



## E-NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2011

### inside:

ISTH Academy on VTE Launches **1**

Experiences of an ISTH Visiting Professor **2**

In Memoriam Fraser Mustard **5**

Latest Reports from the SSC **9**

2012 Council Elections Process Kicks Off **12**

SSC 2016 Meeting Bids Invited **13**

ISTH Welcomes New Members **14**

# Come together for SSC 2012 in Liverpool

The objective for the SSC 2012 Liverpool meeting will be to convey the critical importance of the ISTH SSC (Scientific and Standardization Committee) in translating new knowledge into **better patient care**. Promoting cross-information exchange and engaging with external partners are key to delivering solutions for patients with hemostatic and thrombotic problems.

Developing future leaders will also be a key priority, and this meeting will be rooted in the themes of **Education, Engagement and Translation**. Attracting and training the best young scientists and clinicians can only occur if we present a program that is interesting, challenging and directly relevant to improving patient management.

In addition, SSC 2012 will offer an oasis in this congress-saturated world and an antidote to the expensive and often impersonal experiences. You will note our well-balanced program offering a most relevant learning experience and inspiration for our daily work.



#### New Enhanced Program

- **Call for Abstracts** to select the best research
- Top 20 to be selected for a **Hot Topics** showcase
- **Top 10** in Basic Science; Top 10 in Clinical Research
- New **ePosters** to promote Young Investigators
- **Meet-the Expert**-themed **ePoster discussion**
- Presidential Plenary focused on **Translational Thrombosis & Haemostasis**
- **Setting Standards of Care** as the theme for the Educational Day

*continued on page 4 »*

## ISTH Academy

### ISTH Launches the 'ISTH ACADEMY'

A new education website on thrombosis & haemostasis

Understanding the processes behind blood clotting can have far reaching consequences, from preventing heart attacks and treating haemophilia to saving the lives of trauma patients.

To support education in this critical field, the International Society on Thrombosis and Haemostasis is pleased to announce the

launch of the '**ISTH ACADEMY**' – a new education website on thrombosis and haemostasis.

The **ISTH Academy's** content is open and relevant to all those looking for a working knowledge of thrombosis, from clinicians working with thrombosis patients and

*continued on next page »*

those training in internal medicine, haematology or vascular biology to (bio)medical students and researchers. An understanding of thrombosis is important across many medical fields (e.g. orthopedics, neurology, neurosurgery) because venous thrombosis can arise as a complication of many other conditions or treatments.

Improved knowledge of thrombosis, its diagnosis and management, may improve its prevention detection and reduce its associated morbidity and mortality.

The **ISTH Academy's** modules take you through many aspects of thrombosis, including its basis in

the coagulation system, etiology and prognosis, diagnosis and management. The modules are an interactive education complete with multimedia and feature a number of fascinating key lectures from some of the leading experts in the field, contemporary conceptual animations and classic "paper-based" learning.

It only requires a simple registration process to make use of this **complimentary** resource.

The ISTH Academy transcends international or disciplinary boundaries - Whatever country you are reading this in, and whatever your motivation for learning, we hope the ISTH Academy meets your education needs.

## Find it online

The first two modules — '**The Coagulation System**' and '**Venous Thrombosis**' — are now available on the worldwide web at

[isthacademy.org](http://isthacademy.org)



Please actively share information about the ISTH Academy with your colleagues, students and/or other medical professionals who may be interested or who could benefit from this resource.

## Experiences of an ISTH Visiting Professor

*Dr. Alessandra Balduini recently completed a visit to the Instituto de Investigaciones Mecticas Alfredo Lanari in October 2011 in the framework of the ISTH Visiting Professor Program. During her time there, Dr. Balduini presented a lecture at Lanari's Institute focusing on megakaryocyte physiopathology and took part in fruitful group discussions with other lab group members. Keep reading for more about Dr. Balduini, her experience, and how you could take part in the ISTH Visiting Professor program!*

### Where were you born and brought up?

I was born in Cremona, Italy and brought up in Pavia, Italy.

### What are your favorite hobbies or pursuits outside medicine/science?

Traveling first of all, and then cinema, art exhibits, reading and modern dance.

### What led you to choose hemostasis/thrombosis as your career focus?

After my graduation from Medical School, I worked for two years, as a visiting student, in Hal Broxmeyer laboratory at the Walther Oncology Center in Indianapolis, Indiana. There I first learned the tools to study hemopoiesis and human cord blood. After I returned to Italy, I worked only in clinics for many years, first as a resident and then as a Staff Physician at the IRCCS Policlinico San Matteo Foundation in Pavia, Italy.

In 2005 I decided to start again from scratch and I quit my job as a clinician. I started my career as a researcher at the Biotechnology Laboratories, Department of Biochemistry-IRCCS Policlinico San Matteo Foundation at the University of Pavia, Italy. I wanted to go on studying hemopoiesis, and I decided to study megakaryocytes because I thought they were fascinating cells. Therefore, I spent one sabbatical year in Ramesh Shivdasani's



*Dr. Alessandra Balduini*

laboratory at the Dana Farber Cancer Institute, Harvard Medical School, Boston, USA, collaborating also with Joseph Italiano. There I learned the basis of megakaryopoiesis and proplatelet formation.

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**Approximateley what proportion of your time do you spend in:**

- Research 60%
- Teaching 30%
- Administration 10%

**What led you to choose this particular site as your host center?**

I started to collaborate with the group of Dr. Felisa Molinas in Buenos Aires in 2007. Researchers from Buenos Aires came to Italy to my laboratory and, in 2009, I was in Buenos Aires visiting the Instituto de Investigaciones Mecticas Alfredo Lanari for three weeks. On that occasion I met Dr. Mirta Shattner of the Department of Thrombosis and Hemostasis at the Hematological Research Institute of the National Academy of Medicine and we started our collaboration.

A post-doc from her lab, Dr. Paola D'Atri, worked in my laboratory in Italy for four months last year, thanks to the ISTH Fellowship Program, and then I visited Dr. Shattner's laboratory last October. The collaboration with the Buenos Aires group is very interesting and productive for my research, and I really look forward to finding further funding possibilities to pursue our work.

**What were the main areas of research that you focused on during your time as visiting professor?**

During my time in Buenos Aires, I focused on mechanisms of megakaryocyte development and platelet release in the bone marrow environment. Our main interest was on mechanisms that regulate proplatelet formation in the vascular niche in terms of extracellular matrices and cellular components.

**What trends (for better or worse) have you noticed during your career in hemostasis/thrombosis?**

My field of research, megakaryopoiesis, is small, but very active and challenging. New important discoveries about mechanisms underlying platelet formation have been made in the last years with a profound impact also on diseases related to those cells.

