WELCOME!

This is the first edition of ISTH2013 News, the newspaper of the 2013 ISTH congress in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. We will publish this newspaper every day this week during the congress. It will contain information on the congress, the programme and the ISTH. We will both preview interesting congress items and will look back at events during the previous days. All plenary lectures will be highlighted and a selection of state-of-the-art and special symposia will be previewed. Also, social events will be announced and tips and tricks on how to survive a major conference, how to find your way in a small but busy city and how to keep you head clear in the wealth of beautiful sites, famous museums, attractive terraces, art shops, canal tours and so on in Amsterdam. In addition, there will be a lot of useful information on our International Society on Thrombosis and Haemostasis. We are all looking forward to a great congress week in Amsterdam.

Editors of ISTH2013 News

SMASHING ISTH 2013 OPENING CEREMONY

Sunday June 30 at 6.30 pm the XXIV Congress of the International Society on Thrombosis and Haemostasis (ISTH) was opened with a ceremony full of action, music and speeches by the President of the Congress, Frits Rosendaal; and the Chairman of Council of the ISTH, Michael Berndt. The opening ceremony started with a short movie showing cities where previous ISTH conferences had taken place and illustrating the truly international signature of the ISTH. ISTH conferences are famous for their high quality of the research presented, excellent plenary lectures and state-of-the-art overviews and excellent social interaction. A musical intermezzo was presented by the Mondriaan Kwartet, a famous music group with a distinct 20th century repertoire and well fitting with the logo of this ISTH conference. After a short welcome by the hostess of the evening, Michael Berndt introduced the new logo of the ISTH with another short movie. Hereafter, Michael Berndt presented the Grant Medal, the highest distinction of honor in the ISTH to Charles Esmon from Oklahoma (see the article in this journal on the Grant Medal and Charles Esmon). The opening session was concluded by a spectacular drumming contest between Golden Earring’s Cesar Zuiderwijk and jazz drummer Han Bennink, who will both perform again at the party on Wednesday.

TOP FIVE REASONS TO VISIT THE ISTH EXHIBITION

1. Build professional connections and network on a global scale at ISTH 2013 while learning about new treatments, services, equipment and products being showcased by our industry partners.
2. Receive expert insight and advice from leaders in the field.
3. Visit the easily accessible recap lounge with information on Congress sessions.
4. Meet up with stakeholders and colleagues in comfortable seating areas around the exhibition hall to discuss a particular project, determine which exhibitors to visit and to review your time spent over a coffee.
5. See the new ISTH logo firsthand by visiting the ISTH booth (500).

There are many more reasons to stop by the ISTH exhibition. See for yourself! Visit today!

Exhibition Hours:
Monday: 10:00-18:30
Tuesday: 10:00-18:30
Wednesday: 10:00-18:30
Thursday: 10:00-16:30
Welcome from Congress President Frits Rosendaal

The president of the 2013 Congress of the International Society on Thrombosis and Haemostasis in Amsterdam is Professor Frits Rosendaal. What are his expectations of this congress?

**Professor Rosendaal:** What is the theme of the Congress?

The theme of the Congress is “anticoagulation strategies in VTE.” This theme is reflected in our logo. However, joviality does not contradict the spread of ideas and to encourage discussions for health problems by facilitating meetings and discussions of colleagues. Finally, one cannot afford to miss the late-breaking abstracts on Monday and Tuesday.

What is the goal of this Congress?

What is the goal of this Congress? The ultimate goal of our Congress is to reduce disease burden and find solutions for health problems by facilitating the spread of ideas and to encourage discussions of colleagues. However, joviality does not contradict with earnestness. The cheerful nature of this Congress will also be expressed in the Opening Ceremony, Cultural Evening and the All Congress Party with an amazing line-up of artists.

Did you choose the artists for the party yourself?

It was very difficult to choose the artists for the party. The final decision was made by the Congress Management. It was important to have a diverse range of artists that cater to different tastes. The Congress Management considered factors such as popularity, genre, and geographical diversity.

What is the theme of the Congress for 2013?

The theme of the Congress for 2013 is “anticoagulation strategies in VTE.” This theme is reflected in our logo. It is inspired by Piet Mondriaan’s style in our Congress setting, which is reflected in our logo.

