THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY ON THROMBOSIS AND HAEMOSTASIS

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Summary of Executive Director's Report to ISTH Council

H.R. Roberts, Executive Director

June 1995

MEMBERSHIP

Society Membership, as of April 1995, totaled 1,976 members: 1,934 Regular members, 40 Emiritus (retired) members and 2 Associate members. Dues status for these members is as follows: 1,710 "in good standing" with dues paid for the current year, 226 with dues in arrears, and 40 retired members who are exempt from paying dues.

COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL

Standing Committees of Council are responsible for the ongoing activities of the Society during the course of the year. Members with questions, concerns, or suggestions are welcome to contact the chairmen of the Standing Committees: Awards and Lectureships - Y. Nemerson; Publications - E. Plow; Constitution - D. Meyer; Membership - U. Seligsohn; Finance - T. Edgington; Science Advisory - D. Colleen; Innovations and Long-range Planning - P.M. Mannucci.

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

In addition to support of the regular major programs (journal, Congresses, and Annual Meetings), during the past year, the ISTH has sustained the following educational and research activities. From the "Reach the World" initiative, 11 researchers from 9 economically developing countries were supported for membership in the Society; $25,000 was given to the XVth Congress to subsidize the attendance of young and needy researchers who would otherwise have been unable to participate in the Congress; and major financial support was provided or pledged for the following educational conferences: "First International Symposium on Atherosclerosis, Thrombosis, Hemostasis and Transplantation Medicine" in Bombay, India; "Recent Advances on the Mechanism and Detection of Thrombosis" in Buenos Aires, Argentina; "New Approaches to Thrombosis Detection and Treatment" in Krakow, Poland; and "Frequency, Prevention and Control of Inherited Thrombophilic Syndromes" in Geneva, Switzerland which will be jointly sponsored by the WHO and the ISTH. From the Congress on Thrombosis, Vascular Training Center program, 10 TVTC fellows will be supported this year for a period of 3 months each at official TVTC Center.

Through its Scientific and Standardization Committee, the ISTH has also participated several ongoing collaborative projects with other international organizations such as the International Federation of Clinical Chemists ("Reference Materials and Reference Measurements Systems in Laboratory Medicine"), the International Council for Standardization in Hematology and the World Health Organization ("HQQS in Blood Coagulation") and the WHO's "Expert Committee on Biological Standards." The SSC is also coordinating a project on preparation of a global coagulation standard for coagulation factors through the cooperative efforts of the expert Scientific Subcommittees of the SSC and major international manufacturers of diagnostic standards.

FISCAL

As previously reported in the NEWSLETTER of July 1994, Council has mandated establishment of a fiscal reserve to assure that the ISTH will have a sound financial foundation. Recommendations of the Finance Committee were implemented and 36% of this goal was realized during the past year. During the 1994/95 fiscal year, 65.5% of Society support derived from Congress-related income, 25.4% from membership dues, with all other sources accounting for 5% to 1% or less. Aside from seed funds and grants for support of Congresses and Meetings, major expenditures in rank order were member subscriptions to Thrombosis and Haemostasis; personnel, consultants, and temporary employees; meeting expenses; communications; and contractual services. In addition to the accountant's detailed reports to the Finance Committee, the Executive Director provided to Council an in-house report of fund balances, revenues, and expenditures.

ISTH Congress Calendar

The ISTH convenes an international Congress biennially, while the Scientific and Standardization Committee and its scientific subcommittees meet annually. Future Congresses will be in these locations:

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<tr>
<td>16th ISTH Congress</td>
<td>1997 (Please note date change)</td>
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P. M. Mannucci, President
S. Coccheri, Vice-President

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The XVth biennial Congress of the International Society on Thrombosis and Haemostasis (ISTH) was held in Jerusalem on June 11 to 16, 1995. The Congress was preceded by the 41st Annual Meeting of the Scientific and Standardization Committee (SSC) and was followed by 7 Satellite Symposia which were held in Eilat, a beautiful resort on the Red Sea.

Three thousand four hundred participants representing 58 countries attended the Congress and enjoyed a very comprehensive scientific program which included clinical, biochemical and molecular biological aspects of thrombosis and haemostasis. In the recent years this developing field of science has been overwhelmed with new observations, findings and tools for treatment. New diseases such as the activated Protein C resistance were discovered. The hormone that regulates platelet production, thrombopoietin, was finally isolated and characterized, and many novel antithrombotic agents have since emerged. The Congress Organizing Committee made a collective effort to obtain opinions of many groups working in this area. An international advisory board was called upon to propose and then vote upon topics and speakers to be invited. The final list of lecturers comprised some of the most experienced members of the Society, known for their long-standing scientific contributions, as well as younger members whose diligent work has led to exciting discoveries.

