

Preface

The 40th Annual Meeting of the International Society on Oxygen Transport to Tissue (ISOTT) was held on August 19–24, 2012, at the Novotel hotel in Bruges, Belgium. The historic city of Bruges, called “The Venice of the North,” provided an ideal venue to combine an outstanding scientific program with ample opportunities to visit this medieval environment and appreciate the beauty of its architecture, the charm of its channels and boat tours while tasting one of the many famous Belgian beers.

Sabine Van Huffel, President of ISOTT 2012, organized the meeting cochaired by Gunnar Naulaers. One hundred participants, of which 28 were PhD students and 63 principal investigators or postdoctoral researchers, attended the meeting.

The meeting included 11 invited lectures, consisting of nine keynotes, one memorial lecture for Mamoru Tamura presented by Eiji Takahashi, and one Kovach lecture delivered by Peter Vaupel. The oral presentations were organized around seven topics related with oxygen transport to tissue. These topics were as follows: clinical applications, muscle oxygenation, cancer, measurement technologies, oxygen transport modeling and near-infrared spectroscopy (NIRS), cell metabolism, and brain oxygenation. Each topic was presented by one or two invited speakers and a series of contributed talks. In total, there were 59 contributed oral presentations and 29 poster presentations.

This year’s annual meeting comprised a special Ph.D. student program consisting of three specific Ph.D. treats:

1. A poster flash presentation by promising local Ph.D. talents (six posters) on Monday
2. A Meet-the-Experts lunch on Tuesday, during which PhD students met ISOTT experts from the scientific committee
3. Finally, on Thursday, ISOTT’s Presidents’ Panel Discussion, held by past, present, and future ISOTT presidents, addressing questions related with oxygen transport to tissue

Social events included a welcome walking dinner reception on Sunday night. On Monday, there was a guided tour at the City Hall of Bruges followed by a Belgian

beer discovery and, finally, dinner at the romantic Maximiliaan Van Oostenrijk restaurant. The highlight of ISOTT 2012 was certainly the gala dinner held at Bruges Concert Hall on Thursday, the day of the award ceremony, along with a dance party.

The annual meetings bring together scientists from various fields (physiology, mathematics, biomedicine, biology, chemistry, physics, engineering, etc.) in a unique international forum. Traditionally, ISOTT conferences are a place where an atmosphere of interaction is created, where many questions are asked after each presentation, and where lively discussions occur at a high scientific level. This vivid interaction is the main motivation for members to participate and gain new ideas and knowledge in the broad field of oxygen transport to tissue. The social events offer ample opportunities to network and form friendships, making each meeting a real success.

The society was deeply saddened to learn recently of the death of David Maguire, a longtime member and former president of ISOTT. A tribute to his life and scientific contributions will be paid during the 2013 ISOTT meeting and will be included in the next volume of *Oxygen Transport to Tissue*.

Leuven, Belgium

Sabine Van Huffel, Ph.D.
President ISOTT 2012

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