

EDITORIAL (for May 2022 issue of JTH)

## **Investment in the future of thrombosis and hemostasis science**

In this issue of JTH, we are delighted to announce the six recipients of the JTH Editors' Awards for early career authors of manuscripts published during 2021. This competition provides the JTH editorial team the opportunity to consider all manuscripts for which the first author is still in the early stage of their scientific career. Every year we begin with a large list of all eligible manuscripts and through a sequential review process, involving all Associate Editors and the two Editors-in-Chief, we arrive at our final group of awardees. By the very nature of this process — acceptance of a manuscript in JTH and independent reviews from Associate Editors and the Editors-in-Chief — this is a very demanding competition. The awardees should feel rightly proud of their achievements.

This year, the winning manuscripts span a comprehensive mix of basic and clinical subject matters ranging from proteomic studies in platelets and mechanisms underlying the anti-phospholipid antibody syndrome, to inherited risk factors for venous thromboembolism and attitudes towards women with inherited bleeding disorders. The awardees represent the diversity of gender and geography that is increasingly evident within the ISTH and the authorship of the Society's journals.

The Editors' Awards provide us with a specific time and focus to consider the key Society objective of training the next generation of scientists and clinicians in the field of thrombosis and hemostasis. This aim has long been recognized as one of the principal areas of concentration of the Society, and each year the ISTH Education Committee works to develop a program of educational materials that presents a wide range of subjects through an increasingly diverse array of media platforms.

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In considering how best the Society and its journals can assist in the development of the next generation of scientists and clinicians engaged in thrombosis and hemostasis, the integration of early career professionals is a consistent theme that permeates many aspects of our community. At JTH we are always looking to involve early career scientists in the peer review process and RPTH is about to launch a more formal engagement of junior scientists in manuscript evaluations. In addition, the Society's Early Career Committee is invited to contribute an annual guest editorial to JTH in which they are encouraged to highlight issues of special interest to this demographic.

A major strength for early career individuals in our discipline is the wide-ranging mix of basic science and clinical studies presented in the Society's journals and at annual congresses. This heterogeneity of subject matter and the opportunity to engage with peers who may have tangential interests in an area of focus can often produce the most innovative and exciting collaborations. The mix of basic science and clinical investigation in our journals and congresses also provides junior scientists with insights into the opportunities and challenges presented to their peers.

Of course, another key element of any early career development is the interaction with like-minded professionals from other institutions and geographies. These opportunities are essential for trainees to refine their scientific communication skills but also to recognize the context of their own area of study within the broader community. Many junior investigators are surprised, and relieved that they are not alone in the challenges they are facing, and even more importantly, they can experience the pride and pleasure of presenting new discoveries to a wider audience. As we all know, this component of the early career experience has been sadly limited in the past two years, and we look forward with immense enthusiasm to the return of in-person networking at the London ISTH Congress.

As we begin to emerge from the global pandemic, but now face the horrors of a war in Europe, our community will continue to face challenges while we also pursue a range of activities aligned with the Society's mission. These goals have been very well represented by the community's basic science and clinical accomplishments during COVID. However, one of our most important objectives must be to nurture our younger colleagues. The support and encouragement of early career professionals is a mutually beneficial activity, and we must continue to highlight the potential excitement and fulfillment of a career of discovery and care in hemostasis. It is a privileged and pleasurable life.

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