A total of 2191 abstracts were accepted for presentation at the Congress. All the papers were presented as Posters, which received the best timing and attention. About 300 excellent papers were selected for oral presentation during Symposia or Special Oral Sessions, and 98 invited speakers gave longer presentations in Colloquia, Symposia and seven Plenary lectures.

The Congress opened with a special Colloquium given by four veterans of the Society who have contributed an immense amount of scientific information over the last 40 years, and who are still active in science. Dr. Earl Dacie (USA) described the biochemical and molecular aspects of the coagulation cascade. Dr. Sam Rapaport (USA) gave an overview of the ‘Tissue Factor Pathway.’ Dr. Jacques Caen (France) described the molecular mechanisms and especially the membrane receptor anomalies operative in congenital platelet disorders, and Dr. Marc Verstraete (Belgium) gave a review of the basic and clinical aspects of the fibrinolytic system.

Eight educationally oriented Colloquia consisting of three lectures each, were given by experienced scientists who reviewed the recent literature and their own data. Two Colloquia were on basic issues: ‘Platelets, leukocytes and endothelial cells during inflammation and thrombosis,’ and ‘Natural inhibitors of blood coagulation.’ Two colloquia were devoted to clinical conditions: ‘Hemophilia,’ and ‘Disorders causing thrombocytopenia,’ and four colloquia described the use and development of new antithrombotic and fibrinolytic agents. The lectures included clinical problems, such as the use of oral anticoagulants and their control, as well as innovative aspects of drug design, such as the application of ‘Combinatorial libraries and protein engineering’ for the discovery of novel anti-thrombotic drugs. New anti-thrombins were discussed as well as the development of thrombin receptor antagonists. Clinical aspects of hemorraghic disorders were reviewed and special emphasis was given to platelet transfusions. A workshop was devoted to the clinical use of fibrin sealants ('Fibrin glue') and recent studies on this issue were presented by scientists from many countries. Special attention was given to the use of fibrin sealants in surgery patients with congenital hemorrhagic disorders.

Thirty-two Symposia encompassed all the basic and clinical aspects of thrombosis and hemostasis. Recent discoveries such as thromboxane and its mpl receptor received special emphasis. Basic aspects of platelet physiology including platelet interaction with leukocytes, vascular wall cells and the extracellular matrix were reviewed. Attention was given to platelet adhesive proteins such as integrins and selectins, the signal transduction pathway and hemostatigraphical factors. Various molecular, genetic and therapeutic aspects of hemophilia and von Willebrand disease were reviewed, and the prospects of gene therapy for inherited coagulation factor deficiencies were discussed. Anti-platelet drugs, fibrinolytic agents and low molecular weight heparins were the subjects of very interesting symposia, and time was also devoted for the new antithrombins derived from hematopoesis animals such as the leech, the vampire bat and even the canine intestinal worm, ancylostoma. Biological agents such as activated Protein C and annexins were also shown to possess significant anti-thrombotic activity. A new disease was discussed for the first time in an ISTH Congress: the activated Protein C resistance. Ninety-five abstracts were reviewed which described different aspects of this prevalent congenital thrombophilia. A special symposium, two oral sessions, and a plenary lecture were devoted to this topic.

Another relatively new field, Perinatal Hemostasis, was reviewed by some of the experts and interesting studies were reported. The plenary lectures were given by outstanding scientists. Dr. B. Dahlbäck (Sweden) reviewed his original discovery of the activated Protein C resistance and discussed the molecular anomaly in factor V which is responsible for the thrombotic tendency in affected patients. Dr. S. Shattil (USA) discussed the role of β integrins in hemostasis and vascular biology and showed interesting findings concerning various aspects of platelet physiology and platelet interaction with vascular blood cells. Dr. E. Dejana (France) described the organization and functional regulation of "cell to cell junctions" in the vascular endothelium and gave a special emphasis to the interactions between cadherin V, α integrin protein discovered by her group, and cytoskeleton proteins.

Dr. B. Zetter (USA) reviewed the angiogenic factors which are operative in the development of fetal blood vessels and in malignant tumors. He also described the recently discovered angiostatin, an inhibitor of angiogenesis derived from plasminogen, which was originally isolated from the urine of tumor bearing animals.

