

THE WORLD APHERESIS ASSOCIATION: A PROJECT FOR THE NEXT NEAR FUTURE

Loïc GUILLEVIN, President

Dear WAA Member,

The World Apheresis Association is now a well-established scientific society that federates 8 national, 3 continental and 4 international societies. All these societies play major roles in hemapheresis by stimulating research, participating in the elaboration of registries, collaborating to improve devices and many other technical aspects, and promoting education (basic instruction or continuing-education programs). Every 2 years, our international congress serves as a meeting place for physicians and technicians involved in apheresis. During their terms, our past presidents, Thomas Price then Peter Ivanovich, burnished the reputation and enhanced the renown and influence of the WAA, recruited new member societies and established tools for facilitating the international exchange of information on all the aspects of donor and therapeutic hemapheresis.

Although many goals were met over the past several years, the WAA has many other objectives that the new board will strive to accomplish within the next term.

- 1) Entice new societies to join the WAA and thereby cover all the areas of

apheresis as well as the 5 continents;

- 2) Facilitate the organization of regional meetings, under the aegis of the WAA, in addition to our world congress, which should be an appointment for the presentation of the quintessence of research in the field of apheresis;
- 3) Ensure application of the congress procedural guidelines;
- 4) Organize every 2 years a high-quality congress, which will further garner more respect for the WAA and accord it recognition as a reference scientific society for colleagues from every country;
- 5) Encourage the development of treatment protocols and stimulate the undertaking of prospective clinical trials to evaluate the indications of apheresis, including their cost-effectiveness compared to other reference therapies, and facilitate interactions between scientists and companies to develop more powerful technologies to help patients;
- 6) Improve the input of data into the WAA hemapheresis registry, based on the already existing registries prepared by different national societies;
- 7) Elaborate guidelines and indications for apheresis and, if possible, compile them in a reference book to be published under the auspices of the WAA;
- 8) Further develop the educational programs for technicians and physicians attending our congresses, and, through them, attract new participants in WAA activities;

- 9) Turn our website into a forum and the place where all contacts between the WAA members will be possible and easy;
- 10) Give the Cohn de Laval Foundation the responsibility to supervise, coordinate and sponsor our scientific endeavors, and international trials in the field of apheresis;
- 11) Make the WAA a reference for excellence in apheresis.

To accomplish this ambitious program, the board, subcommittee members and I will devote much time and energy to pursue our respective new and longstanding tasks, and you will be informed regularly of our progress.