



Inside

Message from the Chairman	1
From the Editor	2
Japanese Society on Thrombosis and Hemostasis (JSTH)	3
Message from the ISTH 2011 Congress President	4
Kyoto, Japan Updates	5
Australian and Asian Haematology Societies Unite in Sydney in October	6
Research News	7
Upcoming Meetings	8

APSTH Officers

Honorary Chairmen

*Akikazu Takada
Yasuo Ikeda*

Chairman

Hatem Salem

Secretary General

Yukio Ozaki

Public Relations and Communications

Pantep Angchaisuksiri

Contact Us

Secretary General Office

Yukio Ozaki

*Department of Laboratory Medicine
Faculty of Medicine
University of Yamanashi
1110 Shimokato
Chuo Yamanashi 409-3898
Japan
E-mail: yozaki@yamanashi.ac.jp
Tel: 81-55-273-6770
Fax: 81-55-273-6924*

Editor Office

Pantep Angchaisuksiri

*Division of Hematology
Department of Medicine
Ramathibodi Hospital
Mahidol University
Bangkok 10400
Thailand
E-mail: rapac@mahidol.ac.th
Tel: 662-201-1796
Fax: 662-201-1796*

Message from the Chairman



Hatem Salem

Dear Colleagues,

It is with pleasure and pride that we welcome our second newsletter. Once again this wonderful contribution would not have been possible without the hard work of our editor Professor Pantep Angchaisuksiri and our executive Director Professor Yukio Ozaki. To both we are extremely grateful.

Since I last wrote in the newsletter, our colleagues in Japan have endured tragedy and sadness. An almighty earthquake, the most powerful in the country's history struck generating a massive tsunami that swept away entire villages. The disaster was made worse by the damage to the Fukushima nuclear plant that resulted in major radiation leak. The world watched in horror and we all felt helpless. On the other hand, the Japanese people stood in solidarity and went about rebuilding their lives. It was extremely touching to note the comments of retired men and women in Japan who argued that young people should not endanger their lives and fertility by exposing themselves to high dose of radiation, and that the responsibility of cleaning and repairing the damage fell on the generation that built and benefited from the Japan's nuclear program. The Skilled Veterans Corps recruited a significant number of men and women and went about the arduous job of cleaning and restoring safety. The courage and attitude of these individuals is something to behold. The repair process has already started and our Japanese colleagues are well on their way to rebuilding their lives and country.

It is not surprising with such a calamity, that the local ISTH committee had to carefully assess the situation with respect to successfully holding the ISTH Congress and the safety of the delegates. It is pleasing that after a thorough assessment of the situation, the Congress will go ahead. Our attendance from around the globe to this event is more important than ever.

This congress is not just a scientific get together but an opportunity for us to show solidarity and support to our Japanese colleagues. We owe this to them and I urge you all to attend and support our friends.

New Zealand has also been hit by two major quakes that wreaked destruction and havoc to the city of Christchurch and here in Australia floods have devastated large parts of the country. We can only pray for an end to these disasters and that all affected will be gifted with the courage and ability that they need to rebuild their lives.

Since I last wrote to you, we have been preparing for the upcoming APSTH council meeting in Kyoto. Professor Ozaki and I have exchanged emails on the need for us to introduce a few changes to the Statutes of the Society to conform to some of the changes that have happened. We hope to have these tabled and discussed at the Kyoto meeting. We have just learned that Dr. Robyn Devenish from Cambodia has been awarded the Novo Nordisk Haemophilia Foundation Community Award for an outstanding activity. Congratulations to Dr. Devenish! Professor Ozaki had nominated Dr. Devenish for this award and when we both discussed the nomination previously, there was little doubt that Robyn was highly deserving to win this award.

Another development that we are hoping to discuss in Kyoto is the establishment of a collaborative network of leading haematology centres in the Asian Pacific Region to study the pathophysiology, diagnosis

