Education Course Report

Joint Educational Day ISTH and THD

24 October 2014

40th Turkish Hematology Congress was held from 22-25 October 2014 at Titanic Convention Center, Antalya and was completed with success. This year marks the 47th Anniversary of the establishment of the Turkish Society of Hematology (THD). The Society, as the only official representative of scientists of hematology in Turkey, boasts a membership of over 800 at home and abroad, and is one of the most active and oldest societies in the country.

There were over 750 attendees at the congress. There were fourteen scientific conference sessions, seven satellite symposia, six meet the expert sessions and thirteen oral presentations in the conference program. A total of 539 manuscripts were submitted to the Congress on 17 different topics. Of these 72 selected abstracts were presented as oral sessions while others as poster sessions.

This year’s most important educational event was the joint sessions organized with very prestigious hematology association, ISTH.

There were two joint ISTH-THD Educational sessions which were held on 24 October 2014. The sessions were chosen as the highlighted sessions of ISTH meeting. At the first session Dr. Nigel Key (Council Chairman of ISTH, UNC Medical School, Chapel Hill, USA) and Muhit Özcan (Ankara University, Ankara) chaired the session. The speakers and their topics were; Current Concepts of the Coagulation System: Björn Dahlbäck (Skåne University Hospital, Sweden); Current Concepts of the Platelet Functions: Paolo Gresele (University of Perugia, Italy) and Disseminated Intravascular Coagulation: Jecko Thachil (Manchester Royal Infirmary, United Kingdom).

Dr. Ahmet Muzaffer Demir (THD General Secretary- Trakya University, Edirne) and Dr. Kaan Kavaklı (Ege University, İzmir) chaired the second session. There were three speakers at this session: Diagnosis and Treatment of VTE in 2014: Peter Verhamme (University of Leuven, Leuven,Belgium); Antithrombotics in Clinical Practice: Elaine Hylek (Boston University School of Med, Boston, USA) and Critical Roles of Hemostasis in Cancer: Benjamin Brenner (Rambam Medical Center, Haifa, Israel).

A press meeting was organized during the congress. One of the 4 important topics was World Thrombosis Day. Dr. Nigel Key, Dr. Teoman Soysal (THD President) and Dr. Muzaffer Demir (THD General Secretary), Dr. Hale Ören (THD Vice President) attended the conference and Dr. Key informed press about WTD. THD translated the final version of WTD global release into Turkish and send to national press in Turkey. There were more than 50 news articles published after the press conference on WTD.

A closed leadership meeting was held between the ISTH president Nigel Key and THD executive board members on 24 October 2014 between 14:30-15:30. During this meeting,
possibilities for further collaboration between ISTH and THD were explored. THD is focusing on further improving hematology care by offering training opportunities organized and supported by the society. ISTH would like to join this initiative and will look into the possibility of supporting this program in the future. The two Societies want to cover the following joint projects: Joint Educational Symposia at the annual meeting of THD and joint Hematology Tutorials within the part of the training program of hematology fellows from Turkey organized by THD.