

International Society of Hematology (ISH) 2014 World Congress: Report of the Chair-of-Council*

Congreso Mundial de la Sociedad Internacional de Hematología (ISH) 2014: Informe del Presidente del Consejo

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ISH Chair-of-Council.

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The XXXVth World Congress of International Society of Hematology (ISH) was held on September 4 to 5, 2014, in Beijing, China, hosted by the Chinese Society of Hematology (CSH). The President of the Congress was Prof. Xiaojun Huang, co-chairs were Prof. Changgeng Ruan and Prof. Saijuan Chen, Prof. Kaiyan Liu served as the secretary-general.

ISH 2014 Beijing World Congress was highly successful and well-organized with a balanced scientific program in basic and clinical hematology. The venue was beautifully located next to *Beijing Olympic Garden* with spectacular *Birds Net Stadium* and *Aquarium Watersports Center*. In the Congress, there were 420 international members with total of 1,450 attendees from 34 countries and 410 Abstracts were submitted to the meeting. ISH Travel Awards sponsored by the Congress Organizing Committee were presented to 22 junior hematologists from 20 countries.

The scientific program started with Prof. Zhu Chen's excellent Miwa Lecture titled "*Acute Promyelocytic Leukemia: achievements, challenges and expectations*". Zhu Chen (Shanghai Institute of Hematology) clearly described his original contributions in the role of ATR and its implications in APL. He reviewed the mechanisms of ATRA in APL, efficacy of arsenic trioxide (ATO), its synergy with ATRA and lessons learned from leukemic genomics. Chen also focused on treatment algorithms in low-, intermediate- and high-risk APL patients. His talk was followed

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by Jacob M. Rowe (Shaare Zedek Medical Center, Jerusalem, Israel) who reviewed the role of stem cell transplantation emphasizing the indications and survival data in AML. Rowe addressed clear indications and eligibility of adult AML patients for auto- and allogeneic HSCT. He also explained current challenges as well as controversies in allo-HSCT and RIC for older patients in CR1, safety of MUD, rate of relapse, ability to “cure” at relapse and GVL effect. In the IAD-EAD-APD Joint Session titled “Genomic and Molecular Medicine in Hematology”, Seichi Ogawa (Kyoto, Japan) covered novel somatic mutations in AML and MDS. Ruben Mesa (Mayo Clinic, Scottsdale, Arizona, USA) clearly highlighted molecular targeting in myeloid malignancies and state-of-the-art knowledge in myeloproliferative neoplasms. Ruben Mesa elegantly covered the targeting issues starting from TKIs, i.e. imatinib to novel therapeutics and their future implications. Tayfun Özcelik (Bilkent University, Ankara, Turkey) demonstrated very convincing data for careful interpretation of gene mutations in hematologic malignancies. Tayfun Özcelik also nicely cautioned us on “reading” and “translation” of genome sequencing data giving excellent case examples from his original research. He explained his pioneering research in genomic sequencing, DNA-based diagnostics including forensics in Turkey as well as his recent discovery of VLDR mutation in cerebellar hypoplasia associated with “*Quadrupedal Gait in Humans*”. In the Congress there were also sessions on case-based presentations. The meeting also included various presentations on acute leukemias, lymphomas, CLL, CML, multiple myeloma, coagulation and platelet disorders. The oral and poster sessions were well-attended. A new Secretary General for the Interamerican Division (IAD) of the ISH was elected, Prof. David Gomez-Almaguer from Mexico, who took over the position of Prof. Carlos Ponzinibbio, from Argentina. Prof. Sabri Kehmali was re-elected as Secretary-General of the Asian-Pacific Division (APD) of the ISH.



Figure 1. During the ISH 2014 meeting en Beijing, China, from left to right. Prof. Emin Kansu (Turkey), Prof Edward C Gordon-Smith (United Kingdom), Prof. Tomoki Naoe (Japan), Prof. Sangsuree Jootar (Thailand), Prof. Carlos Ponzinibbio (Argentina), Prof. Hidehiko Saito (Japan), Prof. Adrian Newland (United Kingdom), Prof. Sabri Kehmali (Turkey) and Prof. Kaiyan Liu (China).



Figure 2. During the ISH 2014 meeting in Beijing, China, from left to right. Prof. Guillermo J. Ruiz-Arguelles (Mexico), Prof. Sabri Kehmali (Turkey), Prof. Hidehiko Saito (Japan), Prof. Emin Kansu (Turkey) and Prof. David Gomez-Almaguer (Mexico).

Future perspectives

ISH is the oldest and only world hematology organization established by the national hema-

tology societies, in 1946. ISH has had always the strongest commitment to serve, educate and keep up-to-date knowledge as well as collaborate with professional societies including ASH, ICSH, ISTH and ISEH. As a newly elected Chair-of-Council, I envision the future of the Society as a strong source of global education in hematology, embracing all the countries in five continents. I am planning to serve the Society on the following major topics:

- a. To have an interactive, regularly updated and user- friendly Web-site,
- b. To establish scientific working groups dealing with specified issues,
- c. To establish a *"Code of Conduct"* for science ethics,
- d. To make the bi-annual congresses to be the venue where all basic and clinical researchers, be able to present their latest findings, where hematologists in general practice can

get updated, and inspired from the very best courses and lecturers,

- e. To establish training courses and educational meetings between the bi-annual congresses having a joint activity with the national hematology meetings. These courses will be aimed at enhancing the training and professional development of junior members, particularly in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe and Latin America,
- f. To improve our fiscal responsibilities and having better financial status, and
- g. To improve communication among ISH members thru efficient Web site and to have interactive bridging with other related professional hematological societies.

We look forward to seeing you all in the ISH 2016 World Congress, in Glasgow, UK, on April 18 -21, 2016 (www.ish2016.com).