**Do you foresee any development in clinical practice and/or technical scientific advances on the horizon that will impact our field in the short to medium term?**

Regarding megakaryopoiesis, I think that it will be very important to understand how bone marrow regulates platelet production. To this regard in-vivo imaging, mouse

models and in-vitro systems that recapitulate the bone marrow environment will be very useful tools. Finally, analysis of human megakaryopoiesis both in normal and pathological conditions will help to understand new mechanisms related to platelet production.

**About the ISTH Visiting Professor Program**

The Visiting Professor Program was recently initiated by the Education Committee to further the ISTH mission of advancing understanding of thrombotic and hemorrhagic disorders in the emerging world. The aim of the program is to support ISTH members that are willing to travel and give lectures on a selected topic, or a series of selected topics. Interested host institutions are encouraged to apply.

For more information and to apply online, go to <http://www.isth.org/default/index.cfm/education/rtw-visiting-professor-program> today!

# RENEW OR JOIN NOW

## ISTH 2012 Membership

**CLICK HERE**



## Confirmed speakers:

### 1. Presidential Plenary:

#### Theme-SSC in Translation

- Garret FitzGerald (University of Pennsylvania, USA)
- Markus Huber-Lang (University of Ulm, Germany)
- Kenneth Kaushansky (Stony Brook University, NY, USA)
- Edward Tuddenham (University of London, UK)
- Denisa Wagner (Harvard Medical School, USA)

### 2. Educational Day:

#### Setting Standards of Care

with sessions dedicated to:

#### Anti-phospholipid Syndrome

- Featuring **Translational Laboratory to Clinical** topics with *Flip de Groot, Tom Ortel, Katrien Devreese and Munther Khamashta*

#### Cancer

- Featuring **State-of-the-Art Updates and Debates on Controversial Issues** with *Agnes Lee, Jeff Zwicker, Lord Ajay Kakkar, Nigel Key, Ingrid Pabinger, Alok Khorana, Marc Carrier, Howard Liebman and Menno Huisman*

#### Child Health

- Featuring **State-of-the-Art Updates and Debates on Controversial issues** with *Paul Monagle, Anthony Chan, Trevor Baglin, Fenella Kirkham, Christine McCartney, Christoph Male, Suzan Williams, Paula Bolton-Maggs, Jenny Despotovic, Neil Goldenberg and Elizabeth Chalmers*

#### Critical Infection & Trauma

- Featuring **Day-to-day dilemmas and Updates on Malaria and E coli-related Haemolytic Uraemic Syndrome** with *Andreas Greinacher, Karim Brohi, Jecko Thachil, Sybille Kozek-Langenecker, Hideo Wada, Mark Crowther, Rolf Stahl and Alister Craig*

## IMPORTANT DEADLINES:

**February 15, 2012**

Abstract Submission Deadline

**March 28, 2012**

Early/Reduced

Registration Deadline

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT:

*Reach-the-World and Young Investigator Grants available.*

Please visit the Meeting website at [SSC2012.org](http://SSC2012.org) for more info as well as program overviews and other important updates!

#### Inherited Bleeding Disorders

- Featuring Translational Laboratory to Clinical topics with *Marco Cattaneo, Alan Nurden, Mike Makris and David Lillicrap*

#### Point-of-care & Personalised Treatment

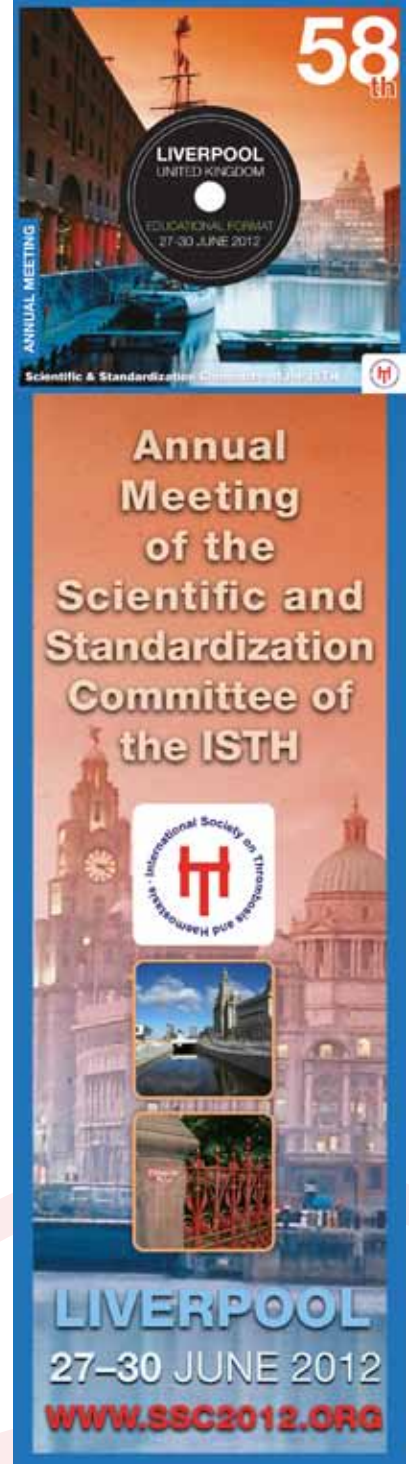
- Featuring **Translational Laboratory to Clinical** topics with *Steve Kitchen, Munir Pirmohamed, Dianne Kitchen and Alastair Nimmo*

#### Thrombotic Microangiopathies

- Featuring **Translational Laboratory to Clinical** topics with *Flora Peyvandi, Marie Scully, Paul Harrison, Changgeng Ruan and Karen Vanhoorelbeke*

#### Women's Health

- Featuring sessions on **Thrombosis & Bleeding** with *Ian Greer, Sabine Eichinger, Rezan Kadir, Claude Negrier, Drew Preovan, Jacqueline Conard, Flora Peyvandi and Claire McLintock*



## A bit of fun!

PLUS

**5 Golden Tickets!** In partnering with the Roald Dahl Foundation and Liverpool Football Club (L.F.C.), 5 Golden Tickets will be given away ...

For more information and to register, please visit [www.ssc2012.org](http://www.ssc2012.org)



Follow us!

<http://twitter.com/ISTHSSC2012>

# Worldwide thrombosis and haemostasis community mourns the loss of J. Fraser Mustard

A pioneer of platelet research and an international authority on the thromboembolic complications of atherosclerosis, Fraser Mustard died at his home in Toronto, Canada, on November 16, 2011 at age 84. Fraser was a founding member of the International Society on Thrombosis and Haemostasis, and as President of the Society in 1981, he organized its VIIIth Congress in Toronto. He received the Society's highest award, the Robert P. Grant Medal, in 1987.

