

Dear Fellow Clotter

This edition of the newsletter will be brief due to the upcoming HAA meeting in Auckland in October. Don't forget to register for the ASTH workshop on Saturday, 16 October (details later).

There are a couple of short reports on the World Federation of Haemophilia meeting and the ISTH SSC 2010. The President's Report documents the progress of the HAA preparations, and there is the usual Secretariat update.

I would be happy to accept any reports following HAA for the next newsletter.

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NEW MEMBERS

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

Carradice Duncan
Philip Choi
Caroline Reddel
Lauren Cavanaugh
Anita Ghevondian
Jianlin Qiao
Tania Jobey

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

ASTH COUNCIL 2009-2011

Claire McLintock	President	clairemcl@orcon.net.nz
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A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hi there!

I would like to state for the record that any reports of Mark Smith saving me from life on a camel train in the desert are grossly exaggerated.

It has been a busy few months over here in Auckland getting things set up for the HAA meeting in October. What with sampling food for the dinner – starters, main course and desserts (or should that be deserts...), choosing the wine, arranging the entertainment, I have been busy. Of course there has been the Scientific Programme to organise too and the ASTH workshop with the help of the team from Labplus in Auckland and Grace. I feel confident we are on track and we look forward to hosting you all. The groups organising future meetings in Sydney and Melbourne have already started work.

A number of ASTH members have been invited to speak at the Asia Pacific Society of Thrombosis and Haemostasis Meeting in Bali, which will be held just before the Auckland meeting so it is great that links between the two societies continue to be developed.

Huyen Tran is heading up a team to update the Warfarin reversal guidelines published by the Society and we are grateful again for the support of CSL Biotherapies with this project.

The Australia & New Zealand recommendations for diagnosis, treatment and prevention of venous thrombo-embolism in pregnancy are nearly ready for submission for publication and the ASTH Council have been asked to review the recommendations with a view to gaining Council's endorsement. Sanofi-Aventis have been helpful in providing secretarial support and funding two face-to-face meetings but the recommendations have been the work of a group comprising myself (haematologist and obstetric physician, Auckland), Laura Young (haematologist, Auckland), Sanjeev Chunilal (haematologist, Auckland now Melbourne), Simon McRae (haematologist, Adelaide), Tim Brighton (haematologist, Sydney), Huyen Tran (haematologist, Melbourne) Peter Muller (maternal fetal medicine specialist, Adelaide), Gus Dekker (obstetrician, Adelaide), Barry Walters (obstetric physician, Perth) and Nolan McDonnell (anaesthetist, Perth). I would like to thank everyone involved for their hard work and enthusiasm for

the project that I think will ultimately be an invaluable and practical resource for all clinicians looking after pregnant women. We plan to have access to the article on the ASTH website once the final version is available.

So not much more to report as yet except to offer congratulations to all in the team who managed to secure Melbourne as the venue for the World Federation of Haemophilia meeting in 2014, a tremendous effort narrowly winning over the competing city, Miami.

Look forward to seeing you all in Auckland.

Claire McLintock

SECRETARIAT NEWS

The HAA meeting and Scientific Workshop are fast approaching. Although a professional conference organiser carefully plans the HAA, all Workshop registrations come through the ASTH office.

If you plan to attend the Workshop, I'd really appreciate you getting your registration form in before the inevitable rush in October. The forms are available on the website and were also emailed out to you in July. Please pass on information about the Workshop to your colleagues, particularly those attending the HAA meeting or based in New Zealand. And don't forget to let colleagues who are not members of ASTH know that they will be eligible for 1 years free membership of the Society with their Workshop registration.

We have managed to secure 11 sponsors for the Workshop (Banksia, Beckman Coulter and BC NZ, CSL Bioplasma, Haemtex/Haemaview, Helena, Immuno, Lateral Grifols, Medtel, Novo and Stago) and I take this as recognition from our industry partners that the Workshop is not to be missed!

Membership renewals fell due on 1 July however renewal notices were not sent out until the third week of July as I was on leave. Fees were due by the end of August and reminders have been issued so if you've forgotten please make it a priority now. Let me know if you need the renewal form to be sent out to you again.

