

ECAT Information: 11th ECAT Participants' Meeting

On 7 – 9 November 2018 the 11th ECAT Participants' Meeting was held in Leiden, The Netherlands. The first session on Wednesday began with one course and a satellite symposium. Twenty-one participants took part in the course, 'Quality assurance of the total testing process', given by Dr. Gijzen, Prof. Tsiamirtzis and Dr. Meijer. In the morning the Quality Assurance requirements as detailed by ISO 15189 regarding the pre-examination phase, the examination phase, reagents and equipment and the post-examination phase were discussed in a stepwise manner. In addition, a start was made on the subject of method and equipment validation. Verification and validation of examination procedures and verification and validation of equipment were discussed and followed up in the afternoon. The final session discussed error detection by internal and external quality control.

In the afternoon a satellite symposium on the laboratory measurement of extended half-life factor VIII and FIX was held. An international panel discussed all the different kinds of aspects related to this topic. With more than 100 participants present this was a very successful symposium.

On Thursday and Friday the 11th ECAT symposium was held, in which a total of 260 participants took part. A variety of different topics were discussed, such as haemophilia, factor XIII, coagulation and cancer, antiphospholipid syndrome, Rotem/TEG, platelet function testing, DOACS and quality control issues.

A highlight of the meeting was the Haverkate Lecture, this time given by Professor Kluft from the Netherlands, and entitled: 'A paradigm shift in measuring blood coagulation'.

Dr Piet Meijer gave a lecture entitled "New developments within ECAT" where he presented future developments in the ECAT EQA programme.



The ECAT Foundation is proud to have organised its 11th Participants' Meeting. The ECAT organisation is also delighted that they had the chance to celebrate their upcoming 25th anniversary during this symposium; it was a great success. If you are interested in the presentations given at this symposium, most of the lectures and abstracts are available in the special information part of the ECAT Education section on the ECAT website,

<http://www.ecat.nl/ecat-education/education/meeting>.

