

WAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (2024-2026)

President

Joseph Schwartz (USA)

President-elect

Miquel Lozano (Spain)

Past President

Hans Vrieland (The Netherlands)

Vice Presidents

Jay Raval (The Americas)

Serdal Korkmaz (Asia)

Francesco Lanza (Europe)

General Secretary

Rainer Moog (Germany)

Treasurer

Volker Witt (Austria)

Allied Health Liaison

Christine Fernandez (USA)

Industry Liaison

Veerle D Haenens (Belgium)

WAA COUNCILLORS

Representing

A. Mendrone, Brazil	ABHH
L. Godinez, Mexico	AMMTAC
N. Aqai, USA	ASFA
G. Rock, Canada	CAG
G. Wang, PR China	CSID
J. Janowski, Europe	ESAD
L. Pierelli, Europe	ESFH
I. Griveas, Greece	HHA
R. Srivastava, India	ISA
W. Szpirt, International	ISFA
V. Yahalom, Israel	ITMWG
Y. Ae Lim, Korea	KSFA
M. Concepcion, Philippines	PSHBT
D. Hequet, France	SFH
A. Colpo, Italy	SidEM
M. Ali Erkurt, Turkey	TCTA
E. Tekgunduz, Turkey	TSA
S. Allonur, Uzbekistan	UHTA
M. Rahmania, Indonesia	YLAB
J. Cid, Spain	GEA

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>

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Colleagues and Friends:

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the World Apheresis Association (WAA); we are a global platform that unites professionals, researchers, clinicians, and advocates committed to advancing the science, practice, and impact of apheresis.

In a world where innovation in medicine is moving at an extraordinary pace, apheresis continues to play a critical role in transforming patient care across a wide spectrum of conditions. From therapeutic procedures to stem cell collections and beyond, our field stands at the forefront of life-saving technology and compassionate healthcare.

As President of WAA, I am honored to lead a community dedicated not only to scientific excellence but also to collaboration, education, and clinical practice. Whether you are a seasoned practitioner, an early-career professional, or a curious learner, your contributions matter. This organization thrives on shared knowledge, inclusive dialogue, and a common goal: improving patient outcomes worldwide.

At the time of this writing, I am working intensively together with Professor Jennifer Schneidmamm, ASFA's President-Elect, to prepare for our combined ASFA-WAA Annual Meeting (taking place in Denver, April 22-24th, 2026). This will be the 19th Congress of the World Apheresis Association, and the first in the United States since 2014.

The conference is a joint initiative in order to align, convene, and celebrate the impact we have as a global apheresis community. I am thrilled for this collaboration, driven by a joint ASFA-WAA organizing committee, and the rich and comprehensive program we are building, for domestic and international audiences. Please help us enhance this program by submitting your work to the abstract selection committee, where WAA is also represented.

I am also thrilled to welcome the Spanish Apheresis Society (GEA)-the latest addition to join our WAA community. SAS representatives attended the recent board meeting and enriched our conversations with new perspectives and insights. GEA joining WAA and our upcoming joint convening with ASFA are two examples of our ongoing efforts to strengthen our organization and widen our reach.

Together, let us continue to innovate, educate, and inspire. I invite you to engage actively with our global network-through conferences, research, training, and mentorship - as we shape the future of apheresis together. Welcome to the WAA, where science meets service, and dedication drives progress.

Enjoy the newsletter and let us know if there is anything WAA can do to help promote apheresis in your respective area.

Warm regards,
Joseph (Yossi) Schwartz, MD, MPH
WAA President

19th International Congress of the World Apheresis Association
Denver, Colorado, USA. April 22nd-24th, 2026

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

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

WEBSITE: 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!



Contents

PAGE

Message from the WAA President: Dr. Joseph Schwartz	1
Member Societies	2
The WAA Goals And Purposes	3
WAA Incoming President & The Cohn De Laval Award	4
WAA Membership Committee Updates & WAA Registry Report	5
American Society for Apheresis (ASFA)	6
International Society for Apheresis (ISFA)	7
Israeli Transfusion Medicine Working Group (ITMWG)	8
Società Italiana di Emaferesi e Manipolazione Cellulare (SIdEM)	9
European Society for Artificial Organs (ESAO)	10
Canadian Apheresis Group (CAG)	11
Spanish Apheresis Group (GEA)	12
European Society for Hamapheresis (ESFH)	13
Turkish Apheresis Association (TSA)	14
Société Francaise d' Hémaphérèse (SFH)	15
World Apheresis Association Newsletter and Website	16

Twenty member-organizations of the WAA in 2026

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 Hamapheresis
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 Francaise d' Hémaphérèse
16. Società Italiana di Emaferesi
17. Turkish Apheresis Association
18. The Association of Hematologists and Transfusiology of Uzbekistan
19. YLAB
20. Spanish Apheresis Group

ACRONYM

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

PRESIDENT

- Dima Dante Langhi Jr.
- Lucía Zamudio Godínez RN
- Peggy Reid, RN
- Gail Rock
- Guiqiang Wang
- Dimitrios Stamatialis
- Gerda Leitner
- Eirini Grapsa
- Mehmet Ali Erkurt
- Rakesh Srivastava
- R. Balogun
- Vered Yahalom
- Chae Seung Lim
- Marilou A. Abiera
- Olivier Hecquet
- Angelo Ostuni
- Erman Ozturk
- Saidov Alonur
- Mila Rahmania
- Joan Cid

