



## Welcome to Canada! A message from the Congress Co-Chairs

*Dear colleagues,*

It gives us great pleasure to invite you to the 37th World Congress of the International Society of Hematology, to be hosted by the Canadian Hematology Society in Vancouver, British Columbia on Canada's magnificent west coast, from September 13 to 16, 2018.



Since the first ISH World Congress, held in Buffalo, New York in 1948 (attended by representatives of 21 countries), the ISH World Congress has earned a reputation among practitioners, researchers and academics as a very highly-regarded forum for new information, treatment guidelines, interactions and exchange of ideas between leading researchers and practitioners in the field of hematology around the globe.



Aside from plenary sessions and topic symposia, a hallmark of the ISH World Congress is the interactive sessions that include presentations on cutting-edge development in basic research and the latest advances in clinical management by world-renowned scientists and practitioners from all parts of the world.

As the Canadian Hematology Society (CHS) welcomes our international colleagues to Canada for this important congress, we hope to follow in the successful footsteps of the most recent congresses held in Glasgow, Scotland, in 2016 and in Beijing, China in 2014. In the year 2000, the CHS hosted the very successful 28<sup>th</sup> ISH World Congress in Toronto; and we are delighted to have been granted the opportunity, once again, to hold the 37<sup>th</sup> World Congress in 2018 in Vancouver.



We have developed robust committees to ensure a successful event:

- Our international program committee, populated by outstanding physicians, has begun consulting and is



working diligently to bring interesting, relevant and up-to-date scientific sessions to the Congress program.

- Our local organizing committee began the preliminary planning early in 2015, and launched our global public promotional campaign at the Glasgow World Congress in April, 2016.

The congress venue, the award-winning Vancouver Convention Centre is set on the downtown Vancouver waterfront - one of the most beautiful vistas in the world! It is within easy access to one of the best airports in North America, the Vancouver International Airport, which has convenient connections and a great many non-stop flights to major cities around the world.



It is little wonder that Vancouver is recognized around the world as a must-visit destination. It features spectacular scenery, a mild climate and friendly people. It is home to a world-leading arts and culture scene, diverse neighbourhoods, fabulous cuisine and one of the most multicultural populations in North America.

We are sure that you will have an amazing experience exploring the beautiful, modern and safe city of Vancouver - enjoying the local culture in all aspects including the rich history of the indigenous peoples, the great many first-class hotels, the outstanding facilities and the very fine dining.

Also, before or after the meeting, we urge you to take the opportunity to travel and see some of the magnificent scenery of British Columbia.

Spend some time in Whistler, home of the 2010 Olympics and a beautiful town in the majestic mountains, or take a short-hop plane from the Vancouver Harbour and go to Tofino on nearby Vancouver Island and kayak with the whales.

The inland passageway offers an amazing opportunity to take a several day boat ride north to Alaska during which you will see remarkable images of the Great North. Our tours are planned for your enjoyment and escape to the unique and wonderful Canadian North. Hope you will join us then!

We extend to all of you a most enthusiastic welcome to the pertinent scientific sessions of the 37th World Congress of the International Society of Hematology together with the Canadian Hematology Society, where the latest research will be presented. We encourage you to maximize on





this important opportunity to network with colleagues from around the world and to enjoy the pre and post congress events. We invite you to experience our warm Canadian hospitality in the vibrant city of Vancouver!

Please join us and colleagues from around the world, to be part of this significant global gathering focused on the progress of hematology research and practice to improve the health of people around the world.

*Dr. Gail Rock*  
Chair, Organizing Committee

*Dr. Tom Nevill*  
Chair, Scientific  
Program Committee