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Message from the Chairman



Hatem Salem

Greetings from Melbourne

As time approaches the excitement of hosting the 2012 APSTH in Melbourne is building. The organising committee for the seventh APSTH congress is busy finalising the details of the program. We have a number of international delegates who have all agreed to come. The program looks exciting and interesting. It promises to be a blend of clinical medicine and basic science relevant to our practice. In addition to the regular sessions, we are hoping that we will have some satellite symposia that will cover in depth the new anticoagulants and their applications.

APSTH Officers

Honorary Chairmen

*Akikazu Takada
Yasuo Ikeda*

Chairman

Hatem Salem

Secretary General

Yukio Ozaki

Public Relations and Communications

Pantep Angchaisuksiri

Contact Us

Secretary General Office

Yukio Ozaki

*Department of Laboratory Medicine
Faculty of Medicine
University of Yamanashi
1110 Shimokato
Chuo Yamanashi 409-3898
Japan
E-mail: yozaki@yamanashi.ac.jp
Tel: 81-55-273-6770
Fax: 81-55-273-6924*

Editor Office

Pantep Angchaisuksiri

*Division of Hematology
Department of Medicine
Ramathibodi Hospital
Mahidol University
Bangkok 10400
Thailand
E-mail: rapac@mahidol.ac.th
Tel: 662-201-1796
Fax: 662-201-1796*

The APSTH congress will be held in conjunction with the annual HAA meeting. The latter is an annual scientific meeting of the three main haematology societies in Australasia. The (H) stands for the Haematology Society of Australia and New Zealand (HSANZ), the first (A) refers to the Australasian Society of Haemostasis and Thrombosis whereas the second (A) is in reference to the Australasian Society of Blood Transfusion (ASBT). The three societies meet at the same time and venue and usually there are shared symposia and plenaries. The highlight of the calendar of each society is an oration given by an expert in the field.

The oration of the Australasian Society of Haemostasis and Thrombosis is known as the Barry Firkin Oration. This lecture is an annual one and is named in honour of Barry George Firkin. We are very pleased that in 2012, Professor Yukio Ozaki has been nominated and has accepted to become the 9th Barry Firkin orator. Professor Ozaki is well known to all members of the APSTH as the executive Director of the society who has and continues to work tirelessly to ensure the success and growth of the society. In addition, Professor Ozaki is very well known nationally and internationally for his work on platelets. The selection of Professor Ozaki as the 9th Barry Firkin orator recognises his contribution to haemostasis and thrombosis and is a most fitting choice.

Barry George Firkin is without doubt the best known Australian haematologist. He was born in Newcastle, New South Wales in 1930. It is during his undergraduate years, that Barry developed an interest in medical research. This was consolidated following a post-doctoral period in St Louis Missouri where he worked with Professor Carl Moore, a doyen of haematology. He was most impressed by the calibre of medical researchers in the USA and on his return to Australia developed a commitment to encourage medical graduates to pursue medical research.

In 1969, Barry Firkin accepted the position of Foundation Professor of Medicine at the Alfred Hospital in Melbourne, Victoria. Soon after moving to his new position, he made his most significant contribution to haematology when he discovered that Ristocetin caused platelet clumping in a von Willebrand factor dependent manner. This observation represents the foundation of our understanding of von Willebrand factor and its role in haemostasis and thrombosis. Up to that point, von Willebrand disease was known as a serious bleeding disorder that affected men and women alike, it had some similarities to haemophilia but was different from that disease in terms of the clinical manifestations and genetic inheritance.

Members of APSTH Council

Australia

Beng Chong
Hatem Salem
Chris Ward

Cambodia

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Chean Sophal

China

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Artit Ungkanont

Vietnam

Bach Quoc Khanh
Nguyen Anh Tri

Over the ensuing 20 years, Barry continued to build Haematology in Australia, and trained a large number of haematologists who went on to become leaders in the discipline nationally and internationally.

