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## Message from the Chairman



**Lai-Heng Lee**

Dear APSTH members,

In this mid-year newsletter, I am delighted to share and celebrate the success of our 10th Congress of APSTH at Sapporo city in beautiful Hokkaido which took place from 28th June to 30th June. Although held in conjunction with the 40th Congress of the Japanese Society on Thrombosis and Hemostasis, APSTH received 446 participants from 22 countries.

The meeting was vibrant with lively discussions and sharing at the various symposiums, oral communications and poster presentations and where science can be translated into good clinical practice to benefit our patients. We will want to record our thanks and appreciation to Prof. Satoshi Fujii and his excellent team for all the hard work and dedication towards the planning of this congress.

Research on the APSTH collaborative platform is going well and results of the APMAT (Asia Pacific Microangiopathic Thrombocytopenia Network) and the Thrombophilia and Protein S Genetic Study group were presented at ISTH Scientific Subcommittee (SSC) meeting at Dublin in July 2018. There is really so much more room for scientific collaborations in the area of thrombosis and haemostasis within the Asia Pacific region for our scientists and clinicians.

At our recent meeting at Sapporo, the council decided that APSTH can be more active and do more than holding a biannual congress and APSTH should hold an educational seminar during the non APSTH congress years. APSTH will support with assistance in program structure and regional speakers suggestions in addition to publicity for such education forums. APSTH country members can apply for the ISTH "Reach the World" funds to help finance such education symposiums. APSTH will work towards fiscal contributions towards such educational efforts in future when financially viable, although currently APSTH has no income other than good will donations.

For the latter half of 2018, we look forward to World Thrombosis Day (WTD) activities by individual country members of APSTH. This is a worthy effort to increase global awareness and to decrease disease burden of thrombotic diseases particularly venous thromboembolism and atrial fibrillation associated thromboembolic stroke. It is also a good education platform to propagate better treatment of thrombotic diseases.

Let us continue working together to further strengthen the APSTH's goals in advancing knowledge and building collaborations in the fields of thrombosis and haemostasis as well as vascular biology.

Best Wishes,

Lee Lai Heng

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**From the Editor**

Greetings to you all

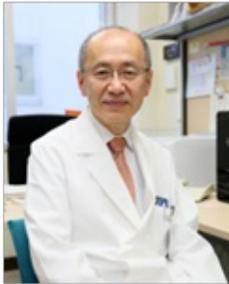
Within the second issue of the APSTH newsletter in 2018, the main topics are on our big event, The 10th Congress of the Asian-Pacific Society on Thrombosis and Hemostasis (APSTH), in the lovely city of Sapporo, Japan. The meeting is greatly successful both scientifically and socially. The marvelous regional data were presented by the regional speakers. In addition, lectures were given by many world-renowned experts including the International Society of Thrombosis and Haemostasis (ISTH) president-elect, Dr Claire McLintock and the future ISTH president, Dr. Jeffrey Weitz. Great thanks to Professor Satoshi Fujii, the president of APSTH congress, who devotedly organizes this excellent meeting. He also gives us the brief summary. In addition, many young investigators from various Asia-Pacific countries, including Australia, China, Korea, Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam, received the travel grants to present their outstanding research works. Ten of them also expressed their feelings and impressions illustrating their great opportunities to exchange knowledge with international researchers in the same field and make new friends in this region. This strongly emphasizes the importance of these generous travel grants for our society. We hope to see you all in 11th APSTH 2020 meeting in Gwangju, Korea.

Finally, Barbara Krolak describes the World Thrombosis Day (WTD) campaign in Asia-Pacific region. For the upcoming October 13, I am sure that you all are preparing for the WTD event in your countries in order to enhance the public awareness leading to prevention of this deadly disease.

**Ponlapat Rojnuckarin**, Editor

Officer of Public Relations and Communications APSTH

# Summary report of the 10th Congress of Asian-Pacific Society on Thrombosis and Hemostasis



**Prof. Satoshi Fujii**

*President of the 10th APSTH Congress 2018*

The 10th Congress of the Asian - Pacific Society on Thrombosis and Hemostasis (APSTH2018) was held from June 28 to 30, 2018 at Royton Hotel in Sapporo, Japan.



The conference began on June 28th with the opening ceremony in the evening.



*Sign of APSTH2018 at the entrance of Royton hotel.*



*APSTH chairman, Dr. Lee Lai-Heng made the opening remarks at the opening ceremony.*

The number of registration was 446 from 22 countries

Before the opening ceremony two educational programs were held. The morning program was supported by ISTH



*APSTH reception area at Royton Hotel.*



*Educational program with support of ISTH.*

Educational program supported by ISTH were presented by five experts including Drs. Claire McLintock, Jeffrey Weitz, Walter Ageno, Tatsuya Atsumi, and Katsue Suzuki-Inoue. The program was chaired by Dr. Yukio Ozaki and Dr. Claire McLintock. The afternoon program was supported by WFH



*Dr. Claire McLintock and Dr. H. Marijke van den Berg delivering a lecture at educational program with support of ISTH and WFH.*

This program was planned by Japanese Society on Thrombosis and Hemostasis (JSTH) president, Professor Midori Shima



*Japanese Society on Thrombosis and Hemostasis (JSTH) president, Professor Midori Shima.*

Educational program supported by WFH were presented by five experts, Drs. H. Marijke van den Berg, Midori Shima, Ki - Young Yoo, Yeu - Chin Chen, and Kumiko Ono. The program was chaired by Dr. H. Marijke van den Berg and Dr. Akira Yoshioka. All the APSTH council members are grateful for the kind international support of both ISTH and WFH for these educational seminars. These two educational seminars truly show the good friendship of international academic organizations related to thrombosis and hemostasis.

On June 29 and 30 APSTH 2018 included six intriguing symposiums. The topics included World Thrombosis Day (WTD) symposium entitled "Increasing the awareness for thrombosis in Asia: challenges and WTD initiatives"



*Dr. Jeffrey Weitz delivering a lecture at WTD symposium.*



*Dr. Jeffrey Weitz and Dr. Tetsumei Urano chaired WTD symposium.*

"Bench to bedside research harnesses the power to combat bleeding disorders", "Enlarging horizon of thrombosis and hemostasis: emerging new therapeutic targets", "Clinical laboratory testing provides protection for patients", "Antithrombotic therapies in Asia 2018: current status and future perspective", and "APSTH/JSTH joint symposium: Time to reappraise cutting-edge basic science to further reduce thrombotic risk". The symposiums provided the recent advances and information in basic and clinical research. These advances in research, clinical practice and medical care were shared by all APSTH members present. Forty - nine thematic oral presentations in 7 sessions (platelet, hemophilia, bleeding disorder, transfusion and monitoring, cardiovascular disease, management of thromboembolism, clinical hemostasis and thrombosis) and 157 poster presentations



*Poster session was quite crowded with ardent researchers.*

New ideas were provided and new collaborations were developed within our APSTH members.