Fraser completed his M.D. degree in 1953 at the University of Toronto, and his Ph.D. at Cambridge where he began his study of blood platelets. Back in Toronto, he became a research scientist at Sunnybrook Hospital, set up collaborative research with Harry Rowsell at the Ontario Veterinary College in Guelph, Ontario, and in 1962 was the main initiator of the Blood and Vascular Disease Research Unit at the University of Toronto. Work at this site included early studies of the inhibitory effect of aspirin on platelet function.

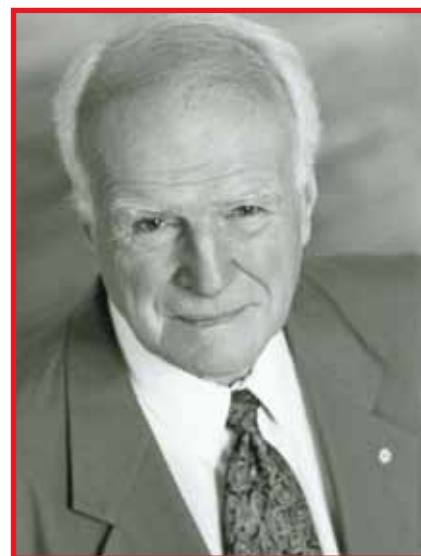
Fraser's outstanding accomplishments include his role in the founding of the innovative medical school at McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, with the introduction there of problem-based learning, a new concept in 1966. He was the Dean and Vice President of the Faculty of Health Sciences from 1972 to 1982. At both McMaster and Toronto, his laboratory attracted trainees and scientists from across the globe; many trainees established strong independent research careers when they returned home. Some remained at McMaster, including Raelene Kinlough-Rathbone who went on to become a faculty member and Fraser's "right hand" in the organization of their laboratory.

Research in the laboratory was wide ranging as basic mechanisms of platelet function were explored in vitro and in vivo, facilitated by the development of methods to isolate functional platelets and of models of thrombosis.

In 1982, Fraser became the founding President of the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research where for 14 action-packed years he worked tirelessly to create (and raise funds for) an intellectually elitist "institute without walls" that brought together the brightest minds he could find to pursue high-quality interdisciplinary research. As a determined champion of innovation, he established programs in such diverse fields as Artificial Intelligence, Cosmology, Evolutionary Biology, Population Health, Superconductivity, Economic Growth and Policy, and Human Development. Throughout these years, Fraser also chaired, or was a member of, numerous government committees and Royal Commissions.

In the past two decades, he became a dynamic advocate for the importance of investing in every child at an early age, traveled the world promoting early child development, and authored influential reports on this subject, including "The Early Years: Reversing the Real Brain Drain" with Margaret Norrie McCain in 1999, and two further publications in 2007 and 2011. At the time of his death, he was actively involved in plans for formation of an Institute for Human Development.

Fraser was a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, a Companion of the Order of Canada, a member of the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame and the recipient of innumerable awards and honorary degrees.



*J. Fraser Mustard, M.D., Ph.D.*

Fraser was a founding member of the International Society on Thrombosis and Haemostasis, and as President of the Society in 1981, he organized its VIIIth Congress in Toronto. He received the Society's highest award, the Robert P. Grant medal, in 1987.

His biography, "J. Fraser Mustard – Connections and Careers" was written by his longtime collaborator and colleague, Marian Packham, and published in 2010. Predeceased by his wife Betty, he is survived by his six children and nine grandchildren.

*Margaret Rand  
Marian Packham  
Raelene Kinlough-Rathbone*



Continuing Education in

# THROMBOSIS & HEMOSTASIS

ISTH – ESH Joint Advanced Training Course

November 7-10, 2011  
Cascais, Portugal



## ISTH-ESH Advanced Course on Thrombosis and Hemostasis huge success!

From November 7-10, 170 participants from 42 countries gathered in Cascais, Portugal to discuss the state-of-the-art in biological and clinical aspects of hemostasis and thrombosis. The audience primarily consisted of clinicians, laboratory scientists and biologists seeking to get in-depth knowledge in the field.



*Participants continued in-depth discussions during coffee breaks and after the formal sessions.*

The intensive 4-day program covered all important basic and clinical aspects of hemostasis and thrombosis and session formats focused on maximizing the interaction between the faculty of leading scientists and the audience.

The formal lectures were arranged into 4 main topics:

1. Blood Coagulation: Mechanisms & Disorders
2. Platelets, Control Mechanisms of Coagulation, Thrombophilia and VTE
3. Arterial Thrombosis, Thrombolysis and Acquired Bleeding Disorders
4. Acquired Thrombotic Disorders, Complications or Pregnancy and Thrombophilia, Novel Antithrombotic Drugs, and Special issues of Thrombosis/Hemostasis

These were complemented by interactive exercises relating to laboratory issues and clinical case studies. After-dinner discussions and “Meet the Expert” type free conversations devoted to selected issues of specific interest provided the most informal but also the most interactive opportunities to exchange knowledge, test certain premises and get into creative brainstorming.

Inspiring debates arose about the bleeding tendency and thrombotic protection in FXI deficiency, as well

### Participants say ...

“This course was well constructed. The lectures were of high quality. The interactive case study sessions were very useful, along with the meeting the expert sessions. I highly recommend this course.”

– Wahibi Hammouda,  
Toronto, Canada

“I would like to congratulate the ISTH-ESH initiative for organizing this course. The faculty and program were excellent. It was a good opportunity to bring together physicians and scientists in different stages of their careers.”

– Suely Rezende, Brazil



*During the formal sessions great focus was on audience interaction and group work.*

as about the value of testing for thrombophilia in the face of patient demands on the one hand, and little clinical impact on the other, compounded by the ever increasing knowledge of genetic risk factors for thrombosis. Clinical cases ranged from the straightforward diagnosis of hemophilia to Grey Platelet Syndrome and acquired von Willebrand disease.

Given the size of the course and setting, the networking and exchange of knowledge and scientific ideas could not have been more fruitful.



## Webcasts of ISTH Meetings, Congresses and Courses available online

ISTH is pleased to offer its members the webcasting and video podcasting of select presentations from its meetings, Congresses and courses.

