEM (Italian Society of Hemapheresis and Cell Manipulation) is an organization of physicians and health professionals whose mission is to develop knowledge in apheresis in the interest of patients, donors, and providers through educational programs, evidence-based practice, and research.

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The main objective of SIDEM is to provide apheresis operators the opportunity to learn more about specific topics new developments and new applications in the field of therapeutic apheresis and cell therapy. In addition, SidEM is committed to spread the concepts of good clinical practice, particularly on Patient Blood Management (PBM) and appropriateness in the use of plasma-derived medicinal products.

During 2023, we experimented a different mode of educational activities offerings by organizing six interregional, single-topic and interactive residential events:

- productive apheresis and therapeutic apheresis in the treatment of red blood cell diseases (3 editions);
- extracorporeal photopheresis best practice and production-manipulation of lymphocytes for cell therapy (3 editions);
- appropriateness of use of plasma-derived medicinal products and particularly of Immunoglobulins; SidEM contributed to the publication by AIFA and CNS of the "Guideline Document on the Use of Human Immunoglobulins in Shortage Conditions."

A productive collaboration was initiated with other scientific societies (SIAARTI, ACOI, SIMM, ANMDO) for the application of PBM in Italian healthcare facilities. This collaboration led to the creation of the first PBM Working Party (June 2023) and a Survey on the same topic carried out in collaboration with ACOI.

Furthermore, the Italian Register of Therapeutic Apheresis 2022 was published by Transfusion and Apheresis Science).

For 2024, we organized events on the following topics: extracorporeal photopheresis in organ transplantation; therapeutic apheresis in neurology; plasma donation: the role of the nurse.

In 2025 we will organize the XXII national congress-XXVI course for nurses and technicians in Pisa.

The programme will be published on the SidEM website (<http://www.emaferesi.it>).





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Pauwelsstr. 20

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[steinseifer@ame.rwth-aachen.de](mailto:steinseifer@ame.rwth-aachen.de)

## ESAO Celebrates 50th Anniversary

50 years ago, in 1974, a handful of pioneers founded The European Society for artificial Organs ESAO in Geneva as a counterpart to the American Society for Artificial Internal Organs ASAIO. It will be celebrating this anniversary in style at this year's 50th annual congress in Aachen, Germany, from September 8 to 11, 2024. Among other things, it is planned that Horst Klinkmann, one of the ESAO founders, will take the audience back to the roots of the society during the gala dinner, which will take place in the venerable Coronation Hall in Aachen City Hall. Further details and an update on the congress preparations can be found on the congress website [www.esao2024.org](http://www.esao2024.org).

In the past year, four new governors have been newly elected, namely Kathrine Fraser from the University of Bath, UK, Libera Frisiello from the University of Twente, The Netherlands, Michael Neidlin from RWTH Aachen University, Germany, and Bente Thamsen from the Medical University of Vienna, Austria. In addition, the immediate Past President, Piotr Ladyzynski was elected as a Coopted Board Member. Piotr deserves special thanks for "maneuvering" the society as its President from 2019 to 2021 through the difficult pandemic period.

The immediate Past President Victoria Weber from Krems, Austria, has passed the baton to Ulrich Steinseifer from Aachen, Germany, in turn.

Victoria deserves very special thanks as well. When the Russian attack on Ukraine started in February 2022, the ESAO suddenly found itself in a delicate situation because the Annual Congress was to be held in Moscow later that year. Victoria acted quickly and prudently at this moment and, in consultation with the Executive Board, relocated the congress to Krems at very short notice.

Dimitrios Stamatialis from the University of Twente was elected as the new President-elect. Dimitrios is a long-standing and very active member of the society and the Board of Governors. He will also organize the 51st congress from June 25 to 28, 2025, in Enschede, The Netherlands.

Last but not least, Pedro Baptista was re-elected for a second term as Secretary General. Please find a full list of actual Officers and Governors below.

