From the Editor

Our beloved editor is on annual leave and has been unable to make a contribution. Watch this space – he’ll be back for the next edition!

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SECRETARIAT NEWS

October is a really busy month for the ASTH office so it’s always a pleasant relief to be the other side of the Workshop, HAA and the AGM. That said, it is also the only time I get to see members for an annual ‘catch up’ so I do also look forward to it. Incidentally, Council usually meets by telecon so it’s the only time I get to catch up with Council members face-to-face too. Next year at the Gold Coast, remember to search out the ASTH booth in the trade display and come say ‘hello.’

Final reminders for the 2012-13 membership fees were sent out soon after HAA. If you’ve forgotten to send them back to me, please do so as soon as possible, before things start to wind up or down, as the case may be, for the festive season. If you’re fed up of me hassling you why not take out the 3-year option.

Council has decided to go green! From this edition, the newsletter will be predominantly electronic. There were several compelling reasons for this, not least the effects on the environment, but Council also considered the way most members would prefer to access the newsletter, timely delivery and cost savings. Nevertheless, we do understand that a paper copy is useful to share with colleagues and some people just prefer to have the ‘real’ thing. If you would like to receive a hard copy, please ensure that you email me and I will add your name to the hard copy mailing list. All members will automatically get the electronic version.

Best wishes to all members for the forthcoming festive season.

Megan Sarson

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It seems like only one month ago that I wrote the last President’s Report! I hope that this time you will be reading my report electronically as Council has decided to move towards a paperless newsletter to ensure more timely delivery and reduce our carbon footprint. However, paper copies can still be requested.

HAA in Melbourne was another successful Congress. Held in conjunction with the Asia Pacific Society of Thrombosis & Haemostasis (APSTH), there were almost 1500 registrants. Typical of Melbourne weather, it was freezing cold at the start of the meeting but wonderfully sunny and warm by the end. The promised program was very well received and I’ve not received any negative feedback. Novel Oral Anticoagulants (NOACs) remain topical with three sessions on the topic extremely well attended.

Congratulations to the ASTH Medal winner Zane Kaplan, and the two runners-up, Ashley Ng and Minh Hua. Thank you to the ASTH invited international speakers, Walter Ageno, Jing-fei Dong, Terry Gernsheimer, Peter Gross, Paul Harrison, Jong-Wook Lee, Bernard Nieswandt, Yukio Ozaki, Herbert Schöchl and Alok Srivastava. Once again thanks to the local organising committee (Chris Ward, Hatem Salem, Sanjeev Chunilal) for their extraordinary and tireless efforts.

The Gala dinner with a horse racing carnival theme was a lot of fun for the many who attended. The pageant had our treasurer dressed up as “Simone” and music had council members bopping away as “Dancing Queens” and yours truly reliving part of his misspent youth by break dancing. I’m aware that there are incriminating photos and video clips circulating – I’m too afraid to undertake a search on YouTube.

The HAA congress in 2013 will be in the Gold Coast. We anticipate the meeting will be slightly smaller with only the traditional three local societies represented. Pete Wood, member of ASTH council and LOC has informed us that preparation is on track.

If you’re not already aware, Aspirin to Prevent Recurrent Venous Thromboembolism (ASPIRE) trial, led by Tim Brighton and supported by the ASTH was recently published in the New England of Medicine. ASPIRE found that aspirin reduces the risk of recurrent VTE, myocardial infarction, stroke, or cardiovascular death in patients with unprovoked VTE who have received a standard period of therapeutic anticoagulation. The results are consistent with that of the Italian study WARFASA and provides clear evidence that aspirin is of benefit for patients who are unable or do not wish to continue warfarin in the long term. Details of the study will be included on the ASTH website.

On a personal note, I would like to thank all council members for their support in my first year as President. I look forward to representing members again in 2013 before signing off. Have a safe and restful holiday period before preparing for another busy and productive year in 2013.

Huyen Tran

NEW MEMBERS

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

Jane Arthur   Rhonda Hosken
Sonia Tencic   Melita Kenealy

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

The miraculous birth, roller-coaster life and all too rapid death of the platelet was on full display at the recent Platelet Workshop held at the Melbourne Exhibition and Convention Centre over the weekend of 27-28 October 2012.

