

Congresses

The Antalya meeting was well arranged, fruitful and contained many scientific highlights. The following meeting, that was planned to be a joint meeting with the ISBT after commitments even before the meeting in Turkey, came out to be cancelled since the ISBT, who were main arrangers, did not accept a cooperation at the end. The information from ISBT came very late and resulted in the fact that another location for a meeting was not possible to arrange with such short notice. Instead it was decided to have a small intermediate meeting in Umea, Sweden, June 2006 in conjunction with the ESAO meeting, with Bernd Stegmayr as Congress President. Another intermediate meeting was arranged in April 2007 in Cologne, Germany with Helmut Borberg as Congress President. During the period a fruitful cooperation with the DGTI has resulted in a joint congress in Düsseldorf, Germany in September 2008, with Rainer Moog as Congress President for ESFH.

Next year an intermediate meeting is planned together with the French Apheresis Society in Paris. Georges Andreu will be ESFH representative and Heidrun Ullrich will support him. The next official ESFH Congress is planned to be held in Swiss, together with the Swiss Blood Transfusion Society, with Behrouz Mansouri Taleghani as the ESFH Congress President. They are willing to host additional ca 200 participants for WAA. Location is not decided yet.

ESFH also supports the WAA-ISFA congress in Argentina 2009, that will take place from March 17th to 20th in **AUDITORIO BUENOSAIRE**S- near the LoiSuite-Recoleta Hotel..

Post Graduate courses

In 2006 ESFH started to offer postgraduate courses in Haemovigilance and Therapeutic Apheresis (held in Umea). In 2007 such course was held in conjunction with the Cologne congress covering Hemovigilance and photopheresis. In 2008 a course was held in conjunction with the ESFH Congress in Düsseldorf. In 2009 a course will be arranged in conjunction with the congress in Paris and thereafter the aim is to have it yearly at different sites in Europe. A Swedish variant was held in Umea in April 2008.

Cooperate members

Cooperate member Companies are Caridian BCT (Gambro Cobe), Fresenius Kabi Transfusion GmbH, Fenwal Europe.

Industry is also invited to have joint educational courses of their devices during the congresses. Preference is for companies that are Cooperate members of ESFH.

Journal

The journal supported by the ESFH - Transfusion and Apheresis Science- has enabled an electronic version for members. Gail Rock is the chief editor. The impact factor is close to 1. The journal also supports to publish manuscripts from scientific meetings held by ESFH. The membership fee allows reduced fee to congresses and postgraduate courses besides information sent to all members. In addition the journal is provided to a substantially reduced fee. The membership fee also includes a membership in the World Apheresis Association. Thus, if you attend a meeting supported by WAA allowing those members a reduced fee or other favours, is included in the ESFH membership fee.

European joint venture projects

Apheresis registry: During the period 2004 until now the World Apheresis Association Registry has developed more and more. Many European centres contribute with data of their apheresis treatments. In 2007/2008 it has expanded further and the data base includes more than 12000 registrations of treatments.

Those actively including data are mainly European centres: most of the larger Swedish centres, two Czech Republic centres, 2 Lithuanian, one Italia, Austrian, Portuguese and German centre. In addition few entries from centres in other countries. More than 1600 paediatric treatments have been included. Analyses of the data have been done regularly. Scientific report have been presented as Abstracts and manuscripts. At the 2008 meeting of the ESHF and ESAO presentations will be given of data from the whole registry as well as separately for children and also for LDL-apheresis. Reports were given at the WAA meeting in Yokohama and will also be presented in Buenos Aires. After having used an updated version of the registry for some years now an even more developed registry is underway. The latest version will include registration of treatment outcome and also enable centres to enter data that do not use apheresis for the same diagnoses. Thereby prospective comparative analyses can be made that can be estimated as a randomized study for hospitals with similar treatment options besides apheresis using the principle of "centre randomisation". In addition the registry will allow analysis of outcome of diseases that are rare. Hopefully more and more centres will enter data into the WAA quality measure registry giving more and more knowledge to the physician and patients. Note that the participation is at no cost. A link is found through the WAA webpage (www.worldapheresis.org).

District director activity

The activities have varied in the districts. Some have held local national congresses and courses while others have had less activity.

Homepage and Recruitment of new members

Material has been produced for marketing ESHF at various meeting. Helmut Borberg takes care of the homepage and updates it regularly (www.esfh.org).

Membership application information can be found at the home page. Members are most frequently recruited in conjunction with Congresses and Postgraduate courses. The aim is also to hand out material to the District directors, to enable new membership application in conjunction with local congresses and meetings.

Board meetings

We have had approximately 2 board meetings every year to discuss the ESHF matters with focus on future congresses, courses and meetings.

ESFH is a member Society within the World Apheresis Association

This membership allows you to have the benefits of WAA e.g., as reduced fees at WAA arranged meetings. The homepage is at www.worldapheresis.org.

Leaving my position as the ESHF president I will look forward to support your ideas and views being a Past President of ESHF but also being President Elect of WAA and from the March 2009 meeting in Buenos Aires, the President of WAA.

Therefore I look forward to suggestions from all of you to help to improve activities further.

I will support yearly Postgraduate courses in each continent. I also invite you and your centre to participate in the WAA apheresis registry either if you do therapeutic apheresis or stem cell collection for therapy.

Thanks all of you for the support to the ESHF throughout my presidential period.

Bernd Stegmayr
ESFH President