How is this Congress different from other Congresses?

Traditionally, the aim of our Congresses has been to provide a forum for the best and brightest in the field of thrombosis and haemostasis, and this has not changed. We are also planning to focus on the international aspect of the Society, with visits from over 100 countries visiting our Congress. Furthermore, we kick off the Congress by an educational programme and Master Classes. We introduced the innovative e-posters to present scientific work on large touch-screens. Finally, we granted Young Investigator Awards to young scientists and give rising stars in the field the opportunity to present their work. Finally, one cannot afford to miss the late-breaking abstracts on Monday and Tuesday.

What role could the social media play at the Congress?

For the first time at the ISTH Congress we introduced a mobile app which allows access to the Congress Programme. The Congress also has a Twitter account, and once I figure out how to use this, I will tweet using my personal account as well.

What are you most looking forward to?

Well, the President’s Symposium is of course the most fun for me, although the pre-Congress football game Netherlands against The Rest of The World holds great promise. I also tried to find an excuse to ask three prominent speakers who are experts in their fields for the Thursday symposium. They will speak on “Evolving” in a broad sense. Armand Lucci, because music plays a big role in the Congress; Miguel Hatan, because he is an epidemiologist myself I wanted to have a leading epidemiologist to speak; and Frank de Waal because, in my opinion, these three highly respected scientists will impress us all on the final day of the Congress.

The 2013 Congress of the International Society on Thrombosis and Haemostasis in Amsterdam

Professor Rosendaal started his impressive art career which later evolved to his characteristic style of cheerful horizontal and vertical lines of primary colours. These lines represent the Flower fields in The Netherlands, which he developed while working in Paris. We implemented Mondriaan’s style in our Congress setting, which is reflected in our logo.
In addition to its year-round active projects and collaborations, the ISTH SSC holds annual meetings that allow for the discussion of diagnostic, standardization, disease nomenclature and classification, and the latest research on bleeding and thrombotic disorders. In the odd years, such as for 2013, SSC meetings are held jointly with the Congress. This year, organizers of the annual meeting worked tirelessly to include cutting-edge educational sessions, in-depth views and information on every aspect in thrombosis and haemostasis.

The following highlights, shared by SSC Chair David Lillicrap, offer an overview of the sessions held on Saturday, June 29 and Sunday, June 30, geared to advancing following updates during the Congress. 

Scientific and Standardization Committee (SSC) Session Highlights

Working Group on Genomics of Hemostasis

The new Working Group on the Genomics of Hemostasis held its first public meeting in Amsterdam. This new group was established after initial discussions at the ISTH 2011 Kyoto Congress and has now been constituted with a Chairperson, Willem Oewehand, and three co-chairs, including Anna Goodeve (bleeding disorders), Pietro Ratafia (thrombosis) and Tom Fürnkranz (plasminogen). As part of a larger program of standardization of laboratory testing and as a reaction to the recent growth in the number of FVIII gene mutations, the ISTH SSC is leading efforts to develop an optimal strategy for the management of FVIII deficiency in clinical routine of type 1 VWD? In the years ahead, the ISTH SSC gene network will have to consider new issues, including the possibility of variations in FVIII and FIX. Finally, discussion will continue on the possibility of novel and safe anticoagulant agents. The ISTH SSC will be critical in this process.

Control of Anticoagulation Subcommittee

This subcommittee met in conjunction with the ISTH 2013 Congress in Amsterdam and was chaired by David Lillicrap. The subcommittee provided an overview of abstracts and awarding of the young investigator awards. Tilman Hackeng was the driving force behind the introduction of e-posters, and I-phone and I-pad applications for the conference. The Congress was a great success and the SSC has been the driving force behind the introduction of e-posters, and I-phone and I-pad applications for the conference.