COUNTRY

- Brazil
- Mexico
- USA
- Canada
- China
- Europe
- Europe
- Greece
- Turkey
- India
- International
- Israel
- Korea
- Philippines
- France
- Italy
- Turkey
- Uzbekistan
- Indonesia
- Spain



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

Miquel Lozano, MD, PhD is hematologist. Currently he is Hemotherapy Section Head at the department of Hemotherapy and Hemostasis at the Clínic University Hospital, and Associate Professor of Medicine at the University of Barcelona, in Barcelona, Spain. He is currently President-elect of the World Apheresis Association and member of the board of the European Society for Hemapheresis. He is honorary member of the Biomedical Excellence for Safer Transfusion (BEST) Collaborative since 2019.

In the past he has been, President of the European Society for Hemapheresis from 2014 to 2022, European Regional Director of the ISBT Board between 2014 and 2018 and chair of the AABB Press Editorial Board between 2008 and 2018.

Since June 2020 is the Editor-in-Chief of Vox Sanguinis, the official journal of the International Society of Blood Transfusion

He is the author or co-author of over 350 papers, monographs and book chapters dealing with topics related to Transfusion Medicine, Cellular Therapies, Apheresis, and Hemostasis. He is a frequent speaker at national and international meetings where he has delivered more than 150 presentations.



THE COHN DE LAVAL AWARD



The World Apheresis Association is pleased to announce that Dr. Hans Vrieling 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. Vrieling (1958) was educated at the University of Amsterdam in Medicine and wrote his thesis (1996) on the 'Laboratory diagnosis of viruses transmitted by blood transfusion'. From 1985 until his retirement in May 2025 Hans Vrieling worked as a transfusion and apheresis medicine specialist at Sanquin Blood Supply Foundation, the national blood transfusion service in the Netherlands. He has published many articles and chapters in internationally recognized journals and books. Hans Vrieling is the initiator of (inter)national courses in the field of apheresis for physicians and nurses and has trained since 2013 almost 1,000 apheresis nurses and physicians.

Since his retirement, Hans Vrieling serves as a consultant in Transfusion and Apheresis Medicine and blood banking. He is involved in training and advising organizations and governments in low and middle income countries in blood banking, transfusion medicine and apheresis all over the world.

Hans Vrieling is an international JACIE / FACT inspector. He is involved in many international associations, for instance as past- president of the World Apheresis Association and of the European Society for Hemapheresis, and active in various ISBT working parties.

WAA MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Latest Update – SANBS: New WAA Member Society

The South African National Blood Service (SANBS) is the official transfusion service provider for eight of South Africa's nine provinces, serving a population of approximately 56 million people. As a comprehensive vein-to-vein service, SANBS collects close to one million blood donations annually and employs more than 2,500 staff members nationwide.

Our national infrastructure includes two testing laboratories, seven blood processing centers, and 84 blood banks, collectively supplying safe blood and blood products to more than 600 hospitals across the country. Beyond the provision of blood and blood products, SANBS delivers a range of specialized services, including clinical apheresis. Our dedicated apheresis team—comprising 25 highly skilled professionals, including doctors, nurses, and logistics personnel—operates a mobile service model to ensure broader access to care. The team performs more than 2,700 procedures annually, including plasma exchange, leukapheresis, red cell exchange, and hematopoietic stem cell collections. SANBS also operates a JACIE-accredited hematopoietic stem cell transplant program, offering mobile stem cell collection services throughout South Africa, supported by a fixed centralized processing facility.

Our mobile units enable the decentralization of specialized services, significantly improving patient access across diverse geographic regions. In addition, SANBS collaborates with partner organizations in other African countries to support the establishment and expansion of clinical apheresis services across the continent.

Tanya Glatt, MD

The WAA-registry

World Apheresis Association

The WAA registry until February 2026 has continued to include >28,000 patients, and > 185,000 procedures from 48 centers, the latest represented by Olivier Moranne, Nimes, France.

The women represent 41.6% and 42.4% of all procedures. Women were registered for more adverse events (AE) than men: in total (4.7 versus 3.2%), mild AE (1.9 vs 1.5, RR 1.14, CI 1.095-1.18), moderate AE (2.6 vs 1.6%, RR 1.325, CI 1.287-1.364), and severe (0.23 vs 0.18, RR 1.154 CI 1.04-1.282). Access problems are included as well as all diagnoses and therapeutic procedures. This indicates that besides regular safety measures, somewhat more considerations may be focused on women.

In general patients with adverse events early also are more sensitive to changes during repeated procedures. By giving a good information of the procedure early in the process patients may tolerate mild side effects better (Skagerlind and Stegmayr 2025).

Besides internal reports, we were happy to contribute with data to a safety analysis of the Spectra Optia device represented by Aaron Hubner and Sebastian Mendoza from Terumo BCT.

We are now step by step performing in depth analyses of various diseases treated by apheresis. Due to the new regulations of double safety authorization systems and due to older software we are in a situation where the possibility to maintain the registry is brought up. We look for a possible transition into RedCap software. But at the moments the legal conditions are not sure to clarify if it will function internationally on a legal basis.

