

## Dear Fellow Clotter

In the Australia Day Honours list published in January, Professor Hatem Salem was awarded the Member of the Order of Australia ( AM ) for service to medicine in the field of haematology as a clinician, educator and researcher and also through the establishment of the Australian Centre for Blood Diseases. Prof Salem is a past President of the ASTH, serving 2 terms in the position from 2001 to 2005. Our congratulations go to Prof Salem for this public recognition of his outstanding contributions to the field of haematology.

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### NEW MEMBERS

The ASTH would like to welcome the following members who have joined since the last newsletter:

Sapha Mosawy  
Christina Yip  
Averil Drummond

We would also like to welcome those new members who wish to keep their contact details private.

### STOP PRESS

**ASTH is pleased to announce another new corporate sponsor – Bayer.**

### ASTH COUNCIL 2009-2011

Claire McLintock	President	<a href="mailto:clairemcl@orcon.net.nz">clairemcl@orcon.net.nz</a>
Douglas Coghlan	Vice President	<a href="mailto:douglas.coghlan@flinders.edu.au">douglas.coghlan@flinders.edu.au</a>
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## A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello again!

It has been an eventful few months in our world. Devastating earthquakes and tsunamis and wild weather; deepening of the global economic crisis and high unemployment; ongoing civil unrest in Egypt, Syria and Libya; riots in major cities in England. With such unraveling, I feel incredibly fortunate to be able to sit at my desk at home and write this newsletter even with the threat of snow in Auckland.

Highlights for the year include, of course, the recent ISTH meeting in Kyoto. The ISTH Council took a wise and considered decision to continue with the plan to host the ISTH meeting in Kyoto after the devastating earthquake and tsunami that struck the east coast of Japan on 11th March. Australia and New Zealand was well represented at the meeting although a number of our usual gang chose not to go due to fears about radiation and further earthquakes. Overall delegate numbers at the meeting were down but still enough to make the meeting successful.

Some countries seemed to be poorly represented with the constant question being "Where are the Italians?" – I swear I only saw one in the whole time I was there. A lasting impact for me will be the immense gratitude of our hosts to the delegates who came to support Japan. It was very humbling to be thanked so fervently by people from a nation that has been affected so deeply by such tragedy. The ISTH program was excellent and you will be able to read some of the reports of the conference in this newsletter. The Kyoto Conference Centre was unlike most modern conference venues, smaller and more labyrinthine, which somehow lent a more friendly and collegiate atmosphere to the meeting – totally different from the behemoth, aircraft hangar feel of most modern convention centres.

One of the most exciting events at the meeting was that Melbourne has been awarded opportunity to host ISTH 2019. I met Hatem Salem on the first day of ISTH and he was nervous about their chances feeling that the vote might go to San Diego. He needn't have worried. A top-class presentation to ISTH Council expounding on the wonders of Melbourne as a cosmopolitan city and a hotbed of basic and clinical research in thrombosis and haemostasis, complimented by tantalising images of Melbourne's impressive, new and large (although not in a behemoth kind of way) convention centre was sufficient to win the vote.

Well done to Robert Metcalf and his team on securing such a fantastic opportunity for us all to showcase our talents and achievements in this part of the world again. I am sure there will be plenty of volunteers to help, as needed, and I have already offered my services to help organize the Social Program!

There was of course, considerable discussion at the meeting about the new anticoagulants that promise to revolutionise management of thrombosis. As of July 1st 2011, dabigatran is fully funded in New Zealand with no restrictions to prescribing.

While there was some limited consultation with Haematology specialists prior to its general release, an in-depth educational program for General Practitioners about the safety and efficacy of the agent really only began after the drug became available for prescription. Insufficient attention has been given to nuances relating to dabigatran's efficacy compared to warfarin in certain subgroups, its risk of bleeding especially in the elderly, those with impaired renal function or multiple comorbidities and absence of a proven remedy to stop bleeding when it occurs. Perhaps a more controlled and informed introduction of such a novel agent would have been advisable and Australia can certainly learn from NZ when the drug is introduced there.

