

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

12th October 2016

Thrombosis Ireland Supporting World Thrombosis Day

-Move to tackle cause of three big killers-

Dublin, Ireland, 12th October 2016 — Thrombosis Ireland announced today that it has partnered with the International Society on Thrombosis and Haemostasis (ISTH) to support World Thrombosis Day (WTD). Thrombosis Ireland will host a day of awareness, on World Thrombosis Day, October 13th, for patients, the public and staff at St. James's Hospital.

Thrombosis is the underlying cause of the world's top three cardiovascular killers: heart attack, stroke and venous thromboembolism (VTE). VTE is a life-threatening but preventable condition that affects millions of people worldwide. At least, 544,000 people will die from deadly blood clots in Europe alone this year. That is more than will die from AIDS, Breast Cancer, Prostrate Cancer and Motor Vehicle Accidents combined.

Dr. Barry White, Consultant Haematologist and Director of the National Centre for Coagulation Disorders, St James's Hospital, welcomes the development of Thrombosis Ireland which arose out of a patient panel recently held at St. James's Hospital.

"Healthcare works best when patients are informed and play a central role in design and evaluation of services. In our experience patient organisations are the primary vehicle by which this can be achieved", commented Dr. White.

Observed on 13 October, World Thrombosis Day (WTD) is an annual event led by the International Society on Thrombosis and Haemostasis (ISTH) and carried out by hundreds of organisations worldwide. The focus for WTD 2016 is VTE and increased risk due to hospitalisation. Up to 60 percent of all VTEs occur during or after hospitalisation and VTE is the leading preventable cause of hospital death.¹

A new Patient Support and Information Leaflet will be distributed to all Anticoagulation Clinics in both Private and Public Hospitals Nationwide.

Thrombosis Ireland founding member and Thrombosis Patient, Ann Marie O'Neill, remarked: *"We would like every person in Ireland to be aware of Thrombosis and know their risk and not to be afraid to ask for a risk assessment, to know the signs and symptoms of a blood clot and encourage them to take immediate action if they experience symptoms by contacting their Doctor. This awareness could save their lives"*.

For more information on Thrombosis Ireland, go to Thrombosis Ireland.ie or see Facebook. To learn more about WTD events taking place around the world, visit www.WorldThrombosisDay.org.

Ends

About Thrombosis Ireland

Thrombosis Ireland has been set up by patients to represent the interests of people with Thrombophilia (an increased tendency to form blood clots) because of Arterial Fibrillation, Artificial Heart Valve, Deep Vein Thrombosis (DVT), Pulmonary Embolism (PE), Venous Thromboembolism (VTE), Factor V Leiden and other forms of Genetic Clotting Disorders. We intend to provide support and information to patients and advocate with health service, statutory agencies and Government to ensure the provision of optimal care for our members.

About World Thrombosis Day

Launched in 2014 and held annually on 13 October, World Thrombosis Day (WTD) aims to increase public, healthcare professional and health care systems' awareness of thrombosis and, ultimately, to reduce deaths and disabilities from thromboembolic disease through a greater awareness of its causes, risk factors, signs and symptoms, and evidence-based prevention and treatment. Visit www.worldthrombosisday.org for more information.

About the ISTH

Founded in 1969, the International Society on Thrombosis and Haemostasis (ISTH) is the leading worldwide not-for-profit organisation dedicated to advancing the understanding, prevention, diagnosis and treatment of thrombotic and bleeding disorders. The ISTH is an international membership organisation with nearly 4,000 clinicians, researchers and educators working together to improve the lives of patients in more than 90 countries. Visit ISTH online at www.isth.org.

Notes for Editors

- **1 in 4 people die from causes related to blood clots.**
- **1-3 cardiovascular killers are linked to blood clots.**
- **The number one cause of preventable death in hospitals is VTE.**
- **60% of all VTE cases occur during or within 90 days following hospitalisation.**
- **Every year, there are approximately 10 million cases of VTE worldwide.**
- **In Europe, there are 544,000 VTE-related deaths every year.**
- **In addition to disease burden, VTE can cause significant global economic burden.**
- **Multiple diagnostic tests and treatments, prolonged hospital stay, follow up care-including recurrent VTE can be extremely costly. By focusing on VTE prevention, healthcare systems can save money, improve outcomes and, ultimately, save lives.**

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