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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



On September 2022, during the very successful and scientifically interesting 17th international congress of the World Apheresis Association, I took over the office of President of the WAA from Dr. Fevzi Altuntas. First of all, I'd like to thank Dr. Altuntas for his work as president, all his successful efforts to promote our association, and organization of the successful meeting in Istanbul in 2022.

In my almost 40 years working in the field, I was so lucky to be able to make my hobby part of my work. Apheresis; apheresis in donors and patients. Another hobby is sharing my knowledge of apheresis, blood banking and transfusion medicine with colleagues all over the world and using my knowledge to adapt the way of working in donor and patient care, with joy in working for clinicians and nurses.

The WAA, or in full words, the World Apheresis Association. To my eyes, the world is more than the North America's and Western Europe. The world means Africa, Mid and South America, Asia, Australia and Eastern Europe, not only the high income countries, but also the low and middle income countries. It's my pleasure to see that in the last few years more and more associations from middle income countries became members of WAA. Last year, Yayasan Laskar Aferesis Berbagi (an apheresis blood donor association) based in Jakarta, Indonesia became a member of the WAA. To my eye, this is an important development since apheresis not only involves patient apheresis but also donor apheresis. Donor apheresis involves the collection of CD34 or CD3 positive cells, but also plasma and platelet apheresis of the blood donor. Don't forget that donor apheresis is overwhelming in number compared to therapeutic apheresis procedures, and plasmapheresis in donors is the most important source of plasma derived medication.

There is a worldwide shortage of immunoglobulins and albumin. Together with an increased use in high income countries and substantially higher needs in middle and also in low income countries, globally many countries, including low and middle income countries, need to start or expand the collection of plasma by apheresis techniques, as said, donor apheresis is therefore important.

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WAA OPERATIONS OFFICE

311-150 Montreal, Road
Ottawa, Ontario K1L 8H2 CANADA
Phone: (613) 748-9613
Fax: (613) 748-6392
waa@worldapheresis.org
http://worldapheresis.org

18th International Congress of the World Apheresis Association
Yogyakarta, Indonesia. September 11th-14th, 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

As we go to press at the end of 2023 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 in 2024



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## Nineteen member-organizations of the WAA in 2024

### ASSOCIATION NAME

1. Associação Brasileira de Hematologia, Hemoterapia e Terapia Celular
2. Asociación Mexicana de Medicina Transfusional A.C.
3. American Society For Apheresis
4. Canadian Apheresis Group
5. Chinese Society of Infectious Diseases
6. European Society for Artificial Organs
7. European Society for Haemapheresis & Haemotherapy
8. Hellenic Haemapheresis Society
9. Hematological Rare Diseases Society
10. Indian Society for Apheresis
11. International Society For Apheresis
12. Israeli Transfusion Medicine Working Group
13. Korean Society for Apheresis
14. Philippine Society of Hematology and Blood Transfusion
15. Société Française d' Hémaphérèse
16. Società Italiana di Emaferesi
17. Turkish Society of Apheresis
18. The Association of Hematologists and Transfusiology of Uzbekistan
19. YLAB

### ACRONYM

- ABHH
- AMMTAC
- ASFA
- CAG
- CSID
- ESAO
- ESFH
- HHS
- HRDS
- ISA
- ISFA
- ITMWG
- KSFA
- PSHBT
- SFH
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- TSA
- UHTO
- YLAB

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

It's a pleasure for me to announce that the 18<sup>th</sup> International Congress of the World Apheresis Association is going to be held on September 11-14, 2024 in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. It will be a joint meeting of the WAA with the Faculty of Medicine, Universitas Gadjah Mada / Dr Sardjito Hospital Yogyakarta, the Indonesian Association of Clinical Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, the Indonesian Association of Transfusion Medicine, the Indonesian Association of Hematology and Blood Transfusion, Yayasan Laskar Apheresis Berbagi, the Indonesian Association of Neurology (TBC) and the Indonesian Association of Transplantation (TBC). At present, the scientific program is being organized by the Scientific Committee. Exciting, because this will be the first WAA meeting in the South-East Pacific region, since the 8<sup>th</sup> congress in Australia in 2000. An important part of the scientific program will cover donor apheresis and the clinical applications of the components derived during the apheresis procedure, e.g. plasma derived medication and platelets. Besides this, an extensive educational program will be organized for both allied health professionals and with physicians interested in apheresis. We all hope that the meeting will be well attended and successful with both scientific and social value to our members and guests. I hope to present you the with concept program soon and welcome you in September 2024 to the wonderful Yogyakarta.