Members of APSTH Council

Australia

Beng Chong
Hatem Salem
Chris Ward

Cambodia

Robyn Devenish
Chean Sophal

China

Changgeng Ruan
Yongqiang Zhao
Ming Hou

India

Alok Srivastava

Indonesia

Aru Wisaksono Sudoyo
Karmel Tambunan

Japan

Akikazu Takada
Yasuo Ikeda
Koji Suzuki
Akira Yoshioka
Takehiko Koide
Yukio Ozaki

Korea

Hynsook Chi
Doyeun Oh
Seonyang Park
Kwang-Hoe Chung

Malaysia

Jameela Sathar

Mongolia

Otgonbat Altangerel
Nergui Dagvadorj

New Zealand

Mark Smith

Philippines

Maria Teresa B. Abola

Singapore

Sim Leng Tien
Manjunatha Kini
Lai Heng Lee

Sri Lanka

H.M. Sduharma Vidyatilake

Taiwan

Ming-Ching Shen

Thailand

Pantep Angchaisuksiri
Wichai Prayoonwiwat
Saenguree Jootar
Artit Ungkanont

Vietnam

Nguyen Anh Tri

and treatment of thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura. This endeavour is championed by Professor Ross Baker from Perth and we hope it will attract interest from any countries in the region.

Preparations for the 2012 APSTH Congress in Melbourne are well in place. The program is currently being completed and we promise an excellent blend of science and clinical talks relevant to the Asia-Pacific region. Professor Chris Ward from Sydney is in charge of the program and we hope to update Council on our progress in Kyoto.

In February 2011, I had the pleasure of being invited by the Korean Society of Thrombosis and Haemostasis to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the society. The meeting was the highlight of my year so far. It was very well attended. The Korean Society has made considerable achievements over a relatively short period of time, and we are very proud a pleased with its progress and what it stands for.



A picture taken with Professor Inho Kim from Korea

I hope you enjoy this newsletter, and I do hope that it will give you a perspective on what is happening in the region and some interesting historical facts. I certainly am looking forward to reading it.



From the Editor

Dear Colleagues,

Our second newsletter is packed with interesting and valuable information for you.

To start off our second newsletter, we have the story of how the Japanese Society on Thrombosis and Hemostasis (JSTH) started and a summary of their current projects and responsibilities.

Then there's an update on the XXIII Congress of the International Society on Thrombosis and Haemostasis (ISTH) to be held in Kyoto this October. There have been some concerns about whether it's safe to visit Kyoto. However, we present a quote from a professional risk assessment company hired by ISTH to determine Kyoto's suitability as a location for the congress: "Control Risks sees no significant threats to the feasibility of ISTH's July conference. Kyoto offers a secure environment for major international conferences."

Next, there's the story about the Australian and Asian Haematology Societies uniting in Sydney in October for the annual scientific meeting of the Australian Haematology Societies.

Then in the Research News section, we tell you about a group working on platelet biology with special interest on a novel platelet activation receptor, C-type lectin-like receptor 2 (CLEC-2).

The stories above were all contributed by APSTH members. To continue to have informative articles for our readers, I strongly encourage you to submit a story to me at rapac@mahidol.ac.th.

Pantep Angchaisuksiri, Editor
Officer of Public Relations and Communication APSTH

Japanese Society on Thrombosis and Hemostasis (JSTH)

Yukio Ozaki

The JSTH has a membership of more than 1,200 clinicians and basic and clinical scientists in medicine as well as pharmacology and biology. We seek to investigate a wide spectrum of sciences related to normal and abnormal hemostasis, thrombotic and thromboembolic disorders, to promote the exchange and spreading of knowledge and concepts of these topics, and to make contributions to the health and welfare of people in Japan as well as in other countries.

History

The JSTH started as a forum on thrombosis and hemostasis organized by Professors Takeshi Abe, Hisao Morita, and Goro Kosaki in 1972.



Forum on Thrombosis and Hemostasis in 1972

This small get-together of coagulation enthusiasts developed into the first official meeting of the JSTH in 1978. The annual congresses of the JSTH boosted the interest and enthusiasm of scientists and clinicians engaged in this field in Japan, and initiated a wide range of activities both domestic and international. The ardent support of the JSTH members made it possible to host the XIIth Congress of the International Society on Thrombosis and Haemostasis (ISTH) in Tokyo, 1989, with Dr. Takeshi Abe as President. We are to host the ISTH Congress for the second time in Japan, the XXIII Congress of the ISTH in Kyoto, July 2011, with President Yasuo Ikeda

第XII回 国際血栓止血学会(1989・平成元年
(京王プラザホテル))