Also, it gives me enormous pleasure to tell you that the Australian and New Zealand "Recommendations for Diagnosis and Management of DVT and PE in Pregnancy and the Postpartum in Pregnancy" and "Recommendations for Prevention of pregnancy-associated VTE", as endorsed by ASTH, have been accepted for publication by the Australian and NZ Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology and should be published later this year. Thanks to all the authors, a number of whom are members of ASTH.

Other good news is that Bayer has now become a corporate sponsor for ASTH and will also sponsor the ASTH workshop. The workshop will be held on October 29th in Sydney the day before the 2011 HAA meeting convenes. I hope to see you there.

This will be my last newsletter as President of ASTH. I will step down as President and also from Council in October. My involvement with the Society has given me a huge amount of satisfaction and pleasure and I will miss it.

I would like to extend a huge vote of thanks to Megan Sarson for all her help over these years. She is a marvel; talented, organised and clever and the ASTH would be a lesser organization without her.

Thank you, too, to the members of Council who have accompanied me on the journey. A special vote of thanks to Ali Bianchi and Doug Coghlan who, like me, will be stepping down from Council as we have served three consecutive terms.

That's all for now but in the words of the Terminator, "I'll be back".

Sayonara.

*Claire McLintock*

## SECRETARIAT NEWS

We're nearing the end of another 2 year term for ASTH Council members and a call for nominations for the 2011-13 Council was sent out in July. At the time of writing it isn't clear if we'll need an election this year but if we do end up having more nominations than the 8 Council positions we'll hold an on-line ballot, similar to that held in 2009 and all financial members are encouraged to participate in the process.

As foreshadowed at the AGM last year, the Council is proposing some changes to the Articles of Association-the ASTH constitution. The changes will allow the provision for associate membership (for those engaged in further study or training in the T&H field) and also for retired membership. We already have a small number of associate members so these alterations will bring the constitution in line with our current practise.

In addition, there are a small number of changes which will facilitate election processes and the distribution of official notices now that we're all in the electronic age. I will be circulating a motion to support the changes together with information about the specific changes shortly and a ballot will be held at this years AGM. I encourage all members to attend the AGM, or else

nominate a proxy (proxy forms will be distributed with the official AGM notice in September), so that there is a quorum to consider the motion.

Please remember to register early for the Scientific Workshop (Saturday 29th October). The registration form is included with this newsletter and is also available from the ASTH website.

All memberships were due for renewal at the beginning of July. Thanks to all those members who have already completed the renewal process. If you have forgotten, please take a few minutes to mail or fax off the forms now. This year we introduced a multi year renewal scheme, whereby ordinary members can renew their membership for three years. Not only will members receive a discount but it also means I won't be hassling you for membership fees until 2014!!

Council is also very pleased to announce the establishment of the ASTH Beckman Coulter Travel Grant. Commencing in 2012, this annual \$3000 grant will be awarded to a laboratory scientist and will cover their registration, travel and accommodation for HAA and the ASTH Scientific Workshop.

