

REPORT:

ISTH Educational Course in Thrombosis and Hemostasis: Asian Perspective DAPA Hall, Medical Arts Building, Philippine Heart Center Quezon City, Philippines November 8-9, 2013

The Philippine Society of Vascular Medicine (PSVM) and the Philippine Society of Hematology and Blood Transfusion (PSHBT) hosted the "ISTH Educational Course on Thrombosis and Hemostasis---Asian Perspective" last November 8-9, 2013 at the Philippine Heart Center. A total of 316 participants attended this two-day activity. The attendees consisted of 227 internal medicine specialists and subspecialists who were mostly cardiologists, vascular specialists, hematologists, and pulmonologists; 33 general practitioners; 31 pediatricians who were mainly pediatric cardiologists and hematologists; 17 medical technologists; and 8 registered nurses. There were 17 resource speakers (4 international and 13 local) who lent their expertise in discussing various topics on thrombosis and hemostasis.

During the first day of the course (November 8), the opening ceremonies started with the processional (Filipino folk songs played at the background) headed by the parade of colors consisting of the Philippine flag and as well as those of ISTH, PSVM, & PSHBT. Officers of both PSVM and PSHBT marched while being introduced and four foreign speakers representing ISTH likewise joined to be recognized. **Dr. Ma. Teresa Abola** (convenor/adviser) welcomed the participants and guests, especially the foreign speakers to this important activity. She thanked the ISTH for giving PSVM and PSHBT the chance to host this informative and comprehensive learning experience. The overall organizing chairman, **Dr. Patricio Palmes**, delivered the opening remarks and he underscored the fact that this is the first ever ISTH educational course conducted in Southeast Asia. He also thanked the members of the organizing committee, the hospital director of the Philippine Heart Center who offered the venue for free, and all the speakers who made this an informative and comprehensive educational endeavor. Representing the ISTH were **Dr. Yukio Ozaki** and **Dr. Claire McLintock** who spoke about ISTH, its goal and objectives, its mission and vision.

The first plenary session (with *Dr. Benny Barbas* as chairman and *Dr. Elma Joy Rivera* as co-chairman), was about the educational course's theme "**Asian Perspective on Thrombosis and Hemostasis**" delivered by no less than the president of the Asia-Pacific Society of Hemostasis and Thrombosis (APSTH), **Dr. Lee Lai Heng**. Despite the great similarities of these medical conditions worldwide, she emphasized some salient points unique to the Asian population by citing literatures coming from this region. Indeed, the best way to start an in-depth discussion on thrombosis and hemostasis was the discussion of **Dr. Chris Ward** from Australia on the "**Pathophysiology and Dysregulation of the Coagulation Pathway**".

The first symposium was handled by **Dr. Yukio Ozaki** from Japan with **Dr. Arvin Facundo** (hematologist) speaking on "**Updates on Hemostasis**" and **Dr. Ma. Teresa Abola** (cardiologist/vascular medicine specialist) tackling the topic on "**Novel Anticoagulants---Indications and Limitations**". A lively open forum followed after with an active participation of the attendees.

Dr. Diana Jean Roxas and **Dr. Joel Paz** served as the session chairman and co-chairman, respectively in the first panel discussion in the afternoon of the first day. The panelists included **Dr. Lee Lai Heng** (hematologist) from Singapore and **Dr. Maribeth delos Santos** (cardiologist/vascular specialist), the current president of the PSVM. The first case presented by a vascular medicine fellow was on "Thrombophilia and Hypercoagulable States".