Barry Firkin was an inspiration to many Australian Haematologists and Physicians. He is regarded as a leader and the father of Modern Australian haematology. Barry passed away in 2001, and we recognise his immense contributions by an annual oration delivered by an eminent haematologist chosen by the ASTH Council. We are looking forward to Professor Ozaki's oration and encourage you to attend what promises to be a memorable event.



Barry Firkin

From the Editor



Dear Colleagues,

Greetings and best wishes as we start a New Year. How time flies! We are on our third issue of this newsletter already and we continue to have a lot of important information to pass on to you. Key of course is the upcoming Asian-Pacific Society on Thrombosis and Hemostasis (APSTH) Congress in Melbourne, October 27-31, 2012 and this is covered in the message from the APSTH Chairman, Hatem Salem from Australia. This newsletter also has a feature story on ISTH Kyoto 2011. This was written from the perspective of an Indonesian, Luygianti Sukrisman. Next, Yasuo Ikeda, President of the ISTH 2011 Congress, has some facts and figures about the success of that meeting. The Chinese

Thrombosis and Hemostasis Committee and the Chinese Society of Hematology have a history and an update on their current projects. We continue with research news from Nagoya City University and close out this issue with an exciting look ahead to the 7th Congress of the APSTH by its President, Christopher Ward.

To continue to have informative articles for our readers, I strongly encourage you to submit a story to me at rapac@mahidol.ac.th.

Pantep Angchaisuksiri, Editor
Officer of Public Relations and Communication APSTH

ISTH KYOTO 2011: Report of a Journey

Lugyanti Sukrisman, Indonesia



As a member of ISTH, attending the every-two-years Congress of ISTH is like a 'regular' agenda, when all people of the thrombosis-haemostasis society are gathering together, sharing knowledge and experience, and meeting each other from all over the world. I have been attending since the ISTH Congress in Paris, 2001 when I presented my

first poster presentation and also received a travel grant. So, ISTH Kyoto 2011 was the first ISTH Congress in Asia I have attended, and I want to share some of my personal impressions.

Arriving in Kyoto, I could see the Japanese heritage everywhere. The houses, temples, river and bicycles were everywhere, and we could see small shops selling traditional goods including 'second-hand' kimono. The ambience was different from other Japanese cities I have visited. After hotel checked in, Some Indonesian colleagues and I went to the ISTH Congress venue by subway. I was worried because all the destination signs were in Japanese language, but fortunately there are some English words, so we were able to travel easily by train and arrived at the Congress venue.



The architecture of ISTH Congress venue was unique (I named it a 'Japanese warrior hat'); and the garden and pond at the back were beautiful. It was a huge building with a long distance between rooms, so it took some time to go from one room to another, but fortunately the Congress staff were kind and helpful. The topics of ISTH Congress were interesting. Although Japan had just suffered from a huge earthquake and tsunami, which caused cancellation

of some participants who were going to attend the meeting, I could see many participants from many countries at the Congress. I met many colleagues from the Netherlands during my poster presentation as well as many participants from many regions of my country. I noticed that there was a 'new' booth from ISTH education program, but I missed the book station/booth at the venue. One other thing that I also enjoyed very much was Japanese food served by the



Committee. It was awesome and it seemed that many participants, including my colleagues from Australia and other countries also enjoyed it.

Another unforgettable experience was when we (my colleague Nadia and I) were lost and asked a police officer at a Police Station for directions. Although there was a language barrier, the police officers were kind and did their best effort to help Nadia and me, including finding a taxi and even talking to the taxi driver directly to help us. I had the same experience when my friends and I took a public bus from Kinka Kuji Temple to Shijo. One student was helpful showing us the direction when we were confused with the route of the bus. Most of taxi drivers were polite and always asked for permission to speak English with us. Those showed the hospitality of people from Kyoto - and perhaps Japanese people - to the visitors. I hope I can come again some time to Kyoto with my family and see more interesting Japanese heritage and cultural aspects.