OCTOPHARMA Cordially invites you to attend our symposium

**Presenting the local organising Committee**

The ISTH Congress is a big event and a very large group of colleagues from the host country, the Netherlands, but also from virtually all other continents in the world have been very helpful in making this week so successful. The Congress is a great event and a very large group of colleagues from the host country, the Netherlands, but also from virtually all other continents in the world have been very helpful in making this week so successful.
Managing Haemophilia for Life
The European Principles of Haemophilia Care: Application, Adherence & Practice

Tuesday 2nd July 2013, 18:30–20:00
Montessori Jr, Amsterdam RAI, The Netherlands

HOSTED BY: HAEMOPHILIA FOUNDATION AUSTRALIA
WWW.WFH2014CONGRESS.ORG

ORGANIZED BY: WORLD FEDERATION OF HEMOPHILIA
HOSTED BY: HEMOPHILIA FOUNDATION AUSTRALIA

Pfizer-Sponsored Satellite Symposium at the XXIV Congress of the International Society on Thrombosis and Haemostasis

Managing Haemophilia for Life
The European Principles of Haemophilia Care: Application, Adherence & Practice

Dear Colleague,

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you to Amsterdam and invite you to join us at this symposium, being held during the XXIV Congress of the International Society on Thrombosis and Haemostasis: Management of Haemophilia for Life...
It is my distinct privilege to extend to you my warm welcome to Amsterdam, a perfect location to bring together researchers, scientists, clinicians and allied health professionals from across the globe in the spirit of collaboration, discussion and the translation of science.

Our Society (ISTH) Congress is the most important event for the advancement of thrombosis and haemostasis and we are delighted that you are participating. As a global organization, it is critically important for us to do our utmost to welcome participants from all over the world to our scientific gatherings, but that the ISTH holds its congresses in different parts of the world to allow for more access. In the last ten years, our congresses have brought together leading experts together in Kyoto, Japan; Tokyo, Japan; Geneva, Switzerland; Birmingham, UK; Boston, USA; Geneva, Switzerland; and Sydney, Australia. An important event for the advancement of thrombosis and haemostasis, it is a distinct privilege to extend to you my welcome.

It has been a pleasure to see the extraordinary developments in the field of haemostasis and thrombosis over the past ten years, our congresses brought together leading experts from all over the world. From the basic science, and discovery of the mechanisms of coagulation, to the translation of science into clinical practice, it is my distinct pleasure to extend to you my warm welcome.

It is my pleasure to introduce you to the Scientific Programme Committee Chair, Claude Négrier, for his lecture on "What to do and see in Amsterdam - Tourist tips".

Claude Négrier, MD, Chief of the Division of Haematology at the University Hospital, Geneva, opened the Congress by welcoming everyone to the ISTH Congress 2013, held at the RAI Amsterdam.

He started by reminding the audience of the importance of thrombosis and haemostasis in everyday life, and the impact it has on patient care.

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Bernhard Nexenow is a self-educated with expertise in platelet adhesion and activation mechanisms. He received his PhD from the University of Rostock, Germany, in 1995 having specialized in platelet surface receptor biology in genetic mouse models. In 1996 he founded a research group leader and in 2002 he moved his laboratory to the Rudolf-Virchow-Center at the University of Würzburg, Germany. Currently holds the chair of Experimental Bloodcoagulation, is coordinator of the Collaborative Research Center and a Professor of Clinical Biochemistry at the Rudolf-Virchow-Center.

He lecture will focus on platelet activation mechanisms in thrombos-thrombo-inflammatory disease. First part of his lecture will summarize recent developments in understanding platelet activation and thrombus formation with a focus on genetic mouse models.

Platelets play a central role in haemostasis, but also in athrombosis, as they mediate thrombus formation and release of pro-inflammatory mediators. Platelets contribute to inflammatory processes, which result in a clearer understanding of the meaning of research data.

The Robert P. Grant Medal is the highest award of the ISTH. It is presented to an individual who has demonstrated outstanding service or accomplishment which has promoted the goals of the Society. The award may be for research achievement, for organizational activities, for important public recognition and support of research activities, for facilitation of international cooperation and communications, for unusual teaching or educational initiatives, or for the development of concepts which result in a clearer understanding of the meaning of research data.

Previous Recipients of the Grant Medal

2001  Pier M. Mannucci
2003  Yale Nemerson
2005  Dick B. Reinhart
2007  Uri Seligsohn
2009  Jan J. Sixma
2011  Désiré Collen

The ISTH is pleased to announce that Charles T. Esmon at the Coagulation Biology Laboratory at the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation in Oklahoma City, USA, has become the latest recipient of the prestigious Robert P. Grant Medal, the highest award of the ISTH.