All members were excited to see the active participation of our young investigators. Young scientists and clinicians convincingly showed the strong growth of APSTH. Twenty-eight outstanding scholars were awarded Travel Grant Awards of APSTH 2018. In addition Poster Awards were granted. Many young scientists visited exhibition area



Many young scientists visited the poster area and the exhibition area.

In the Exhibition area ISTH had a beautiful booth



ISTH booth attracted numerous visitors from all over the world.

In particular participants were quite interested in the information on WTD and ISTH2019 in Melbourne, Australia. We were fortunate that Dr. Robert Medcalf, president of ISTH2019 participated in APSTH20



Dr. Robert Medcalf, congress president of ISTH2019 in Melbourne, at ISTH booth.

On June 30 Fun Walk celebrating WTD was held



WTD Fun Walk attracted many APSTH participants.

Members gathered and walked around the Odori Park located in the central downtown Sapporo



WTD participants walked through the Odori Park in the central district of Sapporo.

We were joined by Sapporo citizen doing morning exercise in the Odori Park and had a good time walking.

APSTH2018 had concurrent JSTH meeting planned by Professor Tatsuya Atsumi

Some participants enjoyed the paid post-congress tour as well on June 30



*Professor Tatsuya Atsumi, President of 40th JSTH and vice president of APSTH2018.*

Many of the JSTH members, highly motivated in basic and clinical research, were quite interested in APSTH countries which have shown an increasing scientific growth in medical research and medical care. APSTH members and JSTH all conversed not only to mutually understand each other, but also to build a good friendship. This experience will be useful for networking in future careers. In addition to the scientific program a welcoming reception party for all conference attendees for both APSTH and JSTH were held on the second day



*After crab dinner they went to Mt. Moiwa to enjoy the night view of Sapporo.*

We really had a good APSTH meeting. All participants made good presentations, and we were all moved deeply. We could get new knowledges and could build good friendship and new professional network. Local organizing committee members thank all participants who worked very hard to make this meeting a very productive one. The next 11th APSTH meeting will be held in Korea in 2020



*From left, Dr. Yukio Ozaki, Dr. Lee lai-Heng, Dr. Robert Medcalf, Dr. Dong-Tsamn Lin at the welcome reception.*



*From left Dr. Hun-Gyu Hwang, Dr. Soo Mee Bang, Dr. Doyeun Oh, Dr. Satoshi Fujii, Dr. Youngkeun Ahn.*

Together we can make a better meeting in 2 years. We all look forward to the next meeting.

Organizing committee, APSTH 2018

# Reports from Recipients of the APSTH/JSTH 2018 Travel Grant



## APSTH/JSTH 2018 Joint Symposium/APSTH 2018 Congress Experience

**Sri S Adiyanti**  
*Department of Clinical Pathology  
Faculty of Medicine  
University of Indonesia  
Jakarta, Indonesia*

Firstly I want to express my gratitude to Professor Satoshi Fujii, Dr. Tatsuya Atsumi and Dr. Lai Heng Lee and APSTH 2018 committee that received my abstract and gave me award the travel grant. This is my first experience to give an oral presentation. Previously I already experienced to give a poster presentation in Kyoto, Japan in 2007. My research is about correlation of miRNA 122 and hematology variables in patients that undergoing repeated phlebotomy. This is the first research on miRNA 122 in human plasma. Previous research of miRNA 122 was performed to rats. I was conducting this research as a fellow in Asahikawa Medical University (AMU) in 2016-2017, with professor Satoshi Fujii. Therefore, I also want to express gratitude also to other AMU staff, including Kawabata-sensei, Akasaka-sensei, Tomoda-san and also Saito-san as the secretary of department that helped me with all my necessities.

Since I stayed in Asahikawa, this is not the first time I have been to Sapporo. Asahikawa and Sapporo just takes around 2 hours on trip. Still, I was excited to come to Japan again and to meet Professor Fujii and other staff of AMU. I was also invited to casual party for young travel award winners that located near Sapporo station. There I met Dr. Shogo Tamura, and other award winners. I was very enthusiastic to get new friends, including some undergraduated medical students from Nagoya and also other doctors/scientists from India and China, Australia, Nepal, Philippines and Vietnam. They are very smart, and discussing about their topics that they would present really broadening my knowledge.

The topics that were presented in APSTH were very outstanding, I was so interested to hear new updates about Hemophilia, Antiphospholipid syndrome, VTE and Platelet activation especially in laboratory field. My oral presentation was scheduled on the second day in Transfusion and Monitoring session, I was a bit nervous

since it was my first experience to give an oral presentation in international forum but I was trying to give my best and to see other really excellent oral presentations, which also motivated me. On the third day, we had World Thrombosis Day fun walk at Odori Park. We wore T-shirt that was given before by the committee. It was fun. We did morning exercise and then walking through along the Odori Park. There were beautiful flowers that were designed creatively.

Finally, it was a great experience to be part of APSTH 2018, to attend and give oral presentation of such a big event, and to meet other scientists from other nations. In the future, I wish to be a part and contribute to the next APSTH and also other international events.



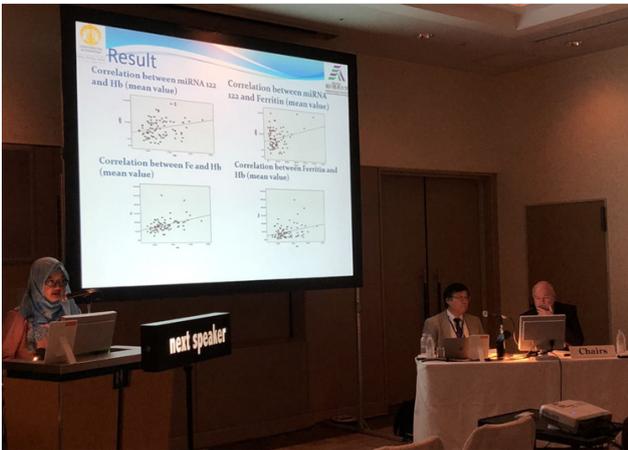
*Me with my mentor, Prof Dr Satoshi Fujii*



Casual dinner party young travel awardee



With other travel award winners



My oral presentation



Tanabata festival in APSTH 2018 venue



## APSTH/JSTH Joint Symposium Experience

### David Connor

Conjoint Lecturer UNSW.