Megan Sarson

ETHIOPIAN HAEMOPHILIA SOCIETY UPDATE

The Australian Haemophilia Centre Directors' Organisation (AHCDO) kindly supported the Ethiopian Haemophilia Society (EHS) again this year.

They have awarded a grant to Mr Tadesse Belay, EHS Vice President and father of two young boys with haemophilia, to attend the WFH Congress in Buenos Aires in July. Tadesse, together with Prof Amha, from the Black Lion Hospital in Addis Abeba, also attended the WFH General

Assembly where the EHS was officially welcomed as an associate member.

The EHS has growth considerably over the past couple of years, both in terms of its internal development and its relationship with its twinning partner, the Chapel Hill HTC, US (where Nigel Key, guest speaker at HAA09, is based) and will now work towards becoming a full member of the WFH.

ISTH SSC 2010

Cairo – city of 20 million and growing fast. City of the ISTH SSC 2010. City of the Nile, of papyrus museums, hawkers, pyramids and camels... and traffic but no traffic lights; bad driving and bad cars; dodgy deals and indifferent food. “Where you from, where you from, I not want your money, I get you very good price” etc.

The few hardy souls who travelled to Egypt certainly had all the rides. Two NZ delegates reported narrowly avoiding a dubious encounter and a distinctly suspect camel ride around the pyramids. After being hoodwinked into believing that the Egyptian Museum was closed until 2pm because President Mubarak's wife was visiting the nearby Sheraton Hotel, they were persuaded that they should instead go with the nice Egyptian to see the Giza Pyramids.

Well, they got to Giza, very close to the pyramids and came close to being lured into an expensive 4-hour camel ride round the pyramids. Only quick talking managed to free them from the clutches of the Egyptian gang and their camels. Later, Australasian delegates reported that one of the said Kiwi delegation seemed not to have learned from this close encounter. The photo at right was taken some three days later where she can clearly be seen atop a “ship of the desert” asking for directions to the Hyatt. Fortunately she was rescued by Australian and Dutch delegates who convinced her to join their tour and ensured that she came into contact with no more camels.

Similarly, it is not yet known whether Chris Ward ever made it to the City of the Dead. Each trip he began heading to that location somehow ended up with him arriving at the Kahn el-Khalili tourist market where he was

enticed to part with large numbers of Egyptian pounds for backgammon sets and other antiquities.

The second trip to the Bazaar was in the company of certain US delegates who showed extreme concern when the hardy adventurous Kiwi and Australian delegates headed into the old Islamist market with an “official” tour guide, who despite initial concerns took the tour party to see some amazing sites in the old Islamic quarter. All agreed it had been a worthwhile endeavour.



Clare of Arabia

Probably the most hazardous journeys of the day were the frequent trips across the narrow road between the Hyatt and Four Seasons Hotel. With the conference HQ hotel being an essentially “dry” venue – delegates were forced to make this journey several times a day to quench their thirst. Crossing this narrow 3-lane road that managed to squeeze at least five lanes of traffic into it was a knuckle-biting affair that required delegates to rely in the skills of locals sporting reflective orange jackets and equipped with plastic whistles to bring said traffic to a halt and allow the pedestrians to cross. Safety was not guaranteed as Chris Ward almost discovered on his first journey. It is reported that our President took to bribing

said “officials” one Egyptian pound to grant her safe passage but she couldn’t take a camel!

As for the SSC meeting, well... the subcommittee and scientific meetings were OK and the meeting lived up to its promise of facilitating networking – meeting with the international speakers to the HAA in Auckland this year.

We look forward to Kyoto.

Claire McLintock

ASTH SCIENTIFIC WORKSHOP 2010

The 2010 ASTH workshop will be held on Saturday, 16 October from 8am to 6pm.

It will be held at Clinical Education Centre at Auckland City Hospital.

The program has been finalised and is available on the website along with the registration form. We are pleased to have Professor Mike Greaves join us and speak on antiphospholipid syndrome.

Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea are included as well as a sundowner from 4.30pm to 6pm.

If you are bringing a poster, please let me know so that I can make sure we have enough display boards.

Look forward to seeing you at the workshop. Please let me know if you require further information or assistance.

Grace Gilmore (08) 9224 9404 grace.gilmore@health.wa.gov.au

29TH BI-ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF WORLD FEDERATION OF HAEMOPHILIA

The 29th bi-annual International Congress of World Federation of Haemophilia was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina from 10-15 July.

Argentina was the first country to form a national federation for haemophilia (Fundacion de la Hemofilia) embracing the idea of comprehensive care, a concept that has subsequently been shown to be a significant contributing factor to increased life expectancy for patients with haemophilia. Hence, it was most fitting that the congress returned to South America after 40 years.

More than 4,200 delegates from 115 countries attended making it a highly successful congress. For those who have not attended one of these congresses before, it is unique in that all individuals involved with haemophilia, from doctors (including orthopaedic surgeons), nurses, physiotherapists, social workers, as well as patients attend. By providing a multidisciplinary perspective, comprehensive care will continued to be improved upon.

All congresses have their highlights; for me, it was the opportunity to begin to familiarise myself with the *Twinning* program. This involves an experienced haemophilia treatment centre in a developed country

linking with a centre in an under-developed or developing country and taking a mentorship role, the main objective being to improve haemophilia care in these parts of the world, thereby reducing morbidity and mortality. An example of the gap in haemophilia care worldwide is the discrepancy in the availability of factor VIII between developed and under-developed nations – Australia, six units per capita versus Philippines, 0.1 units per capita.

As with all congresses, it provides an opportunity to stay in contact with colleagues around the world, renewing old friendships and finding new ones. Argentina is bound with beauty and many delegates took the opportunity to undertake side trips outside of Buenos Aires such as the magnificent Iguazu Falls.

Whilst many are already looking forward to the next Congress of the World Federation of Haemophilia, to be held in Paris, France from 8-12 July 2012, it was a proud moment as an Australian to receive the news that the 2014 Congress will be in Melbourne, Australia (dates yet to be confirmed).

Huyen Tran

APPLICATIONS ARE INVITED FOR THE KANEMATSU MEMORIAL AWARD 2011

The Kanematsu Fund is pleased to announce the fourteenth annual Kanematsu Memorial Award

The 2011 Award is aimed at the "Young Investigator" and any recent Fellows (5 years or less standing), Trainees of the College and senior scientists from any haematology department or unit within Australia or New Zealand are encouraged to apply.

An Award of \$20,000 will be granted for a single medical research project into haematological disorders relating to thrombosis and/or haemostasis. The winning application will be determined by a Kanematsu Fund appointed expert committee.

General administration is handled by the College and the Award will be presented at the RCPA Annual Admission of New Fellows and Awards Ceremony at Pathology Update in Melbourne in March 2011.

The explanatory notes and nomination form should be read carefully and fully complied with prior to application.

The explanatory notes and application form are now available from the RCPA website under Awards and Scholarships – or contact Lindsay Cullens on (02) 8356 5807 lindsayc@rcpa.edu.au

THE CLOSING DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS FOR THE KANEMATSU MEMORIAL AWARD 2011 IS FRIDAY, 26 NOVEMBER 2010.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

MEETING	WHERE/DATES	CONTACT
XXXII World Congress of the International Society of Hematology	Jerusalem 10-13 October 2010	http://www.kenes.com/hematology
6th Congress of the Asia Pacific Society on Thrombosis and Haemostasis	Bali 13-16 October 2010	http://www.apsth2010bali.com/index.html
ASTH Scientific Workshop	Auckland 16 October 2010	grace.gilmore@health.wa.gov.au
HAA 2010	Auckland 17-20 October 2010	www.haa2010.org
52nd ASH Annual Meeting	Orlando 4-7 December 2010	
XXIII Congress of the International Society on Thrombosis and Haemostasis	Kyoto 23-29 July 2011	http://www.isth2011.com/