Evaluation of the ISTH Educational Symposium during the X Argentine Congress on Hemostasis and Thrombosis held in Buenos Aires, 24-27th October 2012

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1. Background:

The bi-annual Congress of the CAHT Group is the most important scientific event in the field of thrombosis and hemostasis in the country and one of the most relevant in Latin American too.

Last year CAHT Group organized the "2º Latin American ISTH Course on Epidemiology applied to Thrombosis and Hemostasis" to help developing research skills in the local medical community.

Since access to diagnosis and therapy varies greatly between and within Latin American countries, we thought it would be a good opportunity to have an ISTH Educational Symposium to update the topics and discuss diagnosis and management in different clinical scenarios.

2. Symposium announcement:

The Educational Symposium was announced locally and internationally together with the X Argentine Congress on Hemostasis and Thrombosis. It was advertised through the CAHT Group web page and by mailing to members and non-members.

The Latin American Cooperative Group on Hemostasis and Thrombosis (CLAHT Group) as well as other Thrombosis and Hemostasis and Hematology Societies in Latin America announced the Symposium and the Congress in their web pages and via e-mail to their members.

In addition to ISTH, the Spanish Society on Thrombosis and Hemostasis and the Mediterranean League against Thromboembolic Diseases posted the meeting information in their websites and provided scientific support to our meeting.

3. Scientific and financial Sponsorship

The following National Scientific Societies provided their support to the ISTH Symposium and CAHT Congress:
   a) Academia Nacional de Medicina
   b) Asociación Bioquímica Argentina
c) Asociación de Bioquímicos de la Ciudad de Buenos Aires  
d) Federación Argentina de Cardiología  
e) Fundación Bioquímica Argentina  
f) Facultad de Medicina de la Universidad del Salvador  
g) Grupo Hematológico del Sur  
h) Sociedad Argentina de Hematología  
i) Sociedad Marplatense de Hematología  
j) Sociedad Argentina de Cardiología  
k) Sociedad Argentina de Investigación Clínica  
l) Sociedad de Hematología del Litoral  
m) Sociedad de Hematología y Hemoterapia de Córdoba  
n) Sociedad Argentina de Medicina

Funding was obtained from sixteen pharmaceutical and diagnostic companies.

4. Objectives and description

The objective of the Educational Symposium was to provide the audience with updated information on the diagnosis and management of common coagulation disorders. In addition, offering to our colleagues the opportunity to discuss “real life” situations with the faculty.

The symposium focused on important topics:
- Relationship between arterial and venous thrombosis, the epidemiology and the association of both entities was discussed.
- Approach to the patient with muco-cutaneous bleeding
- Approach to the pregnant patient with venous or arterial thrombosis
- Role of ADAMTS 13 in microangiopathies
- Management of the patient with severe postpartum bleeding

The last four lectures addressed those frequent problems from a very practical point of view; there were interactive case presentations and discussion between the experts and the audience.

5. Participants

The audience was constituted mainly by hematologists, even though experts in laboratory also attended the Symposium. There were 718 participants from Argentina, Uruguay, Chile, Peru, Paraguay, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Colombia and Brazil. Among the Argentine attendees 47% were from outside Buenos Aires.

We waived the registration fees for physicians and biochemists in training and offered free registrations to members of other Latin American societies (five per country). In addition we offered free registration to the first author presenting an abstract in the Congress and to biologists and technicians working in our field in our country.
6. **Course evaluation by the participants**

1. **General quality of the course and the course venue (0=very low, 5=very high)**

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<td>The general quality of the symposium</td>
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<tr>
<td>The general quality of the presentations</td>
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<td>The time provided for questions and discussion</td>
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<td>The relevance of the symposium for your work</td>
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<tr>
<td>The general quality of the lecture room</td>
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<td>The timing of the programme (start, finish, breaks)</td>
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The quality of the symposium was rated 4-5 by 97% of the audience. The general quality of the presentations was rated 5 by 65% of the participants. Fifty-three percent of the audience evaluated with 5 points both the time for questions and the relevance of the symposium for their work. The quality of the lecture room was very high for the 69% of the attendants. The timing was considered very good (5) by 60% of the participants.

2. **Evaluation of each item in the course, for the level, the usefulness, the amount of learning (knowledge transfer) and the general quality of the item.**

- **Level:** too easy (1) / just right (2) / too difficult (3)
- **Usefulness:** (0=none at all, 5=very high)
- **Knowledge transfer:** how much did you learn (0-nothing, 5-very much)
- **Quality:** general quality of presentation (0=very low, 5=very high)

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<th>Item</th>
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<tr>
<td>Relationship between arterial and venous thrombosis- Dr. Frits Rosendaal</td>
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<td>Approach to the patient with muco-cutaneous bleeding- Dra. Flora Peyvandi</td>
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<td>Discussion of clinical cases- Dra. Flora Peyvandi</td>
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<td>Approach to the pregnant patient with venous or arterial thrombosis.- Dra. Claire McLintock</td>
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<td>Discussion of clinical cases - Dra. Claire McLintock</td>
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<td>Role of ADAMTS 13 in microangiopathies - Dra. Flora Peyvandi</td>
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<td>Management of the patient with severe postpartum bleeding - Dra. Claire McLintock</td>
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7. Conclusion

The high level of satisfaction with the lectures and the discussion of cases showed that the participants considered the Educational Symposium a great medical education experience. The chance to discuss cases with the experts was the most valuable aspect of the Symposium.

The number of participants to the sessions was about 450-500 and all of them received the evaluation form. In spite of the assistants who were at the room to collect the forms at the end of each session and of the frequent announces about it, the number of complete forms returned was very poor (125). This is a very important issue to improve in future meetings.

8. Photos

Venue

The audience
The lectures

Dr. Frits Rosendaal

Dr. Flora Peyvandi

Dr. Claire Mc Lintock