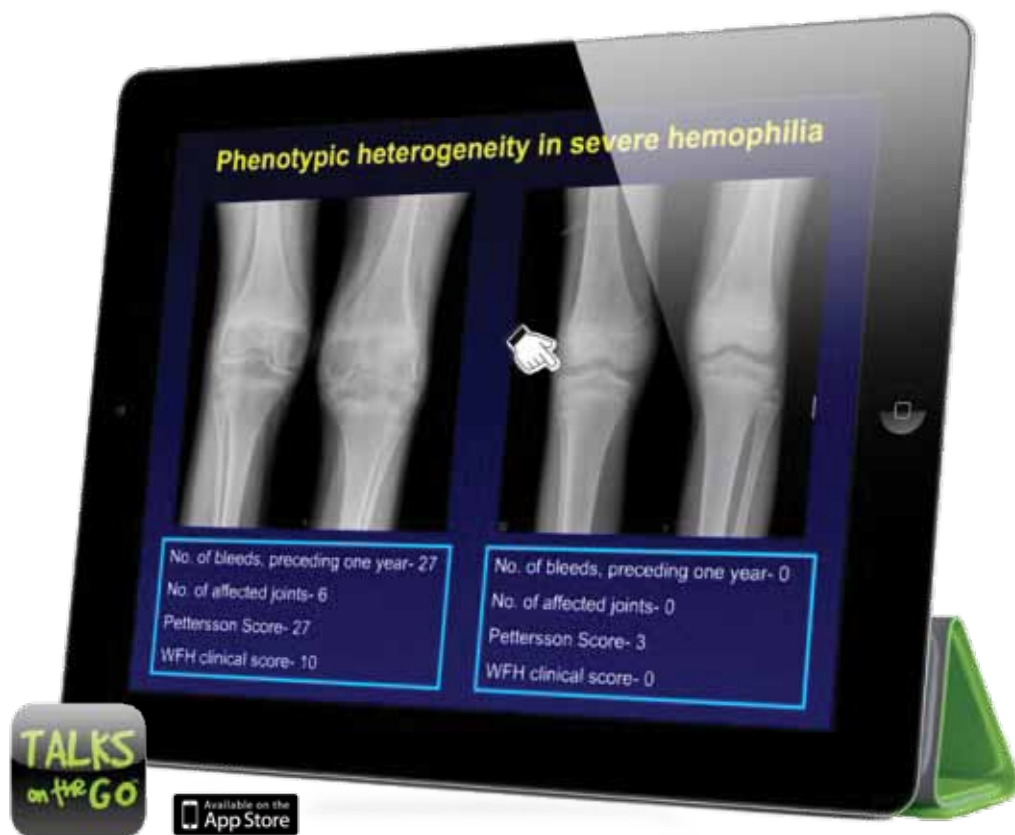
This initiative allows a more extensive access to the specialized educational content provided at ISTH events. Since going live at the end of September 2011, the site of webcasts from Kyoto has seen over 1,500 visits by close to 1,000 individual users.

Members of the ISTH can view scientific highlights from the ISTH Congress in Kyoto (2011) as well as review sessions at last year's SSC Meeting in Cairo, Egypt (2010). Also available are the webcasts of sessions from the recent ISTH-ESH Advanced Course on Thrombosis and Haemostasis in Cascais, Portugal (November 2011).

Please log in to the ISTH members only section on the Society's website at [www.isth.org](http://www.isth.org) and click on the webcast banner. You will then be able to browse available presentations by session, speaker, video podcast and PowerPoint presentation files shared.

In the webcast, you will be able to view full multimedia presentations, including laser pointer movements of the speakers, PowerPoint animations, embedded video files and more.

In addition, ISTH now offers its members access to the webcast library through a new iPhone/iPad/iPod Webcast App! To know more



about this webcast App, please visit [www.talksonthego.com](http://www.talksonthego.com) or download it from the Apple App Store by searching for: Talks on the Go.

We would like to thank all our speakers for their valuable support which made the webcasts possible. We hope that the format of these webcasts will enhance your learning experience, help meet your educational needs and provide a valuable membership benefit.

... view scientific highlights from the ISTH Congress in Kyoto (2011) as well as review sessions at last year's SSC Meeting in Egypt. Also available are the webcasts of sessions from the ISTH-ESH Advanced Course in Portugal.



## Webcasts of the ISTH-ESH Course available online!

Were you not able to attend the ISTH-ESH Course in Cascais? While we cannot recreate the lively discussions or informal networking sessions, we can allow you to benefit from the recorded formal presentation. ISTH members may now view the webcasts and podcasts from the Cascais Advanced Course online on the Society's website at [www.isth.org](http://www.isth.org) (log-in required)!

## From the Desk of ISTH's Chair of Council



*Henri Bounameaux*

Dear ISTH members,

2011 is drawing to a close and we can look back on a busy and successful year. We are closing 2011 with the highest number of members in the history of the Society. I personally am very proud to be part of our international network that now counts over 3,146 members. It is enormously rewarding to see our Society grow and develop and become active in more and new ways as we pursue our mission.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation and gratitude to you, our members, for your loyalty and support, to my colleagues serving on the ISTH

Council and Committees and those of you who are so actively engaged in our many projects and initiatives and volunteer so much of your time to move our Society – and our field – forward. Thank you!

Thank you also for your tremendous support at the Kyoto congress last July that turned out to be a huge success in spite of the difficult situation.

After what hopefully will be a peaceful end of the year, we can already look forward to many new and exciting activities in 2012. The New Year, as this newsletter so nicely illustrates, will bring many new highlights that will provide opportunities for our community to come together and work together.

Our SSC 2012 Meeting in Liverpool will set new Standards in Science and Care. I personally encourage you not only to plan to attend but to submit abstracts (Deadline February 15). No other meeting in our field will give you a similar mix of scientific cross-talk where you will still be able

to connect and network with your colleagues from around the world. As much as technology makes our lives more efficient and effective, nothing replaces human interaction.

I also invite you to participate in the ongoing Council nomination process and the 2012 Council elections. It is not just a responsibility but in fact an important privilege to select those members of Council who will lead our Society in the future that each and every member should take very seriously. The Society's Council will have many important decisions to make and your wisdom will help decide who is best suited to lead ISTH.

Thank you again for your engagement, support and commitment as members and I look forward to hearing from you or seeing you soon.

Very best wishes and warm season's greetings,

*Henri Bounameaux*  
*Chairman, ISTH Council*

## Interview with new ISTH Treasurer Nuala Booth

*ISTH's new Treasurer Nuala Booth of the University of Aberdeen, Scotland, shares her thoughts on future ISTH plans and sound financial management.*



*ISTH Treasurer Nuala Booth*

### **How did you land the job as ISTH Treasurer and why are you willing to take on this responsibility?**

The position of Treasurer is a new one, created when the Bylaws changed in 2010, and reflects the increased importance of the handling of financial

matters in the Society. Council decided that it would be logical for it to be filled by the person who chaired the Finance Committee, so I didn't really land the job in the conventional sense.

That being said, it is a position I was happy to take on, since the experience of working with the Finance Committee gave me the necessary background for the position, I actually enjoy dealing with finance and I strongly believe in the importance of it in a growing and increasingly active organization. For no reason I can define, I have been Treasurer of several bodies, starting with my children's Water Babies and then their primary school Parent-Teacher organization before taking on this same role for the British Society for Haemostasis and Thrombosis.