Hans Vrieling, MD, PhD  
President WAA



## **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.

Bernd Stegmayr and Volker Witt on behalf of the WAA-registry staff and patients.

The WAA-registry for apheresis was established in 2003 (1,2,3). Through the years more than 155 000 procedures have been entered for more than 23 000 patients.

Between the period 2018-2023, including October, 28 centers have entered data of their procedures. In 41% of the procedures women were treated. During this period a total of 69,280 apheresis procedures were registered from the following countries: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany, Lithuania, The Netherlands, Norway, South Africa, Suriname, Sweden and Turkey.

The variation of apheresis procedures has increased over the years. During recent years the data from the WAA was used to analyze and compare the outcome of patients with anti-GBM disease, PR3-ANCA and MPO-ANCA disease with controls. Those data indicate that early TPE together with induction therapy helps in recovering the renal function of the patients. The study also showed that the outcome differs between MPO-ANCA and PR3-ANCA indicating different genetic conditions for the diseases, later shown in other studies, including sex-differences (4,5). The outcome emphasizes the benefit of the addition of TPE in the early phase of the diseases while the maintenance therapy needs to be sharpened to maintain the initial benefits of the combined immune- and TPE therapy. In addition, future analyses and studies may also differentiate these diseases from each other. Therefore, interpretation of the results from studies such as PEXIVAS (6) needs a nuanced perspective. In another study of the WAA-data, ECPT therapy showed a significant improvement of the subjective quality of life score as well as of the estimate of functional capacity after approximately 7 procedures. However, the benefit was best for those with lower scores at the beginning (7). In a recent publication, we showed that the overall risk for adverse events caused by apheresis had improved over time, while the improvement seems to have leveled off during recent years. Besides keeping an eye on the incidence of adverse events over time and the recent relation to devices and diagnoses, our plans are to analyze neurological conditions and lipid apheresis data in the future.

A more detailed version of this report will be published in our WAA journal, *Transfusion and Apheresis Science*, issue 63.2.

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## WAA Membership Committee 2023 Report

Since our very successful XVIIth International Congress 14-17 September 2022 in Istanbul, there have been no further societies recruited to membership in the World Apheresis Association. The Membership Committee anticipates that the upcoming XVIII<sup>th</sup> International Congress, to be held September 2024 in Yogyakarta, Indonesia will present an excellent opportunity to solicit membership interest on the part of national societies from Southeast Asia and Oceania.

Robert Weinstein, MD

## WAA Allied Health Activities

WAA encourages the activities of our nurses and operators without whose efforts we could not function. We invite our Allied Health members to let us hear from you both in the newsletter and our journal, Transfusion and Apheresis Science in the Listening Post section which was established in order to provide a forum for the exchange of information between members of the Allied Health Community. Articles are most welcome and can be sent to

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

Gail Rock, PhD, MD



### The Laskar Apheresis Sharing Foundation

is a community of voluntary platelet donors who want to help meet the platelet needs of cancer patients

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### INFORMATION OF THE COUNCILOR IS AS FOLLOW:

#### Name :

Mila Rahmania

#### Address :

Johar Baru IV No 3 RT 008  
RW 04 Jakarta Pusat,  
DKI Jakarta, Indonesia  
Post Code 10560

#### Email :

[apheresis.id@gmail.com](mailto:apheresis.id@gmail.com);  
[koinfo.ylab@gmail.com](mailto:koinfo.ylab@gmail.com)

#### Phone :

+6281818914091

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**European Society for  
Hemapheresis**

Administrative assistant: Prof. Margarete Grimus (margarete.grimus@aon.at)

Web: <http://esfh.eu>

Dear Colleagues of WAA,

Due to the postponement of the ESFH meeting from 2020 to 2021 because of the pandemic, the next ESFH meeting was successfully held in 2022 together with the WAA Congress in Istanbul. Among others current topics such as CART cells, new treatment options for SCD, new indications in extracorporeal photopheresis like lung and heart transplantation and the possible medical aspects of blood component donation in single donor apheresis and their health significance and long-term consequences for the healthy donors were addressed.