There is no more fascinating topic than platelets. This experimental-clinical meeting, the Platelet Workshop, held in conjunction with the Haematology Society of Australia and New Zealand (HSANZ), the Australian & New Zealand Society of Blood Transfusion (ANZSBT), the Australasian Society of Thrombosis and Haemostasis (ASTH) and the Asian-Pacific Society of Thrombosis and Haemostasis (APSTH) joint conference (28-31 October), highlighted many new facets of platelet biology.

The simultaneity with the HAA/APSTH meetings ensured notable international platelet experts including Yukio Ozaki (Japan), Satoshi Nishimura (Japan), Bernhard Nieswandt (Germany), Peter Gross (Canada), and Paul Harrison (UK), together with over 20 local speakers convened over two days for this special workshop. On the programme were six oral sessions, with three major symposia in each session and free communications featuring the highest-ranked abstracts. There was a stand-alone poster session, and plentiful social and networking opportunities, all in the heart of Melbourne’s docklands entertainment precinct.

Workshop sessions were broadly arranged to cover megakaryopoiesis and platelet production, platelet function ex vivo and in vivo, and platelet death and clearance. These presentations featured state-of-the-art imaging, new experimental models of thrombosis or inflammation, biochemical analysis of platelet receptors and activation pathways, and the clinical importance of platelet function in human disease. Haematological systems involving platelets far exceed haemostasis and thrombosis, and platelets are increasingly studied in the context of inflammation, infectious diseases, metabolic diseases and cancer, a point brought home throughout the workshop. Research presented also highlighted how past and current investigations in basic science and molecular mechanisms can be translated to improve understanding, diagnosis or therapeutic approaches in clinical disease.

One notable highlight on Saturday afternoon was a combined Platelet/ASTH/APSTH session on platelet functional analysis. Paul Harrison (UK) covered the status of current platelet tests used clinically – based in large part on his international experience with standardization of the relevant methods. He was followed by Elizabeth Gardiner and Warwick Nesbitt from Melbourne presenting innovative translational research on some of the newer experimental or future approaches, respectively, to platelet analysis, particularly taking into account quantitative measures of platelet-specific receptor expression and thrombus formation in the context of rheological shear stress.

Other scientific sessions examined high-resolution in vivo imaging, with the dual potential for both studying mechanisms of arterial or venous thrombosis, and, with the development of suitable new agents, for eventual diagnostic use in humans – key speakers were Satoshi Nishimura (Japan), Eric Westein (The Nederlands), and Christoph Hagemeyer (Melbourne).

One of the spectacular motion pictures shown by Dr Nishimura showed the generation of a new platelet from a megakaryocyte in vivo. Presenters in the following session (Emma Josefsson and Warren Alexander from Melbourne) provided fascinating insights into genetics and molecular pathways underlying thrombopoiesis and megakaryopoiesis, regulatory feedback loops that control normal platelet generation or sites where aberration can cause disease. Yukako Ono (free communication) also reported gene regulatory networks involved in inducible megakaryocyte generation from human fibroblasts, as monitored by microRNA profiling.

Later at the meeting, presentations by Bernhard Nieswandt (Germany) and Chris Sobey (Melbourne) described sophisticated experimental models of ischaemic stroke used to examine distinct molecular targets for potential therapeutic approaches, while Peter Gross (Canada) used an in vivo laser injury model and high-speed two-color confocal microscopy to monitor spatio-temporal platelet activation in arterioles of mice, with future applications for analysing antplatelet agents in particular.

Other unique mouse models presented by Ben Kile and Ross Dickens (Melbourne) indicated mechanisms of controlling platelet number, while Jessica Mountford (free communication) in the same session reported a selective platelet defect in mice deficient in a functional signalling enzyme, PI3K. Additional experimental studies in mice examined aspects of dynamic platelet-leukocyte interplay in inflammation (Zane Kaplan and Yuping Yuan, Melbourne), and how platelets regulate leukocyte trafficking in the unusual vascular beds of the glomerulus (Michael Hickey, Melbourne). Other speakers presented studies of human platelets, covering effects of coronary artery stenosis (Len Kritharides, NSW), dietary agents (Murray Adams, TAS), membrane lipids (Adam Munday, USA) or bacterial toxins (Yukio Ozaki, Japan) on platelet activation, aggregation, receptor expression or other pathology. Apologies to other excellent speakers not specifically mentioned here.