**Being the Treasurer of an organization is always a difficult position to be in. On the one hand you are expected to make available funding for new and important initiatives, on the other, you need to make sure the Society stays within its means. How do you handle this challenge?**

ISTH has been handled prudently over the years, and so we are in the fortunate position that we can make available funding for initiatives that Council recommends, so far without having to make hard choices. The current Council has identified several projects that we should consider, and the Education and Outreach program continues to expand, so we will have to assess carefully where the Society can make the most important contribution.

*continued on next page »*



That challenge will be met as a group — I do not see the Treasurer as being the one who says no; rather my responsibility is to make clear what the budget will allow, so that Council can reach decisions on the basis of that information.

**What are some of the first and in your opinion most important changes you are trying to implement and why?**

I think it is important to establish some clear principles on how we set budgets, so we have set up a system for each Council Committee to request funding. This includes identification of the benefits and likely outcomes of

the initiatives they propose and that they are and remain aligned with the mission and strategic objectives set by Council. Another key principle that we carefully consider is the sustainability of projects before we enter into them. The discussion can only be holistic and is not just a consideration of finance.

**What is your philosophy on the accumulation of reserves versus the “investment” in new programs?**

I believe that it is wrong for a non-profit organization to accumulate reserves without a clear plan as to how the money will be put to work. On the

other hand, spending money just to deplete reserves would be equally shortsighted. Given an increasingly uncertain world, we are establishing the principle that we continue to hold a core reserve that would keep the Society functioning well for a couple of years in the worst case scenario of no income. Funds in excess of this are available for the projects that Council agrees to fund. The Finance Committee is responsible for the safe investment of the funds and appropriate allocation of resources so that we achieve both security and investment for the future.

## SSC Announcements & Subcommittee Reports

*Among its many functions, the Scientific and Standardization Committee (SSC) of the ISTH provides a vehicle to foster collaborative research among like-minded colleagues. In every issue of the newsletter, we highlight some of the recent SSC work.*

### Establishment of a new ISTH SSC Standing Committee: the ISTH-BAT Standing Committee

This Standing Committee on Bleeding Assessment Tool (BAT) stems from a joint agreement between ISTH and the Rockefeller University that recently deployed an electronic version of the ISTH-BAT.\*

The tool is aimed at:

- providing a user-friendly, web-accessible platform, encouraging uniformity in the standardization and collection of bleeding histories;
- creating and maintaining a web-accessible database of bleeding symptoms collected by investigators throughout the world that can be used by individual investigators for their own studies;
- encouraging sharing of de-identified phenotypic and laboratory data in a common database so as to enhance statistical power and provide important genotype-phenotype-environment correlations

that cannot be obtained from single-site studies;

- facilitating the identification of all the factors that can affect an individual's risk of bleeding. The tool can be accessed online at <https://bh.rockefeller.edu/bat/>.

Both ISTH (which owns the intellectual property of the BAT) and the Rockefeller University (which owns the software and hosts the database on its computer network) felt the necessity to have a Standing Committee defining the reciprocal rules and roles to fully exploit this opportunity.

Members of the Standing Committee for the first 5-year term are:

- Francesco Rodeghiero (Chairman);
- Alberto Tosetto (Secretary)
- Barry Collier (representative of the Rockefeller University)
- Anna Falanga (SSC Chairman)
- David Lillicrap (SSC

Chairman elect)

- Jeroen Eikenboom, Sabine Eichinger and Paul Monagle as current chairmen of the SSC Subcommittees on Von Willebrand Factor, Women's Health Issues in Thrombosis and Hemostasis and Perinatal/Pediatric Hemostasis, respectively.

The ISTH-BAT Standing Committee is open to receive any feedback and proposal for studies/scientific collaborations from all SSC Subcommittees willing to investigate in the clinical assessment of bleeding symptoms in the different hemorrhagic disorders. After years of exciting progresses in genetic and molecular studies, perhaps the time is right for going back to disease phenotype, neglected for so long!

*\*Rodeghiero et al, J Thromb Hemost 2010; 8: 2063–5*

# Project on the Guidelines for the Diagnosis of Congenital Platelet Function Disorders

The correct methodology for the diagnosis of congenital platelet function disorders is a controversial issue. For this reason the ISTH SSC Committee on Platelet Physiology has promoted a project on platelet function disorders.

As a first step, the SSC has launched a large, detailed, global survey aimed at monitoring the methodologies currently employed by investigators worldwide. The survey was conceived by the project chairman, Dr. Paolo Gresele, implemented with suggestions from all members of the SSC Subcommittee on Platelet Physiology (Marco Cattaneo, Subcommittee Chairman, Christian Gachet, Paul Harrison, Catherine Hayward, Dermot

Kenny, Diego Mezzano, Andrew David Mumford, Diane Nugent), and then forwarded to all ISTH members and other organizations worldwide involved in the study of coagulation and platelet disorders, which were invited to complete a 67 item online questionnaire.

The response was excellent with 202 surveys completed from 37 countries.

This is the largest and most detailed survey on the current practices for the diagnosis of platelet function disorders ever undertaken. It shows a very high heterogeneity of the diagnostic approaches adopted, and confirms that methodological standardization is required. The survey shows that over 14,000

patients with suspected platelet function disorder are screened every year worldwide (average 72 per center). Between 500 and 2,000 new cases of inherited platelet dysfunction are diagnosed every year, while most of the screened patients do not reveal a real platelet function defect.

The results of the survey are now planned to be published. Look for the results in JTH as an Official Communication of the SSC in the Spring/Summer of 2012.

The SSC on Platelet Physiology, after internal and external consultation, will now work on the issuing of standardized guidelines.

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## Recent work of the Predictive Variables in Cardiovascular Disease Subcommittee

The Predictive Variables in Cardiovascular Disease Subcommittee is chaired by Dr. James Douketis and co-chaired by Drs. Alberto Tosetto, Richard White, Frederick Spencer, Karel Moons, Shinya Goto and Alex Spyropoulos.

At the 2008 SSC Meeting in Vienna this group, under the leadership of the former chairman Dr. Gordon Lowe, embarked on a project to investigate D-dimer and other factors as predictors of recurrent venous thromboembolism (VTE) - a common and important clinical

problem, especially in patients with unprovoked VTE. This led to a collaborative effort among 7 research groups (and their respective databases), over 20 investigators, and 5 publications in high-impact journals.

A new initiative, again endorsed by the SSC, involves identifying predictors of thromboembolism and bleeding in the perioperative setting among patients who are receiving conventional and new anticoagulant and antiplatelet drugs. It brings together a multidisciplinary group of

internists, anesthetists and surgeons and is led by Drs. Marc Samama, Jerrold Levy and James Douketis.

