

HOLIDAY INN LUCKNOW AIRPORT, AN IHG HOTEL, UTTAR PRADESH, INDIA

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LABORATORY REPORTING,
BENCH TO BEDSIDE PG-6

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MESSAGE



Secretary,
Indian Society of
Haematology and
Blood Transfusion

A major step towards advancing and improving healthcare in India

Dear Delegates,

THOSE who have already arrived in Lucknow for Haematocon 2025 must have already experienced how this conference is a true amalgamation of brilliant and learned minds. Yet, it is with immense pleasure that I, on behalf of the Indian Society of Haematology and Blood Transfusion (ISHBT), welcome you to Haematocon 2025—the 66th Annual Conference of ISHBT, being held at Hotel Holiday Inn, from November 6th to 9th, 2025.

Our conference theme, 'Innovations in Hematology: Shaping the Future of Diagnosis and Treatment,' reflects our commitment to advancing the discipline and improving healthcare outcomes.

The exciting programme lined up, featuring keynote addresses, scientific talks, panel discussions, workshops, and oral or poster presentations creates an unique opportunity to acquire knowledge on evolving science of hematology.

Our distinguished international and national faculty will be sharing their expertise, offering valuable insights and opportunities for meaningful networking. The International Joint Symposia with the American Society of Hematology (ASH) and the European Hematology Association (EHA) will open up new avenues to adopt the most advanced diagnostic and therapeutic approaches for hematological disorders in this part of the world.

Beyond these academic sessions, stimulating lectures, best paper presentations, and awards will recognize and encourage excellence in hematology. A highlight of this year's conference will be the National Hematology Quiz 2025, featuring post-graduate and post-doctoral students from across five zones of India. These teams have already demonstrated remarkable knowledge and passion for the subject, and we eagerly await their spirited competition in the national finals.

I once again extend my heartfelt gratitude to the organizing team whose tireless efforts have made this conference possible. Their dedication has shaped Haematocon 2025 into not just an academic gathering but a celebration of ideas, collaboration, and camaraderie.

I warmly welcome all delegates to Haematocon 2025, and I look forward to an inspiring and enriching exchange of knowledge and experiences with each one of you.

Showcasing our strides and excellence in hematology

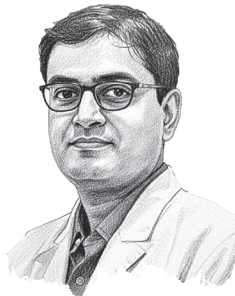
CO-ORGANIZING SECRETARIES



DR RASHMI KUSHWAHA



DR NAMRATA P AWASTHI



DR ANSHUL GUPTA

Co organising secretaries

IT gives us immense pleasure to extend a warm welcome to all delegates, speakers, and participants of Haematocon-2025, the annual flagship conference of the Indian Society of Haematology and Blood Transfusion (ISHBT). This year's conference represents yet another landmark in our collective pursuit of excellence in hematology and transfusion medicine.

Haematocon-2025 brings together around 25 international faculties and over 250 eminent national experts, offering an unparalleled academic experience that bridges global perspectives with India's growing clinical and research strengths. The conference serves as a dynamic platform for interaction between faculties and students, encouraging open dialogue, collaboration, and exchange of experiences across disciplines and generations.

As Co-Organising Secretaries, our focus has been on ensuring seamless coordination between scientific, academic, and logistic activities. From conceptualisation to execution, our teams have worked tirelessly to design

a comprehensive scientific programme that combines state-of-the-art plenary sessions, focused symposia, interactive workshops, case-based discussions and didactic lectures covering the latest advances in hematology, hemato-oncology, coagulation disorders, molecular diagnostics, and transfusion medicine.

One of the core strengths of this conference lies in its emphasis on mentorship and experience sharing. We believe that direct interaction with senior academicians and international experts will inspire young hematologists to explore research frontiers and contribute meaningfully to patient-centred innovations.

We take this opportunity to express our deepest gratitude to the patrons, Organising Chairperson, Organising Secretary, the ISHBT Executive Committee, all faculty members, sponsors, volunteers, and delegates whose commitment and cooperation have made Haematocon-2025 a grand success.

We sincerely hope that this conference enriches your knowledge, broadens your perspectives, and strengthens professional bonds within the ever-expanding hematology fraternity.