Megan Sarson

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

MEETING	WHERE/DATES	CONTACT
<b>TORC Seminar – Perioperative Blood Management</b>	Melbourne 9 September 2011	<a href="http://www.torc.org.au/node/9">http://www.torc.org.au/node/9</a>
<b>2011 BSHT/UKHCDO Meeting</b>	Brighton, UK 3-5 October 2011	<a href="http://www.bsht.org.uk/">http://www.bsht.org.uk/</a>
<b>ASTH Scientific Workshop</b>	Sydney 29 October 2011	
<b>HAA-ISHAPD Meeting</b>	Sydney 30 October-2 November 2011	<a href="http://www.haa-ap2011.org/">http://www.haa-ap2011.org/</a>
<b>RODIN study symposium</b>	Amsterdam 18 November 2011	<a href="http://www.juliuscentrum.nl/rodin/symposium.html">http://www.juliuscentrum.nl/rodin/symposium.html</a>
<b>ASH Annual Meeting and Exposition</b>	San Diego, USA 10-13 December 2011	<a href="http://www.hematology.org/Meetings/Annual-Meeting/">http://www.hematology.org/Meetings/Annual-Meeting/</a>
<b>XXXIV World Congress of the International Society of Hematology</b>	Cancun, Mexico 25-28 April 2012	<a href="http://www.hematology2012.com/en/bienvenida.aspx">http://www.hematology2012.com/en/bienvenida.aspx</a>
<b>Boston Platelets 2012 7th International Platelet Symposium</b>	Massachusetts, USA 7-11 June 2012	<a href="http://www.platelets2012.org">http://www.platelets2012.org</a>
<b>ISTH 58th Annual SSC Meeting</b>	Liverpool, UK 27-30 June 2012	<a href="http://www.ssc2012.org/">http://www.ssc2012.org/</a>
<b>21st International Congress on Fibrinolysis &amp; Proteolysis</b>	Brighton, UK 1-5 July 2012	<a href="http://www.isfp2012.com/">http://www.isfp2012.com/</a>
22nd International Congress on Thrombosis	Nice, France 6-9 October 2012	<a href="http://geyseco.es/thrombosis2012">http://geyseco.es/thrombosis2012</a>
XXIV ISTH Congress with 59th Annual SSC Meeting	Amsterdam, Holland 29 June-4 July 2013	

## 2011 ASTH WORKSHOP UPDATE

**This years ASTH workshop will be on Saturday, 29th October  
at the Sydney Convention Centre in Darling Harbour in Room 204.**

The program has been finalised and is on the website. Registration to the workshop is separate from the HAA. We still have room for more posters. I just need the title and authors.

Look forward to seeing you there.

Grace Gilmore [grace.gilmore@health.wa.gov.au](mailto:grace.gilmore@health.wa.gov.au)

## AUSTRALASIAN SOCIETY OF THROMBOSIS AND HAEMOSTASIS SCIENTIFIC WORKSHOP: PROGRAM

**Saturday, 29th October, 2011  
Sydney Convention Centre, Room 204, Darling Harbour.**

8.00 am	Registration and Tea/Coffee
9.00 am	Welcome: <b>Grace Gilmore</b> (Chair)
9.10 am	<b>Geoff Kershaw</b> (Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, NSW) <i>New LA Guidelines</i>
9.30 am	<b>Emmanuel Favaloro</b> (Westmead Hospital, NSW) <i>Novel approach to the INR</i>
9.50 am	<b>Sarah Just</b> (Prince of Wales Hospital, NSW) <i>ADAMTS13 Review</i>
10.10 am	<b>Dr LC Lim</b> (Singapore General Hospital, Singapore) <i>Case Study: TTP or CAPS</i>
10.30 am	<b>MORNING TEA and TRADE and POSTERS</b>
11.00 am	<b>Claire Bell</b> (RPH, WA) <i>Haemophilia Product Update</i>
11.20 am	<b>Liane Khoo</b> (Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, NSW) <i>FVIII One stage v Chromogenic</i>
11.40 am	<b>Piet Meijer</b> (ECAT, The Netherlands) <i>FVIII Inhibitors: Results from an ECAT Workshop</i>
12.00 noon	<b>Susan Rodgers</b> (IMVS, SA) <i>Inhibitors in Mild Haemophilia</i>
12.20 pm	<b>LUNCH and TRADE and POSTERS</b>
1.20 pm	<b>Klaus Goerlinger</b> (University Hospital of Essen, Germany) <i>New Technologies for POC Coagulation Diagnostics</i>
1.50pm	<b>Dr Catherine Hayward</b> (McMaster University, Canada) <i>Laboratory Evaluation of Common Bleeding Disorders</i>
2.20 pm	<b>Marie-Christine Morel-Kopp</b> (RNSH, NSW) <i>Australian Multicentre Study on HIT Diagnosis</i>
2.40 pm	<b>Connie Solano</b> (Princess Alexandra Hospital, QLD) <i>The utility of clot reaction data in verifying low fibrinogen sample coagulation profile results obtained on the Sysmex CA560, Sysmex CA1500 and HemosIL ACL TOP coagulation analysers.</i>
3.00 pm	<b>AFTERNOON TEA and TRADE and POSTERS</b>
3.30 pm	<b>Dr Ross Baker</b> (Royal Perth Hospital, WA) <i>Dabigatran: What are we doing about it?</i>
3.50 pm	<b>Scott Dunkley</b> (Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, NSW) <i>ISTH Review</i>
4.15 pm	Poster Prizes
4.30 pm	<b>SUNDOWNER and TRADE</b> (until 6.00 pm) Kindly sponsored by Beckman Australia