Dr. F. Carmeliet (Belgium) gave a lecture on "Gene Targeting and Gene Transfer" associated with the fibrinolytic system. He described six "knock-out" transgenic mice strains produced in his laboratory with either a single deficiency of t-PA, u-PA, PAI-1, Tissue Factor, the vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) or combined deficiency of t-PA and u-PA. These unique animal models disclosed most interesting data on the importance and functionality of each of the above proteins: a single deficiency of t-PA, u-PA and PAI-1 or combined deficiency of t-PA and u-PA were non-lethal and the animals developed nicely; whereas Tissue Factor or VEGF deficiency impaired organ formation and the animals died at a fetal stage. These models provide an opportunity to understand the role of the above proteins in inflammation, wound healing and cancer. Two plenary lectures were devoted to new anti-thrombotic therapies. Dr. B. Collet (USA) described the development of the monoclonal antibody E3 which blocks the platelet fibrinogen receptor, GpIIb/IIIa (µιδι). He also reviewed the recent clinical trials which indicated the efficacy of this antibody in preventing coronary thrombosis in unstable angina and post PTCA and allowed FDA approval of this new antiplatelet drug. Dr. A. Turpie (Canada) discussed advances with new therapeutic agents for prophylaxis and treatment of venous thrombosis and pulmonary embolism. He reviewed some recent large multicenter clinical trials which demonstrated the efficacy of new anti-thrombins such as hirudin and hirulog.

Recipients of Society Awards: XVth ISTH Congress

7th Biennial Awards for Contributions to Hemostasis

The 7th Biennial Awards for Contributions to Hemostasis, traditionally given in conjunction with ISTH Congress, are now official awards of the ISTH. Nominees for the Biennial Awards are identified by the Senior Advisory Council of the SSC which is comprised of over 60 past officers and elected members of the ISTH and the SSC with final election by the current elected membership of the SSC.

Receiving awards at the President's Dinner in Jerusalem were,


Congratulations to all who have been honored with 1995 awards.
Response from a Recipient: Distinguished Career Awards
Professor Inga Marie Nilsson

In April 1995 my friend, Harold Roberts, wrote informing me that I had been chosen to receive the Distinguished Career Award for my contributions in the field of haemostasis, the presentation to be made at the 15th Congress of the International Society on Thrombosis and Haemostasis, in June 1995. It came as a surprise and gave me immense pleasure, for it is indeed a distinguished award. Since I joined the ranks of the emeriti a year or two ago, and am no longer at the center of activity as before, at least here at home, the award came as a sign of recognition and a welcome encouragement to persevere with my efforts. The signal nature of the award was made even more manifest when I learned who my fellow prize-winners were to be; for they were all old colleagues and friends whose work I had always admired, with some of whom I had enjoyed fruitful collaboration on various ISTH committees. Thus, I feel both honoured and gratified to have received this award. A memorable trip to Jerusalem with my daughter was crowned by the presentation ceremony at the presidential dinner. This unforgettable experience, enhanced by the warmth of appreciation accorded me by the participants, gave me welcome occasion to review my long career in the field of coagulation disorders.

I entered the field of research in coagulation disorders at the beginning of the 1950's, under the guidance of Jan Waldenstrom; Erik Jorpes and I also spent some time with Paul Owen. I was what was then known as a "clotting girl", spending my time at my water bath, rocking my tubes in thrilling anticipation of the formation of fibrin. More or less elegant procedures and cunning mixtures were developed, which sometimes led to new findings and discoveries. It was all utterly fascinating, as I am sure the older generation of coagulationists would agree. This approach to the work has now been completely superseded. At the coagulation laboratory at Malmö, there are no longer any baths: nowadays the lab technicians do it all by pressing buttons. Perhaps they are deprived of the formation of fibrin. More or less elegant procedures and cunning mixtures were developed, which sometimes led to new findings and discoveries. It was all utterly fascinating, as I am sure the older generation of coagulationists would agree. This approach to the work has now been completely superseded.

In particular I would like to stress that I have been, and still am, a "clinical coagulationist." I usually say that I always have one foot in the clinic and the other in the laboratory. Clinical observations have been the primary source of inspiration in my research, and a dozen or so patients have been of crucial importance to my contributions in this field. This combination of clinical and laboratory work has always been most stimulating. Although basic research and clinical work are seldom as closely linked as once they were, there are still examples of observations in an isolated case resulting in new discoveries. I very much hope that the clinical side of coagulation disorders will continue to be a strong specialty.