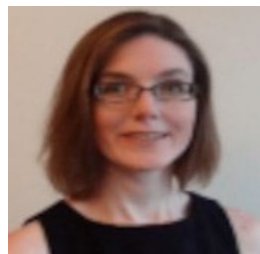
In addition to elections and new appointments, there have been many other important activities in the past year, first and foremost the 49th congress in Bergamo, greatly organized by Andrea Remuzzi and his team. Furthermore, the society organized webinars and workshops, particularly organized by the very active yESAO group as well as the working groups Apheresis and Adsorption as part of WAA, Bioartificial Organs, Heart Support, Tissue Engineering, Uremic Toxins, Education and Albunet. For further information about the activities, please refer to the ESAO website [www.esao.org](http://www.esao.org)



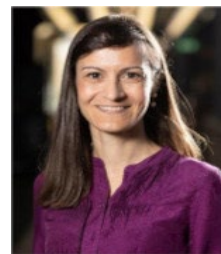
Ulrich Steinseifer



Dimitrios Stamatialis



Kathrine Fraser



Libera Frisiello



Bente Thamsen



Michael Neidlin



# CANADIAN APHERESIS GROUP GROUPE CANADIEN D'APHÉRÈSE

The Canadian Apheresis Group will hold its 44th annual meeting in Toronto on October 5-6. The 1 ½ day event will include papers on the entire spectrum of apheresis activity with a total of 15,392 procedures carried out on 3343 patients in the 41 centers reporting. A review of our data shows that the most common procedures were performed for TTP, CIDP, and renal rejection.

In Canada, health care is publicly funded by governments, with each of the 10 provinces and 2 territories funding activities in their own area. This results in uneven practice patterns between provinces based on costs and reimbursement policies, as each new activity at each hospital has to come from a hospital budget that is set in advance. Consequently, there is great variability in apheresis activity in our country.

For example, photopheresis is only carried out by 6 of our 42 centers, and columns are used at only 8 sites.

However, as we enter a new phase of operational activity with most of the original founding members now retired, we continue to develop national and regional trials. Our most recent of these is the Plexsis study which will assess the effects of PE in patients with sepsis. It is hoped that, after the basic pilot study, we will broaden recruitment to include patients from other centers internationally. The PIs of this study are Dr. Emily Rimmer & Dr. Ryan Zarychanski and they can be reached for further information at rzarychanski@cancercare.mb.ca.

Personally, I, as a participant in the 1983 meeting in Japan, which conceptualized the World Apheresis Association and the first meeting of the WAA in Japan, am looking forward to the 18th Congress to be held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, and to seeing many friends and colleagues at the meeting.

Hope to see you there!

**Gail Rock,**

Chair, Canadian Apheresis Group

<https://www.cagcanada.ca/>  
[cag@cagcanada.ca](mailto:cag@cagcanada.ca)



## UPCOMING EVENT

**44th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**Toronto | Ontario | Canada**  
**October 4th-6th 2024**

### CAG Board

Dr. Gail <b>Rock</b> Ottawa, Ontario	Dr. Ronan <b>Foley</b> Hamilton, Ontario	Dr. Ryan <b>Zarychanski</b> Winnipeg, Manitoba	Dr. Louis <b>Girard</b> Calgary, Alberta	Dr. Katerina <b>Pavenski</b> Toronto, Ontario	Dr. Christina <b>Fraga</b> Halifax, Nova Scotia	Dr. Melissa <b>Boileau</b> Montreal, Quebec	Dr. Vincent <b>Laroche</b> Quebec City, Quebec	Dr. Susan <b>Huang</b> London, Ontario	Dr. Kim <b>Ambler</b> Vancouver, British Columbia
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## From Awareness to Action: YLAB's Commitment to Supporting Cancer Patients in Indonesia



