

13th Annual Essentials and Advances in Apheresis Therapies Conference

Thursday, March 5, 2026

8a Welcome & Introduction/Apheresis: Past, Present, Future – *Amber P. Sanchez, MD*

Session I: Expert Perspectives on Apheresis Essentials, Moderator – Amber P. Sanchez, MD

8:10 Rationale for Apheresis Therapies and Principles of Plasma Exchange – *David M. Ward*

8:40 Techniques for Apheresis Therapies and Principles of Cytopheresis – *Amber P. Sanchez, MD*

9:10a Selective and Semi-Selective Apheresis Therapies (DFPP/IA) – *Jan Kielstein, MD, PhD, FASN*

9:30a Q&A Panel

9:45a REFRESHMENT BREAK & VISIT EXHIBITORS

Session II: Optimizing Apheresis Patient Management, Moderator - David M. Ward, MD

10:10a Managing and Avoiding the Complications of Apheresis Procedures - *Lance Williams, MD*

10:35a Apheresis and Medications: What Every Clinician Should Know – *Ashley Feist, Pharm.D., BCPS*

10:55a Blood Bank Wisdom for the Apheresis Practitioner - *Patricia Kopko, MD*

11:15a Small Patients, Big Challenges: Practical Aspects of Pediatric Apheresis – *Nadine Benador, MD*

11:40a Q&A

12-1:00p LUNCH ON OWN

Session III: Apheresis at the Intersection of Cell Therapy, Gene Therapy, and Modern Immunotherapy, Moderator – Jill Adamski, MD, PhD

1:00p Red Blood Cell Exchange: Indications, Prescription, and Individualized Approaches – *Amber P. Sanchez, MD*

1:20p Gene Therapy for Sickle Cell Disease: Progress, Pitfalls, and Promise – *Laura Connelly-Smith, MBBCh, DM*

1:40p Stem cell and Immune Effector Cell Collections: Best Practices/Updates from FACT – *Joseph (Yossi) Schwartz, MD*

2:00p Apheresis in the Management of Immunotherapy-Related Complications - *Laura Connelly-Smith, MBBCh, DM*

2:20p Q&A

2:35p REFRESHMENT BREAK & VISIT EXHIBITORS

Session IV: Focus on Photopheresis, Moderator - Laura Connelly-Smith, MBBCh, DM

2:55-3:15P Overview of Photopheresis – Technique and Potential Mechanisms – *Janice Park, MD*

3:15p	Extracorporeal Photopheresis in Cardiac Transplantation: Evidence and Evolving Role – <i>Jill Adamski, MD, PhD</i>
3:35p	Extracorporeal Photopheresis in Lung Transplantation: Current Evidence and Future Directions – <i>Kamyar Afshar, DO</i>
3:55p	Q&A Panel
4:10p	Patient Experience – <i>J Hildahl</i>
4:30p	Q&A
4:40p	End of Day Panel Session and Future Directions, Moderator – <i>Amber P. Sanchez, MD</i> (Rasheed Balogun, <i>MBBS, FACP, FASN, HP</i> ; Jan Hofmann, <i>MD, MPH, MSc</i> ; Lionel Rostaing, <i>MD</i> ; Volker Witt, <i>MD</i> ; Joshua Zaritsky, <i>MD</i>)
5:00p	ADJOURN FOR THE DAY

Friday, March 6, 2026

8:00a	Announcements – <i>Amber P. Sanchez, MD</i>
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Session I: Apheresis Indications in Depth: A Spirited Debate, Moderator - David M. Ward, MD

8:05a	FSGS Faceoff: Plasma Exchange, Tried and True – <i>Nadine Benador, MD</i>
8:20a	FSGS Faceoff: Lipoprotein Apheresis, Innovation Over Tradition – <i>Joshua Zaritsky, MD</i>
8:35a	Questions and Rebuttal
8:50a	Plasma Exchange in ANCA Associated Vasculitis: Indicated – <i>Jan Kielstein, MD, PhD, FASN</i>
9:05a	Plasma Exchange in ANCA Associated Vasculitis: Obsolete – <i>Pranav Garimella, MBBS, MPH, FASN</i>
9:20a	Questions and Rebuttal
9:35a	Efgartigimod in Myasthenia Gravis: Targeted and Transformative - <i>Joshua Alexander, DO</i>
9:50a	Plasma Exchange in Myasthenia Gravis: Proven and Practical - <i>Minh-Ha Tran, DO</i>
10:05a	Questions and Rebuttal

Session II: Apheresis Updates in Solid Organ Transplant Candidates, Moderator – Patricia Kopko, MD