Finally, although Japan suffered from the huge earthquake and tsunami, I think Japanese people will recover soon and get stronger. ISTH Kyoto 2011 was the reflection of hard work of Japanese people (Committee) and strong support from ISTH headquarter. We, as participants and member of Thrombosis-Haemostasis 'family' will always give our support to ISTH and APSTH and all the events.

Message from the ISTH 2011 Congress President



Yasuo Ikeda
President of XXIII
Congress of the ISTH

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

First of all, I would like to say thank you to all the people who supported us in making ISTH 2011 extremely successful with 4,605 participants from 79 countries. Especially, it our great pleasure that around 80 % of these were overseas attendees. Considering the situation of the last

several months in Japan, this is quite remarkable. I strongly believe that your presences were not only important to the success of our Congress, but were significant enough to encourage the people of Japan.

I hope you did find it a rewarding experience and enjoyed your stay in Kyoto as well as our unique culture, tradition and the hospitality of Japanese people.

Thank you again for your participation and support over

several years. I look forward to seeing you at the 58th SSC Meeting in Liverpool, UK, (June 27 – 30, 2012) and the 7th APSTH Congress in Melbourne, Australia (October 28 – 31, 2012).



At the Presidential Dinner. From left: Sim Leng Tien, Chris Ward, Pichika Chanrathammachart, Pantep Angchaisuksiri, Yukio Ozaki, Lai Heng Lee.

Chinese Thrombosis and Hemostasis Committee (CTHC), Chinese Society of Hematology (CSH)

Yi Wu and Changgeng Ruan

In China, basic and clinical research of Thrombosis and Hemostasis began to flourish in the 1970s. Due to the rapid progress of this research field in the world, Chinese scientists have agreed on the need to have a national specialized meeting and establish a formal organization to promote thrombosis and hemostasis research in China. In 1986, the First National Conference on Thrombosis and Hemostasis was held in Xi'an in which the Chinese Thrombosis and Hemostasis Committee (CTHC) as a branch of the Chinese Society of Hematology was officially organized. Drs. Zhenyi Wang and Jiazeng Li have served as the first and second Chairman of the Committee respectively. The current Chairman is Prof. Changgeng Ruan, the director of Jiangsu Institute of Hematology, the First Affiliated Hospital, Soochow University.

Within more than two decades, the CTHC members, from only a few people at the initial establishment, have gradually developed to dozens all over the country. Under the leadership of the CTHC and through the unremitting effort, the scientists in China have been promoting the development of thrombosis and hemostasis society in the following areas.



Eighth from left, Prof. Zhenyi Wang (First Chair); Ninth from left, Prof. Jiazeng Li (Second Chair); Fifth from right, Prof. Changgeng Ruan (current chair).

Immune thrombocytopenic purpura (ITP): Since the early 1980s, Prof. Ruan developed Suzhou series of platelet glycoprotein-specific monoclonal antibodies, which laid the foundations for the investigation into the pathogenesis of ITP and the development of antigen-specific diagnostic kits. In the 21st century, the researchers in China have published a series of papers in the Blood journal on the pathogenesis of ITP, establishing the novel concept of immune tolerance in ITP and the abnormal megakaryocyte apoptosis in ITP.

Hemophilia: In the 1980s, the scientists have conducted a national epidemiological survey of hemophilia, which indicated the prevalence of 2.73/100 thousands. We have established a national case information monitoring system and provincial hemophilia patient information management center, which have improved the prevention and treatment of hemophilia.

vWD: We have independently developed anti-human VWF monoclonal antibody (Suzhou series), and the ELISA kit for determining human plasma VWF antigen, and have established a set of functional VWF function tests. By using the technique of molecular biology, we have discovered and reported several vWF gene mutations in patients with vWD, which promote deep insight into the structure-function relationship of vWF.

TTP: Ten years ago, we started to carry out clinical and experimental studies of TTP, and have established the assays for the activities of plasma ADAMTS13 and its inhibitors. We have reported a new type of ADAMTS13 gene mutations in hereditary TTP patients. We have developed anti-ADAMTS13 monoclonal antibody (Suzhou series), and established ADAMTS13 antigen detection methods for investigating the pathogenesis of TTP.