Dermatology, Phlebology and Fluid Mechanics Research Laboratory  
St Vincent's Centre for Applied Medical Research,  
New South Wales, Australia

I had the good fortune of receiving a Travel grant to attend the APSTH meeting. Travel grants such as these are invaluable for research scientists such as myself who have limited access to funding to attend international meetings. This was my the first APSTH meeting that I had been to outside of Australia and I truly hope it won't be my last.

On my first night, I had the honour of being invited to a dinner for all those awarded travel grants. Our host, Dr. Shogo Tamura ensured that we were all well looked after and it was great to see so many faces from all around the Asia Pacific Region. From my recollection, there were awardees from all around the world, including China, Australia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Vietnam, India and South Korea. It was tremendous to see a strong

scientific program including distinguished international speakers such as Jeffrey Weitz and Claire McLintock and local Japanese speakers such as Katsue Suzuki-Inoue. A particular highlight for me was the Masterclass from Steve Kitchen on "How to perform good coagulation assays."

Like all those who were presenting Oral Communications, the thought of condensing a presentation into just 5 minutes was a daunting task, but it was amazing to see all speakers stick to their assigned time, considering we all would have had so much to say. For me, it was a great experience to discuss our work on the Sydney Platelet Group and our efforts to establish an integrated diagnostic pathway for platelet bleeding disorders.

Having been involved in conference organisation myself, I know the amount of behind the scenes work that goes on in organising a conference of this scale and I must say that the organisation of this meeting was truly amazing.

I am very much looking forward to the next APSTH meeting in Gwangju, Korea in 2010. Until then, I hope to see you all in Melbourne, Australia for the ISTH World Congress in 2019.



Dinner for travel grant awardees



## APSTH/JSTH Joint Symposium Experience

**Dr. Preeti Kumari Chaudhary**  
Chungbuk National University, South Korea

This was my very first time of submitting an abstract to any of an international conference. Being a juvenile researcher, I felt myself very lucky to get a mail from Professor Satoshi Fujii mentioning that my abstract has been allocated to the oral session and awarded with Travel Grants Award. I was on cloud nine and couldn't wait to attend the conference. Sapporo was always on my bucket list to visit, and after getting this precious news, it became so hard to hold the horses to see my wish come true. For this, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude towards Professor Satoshi Fujii and Yutaka Yokoi. speakers such as Katsue Suzuki-Inoue. A particular highlight for me was the Masterclass from Steve Kitchen on "How to perform good coagulation assays."

My journey to Sapporo, Japan was quite amazing. I didn't face any problem to reach my hotel as the itinerary was clearly described in the venue access at the website. The flight to Sapporo was short from Incheon, South Korea and enjoyed every bit of it. I was a little bit concerned about the communication means but didn't have to face any problem regarding that. Starting from airport to the residing hotel everything was well organized and shown in arrow. I was amazed by the staffs at the train station and subway by their cooperative behavior and punctuality. They reached to me before I called for help watching me being confused and described the route which I should follow to reach my destination easily. The train journey was comfortable. I didn't even realize when I reached my destination as I was lost in witnessing the imposing landscape through the window of the train. It came out more beautifully than that of my imagination about Japan.

I was excited about the casual party in the evening where travel award winners gathered with the purpose to promote the exchange of young basic and clinical investigators at the early career stage in Asia-Pacific. Drizzling rain had increased the furor of the existing environment as Sapporo is well eminent for its tempting weather. I was aware of the fact that being a junior researcher, meeting the brilliant minds from the sameresearch field at the party would serve as a golden opportunity in my future pathway. This was one of the most fruitful practical parts of the conference as the main aim of the conferences remains to meet with the tremendous performers having similar research interest. I was warmly welcomed by Dr. Tamura. Everyone was very much senior to me there. At first, I was afraid of speaking in front of such intelligent researchers that later they depicted themselves in a very friendly manner. I could no longer resist myself from sharing my views as well. I never knew researching could be a that much fascinating job. We had chances to enjoy Japanese cuisine and culture, discussed on the topic we are currently working on. After having a long chat and a wonderful time, we went back to our hotel.

The morning was more awaited as it was the first day of the conference. I completed my registration and received my badge and travel grants award. I felt so fortunate to represent myself as a researcher there. As per the session, I attended the different talks delivered by Dr. Claire McLintock from New Zealand; Jeffrey Wreitz from Canada; Tatsuya Atsumi from Japan. Being a young scientist, talk on "Fundamental knowledge about platelet activation and platelet function tests" helped me to gather basic knowledge about platelet signaling. No surprise, I got fancy for the beautiful luncheon symposium by Stago. Japanese bento box was as delicious as it looked. As this was my first international conference, I was so enthusiastic on every part of it. All the sessions of the first day ended with the sharing of knowledge and listening to the questions and answers by experts.



*Poster Session*

The day didn't end there. I enjoyed the Belgian beer weekend, explored the city, the culture they follow, Japanese trends, crab market, Former Hokkaido Government office with newly made cheerful friends. This added adventure to the tour.

The next day I attended talks related to platelet. I presented my speech on "Role of PyK2 in platelet shape change downstream of G12/13 pathway". In particular, PyK2 has been shown to play an important role in platelet morphogenesis and activation through the regulation of RhoA which mainly regulates cytoskeleton related to actin stress fiber formation and actomyosin contraction. It is expected to be used in research. I also heard colloquy of different researchers about their outstanding work in platelets. I saw some fascinating posters on platelet works.



*Enjoying Japanese culture*

Met Dr.Hui-Ju Tsai from Taiwan, also a travel grant winner and got to know about her new concepts in platelet signaling area and exchanged even mine idea. Another researcher, Dr.Wang Xiaowei from Australia, explained her work about the delivery of nanoparticles. Being a very new keen researcher, the day couldn't have ended better than this. The meeting again surprised me with the "Welcome Reception" where I enjoyed all the authentic Japanese cuisines mainly Sapporo Ramen, Sapporo Ichiban chicken Flavored Soup, Sapporo Classic Beer, etc.