My co-workers have been of immense importance to me and to my research and have always contributed much to what has been achieved. In this context, I should like to mention a few to whom I owe a great debt of gratitude: Birger and Margareta Blombäck, for instance, and Lars Hohnberg, Birger Asteclt, Maurizio Pandolfi, Ulla Hedegaard and Erik Bertilsson.

My friends in the field throughout the world have always been a source of invaluable inspiration, and I have been privileged to work together with many of them. I have been a member of the ISTH since its inauguration, and I think, I have attended almost every meeting. The Society's meetings have been immensely stimulating and have helped me to keep abreast of the latest developments in coagulation research. My six years as chairwoman of the Factor VIII and von Willebrand Factor Subcommittees of the SSC (formerly the ICTH) represented a formidable challenge, my predecessor having been no less a person than John Graham. During my time we found out some of the variants of von Willebrand's disease and had several exchange studies. This work was continued by Arthur Bloom and Dominique Meyer as chairpersons of this Subcommittee.

Now that I am a professor emerita, I am still able to do research, my chief concern being haemophilia and antibodies to factor VIII and to factor IX, though von Willebrand's disease is still a subject close to my heart. I have had several awards during my career, but this award by the ISTH was singularly reassuring and stimulating. I am deeply grateful to have received this signal honour.

Second Announcement of the XVIIth Congress of the ISTH
Florence, Italy, June 6-12, 1997

The Second Announcement of the XVIIth ISTH Congress is now available and Society members are encouraged to mark their calendars now for this important event. The Final Announcement with Abstract forms will be mailed to all ISTH members next summer and Important Deadline Dates are as follows:

- 2 December 1996 — Receipt of Abstracts
- 28 February 1997 — Pre-registration deadline and guaranteed hotel reservation deadline.
- 30 April 1997 — Social Program deadline and Accompanying Persons' Program reservations.

In order to obtain additional copies of the Second Announcement or to be placed on the Congress mailing list, please contact the Congress Secretariat:

XVIIth ISTH Congress Secretariat
O.I.C. s.r.l.
Via A. La Marmora, 24, 50121 Florence, ITALY
tel: 39 55 500 0631 or FAX 39 55 500 1912

42nd Annual Meeting
Scientific and Standardization Committee of the ISTH
Barcelona, Spain, June 22-24

The 42nd Annual Meeting of the SSC will take place in Barcelona, Spain, on Saturday through Monday, June 22-24, 1996. This is the second SSC Annual Meeting to be held in conjunction with a Congress of the International Society on Fibriolysis and Thrombolysis, June 24-28, 1996. Hosts for the SSC Meeting are Prof. M.J. Ruttanl and Dr. J. Fernandez and the venue is the new Fira Palace Hotel, adjacent to the Barcelona Congress Center at the foot of Montjuich.

To the extent possible, all SSC attendees will be housed at the Fira Palace or the next closest hotel, the new Hotel Barcelona Plaza on the nearby Pl. Espanya. Pre-registration forms for the 1996 SSC Meeting will be distributed in the joint Final Announcement of the SSC Annual Meeting and the XIIth ISFT Congress, presently scheduled for distribution after November of 1995. These materials are also available on request from the Meeting Secretariat.

Announcement of Election Results

SSC Class of 2001

The following new members were elected to the SSC Class of 2001 by ISTH Council at its 1995 meeting: Drs. M. Berndt (Australia), M. Frojmovic (Canada), R. Hull (Canada), and K. Mertens (The Netherlands). Their six-year terms began at the conclusion of the 1995 Annual Meeting.

2003 Congress President, Venue

At its 1995 Meeting, ISTH Council received two excellent applications for the XIXth ISTH Congress, 2003: Dr. R. Altman for Buenos Aires, Argentina, and Dr. Ian Peake for Birmingham, UK. Birmingham was subsequently elected.

Congratulations to Dr. Ian Peake, President-elect, and his Organizing Committee – Drs. G. Lowe, Vice-President; David Lane, Chairman of Scientific Program; Trevor Barrowcliffe, SSC Organizer; Sam Machin, Treasurer; and Ted Tuddenham, Stan Hepinstall, and Christopher Ludlam, members.

