Clotting Takes Center Stage

By Alice Ma, MD

This year marks the second year that ASH has organized a special session to address the concerns of basic researchers in the field of hemostasis and thrombosis. The Special Symposium on the Basic Science of Hemostasis and Thrombosis will take place between 1:30 and 5:30 p.m. today.

This session is designed to foster interchange and communication between basic scientists in this exclusive field. This afternoon's plenary agenda will highlight the most important contributions in the areas of platelets, thrombosis, and blood coagulation and fibrinolysis. Plenary speakers include Dr. Benjamin Kile, who will speak on the role of the proteins Bcl-xL, Bak, and Bax on platelet lifespan; Dr. Shahin Rafii will discuss the role of platelet-mediated recruitment of bone-marrow-derived hemangioblasts on the regulation of neovascularization; Dr. Armin Reininger will present data on primary and secondary hemostatic events occurring on components of the vessel wall at high-shear stress; Dr. Roy Silverstein will speak on the role of CD36 in platelet function; and Dr. Nigel Mackman will discuss the role of tissue factor, proteases and PARs in coagulation and inflammation. In addition, the winner of a new award, the Mary Rodes Gibson Memorial Award in Hemostasis and Thrombosis, will be announced. The award is presented to the trainee with the highest scoring abstract at the ASH annual meeting submitted in the field of hemostasis and thrombosis. Anil K. Chauhan, PhD, of the Harvard Medical School, CBR Institute for Biomedical Research, will present her abstract, "Deficiency of the VWF-Cleaving Protease ADAMTS13 Results in Increased Leukocyte Rolling and Adhesion in Mice."

Following the plenary session will be simultaneous sessions on topics including: (1) thrombogenesis, metastasis, and angiogenesis, (2) thrombus formation, (3) blood coagulation, (4) platelet receptors and signaling, (5) ADAMTS13, von Willebrand multimers, and von Willebrand disease, and (6) vascular biology and fibrinolysis.

This session was standing-room-only last year, so those who've already made plans to extend their stay are in for a lively experience.