Recent publications of registry data are listed below (Witt and Stegmayr 2024, Haubner, Mendoza et al. 2025, Le Poole, Vrieling et al. 2025, Stegmayr, Vrieling et al. 2025).

Bernd Stegmayr, MD

On behalf of all registering centers and their staff

ASFA New Board of Directors and Officers

Officers

President

Peggy Reid, RN, QIA(ASCP)

Immediate Past President

Nicole AQUI, MD

President Elect

Jennifer Schneiderman, MD, MS

Vice President

Tomas Armendariz, BSN, RN, QIA(ASCP)

Treasurer

Jay Raval, MD

Secretary

Nicole Zantek, MD, PhD

Directors

Kira Geile, RN, CPNP

Jan Hofmann, MD, MPH, MSc

Andrew Nord, PA-C, MT(ASCP), QIA

Huy Phu Pham, MD, MPH

Chisa Yamada, MD

Laura Connelly-Smith, BPharm, MBBCh, DM

Ex-Officio

Editor, Journal of Clinical Apheresis

Jeffrey L. Winters, MD, QIA

WAA Councilor

Nicole AQUI, MD

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 46th Annual Meeting from April 9 - 11, 2025.

The 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 90 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 27 countries.

Breakfast with the Experts was also a success, where delegates had breakfast and took part in roundtable discussions with experts of 37 unique apheresis topics.

ASFA is also pleased to announce our 2025 Society Award Winners at the ASFA Annual Meeting. Congratulations to the Presidential Award recipient, Yara Park, MD, Lecturer Award recipient, Maria Di Mola, RN, BScN, MEd, SHS Award recipient, Cheryl Pacheco, BSN, RN, CPN, QIA(ASCP)^{CM}, and Francis S. Morrison, MD Memorial Lecture Award recipient, Michael Linenberger, MD. New Board of Directors and Officers were also elected at the ASFA 2025 Annual Business Meeting.

On-demand sessions are available through the virtual platform until November 15, 2025. More information: www.apheresis.org/page/2025

Other activities to share:

- Our annual Apheresis Awareness Day will be celebrated on Tuesday, September 16th, 2025. We hope you can join us. More information: www.apheresis.org/page/AAD.

- The 2026 ASFA & WAA Joint Annual Meeting is scheduled to take place April 22 - 24, 2026 in Denver, Colorado. More information: www.apheresis.org/page/2026.

- 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 6, 2025, we have 266 apheresis professionals with this qualification. More information: www.apheresis.org/QIA.

- ASFA will soon release the 2025 edition of the *Therapeutic Apheresis: A Guide to Billing and Securing Appropriate Reimbursement*. This updated resource will include current Medicare rates, revised billing guidance, and new content on CAR T-cell therapy and office-based TPE. Coming soon: www.apheresis.org/page/ApheresisReimburse

- ASFA has published the Principles of Apheresis Technology – 8th Edition with the Study Guide coming soon. This textbook provides a basic overview of the theory and application of apheresis. Pre-order is now available: www.apheresis.org/page/pat.

- ASFA is excited to announce that work is underway on the Tenth Edition of the JCA Special Issue, scheduled for release in 2026. This upcoming edition will continue to reflect the latest evidence, clinical consensus, and advances in practice. ASFA members will continue to receive free access to the Special Issue free of charge, using the JCA Online Access. More information: 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 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 a 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. The next congress, ISFA 2027 (ISFA 16th Congress), will be held in the US. The Congress President is Prof. Rasheed A. Balogun (USA).

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,

R. Balogun (USA) 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. Derfler
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
16th Congress	(2027)	USA	R. Balogun

Board of Trustees

America

- C. Anderson (USA)
- C. Patriquin (CAN)
- D. Kiprof (USA)
- F. Siami (USA)
- J. Winters (USA)
- J. Adamski (USA)
- K. Twombly (USA)
- L. Collins (USA)
- P. Moriarty (USA)
- T. Fulop (USA)

Europe

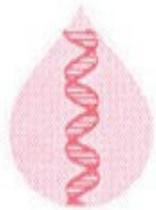
- B. Odler (AUT)
- B. Hohenstein (DEU)
- C. Okwuonu (NGA)
- K. Derfler (AUT)
- L. Vernaglione (ITA)
- O. Moranne (FRA)
- R. Klingel (DEU)
- W. Szpirt (DEK)
- W. Ramlow (DEU)

Pan-Pacific

- K. Han (Korea)
- L. Li (China)
- M. Kusaoi (JPN)
- M. Fukunishi (JPN)
- M. Mineshima (JPN)
- M. Harada-Shiba (JPN)
- Y. Yokoyama (JPN)
- S. Oji (JPN)
- S. Ogawa (JPN)
- T. Akizawa (JPN)

The Officers and the Board Members 14th Term (2025-2027)

President	R. Balogun (USA)
President-elect	L. Rostaing (FRA)
Immediate Past-President	K. Yamaji (JPN)
Congress President (16th USA)	R. Balogun (USA)
Vice Presidents	A. Sanchez (USA) J. Kielstein (DEU) T. Ito (JPN)
Secretary Treasurer	M. Kusaoi (JPN)
Editor-in Chief	T. Ito (JPN)
Regional Offices:	
America:	C. Patriquin (CAN) M. Safarova (USA) P. Malchesky (USA) A. Torloni (USA)
Europe:	B. Hohenstein (DEU) W. Szpirt (DEK) W. Ramlow (DEU)
Pan-Pacific:	H. Matsuo (JPN) K. Vareesangthip (THL) K. Lin (TWN)