About the Grant Medal

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About Charles T. Esmon

Charles T. Esmon received his bachelor’s degree in 1973 from the University of Kansas, Lawrence, and his Ph.D. in 1976 from the University of Alabama, Birmingham, in the laboratory of Dr. R.L. Westmoreland. He completed a 2-year postdoctoral fellowship in the laboratory of Dr. J.R. Halangk at Duke University, where he worked on the regulation of tissue factor in smooth muscle cells. After completing his postdoctoral training, he joined the faculty at the University of Oklahoma, where he has now been for more than 30 years. He was continuing his research on factor V, mostly in isolated and purified factor V-reconstituted throughout our field, and researchers later used his techniques to isolate factor VIII. In addition, his research on epoxygenation and protein C led to the discovery that thrombin, bound to a specific protein on the blood vessel wall, activated protein C to prevent clotting, a major advance in the understanding of blood coagulation with several consequences for prevention and therapy of thromboembolic diseases. More recently, Esmon’s lab identified the endothelial protein C receptor (EPCR), the target for protein C. They found that high levels of EPCR reduce clotting and inflammation, similar to high levels of activated protein C. Esmon and his lab are deeply engaged in understanding the role of protein C and its effects on inflammation.

Dr. Esmon holds the Lloyd Noble Chair in Cardiovascular Research and is head of the Coagulation Biology Laboratory at the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation. He has received numerous awards for his work and is recognized as a leader in our field. Dr. Esmon is a previous recipient of the ISTH Investigator Recognition (1983) and the Distinguished Career (1993) Award and has served as a member of the editorial Advisory Board of the Journal on Thrombosis and Haemostasis (JTH) from 2003-2007.

About Robert P. Grant

Robert P. Grant (1915–1966), for whom the award is named, was a renowned cardiologist with interdisciplinary interests. He served on the staff and ultimately became director of the National Heart Institute in Bethesda, Maryland, USA, and also served as a representative of the National Institutes of Health in Europe.
The 2013 ISTH congress was preceded with SSC meetings, educational sessions and master classes on June 29th and 30th. Each SSC subcommittee meeting (22 in total) started with one hour of educational lectures, of which the level was advanced and topic orientated. Subsequently, subcommittee and standardisation sessions were supplementing topics not addressed in the main ISTH programme. The main goal of the committee organisational lectures, of which the level was advanced and topic orientated. Subsequent- ly, subcommittee and standardisation sessions were supplementing topics not addressed in the main ISTH programme. The main goal of the committee organis- ing the educational sessions, directed by Suzanne Cannegieter, was to inspire and stimulate young investigators at the start of their careers and researchers from underprivileged countries who have few opportunities to attend courses and meet established investigators. On Saturday afternoon, a general educational ses- sion was organised to provide ‘a broad perspective on the scientific profession’. Presentations were held by well-known Dutch scientists and a science journal- ist on the ‘dos and don’ts of attending a conference’, ‘the view of a science impact scientist on citation indexes’, and ‘fraud in science’. By choosing these topics Cannegieter’s committee wanted to ‘highlight the importance of general scientific education’.

This year, Master Classes were added to the programme on Sunday. Cannegieter: “We wanted to stimulate integration between young investigators, reach the world attendees and established investiga- tors.” These ‘Masters’ are well-known and established investigators in most areas of the field of thrombosis & haemostasis research. In total, 40 Master Classes with a duration of 30 minutes were given, with about 325 attendees in total. A maximum of 20 attendees per master class was allowed and the dura- tion of discussion was approximately 20 minutes. In this way, the time for interac- tion between attendees and the ‘Master’ was optimised. Each participant could attend 3 master classes. Lastly, in collaboration with Dr Waander van Heerde from the laboratory of the Nijmegen University Hospital, all “Reach the world” award winners were offered the possibility to visit a Dutch comprehen- sive haemostasis laboratory affiliated to a Haemophilia Care Center.

With all these educational sessions and master classes many attendees of the ISTH 2013 congress were fuelled with a lot of scientific inspiration for the rest of the week!