The second plenary session in the afternoon was handled by **Drs. Simonette Ganzon** and **Laura Trinchera** (chairman and co-chairman, respectively). **Dr. Yukio Ozaki** talked on "**Thrombocytosis**" while **Dr. Chris Ward** spoke on "**Heparin-Induced Thrombocytopenia**". The Second Symposium followed which was on "**Venous Thromboembolism (VTE)---Optimizing Diagnostics and Care of Patients**". **Dr. Fatima Collado** (cardiologist/vascular medicine specialist) discussed the topic "**Recognition, Diagnosis, and Treatment Options for Deep Venous Thrombosis**" while **Dr. Ruth Marie Divinagracia** (pulmonologist/critical care specialist) presented the "**Recognition, Diagnosis, and Treatment Options for Pulmonary Embolism**". **Dr. Patricio P. Palmes** (cardiologist/vascular medicine specialist) spoke on "**VTE Prophylaxis---To Do or Not To Do**". An active discussion followed during the open forum.

To cap the day of in-depth discussions was the "**Meet the Experts---Interactive Session**" in which the panel was composed of **Dr. Yukio Ozaki**, **Dr. Claire McLintock**, and **Dr. Lee Lai Heng** while **Dr. Chris Ward** served as the moderator. Various questions on difficult clinical cases of clinicians were raised to the panel and they comprehensively discussed and offered their opinions and comments.

A welcome dinner for the foreign speakers was held at the nearby Sulu Hotel where the members of the organizing committee had the chance to meet them up close.

The second day (November 9) of the course kicked off with a panel discussion hosted by **Dr. Angelina Mirasol** and **Dr. David Salvador**. The first case presented by an internal medicine resident was about "**Thrombophilia and Related Disorders in Pregnancy**". The panel of reactors was composed of **Dr. Bernadette Cruz** (obstetrician-gynecologist) and **Dr. Claire McLintock** (obstetric physician/hematologist) whose clinic in New Zealand deals with a lot of hematologic problems in pregnancy. It was indeed a case of difficult pregnancy where the patient was diagnosed with **Anti-phospholipid Antibody Syndrome**. The second case was on "**Post-Partum Hemorrhage---When Sutures and Urotonics Fail**" presented by an OB-GYN resident. The panel of reactors included **Dr. Raul Quillamor** (obstetrician-gynecologist-perinatologist) and **Dr. Claire McLintock**. An exciting discussion and exchange of opinions followed during the open forum.

The afternoon Symposium III was on "**Optimizing Pediatric-Adult Care Transition for Congenital Bleeding and Thrombotic Disorders**" chaired by **Dr.**

Yukio Ozaki and co-chaired by *Dr. Rosella Arellano*. The first discussant was **Dr. Malou Abiera** (hematologist) whose topic was "*Managing Complicated Bleeding or Thrombotic Patients*" followed by **Dr. Ma. Luisa Concepcion** (hematologist) discussing on "*Alternatives to Hemostatic & Anticoagulant Agents*". It was **Dr. Lee Lai Heng** who talked on "*Preventing and Managing Bleeding Complications of New Oral Anticoagulants*".

Panel Discussion III was on the "*Risk of Thrombosis & Hemorrhagic Complications in Malignancy*" that was chaired and co-chaired by *Dr. Claire McLintock* and *Dr. Beatrice Tangco*, respectively. **Dr. Chris Ward** talked on "*Thrombotic Complications in Malignancy*" while **Dr. Irene Castillo** (hematologist-oncologist) spoke on "*Hemorrhagic Complications in Malignancy*". Accordingly, the latest "*Anticoagulation Guidelines in Cancer Patients*" was thoroughly discussed by **Dr. Matthew Yap** (Oncologist-Hematologist).

A special topic on the "*Status of Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever in the Philippines*" capped the second day of the course with no less than **Dr. Jaime Montoya** (Infectious Disease Specialist) as the resource speaker. It was enlightening to hear the new thrusts of the Philippine government through the Department of Health in controlling the Dengue epidemic.

The summary of the two-day course was presented by **Dr. Enrico Tuy**, chairman of the scientific committee. **Dr. Angelina Mirasol**, co-chairman of the organizing committee gave the closing remarks.

A fellowship dinner party was held in a nearby venue where everyone was treated with a sumptuous meal and good music.