האיגוד הישראלי להמטולוגיה ולעירוי דם

ISRAEL SOCIETY OF HEMATOLOGY AND BLOOD TRANSFUSION

החוג לרפואת עירוים - Israeli Transfusion Medicine Working Group

Expanding Professional Excellence: The Israeli National Apheresis Technician Training Course

Submitted by Dr. Lilach Bonstein¹ and Prof. Yossi Schwartz²

1. Blood bank, Rambam medical center, Haifa, Israel

2. Foundation for the accreditation of cellular therapy, Omaha, Nebraska, USA

To ensure high standards in both therapeutic and donor apheresis, **Israel holds a national biennial training course for apheresis professionals**, under the guidance of the **Advisory Committee on Transfusion Medicine, Ministry of Health**. Open to physicians, nurses, paramedics, laboratory professionals, biotechnologists, and licensed blood collection staff, the course integrates practical training with strong theoretical foundations.

The **6th national course**, held in 2025, brought together a record number of **over 150 participants**-including new and experienced technicians, apheresis physicians, and unit directors-from across the country. The event was co-organized by **Dr. Lilach Bonstein** and **Prof. Yossi Schwartz**.

The **two-day curriculum** was designed to cover both pillars of apheresis practice:

- **Day 1** focused on **therapeutic apheresis**, with lectures on principles of device operation, volume calculations, replacement fluids, vascular access, anticoagulation, and clinical applications including *photopheresis*, *LDL apheresis*, and *renal transplant support*.
- **Day 2** addressed **cellular therapy**, with sessions on stem cell collection (adult and pediatric), hematologic malignancies, CAR-T cell therapy, and accreditation requirements (JACIE). A special session highlighted the human aspect: a transplant coordinator and a former bone marrow transplant patient (a nurse herself) offered an emotional perspective on the patient journey.

This nationwide initiative serves as a **mandatory foundation course for new technicians** and an important **knowledge update for experienced staff**.

By combining technological education with clinical insights and real-world stories, the course strengthens the professional identity and expertise of Israel's growing apheresis workforce.

The next course is planned for 2027, continuing our commitment to education, safety, and innovation in apheresis.



Consiglio Direttivo

Presidente

Angelo Ostuni, Bari

Past President

Patrizia Accorsi, Pescara

Vice Presidente

Alessandro Mazzoni, Pisa

Segretario

Michele Vacca, Roma

Tesoriere

Ornella Iuliani, Pescara

Consiglieri

Vanessa Agostini, Genova

Claudia Del Fante, Pavia

Anna Michelotti, Pisa

Maria Beatrice Rondinelli,

Bologna

Chiara Savignano, Udine

Presidente onorario

Alberto Zanella, Milano

Coordinatore Sezioni Regionali

Anna Colpo, Padova

Comitato Scientifico

Carlo Antozzi, Milano

Giustina De Silvestro, Padova

Francesco Lanza, Ravenna

Mauro Montanari, Ancona

Segreteria Nazionale

Manuela Trincherò

Tel. 011 7499601

sidem@seleneweb.com

sidem@emaferesi.it

SidEM

[Corso Vittorio Emanuele, 346](#)

[65122 Pescara](#)

www.emaferesi.it

Dear Colleagues, Dear Friends,

SidEM (*Italian Society of Hemapheresis and Cellular Manipulation*) is a scientific society attended by physicians, biologists, nurses and technicians whose mission is to develop knowledge through educational programs and evidence-based practice and research in different areas of transfusion medicine: therapeutic and productive apheresis, collection and handling of cell therapy products.

President: Angelo Ostuni, Vice President: Alessandro Mazzoni, Past President: Patrizia Accorsi, Honorary President: Alberto Zanella, Secretary: Michele Vacca, Treasurer: Ornella Iuliani, Councilors: Vanessa Agostini, Claudia Del Fante, Maria Beatrice Rondinelli, Chiara Savignano.

Nursing and technical staff representative: Anna Michelotti.

Regional sections coordinator: Anna Colpo.

Scientific committee: Carlo Antozzi, Giustina De Silvestro, Francesco Lanza, Mauro Montanari. Medico-legal counseling: Irene Bianco, Matteo Bolcato.

Organizational secretariat: Selene, Manuela Trincherò.

The main objective of SIDEM is to provide practitioners with the opportunity to learn more about scientific topics, new applications in the field of therapeutic apheresis and cell therapy; collaborate with Scientific Societies with which they share patient management; discuss guidelines and recommendations; collaborate with Blood, Plasma and Platelet Donor Associations and Plasma Processing Companies as well as medical device suppliers.

SIDEM is focused on the promotion of medical culture concepts of good clinical practice on patient blood management (PBM) and appropriateness in the use of plasma-derived drugs.

In 2024, training activities focused on the following topics:

- plasma donor counseling and forms of communication for nurses;
- plasma-exchange in neurology and Standard Therapeutic Apheresis: applications in neurological diseases, management of procedures and new drugs; organizational and technological requirements of therapeutic apheresis centers;
- multi-disciplinarity in therapeutic apheresis: debate with clinical hematologists and pediatric hematologists on gene therapy and Car.T therapy.

