**The Congress of the International Society on Thrombosis and Hemostasis**

**Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre**

**6-10 July 2019**

I was very fortunate to be able to attend this year’s ISTH 2019 Congress which was held in Melbourne from 6th -10th July. It has given me the opportunity to listen to world’s leading experts on thrombosis and hemostasis presenting the recent advances in the field, to meet and interact with fellow trainees and hematologists, to exchange and discuss difficult clinical cases to improve patient care, and lastly to present my poster presentation in this prestigious annual congress.

At this year’s ISTH, there was an extensive lineup of state-of-the-art sessions, plenary sessions, product theater presentations, poster and oral communication sessions, and symposiums throughout the 5-day event. In fact there were so many exciting lectures running concurrently that it was not easy to choose which one to attend. Not forgetting were the medical industry exhibitions that provided professional platform for networking opportunities.

I was personally amazed and impressed with the oral communication sessions in which fellow hematologists and researchers spoke about their research on various subjects in the field of thrombosis and hemostasis, from pregnancy with bleeding and clotting disorders to gene therapy. Within an hour of each of the session, I was given a very informative snapshot of their impressive work, and it definitely gave me ideas of possible future research topics.

I managed to register for a master class on “Refractory ITP” with Dr Terry Gernsheimier from Seattle. Seats were limited for each master class. The session allowed the participants to exchange challenging refractory ITP cases and discuss on the appropriate approach. I managed to present her one the refractory cases I encountered back home for discussion. I found the session very useful and valuable. With over a thousand of abstracts accepted, I had the privilege to present a poster in the congress, a case of recurrent thrombosis in an anti-phospholipid syndrome lady. Through the poster viewing session, participants were able to look at each other interesting work and to share knowledge.

In between the packed schedules throughout the 5-day congress, I took the opportunity to explore the beautiful city of Melbourne amidst the cold weather. I also took part in the 5-km charity run in conjunction with World Thrombosis Day campaign, which took place around the Royal Botanical Garden on the third morning of the congress, at a temperature below 10oC. It was a great experience!

Last but not least, participating ISTH 2019 would not be possible without the support from Dr Jameela who guided me on the manuscript writing, and Malaysian Society of Haematology (MSH). I hope to be able to apply what I have learnt from the congress in my daily clinical work.

Sincerely by:

Lee Bee Sun

Hematology Department,

Hospital Ampang

 

 