With both of these research initiatives, the SSC has provided the framework (meeting rooms, audio-visual equipment) and time during the annual SSC Meeting to share ongoing and proposed work with others so as to develop new ideas for research and to engage new colleagues. In short, the SSC has been indispensable to allow such collaborative research to develop and flourish.

## Interested in participating in the annual work of the SSC?

The Society has now created an online "Expression of Interest" form on the website to participate in the SSC Subcommittees. On this form you can choose the Subcommittee you are most interested in, and you

can also propose new initiatives that you would like to lead and you feel the SSC should undertake. For more information, please visit <http://isth.org/default/index.cfm/ssc1/> and get involved today!

## Join the discussion in person!

Are you interested in personally experiencing and participating in the discussions of the SSC?

Plan to attend the 58th Annual Meeting of the SSC June 27-30, 2012 in Liverpool, UK - for more information, please visit [www.ssc2012.org](http://www.ssc2012.org).

# jth

Editors' Picks for  
December 2011



## Immunogenic but effective

### The HIT-fondaparinux brain puzzler

A. Greinacher

READ NOW

## Fondaparinux in Acute Heparin-Induced Thrombocytopenia

### A Case Series

M. J. Goldfarb and M. Blostein

READ NOW

## Fondaparinux in Acute Heparin-Induced Thrombocytopenia

### Confirmed by the Serotonin- Release Assay: a 30-Month, 16-Patient Case Series

T. E. Warkentin, M. Pai

J. I. Sheppard

S. Schulman

A. C. Spyropoulos

J. W. Eikelboom

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## Holiday Book Offer

40%  
OFF

**40% reduction on all  
Wiley-Blackwell books  
for ISTH members**

As a special way of saying Happy Holidays, Wiley-Blackwell, publisher of ISTH's journal JTH, is extending to all members a special 40% discount on the entire book catalogue\* (medical and non-medical) of Wiley Blackwell.

This offer runs from now through December 31, 2011 and can be accessed through the ISTH members-only page.

*\*certain restrictions may apply*



# ISTH 2012 Council Elections Process Kicks Off

At the conclusion of the next ISTH Council Meeting on 26 June 2012 on the occasion of the 58th Annual Meeting of the SSC in Liverpool, UK, the ISTH Council Class of 2012 will retire. Society members in good standing are now invited to submit nominations for candidates for the Council Class of 2018.

Any active member of the Society who is not currently a Council member is eligible to be elected to the ISTH Council.

Not eligible for nomination are the following current members of Council:

## Class of 2012:

- Michael Berndt (Australia)
- Henri Bounameaux (Switzerland)
- Alan Nurden (France)
- Bjarne Østerud (Norway)
- Pieter Reitsma (The Netherlands)

## Class of 2014:

- Nuala Booth (UK)
- Françoise Dignat-George (France)
- Nigel Key (USA)
- Robert Montgomery (USA)
- Hugo ten Cate (The Netherlands)

## Class of 2016:

- Marco Cattaneo (Italy)
- Björn Dahlbäck (Sweden)
- Andreas Greinacher (Germany)
- Paula Tracy (USA)
- Yukio Ozaki (Japan)

While members cannot be elected to consecutive terms, previous members of Council may be elected to a second term but are not eligible for a 3rd term.

## What does the ISTH Council do?

The ISTH Council is the Society's 15-person board of directors whose responsibility it is to represent and speak for you, the members of the ISTH. It is composed of 3 "Classes" of elected representatives who serve staggered six-year terms.

Council members lead the Society according to the organization's mission and values. The Council sets the strategy, prioritizes objectives and sets the policy framework for the Society *(for more information on the roles and responsibilities of the ISTH Council, please review the ISTH Bylaws at <http://www.isth.org/default/index.cfm/about-isth/bylaws/>).*

**Selection of Council members is an important privilege and responsibility of all ISTH members!**

## What is expected of ISTH Councilors?

ISTH is looking for individuals who are recognized contributors to our field and who are willing and able to proactively lead the development of our Society as it plays an increasingly important role as the leading worldwide organization dedicated to the advancement of the understanding, prevention, diagnosis and treatment of thrombotic and bleeding disorders.

ISTH Council members are expected to play a dual role: Be ambassadors for their constituencies (scientific and regional) on the ISTH Council while at the same time actively promoting the ISTH and its programs among the worldwide community.

Candidates should have the willingness and interest to be actively engaged in and give Society business priority attention.

## How can you make a nomination?

ISTH solicits and will carefully consider nominations for and/or from all qualified candidates from around the world and with different backgrounds.

Each nominee will be contacted by a member of the Nominating Committee prior to finalizing the ballot to be sure they understand the expectations and commitments required of a Council Member.



ISTH Council members are expected to play a dual role: Be ambassadors for their constituencies on the ISTH Council while at the same time actively promoting the ISTH and its programs among the worldwide community.

Nominations should consist of a **one-page letter of support** stating the following:

- Full contact details of the candidate
- A brief summary of the contributions and commitment to the international thrombosis and haemostasis field of the candidate
- Reasoning why he or she would be an excellent candidate and

*continued on next page »*

would contribute proactively to the development of the Society and the global community

- Indication if the candidate has given consent to being nominated

You may nominate more than one person, including yourself, as you wish.

Letters of nomination may be sent by email to [headquarters@isth.org](mailto:headquarters@isth.org), by fax (1 919 929 3935) or by regular mail to this address: Isth Nominating Committee/ISTH Headquarters Office/610 Jones Ferry Road, Suite 205/Carrboro, NC 27510/USA.

Please clearly indicate emails, faxes and mail as "ISTH 2012 Council Elections – Nomination."

**Nominations will be closed and tabulated on February 1, 2012.**

#### **How are Council Class members elected?**

The current Council members will review all nominations received by February 1 and pre-select a final ballot of 10 candidates, twice the number to be elected. The Final Ballot will be available online to all ISTH Members for voting beginning April 15, 2012. An email

with voting instructions will be sent at the beginning of April.

The Final Ballot will be tabulated on May 1, 2012. The five successful candidates will begin their term at the conclusion of the 2012 Council meeting in Liverpool.

We thank you in advance for your active participation in this important process.

*Robert Montgomery  
Chairman of the ISTH  
Nominating Committee*

## Bids to host the 62nd Annual Meeting of the SSC in 2016 are now invited

ISTH invites bids from members to host the 62nd (2016) Annual Meeting of the Scientific and Standardization Committee (SSC) of the Society.

The bid and selection process has recently been significantly revamped in order to meet current industry best practices, to provide a clear indication of what hosting an SSC Meeting in the future will entail and to aid Bidding Members in putting their best proposals together. It will also guarantee the most objective and transparent bid and decision making process.