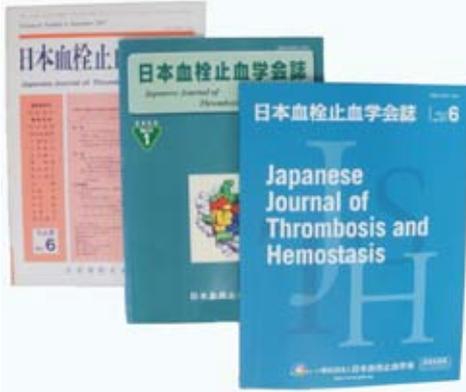


The XIIth Congress of the International Society on Thrombosis and Haemostasis (ISTH) in Tokyo, 1989

The current president of the JSTH is Prof. Yasuo Ikeda, Life Science and Medical Bioscience, Faculty of Science and Engineering, Waseda University. The council consists of 15 members, of which 10 are elected by the General Assembly, and 5 nominated by the President. There are a number of committees engaged in the various activities:

- Editorial Board of the Japanese Journal of Thrombosis and Hemostasis
- Scientific Program Committee of JSTH Annual Congresses
- Scientific Standardization Committee (Platelet, VWD/TTP, Thrombotic Diathesis, Hemophilia, APS, Coagulation/fibrinolysis Test, DVT/PE, Thrombolysis, DIC, HIT)
- Scientific Promotion Committee (Vascular Biology, Cancer and Thrombosis, Inflammation and Thrombosis, Coagulation and its Regulation, Fibrinolysis and its Regulation, Platelet Biology, Anti-thrombotic therapy)
- JSTH Award Committee
- COI (conflicts of interest) Committee
- Guideline Compliance Committee (ad hoc)

We publish the official journal of the JSTH, The Japanese Journal of Thrombosis and Hemostasis (Jpn J Thromb Hemost ISSN 0915-7441). It first started as "Blood and Vessels" (1978~1989) and immediately after the XII Congress of ISTH in Tokyo, it was renamed in the present form "The Japanese Journal of Thrombosis and Hemostasis" (1990~ present). We now publish 6 issues a year.



JSTH coverpages - from the old version to the newest version

We are to hold the XXIII Congress of ISTH in Kyoto, this year. Also, we will organize the 6th annual meeting of SSC of the JSTH in January, 2012, in Tokyo. The 34th annual congress of the JSTH is scheduled from June 7 to June 9, 2012, in Tokyo.

Invitation to the APSTH-JSTH Joint symposium.: We will provide travel grants to young investigators in the Asian-Pacific area to present their papers in the APSTH-JSTH Joint Symposium to be held during the 34rd JSTH Congress. Any paper is welcome, but those related to regional characteristics of particular diseases will be highly valued. The traveling expense and hotel accommodations for those presenting papers will be covered by us, and the registration fee is waived. The official language for this session is English.


ISTH2011

KYOTO JAPAN

XXIII Congress of the International Society on Thrombosis and Haemostasis
57th Annual SSC Meeting Venue : ICC Kyoto / Dates : July 23-28, 2011


Message from the ISTH 2011 Congress President



Yasuo Ikeda
President
XXIII Congress of the
International Society on
Thrombosis and
Haemostasis

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

First of all, we would like to express our sincere gratitude for all the condolences offered from all over the world.

We are pleased to announce that the 23rd ISTH Congress is to be held in Kyoto as scheduled. After the unprecedented earthquake and tsunami followed by the nuclear plant accident in Fukushima, Japan, we have received many comments from colleagues overseas, who are concerned about the safety of holding the Congress in Kyoto.

Working with ISTH HQ, we have started to assess the risk from the viewpoint of the delegate safety and financial balance. All the members of LOC worked hard together to collect relevant information such as the statements by international organizations, data concerning radioactivity, electric power, and transportation. On 9th of April, LOC held an ad hoc meeting in Kyoto in order to critically assess the present situation, and at the same time, to observe the peaceful and stable daily life in Kyoto with our own eyes. We confirmed that everything was fine in Kyoto, and were happy to know that the citizens in Kyoto were enjoying the beautiful season of cherry blossoms.

During the meeting, we examined all the information, and reached a conclusion that Kyoto is safe and suitable for our meeting in every aspect. We therefore completed a report, which recommends that the Kyoto ISTH Congress be held as planned. We have also obtained assuring words from the Commissioner of Japan Tourism Agency, the Governor of Kyoto Prefecture, and the Mayor of Kyoto. Based upon a joint report by the six United Nations agencies, the recommendation by the professional risk assessment company entrusted by ISTH HQ and the report of LOC, the Executive Committee of ISTH concluded that Kyoto is safe and there is no reason to give up holding the congress in Kyoto as scheduled. This decision has been unanimously approved by the ISTH Council members. The whole process has been guided by the strong leadership of our Council Chairman, Henri Bounameaux. LOC is thankful for his great effort.