Proposals for the 2005 Congress will be invited during the winter of 1996/97 with election at the 1997 Council Meeting.
Future ISTH Elections

1996 ISTH Council
In the next few months the Executive Director will extend an invitation to all Society members to propose nominees for possible election to the ISTH Council Class of 2002. ISTH Council is the 15-member executive body which serves the Society as a board of directors. It is the Council's responsibility to oversee all Society activities and programs which include the Society's journal, Thrombosis and Haemostasis, and election of its Editor-in-Chief, election of Congresses, Society finances, membership policy, awards and scholarships of the Society, and recommendations on scientific matters as well as innovations and long-range planning for the growth and stability of the Society.

The 15 Council members are organized into classes of 5 members each, each class serving a 6-year term. At the conclusion of the next Council meeting in Barcelona (June 1996) the Council Class of 1996 will retire. Retiring members of this class will include Drs. D. Collen of Belgium, M.B. Donati of Italy, Z.M. Ruggeri of the USA, Council Chairman H. Saito of Japan, and J. Stenflo of Sweden.

All ISTH members in good standing are eligible for nomination, with their permission, and final election will be by a plurality of all ballots cast. There is no national representation requirement for Council members.

Please give thoughtful consideration to this important election. The call for nominations will go out during the winter with the final election ballots being mailed to all members in the spring.

1996 Scientific and Standardization Committee
In conjunction with the above call of Council nominations, ISTH members will also receive an invitation to propose nominees for the SSC Class of 2002. The SSC is the working arm of the Society and is responsible for issuing official recommendations related to nomenclature, standards, methods, and those matters of practical importance to the thrombosis and hemostasis research community. The SSC oversees the work of its various Scientific Subcommittees, maintains liaison with other organizations active in the field, and represents the Society in cooperative research and education projects with the World Health Organization and other national and international biomedical research and standards-producing organizations.

The SSC is comprised of 24 members in 6 classes of 4 members, each. A new class of 4 is elected annually. The SSC Class of 1996 will retire at the conclusion of the 1996 SSC Annual Business Meeting. Retiring members include Drs. T. Barrowcliffe of the UK, E. Bastida of Spain, and Y. Sultan of France. Dr. J. Lusher, SSC Chairman-elect will serve an additional two-years until the completion of her term as SSC Chairman.

All ISTH members in good standing are eligible for nomination, with their permission, and final election is by ISTH Council. A 12-country rule of national representation applies.

The Call of Nominations for the SSC Class of 2002 will be contained in the mailing of the Call of Nominations for the Council Class of 2002. Please watch for these two important forms.

1996 Membership Dues Renewal

Society Membership dues for 1996 will remain at $90 for a Regular member (which includes a complimentary subscription to Thrombosis and Haemostasis) and $35 for an Associate Member in student, fellow, or trainee status. Invoices will be mailed on or about September 11th for the 1996 Membership year. In order to avoid disruption of journal subscriptions, dues renewals must be received prior to December 31, 1995. Non-renewal for two consecutive years removes a members from "active" membership status and may result in the member's not receiving ballots, meeting information, calls for abstracts, Newsletters, etc.

Retired persons who wish to become Emeritus Members may do so by letter of notification to the Executive Director. Emeritus members do not receive a subscription to Thrombosis and Haemostasis, but are entitled to all other member publications and privileges.

If you have a question about your membership status, please contact ISTH Headquarters and ask for the Membership Secretary.

INFORMATION ON-LINE:
Registry of Animal Models LISTSERV

If you are interested in participating in this Internet e-mail List, please contact Dr. Thomas Griggs by phone at (919) 966-5207, or FAX at (919) 966-1743, or Email at trg@med.unc.edu, or letter at CB# 7035, Division of Cardiology, UNC School of Medicine, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-7075, USA. He will send detailed instructions for subscription to this list.

ISTH Headquarters
Membership Database: Having accurate telephone, fax, and more recently, e-mail information is extremely important to achieve the Society’s goal of dissemination of information and facilitation of discourse among our membership. All members have the opportunity to correct or up-date their contact information at the time of Annual Membership Dues Renewal, but members may communicate this information to the Society at any time by contacting the ISTH Headquarters Office. Please keep Headquarters advised of changes.

You can reach ISTH Headquarters at:

telephone: 919 929 3807
facsimile: 919 929 3935
e-mail ("Internet") address: sscisth@med.unc.edu

You may contact the Society’s or Committee’s officers/chairmen via Headquarters.

ISTH, Inc.
The International Society on Thrombosis and Haemostasis, Inc., is a non-profit organization. Membership is open to scientists working in the various fields of research related to vascular biology, blood coagulation and diseases and disorders characterized by vascular abnormalities, thrombosis, and/or hemorrhage. Membership application information and materials may be obtained from the Membership Secretary at the Headquarters address.