

ECAT Information: 12th ECAT Symposium

A very successful 12th ECAT Symposium was held on 15 – 16 September 2022 in the Corpus Congress Center, Leiden, The Netherlands, attended by 225 participants. Various different topics were discussed, such as COVID 19 and the role of the haemostasis laboratory, HIT and VITT, haemophilia and gene therapy, low von Willebrand Factor and the diagnostic threshold, thrombogenomics, D-Dimer, Lupus Anticoagulant, Phospholipid antibody testing, guidance for Factor VIII and IX inhibitor testing, biological variation in haemostasis, new developments in antithrombin testing, and the lot-to-lot variation of reagents.

There was an important contribution by Professor Cobbaert about the impact of the new In Vitro Diagnostic Directive (IVDR). We learned from this presentation that the IVDR could have a major impact on the availability of reagents in the future, and also has an impact on the use of lab-developed tests. Dr. Douxfils gave an example of how to set up a proper validation study for a new method.

A highlight of the meeting was the Haverkate Lecture, this time given by Professor Gary Moore, London, United Kingdom, entitled: 'When haemostasis assays mislead'. This outstanding lecture was very well received by the audience and scored a 9.2.

Another highlight was the discussion between a physician (Dr. Coppens, Amsterdam, The Netherlands) and a laboratory scientist (Dr. Kitchen, Sheffield, United Kingdom) on communication between the laboratory and the physician.



Prof. Tsiarmytzis from Athens, Greece gave a very informative lecture on the use of the bivariate Z-score analysis currently applied in ECAT survey reports. His presentation was for many of the audience a real eye-opener on how to interpret bivariate Z-score plots.

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

If you are interested in the presentations given at this symposium, most of the lectures and abstracts are available under special information in the ECAT Education section on the ECAT website, <https://www.ecat.nl/ecat-education/education-login/>. Video recordings of the lectures given on Thursday are also available. Unfortunately, due to a technical error, there are no recordings of the Friday lectures.