Overall, the Platelet Workshop provided an outstanding learning and networking opportunity for all, in particular for student attendees. Thanks are due to the other organizing committee members (Chris Ward and Simone

story concludes on page 4
THE ASPIRE STUDY

An ASTH led international study shows low-dose aspirin is a cheap and effective way to prevent potentially deadly deep vein thrombosis and pulmonary embolus (serious blood clots) in patients who have had a previous blood clot.

The ASPIRE study published online 4 November 2012 in The New England Journal of Medicine has found people who have suffered blood clots in the veins of the leg (deep vein thrombosis or DVT) or the lungs (pulmonary embolism or PE), also known as venous thromboembolism (VTE) are less likely to suffer a recurrence of the serious blood clots or a cardiac event if they take low-dose aspirin.1

The results of this study were also presented at the Late Breaking Clinical Trials session at the American Heart Association meeting of over 30,000 delegates.2

Operating since 2003, the ASPIRE study completed recruitment of 822 participants from five countries including Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, India and Argentina. All the participants had previously suffered a DVT or PE that occurred for no particular reason (called “unprovoked VTE”) and had completed on average 6 months of anti-coagulant treatment (generally with warfarin). In the ASPIRE study participants were randomly allocated to receive either low dose enteric coated aspirin 100mg daily or a matching placebo. On average participants were followed for three years.

Dr Tim Brighton, ASTH member and Principal Investigator of the study, explained:

“Many patients discontinue warfarin therapy after 6 or 12 months of treatment due to the inconvenience of regular blood tests and the increased risks of serious bleeding. However if warfarin therapy is stopped these patients are at high risk of recurring thrombosis. The ASPIRE study found that aspirin reduces the risk of important blood clotting event including recurrent VTE, myocardial infarction, stroke, or cardiovascular death. We now have clear evidence that aspirin is of benefit for patients who are unable or do not wish to continue warfarin in the long term.”

Importantly the study results are consistent with the findings of an Italian study, called WARFASA, reported in the The New England Journal of Medicine earlier this year. The protocols of both studies were harmonised and have similar eligibility criteria and outcomes. The WARFASA study results showed a significant benefit with aspirin.3

The combined results of the two trials show clear and consistent evidence that aspirin prevents recurrent blood clots and this is likely to be adopted into future international practice.

This analysis suggests that aspirin prevents about one third of recurrent blood clot events. For every 1000 patients treated for one year, aspirin can be expected to prevent about 20 to 30 episodes of recurrent major thrombotic events at the cost of about three significant bleeding episodes. The results of this study suggest the simple, inexpensive treatment of low-dose aspirin could prevent thousands of patients from experiencing recurrent clots each year and may make substantial healthcare savings in Australia and worldwide.

REFERENCE
2. http://my.americanheart.org/professional/Sessions/ScientificSessions/Programming/Late-Breaking-Clinical-Trials_UCM_442723_Article.jsp

PLATELET WORKSHOP

Schoenwaelder), event organizers, major sponsors (Amgen and Leica Microsystems, who also sponsored the social event), and the ASTH and APSTH, all major factors in the success of the Platelet Workshop. Session chairs contributed superbly throughout. It is to be hoped that all stakeholders will support future platelet workshops at future conferences.

Rob Andrews

continued from page 3

The week started off on the Saturday with the ASTH workshop, which was very interesting and definitely worthwhile attending! I’m sure you will read all about it elsewhere in the newsletter.

The next few days were the HAA-APSTH meeting. A couple of highlights for me:

The Sunday session on the Novel Anticoagulants was so popular that some people couldn’t even make it in the room! It was a great opportunity to learn from the NZ experience.

It was also interesting hearing about the Austrian trauma experience and how they use global haemostasis assays such as the ROTEM to guide their product replacement, as well as hearing about what’s happening here in Australia.

There were many free communications sessions with some interesting short talks, as well as some great posters. The social program also didn’t disappoint, with the welcome reception providing some tasty canapés and a chance to socialise after the weekend talks, and the conference dinner with its Melbourne Cup racing theme was a great night.

Amanda Campbell,
St John of God Pathology, WA
With the ASTH Travel Grant, I was able to attend the 2012 co-joint HAA-APSTH conference held at the Melbourne Convention Centre from 28-31 October.

