**Barry Firkin Oration: The future of oral anticoagulant therapy**

Prof John Eikelboom

Despite remarkable advances in anticoagulant therapy over the past 3 decades, unmet needs remain. Currently available anticoagulants produce variable anticoagulant effects, the newer agents are unsuitable for patients with advanced kidney disease, and they are all associated with a significant risk of bleeding. New approaches that target the contact pathway of coagulation (e.g., factor XIa, XIIa) or upstream drivers of coagulation activation (e.g., inflammation, NETS, CHIP) have the potential to improve safety and ease of use, and further expand the use of anticoagulants to prevent morbidity and mortality due to thromboembolism.