ISTH 2026 Paris

Key Scientific Highlights from the Hemostasis Community

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The 34th ISTH Congress in Paris demonstrated that innovation in thrombosis and hemostasis continues at an exceptional pace. The meeting attracted more than 6,000 participants from over 100 countries and featured more than 3,000 scientific abstracts, reflecting the breadth and vitality of the field.

Several themes consistently emerged across oral presentations, posters, SSC sessions, and industry discussions.

1. Hemophilia Care Has Entered the Non-Factor Era

Non-factor therapies, including Mim8, NXT007, emicizumab-related approaches, and oral FVIII mimetics, were a dominant theme. These agents are simplifying care, but they also create new challenges for assay selection, monitoring, and perioperative management.

2. The Next Generation of Anticoagulants is Coming

Emerging anticoagulants, particularly FXI/FXIa inhibitors, continue to attract attention for their potential to reduce bleeding risk while maintaining efficacy. However, optimal monitoring strategies remain unresolved.

Other candidates, including dual thrombin/FXa inhibitors, FIXa inhibitors, and FXII inhibitors such as REGN9533, may reshape future coagulation testing algorithms.

Several posters also addressed mitigation of anticoagulant interference in lupus anticoagulant and coagulation assays through charcoal-based and antibody-based neutralization methods.

3. HIT Research is Accelerating

HIT and VITT remained active areas of innovation, with new approaches to platelet activation testing, biomarker discovery, and improved diagnostic workflows.

4. Von Willebrand Disease Remains a Major Focus

VWD featured prominently, with advances in molecular characterization and genotyping helping explain complex or discordant clinical presentations.

Sessions also linked VWF abnormalities to angiogenesis and vascular biology, broadening understanding of bleeding phenotypes beyond traditional coagulation pathways.

5. Platelets Are Expanding Beyond Traditional Hemostasis

Platelets were increasingly presented as immune and signaling cells involved in thrombosis, inflammation, oncology, cardiovascular disease, and infection—not only clot formation.

New diagnostic technologies included cryopreserved platelet systems, phenotyping tools, microfluidics, and whole-blood assays that better approximate in vivo blood-flow conditions.

6. Point-of-Care and Microfluidic Technologies Continue to Mature

Microfluidic systems, chip-based thrombosis assays, portable thrombin generation tools, and compact multiplex immunoassays reflected a clear move toward decentralized coagulation testing.

These platforms aim to bring sophisticated testing closer to patients while maintaining specialized-laboratory performance.

7. Artificial Intelligence Has Arrived, But Mostly Behind the Scenes

AI and machine learning were highly visible, mainly in data interpretation, predictive modeling, and clinical decision support rather than stand-alone diagnostics.

Their prominence signals growing expectations that computational tools will influence specialty coagulation diagnostics, risk prediction, and treatment monitoring.

8. Genetics and Precision Medicine Continue Their Expansion

Genomics is increasingly informing diagnosis, disease classification, treatment selection, and long-term management across bleeding, thrombotic, and rare coagulation disorders.

Bottom Line

ISTH 2026 showed that hemostasis is moving toward more sophisticated therapies and more integrated diagnostics. As non-factor hemophilia treatments, emerging anticoagulants, HIT diagnostics, point-of-care technologies, genomics, and AI continue to evolve, laboratory medicine will remain central to accurate monitoring, interpretation, and patient care.