Having left warm sunny Perth I arrived a day earlier and was greeted by classic Melbournian weather – RAIN! However, there sunshine was forecast all through the days of the conference, and with a great meeting programme ahead, we were not disappointed on both counts.

As a young research scientist with a molecular biology background, and relatively new to the field of haematology, this meeting offered me a great opportunity to learn about the various areas of haematological research being carried around Australia and the wider Asia-Pacific region. I was drawn to the basic research sessions on coagulation science / platelet thrombosis and some of the key highlights included the second plenary lecture presented by Professor Yukio Ozaki. He gave a riveting account of how the snake venom rhodocytin, with potent platelet activating properties led to the discovery and functional characterisation of the platelet-specific protein, C-type lectin-like receptor 2 (CLEC-2), and the subsequent identification of its physiological ligand, podoplanin, with the work from his laboratory demonstrating novel platelet functions mediated through CLEC-2 in vein-lymphatic vessel separation.

Associate Professor Satoshi Nishimura presented his work on the development of intravital confocal imaging techniques to visualise thrombus formation in real time at the single platelet level, which also allowed for the examination of multicellular kinetics during thrombus initiation. Using this technique, he showed rapid thrombi formation by discoid platelets in structurally intact endothelium triggered by reactive oxygen species. Similar microscopy techniques were also featured in several other outstanding presentations, Dr Yuping Yuan demonstrated heterotypic leukocyte aggregation in mouse mesenteric circulations during ischaemic/reperfusion injury and Associate Professor Michael Hickey also utilised intravital microscopy to examine glomerular microcirculation for the investigation of the role of platelets in leukocyte recruitment and inflammation in the glomerulus, all of which were particularly impressive to watch.

I am proud to report that Western Australia was well represented at this year’s meeting, with the contingent from Royal Perth Hospital Haematology Department, including Clinical Professor Ross Baker and Dr Julian Cooney, giving oral presentations on the efficacy of romiplostin on ITP patients, reversal of novel oral anti-coagulants and the effect of 131I-rituximab radioimmunotherapy on mantle cell lymphoma therapy, respectively.

Ms Yusra Harasheh presented her work on the characterisation ADAMTS13 autoantibodies, and was also the recipient of the Werfen Award for Best ASTH abstract submitted to HAA. Ms Grace Gilmore co-organised an informative preconference ASTH Scientific workshop, where I had the great opportunity to present our research on micro RNA regulation of Protein S. The West Australian presence was also strong at the conference dinner, both in the Melbourne Cup themed Make-A-Hat Fashion Parade as well in the Limbo Rock Dance Challenge. Until next time!

Jasmine Tay

**ASTH / HAA / APSTH OCTOBER 2012 – AN OVERVIEW**

Attending the ASTH workshop was both a valuable and rewarding experience. The opportunities in meeting like-minded people and networking in the haemostasis thrombosis world is a rare event. There was so much knowledge to absorb during the two day conference, often from very recognised leaders and experts in their fields. Topics covered included:

- Factor XIII assays
- Inhibitor development in mild haemophilia-genetic and acquired risk factors
- Ellagic acid in APTT testing reagents
- Three case studies on Antiphospholipid syndrome (APS)
- Micro RNA-protein S, Thrombosis and malignancy
- LA case study
- Tertiary haemostasis – what do we teach, what should we teach?
- Platelet function tests, platelet surface and plasma biomarkers of platelet reactivity
- Development of whole blood micro fluidics devices
- New oral anticoagulants (NOAC)
- Thrombotic Microangiopathies (TMA): A diagnostic approach was a very interesting and practical approach to TMA

I also attended various other lectures which were more research based, however provided a glimpse as to what to expect in the future.

The ASTH workshop provided me with take-home information for clinical and practical consideration within our laboratory. The highlight of the conference for me was a presentation on the Thrombotic Microangiopathies – A diagnostic approach TMA while quiet rare, can be catastrophic. This oral presentation highlighted the discovery of the role of complement regulatory proteins and their role in atypical haemolytic uraemic syndrome. This discovery has helped identify a potential role for the anti C5 monoclonal antibody, eculizumab.

The ASTH has been a great experience for me and I plan on attending future conference events. The “sundowner” sponsored by STAGO was a good opportunity to network and catch up with past colleagues. The poster presentation was very practical and current, hopefully next year I can present one myself. Thanks to all the ASTH committee who work behind the scene organising these events – you did a great job.

