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The idea of publishing a State-of-the-Art book concomitantly to a congress is not new. It was Professor Marc Verstraete, the doyen among the European scientists in the field of thrombosis and hemostasis, who promoted this activity some 20 years ago at the congress of the International Society of Thrombosis and Hemostasis (ISTH) in Brussels. Since then, a long-standing tradition has been established among the ISTH members. This paragon has now been adapted for the participants of this DGTI-ESFH-SFTS meeting.

In the foreword of the Brussels State-of-the-Art book, Professor Verstraete once wrote, ‘A preface is that part of a book that is placed first, written last, and read least’. Since all three statements he made are true, I will be brief. Transfusion medicine, hemostasis, and hemotherapy are relatively ‘young’ fields. They have in common both the subject ‘blood’ and the interdisciplinary approach. Thus, it is the translational impact of basic and clinical research that provides progress and challenges in patient care.

I am grateful to the authors, all experts in their field, who provided a chapter to this volume prior to the conference, meeting strict deadlines and accepting inevitable limitations in length, illustrations, and references. The support by our sponsors who made this project possible at all is particularly acknowledged, including CSL Behring, Wyeth, Baxter, NovoNordisk, and Novartis. Special thanks are also extended to the technical editing and production team of Karger publishers who worked hard to deliver this volume in due time. Finally, I would like to thank Uta Vandercappelle for her assistance, Nikola Möller for checking with me all manuscripts, and Anne Scharf for her coordination work as industrial liaison officer.

The editor hopes that the book will be received with the warmth and candor the authors deserve. To quote Professor Verstraete once more, ‘History will tell, but obviously, the history we learn depends on who is the historian’.

Rüdiger E. Scharf, Düsseldorf
## Contents

### IX  Preface

#### Social Intelligence and Competence

1  **Increasing Safety by Implementing Optimized Team Interaction – Experiences of the Aviation Industry**  
Müller, M.H. (Frankfurt/Main)

#### Karl Landsteiner Lecture

15  **Allogeneic Hematopoietic Cell Transplantation – 2008: Achievements and Challenges**  
Blume, K.G. (Stanford)

#### Organ- and Vascular Bed-Specific Thrombogenesis

24  **Endothelium and Hemostasis in Health and Disease**  
Steffel, J.; Lüscher, T.F. (Zurich)

37  **Intravascular and Extravascular Coagulation and Fibrinolysis in the Diseased Lung**  

48  **Interaction of Platelets and Inflammatory Endothelium in the Development and Progression of Coronary Artery Disease**  
Langer, H.F.; Gawaz, M.P. (Tübingen)

#### Hemostasis in Infection and Host Defense

60  **Infectious Agents, the Contact System, and Innate Immunity**  
Frick, I.-M.; Herwald, H. (Lund)

71  **Fibrinolysis and Host Response in Bacterial Infections**  
Bergmann, S.; Hammerschmidt, S. (Munich)

#### Immunomodulation and Therapeutic Apheresis

89  **Selective Immune Apheresis Technologies – Where Do We Stand?**  
Ramlow, W.; Prophet, H.; Emmrich, J. (Rostock)
113  Cytapheresis as a Nonpharmacological Therapy for Inflammatory Bowel Disease

123  Immunoadsorption in Dilated Cardiomyopathy
Staudt, A.; Felix, S.B. (Greifswald)

Stem Cells and Blood Cell Engineering

132  Therapeutic Use of Circulating Peripheral Blood Stem Cells
Haas, R.; Bruns, I.; Kobbe, G.; Kronenwett, R. (Düsseldorf)

151  Cultured Red Blood Cells: A New Advance in Stem Cell Engineering
Douay, L. (Paris)

162  From Hematopoietic Stem Cells to Megakaryocytes and Platelets
Favier, R. (Villejuif/Paris); Vainchenker, W. (Villejuif); Raslova, H. (Villejuif)

Molecular Immunohematology

178  The Bloodgen Project of the European Union
Avent, N.D. (Bristol)

189  Genotyping of Red Blood Cell, Granulocyte and Platelet Antigens: Current Applications in the German-Speaking Countries
Flegel, W.A. (Ulm); Wagner, F.F. (Springe)

199  Molecular Methods in Immunohematology: Use of the PCR-SSP Technique
Prager, M. (Lich)

209  Fetal Blood Group Genotyping
Seltsam, A. (Hanover)

Platelet-Pathogen Interactions

219  Innate Immunity of Platelets: Specific Interactions with Viruses
Flaujac, C. (Boulogne/Paris); Boukour, S. (Paris); Cramer Bordé, E. (Boulogne/Paris)

234  Bacterial Contamination of Platelet Components: Prevalence and Measures to Prevent Transfusion-Transmitted Bacterial Infection
Corash, L. (Concord)

248  Clinical Experience with Pathogen Inactivation of Platelet Components for Transfusion Support

Diagnosis and Management of Bleeding Disorders

264  Acute Bleeding Complications: Pathophysiology, Diagnosis and Management
Spannagl, M. (Munich)
274 Challenges in Life-Threatening Hemorrhages: The Acquired Hemophilia
Stockschläder, M.; Scharf, R.E. (Düsseldorf)

288 The Unrecognized von Willebrand Disease: A Frequent Cause of Bleeding Complications
Schneppenheim, R.; Budde, U. (Hamburg)

296 Acquired Platelet Function Defects: An Underestimated but Frequent Cause of Bleeding Complications in Clinical Practice
Scharf, R.E. (Düsseldorf)

Genetic Research and Challenges in Thrombophilia

317 Past, Presence, and Future of Genetics in Thrombophilia
Reitsma, P.H. (Leiden)

326 Thrombophilia and Vascular Complications in Pregnancy
Gerhardt, A.; Scharf, R.E. (Düsseldorf)

344 Prevention and Therapy of Pregnancy-Associated Thromboembolic Events
Pabinger, I. (Vienna)

Novel Cellular Therapeutics

352 The Potential Role of Natural Killer Cells in the Treatment of Malignant Disease
Handgretinger, R.; Pfeiffer, M.; Teltschik, H.-M.; Feuchtinger, T.; Mueller, I.; Lang, P. (Tübingen)

363 Current and Future Use of Dendritic Cells for Tolerance Induction
Hackstein, H. (Giessen)

373 Adult and Embryonic Stem Cell Therapy
Hescheler, J.; Spitkovsky, D. (Cologne)

Hemostasis-Navigated Hemotherapy

385 Hemostasis-Navigated Hemotherapy: Diagnosis, Management, and Monitoring of Patients with Active Bleeding
Pötzsch, B. (Bonn); Scharf, R.E. (Düsseldorf)

Demographic Changes and Blood Supply

394 The Impact of Demographic Changes on Transfusion Demand and Blood Supply: Need for Systematic Blood Donor Research

403 Author Index
405 Subject Index
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‘Having Light We Pass It On To Others’

Plato, ‘The Republic’, 328a
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