# REPORT ON THE 23rd CONGRESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY ON THROMBOSIS AND HAEMOSTASIS

Kyoto, Japan – 23rd-29th July 2011



Nearly 5000 participants from more than 70 countries were warmly welcomed to Kyoto, where we were delighted by Japanese culture and tradition in a country still obviously grieving for the many thousands affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake of 11th March 2011.

Kyoto was Japan's capital city and home to the Imperial family from 794 to 1868 AD. We escaped the cold and wet of Sydney in July to a warm, humid Japanese summer in this natural basin. Although a modern city of 1.5 million people, Kyoto is rich in Japanese culture and tradition with numerous Buddhist temples floating above tranquil waters, raked pebble gardens surrounding Shinto shrines and bamboo groves hidden amongst modern buildings. With these features nestled around the city, even short breaks in the conference programme provided opportunities for exploring and reflection.

Women dressed in traditional kimono mingled seamlessly with the brightly clad youth on the subways and geisha could be spotted disappearing into the doorways of traditional restaurants in Gion. The narrow Ponto-cho alley with its hanging lanterns and wooden balconies over the Kamo-gawa river was filled with Japanese culture and atmosphere. Even food was a delight to the eye with artistic presentation. Kyoto was the perfect location to explore the Japan of our imagination and modern day.

After some quick 'in flight' revision of long forgotten Year 10 Japanese phrases, hiragana and katakana, I managed

to make myself understood, most of the time, then learnt some more terminology and even some kanji (Chinese characters used in Japanese writing, in combination with the traditional scripts).

The local organising committee ensured a successful and stimulating scientific programme with many highlights. Recent successful collaborative studies investigating clinical efficacy and safety of new anticoagulants in medical and surgical prophylaxis, and VTE treatment. Stroke prophylaxis in atrial fibrillation and acute coronary syndromes were reviewed, but there was also an emphasis on differences between populations with several Japanese studies reported.



## REPORT ON THE 23rd CONGRESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY ON THROMBOSIS AND HAEMOSTASIS (CONTINUED)

The MAGELLAN study was reported showing that rivaroxaban was non-inferior to enoxaparin at day 10 and superior to enoxaparin followed by placebo at day 35 in reducing VTE incidence with maximal benefit in the over 75 years group. However, clinically relevant bleeding was also higher in the rivaroxaban group.

Other scientific highlights included:

- The description of a mechanism for platelet induced stimulation of fibrinolysis, description of a risk assessment score for medical patients at risk for VTE
- Changes seen in coagulation with inhalation of particulate matter
- The description of the critical role of CD148 on platelet surfaces in regulation of SRC family kinases downstream of GPVI
- The description of plasmin inactivation of ADAMTS13 as a potential cause for TTP

All of these were recognized by the **Pier Mannucci young investigator awards**.



*Even the Kyoto International Conference Centre was surrounded by beautiful gardens.*

A further exciting announcement was the selection of **Melbourne** for the **2019 ISTH Congress**.

A trip to Japan would not have been complete without sampling another local invention; karaoke! All those involved can rest assured, “what happens at karaoke, stays at karaoke”, but I’ll keep my photos as insurance!

*Jenny Curnow, Sydney*