Dear colleagues,

earlier this year it was a great honour and pleasure to host, as congress president together with Prof. Dr. Frits Rosendaal (Leiden), the 54th Congress of the Gesellschaft für Thrombose- und Hämostaseforschung e.V. (GTH). This congress was held, together with the Nederlandse Vereniging voor Trombose en Hemostase (NVTH) as the first joint meeting of these two sister societies, on February 24–27, 2010 in the Franconian city of Nürnberg.

We were fortunate that 49 renowned investigators accepted the invitation to lecture and actively participated in this joint meeting which presented
- 12 outstanding plenary lectures,
- 20 state-of-the-art scientific Symposia,
- many educational sessions and
- interesting satellite symposia sponsored by our industrial partners, as well as
- additional workshops and activities.

Altogether, this congress had 1474 participants and 506 Abstracts (374 poster and 83 oral presentations) delivered by GTH/ NVTH members, as well as by scientists, clinicians, and students from other neighbouring European countries. In the congress issue (Hämostaseologie 1/2010) four of our plenary lecturers (inflammation, immunity, coagulation; sepsis and inflammation; heparin-induced thrombocytopenia; gene mapping in platelet disorders) have already been published as state-of-the-art reviews. In this issue of Hämostaseologie (3/2010) five additional lectures which were presented in Nürnberg are now published as state of the art reviews:
- Arterial thrombus formation: novel mechanisms and targets (B. Nieswandt, I. Hagedorn, T. Vögle, Würzburg),
- The role of glycoprotein Ibα and von Willebrand factor interaction in stroke development (G Stoll, C Kleinschnitz, B Nieswandt, Würzburg),
- Antiphospholipid syndrome (G. M. A. van Os, R. T. Urbanus, C. Agar, J. C. M. Meijers, P. G. de Groot, Utrecht / Amsterdam),
- Alternatively spliced tissue factor: a crippled protein in coagulation or a key player in non-haemostatic processes (Y. W. van den Berg, H. H. Versteeg),

I am very grateful that these authors accepted our invitation to present their current views on very important and timely topics in the field of thrombosis and haemostasis. With this series of reviews, the formal activities of the 54th Congress of the Gesellschaft für Thrombose- und Hämostaseforschung / meeting of the Nederlandse Vereniging voor Trombose en Hemostase will be closed. However, hopefully the numerous congress activities including these state-of-reviews will be a starting point for interdisciplinary collaboration and advances to be presented at future meetings.

Ulrich Walter, Würzburg

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