Kyoto is located more than 500 kilometers away from the affected area, Fukushima. There has been no significant change in radioactivity both in the environment and water in Kyoto. In fact, the daily life and business have been completely unaffected in Kyoto. We will continue to closely monitor the situation and inform you of the accurate and objective data in a timely manner.

We have now finalized the scientific program. Almost all the invited speakers and chairpersons have been decided. We have received 3,044 abstracts from 75 countries; they were all reviewed and acceptance/rejection notifications of abstracts have been sent out.

I am very much looking forward to seeing you all in Kyoto!

Kyoto, Japan Updates

This update gives details about our expert analysis which indicates that Kyoto, Japan, is a very safe place for ISTH's July conference.

Independent Analysis from Control Risks Limited, the professional risk assessment company
http://www.isth.org/default/assets/File/members/Control_Risks_Kyoto_for_ISTH.pdf

“Control Risks sees no significant threats to the feasibility of ISTH's July conference. Kyoto offers a secure environment for major international conferences.”

Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Situation in Kyoto, Japan.

ISTH 2011 Local Organizing Committee (April 21, 2011)

- Was Kyoto affected by the March 11 earthquake and tsunami?

No. Kyoto is located 690 km (430 miles) from the epicenter of the earthquake.

- How far Kyoto is located from the Fukushima nuclear power plant?

Kyoto is located 530 km (335 miles) from the Fukushima Dai-ichi Nuclear Plant.

- Is there radioactive contamination in Kyoto?

No. The environmental radioactivity levels in environment, food and drinking water in Kyoto have never approached levels likely to cause even minor sickness.

- How the business in Kyoto after the earthquake?

Daily life and business in Kyoto have been completely unaffected by the earthquake. The conference centers, hotels, transportations and communication facilities are all normal in Kyoto.

- The Fukushima accident was raised to Level 7. Is the accident as serious as the one at Chernobyl?

Mr. Denis Flory, Deputy Secretariat of IAEA made a statement that this does not mean that any increased threat to public health. Also, he indicated the Fukushima and the 1986 Chernobyl disaster are “absolutely different in view of structure and scale”, even though they share the same rating. The rating of INES assessment is divided only to 7 levels so that the accident at Fukushima is classified as the same level as the Chernobyl disaster, which was 10 times more serious in terms of the emission of radioactive materials



The Most Up-to-date Information

Here's the latest information from various sources:

Information from International Organizations

International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

“Current radiation levels do not present health or transportation safety hazards to passengers and crew” (14 April 2011)

International Air Transport Association (IATA)

“UN Confirms Safety of Japan Operations” (1 April 2011)

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

Fukushima Nuclear Accident Update Log

World Health Organization (WHO)

“WHO is not advising general restrictions on travel to Japan” (29 April 2011)

International Maritime Organization (IMO)

“Radiation monitoring around airports and seaports in Japan continues to confirm that levels remain well within safe limits from a health perspective” (15 April 2011)

World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)

“UN agencies: current situation poses no risk to travel to and from Japan” (15 April 2011)

Information from the Japanese Ministries

http://www.isth2011.com/about_kyoto.html



Australian and Asian Haematology Societies Unite in Sydney in October



Chris Ward



In 2011, Sydney will host the annual scientific meeting of the Australian haematology societies (HAA), including the Australian Society of Thrombosis and Haemostasis (ASTH), from Saturday 29 October until Wednesday 2 November. This year the HAA will run a joint meeting with the XIIth Congress of the International Society of Hematology, Asia-Pacific Division (ISHAPD) and we look forward to welcoming over 1,500 local and regional delegates to one of the largest haematology conferences ever held in Australia. The meeting will also have a strong focus on stem cell transplantation and cellular therapies, through dedicated programmes run by the Asian-Pacific Blood and Bone Marrow Transplantation group and the International Society for Cellular Therapy: Australia.