Basic research on Thrombosis and Hemostasis:

Besides clinical investigations, basic research is also our focus. For example, in 2008, Prof. Ruan obtained financial support from the Cyrus Tang Foundation of the United States and the local governments, by which we established a new research hematology institute - Cyrus Tang Hematology Center at Soochow University. Together with the Jiangsu Institute of Hematology, the Center serves as a state-of-the-art platform for research and technological innovation in hematology, a nationally recognized field of study at Soochow University. The purpose of the Cyrus Tang Hematology Center is to conduct cutting-edge basic research in the areas of thrombosis, hemostasis and vascular biology. Up to now, the center has recruited 12 principle investigators (PI) from overseas, who have obtained the abundant grants from various agencies, including the National Natural Scientific Foundation, the Ministry of Science and Technology, and the Jiangsu Provincial Government. The PIs have published their works in decent journals, such as Blood, Circulation, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, Arteriosclerosis, Thrombosis, and Vascular Biology, and Oncogene, et al. The goal of Tang Center is to become



Fifth from left, Prof. Changgeng Ruan (current chair); Third from left, Prof. Renchi Yang (current vice chair); Fourth from left, Prof. Ming Hou (current vice chair); Second from right, Prof. Yongqiang Zhao (current vice chair); Third from right, Prof. Yu Hu (current vice chair).

a national center of thrombosis and hemostasis and a training ground for new generations of leading hematologists in China.

The CTHC is not only dedicated to promote research on thrombosis and hemostasis in China, but also actively organizes national and international meetings. Every two years, we organize the National Congress on Thrombosis and Hemostasis. In 2006, we hosted the Fourth Asian Pacific Congress on Thrombosis and Hemostasis (APCTH) in Suzhou, in which Prof. Changgeng Ruan served as the Chairman. There were about 640 attendants in this meeting, including 400 from Chinese mainland and more than 200 from Taiwan, Hong Kong, Asian Pacific countries, the United States, Canada, Australia, and Europe.

We will in the future continue our effort in clinical, laboratory and experimental research, with an ultimate goal to develop translational medicine in the field of thrombosis and haemostasis and thus to serve our people better. In addition, we will continue to cooperate with our colleagues in the Asian Pacific region.



Beautiful city of Suzhou

Research News

Molecular and Cellular Pathobiology and Therapeutics at Nagoya City University Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences: Integrating research and education, opening the mysteries of drug actions, discovering new therapies.

Satoshi Fujii, M.D., Ph. D.

Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Nagoya City University, Japan



It is my great pleasure to introduce to you my laboratory at Nagoya City University in this newsletter. Nagoya City University is one of the Japan's premier small research universities. As an undergraduate or graduate student, one can participate in close collaboration with our faculty in the creation of new knowledge.

These new creations may take various

forms such as novel drugs to treat thrombosis. I invite you to explore our website (<http://www.phar.nagoya-cu.ac.jp/hp/szg/index-e.html>) or you may contact me directly to discuss your future plans.

About us: We care for undergraduate and graduate students.

The Division of Molecular and Cellular Pathobiology and Therapeutics aims to elucidate the molecular and cellular mechanisms of pathogenesis of specific diseases related to life-style changes and aging processes such as atherothrombosis. These research activities will enable practical applications including new drug discovery and personalized medicine. In addition, novel education/training programs integrating medical and pharmaceutical sciences are introduced for both undergraduate and graduate students. Therapeutic management of human diseases is recently much diversified. We provide state-of-the-art knowledge and technology in functional analysis of pathobiologically important molecules in response to rapidly advancing life sciences.

