3rd International Symposium and Advanced Postgraduate Course in CHRONIC GRAFT-VERSUS-HOST DISEASE: CLINICAL PRACTICE AND RESEARCH

Zagreb, Croatia
September 19 - 21, 2016
Dear friends and colleagues,

It is our great pleasure to invite you to the 3rd International Symposium and Advanced Postgraduate Course in Chronic Graft-versus-Host Disease to be held in Zagreb, Croatia, September 19-21, 2016.

Approximately 50% of patients after allogeneic hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (alloHSCT) will develop chronic graft-versus-host disease (cGVHD), which can last for many years causing severe medical, social and quality of life problems. However, more than ever before, the tools are at our hands to address cGVHD conclusively and improve outcomes of patients after alloHSCT. Such progress in a relatively rare and complex disease can be achieved only by the assertive interdisciplinary and multicenter international collaboration.

Chronic GVHD has been much better characterized using the National Institutes of Health Consensus classification developed in 2005, prospectively validated and further refined in 2014. However, not a single agent has yet been approved for cGVHD prevention or treatment. The current standard front-line steroid therapy has a 50% failure rate with significant toxicity, and there are no standards for salvage therapy options. The focus now is on the further in-depth study of cGVHD biology, developing and validating new biomarkers and pursuing clinical trials of emerging new agents. To break off from the 30-year-old suboptimal treatment paradigms, the goal should be that each cGVHD patient is either treated in a clinical trial or documented within a registry capturing essential clinical data.

This advanced postgraduate course brings together prominent experts in the field of cGVHD from Europe, United States of America, and Canada. The goal is to systematically cover the basic principles of diagnosis, organs specific and systemic therapy and supportive care of cGVHD. The special focus is given to the aspect of clinical trials development and design with the goal to empower the participants to take part in and develop such studies in their own institutions. The target audience are physicians who are engaged in management and advancing care of alloHSCT patients. Ample time will be dedicated to discussions and therefore the number of participants will be limited in order to allow the best educational and interactive experience. The expectation is for this meeting to create a critical mass of investigators and colleagues who will carry this field in the near future.

There is a registration fee and the course is accredited by the University of Zagreb School of Medicine. The receptions, meals, coffee and beverages during the meeting will be provided.

It is with delight that we invite you to attend and be part of this unique advanced continuing education experience.

With warm regards and looking forward to seeing you in Zagreb,

Professor Steven Pavletic, Bethesda, USA
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Phone: +001 301 402 4899

and

Professor Damir Nemet, Zagreb, Croatia
damir.nemet@mef.hr
Phone: +385 1 2388 644
Schedule/Topics:

**Monday, September 19th evening**
Welcome dinner, introductions and course overview

**Tuesday, September 20th**
1. **Basic principles**
   - History of cGVHD
   - Biology of cGVHD
   - Incidence, trends and risk factors
2. **Clinical diagnosis and management**
   - Diagnosis and staging
   - Histopathology
   - Front line systemic therapy
   - Salvage systemic therapy
   - New and emerging treatments for cGVHD
   - Prevention of cGVHD
3. **Organ specific manifestations and treatments**
   - Cutaneous manifestations
   - Oral cGVHD
   - Ocular cGVHD
   - Genital cGVHD
   - Lung cGVHD
   - Neurological manifestations
   - Rehabilitation medicine role
   - Infections in cGVHD
   - Other manifestations of cGVHD
   - Psychosocial issues and HRQOL in cGVHD

**Wednesday, September 21st**
4. **Clinical trials and drug development**
   - Issues in the design of cGVHD clinical trials
   - Translating from mouse to man - what we know
   - Biomarkers in cGVHD
   - Evaluating therapeutic response in cGVHD by NIH criteria
   - Study design - observational cohort studies
   - Study design - early and late therapy trials
   - Logistical and regulatory challenges in conducting studies in cGVHD
   - Discussion of the submitted trial concepts - ideas
5. **General principles and putting it all together**
   - Pediatric aspects of cGVHD
   - Role of different conditioning regimens, stem cell sources, GVHD prophylaxis and relapse
   - Late effects and cGVHD - what is what?
   - Models of cGVHD care delivery, role of patient advocacy and education
   - Farewell dinner and networking

International Faculty and Lecturers

Basak Grzegorz W. (Warsaw, Poland)
Duarte Rafael F. (Madrid, Spain)
Gooley Ted A. (Seattle, USA)
Greinix Hildegard (Graz, Austria)
Halter Jörg (Basel, Switzerland)
Knobler Robert (Vienna, Austria)
Lee Stephanie (Seattle, USA)
Mohy Mohamad (Paris, France)
Olivieri Attilio (Ancona, Italy)
Pavletic Steven Z. (Bethesda, MD, USA)
Schoemans Helene (Leuven, Belgium)
Schultz Kirk R. (Vancouver, Canada)
Wolff Daniel (Regensburg, Germany)

Local Scientific Committee and Speakers

Batinić Drago (immunology)
Bilić Ernest (pediatrics)
Bilić Ervina (neurology)
Bojanić Ines (transfusion medicine)
Desnica Lana (hematology)
Duraković Nadira (hematology)
Ilić Ivana (pathology)
Klepac Pulanić Tajana (gynecology)
Ljubas Keleć Dina (nutritionist)
Mravak-Stipetić Marinka (dental medicine)
Nemet Damir (hematology)
Perić Zinaida (hematology)
Petriček Igor (ophthalmology)
Pulanić Dražen (hematology)
Serventi-Seiwerth Ranka (hematology)
Vrhovac Radovan (hematology)
Vukić Tamara (physical and rehabilitation medicine)
Zadro Renata (medical biochemistry and laboratory medicine)
Symposium and Course Information

Meeting Venue:
Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Illyrian Hall, Opatička 18, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia
Date: September 19 - 21, 2016

Organizers:
University Hospital Center Zagreb, School of Medicine, University of Zagreb, Croatia
National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland, USA
Croatian Cooperative Group for Hematological Diseases (CROHEM), Zagreb, Croatia

Course directors:
Steven Z. Pavletic, Stephanie Lee, Hildegard Greinix, Dražen Pulanić, Damir Nemet

Official language: English

Registration fee

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<th>Early - payment received by 02 July 2016</th>
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<td>Medical students, Residents, Postgraduates</td>
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On-line registration and further information available at: https://eventyco.com/e/12179

Abstract submission
Participants are invited to submit an abstract for poster presentation during the meeting. All posters will be presented as printed posters on boards (width 95 cm, height 130 cm). Abstracts will be reviewed by the Scientific Committee. Abstracts should be written in English and sent to the following e-mail address: symposium.krohem@gmail.com
Abstracts have to be structured (with 5 headings: Background, Aims, Methods, Results, and Conclusion), with not more than 4000 characters (including spaces and punctuation), and with title of not more than 250 characters (including spaces). Please indicate author and co-author's first and last name, institution, city and country. Abstracts will not be edited – language accuracy is the responsibility of the author. Lecturers are invited to submit extended abstract of their presentations. Accepted abstracts will be published in the Abstract Book of the symposium.
Deadline for abstract submission is August 15th, 2016.

INFORMATION, ORGANIZATION OF TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATION PLEASE CONTACT TECHNICAL ORGANIZER:
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