The ASTH programme has been expanded for this meeting, with 7 international and regional speakers – Pantep Angchaisuksiri (Thailand – infectious haemorrhagic syndromes), Dermot Cox (Ireland – platelets and immunity), Xiaoping Du (USA – integrin biology), Takeshi Fuji (Japan – thromboprophylaxis after surgery), Klaus Goerlinger (Germany – perioperative haemostasis), Minh Hou (China – immune thrombocytopenias) and AK Kakkar (UK – cancer and thrombosis). These world experts will be joined by eminent local speakers on a wide range of themes, including thrombus biology, cancer-associated thrombosis, managing perioperative bleeding and malaria. Combined symposia with the Australian and New Zealand Society of Blood Transfusion will allow our delegates to hear from other international opinion leaders, such as James George (USA – TTP and ITP) and Sherill Schlichter (USA - platelet transfusion). As in previous years, the coagulation programme will commence with a one-day laboratory workshop (29th October), focusing on coagulation assays, new analysers and interpretation of lab tests. Other meeting highlights will be the Barry Firkin oration given by Prof. Beng Chong (Sunday 30th), presentations by the best young investigators in the Presidential Symposium (Monday 31st) and two masterclasses. Submitted abstracts on clinical, laboratory or research aspects of coagulation are warmly welcomed, and will be presented in free communication sessions or as posters, as de-

tailed on our website. The abstract deadline this year is July 1st and applicants will be notified of acceptance by the end of July. The venue for this year's meeting is the Sydney Convention Centre in Darling Harbour – ideally located on the waterfront, a short walk from the city centre and with ferry links to major tourist attractions such as the Opera House, Taronga Zoo and Manly beach. A wide range of hotel accommodation and restaurants are within easy walking distance. Our social programme will include a welcome reception on the Sunday evening and a not-to-be-missed conference dinner at a spectacular harbour-side location (Tuesday 1st). Further meeting details, including a detailed programme and online registration can be found on the conference website (<http://www.haa-ap2011.org>) or from our conference organizers (<http://www.fcconventions.com.au>). We are sure that this year's outstanding speakers, and expanded scientific and social programme will enlighten and inspire all our delegates, with ample opportunities to learn from one another and strengthen local connections. We look forward to welcoming you in Sydney this October!