Thus we were able to keep the biannually character of the ESFH meetings

We have also introduced educational webinars. Current topics will be presented. The aim is to reach colleagues in and outside of Europe and to update the current state of science to them.

These will be held on a regular basis.

In February 2023 the 1<sup>st</sup> webinar “an update on CART-cells” was successfully performed

215 people registered to the live event and 118 people attended. On average, people viewed 69 minutes of the event which is pretty good.

The platform is now open for registered people to access on demand.

Luca Pierelli, MD  
President of ESFH



Dear Colleagues,

The Korean Society for Apheresis (KSFA) is a society in South Korea that recognizes the value of apheresis and its specialized aspect within the field of transfusion medicine and cell therapy. Operating under The Korean Society of Blood Transfusion (KSBT), the KSFA held its inaugural symposium in February, 1999. The goals of the KSFA are to promote the exchange of academic expertise among colleagues in the field of apheresis, improve public health through advancements in apheresis techniques, utilization of apheresis blood products, support for solid organ and hematopoietic stem cell transplantations, and to facilitate the application of cell therapy.

Currently, the KSFA has about 200 attending members from all over the country, including laboratory medical directors, physicians, laboratory technologists, nurses, researchers, among many dedicated individuals. The KSFA organizes annual symposiums featuring academic activities to foster better practice in apheresis, publication of education materials, international collaborations with other societies within the scope of the field. Through these activities, the KSFA aims to better serve the transfusion community and blood services by accomplishing advancements in the science of medicine. We welcome all opportunities to expand knowledge and exchange ideas, and it is our pleasure to introduce our society to the WAA.

The last KSFA symposium, the 24th Symposium of The Korean Society for Apheresis was held on September 7th, 2023, in Seoul, Korea.

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

## Current KSFA Board (2023-2024)



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## 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 **immunohematology, 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.



## BRAZILIAN ASSOCIATION OF HEMATOLOGY, HEMOTHERAPY AND CELL THERAPY

### ABOUT ABHH:

- Non-profit Civil Association;
- Scientific, Social and Cultural Character;
- 5.100 members
- Congregates physicians devoted to the practice of hematology, blood transfusion, cell therapy and as well as other professionals in related fields.

- e-Learning programs, webinars and podcats available in: [www.abhh.org.br](http://www.abhh.org.br)

### Publications: Hematology, Transfusion and Cell Therapy

- Scientific journal
- Impact factor: 2.1
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- Acute Lymphocytic Leukemia
- Transfusion Medicine
- Aplastic Anemia
- CAR-T CELL Therapy
- Patient Blood Management





# 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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
12th Congress	(2019.10)	Kyoto, Japan	Y. Endo
13th Congress	(2021.3)	Dresden, Germany / in Virtual	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.**

**French Apheresis Society: Société Française d'Hémaphérèse (SFH)**

President: **F. HESHMATI**

Councilor: **O. HEQUET**



[hemapherese.fr](http://hemapherese.fr)

### **Past News:**

- The French Apheresis Society (SFH, our Society) congress took place in Paris from 9<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> November 2021, between the two largest Covid-19 waves. Due to the quality of the presentations, enhanced by a high participation rate, followed by many exchanges, and the presence of a large number of companies and laboratories, all involved in apheresis and transfusion, this congress was a success.
- In 2023, our Society developed its own website, which includes an online discussion board, to exchange on clinical experiences and technical issues between practitioners and nurses involved in therapeutic apheresis and apheresis for blood donation.
- In June 2023, the SFH organized a webinar about extracorporeal photochemotherapy (ECP) in solid organ transplantation. This successful webinar, directed by Dr. François Parquin, discussed the role of ECP to treat rejection or immune complications after kidney, heart and lung transplantation. Other webinars on therapeutic apheresis will be launched in 2024.

### **Projects in 2023-2024:**

- Half of the board of our Society was renewed, and a new board was elected in June 2023 as follows: F. Heshmati, S. Saheb, T. Kanouni, A. Huart, I. Segalen, F. Parquin, J.Y. Py, C. Barisien, C. Makowski, C. Regny, O. Moranne, S. Fichelson, R. Guillemain, H. Moussaoui and O. Hequet. The elections for a new SFH Committee of Directors including a new president, general secretary and treasurer will be held in October 2023.
- In October-November 2024, the SFH will organize the national French Apheresis Society congress, which will take place in Nîmes. The program will gather the main concerns as blood donor and therapeutic apheresis (hematopoietic stem cell mobilization and collection, mononuclear cell collection for CAR T cells, transfusion, extracorporeal photochemotherapy, immunoadsorption and rheopheresis). This congress will also include apheresis nurses' presentations, highlighting their involvement in the apheresis process.

