

Canadian Experts in Thrombosis, Hemostasis, and Vascular Biology Unite to “Invite the World” to Metro Toronto Convention Centre for ISTH 2015 Congress

Toronto, ON: A unifying call from Canadian researchers from coast to coast is bringing thousands of the world's leading experts on thrombosis, hemostasis, and vascular biology to Toronto for an exciting and illuminating event. The XXV Congress of the International Society of Thrombosis and Haemostasis (ISTH) and 61st Annual Scientific and Standardization Committee (SSC) Meeting will see an estimated 7,000 people gather at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre (MTCC) for several days of education, networking, and travel throughout the city. From June 20-25, the congress will promote vital discourse in science through the presentation of recent findings, the exchange of the latest research, and the discussion of the newest clinical applications designed to improve patient care. This gathering is the largest global event in thrombosis and hemostasis, and it will inject the local economy with an estimated \$20.5 million in hospitality spending, as well as bring value to the future of scientific research in Canada.

“The congress has brought colleagues in thrombosis and hemostasis research from coast to coast together, working hard for this event,” said Congress President and McMaster University Professor of Medicine Dr. Sam Schulman, who led the effort in bringing ISTH to Toronto. “This congress was the perfect opportunity to unite the forces in Canada and invite the world, and this national gathering of strength will continue to manifest itself in grant proposals and in future research emanating from our country.”

It was 1981 when Toronto hosted the congress for the first time, and in the decades that followed, Canada built a strong reputation as a top place in the world for clinical research in thrombosis, which ultimately, said Schulman, served as a main factor in bringing the congress back to the city in 2015. Through a competitive bidding process involving the combined efforts of Schulman, ISTH, professional congress organizer MCI, Tourism Toronto, MTCC, and the Leaders Circle, Toronto revealed itself as the desired host city for a variety of reasons: extraordinary congress and support facilities, ease of international travel, the vibrant cultural fabric of the city, and Toronto's standing as a world leader in health research and discovery. With the congress convening every two years, the agenda for the 2015 event is expected to span a variety of subjects through a medley of lectures, oral and poster sessions, classes, and a satellite symposium. In addition to the heavy educational component of the congress, delegates are highly encouraged to explore and tour Toronto and surrounding areas.

“We hope delegates will convene and exchange new research data, ideas, opinions and suggestions for future collaboration,” Schulman said. “We also hope they will enjoy the greater metropolitan area of Toronto and its culture, diversity, and food from around the world.”

“We have a passionate group of people here at MTCC, and the enthusiasm for this congress, which was eight years in the making, can be found throughout the Centre,” said Barry Smith, President and CEO of MTCC. “Our Food and Beverage department in particular leapt at the opportunity to craft a high-end, sumptuous menu that is sure to satisfy the appetites of ISTH's international delegates, and set the stage for the rich culinary offerings that can be found throughout the city.”

About the International Society of Thrombosis and Haemostasis

Founded in 1969, the International Society on Thrombosis and Haemostasis (ISTH) is the leading worldwide not-for-profit organization dedicated to advancing the understanding, prevention, diagnosis and treatment of thrombotic and bleeding disorders. For further information, please visit: www.isth.org.

About the Metro Toronto Convention Centre

The Metro Toronto Convention Centre is Canada's number one convention and trade show facility. Over the past 30 years, the Centre has hosted over 18,000 events, entertained more than 55 million guests and has added \$5.1 billion in direct spending to the community. For further information, please visit www.mtccc.com.

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