Joanne Beggs

Advanced scientist coagulation and special investigations – RBWH Brisbane
The 2012 ASTH workshop was held on Saturday, 27 October at the Melbourne Convention Centre. It was a little confusing that morning, with some people lining up for the English exam by mistake. And the Platelet Workshop also added to the confusion. But everyone found their place in the end.

Elizabeth Duncan started us off with a review of FXIII assays. Dr Simon McRae presented the risk factors of inhibitor development in mild haemophilia. Tom Exner spoke on ellagic acid in aPTT reagents and Dr Harshal Nandurhar finished the session with a case study.

After morning tea, Jasmine Tay spoke on micro RNAs. Raymond Dauer explained the association of thrombosis and malignancy. Sue Jarvis presented a case study highlighting when a LA is not a LA. We ended with some thought provoking ideas on what is currently taught on tertiary haemostasis by Murray Adams.

After lunch, the platelet workshop group joined us. Paul Harrison from the UK ran through platelet function testing. Elizabeth Gardiner talked about platelet reactivity. Warren Nesbit presented a micro fluidics device to monitor platelet aggregation dynamics.

In our final session of the day, Dr Baker gave us an update on NOACS. The difficulties that NOACS can cause was highlighted by Dr McRae with some case studies.

The poster prize was won by Sarah Just and her team with a poster on Serotonin Release Assay.

I would like to thank all our sponsors for their continuing support. Many thanks to Helena for producing the workshop CD. You will notice that not all the presentations are on the CD, this is because the authors preferred not to include them.

Thanks to Diagnostica Stago for sponsoring the sundowner.

Thank you to Megan and the ASTH council for helping put the workshop together.

Last but not least, thank you to you for supporting the workshop and for returning the feedback forms. Apart from the presentations, many see this as a great opportunity to catch up with colleagues and compare notes.

See you all in 2013 on the Gold Coast.

Grace Gilmore
2012 ASTH Award Winners

ASTH Medal Winner & Runners-up

Zane Kaplan (ACBD, Monash University, Vic): Directed Intravascular Leukocyte Migration: A Distinct Leukocyte Guidance Mechanism Mediated by Platelet Thrombi

Minh Hua (Lowy Cancer Research Centre, NSW): Cell Death Imager-1 Ligands in Apoptotic Platelets

Ashley Ng (Walter & Eliza Hall Institute, Vic): Elucidation of Lineage Potential of Murine Progenitor Populations: Identification of Thrombopoietin Responsive Bipotential Progenitors

Werfen ASTH Travel Grant

Yusra Harahsheh (Royal Perth Hospital, WA): The Determination and Characterisation of Anti-ADAMTS13 Autoantibodies

John Lloyd Travel Grant

Minh Hua (Lowy Cancer Research Centre, NSW): Cell Death Imager-1 Ligands in Apoptotic Platelets

ASTH Travel Grant Winners

Zane Kaplan (ACBD, Monash University, Vic): Directed Intravascular Leukocyte Migration: A Distinct Leukocyte Guidance Mechanism Mediated by Platelet Thrombi

Ken Ly (St Vincent’s Centre for Applied Medical Research, NSW): Longitudinal Investigation of the Effect of Centrifugal Continuous Flow Left Ventricular Assist Devices (cLVADS) on Haemostatic Parameters

Gabrielle Pennings (ANZAC Research Institute, NSW): Soluble EMMPRIN is associated with reduced coagulation potential in NSTEMI

Caroline Reddel (ANZAC Research Institute, NSW): Increased Thrombin Generation in a Mouse Model of Cancer Cachexia

Jasmine Tay (Royal Perth Hospital, WA): miR-494 Down regulates Protein S Expression

International Emerging Investigator Award Winners

Colin Evans (University of Cambridge, UK): HIF Signalling Mediates Cancer-Associated Thrombosis

Junko Fujita (Nagoya University Hospital, Japan): A Possible Mechanism for Inv22-related F8 Large Deletions in Severe Hemophilia A Patients with High Responding Factor VIII Inhibitors

Yu Hu (Shandong University, China): Decreased TIM-3 and its correlation with Th1 in patients with immune thrombocytopenia

Miao Jiang (Jiangsu Institute of Hematology, China): Mapping the amino-acid site of interaction between VWF A1 domain and A3 domain