Data from the Italian Registry of Therapeutic Apheresis managed by the National Blood Center in collaboration with SIDEM have been published in *Transfusion and Apheresis Science* (64-2025, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.transci.2024.104037>), showing that this activity is still increasing in several specialized areas, moreover with extremely high standards of patient safety.

Collaboration with the Italian Authorities (National Blood Center and National Transplantation Center) is ongoing, on several projects: transfusion in hemoglobinopathies; investigation of the practice of blood banking in pediatric age; training on the European Regulation of Substances of Human Origin (SoHO). Finally, we organized in Pisa the XXII National Congress-XXVI Course for Nurses and Technicians to be held October 9-11, 2025; the program is available on the SidEM website: https://www.emaferesi.it/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Sidem25_PREL.pdf

Sincerely

Angelo Ostuni, MD, President SidEM

Segreteria Nazionale SidEM

Corso Vittorio Emanuele 346 (Scale C - 3° piano) - 65122 Pescara

Tel: 0117499601 Website: www.emaferesi.it E.mail: sidem@emaferesi.it



ESAO Board

President: Dimitrios Stamatialis, Enschede, the Netherlands

Past President: U. Steinseifer, Aachen, Germany

President Elect: T. Verbelen, Leuven, Belgium

Secretary General: P. M. Baptista, Zaragoza, Spain

Treasurer: M. Granegger, Vienna, Austria

Honorary President: H. Klinkmann, Rostock, Germany

Honorary Board Member: S. Stefoni, Bologna, Italy

Coopted Board Member:

P. Ladyzynski, Warsaw, Poland

Governors:

J.C. Clauser, Aachen, Germany

K.H. Fraser, Bath, United Kingdom

L. Fresiello, Enschede, the Netherlands

U. Kertzschner, Berlin, Germany

M. Neidlin, Aachen, Germany

A. Plesoianu, Iasi, Romania

B.K. Thamsen, Vienna, Austria

K.Zielinski, Warsaw, Poland

yESAO Governors:

T. Abart, Vienna, Austria

N. Garcia Parra, Valencia, Spain

President:

Prof. Dr. Dimitrios Stamatialis

Head of Advanced Organ bioengineering and

Therapeutics-Technical Medical Centre

University of Twente

P.O Box 217

7500 AE Enschede

The Netherlands

E-mail: d.stamatialis@utwente.nl

Tel: +31 53 4894675 / +31 6 24935487

Innovations in (Bio)Artificial Organs and Organ Models

From June 24 to 28, 2025, the [European Society for Artificial Organs](http://www.esao.org) (ESAO) hosted its annual international congress at the [TechMed Centre](http://www.techmedcentre.nl) of the University of Twente in Enschede. Under the central theme “*Innovations in (Bio)Artificial Organs and Organ Models*,” global experts from science, medicine, and engineering gathered to exchange knowledge and explore the future of organ support, replacement, and regeneration.

The scientific program reflected the rapidly expanding frontiers of artificial organ technology. Topics ranged from innovations in bioartificial heart, lung, kidney, liver, and pancreas to complex multi-organ systems and hybrid platforms that mimic human physiology more accurately than ever. Cutting-edge sessions on organs-on-chips, in vitro and in vivo models, and in silico simulations illustrated how new tools are accelerating drug development and therapeutic testing. Presentations also addressed breakthroughs in tissue regeneration, bioengineering strategies, and biomaterials designed to improve device functionality and biocompatibility.

Prof.dr. Dimitrios Stamatialis (Congress chair and president of ESAO): Being surrounded by so many talented colleagues at ESAO 2025 truly inspired me. It reaffirmed my confidence that, together, we can push the boundaries of innovation in bioartificial organs and organ models, and truly make a difference in patient care.

Bridging innovation and clinical practice: insights from leading experts

This focus on innovation was matched by an emphasis on clinical translation. Sessions explored novel devices like artificial heart pumps, oxygenation systems for artificial lungs, and emerging platforms for pancreatic support. The role of biomechanics, hemodynamics, and sensor-driven feedback systems was examined in detail, alongside the growing relevance of digital twins and patient-specific imaging. ESAO 2025 provided a unique view on how organ-specific innovations and system-level thinking converge in real-world clinical applications.

The congress opened on Wednesday, June 25, with a warm welcome from conference chair Prof. Dimitrios Stamatialis and ESAO president Prof. Ulrich Steinseifer, followed by an inspiring keynote from Dr. Stephen R. Ash on innovation in medical device development. The following days featured rich keynote contributions from Prof. Shuvo Roy (on silicon membranes for implantable bioartificial kidneys), Prof. Andries van der Meer (on organ-on-chip applications), and Dr. Cristiano Amarelli (on heart support technologies), inspiring across disciplines.

Shuvo Roy, PhD. | Department of Bioengineering & Therapeutic Sciences UC San Francisco (UCSF) Faculty Director UCSF-UC Berkeley Master of Translational Medicine (MTM) Program: ESAO 2025 showcased the future of artificial organs, sparking bold visions for life-changing kidney, lung, heart, and liver innovations.

