

# IPFA Fellowships IPFA/BCA Global Symposium On the Future for Blood and Plasma Donations 2015 Fort Worth (Dallas), USA

## Impressions Fellowship Attendees



Dr Richard Malan, Dr Gabriela Varela, Prof. Osires de Melo, Dr Rocio del Pilar Parra Galvis,  
Dr Greg Bellairs and Dr Luiz Amorim

### Dr Richard Malan (Argentina)

It has been an honor to be able to participate in the IPFA/BCA 2<sup>nd</sup> Global Symposium on The Future for Blood Plasma Donations. During my stay in Dallas / Fort Worth I was able to share with my colleagues the diverse experiences in Blood and Plasma donations worldwide. Furthermore, I have learned from the excellent speeches that I have witnessed. Also, my participation in this symposium allows me to think in designing a strategy to improve the availability of blood and plasma for patients in my country. I will be part of the improvements in availability in plasma donors to increase plasma fractionation and thus the availability of blood products for patients in Argentina. I can only say thanks for the opportunity and also thanks to Carter BloodCare for having trusted me giving me the Fellowship.

## Dr Gabriela Varela (Argentina)

I am very pleased to have attended the IPFA/BCA Global Symposium on "The Future for Blood and Plasma Donations". The topics discussed at the event were very interesting and the professionals very clear. The organization of the event was excellent. They made me feel very comfortable.

The projection of the growing demand for products derived from human plasma in the world has an important impact on the need of working together with the countries of Latin America to move forward on issues related to voluntary blood donation as much as plasma for industry and in the decision to fractionate the plasma to meet the regional demand for plasma derived products.

I think it was a great experience to share different perspectives and concerns with people working in different aspects of the same goal: to satisfy the needs of those patients requiring plasma derived medicinal products, safe and effective for the treatment of critical diseases.



Dr Richard Malan, Dr Paul Strengers (IPFA) Dr Gabriela Varela, Dr. Laurie Sutor (Carter BloodCare), Prof. Osires de Melo, Dr Merlyn Sayers (Carter BloodCare) Dr Rocio del Pilar Parra Galvis, Mr Bill Block (Blood Centres of Americas), Dr Greg Bellairs, Mr BJ Smith (Carter BloodCare), Ms Michelle Johnson (Carter BloodCare) and Dr Luiz Amorim

## Prof. Osires de Melo (Brazil)

It is not very hard to find words to describe a very successful meeting with a wide range of lectures given by speakers coming from different countries, covering various topics of plasma fractionation and its products. I must also comment on the right choice of the venue. Fort Worth, Texas, has warm people and weather. I was very pleased. I felt at

home there. This meeting gave me something special. I learned a lot and I made very good friends. I felt a very good environment at the lectures room and outside of it. I could tell by their faces that other participants felt the same way. The reception at the Cowgirl Museum was an unexpected bonus. A big fun. As usual, a very skilled and competent IPFA team was there guaranteeing that everything was right, fluid and smooth. And it was. Thank you for the opportunity to be there. Looking forward to the next one.

### **Dr Rocio del Pilar Parra Galvis (Colombia)**

The Global Symposium on the Future for Blood and Plasma Donations has allowed me to identify opportunities to ensure the provision of essential drugs in Colombia, especially for drugs that affect significantly the development and quality of life of Colombians, while giving us the opportunity to use plasma for production of plasma derivatives. It has been an important meeting which promises to build strong bonds of friendship and cooperation between countries to help develop plasma fractionation programs both regionally and globally.

Another important aspect is the opportunity provided by the IPFA to illustrate the different perspectives that exist worldwide, the sensitivity of the patient, the responsibility of governments and the role of the industry, reminding us that we are all called to participate in this initiative that will save lives with our work and commitment. I return to my country, with the satisfaction of having found strategic partners who can help us ensure the provision of plasma derivatives medicines through industrial use of plasma, and finding a way to provide support to the sustainability of our healthcare system, allowing governmental entities to direct their efforts toward the decisions that will improve the lives of many Colombians.

### **Dr Greg Bellairs (South Africa)**

I was recently honoured to receive a Fellowship to attend the IPFA Symposium in Fort Worth. This was an incredibly valuable learning experience for me, and I wish to report the following highlights:

It was particularly informative for me to understand the challenges faced by countries with well-developed health care systems in obtaining sufficient plasma to produce plasma derived medical products (PDMP's), usage of which is clearly growing significantly. As plasma requirements increase, it appears that collection of source plasma becomes essential to supplement the supply of recovered plasma. In South Africa, most plasma is obtained from whole blood donations at this stage.

Other areas that were highlights for me included the session focussed on patients' needs which really reinforced the importance of all that the role players (blood and plasma collectors, fractionators, and clinicians) do to ensure better outcomes for those who ultimately matter, as well as the session on the response to the Ebola outbreak – which was a fine example of several multiparty collaborations working together to fairly rapidly assist in those countries hardest hit by the epidemic.

From a relationship building perspective, it was great to meet the other Fellowship recipients, as well as the IPFA team - some of whom are involved in the organisation of

the Workshop in Cape Town in December this year. It was also wonderful to catch up with ex-South African and South African colleagues, including Dr Merlyn Sayers of Carter BloodCare, with whom I had several discussions, as we shared our respective experiences and challenges in running a blood service.

I thank you again for this wonderful opportunity to attend this symposium and look forward to hosting the IPFA team in Cape Town in the near future.

### **Dr Luiz Amorim (Brazil)**

All the issues related to plasma fractionation – plasma procurement, industrial quality plasma preparation, plasma derivatives testing and production and clinical use of plasma proteins, among others – are seldom treated and discussed during the mainstream congresses dedicated to Hematology and Transfusion Medicine (AABB, ISBT). This is comprehensible, since plasma derivatives industries are very competitive and they have to face questions like industrial property, production improvement, development of new products, innovation etc. - all of them submitted to confidentiality rules. However, many Blood Centres and transfusion services professionals – as well as many experts from pharmaceutical industries – are always very interested on discussing those issues. That's why a forum where we can get information about this field, offering us opportunities to networking with colleagues dedicated to the same subject is a great idea and an excellent IPFA's and BCA's initiative.

The IPFA/BCA Global Symposium held last September in Fort Worth, USA, completely fulfilled our expectations: an outstanding scientific program, covering the most important topics on plasma fractionation, very skilled and experienced speakers, and a mixed attendance, composed by people from blood centres, from industry, from regulatory or global agencies, from national blood programs, and plasma derivatives marketing specialists.

The ambience was very friendly, we could contact and talk to a lot of new (and sometimes old) fellows, staff from IPFA and from BCA was really kind and helpful. I sincerely hope that this symposium will take place again next year and become a scientific landmark event for the plasma fractionation world. I am very grateful for the invitation for attending this meeting.

*IPFA, BCA and Carter BloodCare thank the IPFA Fellowship attendees for their valuable attendance, contribution and feedback*



28-29 SEPTEMBER 2015

IPFA/BCA 2ND SYMPOSIUM ON

*The Future for BLOOD and PLASMA DONATIONS*