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The key message is clear — every clinical encounter offers an opportunity not only to treat pain, but also to reduce the pain of stigma. Moving forward, the focus will shift from measurement to impact — translating stigma insights into improved care, community empowerment, and equitable health policies.

At present the JSTH Obstetric DIC score is the most sensitive and practical tool for early diagnosis of DIC



BONE MARROW ASPIRATION & BIOPSY

THE Haematocon 2025 featured a focused workshop on "Bone Marrow Aspiration and Biopsy: A Comprehensive Approach," held at the Department of Pathology, King George's Medical University on 6th November. The workshop was coordinated by Prof Tejinder Singh and Prof Mili Jain, eminent experts in the field. Faculty members included Prof Priya Murthy from Sparsh Hospital Bengaluru, Prof Perna Arora from Maulana Azad Medical College New Delhi and Prof Neha Singh from AIIMS Rishikesh. The workshop comprehensively covered the techniques of marrow examination along with practical discussions and detailing of spectrum of erythroid, lymphoproliferative, myeloproliferative, metastatic and plasma cell disorders. Benign entities including infections, phagocytic disorders, marrow failure, osteopathies and role of immunohistochemistry in bone marrow were also eloquently detailed. Nearly 35 participants took part in the workshop.



FLOW CYTOMETRY

Workshop on 'Flow Cytometry: Immunophenotyping of Acute and Chronic Lymphoproliferative Disorders' was successfully organised to enhance participants' knowledge and technical proficiency in the use of flow cytometry for hematolymphoid malignancies. Dr Geeta Yadav, Dr Khaliqur Rahman, Dr Shilpi More, Dr Sujata Rai Chaudhari conducted the session which included live case demonstrations. The experts demonstrated the immunophenotyping of acute leukemia and chronic lymphoproliferative disorders (CLPD), integrating clinical, morphological, and immunophenotypic findings in an interactive and instructive format. Dr Nupur Das deliberated on the clinical applications of flow cytometry, highlighting its expanding role in disease monitoring, minimal residual disease (MRD) detection, and guiding targeted therapy. Among others Mr Hirendra was present. The workshop provided an excellent platform for learning, discussion, and skill enhancement in the field of diagnostic hematopathology.



ADVANCED CYTOGENETICS

THE Haematocon 2025 Advanced Cytogenetics Workshop at King George's Medical University marked an important milestone in the regional haematology community, gathering preminent clinicians, scientists, and diagnostic experts to explore novel breakthroughs and practical approaches in cytogenetic diagnostics. Under the coordination of Dr Nitu Nigam and Dr Vimala Venkatesh. The day-long program featured a focused agenda on 'Innovations in Haematology: Shaping the Future of Diagnosis and Treatment', specifically highlighting advanced karyotyping and FISH techniques. Distinguished faculty such as Dr Dhanlaxmi L Shetty, Dr Mayur Parihar, and Lt Col Dr Barun Kumar Chakrabarty led foundational lectures and practical demonstrations. Participants benefitted from hands-on sessions covering every stage of the cytogenetic workflow—cell preparation, probe selection, DNA denaturation, fluorescence microscopy, and result interpretation, all tailored to provide attendees with actionable expertise.

Workshops



HEMOGLOBINOPATHY DIAGNOSIS

THE workshop on 'Hemoglobinopathy Diagnosis' at Department of Dr Ram Manohar Lohia Institute of Medical Sciences, Lucknow, coordinated by the Joint Organizing Secretary of Haematocon 2025 Prof Namrata P Awasthi brought together distinguished faculty and enthusiastic participants from across the country. Hemoglobinopathy workshop provided insights on clinical and lab approach to diagnosis of Hemoglobin disorders and hands-on exposure to diagnostic modalities, including HPLC and molecular techniques, led by experts Dr Nita Radhakrishnan, Dr Mrinalini Kotru, Dr Ruchi Gupta, Dr Prashant Sharma and Dr Khushnooma Italia. The workshop was aimed to create a focused learning platform bringing together expert faculty, practicing pathologists and students to understand the diagnostic nuances related to Hemoglobinopathies.



