

## PRESS RELEASE

# EAHAD 2016 congress, more successful than ever

**Malmö, Sweden – 15 February 2016** – Malmö, Sweden, a city that has fostered some of the most important developments in research on inherited bleeding disorders, and haemophilia in particular, was again at the centre of activity last week when 1,666 health professionals and stakeholders from across Europe and beyond met for the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Congress of the European Association for Haemophilia and Allied Disorders (EAHAD).

The three-day scientific meeting was held from 3-5 February in the newly constructed Congress Malmö Live. Congress President, Jan Astermark, MD, PhD, opened the first plenary session welcoming a record-number of delegates to the region of Skåne and reflecting on the important contributions that have been made to bleeding disorders care through the work of well-known local physicians and researchers inspired by Dr Inga Marie Nilsson.

Through the years, the annual EAHAD congress has maintained its unique format of having a single track of plenary lectures with the intention of giving different medical specialists, industry representatives, and patient advocates the opportunity to receive the same information and exchange views and perspectives on the most pressing issues in the treatment and management of haemophilia and other rare bleeding disorders.

This year's programme reflected the diversity and complexity of the coagulation field with sessions on immunological aspects of haemophilia, treatment approaches in limited resource settings, the management of other bleeding disorders, comorbidities in haemophilia, and innovative options for the future treatment of and a potential cure for haemophilia.

The programme also highlighted the increasingly multidisciplinary composition of EAHAD with a successful multidisciplinary educational session focusing on interactive case presentations discussed by a panel of experts that included a nurse, a physiotherapist, and a psychologist. A lunch session for nurses and physiotherapists and two early morning case discussions on severe joint bleed management and laboratory issues attracted unexpectedly large audiences.

The meeting concluded with the much-anticipated hot topic session addressing the risk of inhibitor development when using plasma-derived versus recombinant clotting factor VIII by grappling with the conflicting updated results of the most recent studies (SIPPET, Rodin, France Coag). The panel discussion revealed that the impact these studies will have on the treatment approach is still unclear and the debate is far from closed.

The congress also marked a change in leadership at EAHAD with Professor Cedric Hermans, head of the Haemostasis and Thrombosis Unit at the Clinique Universitaires St Luc in Brussels, Belgium taking over the two-year presidency from Professor Philippe de Moerloose, from Geneva, Switzerland. Professor Michael Makris of the Sheffield Haemophilia and Thrombosis Centre was elected Vice-President of the organisation. In closing the meeting, Professor Hermans warmly thanked the speakers, attendees, and sponsors for their active contribution to and support for an exceptional congress. He also emphasized the increasing role that EAHAD is playing both within and outside Europe for all health professionals and stakeholders involved in haemophilia care.



## **About EAHAD:**

The European Association for Haemophilia and Allied Disorders (EAHAD) is a multidisciplinary association of healthcare professionals who provide care for individuals with haemophilia and other bleeding disorders. Its members include haematologists, internists, paediatricians, nurses, physiotherapists, laboratory scientists, and researchers from across Europe.

Since its establishment in 2007, EAHAD has worked to improve the situation of people living with haemophilia and other bleeding disorders. For more information, visit: [www.eahad.org](http://www.eahad.org).

The 10<sup>th</sup> annual EAHAD congress will be held in Paris from 1-3 February 2017 under the presidency of Dr Roseline d'Oiron.

For further details, please contact:

Aislin Ryan, EAHAD Managing Director, +32 487 43 7070, [aislin.ryan@eahad.org](mailto:aislin.ryan@eahad.org)

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