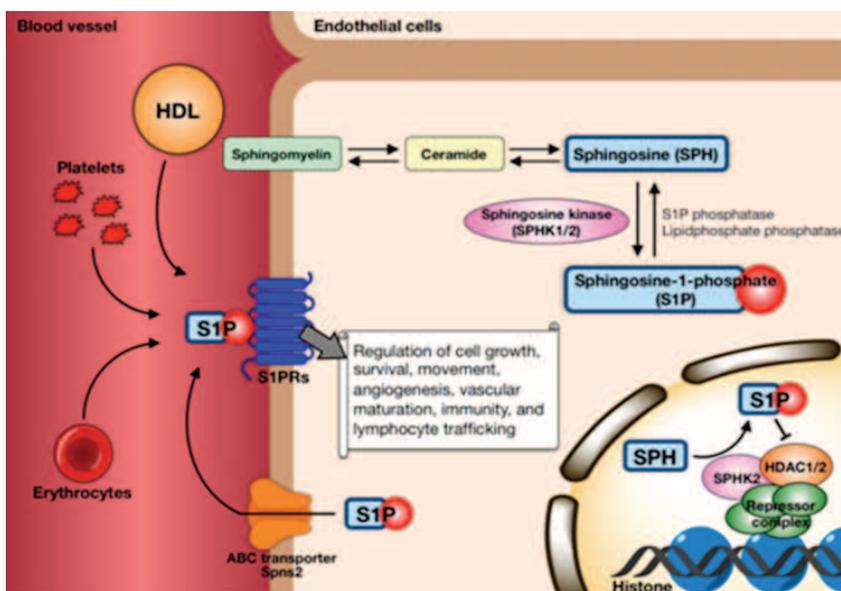
Research units are closely linked to each other and every graduate and undergraduate student will have the opportunity to acquire the most-developed knowledge and technology in life sciences and drug-discovery sciences.

Considering recent high-tech and very complex therapeutic procedures in real-world medical scenes, our programs provide basic and clinical research activities, including analysis of pathological mechanisms of thrombotic diseases and development of investigational new drugs. The programs also provide state-of-the-art education in a very friendly atmosphere and leading-edge research activities on basic and clinical hands-on practice of medical pharmacy, and support diversified activities including post-graduate training.

Our research programs: We open the door to the mysteries of drug actions and for the discovery of new therapies.

Pathobiology of Atherothrombosis and Development of New Therapeutics

Natural killer T cells implicated deeply in cardiovascular disorders can potentially induce plasminogen activator inhibitor type-1 (PAI-1), the major physiologic inhibitor of fibrinolysis and proteolysis, in liver through interactions with hepatocytes via cytokines and growth factors. PAI-1 can induce fibrosis, thus contributing to hypoxia, induction of HIF-1 and further deteriorating liver.



Pathophysiological Roles of Sphingolipids in the Development of Thrombotic Diseases

Sphingosine-1-phosphate (S1P), a sphingolipid metabolite that regulates many cellular and physiological processes, including cell growth, survival, movement, angiogenesis, vascular maturation, immunity, and lymphocyte trafficking, acts both inside the cells and as an extracellular mediator through binding to five G protein-coupled receptors, S1P1-5. Recent studies suggest that S1P signaling may play a role in many human diseases, including atherothrombosis, vascular inflammation, and immune disorders such as multiple sclerosis.

Update on the 7th Congress of the Asian-Pacific Society on Thrombosis and Hemostasis (APSTH)

Christopher Ward
 President of the 7th APSTH Congress



The next biannual Congress of APSTH will be held in Melbourne, Australia on 27-31 October 2012. The Congress venue will be the Melbourne Convention Exhibition Centre; this new, state-of-the-art facility was recently chosen as the venue for the 2019 ISTH Congress. It has a spectacular, riverfront setting looking across to downtown Melbourne with hotels, restaurants and many of Melbourne's most famous sites only a short walk away. The 7th Congress will be held in conjunction with the Haematology Societies of Australia (HAA) annual meeting, providing a wide-ranging programme of international and regional speakers. Delegates will have ample opportunity to meet with colleagues from across the Asia-Pacific region, during the conference and at the many social functions.

Planning for the Congress is well underway, with 9 international speakers for the APSTH programme confirmed – preliminary details of the Congress and HAA meeting can be found on the following website: www.fcconventions.com.au/HAA2012.

