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NEWSLETTER

65th Annual Conference of Indian Society of Haematology & Blood Transfusion

■ DR. A. K. GANJU

The Organizing Secretary, Haematocon 2024

The Haematocon 2024, a national conference of Indian Society of Haematology and Blood Transfusion (ISHBT) was scheduled between 7th to 10th November 2024. This happened in the Tiger capital of India which is well connected with rail and air and the delegates came here with a maximum one stop in 2-3 hrs by air and 12 to 24 hrs by train.

This national conference happened for the first time in Nagpur. Total of 840 delegates and faculty attended the conference, of these 28 faculties were international from US, UK, Kuwait, and SAARC countries.

The star attraction was a full session on CAR-T Cell Therapy by the best of the Global experts which included Dr Persis Amrolia from UK in person and Arnold Nagler from Israel and Analissa Rugerri from Italy delivered their lecture on zoom. Dr Vipul, our national colleague from RGCRl also addressed the session. We also had a session on sickle cell anaemia where six experts from the US and UK namely Dr Mohandas Narla, Dr Unmut Gurkan, Dr Isacc Odame, Dr Santosh Saraf, Dr Carl Amilon and Dr Kalpana Gupta, presented their data with our national experts. Global authorities in myeloma, amyloidosis, myelodysplastic syndrome, aplastic anaemia discussed their life time research in the shortest possible time. These sessions were driven by Dr Ghulam Mufti, Dr Shaji Kumar, Dr Asutosh Wechlekar and many others Indian Faculties.

Haematological malignancies, their management by chemotherapy, immunotherapy and Bone Marrow transplantation was discussed by our researchers. The international faculty for this included Dr Rajat Kumar, Dr Naval Daver (Online), Dr Paresh Vyas (Online), Dr Ramesh Pandita, Dr Aniket Banker and other Indian Colleagues.

The congress also had joint symposiums ISHBT-EHA (European Haematology Association), ISHBT-ASH (American society of Haematology) and ISHBT-ASIAN countries where two speakers each from US, UK and Asian countries delivered the talks on different diseases. The sessions were deeply appreciated by the attendees.

The whole conference had great topics of day to day use and also difficult and complicated subjects which were unfolded by the stalwarts of repute. Great debates in the subjects of difference of opinion were presented by the masters of those subjects.

Pre-conference CME and workshops have become very popular. The different specialities were involved and consultative Haematology discussed in detail. There were approximately 40 lectures on different topics related to haematology. The Nurses and technicians working with us, day and night were included in the CME's with special sessions for them.

There were 11 workshops included on different aspects of haematology. These workshops covered varied subjects of interest with high impact value viz.

lymphoma under the microscope, bone marrow aspiration and biopsy interpretations, role of molecular landscape in haematolymphoid malignancies, flowcytometry in leukemias, stem cell apheresis, haemolytic anaemia, coagulation, setting up of bone marrow transplantation units, total body irradiation and Car T- Cell Therapy. The total number of delegates who attended these workshops were 328. The Bone marrow interpretation workshop by Dr Tejindar Singh was the star at number 1 with 110 delegates participating which was closely followed by lymphoma workshop by Dr Sumit Gujral which was attended by 90 delegates.

We had a sickle cell awareness programme where the patients of sickle cell disease were invited to attend a session in IMA Hall and were given advices on different aspects of prevention and management strategies in the most scientific way. The question and answer session with the competent authorities in sickle cell disease were the highlights of the session. The total number of delegates who participated this event was approximately 280.

The conference was inaugurated and blessed by Dr Mohan Das Narla, haematologist, scientist of Indian origin who rose to the highest level and became the President of American Society of Haematology (2023-24) in presence of Dr P K Sashidharan President ISHBT, Dr Tuphan Kanti Dolai Secretary ISHBT, Dr A. K. Ganju Organising Secretary, Dr R K Jena Secretary ICH and all the organising committee members. During this programme Dr Mrs Shobha Grover and Dr Mrs Vidya Shrikhande were felicitated for their work and dedication in haematology.

The faculty, delegates both national and international also participated in walkathon on 9th of November between 7 and 9 am. The walkathon had slogans for fighting diseases of blood especially the blood cancers and other genetic diseases such as thalassaemia and sickle cell disease with a curative intention.

Industry sponsored symposia were an important and necessary feature of this scientific meetings. They brought the latest science through well-known speakers to provide an opportunity to learn about the therapeutic pipelines to be expected in the near future. There were 14 Industry sponsored symposia which had a high impact academic content.