*Proud moment with my supervisor Professor Soochong Kim after receiving Young Scientist's Award*

On June 30, we started our day with WTD fun walk. Morning coffee with Dr.SmrithiMurali Krishna, Dr. Wang Xiaowei and Dr. SriSAdiyanti in the subway went through a long discussion about all the areas and scopes for a new researcher, how to approach for goals, how to be a good researcher. That conversation was very much helpful and informative for any young researcher to set myself in the world of research. Moving back to the venue, formal sessions of the last day ended up attending APSTH/ JSTH Joint Symposium, oral communications, and poster

presentations. We went to tour some more about Sapporo city, visited beautiful Nakajima Park, shopping complexes.



*WTD Fun Walk*

And finally, the most awaited and charming part of the conference appeared : Post - congress Night Tour which included "Dinner at Sapporo Kanikonke, famous for their crab cookery" and "Enjoy night view at Mt. Moiwa Ropeway". As the name suggests, an adventure loving person can't endure thyself from not participating.

I would like to conclude by saying I had a whale of a time during my stay in Sapporo. I consider myself very fortunate to attend "The 10th Congress of the Asian-Pacific Society on Thrombosis and Hemostasis", one of the most prestigious academic conference in Asia. The meeting offered the best science with an in-depth review of the important areas of thrombosis and hemostasis and related biologic events as it had promised. I would like to express my thankfulness to the organizing committee for the warm welcome. I suggest APSTH/JSTH is a great platform and can never be missed.



## APSTH/JSTH Joint Symposium Experience

**Halina Leung**

*Department of Haematology, St George Clinical School  
Faculty of Medicine, University of New South Wales, Australia*

Firstly, I would like to thank Professor Satoshi Fujii and the APSTH/JSTH organising committee for granting me the travel award. It was a great honour and pleasure to give an oral presentation at APSTH, which is the foremost international conference in the Asia Pacific region in the field of thrombosis and haemostasis. This was also my first trip to Sapporo and I hope to return to this lovely island of Hokkaido soon.

I arrived in Sapporo on Wednesday afternoon, one day prior to the commencement of APSTH/JSTH. I took the opportunity to visit Odori Park with its long stretch of blossoming flower beds and beautiful fountains. It also had a number of playful floral displays on show.



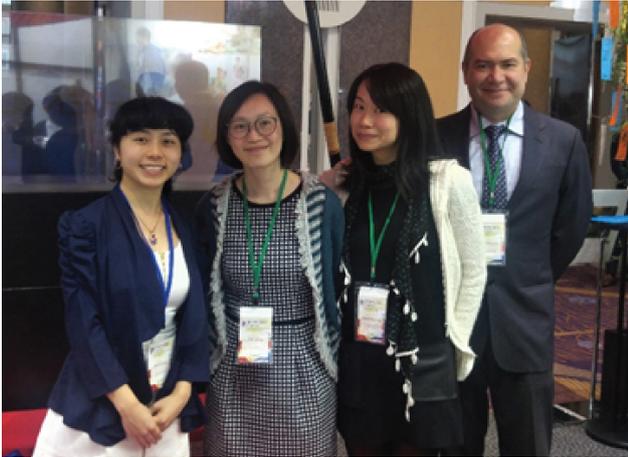
*Floral displays at Odori Park*

That evening, I was treated to a pre-conference dinner party at Uotami organised by Dr Shogo Tamura for the travel award winners. I was introduced to many young investigators and it was a great opportunity to network with clinicians and researchers who were also at an early stage of their career. We shared lots of stories, laughed a lot, and ate a lovely spread of delicious Japanese food, including fresh sashimi, specialty dishes from Sapporo such as Ishikari Nabe (a traditional hot pot dish with salmon and vegetables), and rounds of Sapporo beer. Despite the weather (cloudy with showers), we all left with smiles on our faces and full bellies.

The next morning was the first day of the APSTH/JSTH symposium. It was a pleasant 15 - minute walk from my hotel to the Royton Hotel, where the APSTH/JSTH symposium was held. I attended the educational programs supported by ISTH and WFH which were very informative and provided insights into a wide range of blood disorders, such as bleeding in pregnancy, VTE, antiphospholipid syndrome, and haemophilia. It also included a mini lecture on the mechanisms of platelet activation which was of particular interest. For dinner, I opted in for the Sapporo Beer Garden tour which served unlimited Sapporo beer and the popular local specialty, Genghis Khan. This is a traditional Hokkaido

dish where the lamb and vegetables are cooked on a cast iron skillet. Everyone enjoyed the meal immensely.

Friday, June 29, was the first day of oral presentations and I was one of seven presenters in the first morning session. The research I presented was on the role of neutrophils in heparin induced thrombocytopenia. This work has developed over the last three years with the collaboration of all the talented researchers in my group and I was happy and proud to present it to an international audience, which I am delighted to say was well received. I was also glad to have my fellow group members presenting their research for oral and poster presentations at APSTH/JSTH. Following the poster session, all attendees were invited to the welcome reception. Everyone was in good spirits, toasting to the speeches, tasting a range of sake and Sapporo beer, and feasting on the delicious food on offer: ramen cooked to order, handmade sushi, soup curry, sashimi boat, dessert and fruit platters. It was a joyous night where we all got to chat and meet new people over appetising food.



*Members of the Haematology Research Group (Halina Leung, Rose Wong, Silvia Zheng and Jose Perdomo) at APSTH/JSTH held at Royton Hotel*

Saturday was the final day of the symposium. I was impressed by the research being conducted in the Asia Pacific region and it opened my eyes on new assays that I could apply to my own research. Following the closing ceremony, a large group of us joined the post-congress night tour which included a crab dinner at Sapporo Kanihonke (the first restaurant to serve crab cuisine for over 50 years in Japan). The series of crab dishes was a real treat. We were lucky that the skies were clear so that we could finish off the day with the night view of Sapporo from Mt. Moiwa Ropeway. On Sunday, I went on a day trip to Otaru. Despite the poor weather, I thoroughly enjoyed visiting the Nikka Whisky Yoichi distillery, Otaru canal, LeTAO (and their delicious melon cheesecake), Tanaka Brewery, and Mt Tengu.



*Shrine and statue at Mt Tengu*

I really enjoyed my time in Sapporo and would like to again express my sincere thanks to the organisers of the APSTH/JSTH symposium for not only granting me the Travel Award and the opportunity to present my work, but for encouraging networking with researchers in the Asia Pacific region and providing a platform in which we all share our research. I am also very appreciative for the tours organised by APSTH/JSTH that allowed me to experience the beautiful scenery and culture of Japan. I encourage other young researchers to participate in future APSTH/JSTH symposiums as it has been an unforgettable experience.