10:40a	Understanding the Donor Specific Antibody - <i>Amena Usmani, MD, MBA</i>
11:00a	Desensitization Protocols in Transplant and Acute Rejection – <i>Jill Adamski, MD, PhD</i>
11:20a	High-Volume vs Standard Volume Plasma Exchange in Acute Liver Failure: Freedom from Transplant – <i>Jan Hofmann, MD, MPH, MSc</i>

11:40a Q&A

12:00p LUNCH ON OWN

1:00p Concurrent Session I Frontiers in Apheresis Medicine, Moderator – David M. Ward, MD

Deceased Donor Stem Cell Collections to Facilitate Solid Organ Transplant Tolerance, <i>Rebecca Sosa, PhD</i>	Expertise in Apheresis Practice: Apheresis on the Move: The Mobile Apheresis Experience, <i>Peggy Reid, RN, QIA(ASCP)</i>
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1:25-1:35p Q&A

1:35p Concurrent Session II Expertise in Apheresis Practice, Moderator: Jerel Lee S. Malong, MSN

Frontiers in Apheresis Medicine: Imlifidase versus Plasma Exchange in Antibody Mediated Rejection, <i>Lionel Rostaing, MD</i>	Expertise in Apheresis Practice: Optimizing Peripheral Access for Apheresis: Assessment Tools and Ultrasound Guidance, <i>Tomas Armendariz Jr., MSN, RN, QIA and Jerel Lee S. Malong, MSN</i>
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2:00 -2:10p Q&A

2:10p REFRESMENT BREAK & VISIT EXHIBITORS & TRANSITION TO ROTATING WORKSHOPS

Session III: Rotating Workshops (2:30p - 4:10p)

(Attendees will be assigned a starting group (A, B, C) and rotate between the 3 sessions)

Group A: Centrifuge I and Priming, Interface Management, and Replacement Fluid – Volker Witt, MD

Group B: Centrifuge II and Vascular Access and Ultrasound – TBD

Group C: Photopheresis, Lipoprotein Apheresis, and Anticoagulation and Patient Considerations – TBD

2:30p-3:00p Session 1

3:00p-3:05 Rotate to Next Session

3:05p-3:35p Session 2

3:35p-3:40p Rotate to Next Session

3:40p-4:10p Session 3

4:10p REFRESHMENT BREAK & VISIT EXHIBITORS

Session IV: Expert Panel and Summary of Day & Future Directions, Moderator – Amber P. Sanchez, MD

(Patricia Kopko, MD; Joseph (Yossi) Schwartz, MD; Minh-Ha Tran, DO; David M. Ward, MD, Lance Williams, MD)

4:50p Q&A

5:00p ADJOURN FOR THE DAY

Saturday, March 7, 2026

8:00a Announcements

8:05-9:00a Session I: Challenging Cases for the Experts, Moderator – Amber P. Sanchez, MD

(Jill Adamski, MD, PhD; Jan Hofmann, MD, MPH, MSc; Jan Kielstein, MD, MPH, MSc ; Peggy Reid, RN, QIA; Joseph (Yossi) Schwartz, MD; Minh-Ha Tran, DO; Lance Williams, MD; Volker Witt, MD; Joshua Zaritsky, MD)

9:00a REFRESHMENT BREAK & VISIT EXHIBITORS

9:20-10:35a Session II: Hot Topics in Apheresis Medicine, Moderator - Jill Adamski, MD, PhD

9:20a Current Trends in Plasma Exchange for Longevity and Microplastics: Science or Science Fiction?
– *Lance Williams, MD*

9:40a Plasma Exchange in the Critical Care Setting - *Rasheed Balogun, MBBS, FACP, FASN, HP*

10:00a Autoimmune Encephalitis and the Role of Plasma Exchange – *Jennifer Graves, MD, PhD, MA*

10:20a Q&A

10:35a REFRESHMENT BREAK & VISIT EXHIBITORS

10:55-11:35a Session III: In Depth Indications, Moderator - Jan Hofmann, MD, MPH, MSc

10:55a Evolving Paradigms in TTP and Other Thrombotic Microangiopathies: What Clinicians Need to Know - *Jill Adamski, MD, PhD*

11:15a Cryoglobulinemia and Plasma Exchange: When, Why, and How - *Lionel Rostaing, MD*

11:35a Q&A

11:45a End of Day Round Table Discussion: Future Directions, Moderator – *Amber Sanchez, MD*

(Jill Adamski, MD, PhD; Tomas Armendariz Jr., MSN, RN, QIA; Nadine Benador, MD; Jan Kielstein, MD, PhD, FASN; Laura Connelly Smith, MBBCh, DM)

12:05p Q&A and Closing Remarks – *Amber Sanchez, MD*

12:20p ADJOURN