The conference also conducted finals of national quiz. The quiz was held at two levels. One for the post graduates and the other was for Post DM delegates. The prizes were given during the valedictory function on last day of conference. There were approximately 362 research papers. They were evaluated and prizes given.

The organising secretary thanked his team during the valedictory function which was instrumental in spearheading the successful conference. He also thanked all the esteemed faculty who came all the way across the continent and also the faculty from home country. The event management team which consisted of Rohan from Mumbai and Dhiraj from Nagpur was excellent which made the programme flawless and made the conference hassle-free. The hospitality of the Hotel Centre point was wonderful. Mr Ashish and the whole centre point team worked tirelessly and kept all our delegates and faculty happy.

This conference took a great shape under the able guidance of the office bearers of ISHBT & ICH, especially Dr Tuphan Kanti Dolai, Dr R K Jena and Dr H P Pati. All the haematologists in Nagpur and our Industry partners were part of the organising committee who took active part in the success of the conference.

At the valedictory function the baton of Haematocon 2024 was handed over to Haematocon 2025 which will be held at Lucknow and will be organised by Dr Vijai Tilak, Organising Chairman and Dr SP Verma, Organising Secretary.

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SECRETARY, ISHBT REPORT

■ PROFESSOR (DR) TUPHAN KANTI DOLAI

DM, MD, DNB, MBBS, FRCP (London), FICP, FICH
Honorary Secretary
Indian Society of Haematology and Blood Transfusion
Professor and Head, Hematology Department
NRS Medical College and Hospital
Kolkata, West Bengal, India



ISHBT is a non-governmental and nonprofit membership organization established on 1959 that is guided by its mission to promote excellence in patient care, research and education in hematology. ISHBT acts exclusively in the field of laboratory haematology and clinical haematology and its practitioners. ISHBT encourages academics events like annual conference, peripheral CMEs, National Haematology quizzes that brings haematologists around the globe.

CMEs

From the year 2023 to 2025, ISHBT has conducted eight peripheral CMEs in Puducherry, Gujrat, West Bengal, Bihar and Tamil Nadu to sensitize the haematology subject in small cities of India. In June 2024 for the first time ISHBT has hosted the National Coagulation Conclave where experts and stake holders convened to discuss the pressing issues in the field of coagulation blood disorders. This meeting provided a platform for all medical practitioners to share their insights and recommendations for the best treatment of the blood disorders.

International Collaborations

ISHBT has global collaborations with American Society of Haematology (ASH), Japanese Society of Haematology (JSH) and European Haematology Association (EHA) in which the members of ISHBT gets to attend the conference for knowledge exchange on the recent advancement of haematology.

In August 2023 ISHBT has successfully hosted the prestigious HOPE Asia 2023 in collaboration with EHA in New Delhi. Esteemed professionals across the globe and SAARC countries attended this conference to share the cutting edge knowledge and innovative insights in the haematology sphere.

In March 2024 ISHBT has also organized the EHA tutorial in Hyderabad where the under graduate and post graduate students shared the practical experiences and breakthroughs in the field of haematology which has helped them for providing optimal patient care.

National Haematology Quiz

To promote haematology awareness among under graduates and post graduates, ISHBT is conducting a series of quizzes from college level to national level across various states of India. Participants of both the under graduate and post graduate quizzes get a comprehensive knowledge of haematology which encourages them to take haematology as a super speciality subject.

Master class of Haematology

ISHBT is also conducting Masterclass of Haematology for the past two years. The main objective of these masterclasses is to provide in-depth understanding of the haematology subject. These interactive classroom webinars aims to bridge the gap between theoretical and practical applications, empowering undergraduate and post-doctoral students to excel in their future careers.

Social Outreach Activities

To create awareness of various blood disorders among common people, ISHBT is also organizing social outreach program for the underprivileged communities in various parts of the country. In the last two years ISHBT has conducted six social outreach programs in West Bengal, Lucknow, Gujrat, Bhubaneswar and Arunachal Pradesh. From organizing medical camps, providing health check-ups for elderly and children, free medicines to the needy people, ISHBT has tried to make a significant difference in their lives.

Last year ISHBT has also donated books, sports jersey, computers to the underprivileged students to inspire them for their future opportunities.

Advocacy meeting

ISHBT is playing a crucial role in uplifting the haematology practice across nation by meeting various stakeholders of the government of India. As the primary government agency is responsible for healthcare, this advocacy meeting helps in shaping the haematology policies. These policies are very significant in haematology sector and very impactful for patient outcomes. By working together with these key stakeholders in formulating various haematological disorders guidelines, these meetings are elevating the haematology practice across the country.

