



## **Global Thrombosis and Haemostasis Community Come Together Calling for Urgent World Health Organization (WHO) Action on COVID-19 Related Blood Clots**

As you may have seen in previous press reports, emerging research has shown that **patients who are hospitalized with COVID-19 have a high risk of forming disabling or deadly blood clots** (otherwise known as venous thromboembolism or VTE).

We would like to call your attention to a Consensus Statement from over 70 clinical representative organizations in the hematology and patient safety field, alerting the international community to this risk, **and calling upon the WHO to save lives by supporting a system-wide approach to VTE management on a global scale.**

VTE is a condition in which a blood clot forms most often in the deep veins of the leg, groin or arm (known as deep vein thrombosis, DVT) and travels in the circulation, lodging in the lungs (known as pulmonary embolism, PE). Together, DVT and PE are known as VTE - a dangerous, potentially deadly, medical condition. Hospital-associated VTE (describes VTE occurring in hospital and 90 days post discharge) accounts for 60% of all VTE.

To reduce harm from COVID-19 associated VTE, the International Society on Thrombosis and Hemostasis has issued a Consensus Statement on COVID-19 and VTE, together with 70 national and international clinical representative organizations. Included among the signatories is the Belgian Society on Thrombosis and Haemostasis organization (<https://www.bsth.be/>). **The Statement calls upon the World Health Organization to endorse and share the application of a system-wide approach to VTE management** on a global scale, as part of the international COVID-19 response.

*« Our mission is to be actors of advancing health care in thrombosis and hemostasis. »*

Please find the full Consensus Statement attached for your information. We would be more than happy to arrange an interview with Cécile Oury, PhD, President of the Belgian Society on Thrombosis and Hemostasis, or answer any further questions you may have.