A rich scientific programme and a vibrant exchange of ideas

Sessions, symposia, and poster presentations formed the backbone of ESAO 2025, offering a broad and in-depth view of the latest developments across the field. The scientific program included over 100 abstract submissions, which were presented in oral and poster sessions covering topics such as blood purification, hemodynamic simulations, albumin therapy, omics-based diagnostics, and the active role of patients in driving innovation.

Stephen Ash, MD, FACP | CEO of HemoCleanse Technologies LLC: I thought the meeting was cordial and the program packed with new ideas and technology. “If you want to learn current science, go to a meeting of your fellow specialist physicians. If you want to see where new technology and science are leading us, go to ESAO.

Running parallel to the main program, seven invited symposia provided a platform for international experts to delve into pressing themes in organ support and regeneration, ranging from pediatric circulatory support and personalised medicine to system-level innovation roadmaps and the role of patient foundations in shaping research agendas. These high-level sessions enriched the program with keynote lectures, in-depth case studies, and global perspectives.

At the heart of the venue, the Innovation Square served as both a scientific and social hub. Here, ESAO 2025 sponsors, including acbiomed, Magassist, and NXTGEN showcased cutting-edge technologies and connected with participants in an informal setting. The space encouraged spontaneous dialogue, hands-on demonstrations, and new collaborations, underscoring the dynamic ecosystem surrounding artificial organ innovation.

Dr.ir. Jeroen Vollenbroek (University of Twente & UMC Utrecht): I appreciated the very positive and open atmosphere between participants. People were very engaged with each other's presentation and a lot of fruitful discussions where started. Overall the location and schedule worked out really well. What stood out most for me is the unique situation of having several speakers from the US who were positively surprised about the status of the European and Dutch artificial organ research and I think this conference helped creating a bridge that will result in some transatlantic collaborations.

A festive conference dinner at the Twentsche Foodhal on Friday evening brought participants together to celebrate new insights and connections, as well as the award winners of the ESAO PhD Prize, SAGE Award, and yESAO Awards.

Celebrating outstanding contributions

During the closing ceremony on the final day, two important awards were announced:

Corentin Raveleau (Université de Montpellier, France) received the Best Oral Presentation award for his talk “*Impact Of Microstructured Artificial Surface On The Dynamics Of Blood Platelets.*”

Nienke Reitsma (AMOLF, Autonomous Matter Department) was awarded Best Poster Presentation for “*Evaluation of Materials for a Soft Artificial Ventricle.*”

Uniting minds, shaping tomorrow's organ solutions

With participants from a wide range of backgrounds, including clinicians, biomedical engineers, scientists, computational modellers, and others, ESAO 2025 embodied the spirit of interdisciplinarity and a future-focused approach. The University of Twente's TechMed Centre, with its inspiring rooms and collaborative research culture, proved to be the ideal host for this international gathering. In four intensive days, ESAO 2025 showcased how biology, technology, and clinical care can come together to tackle one of the most urgent healthcare challenges of our time. The event was not just a scientific meeting, but a powerful reminder of the transformative potential of innovation in artificial organ research.

Read more: www.esao2025.com



CANADIAN APHERESIS GROUP GROUPE CANADIEN D'APHÉRÈSE

Canadian Apheresis Group (CAG) – Canada

After last year's pause in holding an in-person meeting due to circumstances beyond our control, the Canadian Apheresis Group is pleased to announce that we will be hosting our AGM again this year.

46th Canadian Apheresis Group Annual General Meeting

The 46th CAG AGM will take place this fall in Montreal, Quebec. The meeting will bring together leading physicians, nurses, and apheresis experts from Canada and worldwide for education, collaboration, and knowledge exchange. Please follow our website for updates: www.cagcanada.ca

45th Anniversary

2025 marked the 45th anniversary of the Canadian Apheresis Group, a significant milestone in our continued commitment to excellence in therapeutic apheresis across Canada. To honour this occasion and continue fostering professional exchange, CAG hosted a successful virtual scientific webinar in the fall of 2025. The webinar focused on Photopheresis and Myasthenia Gravis, and also provided the latest updates in the field through the What's New in Apheresis sessions. The webinar recording is now available on the CAG website.

Leadership update

This year is also a year of transition for CAG. We are pleased to share that Johnathan Mack, MD, FRCP(C), MSc, a Hematologist and Transfusion Medicine Specialist (with training completed at McGill University and Harvard University), will gradually assume the role of Chair with overlap with Dr. Gail Rock who will remain for some time in the office.

UPCOMING EVENT

46th CAG AGM

*November 7-8, 2026
Montreal, Quebec, Canada*

Please follow our website for updates:
www.cagcanada.ca



CAG Registry update

The CAG Registry has been in continuous existence since 1980 and serves as a national clinical and research resource supporting physicians, institutions, and - most importantly - patients across Canada. The registry provides practice comparators, supports quality assurance and blood planning, and enables monitoring of reactions and trends. In 2024, a total of 16,031 procedures were recorded, including 9,155 plasma exchanges (including 1,097 procedures for 115 patients with TTP).

As we move forward, CAG remains committed to modernizing this established national data base system so it continues to support Canadian centres and patients across the country.

We look forward to seeing colleagues in Montreal this fall and thank all centres, physicians, nurses, and allied health professionals who continue to advance therapeutic apheresis in Canada.