*Shrine and statue at Mt Tengu*



## APSTH/JSTH Joint Symposium Experience

**Ponthip Mekchay (Ph.D. candidate)**

*Inter-Department Program of Biomedical Sciences, Faculty of Graduate School, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand.*

First, I would like to sincerely thank you for the organizing committee of the APSTH - JSTH 2018 for selecting our research as the 'Travel grant award'. This is a very proud moment for me as it the first award for my life as Ph.D. Student and the first time for me to do the oral presentation in an international conference.

Japan is my most favorite country. I am so interested in Japanese culture that I have been studying Japanese language. I usually visit japan once a year for travel. However, this time is quite special for me because this is the first time to me to come as a young researcher. After I arrived the congress at Royton Sapporo hotel, I can feel the warmwelcome from staffs. I saw a lot of researchers here and their atmosphere were really motivating me.

My oral presentation title was "Induced pluripotent stem cells from Bernard Soulier syndrome patients as a disease model to study the mechanisms of macrothrombocytopenia". I truly appreciated the chairman Professor Kenji Yokoyama and Professor Robert Medcalf for your kindly introduction and for the interesting questions in the end of my presentation.

Moreover, I would like to thank to the audiences who attended this conference for your attention in our study with questions and suggestions which are veryuseful for our future studies. In addition, the presentations by other investigators were awesome. After the presentation, I attended other lectures on Clinical laboratory testing provides protection for patients whichgaveme the new knowledges.

Apart from the congress, the last day in Sapporo, I went to Sapporo shrine to pay the respect and I tried to draw a fortune slip. Fortunately I got excellent luck fortune. At the shrine there was a marriage ceremony on this day and this was really an impressive moment for me.

To have the chance to participate in this congress is the best experience in my life and this could not happen if I don't have the support from Professor Ponlapat Rojnuckarin and my CU stem cell team. I would love to express my gratitude to Professor Satoshi Fujii and the organizing committee of the APSTH-JSTH 2018 for selection of my abstract and for your generous detailed information of the congress that made my visit went smoothly.



Shrine and statue at Mt Tengu



## APSTH/JSTH Joint Symposium Experience

**Nguyen Minh Tuan, MD, PhD, MSc**  
Head of Department of Hematology  
Children's Hospital 1, Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam

It is my great honour to be invited to make an oral presentation at the APSTH2018 in Sapporo, Japan with the travel grant award. I am extremely grateful to Professor Satoshi Fujii, Professor Yukio Ozaki and the organizing committee for their consideration and support so that I had this great opportunity to attend this prestigious international congress. I would like to extend my special thanks to Yukimi Makino, the APSTH2018 Secretariat, for her thoughtful guidance in preparing the information about the congress schedule, itinerary, weather forecast and necessary paperwork to go to Japan.

I particularly want to acknowledge Professor Satoshi Fujii and Dr. Shogo Tamura to invite travel grant awardees to attend the pre-congress dinner where I met many other young investigators from Singapore, Australia, China, Philippines, Malaysia, Thailand and Japan. We had a fun and warm evening to share our expertise and to build a good friendship in addition to enjoying the delicious traditional Japanese food with the famous freshly brewed Sapporo beer. I also had a chance to visit Sapporo Beer Museum on the first day when I arrived in Hokkaido.



Picture taken with Professor Satoshi Fujii.



Sapporo Beer Museum.

The congress program was divided into different in-depth topics of the important areas of thrombosis and hemostasis and related disorders. My talk at the oral presentation section was entitled “Early thrombosis of the portal venous system after splenectomy for thalassemia major”. I was impressed by the work presented by other travel grant awardees, including Shin Junghoon from Korea, Yi Qun from China, Angchaisuksiri Pantep from Thailand, Fujieda Yuichiro and Wada Hideo from Japan. We all were given a certification of excellence upon completion of our work and presentation. I had a fruitful discussion and constructive feedback from the participants at the end of my presentation.



*Pre-congress dinner with other travel grant awardees.*

I was very happy to know Dr Claire McLintock, ISTH President-Elect 2018-2020, and listen to her insightful presentations about management of women with inherited bleeding disorders in pregnancy and venous thromboembolism in obstetrics. Dr McLintock is a hematologist and obstetric physician serving as the Clinical Director of Regional Maternity Services at National Women’s Health, Auckland City Hospital in New Zealand.



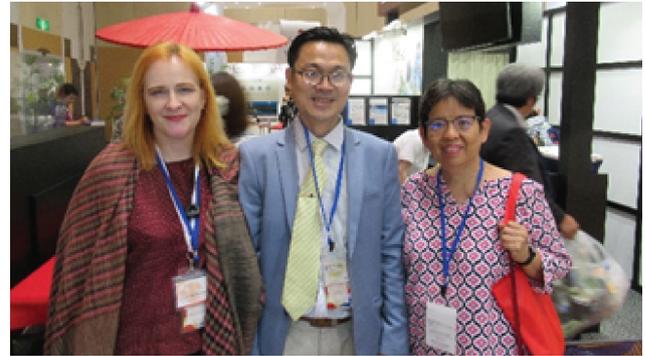
## APSTH/JSTH Joint Symposium Experience

**Jianlin Qiao**

*Blood Diseases Institute, Xuzhou Medical University, Xuzhou, China.*

On April 24, 2018, I received an email from Prof. Satoshi Fujii (President of the conference) notifying me that my abstract has been selected as an oral presentation in the 10th Congress of the Asian-Pacific Society on Thrombosis and Hemostasis (APSTH) in conjunction with the 40th Congress of the Japanese Society on Thrombosis and Hemostasis (JSTH), which is held in Sapporo from June 28 - 30, 2018. Meanwhile, my abstract has also been awarded with Travel Grants Award. I was very excited to hear this great news as I can travel to Japan to attend the meeting and meet other hematologists or research scientists in the field of hematology. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Prof. Satoshi Fujii and the APSTH 2018 committee for awarding the Travel Grants Award and selection of my abstract for oral presentation.

Also, I had the opportunity to meet Dr ThynnThynn Yee again after knowing her at the Workshop on Hemophilia Care and Treatment Options in Myanmar in November 2017. She is the pioneering hematologist at the Katharine Dormandy Haemophilia and Thrombosis Centre, Royal Free Hospital, UK. At the congress, she had a fantastic presentation about “Bench to bedside research harnesses the power to combat bleeding disorders”.