O. Hequet & F. Heshmati

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President : Olivier Hequet

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General Secretary : François Parquin, and assistant : Isabelle Segalen

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**Dear Colleagues and friend**

**#portaunAmicoinSIdEM**

## CONSIGLIO DIRETTIVO

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### Segreteria Nazionale

Manuela Trincherò  
Tel. 011 7499601  
sidem@emaferesi.it

### SIdEM

Corso Vittorio Emanuele, 346  
65122 Pescara

[www.emaferesi.it](http://www.emaferesi.it)

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. 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 spreading the concepts of good clinical practice, particularly on Patient Blood Management (PBM) and appropriateness in the use of plasmaderived medicinal products.

During 2022, we experimented with a different mode of educational activities offerings by organizing six interregional, single-topic and interactive residential events:

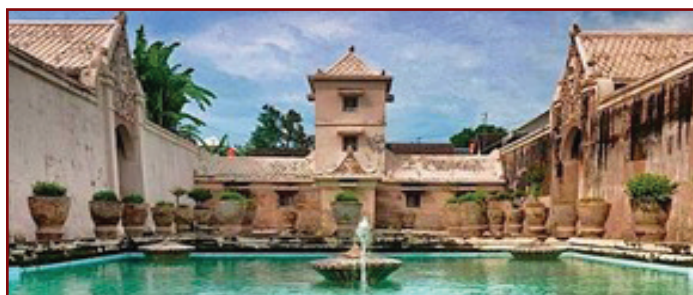
- productive apheresis and therapeutic apheresis in the treatment of red blood cell diseases (3 editions);
- extracorporeal photopheresis best practice and production-manipulation of lymphocytes for cell therapy (3 editions);
- appropriateness of the use of plasma-derived medicinal products, particularly of Immunoglobulin; 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 dissemination and 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 was carried out in collaboration with the ACOI.

Furthermore, the Italian Register of Therapeutic Apheresis, 2021 was published (TransfusApher Sci. 2023 Jun;62(3):103652. doi: 10.1016/j.transci.2023.103652). Members of the Council have actively participated in the drafting of two national documents of particular importance in the field of stem cell transplantation:

- "Criteria for donor selection of hematopoietic stem cells."
- "Definition of minimum organizational, structural and technological requirements and accreditation guidelines for facilities affiliated with the hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (HSC) program."

In October 2023, the XXI national congress, XXV course for nurses and technicians was held in Pescara, Italy, where the new board of directors was elected. The program is on the society's website (<http://www.emaferesi.it>).



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



## An overview of Apheresis in Israel 2022

Donor and therapeutic Apheresis procedures are performed in many Israeli hospitals according to accepted international guidelines and standard operating procedures. A survey was sent to all blood services, apheresis institutes and blood banks in order to determine the type and number of procedures performed in 2022. Responses were received from 16 hospitals and from Magen David Adom the National Blood Services (MDA-NBS). In addition to donor apheresis procedures MDA-NBS provides therapeutic plasmapheresis services to small and medium size hospitals in which therapeutic plasmapheresis is not available. Ten hospitals and MDA-NBS have provided data on their apheresis activities, 6 additional hospitals do not perform apheresis activities presently, of which 2 plan to implement therapeutic apheresis in the near future. Table 1 summarizes the collected data, yet it does not represent the full spectrum of apheresis procedures in Israel as data was not obtained from 2 tertiary hospitals and 1 pediatric hospital. Furthermore in 2 large hospitals which responded to the survey, therapeutic apheresis and stem cell collection are performed in other departments, therefore this data was not available.

Summary: Therapeutic apheresis is available in many hospitals in Israel and more than 2,621 procedures were performed in 2022. According to this survey 1,151 extracorporeal photopheresis were performed, and it is the second most common apheresis procedure performed by 2 centers. LDL Apheresis (352 procedures in 3 centers) and RBC exchange (107 procedures in 1 center) are less common and therapeutic leukapheresis is rarely required (10 procedures in 2 centers). Donor apheresis procedures are mainly performed by large tertiary hospitals and by the MDA-NBS.