Interested members are invited to review the bid document at <http://www.isth.org/default/index.cfm/about-isth/future-meetings/>

**A Letter of Intent and Bid Highlight Summary is due by February 1, 2012**

We look forward to receiving your expressions of interest and your bids! For more information about the bidding process, please contact ISTH's Executive Director at [tom\\_reiser@isth.org](mailto:tom_reiser@isth.org).

## Other Announcements ...

**HURRY!**

**DEADLINE for RTW Advanced Fellowships is January 1:**

Applications are now invited for ISTH 2012/2013 Reach-the-World Advanced Fellowships.

The Reach the World Advanced Fellowships program is targeted to Advanced Fellows from underprivileged countries who wish to pursue knowledge and research in one or all of the following areas: medical care, laboratory methods, or research related to thrombosis and hemostasis.

Applicants should be 37 years old or younger. Fellowships of up to a four month period will be supported.

Selection of recipients is an ongoing process with new awardees being chosen in January and June of each year. Please visit <http://www.isth.org/default/index.cfm/education/rtw-fellowship-program/> for more information.



### **Seasons Greetings!**

As the holiday season approaches, we'd like to take this opportunity to thank our members, partners, and colleagues all over the world for your continued support. It is thanks to your efforts and collaboration that the ISTH can continue to advance its mission globally.

We hope that your holiday season and the New Year will be healthy and successful, and we look forward to working with you in 2012 and beyond!

First Name	Last Name	City	Country
Rezan	Abdul-Kadir	London	UK
Arshad	Ahsanuddin	Winnipeg	Canada
Suzuki	Akiko	Ryuugasaki	Japan
Uma	Athale	Hamilton	Canada
Hanan	Azzam	Mansoura	Egypt
Valdas	Banyas	Vilnius	Lithuania
Rebecca	Beyth	Gainesville	USA
Giuseppe	Camporese	Padua	Italy
Frederica	Cassis	San Panlo	Brazil
Fernando	Cauvi	Lima	Peru
Giuseppe	Colucci	Bern	Switzerland
Judith	Cosemans	Maastricht	Netherlands
Kevin	Croce	Boston	USA
Clément	d'Audigier	Paris	France
Simon	De Meyer	Kortrijk	Belgium
Katrien	Devreese	Ghent	Belgium
Elba	Diaz	San Miguel de Tucumán	Argentina
Stephen	Dwyer	Burton On Trent	UK
Carolus	Eckmann	Amsterdam	Netherlands
Khaled	Eid	Agouza	Egypt
Suhair	Eid	Amman	Jordan
Matthew	Eisen	Shaker Heights	USA
Bruno	Fiorentino	Barga	Italy
John	Fletcher	Westmead	Australia
Susana	Gastaldo	San Salvador de Jujuy	Argentina
Isabelle	Gouin-Thibault	Paris	France
Robert	Gut	Princeton	USA
Sonia	Habib	Giza	Egypt
Justin	Hamilton	Melbourne	Australia
Walter	Hong	Montville	USA
Wei	Huang	Worcester	USA
Elaine	Hylek	Boston	USA
Kim	Jacobsen	Soeborg	Denmark
Peter G	Jönsson	Soeborg	Denmark
Geoffrey	Kershaw	Eastwood	Australia
Muhammad	Faisal	Khanani Al Ain	U. Arab Em.
Paul	Kim	Hamilton	Canada
Yujiro	Kon	Sapporo	Japan
Oleksii	Korzh	Kharkov	Ukraine
Zanna	Kovalova	Riga	Latvia
Natalia	Kozak	Rehovot	Israel
Lucy	Lee	Parsippany	USA
Lisa	Lincz	Hunter Region Mail Ctr	Australia
Keith	McCrae	Cleveland	USA
Hrvoje	Melinscak	New York	USA
Naglaa	Moustafa	Giza	Egypt
Nikolaus	Mueller	Berkeley	USA
Abubakar	Musa	Zaria	Nigeria
Duangdao	Nantakomol	Bangkok	Thailand
Anna	Niewiarowska	Bethlehem	USA
Patrizia	Noris	Pavia	Italy
Satoru	Ogawa	Atlanta	USA
Andrea	Penaloza	Bruxelles	Belgium
Dominique	Piotrowicz-Theizen	Le Plessis Robinson	France
Patrick	Provost	Quebec	Canada
Ulrika	Qvint	Soeborg	Denmark
Tatiana	Reshetnyak	Moscow	Russian Fed.
Matthias	Riewald	La Jolla	USA
Ana	Rodríguez Huerta	Madrid	Spain
Mirta	Schattner	Buenos Aires	Argentina
Sophie	Susen	Lille	France
Anand	Tandra	Carmel	USA
Justyna	Teliga-Czajkowska	Warsaw	Poland
David-Alexandre	Tregouet	Paris	France
Benjamin	Valente-Acosta	Tlalnepantla	Mexico
Tami	Wisniewski	Princeton	USA
Frederico	Xavier	Indianapolis	USA

## ISTH Welcomes New Members

As a new regular feature in our Newsletter, we are happy to introduce to you the new members who have joined the Society's global network in the past 3 months, from September 1 to November 23 2011 (inclusive). It is great to see that even so late in the calendar year physicians and scientists from around the world want to become actively engaged in our Society.

Please join us in welcoming our new members!

To get in touch with our new members or other ISTH colleagues, please remember that the ISTH membership directory is available online in our members-only section at [www.isth.org](http://www.isth.org) (log-in is required)! Simply open the pdf, print it or search it!

## Call for Announcements: Major Achievements of Members

The ISTH invites members to submit announcements of major achievements, such as educational achievements, awards received, and grants secured for potential announcement in the ISTH newsletter. Please send your announcements to [newsletter@isth.org](mailto:newsletter@isth.org)

*The decision to publish announcements remains at the sole discretion of the ISTH PR and Communications Committee.*



RENEW NOW!

## Membership not renewed for 2012 yet?

As the end of the year nears, ISTH is already looking forward to being even more active in 2012.



But we need your help and support as members of the Society to maintain the current high level of scientific value while developing further initiatives to expand our reach and impact. These initiatives include educational resources and e-learning projects, quality scientific programming including a new Call for Abstracts, Hot-Topics and E-Posters at the 2012 SSC Liverpool Meeting, expanded educational activities in the developing world and other projects in keeping with the mission of ISTH.

The 2012 ISTH Membership renewal is currently in progress, and we encourage you to please show your continued commitment and active support by renewing your ISTH membership. Click below to renew online.

**Please note that your membership will need to be renewed by December 31, 2011** in order to maintain your subscription to JTH!

RENEW NOW



## ISTH Starts to Collect Member Demographic Information

As you will have noticed during the renewal or joining process, ISTH has started to collect quite detailed demographic information. The sole purpose of this exercise is so we can fully understand and appreciate the diversity of our members. The goal is to be able to develop more educational and other programs that will better meet the needs of our members and – in the future – target communications more precisely, rather than sending broadcast messages.