The 7th Congress will include the following highlights:

- A one-day coagulation workshop (Saturday 27th) organised by and for our laboratory scientists, with a focus on difficult cases and new technologies
- A 2 day Platelet Workshop (27-28th) covering advances in basic platelet biology, platelet disorders and the impact of new antiplatelet agents. This workshop will have a separate registration to encourage platelet researchers to attend and is being organised by panel of prominent Australian, Japanese and UK platelet experts. The Workshop will include several free communication sessions and poster sessions to highlight the latest research and clinical advances
- An APSTH Education Day (Sunday 28th) featuring many of our keynote speakers on "hot" topics in coagulation, and the APSTH Oration in honour of the late Barry Firkin, one of the founders of coagulation medicine in Australia

- An Opening Ceremony and function to welcome APSTH delegates to the Congress, with some very surprising guests

- More than 20 symposia sessions with international and regional speakers presenting updates on basic science, diagnostic and clinical topics

- Combined symposia with the major Australian societies, including platelet dysfunction in haematological malignancy (HSANZ) and management of bleeding on the new anticoagulants (ANZSBT)

- Masterclasses (Meet the Expert sessions) offering the opportunity to learn from world leaders in a small-group, informal session (bookings required)

- Satellite symposia will focus on important advances in therapy and diagnosis, with high-profile international speakers

- There will be ample opportunity for clinicians, trainees and scientists to present their own work at the Free Communication and Poster sessions – a special APSTH Young Investigator symposium will showcase the best work submitted by APSTH members from throughout the region

- And finally, everyone should plan to attend the Conference Dinner (Tuesday 30th) the social highlight of the meeting!

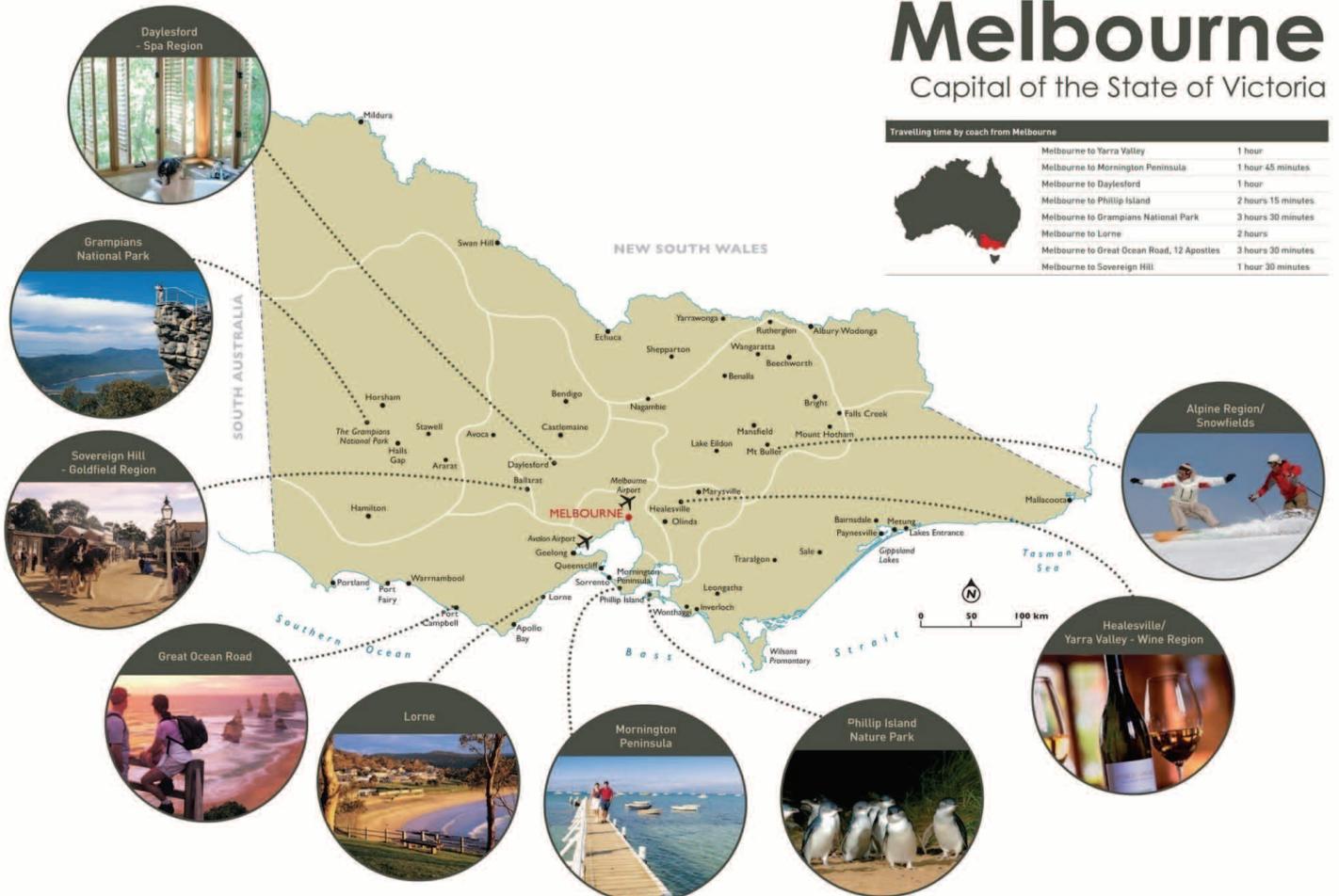
The recent 2011 HAA conference in Sydney, combined with Asia-Pacific societies of haematology (ISH) and transplantation (APBMT) attracted over 1500 delegates – we hope to at least match this in Melbourne, with your support! Information on the Young Investigator awards, registration and a detailed Congress programme will be available in early 2012, with a deadline for abstract submission in June 2012. Please mark your calendars now for the next APSTH Congress – we're sure it will provide an exciting scientific programme to interest all of the Society's members, and a boost to clinical and research collaborations across our region.