The limitation of this data set stems from missing data both for therapeutic apheresis and especially for collections for Hematopoietic Stem Cells and CAR-T.


Center Initials	Bed Number	Therapeutic Apheresis					Donor Apheresis			HSC and Cellular Collections		
		TPE	ECP	RBCEx	LDL	Leukopheresis	Thrombopheresis	Plasmapheresis	Granulocyte	HSC	CART	DLI
SHMC	1750	560	0	0	90	3	4300 units	0	20	NA	NA	NA
RHC	1000	913	628	0	169	7	1687	NA	NA	278	24	19
SMC	904	62	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
RMC	835	621	523	107	27	0	2207 (donors)	65	15	82	0	1
HadMC	800	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	2560	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
HMC	755	202	0	0	64	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MMC	750	53	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
BaMC	600	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CMC	480	62	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
BMC	450	106	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MDA NBS	0	41	0	0	0	0	907 (donors)	2090	0	0	0	0
Number of centers		10	2	1	4	2	4	2	2	2	1	2
Mean		836	262	576	107	4						
Minimum		450	1	523	0	0		65	15	82		
Maximum		1750	913	628	0	169		2090	20	278		

Table 1: Therapeutic and Donor Apheresis Data



The 49<sup>th</sup> ESAO Congress was organized by the University of Bergamo, Mario Negri Institute, the Bergamo Hospital and the Politecnico of Milano. The scientific program included topics such as apheresis and adsorption, bioprinting and additive technology, biomaterials and tissue engineering, blood compatibility, artificial kidney and liver, heart support mechanical systems as well as organs-on-a-chip. The ESAO presented several awards during the congress, including three poster prizes, the ESAO PhD Award, the ESAO SAGE Research Award, as well as the yESAO Exchange Award.





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J. Schmitto, Hannover, Germany

## ESAO Conferences 2024 and 2025

The ESAO Conferences 2024 and 2025 will take place in Aachen, Germany, and in Enschede, The Netherlands, respectively. The exact dates will be announced at the ESAO website in due course.

# 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)**







# CANADIAN APHERESIS GROUP GROUPE CANADIEN D'APHÉRÈSE

The Canadian Apheresis Group, (CAG), held its 43rd annual meeting this year in September in Toronto. It was well attended with close to 100 physicians and nurses at the two day meeting held over the weekend of September 14. Invited speakers and our own members presented on a wide variety of topics ranging from plasma exchange procedures to CAR T cell activities.

As usual, to establish a platform for discussion, we reviewed the national data on our apheresis procedures obtained from our computerized data system which is in place in all of our participating hospitals. Each year, prior to the meeting, the information from the database is sent to six different physicians each of whom serves at the lead on a therapeutic section and whose responsibility it is to analyse, review the data and report at our annual meeting.

This past year our national data showed that our 42 participating apheresis sites carried out more than 21,000 procedures in total, of which approximately 12,000 involved plasma exchange. The greatest number of these were for myasthenia gravis (1881), TTP (1256) and CIDP (682). Additionally, 2080 photopheresis procedures were done and there were 2496 stem cell collections.

It is during these sessions in which we examine our own activities, that we have often decided on a specific project or the need for a RCT in a certain area. At the September meeting it was announced that the second patient had been entered into our latest national study which is designed to assess the effects of plasma exchange in septic shock. This study, called Plexsis, has been several years in the planning and is designed to begin as a pilot study to recruit 80 patients in 8 Canadian sites, with the intention to broaden this considerably after gathering data from the pilot.

This study will be run out of Winnipeg, Manitoba with Dr. Emily Rimmer, a hematologist and Dr. Ryan Zarychanski, an intensivist as co-principal investigators. The funding has been made available to date from the Department of Internal Medicine (U of M), Winnipeg HSC Foundation and CIHR. Both clinical response and laboratory markers including A0AMTS-13 levels will be measured during the study.

It is intended that further funding will be pursued to enable expansion of the study beyond the pilot phase. Intentions are to have international participation in a phase 3 randomized trial in order to accrue a large number of patients in a reasonably short period of time. Anyone interested in more information on this study should contact Dr. Zarychanski at rzarychanski@cancercare.mb.ca.