We greatly appreciate your assistance in completing your profile data which will be treated confidentially. In case you have not yet completed the demographic information, please visit your member profile online and fill in the online form. **Thank You!**

## ISTH Reach-the-World Membership

ISTH is strongly committed to making membership more accessible for clinicians, researchers and educators in the developing world. The main purpose of the Reach-the-World

(RtW) program is to remove financial barriers for involvement in the ISTH community and to provide access to ISTH's many membership benefits. The Reach-the-World program assists individuals from the developing world to attend the Society's annual meetings (ISTH Congress and SSC meeting). The same criteria will be used for the RtW-membership of the ISTH.

Membership is open to researchers, educators and clinicians from the developing world. These are defined as those countries designated as 'developing' by the classification of the World Bank (see: <http://data.worldbank.org/about/country-classifications/country-and-lending-groups>). The membership fee for these members is reduced to \$35 USD.

Those who are interested may apply through the ISTH website (under 'members', 'new membership application') and can tick the box for 'RtW-membership'.

### Call for ISTH members in industrialized countries:

**Please draw the attention of your colleagues in countries qualifying for the Reach-the-World membership to this membership category and invite them to join!**

## ISTH seeks closer collaborations with national and regional Thrombosis & Haemostasis Societies & other related Societies

Led by the Society's Membership Committee and PR & Communications Committee, ISTH invites related national and continental thrombosis and haemostasis organizations to contact the ISTH to establish ongoing communications on a Society-to-Society level. As the "international" society, ISTH is interested in exploring ways to work together to provide greatest impact in our field around the world. Collaborations could range from the simple and ongoing exchange of information and keeping each other "up to date" on activities and development to concrete projects and initiatives that could combine the strengths of two or more organizations.

For more information or to connect with ISTH and express interest in establishing ongoing communications and possibly concrete collaborations, please contact David Lane via the ISTH Office at [headquarters@isth.org](mailto:headquarters@isth.org)

## Meeting Announcements

### ISTH Educational Courses:

#### Educational Course

May 25-27, 2012 Sao Paulo, Brazil  
Local Organizer: Joao Carlos de Campos Guerra

#### Educational Course

September 1-3, 2012  
Asuncion, Paraguay  
Local Organizer: Paula de Guggiari

#### Educational Course

September 2012 Talca, Chile  
Local Organizer: Ivan Palomo

For more information on ISTH Educational Courses, please contact the ISTH HQ at [headquarters@isth.org](mailto:headquarters@isth.org)

### Other Related Meetings:

**ALPIC 2012** – Advanced Learning on Platelets and Thrombosis International Course  
January 27-29, Metsovo, Greece  
<http://www.alpic2012.gr/>

**5th Annual Congress of the European Association for Haemophilia and Allied Disorders (EAHAD)**  
22-24, February 2012, Rome, Italy  
<http://www.eahad2012.org/>

### Thrombosis Management: State of the Art

March 16-17, 2012, New York, NY USA  
<http://thrombosis2012.com/>

### International Conference on Thrombosis and Hemostasis Issues in Cancer (ICTHIC)

April 20-22, 2012, Bergamo, Italy  
<http://www.icthic.com/en/home/home.aspx>

### Thrombosis and Hemostasis Research Summit of North America

May 3-5, 2012 Chicago IL, USA  
<http://thsna.org/>

### 21st International Congress on Fibrinolysis and Proteolysis

July 1-5 2012, Brighton UK  
<http://isfp2012.com/>

### UK NEQAS for Blood Coagulation

September 4-5, 2012  
<http://www.ukneqasbc.org/content/PageServer.asp>

### 22nd International Congress on Thrombosis

October 6-9, 2012 Nice, France  
<http://www.geyseco.es/thrombosis2012>

Want to add your meeting to this page?

Is your meeting not on this list or part of the ISTH online calendar of events? Email us your details at [headquarters@isth.org](mailto:headquarters@isth.org).

# RENEW OR JOIN NOW

## ISTH 2012 Membership

[CLICK HERE](#)



## ISTH Mission

The International Society on Thrombosis & Haemostasis (ISTH) is the leading worldwide organization dedicated to the advancement of the understanding, prevention, diagnosis and treatment of thrombotic and bleeding disorders.

ISTH is an international professional individual membership organization with over 3,000 members in more than 80 countries around the world.

Among its highly regarded activities and initiatives are education and standardization programs, research activities, meetings and conferences, peer-reviewed publications and expert committees.

## Contact info

International Society on Thrombosis and Haemostasis  
610 Jones Ferry Rd, Suite 205  
Carrboro, NC 27510, USA

Phone: +1 919 929 3807  
Fax: +1 919 929 3935  
Email: [headquarters@isth.org](mailto:headquarters@isth.org)  
[www.isth.org](http://www.isth.org)

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## Follow us on LinkedIn

Join us on LinkedIn to continue networking with other professionals in the field of thrombosis and haemostasis. Engage with ISTH members worldwide. Stay up-to-date on ISTH announcements about upcoming meetings, educational initiatives, and standardization programs.

LINK WITH US

## ISTH Council

**Chair of Council (2010-2012)**  
Henri Bounameaux, Switzerland

**Secretary/Chair-Elect (2010-2012/2012-2014)**  
Michael Berndt, Ireland

**Treasurer (2011-2015)**  
Nuala Booth, UK

**Class of 2012**  
Michael Berndt (Ireland)  
Henri Bounameaux (Switzerland)  
Alan Nurden (France)  
Bjarne Østerud (Norway)  
Pieter Reitsma (The Netherlands)

**Class of 2014**  
Nuala Booth (UK)  
Francoise Dignat-George (France)  
Nigel Key (USA)  
Robert Montgomery (USA)  
Hugo ten Cate (The Netherlands)

**Class of 2016**  
Marco Cattaneo (Italy)  
Björn Dahlbäck (Sweden)  
Andreas Greinacher (Germany)  
Paula Tracy (USA)  
Yukio Ozaki (Japan)

### EX-OFFICIO COUNCIL MEMBERS

**Secretary General (2010-2014)**  
Bruce Furie, USA

**President of the XXIV Congress (Amsterdam, 2013) & Immediate Past Chair (of Council)**  
Frits R. Rosendaal, The Netherlands

**Vice-President of the XXIV (Amsterdam, 2013) Congress**  
Pieter Reitsma, The Netherlands

**Past President of XXIII Congress (Kyoto 2011)**  
Yasuo Ikeda, Japan

**Editors-in-Chief, Journal of Thrombosis and Haemostasis**  
Mike Greaves and David Lane, UK

**Chairman, Scientific and Standardization Committee**  
Anna Falanga, Italy

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