

I recently attended the International Society for Thrombosis and Haemostasis (ISTH) annual meeting in Melbourne, Australia from 6th-10th July 2019. This was made possible by a generous travel grant from Thrombosis UK, alongside support from the British Society for Haemostasis and Thrombosis.

I was looking forward to the excellent scientific programme, but also to visit Melbourne and Australia for the first time. I arrived a day ahead of the conference to attend a pre-congress symposia on tranexamic acid (TXA) in trauma. This was a particularly interesting day, filled with plenty of debate and presentations from experts around the world. I particularly enjoyed the talks focused on the use of viscoelastic testing in managing trauma haemorrhage. My focus was then turned to my own oral presentation, which thankfully was on the first day of the congress. My talk was in the rare bleeding disorders and some questions asked by the audience has helped me progress my work since the ISTH meeting.

During the past six months I have been working with a novel thrombin generation analyser, the Stago Genesis. As this is a new machine, it has been a steep learning curve. I found the ISTH conference a great opportunity to discuss with colleagues from around the world who also have an ST Genesis analyser. During the poster sessions I was able to find out how other users have found the machine, and share tips on how to overcome any calibration or quality control issues.

A highlight for me was Professor Michael Reade's talk on the use of cryopreserved platelets in trauma. This was particularly interesting from the perspective of the military and the importance of getting blood products quickly within war zones. I also enjoyed Professor Beverley Hunt's plenary lecture on postpartum haemorrhage, which engaged the audience with a musical performance.

During the conference, I also participated in the Thrombosis UK 5 K fun run to keep life flowing. This was an early start- 5 am- but great fun and for a great cause. Work aside, I had a great time exploring Melbourne after the meeting. I particularly enjoyed visiting the Rod Laver tennis arena and the riverside of the Yarra river that flows through the city.