AI IN HEMATOLOGY

A workshop on AI in Hematology was held at King George's Medical University during Haematocon-2025. Hematology is one of the most data-rich and visually intensive branches of laboratory medicine. From peripheral smear morphology and bone marrow histology to flow cytometry and genomic profiling, each diagnostic step generates complex, multidimensional data. The emergence of artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) provides an unprecedented opportunity to automate, integrate, and interpret these diverse data sources, bridging morphology, cytogenetics, and molecular analytics into cohesive decision-support systems. Early narrative and systematic reviews have outlined AI's transformative potential in hematology, encompassing both clinical prediction and laboratory diagnostics. In hematology, machine learning (ML) algorithms such as support vector machines, random forests, and gradient boosting models have been applied to large structured datasets, while deep learning (DL) techniques, including convolutional and recurrent neural networks, are employed.



DIAGNOSIS OF BLEEDING DISORDERS

A workshop on 'Diagnosis of Bleeding disorders', was conducted at Department of Pathology, King George's Medical University on 6th November. This workshop was moderated by expert national faculty Dr Suresh Chandran Nair from CMC Vellore, Dr Rashmi Kushwaha King George's Medical University, and Dr Dinesh Chandra, Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences. Around 20 participants from across India participated in this workshop. This workshop aimed to strengthen the diagnostic acumen of young hematologists, pathologists, and laboratory professionals in evaluating patients presenting with bleeding manifestations an area that continues to pose significant clinical and laboratory challenges. Participants gained practical exposure to tests such as Prothrombin Time (PT), Activated Partial Thromboplastin Time (APTT), mixing studies, factor assays and inhibitor screen. Emphasis was placed on case-based learning and interpretation of real-world data to bridge the gap between lab and clinical decision-making.



LYMPHOMA WORKSHOP

THE Lymphoma workshop conducted by the Department of Pathology Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Institute of Medical Sciences (RMLIMS) live case discussions and expert sessions by Brig. (Dr) Tathagata Chatterjee from ESIC-MCH Faridabad, Prof Epuri Sridhar from Tata Memorial Centre, Mumbai, Prof Pradyumn Singh and Prof Namrata P Awasthi from RMLIMS, Lucknow, highlighting morphological nuances and immune-histochemical interpretation in lymphoma diagnosis on state-of-the-art 22 header microscope. The workshop was attended by 30 participants.

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Treatment of neonates with anemia varies from simple observation and iron or erythropoietin therapy in mild cases to packed redblood cell transfusions (10–20 mL/kg) in severe anemia. Restrictive transfusion strategy is advocated for the management of neonatal anemia, wherein RBC transfusion is performed only when the degree of anemia causes symptoms or compromises oxygen delivery. Preventive strategies, including delayed cord clamping (30–60 seconds) and minimizing iatrogenic blood loss, play an essential role in reducing the incidence of neonatal anemia, especially in vulnerable preterm infants.

Bench to bedside represents a crucial step in ensuring that the knowledge gained from lab to be applied in health practice





With research now advancing toward next-generation CAR-T constructs targeting new antigens like CD7 and incorporating safer, more efficient designs, the therapy's future looks bright. CAR-T has redefined pediatric leukemia care.

Anemia may masquerade as dementia. Etiology is quite different from adults. Multiple myeloma, MDS & unexplained anemias in the elderly are entities that are found more frequently/exclusively in elderly



MESSAGE



Renewing the shared spirit that binds the fraternity

Haematocon 2025 is much more than a congregation of experts attending workshops or lectures by stalwarts, it is a satsang of the wise and the learned, an opportunity to exchange ideas, build collaborations, and renew the shared spirit of discovery that binds the medical fraternity.

Hematology today stands at an exciting crossroads. On the clinical side, targeted therapies and personalized medicine are transforming the landscape, leading to remarkable reductions in mortality and morbidity. On the laboratory front, precision diagnostic tools are helping hematopathologists make faster, more accurate diagnoses, directly translating into better patient outcomes.

The conference venue—Hotel Holiday Inn, nestled away from the hum and bustle of the city—offers the ideal setting for reflection, collaboration, and camaraderie. The gentle pink weather of November in Lucknow adds its own charm, making this not just an academic meeting but a memorable human experience. Team Haematocon has worked tirelessly to ensure that every delegate feels at home and that the faculty enjoys a comfortable and enriching stay.