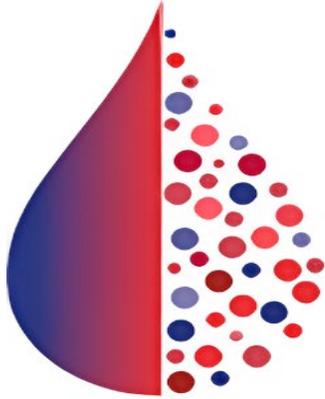
Gail Rock,

Chair, Canadian Apheresis Group

<https://www.cagcanada.ca/>

cag@cagcanada.ca

<u>CAG Board</u>					
<i>Dr. Gail Rock</i> Ottawa, Ontario	<i>Dr. Ronan Foley</i> Hamilton, Ontario	<i>Dr. Ryan Zarychanski</i> Winnipeg, Manitoba	<i>Dr. Louis Girard</i> Calgary, Alberta	<i>Dr. Katerina Pavenski</i> Toronto, Ontario	<i>Dr. Ron Yan</i> Halifax, Nova Scotia
<i>Dr. Melissa Boileau</i> Montreal, Quebec	<i>Dr. Vincent Laroche</i> Quebec City, Quebec	<i>Dr. Susan Huang</i> London, Ontario	<i>Dr. Kim Ambler</i> Vancouver, British Columbia	<i>Dr. Christopher Patriquin</i> Toronto, Ontario	



GEA

Grupo Español de Aféresis

The Spanish Apheresis Group is known as GEA by its Spanish name (*"Grupo Español de Aféresis"*). GEA was founded in 2001 under the support of the Spanish Society of Blood Transfusion (SETS) and Spanish Society of Hematology and Hemotherapy (SEHH).

The main objective of the group is to give national and international visibility to GEA, promoting the scientific study of apheresis with the help of all professionals, both physicians and nurses, involved in the care of healthy donors and patients who attend an apheresis unit. To achieve this goal, the current board of directors includes doctors and nurses with experience in donation of blood components using apheresis devices as well as therapeutic apheresis.

The third annual meeting of GEA, a hybrid in-person and virtual format, was held in Madrid, Spain, in May 8-9, 2025. As in the two previous years, the meeting had a success for attendees: 1,163 people registered, 92 attended the meeting in person, and around 550 people watched videos directly. Interestingly, for the first time, the Master Class "Josep Antoni Grifols i Lucas" was named to commemorate the Catalan doctor who, in the early 1950s, collected plasma from healthy donors using manual plasmapheresis.

GEA currently has 186 members. All people interested in this field are encouraged to join us. Sending an email to the GEA office with your data will start the process for admission.

One of the current projects of GEA is the creation of a Spanish therapeutic apheresis database to describe the current implementation status of therapeutic procedures in our country. By doing this, we will have accessible, integrated, coherent, and up-to-date information of therapeutic apheresis procedures that hopefully could provide a support tool for research. Another already consolidated project is "Development of the Spanish Portuguese Thrombotic Thrombocytopenic Purpura Registry (REPTT)" where data on patients with this rare disease are collected and several scientific papers have been published.



Another summit of GEA was the application to become a WAA member and its acceptance in April 9, 2025. On behalf of all members of GEA, the board of directors thanks WAA for this approval.

President

Joan Cid (Barcelona)

Vice President

Eva Mingot (Sevilla)

Secretary

Silvia Monsalvo (Madrid)

Treasurer

Cristina Pascual (Madrid)

Members of the Board of Directors

Gabriela Ene (Barcelona)

Inés Gómez (Valencia)

Natalia Lorente (Madrid)

Ana Kerguelen (Madrid)

Saioa Zalba (Pamplona)

GEA Office

Aravaca 12, 1º B
28040 Madrid
SPAIN

Phone: +34 913 19 19 98

Email: info@geaferesis.es

<http://www.geaferesis.es>



European Society for Hemapheresis

Board of Directors:

<i>President:</i>	<i>Gerda Leitner (Austria)</i>
<i>President elect:</i>	<i>Ingrid E.M.de Beer-Wekking (The Netherlands)</i>
<i>Past President:</i>	<i>Miquel Lozano (Spain)</i>
<i>Treasurer:</i>	<i>Silvia Monsalvo (Spain)</i>
<i>Secretary:</i>	<i>Hans Vrielink (The Netherlands)</i>

Allied Health Professionals representance: Marleen Neyrinck (Belgium)

Web: <http://esfh.eu>

Dear Colleagues of WAA,

We continued the work on educational webinars during 2023 and 2024. In 2023 we focused on Sickle cell disease. The topics were Apheresis in the standard of care for SCD and new medical approaches given by Ravi Sarode (USA, Texas) and Gene Therapy approaches to Sickle Cell Disease given by Turgay Ulas (Turkey, Ankara). The webinar was well attended and was rated by the majority of participants as above average to excellent. This was followed in spring 2024 by an equally successful webinar on the importance of plasma exchange in neurological disorders, Role of New Drugs and Plasma Exchange in Chronic Management of Neuroimmune Disorders given by Eugenia Martinez (Spain, Barcellona) and the importance of stem cell collections for gene therapy in children, Tailoring Apheresis Collections Enable Hematopoietic Stem Cell Gene Therapies given by John Manis (USA, Boston).

ESFH was also involved in the HAGA meeting 11/2024 in The Hague (NL) as sponsor and active representatives. The secretary of ESFH (Hans Vrielink) received the Hans Borberg award, and board members gave talks and chaired sessions.

