The International Advanced Educational Course on Thrombosis and Haemostasis in Cardiovascular Diseases took place on April 17-19, 2013 at the Instituto Nacional de Cardiología “Ignacio Chávez”, Mexico DF, México. It was organized by Raúl Izaguirre (Mexico), Alicia Blanco (Argentina), Diego Mezzano (Chile), Suely Rezende (Brazil) and Raúl Altman (Argentina). The course was sponsored by the Educational Committee of the ISTH. Andreas Greinacher (Germany), Yukio Ozaki (Japan) and Frits Rosendaal (The Netherlands) were the ISTH Advisory Members.

A total number of 200 registered for the advanced educational course. About 80% of participants were medical doctors, of whom 62% were cardiologists and 86% were residents in Mexico DF. 94% of the participants evaluated the quality of the course and the quality of the presentations as high or very high. The course has been a great success and allowed a major interaction between cardiologists and hematologists towards a common field of interest - thrombosis. Participants could improve their knowledge on several fields of Cardiology, Hemostasis and Thrombosis and exchanged experiences. Participants and speakers had a chance to interact and also had an enjoyable time.

A parallel workshop also sponsored by the ISTH Edu Committee titled “Thrombosis and Haemostasis Laboratory Course” led by Alicia Blanco, PhD (Argentina) and Evelyn Cortina, MSc (Mexico), with the collaboration of Alejandro Ramírez, BSc (Mexico) was run at the Instituto on April 18 and 19. It offered participants the opportunity to attend theoretical lectures in which practical aspects of laboratory tests, diagnostic algorithms and clinical cases were discussed. In addition a wet lab was organized in which attendees were able to perform several tests using different reagents and equipment. The objective was to obtain and compare results in different clinical circumstances (anticoagulation control, blood coagulation deficiencies and acquired inhibitors such as lupus anticoagulant, aFVIII or aFIX). The outcome was that they were able to offer a diagnosis from blind samples as a result of applying the algorithms taught. A printed practical guide and a copy of the presentations were given to participants.

The workshop was designed to teach and train attendees to foster their development and enhance their competencies. The theoretical part of the workshop was attended by 46 participants (35 chemists, 8 physicians and 3 technicians); 27 of whom went on to undertake hands-on training in blood coagulation in the lab, divided into 9 working groups. Most participants were from Mexico DF, but there were also from other areas (Veracruz, Puebla, Tamaulipas). Only few participants work specifically in blood coagulation. Positive feedback was received; attendees rated the workshop as excellent (4.7 out of 5) in terms of the quality of the course and the presentations, new information received and relevance and applicability to their work. They expressed an interest in more “extended” courses to further their knowledge.

Report prepared by Alicia Blanco, Suely Rezende and Raul Altman