This year has brought several changes to our group including the expansion of our planning group or executive. Historically, the membership of this group was derived from those with an early interest in apheresis and based on a regional, parliamentary-like, selection. This is because, in our long, large country, which is broken up into provinces which determine medical funding, medical practice is not the same in all areas although it is becoming more cohesive in recent years. Still, it is felt that, by having regional representatives from all areas of the country on the executive, the board can best serve the needs of our diverse population. We are contemplating further operational changes in the future as we look to the challenges ahead and the continued growth of apheresis application

## 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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## ASFA New Board of Directors and Officers

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Jay Raval, MD

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Editor, Journal of Clinical Apheresis

Jeffrey L. Winters, MD, QIA

**WAA Councilor & ASFA Past President**

Laura Collins, RN, BSN, HP(ASCP)

### ASFA Head Office Staff

Executive Director

Sharon Leung, BBA

Association Project Manager

Ernest Ho, BA, PMP

Association Administrator

Ashely Jang, BSc

Dear Colleagues,

We are pleased to have successfully held our 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting from April 26 – 28, 2023.

This year, we brought back the Apheresis Review Session, which provided a basic overview of the theory and applications of apheresis medicine. The session was enjoyed by 80 attendees.

The meeting had an outstanding program with a special focus on Apheresis Research, Resources, and Apheresis Registries. The Annual Meeting hosted over 450 registered delegates, exhibitors and other corporate representatives from 17 countries.

Breakfast with the Experts also returned, where delegates had breakfast and took part in roundtable discussions with experts of 26 unique apheresis topics.

ASFA is also pleased to announce our 2023 Society Award Winners at the ASFA Annual Meeting. Congratulations to the Presidential Award recipient, YanYun Wu, MD, PhD, Lecturer Award recipients, Nancy Dunbar, MD and Volker Witt, MD, SHS Award recipient, Antonia Hagen-Coonradt, BSB/MG, and Francis S. Morrison, MD Memorial Lecture Award recipient, Joseph Schwartz, MD, MPH. New Board of Directors and Officers were also elected at the ASFA 2023 Annual Business Meeting.

On-demand sessions were available through the virtual platform until November 15, 2023. More information: <https://www.apheresis.org/page/2023>

Other activities to share:

- ASFA presented the Ninth Edition of the JCA Special Issue. 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).
- On June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023, ASFA held a webinar in support of World Sickle Cell Day 2023. A recording of the webinar is available to ASFA members. More information: <https://www.apheresis.org/page/webinars>.
- Our annual Apheresis Awareness Day was celebrated on Tuesday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023. More information: <https://www.apheresis.org/page/AAD2023>.
- The 2024 ASFA Annual Meeting is scheduled to take place April 17 – 19, 2024 in Las Vegas, Nevada. 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 28, 2023, we have 233 apheresis professionals with this qualification. More information: [www.apheresis.org/QIA](http://www.apheresis.org/QIA).
- ASFA published the Principles of Apheresis Technology – 7<sup>th</sup> Edition (2020). This textbook provides a basic overview of the theory and application of apheresis. More information: [www.apheresis.org/PAT](http://www.apheresis.org/PAT).

## 18<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS OF THE WORLD APHERESIS ASSOCIATION

Dear colleagues,

We are thrilled to announce the upcoming event that will undoubtedly shape the future of apheresis technology and practices. **Mark your calendars for the 18<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the World Apheresis Association, set to be held in the breathtaking city of Yogyakarta, Indonesia from September 11-14, 2024.**

As professionals dedicated to the advancement of apheresis, your presence at this prestigious gathering is vital for exchanging knowledge, sharing experiences, and fostering collaborations that will redefine the way we approach this critical field. We urge you to seize this opportunity to be a part of a global gathering of like-minded professionals. Save the date, and stay tuned for further updates regarding registration and program details. Join us in Yogyakarta in September 2024 and be part of this transformative conference that will shape the future of apheresis.

We look forward to welcoming you to Indonesia!

Local Organising Committee

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The 18<sup>th</sup> WAA international meeting will be a joint meeting with the Faculty of Medicine, Universitas Gadjah Mada / Dr Sardjito Hospital Yogyakarta, the Indonesian Association of Clinical Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, the Indonesian Association of Transfusion Medicine, the Indonesian Association of Hematology and Blood Transfusion, Yayasan Laskar Berbagi, the Indonesian Association of Neurology (TBC), the Indonesian Association of Transplantation (TBC), and the World Apheresis Association.



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**To them, many thanks! To all of you, Best Wishes—may we meet again in 2024!**