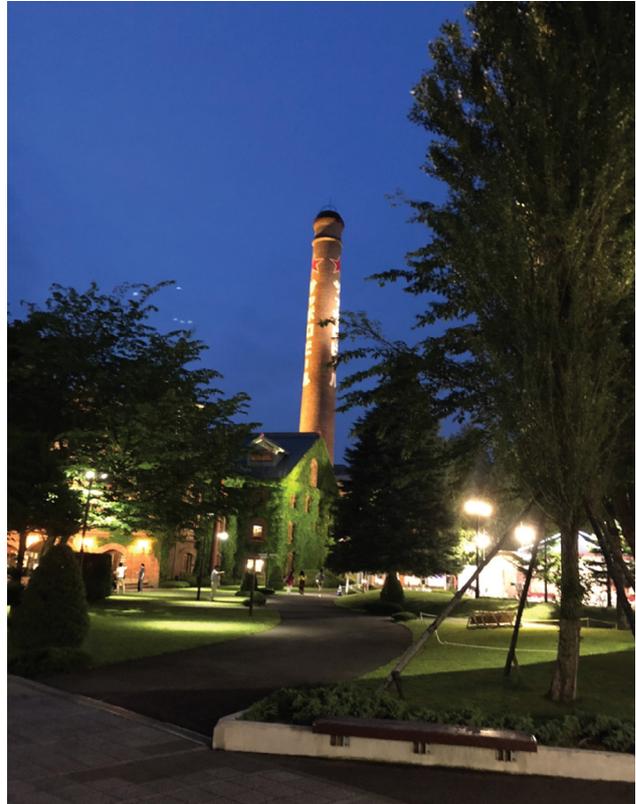
*Picture taken with Dr Claire McLintock and Dr ThynnThynn Yee.*

My last day was marked by a post-congress night tour when I had dinner with other distinguished guests and Professor Satoshi Fujii at Sapporo Kanihonke, the first restaurant serving crab cuisine for over 50 years in Japan. I had a blissful time in the luxurious space and enjoy the special tastes of Japan with the fresh crab sashimi and Kani sushi. The evening ended with a visit to Mt. Moiwa where I could have had a panoramic view of the city at an elevation of 531 meters. All in all, I have gained a lot of knowledge and experience when attending APSTH2018. Above all, I have made friendship and networking with international and Japanese scientists whose expertise and enthusiasm in hemostasis and thrombosis motivates me to go forward in pursuing my study in this area.

First, I would like to thank the congress organising committee and APSTH for the privilege of being one of the Travel Award recipients. Sapporo, Hokkaido was the perfect city to host the summer edition of the 10th APSTH Congress. Known for being Japan's winter playground, Hokkaido also boasts several summer beauties for travellers to enjoy outside the winter season. Although, it was a long way to travel from Australia, the welcoming nature of the city and the extensive ramen selection at the Chitose Airport made the 24 hour travel felt like a hop across town.

The 10th APSTH Congress kicked-off on Thursday with the Education program and lectures given by several renowned clinicians and researchers. The ISTH supported education program began with Dr. Claire McLintock's insightful talk on the management of bleeding disorders in woman. And one of the key take home messages was the need to recognise and include any bleeding which affects a woman's quality of life as part of their diagnosis. Following Dr McLintock's talk, the audience was treated to talks by Prof. Jeffery Weitz (Canada), Prof. Walter Ageno (Italy), Prof. Tatsuya Atsumi (Japan) and Prof. Katsue Suzuki-Inoue (Japan). The high calibre of talks continued on for the next two days of the congress. On the final day of the congress Prof. Mariana Kaplan (NIH), despite being unable to personally attend, gave an exceptional keynote from her American base. Although webcasts are the norm these days as a learning medium, a live and glitch-free broadcast on "NET and autoimmunity and vasculopathy" made the congress a global experience.

In the evening of June 28, I went to Sapporo Beer Garden together with other young investigators and had a dinner there (below). The BBQ food is very delicious and Sapporo beer is great.



*Pre-congress dinner with other travel grant awardees.*



My presentation was allocated in the afternoon on June 29 at the Oral Communication 3 – Platelets. As the first presenter in that session, I talked about the role of NLRP3 inflammation in platelet function and showed NLRP3 regulates platelet integrin  $\alpha\text{IIb}\beta\text{3}$  outside-in signaling transduction, in vivo hemostasis and arterial thrombosis signaling, providing a potential new link between thrombosis and inflammation. The following presentations by other young investigators in that session were very excellent, which would enrich my knowledge on platelets. In summary, I would like to thank Prof. Satoshi Fujii and the APSTH 2018 committee for providing me such a great opportunity to attend the meeting, present our study and communicate with other investigators in the field of hematology.



## APSTH/JSTH Joint Symposium Experience

**Jim Y Tiao**

*Western Australian Centre for Thrombosis and Haemostasis  
Murdoch University, Australia*

First, I would like to thank the congress organising committee and APSTH for the privilege of being one of the Travel Award recipients. Sapporo, Hokkaido was the perfect city to host the summer edition of the 10th APSTH Congress. Known for being Japan's winter playground, Hokkaido also boasts several summer beauties for travellers to enjoy outside the winter season. Although, it was a long way to travel from Australia, the welcoming nature of the city and the extensive ramen selection at the Chitose Airport made the 24 hour travel felt like a hop across town.

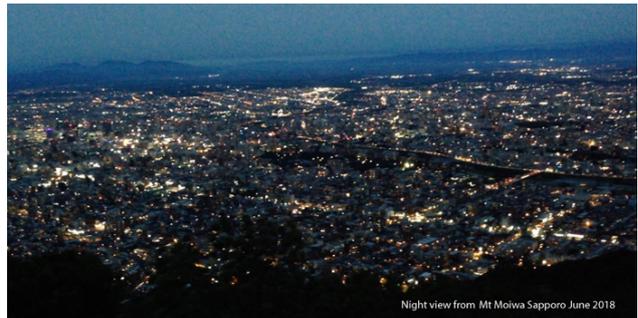
The 10th APSTH Congress kicked-off on Thursday with the Education program and lectures given by several renowned clinicians and researchers. The ISTH supported education program began with Dr. Claire McLintock's insightful talk on the management of bleeding disorders in woman. And one of the key take home messages was the need to recognise and include any bleeding which affects a woman's quality of life as part of their diagnosis. Following Dr McLintock's talk, the audience was treated to talks by Prof. Jeffery Weitz (Canada), Prof. Walter Ageno (Italy), Prof. Tatsuya Atsumi (Japan) and Prof. Katsue Suzuki-Inoue (Japan). The high calibre of talks continued on for the next two days of the congress. On the final day of the congress Prof. Mariana Kaplan (NIH), despite being unable to personally attend, gave an exceptional keynote from her American base. Although webcasts are the norm these days as a learning medium, a live and glitch-free broadcast on "NET and autoimmunity and vasculopathy" made the congress a global experience.