Educate common people on blood disorders through social media handles

To emphasize the importance of understanding blood disorders, ISHBT has also started uploading social awareness videos for common people on various social media handles of ISHBT. Renowned haematologists are educating people through short video bytes using this social media platforms. People can re-share these videos on their social media channels to promote awareness, understanding and support.

Classroom program for under graduates

This year ISHBT is going to initiate classroom training program of under graduate medical students in the peripheral medical colleges which will provide a comprehensive understanding of haematology concepts and principals as per the course curriculum.

Journal Service to the members

To provide access to cutting-edge research, ISHBT is going to begin journal service to the members. ISHBT will take subscriptions of some renowned international/national journals from the office. Upon request the members can utilize these international/national journal articles as a resource for their projects, case studies and presentations. This initiative will help the members to stay updated on the latest advancements in haematology globally.

New Head Office of ISHBT

We are also pleased to announce the inauguration of the head office of ISHBT in the heart of Kolkata. A long pending dream of all the members of ISHBT has taken shape last year on 13th August 2024. This office aims to foster research and education centre for the enthusiastic medical practitioners interested to gain knowledge in haematology. By arranging monthly meets in the office, young trainees are sharing their knowledge and expertise for the best haematology practices.



Indian College of Hematology (ICH), The Academic Wing of ISHBT

■ RABINDRA KUMAR JENA
Secretary, ICH



IN PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE:
The Indian College of Hematology (ICH) is the academic wing of the Indian Society of Hematology and Blood Transfusion (ISHBT). After series of discussion and approval by AGM during Haematocon 2019 in New Delhi, it came to existence. It is a conglomeration of haematological leadership in India and driven by the purpose of fostering excellence not only in academic and professional practice involving both clinical haematology and laboratory haematology, but also enhancing quality of health care and making it accessible to people everywhere in the country.

The ICH has a vision to standardize education, establish standard protocols for diagnosis, management and control of haematological diseases, promote research and development, and address the issues concerning academic excellence and quality of care.

It also aims to act as a national advisory body to give suggestions to ministries, policymakers, NMC & NBE and allied bodies in all academic and technical activities of postgraduate education in the subject of clinical haematology and haemato-pathology to promote nationwide collaborative

research and prepare databases for various haematological diseases to formulate the different guidelines, study groups, consensus documents, recommendations and research groups and other academic activities as assigned by ISHBT.

The ICH has conducted an average of 12 CMEs and workshops annually since 2020. Its annual function and special sessions have been a regular feature on the CME day of Haematocon since 2022. Following evaluation by the Credential Committee, ICH Fellowships were awarded to 7 members in 2024 and 5 members in 2025. All initial office-bearers have been replaced through a democratic election process.

With the support and cooperation of its members, ICH has successfully released several critical guidelines addressing hematological diseases of national significance. These include the **National Guidelines on Management and Control of Sickle Cell Disease** and **Nutritional Anemia**, along with an **E-Monogram on Advances in Hematological Malignancies for Medicine Postgraduates**. Few more guidelines are in the pipeline, covering subjects such as **Transfusion-Dependent Thalassemia, Hemophilia and Rare Bleeding Disorders, ITP, Hematological Malignancies, and BMT/Cellular Therapy**.

For the past three years, ICH has hosted joint academic sessions with the Indian College of Physicians at Haematocon and APICON. It is also committed to fostering international collaboration through annual joint sessions with Asian countries during Haematocon, focusing on shared challenges in haematology. Furthermore, ICH has initiated collaborations with other professional organizations such as FOGSI and the Indian Academy of Pediatrics to enhance the impact of Haematocon.

While much has been achieved, many goals remain. I humbly seek your continued support, cooperation, and guidance to help ICH achieve excellence and make a meaningful impact in the field of haematology.

Together, we can reach new heights. Long live ICH.





INDIAN SOCIETY OF HEMATOLOGY
& BLOOD TRANSFUSION



66th
Annual Conference of Indian Society of
Haematology & Blood Transfusion

- Website **fully functional**
- Registrations to be done **online**
- No physical registration



Haematocon
2025
6th–9th November 2025
Lucknow

6th

7th

8th

9th

(Thursday to Sunday)
November 2025



**Holiday Inn Lucknow Airport,
an IHG Hotel**



Dr. (Prof.) Vijai Tilak
Organizing Chairman
Professor, Dept of Pathology
Institute of Medical Sciences
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