ISTH Nurses Forum Press Release 2015

- **Can you provide a brief overview of the Nurses’ Forum?**
The Nursing program at ISTH was initiated at the XXth ISTH conference in Sydney, Australia, 2005. The goal of the Nurses’ Forum is to provide a unique forum for nurses internationally to share practice related knowledge pertaining to disorders of hemostasis and thrombosis in both pediatric and adult populations. This initiative received the strong support from Chairman, Dr. Colin Chesterman. It was well received, affording an opportunity to expand under subsequent leadership of ISTH Congresses. Current president Dr. Sam Schulman, Mr. Tom Reiser and ISTH administration have all been instrumental in their opportune counsel and governance.

Since its inception, the ISTH Nursing Forum has planned and conducted five programs at ISTH Congresses. The Nurses’ Forums, along with the monthly conference calls, have provided an opportunity for nurses from developed and developing countries to share information, best practices, case studies, guidelines for hemostasis and thrombosis practices, as well as mentoring and networking with one another. These activities have served to strengthen international linkages, establish connections among nurses, both experienced and novice, expand nursing knowledge, and provide the opportunity to begin outreach to nurses establishing practices in developing countries. In approaching the end of its first decade, the Nursing Forum’s contribution within ISTH is attracting increasing attention and scrutiny. The ISTH Council is seeking greater evidence of the contribution of the Nursing committee to the society's goal of “...advancing the understanding, prevention, diagnosis and treatment of thrombotic and bleeding disorders”.

- **What is the importance of holding a Nurses’ Forum?**
The ISTH mission statement is clear in its broad intent and implies that a mechanism exists for extraction of patient-related and laboratory data, and for dissemination and implementation of scientific advances. Due to their direct front line contact with patients, and their creation and utilization of source documents that are the raw materials of scientific progress, nurses play a primary role in the management of individuals with disorders of hemostasis and thrombosis, as well as in patient centered research activities to improve care and disseminate findings. Nursing involvement ranges from education, advocacy, non-medical prescribing, protocol design, implementation, and systems development, to extraction and transmission of quantitative and qualitative data. Nurses identify similar clinical challenges, develop interventions and strategies to address the challenges, yet are often isolated within their institutions. This inhibits the broad dissemination of institutional strategic developments that advance patient outcomes. The ISTH Nurses’ Forum provides the opportunity for nurses to highlight their experiences, share lessons learned, and develop relationships with one another to maintain support between the Congresses. In addition, the participation of nurses as presenters and participants in the Nurses Forum promotes participation of nurses in the general ISTH Congress, which is often not possible without a specific nursing justification to the home supporting institution.

- **Do you have research you’re presenting? If so, can you provide the title and a brief description?**
The Nursing Forum of ISTH is committed to advancing the promotion of both original research conducted by nurses and allied health professionals and the uptake of evidence into practice within their profession. Abstracts submitted are nurse and allied health professionals-initiated research and selected according to pre-determined criteria by ISTH. Examples from online submission include,
- The DDAVP® Challenge: An Audit to Assess Practice in a UK Haemophilia Centre
- Closing the Gap: A Multidisciplinary Approach Developing Local Services for Rural and Remote Patients with Bleeding Disorders
- Non-Adherence to Prophylaxis in Haemophilia: Extent and Underlying Reason
- Expanding the Knowledge Base: Opportunities and Challenges for Allied Professionals in Bleeding Disorder Research in Canada
- Developing a Nurse led Ultrasound Scanning Service to Confirm or Exclude the Diagnosis of Lower Limb Deep Vein Thrombosis – Improving Patient Care and Reducing the Risk of Unnecessary Anticoagulants in a United Kingdom Primary Care Setting
- Overweight is a Risk Factor for Venous Thromboembolism after Total knee Arthroplasty Despite Rivaroxaban Thromboprophylaxis
- Managing Anticoagulation Therapy Risk through the Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) Ward Round at King’s College Hospital
- National Patient Needs Assessment of HTC Patients in the U.S; a nurse lead national work group.

- **New - Nursing research: Interactive Workshop: Literature Review.** This interactive workshop aims to confirm the processes supporting development of a collaborative literature review suitable for publication on behalf of the ISTH Nursing Forum. The focus of the 2015 Workshop will be developing an international collaborative group who will develop a "position paper"-like manuscript detailing evidence-based recommendations relating to patient education in the field of thrombosis and haemostasis.

- **What trends are nurses and allied health professionals seeing when it comes to Thrombosis and Haemostasis?**
  Opportunities ripe for systematic study are literally too numerous to count and priorities must be set. Lost ground must be recovered, for example in the area of developing patient education materials. More importantly, the Nursing Forum intends to address unresolved issues in patient care such as the management of the post-thrombotic syndrome and evaluation of new treatment modalities which are changing landscape for prophylaxis in treatment of hemophilia and thrombosis. These are currently “hot topics” in the ISTH and include the use of prolonged half-life factor replacement products and the clinical application and challenges of the new direct oral anticoagulation (DOACs) agents. Having opportunity to interact directly with investigators and industry at ISTH will enhance the quality of nursing participation in clinical investigation and in communication with patients.

- **Why is this type of research important?**
  The publication of an extensive hemostasis literature review will be an extremely valuable tool in assisting nurses and colleagues with needed knowledge to expand their research participation and to validate their involvement in the process. Reality is that nurses play a critical and primary role in the research mechanism because of their direct involvement in information flow, and by virtue of their direct contact with patients and the source documents that are the raw materials of scientific progress. Nursing
involvement ranges from protocol design and implementation to extraction and transmission of basic quantitative data. The challenges of delivering optimal care and of meticulously attending to details of clinical protocols typically fall to nurses. Nurses necessarily contribute unique perspectives and skills that are the substance of high quality education and research. Nurses are an essential part of the circle of care which begins with the patient as source of new information and ends with the patient as beneficiary of scientific advances.

- **The nursing forum is all day Sunday and Monday, correct?**
  Correct

- **Is there anything I haven’t asked that you feel important to include in a release about the nurses forum?**
  Opportunities and challenges face the expanded direction of the Nurses Forum message and vision. Ample work is needed to increase awareness of nurse participation at ISTH, expand networks to facilitate mentorship, improve utilization of the ISTH website to advance this directive, explore innovative funding options, and continue to work closely with the ISTH Council to support the discipline-specific contribution of nurses to the aims of ISTH.

Respectfully submitted by Maura Malone and ISTH Nurses’ Forum.