One of the highlights for me at the congress was hearing about some of the latest treatments available for Haemophilia. Namely the new Haemophilia A treatment, Emicizumab, which was also the talk of the town; the latest gene therapy trials were also a highlight. Presentations by key scientists behind the Emicizumab development, Prof. Midori Shima (Nara Medical University) and Dr. Takehisa Kitazawa (Chugai), distilled the scientific rigor which went into the discovery. Their stories of collaborations between industry and academia to develop Emicizumab over 10 years was both captivating and inspiring. One fun-fact on Emicizumab I had learnt during the Travel Award recipient dinner hosted by Dr. Shogo Tamura and colleagues, was that "Emi" translates to smile in Japanese. Whilst developing the FIX:FX specific antibody Dr. Shima wanted to make the paediatric Haemophilia A patients smile, thus he named the bi-specific antibody "Emi" cizumab. Current trial data presented at the congress are certainly showing promise in achieving that goal. With more fundamental research being

conducted on Haemophilia, I have no doubt we'll see more smiles on the faces of both adult and paediatric patients.

Whilst at Sapporo Hokkaido, I was also able to enjoy the many culinary delights the prefecture has to offer. Gastronomical culture in Hokkaido is considered one of the best in Japan, with many travelled afar for the experience. This was certainly on show during the welcoming reception, where congress attendees were treated to a dedicated sushi bar, two long tables of culinary delight from Japan as well as from abroad. And to wash it all down with beers from local breweries and the best vino Japan has to offer. Outside the congress, I was delighted to experience two different types of omakase menu; Japanese degustation menu or as I would like to call it, a "feed me" course. Both experiences had awakened my dormant tastebuds and highlighted why Hokkaido is the culinary capital of Japan.

It was wonderful to catch up with colleagues and friends at the 10th APSTH Congress. Moreover, it was a great meeting to attend and a pleasure making new friends and like-minded collaborators. Thank you to the APSTH organisers for a truly memorable "omotenashi" experience.





## APSTH/JSTH Joint Symposium Experience

**Shuai Wang**

*Department of Pathology and Pathophysiology,  
Zhejiang University School of Medicine, Hangzhou, China*

On April 24th, 2018, I was happy to receive an email from Professor Satoshi Fujii and Mr. Yutaka Yokoi informing me that my abstract was selected to be presented at the APSTH-JSTH 2018 Joint Symposium in Sapporo. It was the first time for me to be invited to make an oral presentation at an international congress. I'd like to express my sincere thanks to Professor Satoshi Fujii and Mr. Yutaka Yokoi for their selection of my abstract.

My travel from Shanghai, China to Sapporo, Japan was very well organized by the congress. Clear instructions were given on how to get to the hotel from Shin-Chitose Airport by train on the JR line. The train ride was pleasant and gave me the chance to see the changing landscape along the journey, from paddy fields to industrial zones and tall buildings in Sapporo. Route Inn Hotel that we live in was nearby the Sapporo station and strategically located behind the Daimaru.

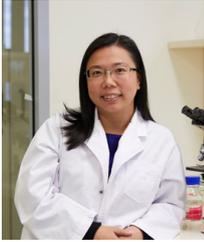
From the Sapporo station, it was a short 15-minute walk to the Royton Hotel where the symposium was held. I was thoroughly impressed by how seamless and professional the registration and slides submission process was. My presentation entitled "Platelet Peroxisome Proliferator-activated Receptor  $\alpha$  is involved in haemostasis and thrombus formation" was among the presentations by recipients of the Young Investigator Award. This work took us about 4 years and I was happy to have the chance to present it. I also enjoyed and learned a lot from the excellent presentations shared by the other investigators. I was particularly honored to receive the certification of excellence as a Young Investigator Grant recipient.



At the end of the day, we were brought to a special dinner party at Seafood restaurant with delicious cuisines. Then we took the cableway to the top of the mountain and enjoyed the magnificent night view of Sapporo. It provided precious opportunities to meet professor Satoshi Fujii and the other friendly investigators in person. It was encouraging to receive advices from them on being a more confident researcher.



It was my great honor to attend the APSTH-JSTH 2018 Joint Symposium and I really enjoyed the valuable and wonderful experiences in Sapporo. The experience of giving a presentation at such an international congress benefited me greatly. Finally, I would like to express my sincere thanks to Professor Satoshi Fujii and Mr. Yutaka Yokoi for their kind selection of my abstract and warm hospitality for my visit, and many thanks to all the organizers of the JSTH symposium.



## APSTH/JSTH Joint Symposium Experience

### **Xiaowei Wang**

*National Heart Foundation Future Leader Fellow; Baker Fellow  
Baker IDI Heart and Diabetes Institute, Atherothrombosis  
and Vascular Biology Lab Australia*

I felt very privileged and honoured to be invited to present my research at the 10th APSTH symposium 2018 in Sapporo Japan. Therefore I would like to take this chance to thank Prof. Satoshi Fujii, and the organisers of the APSTH for this wonderful opportunity

I am a Group Leader working at the Atherothrombosis and Vascular Biology Laboratory, at the Baker Heart and Diabetes Institute, situated in Melbourne, Australia. My research interests are thrombosis, molecular imaging, targeted drug delivery and diagnostics so I am very honoured to be selected as one of the recipients of the travel award for APSTH. This experience has provided me with a chance to foster regional collaborations with researchers from Japan and other countries in the Asia Pacific region.

The symposium was exceptionally well organised and our travel plans has been well thought out. On the evening of my arrival, Prof Fujii and Dr. Shogo Tamura organised a Japanese dinner for all the recipients of the APSTH/JSTH travel award and this gave me an awesome chance to meet other international early career researchers. Dr. Shogo Tamura met us at entrance of the restaurant. I was delighted to meet many other brilliant scientists who were both knowledgeable and passionate about their research.

During the conference, I am very impressed with the work carried out by all the researchers and I enjoyed the very insightful lectures given by the international speakers. Therefore, this conference has been a very fruitful experience for me. I met several like-minded young investigator awardees. We even managed to discuss possible collaborations in the near future. On the last day of the conference, the APSTH also organized thrombosis fun walk through the beautiful Odori Park.

I would like to thank Prof Fujii, as well as all the organisers of APSTH and JSTH for giving me this golden opportunity to learn from the brilliant scientists and clinicians present at this conference. Thank you for your hospitality and I really enjoyed myself in Japan.