Upcoming Meetings:

- 1 6th International Conference on Thrombosis and Haemostasis Issues in Cancer**
20-22 April 2012 - Bergamo, Italy
www.ictic.com
- 2 XXXIV World Congress of the International Society of Hematology**
25-28 April 2012 - Cancun, Mexico
www.hematology2012.com
- 3 Asian Thrombosis Forum 2012**
11-13 May 2012 – Hong Kong, China
www.atf2012.org
- 4 Platelets 2012 International Symposium**
7-11 June 2012 – Beverly, Massachusetts, USA
www.platelets2012.org
- 5 17th Congress of the European Hematology Society**
14-17 June 2012 - Amsterdam, the Netherlands
www.ehaweb.org
- 6 58th Annual Meeting of the Scientific Standardization Committee of the ISTH**
27-30 June 2012 - Liverpool, UK
www.ssc2012.org
- 7 XXX International Congress of the World Federation of Hemophilia**
8-12 July 2012 - Paris, France
www.wfhcongress2012.org
- 8 HAA 2012**
A joint scientific meeting of the Haematology Society of Australia and New Zealand, Australia and New Zealand Society of Blood Transfusion, Australasian Society of Thrombosis and Haemostasis with the 7th Congress of the Asian-Pacific Society of Thrombosis and Hemostasis
27-31 October 2012 – Melbourne, Australia
www.fcconventions.com.au/HAA2012

Melbourne

Capital of the State of Victoria



| Travelling time by coach from Melbourne | |
|--|--------------------|
| Melbourne to Yarra Valley | 1 hour |
| Melbourne to Mornington Peninsula | 1 hour 45 minutes |
| Melbourne to Daylesford | 1 hour |
| Melbourne to Phillip Island | 2 hours 15 minutes |
| Melbourne to Grampians National Park | 3 hours 30 minutes |
| Melbourne to Lorne | 2 hours |
| Melbourne to Great Ocean Road, 12 Apostles | 3 hours 30 minutes |
| Melbourne to Sovereign Hill | 1 hour 30 minutes |