ATLANTA

IPFA/BCA 3RD Global Symposium on *The Future for* Blood *and* Plasma Donations

Symposium Report

11-12 September 2017

The Ritz-Carlton, Buckhead, Atlanta, GA, USA

international plasma and fractionation association

ATLANTA

Meeting Report

The Future for Blood and Plasma Donations – Atlanta, Georgia, 11-12 September 2017

In the days leading up to our symposium, as we all plotted the course of Hurricane Irma towards our venue in Atlanta there was some understandable concern that delegates and participants would not be able to travel and the meeting would not possible! Despite this nervous start, and after careful consideration, we decided that the meeting should proceed as planned. And we are glad we took this decision and are grateful to delegates and participants who heroically made their way to Atlanta!

There were of course some minor changes to the program including the use of internet technology to allow presenters who were unable to attend to deliver their presentations from remote locations. We are grateful for their efforts on our behalf and also to our IT colleagues from Nuntio for making this possible and trouble free! The last minute cancellation of the social event at the Atlanta History Centre on the evening of the first day created an exciting opportunity to arrange alternative food, drink and entertainment at the venue hotel – we are indebted to staff from IPFA, BCA, Blood Assurance and the hotel who calmly and enthusiastically created a memorable and enjoyable evening.

So as “Irma” passed through Atlanta the symposium was opened by Paul Strengers and Chris Swafford followed by the usual authoritative, comprehensive and informative overview of global plasma supply and PDMP use throughout the world by Patrick Robert (MRB) – highlighting current and future likely trends, immunoglobulin as the ‘Market Driver’ and the variable clinical use between regions.

This overview was complemented in session 2 with engaging and personal patient perspectives on the need for PDMPs and an excellent overview of future clinical use of PDMPs – together providing a clear focus and reminder of the global need for a secure and sustainable product supply. Strategies to achieve this were discussed in session 3 providing valuable insights into the goals being pursued in Canada to meet their escalating product demand from within their own communities and current US considerations for the future sustainability and security of the US blood supply.

The first day concluded with presentations from US Blood Centers who have engaged in source plasma collection programs in response to changing demand patterns for blood components. These provided stimulating and practical examples of strategies and challenges, based on experience, but with a shared and common goal of increasing plasma supply from VNRD for patient care, providing options for current whole blood donors against a background of decreasing blood component demand – and creation of additional revenue streams to ensure future economic sustainability.

IPFA
international plasma and fractionation association

ATLANTA

international plasma and fractionation association

Day Two

The storm subsides and the program continued! The 'Manufacturers Session' included stimulating presentations from Abbott and QualTex, outlining their company contributions to the work of the transfusion services. As always IPFA is grateful not only for the sponsorship offered by commercial colleagues but also their active participation in the program. The history of transfusion medicine has taught us that the microbiological safety of transfusion products and plasma for fractionation must continue to be a key feature of future blood and PDMP supply strategies. It was therefore appropriate that Session 6 addressed this topic from the perspective of regulatory oversight and monitoring, the ongoing scientific and public debate concerning the eligibility of MSM donors and a comparison of residual risk between US Source and Recovered plasma. Dr Sue Stramer (American Red Cross) provided a comprehensive and authoritative overview of the FDA Transfusion Transmitted Infection Monitoring System (TTIMS) and outlined its capacity to monitor infection prevalence and incidence amongst donors and to assess the potential impact of changes in donor deferral policies both in the US and from experiences in other countries.

Dr Marc Germain (Hema Quebec) skillfully addressed the complex and controversial topic of MSM donor deferral through an international examination of recent developments (particularly in the UK), their potential impact on safety and Canadian plans for further research. Dr George Schreiber (PPTA) concluded the session with an analysis of 'qualified donor' epidemiology for relevant disease markers and the plasma industry strategy to ensure the safety of source plasma for fractionation – and observed reassuringly that there have been no reports of disease transmission by PDMPs in over 20 years.

There is universal recognition of the importance of effective regulation in assuring both patient and donor safety. However, despite calls for increased convergence of regulatory standards between countries (particularly the US and EU) there remain significant (though often minor) differences which create operational complexities and costs for the blood and plasma industries as they seek to operate in a global environment. Session 7 therefore set out to examine current EU and US regulatory requirements for GMP inspection, the impact of the differing legal and regulatory status of recovered and source plasma and perspectives on donor safety from both the commercial and not-for-profit sectors of the plasma industry. Dr Françoise Rossi (IPFA) provided a comprehensive and detailed analysis of the often-divergent regulatory approaches and reinforced the advocacy for greater 'mutual recognition' between regulatory authorities. Ms Stacy Conway (BCA) outlined the regulatory and legal constraints in the US for recovered plasma for fractionation and the current dialogue with FDA on this topic. The session concluded with presentations on donor safety considerations for plasma collection in a not-for-profit Blood Center (Dr Jonathan Hughes, BloodSource) who provided data and evidence on the safety of current practices for plasmapheresis donors and the commercial plasma industry (Dr Marilyn Rosa-Bray, Grifols) who addressed some health parameters in plasmapheresis donors. Both equally recognized the need for continued vigilance and further studies.

The meeting drew to a close with a view into the future from the perspectives of a national US distributor of plasma products (Ms Linda Matthews/Mr D Schodt, BioCARE, US) and the purchasers (hospital) marketplace (Mr W Woodward, Vizient, US). Both reinforced the key message from Patrick Robert in the opening session of the symposium – that the market for PDMPs is robust and will continue to grow for the foreseeable future – thus underlining the need for increasing plasma volumes both in the US and elsewhere.

IPFA
international plasma and fractionation association

IPFA
international plasma and fractionation association

Closing

In his closing remarks Mr Rob van Tuyle (IPFA President) offered thanks to everybody involved in the planning, organization and conduct of the meeting. We would like to reiterate these thanks particularly to our host (Blood Assurance), colleagues from BCA and participants who responded with such good humor, creativity and efficiency to the impact of “Irma’.

We sincerely thank our industry sponsors for their support for the meeting – without which the meeting could not have taken place.

Presentations to the meeting were consistently relevant, thoughtful, stimulating and generous in their sharing of ideas and experiences and we are as always very grateful for the time and effort spent by participants in making the meeting a success!

Finally our sincere thanks to all delegates for attending and supporting the meeting.

Feedback from the meeting has been positive with delegates finding the programme informative and relevant to their needs and reasons for attending. It would seem that all sessions found an appreciative audience. We have also received many useful observations and suggestions which will inform our planning for future meetings.

Thank you all again for your participation and attendance.

ATLANTA

IPFA
international plasma and fractionation association

international plasma and fractionation association