On behalf of the Organising Team, I warmly welcome you to the “City of Nawabs”—a city known for its tehzeeb, mehmaan nawazi, timeless history, culture, and delectable Awadhi cuisine. May Haematocon 2025 inspire learning, spark collaborations, and foster friendships that last a lifetime.

HEMATOLOGICAL diseases—benign (like anemia, sickle cell disease, and thalassemia) and malignant (including leukemias, lymphomas, and myeloma)—pose major health challenges in India, creating a heavy socioeconomic burden. Rapid progress in diagnosis, stem cell transplantation, and cellular therapy has transformed the field, compelling hematologists to constantly upgrade their skills and adapt to evolving standards of care.

Each year, nearly 100 new hematologists qualify, reflecting the fast expansion of hematology departments, laboratories, bone marrow transplant units, and cellular therapy centers across the country. This growth significantly broadened the role of the Indian Society of Hematology and Blood Transfusion (ISHBT).

The concept of an Indian College of Haematology (ICH)—as the academic wing of ISHBT—was first proposed during the 3rd Global Congress on Sickle Cell Disease in Bhubaneswar (2017) and formally approved at Haematocon 2019, Delhi. ICH was envisioned as a national platform to advance education, training, and research in hematology, while promoting equitable healthcare access across India.

ICH is committed to: (a) Standardizing hema-



ISHBT: The torchbearer of excellence

FOUNDED five decades ago by pioneers committed to promoting excellence in patient care, research, and education in clinical and laboratory haematology as well as transfusion medicine, the Indian Society of Haematology and Blood Transfusion (ISHBT) has been a torchbearer in advancing the science and practice of haematology in India.

Over the years, haematology has undergone a remarkable transformation. The field has expanded to include genetic medicine, molecular biology, and immunology, deepening our understanding of blood disorders. Treatments, once limited and generalized, are now becoming precise, targeted, and technology-driven. Stem cell transplantation, CAR-T cell therapy, gene therapy, and gene editing are no longer distant possibilities but accessible realities for many patients.

ISHBT has not only helped build institutions of excellence but also taken knowledge to every corner of the country. Through conferences, workshops, updates, and symposia, the society has ensured that doctors from both big and small urban centres remain abreast of the latest advances. Its collaborations with the American and European Societies of Haematology have opened



President ISHBT

tology education and training. (b) Establishing evidence-based diagnostic and treatment protocols. (c) Promoting research, innovation, and academic collaboration. (d) Advising national bodies such as NMC and NBE on postgraduate education. (e) Developing national disease databases to guide policy and patient care. (f) Framing Indian-context guidelines, consensus documents, and study groups.

ICH has prepared disease-specific national guidelines on Sickle Cell Disease, Anemia, and Thalassemia, widely appreciated by professionals and policymakers. The ICH–Indian College of Physicians Manual of Hematological Malignancies was released at APICON 2023, Delhi.

Guidelines on Hemophilia, Aplastic Anemia, Myeloid Leukemias, ITP, and Stem Cell Transplantation/CAR-T Therapy are underway. ICH has also partnered with professional bodies such as API and FOGSI, hosting joint academic sessions at major conferences. A new milestone—the Asian Joint Session during Haematocon 2025—marks the beginning of regional cooperation in hematology.

Through teamwork and vision, ICH continues to shape the academic and clinical landscape of hematology in India.

Long Live ICH!

doors for global exchange of research and ideas.

The Indian College of Haematology, the academic arm of ISHBT, continues to guide policy, frame treatment guidelines, and support promising researchers through fellowships. The Indian Journal of Haematology and Blood Transfusion further nurtures scientific aspirations at home and abroad. Yet, challenges remain. Haematology services are still concentrated in metro cities, and there is a shortage of trained specialists in smaller towns and medical colleges. Infrastructure for blood banks and advanced treatments remains uneven. Recognising this, ISHBT is determined to take haematology beyond the urban centres—to build capacity, standardise knowledge, and make care accessible across India.

Our roadmap includes continuing established academic activities, expanding outreach to smaller cities, creating teaching modules for medical students, completing treatment guidelines, and setting up a central library accessible to all members.

I thank you sincerely for entrusting me with this responsibility. Together, we can make ISHBT an even more vibrant, democratic, and inclusive organisation, one that carries the light of haematology to every corner of our country.



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