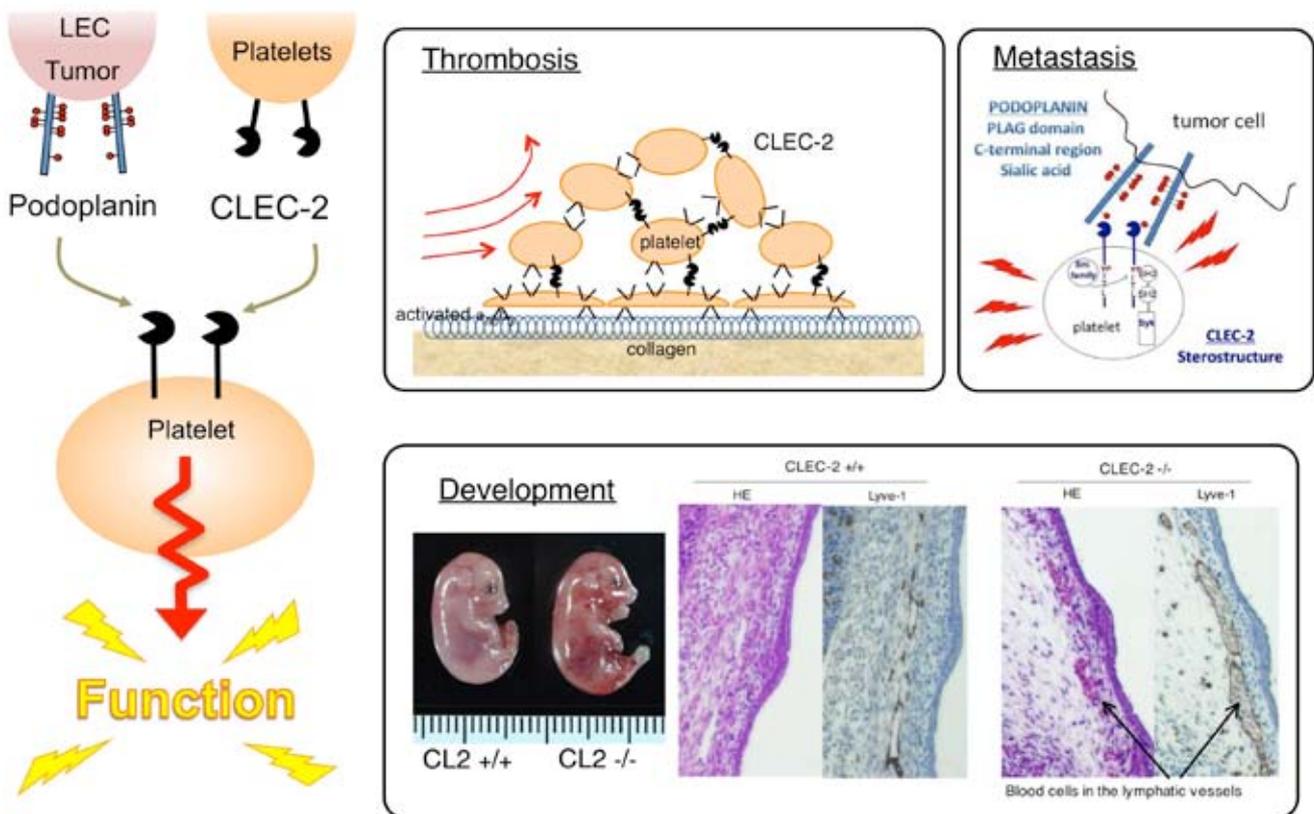

Yukio Ozaki

Research News

Novel platelet activation receptor, C-type lectin-like receptor 2 (CLEC-2)

Katsue Suzuki-Inoue, Osamu Inoue, Yukio Ozaki
 Department of Laboratory Medicine, University of Yamanashi, Japan

We are working on platelet biology with special interest on a novel platelet activation receptor, C-type lectin-like receptor 2 (CLEC-2). Increasing bodies of evidence suggest that there are unknown platelet activation receptor(s) on platelet surfaces that contribute to thrombosis and haemostasis. We identified CLEC-2 as a receptor for the snake venom rhodocytin (Suzuki-Inoue, et al. *Blood*. 2006; 107:542-549). After pains-taking efforts, we pinpointed the physiological ligand for CLEC-2, which was podoplanin, a sialoglycoprotein present in podocytes, tumor cells, and lymphatic endothelial cells. (Suzuki-Inoue K, et al. *J Biol Chem*. 2007; 282:25993-26001, Papers of the Week). We showed podoplanin stimulates platelet aggregation by binding to CLEC-2, which facilitates tumor metastasis (See figure "metastasis"). We have also succeeded in producing CLEC-2 knockout mice, and found that they are lethal at the fetal stage due to impaired separation of lymphatic vessels from veins, demonstrating that CLEC-2 on platelet membrane regulates lymphatic/blood vessel formation (Suzuki-Inoue K, et al. *J Biol Chem* 2010; 285: 24494-507, Papers of the Week) (See figure "development"). Analysis of CLEC-2-deficient platelets also showed that CLEC-2 stabilizes thrombus partly due to homophilic association of CLEC-2 in platelet activation-dependent manner (See figure "thrombosis"). Thus, CLEC-2 is a novel platelet activation receptor, which plays a role in tumor metastasis, lymphatic vessel development, and thrombus formation.



GOTO → <http://www.med.yamanashi.ac.jp/clinical/clin0lab/cn33/index6.html>

**ISTH 2011****KYOTO JAPAN**

XXIII Congress of the International Society on Thrombosis and Haemostasis

57th Annual SSC Meeting

Venue : ICC Kyoto (Kyoto International Conference Center)

Dates : July 23-28, 2011

Upcoming Meetings:

- 1 XXIII Congress of the International Society on Thrombosis and Haemostasis**
23-28 July 2011 - Kyoto, Japan.
www.isth2011.com
- 2 Asian VTE Summit 2011**
1-2 October 2011 – Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Contact your local LEO Pharma for details.
- 3 HAA-ISHAPD 2011 with the APBMT & ISCTA**
A joint scientific meeting of the Haematology Society of Australia and New Zealand, Australia and New Zealand Society of Blood Transfusion, Australasian Society of Thrombosis and Haemostasis with the XIIth Congress of the International Society of Hematology (Asia-Pacific Division), 16th Congress of Asian-Pacific Blood and Marrow Transplantation, International Society for Cellular Therapy: Australia
30 October – 2 November 2011 – Sydney, Australia
www.haa-ap2011.org
- 4 Asian Thrombosis Forum 2011**
26-27 November 2011 – Hong Kong, China
Contact your local Boehringer Ingelheim for details.
- 5 2011 ASH Annual Meeting and Exposition**
10-13 December, 2011 - San Diego, CA
www.hematology.org