Webinars are planned to be performed on a regular basis. The next one is scheduled for October 2025 and will address extracorporeal therapy concepts like red cell exchange and plasma exchange procedures in a variety of indications in compliance with newest ASFA guidelines, together with TERUMO BCT.

In 2026 our biannually ESFH meeting will take place in Prague (April, 8th to 10th). Please find attached the Save the Date. To increase the number of participants and to ease the attendance for oversea inhabitants we will provide a hybrid format. This may possibly also invite abstract submissions or speakers from all over the world as we observed in 2021.

Finally, a new website is going live soon.

President of ESFH
Gerda Leitner, MD, Ass.Prof.
gerda.leitner@roteskreuz.at



TÜRK AFEREZ DERNEĞİ

TSA Board:

President: Erman Öztürk
Vice President: Pervin Topçuoğlu
Research Secretary: Hülya Bilgen
General Secretary: Ali Hakan KAYA
Treasurer: Ömür KAYIKÇI
Board Member: Mehmet Hilmi DOĞU
Board Member: Gökhan Pektaş

Turkish Apheresis Association (TSA)

The Turkish Apheresis Association was founded in 1999. In the past year, we have actively engaged in a number of initiatives to promote the fields of apheresis and transplantation in our region.

Over the last year, our organization has organized national and international meetings on apheresis and transplantation. We have also commenced educational programs on new treatment modalities that incorporate apheresis applications. Our first event in this regard was the "Cellular and Targeted Therapies Symposium" which was held from May 30 to June 1, 2025, at Kaya Palazzo KKTC with great participant support.

To support our members and the wider community:

- We have been providing practical and theoretical information on apheresis through our website.
- We share monthly updates on current articles related to apheresis.
- We also plan to accelerate educational programs for hematologists at a national level.

Our last major event was the **20th National Apheresis Congress**, which took place from November 21–23, 2025, at the Hyatt Regency Istanbul Ataköy.

Sincerely,

Erman Öztürk President Turkish Apheresis Association

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.



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

President: O. HEQUET

Councilor: F.HESHMATI



hemapherese.fr

The French Society for Hemapheresis (SFH) has been renewed and continues with a dynamic membership and ambitious programs.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, as in many other countries, our activities slowed down. Meetings were held online, and we quickly decided to organize webinars in order to avoid gatherings while continuing to exchange experiences and keep our members updated with the latest developments in our field.

Despite these challenges, we successfully organized the first post-COVID congress in Paris in 2021.

In accordance with our bylaws, we held a mid-term election in 2023. A partial election was conducted, and Dr. Olivier Hecquet was elected as the new President. The board is composed of 15 members, all specialists in apheresis and heads of departments across different regions of France, covering a wide range of medical specialties.

New Board Members:

- President: Dr. Olivier Hequet, MD, PhD – Hematologist, Head of Apheresis Unit, Lyon
- Vice-President: Dr. Jean-Yves Py – Specialist in Transfusion, Director of Regional Blood Transfusion Center, Orléans
- Vice-President: Dr. Samir Saheb – Hematologist, Head of Apheresis Unit, Pitié Hospital, Paris
- General Secretary: Dr. François Parquin – Anesthesiologist, Head of apheresis Unit and pulmonary ICU, Foch Hospital, Paris
- Deputy General Secretary: Dr. Isabelle Segalen – Nephrologist, Head of Apheresis and Dialysis Department, Brest also in charge of the Hemapheresis Nurses Group
- Treasurer: Dr. Hanafi Moussaoui – Specialist in Transfusion, Marie-Lannelongue Hospital, Paris suburbs
- Deputy Treasurer: Dr. Serge Fichelson – Specialist in Transfusion, Research Lab Director, Paris
- Registry Manager: Dr. Tarik Kanouni – Hematologist, Head of Apheresis Department, Montpellier
- Deputy Registry Manager: Dr. Caroline Regny – Hematologist, Head of Apheresis Unit, Grenoble

Board Members:

- Dr. Antoine Huart – Nephrologist, Toulouse
- Dr. Christophe Barisien – Hemobiologist, Besançon
- Dr. Romain Guillemain – Anesthesiologist, Georges Pompidou Hospital, Paris

Honorary President and Councillor :

- Dr. Farhad Heshmati – Past President of SFH
-

Webinars

Recent and upcoming webinar topics include:

1. Photopheresis in pulmonary rejection and pulmonary GVHD 19 June 2024
2. Optimization of RBC exchange for the patients with cycle cell anemia 15 October 2024 - 25 June 2025
3. Therapeutic plasma exchange in emergency 23 September 2025

Upcoming Congress

The 18th National Congress of the SFH will take place in Lyon in 29-30 January 2026.

Details can be found on our website: hemapherese.fr

Since the reactivation of SFH after the COVID-19 pandemic, we have significantly increased our membership, strengthened partnerships with laboratories and companies, encouraged new research projects, and expanded the involvement of apheresis nurses.

Our Directory of centers (available on the website) presents all the French apheresis centers, their activities, and their staff. We are now ready to develop international cooperation with other national societies, and in particular with the World Apheresis Association (WAA).

O. Hequet & F. Heshmati

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

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 2027!

Learn more about the **World Apheresis Association** and our global initiatives

www.worldapheresis.org