### Board Members

**Governing Board:** dr. Haridini Intan S M, Sp.A(K)

**Supervisory Board:** dr. Yanto Ciputra, Samin

**Chairman of YLAB:** M. Ramadhon

**Vice Chairman:** Siti Nurhawati

**Secretary:** Rahmi Faddilah

**Donor Resource Management Division:** Zulyan Jalal K, Idial Rustenia, Azkiya F, Ramas Ramadaniati, Bekti Wirasto

**Communication and Information Division:** Mila Rahmania, Dwi Putri N, Deny Trias Budi D, Anhar, Vianda Thalia

**Funding Division:** Olda Hayani, Azhar Gunawan

**Equipment Division:** Agung Suhartono

**Councillor of YLAB for WAA:** Mila Rahmania

With a population of 270 million, the demand for blood supply in Indonesia is at an all-time high. Yayasan Laskar Aferesis Berbagi (YLAB), a group of voluntary plateletpheresis donors, is at the forefront of addressing this critical need. We work tirelessly to raise awareness about the importance of platelet donations and ensures an adequate supply of platelets for patients across Indonesia, especially those battling childhood cancer.

### Key Projects Over the Past 5 Years

**Socialization and Recruitment of Voluntary Donors:** We engage potential donors through webinars featuring experts, public exhibitions, seminars, and corporate wellness programs. Our social media campaigns, collaborations with influencers, and media coverage amplify our message and encourage immediate action.

**Retention and Management of Regular Donors:** We foster inclusion and appreciation through thematic events, annual gatherings and personalized tokens of gratitude, reinforcing the value of regular donors within our community.

**SAGRAHA Magazine:** Distributed online and in print, this magazine features articles on blood donation, donor stories, and patient testimonials, fostering a culture of donation and support.

### Current Status and Goals

To date, we have approximately 1,700 voluntary platelet apheresis donors from various backgrounds and about 15-20% of them are regular donors who donate every two weeks. In 2023, we donated 3,387 platelet bags, contributing 15% of the approximately 22,000 bags of total national needs. We aim to inspire more individuals to see apheresis donation as a simple yet profound way to help others. We recognize that this number could be more optimal. We have undertaken various efforts to recruit new donors, despite our limitations in resources and finances. Imagine if we had more resources—would you help us?

### Future Projects

**Launching a New Website:** Our revamped website, set to launch by the end of July, will integrate donor tracking to ensure compliance with donation intervals and display real-time platelet demand. It will streamline new donor registrations and reservations, making the process more transparent and efficient.

**Collaborating with More Blood Transfusion Units Across Indonesia:** By increasing donation sites, we aim to make platelet donation more accessible, thereby increasing the number of donors and availability of platelets for patients.

**Connecting with Similar NGOs Globally:** Networking with global organizations will allow us to share best practices, overcome challenges, and initiate joint projects to raise global awareness about apheresis donations.

**Research and Innovation Initiatives:** We wish to partner with universities and research institutions to study and improve donor health and retention, and the efficacy of platelet transfusions so we can contribute to the advancement of platelet apheresis transfusion in Indonesia.

Through these future projects, YLAB aims to help to improve the platelet donation landscape in Indonesia. We invite you to join us in these efforts and make a profound impact on healthcare outcomes in Indonesia and beyond. Find us on [www.aferesis.or.id](http://www.aferesis.or.id) and follow us on Instagram @ApheresisSquad

Annual Gathering **Date:** September 21, 2024

# THE WAA NEWSLETTER

- Highlights of important developments in apheresis
- Up-to-date news from member Societies
- Announcements of new member societies
- Details of upcoming meetings and events
- Promotes the exchange of information
- Includes lists of officers and executive boards
- Offers a networking opportunity for apheresis physicians and practitioners world-wide



The Newsletter is prepared by the operations office once a year.

Newsletter contributions can be sent to the WAA at [waa@worldapheresis.org](mailto:waa@worldapheresis.org)



Indonesian Red Cross



International Society of Blood Transfusion



World Apheresis Association



## 18<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF WAA

11 - 13 September 2024

Yogyakarta, Indonesia

THIS ISSUE IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY



This newsletter has been sponsored by **TERUMO**, a major corporation providing the sophisticated devices that make our procedures possible.

To them, many thanks! To all of you, Best Wishes—may we meet again in 2026!