Xuan Lu (Huazhong University of Science & Technology, China): A novel association between a PROC variant and ischemic stroke in a Chinese Han population

Hideto Matsui (Nara Medical University, Japan): Endothelial progenitor cell-based therapy therapy for hemophilia A

Poster Prizes

WORKSHOP POSTER PRIZE
Sarah Just (Prince of Wales Hospital, NSW): Serotonin Release Assay

HAA CLINICAL POSTER PRIZE
Moon Ju Jang (CHA University, Korea): Seasonal Variation in the Occurrence of Venous Thromboembolism: A Report From the Korean Venous Thromboembolism Working Party

HAA LAB POSTER PRIZE
Yasunori Matsunari (Nara Medical University, Japan): Evaluation of Soluble or Surface-Immobilized Tissue Factor in Intra-Thrombus Fibrin Generation under Whole Blood Flow Conditions

Yusra Harahsheh (Royal Perth Hospital, WA): The Determination and Characterisation of Anti-ADAMTS13 Autoantibodies
Aim
Thrombosis stimulates inflammation, leading to organ injury in a broad range of human diseases, however, the mechanisms regulating this phenomenon remains ill-defined. We therefore sought to define the mechanism by which microvascular thrombi guide leukocytes to sites of vascular injury.

Results
We developed an ischemia reperfusion (I/R) injury model in the mesenteric circulation of mice to investigate leukocyte recruitment by microvascular thrombi. These studies revealed widespread platelet and fibrin-rich thrombi in the mesenteric microcirculation following I/R injury, with recruitment of leukocytes.

Real-time intravital microscopy revealed that microvascular thrombi were highly effective at recruiting leukocytes, inducing leukocyte shape change, and promoting directed migration through the body of the thrombus. To investigate the mechanisms regulating leukocyte migration through platelet thrombi, we developed a localised model of endothelial perturbation induced by microinjector needle injury, which led to highly reproducible, localised platelet thrombus formation and the rapid and efficient recruitment of leukocytes to sites of endothelial injury. Leukocyte recruitment in this model was entirely dependent on an α-thrombin and its platelet cellular receptor PAR-4. To identify the platelet-derived proinflammatory molecules inducing leukocyte migration the releasate from platelets was fractionated using ion-exchange and affinity chromatography methods.

These studies identified CTAPIII/NAP-2 as the dominant platelet chemokine inducing neutrophil shape change and polarisation. Moreover, in vivo immunofluorescence analysis with an anti-NAP-2 antibody demonstrated the presence of a NAP-2 chemokine gradient within the body of the thrombus and inhibition of the neutrophil NAP-2 chemokine receptor CXCR-2, reduced neutrophil migration through thrombi to the site of vascular injury.

Conclusion
These studies define a key role for thrombin and its platelet receptor PAR-4 in inducing release of the chemokine NAP-2 at sites of vascular injury leading to the development of a chemotactic gradient within the body of the platelet thrombi, guiding leukocytes to the damaged vessel wall.

Keywords: inflammation, platelets, leukocytes
Conflict of interest: No

JSTH TRAVEL GRANT

An APSTH/ISTH joint symposium has been held during the annual meeting of the Japanese Society of Thrombosis and Hemostasis (ISTH) since 2005. Usually 4 to 6 outstanding young scientists from the Asian-Pacific region are invited to give their presentations.

Next year, President of the 35th ISTH annual meeting (30 May-1 June, 2013, Yamagata, Japan, http://www2.convention.co.jp/jsth2013/index.html), Prof. Akitada Ichinose has kindly agreed to hold the APSTH/ISTH joint symposium. Investigators, especially young ones from Asian-Pacific countries including Australia and New Zealand, are invited to present their papers at the meeting. The official language in this session is English.

Any paper is welcome, but those related to regional characteristics of particular diseases will be highly valued. The travel expenses and hotel accommodation are covered by the ISTH and the registration fee is waived. Grant recipients are also invited to attend the Conference Welcome Party.

Please send an abstract of less than 500 words as an attached file (Word format), to Prof. Satoshi Fujii, the chairman of the APSTH/ISTH joint symposium, sfujii@phar.nagoya-cu.ac.jp stating that you are applying for the APSTH/ISTH joint symposium. The deadline for the abstract submission is 25 December 2012 starting from today.