*New friend, Preety from Korea, Fellow Aussie, Smriti and old friend Hui-Ju from Taiwan*


**WORLD THROMBOSIS DAY**
**five  
years  
flowing**


## World Thrombosis Day 2018 Celebrates Fifth Anniversary of the Campaign with Launch of Thrombosis Ambassador Award & New Resources for Partners

**Barbara Krolak**

*International Society on Thrombosis and Haemostasis (ISTH)*

Five years ago, the [World Thrombosis Day](#) (WTD) campaign began as an idea and transformed into an engaging, action-based global movement dedicated to placing a global spotlight on thrombosis. Led by the International Society on Thrombosis and Haemostasis (ISTH) and a [global steering committee](#) of scientific experts, the 2014 campaign launch welcomed more than 175 partner organizations from 50+ countries.

This year, the campaign is focused on the theme of “World Thrombosis Day 2018: Five Years Flowing” in commemoration of the five-year campaign anniversary. While WTD takes place on 13 October, activities and events will take place throughout the week leading up to 13 October and will continue throughout the year. Please see below for a listing of exciting new activities and opportunities to get involved in WTD 2018.



Today, the WTD 2018 campaign is proud to celebrate its fifth anniversary with an expansive global network of nearly 1,400 partner organizations representing 98+ countries worldwide. This growth highlights the critical need across the globe to recognize and increase awareness about thrombosis, and ultimately to help save lives

The Asia-Pacific region is home to hundreds of the WTD campaign’s partner organizations who continue to exceed expectations in awareness building and community engagement. Communities have been activated across Asia Pacific in countries such as Australia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, and Vietnam.

### 1. Become a Campaign Partner and Plan an Event in Your Community

Join the campaign as an official partner and recruit your network together involved. All are encouraged to join, including hospitals, clinics, higher education institutions, research centers, nonprofit organizations, societies, and individuals around the world. Join for free at [www.worldthrombosisday.org/join/](http://www.worldthrombosisday.org/join/).



Now is also the time to also start planning how you will celebrate WTD in October. When developing your event, consider opportunities that can educate and motivate others, and find ways to recruit community volunteers and thrombosis patients. To get started, download the [WTD 2018 Partner Toolkit](#) and review a list of [100 activity ideas](#) that have been successfully organized by other organizations in previous years.

## 2. Submit a Nomination for the Thrombosis Ambassador of the Year Award

Do you know an outstanding member of the thrombosis advocacy community who should be recognized for their efforts? Nominate him/her for this year's inaugural Thrombosis Ambassador of the Year Award! This prestigious award recognizes a passionate thrombosis advocate who is dedicated to building awareness about thrombosis in his/her community, region, country, and/or globally. Eligible candidates include thrombosis advocates, patients, survivors, healthcare professionals, and/or community volunteers.

The award winner will receive a complimentary full admission to the ISTH 2019 Congress in Melbourne, Australia (including travel expenses) and the opportunity to serve as a panelist during the WTD educational session at the congress.



The call for nominations opens July 2, 2018 so start thinking about individuals to nominate. Visit the WTD website to learn more and submit a nomination to represent the best and brightest thrombosis awareness advocate. Contact [wtd@isth.org](mailto:wtd@isth.org) with questions or for more information.

## 3. Download Fifth Anniversary Graphics and Promotional Materials

Campaign partners receive full access to a [free toolkit](#) of downloadable campaign resources, graphics, and logos, including new fifth anniversary graphics and social media images. Additionally, updated templates, marketing materials, banners, social media messages, and more are now available to download. These resources are important tools to print and distribute at your event or share digitally on your social media channels.

## 4. Participate in Free Global Activities Hosted by Campaign Headquarters

Save the date for two digital activities taking place during the week of WTD 2018. On Thursday, 11 October at 10:00 am US EST, join the WTD 2018 Webinar for an informative presentation on venous thromboembolism (VTE) led by globally-recognized experts. Registration will open in July 2018. Please note that a recording will be available to all registered attendees following the conclusion of the webinar. The following day, participate in a digital discussion during the WTD 2018 Twitter Chat on Friday, 12 October at 10:00 am US EST. Follow the hashtags #ClotChat and #WTD18 to join the digital conversation.

## 5. Save the Date for the ISTH 2019 Congress in Melbourne

Expand your knowledge and network with colleagues at the [ISTH 2019 Congress](#) from July 6 - 10, 2019 in Melbourne, Australia. Conveniently located for individuals in the Asia-Pacific region, ISTH 2019 will offer a diverse array of the latest advances, science, and clinical applications designed to improve



patient care. Attendees will also have the opportunity to participate in a variety of WTD activities, including an awareness activity and education session. Mark your calendar and plan to meet with other WTD advocates at ISTH 2019 in Melbourne.

### Next Steps for Getting Involved in WTD 2018

You can make a difference by getting involved in WTD 2018 and increasing global awareness about thrombosis. Join as a partner, build your activities, and [register your plans](#) on the WTD website. To view activities and events taking place in the Asia-Pacific region, visit the events [page on the WTD website](#) for updates in your area.

Connect with the WTD campaign on social media for the latest news and to interact with our global community of members. Follow WTD on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#) and [Pinterest](#). Please use the official campaign hashtags: #WTD18, #KnowThrombosis, #KnowAFib, and #KeepLifeFlowing.

To learn more about WTD, visit [www.worldthrombosisday.org](http://www.worldthrombosisday.org). If you have questions or comments, please contact the campaign team at [wtd@isth.org](mailto:wtd@isth.org). The campaign team looks forward to continuing its collaboration with partners across the APAC region to make a global impact together.

**Upcoming Meetings:**

- 1**    **The 37th World Congress of the International Society of Hematology (ISH)**  
13-16 September 2018 – Vancouver, Canada  
<http://www.ish2018.com/>
  
- 2**    **The 60th American Society of Hematology (ASH) Annual Meeting and Exposition**  
1-4 December 2018 – San Diego, USA  
<http://www.hematology.org/Annual-Meeting/>
  
- 3**    **Highlights of ASH in Asia-Pacific**  
23-24 February 2019 – Bangkok, Thailand  
<http://www.hematology.org/Highlights/Asia.aspx>
  
- 4**    **International Society of Thrombosis and Haemostasis (ISTH) meeting**  
6-10 July 2019 – Melbourne, Australia  
<https://www.isth2019.org/>
  
- 5**    **The 11th Congress of the Asian-Pacific Society on Thrombosis and Hemostasis (APSTH)**  
3-5 September 2020 – Gwangju, Korea