

### INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND



Nurses Non Frontiers and EBMT NG Global Committee in collaboration with Childhood Cancer International and Yangon Children's Hospital organised the first training course for HSCT nurses in Yangon, Myanmar in December 2017.

Myanmar is a lower-middle-income country in Southeast Asia, with a diverse cultural and socioeconomic background and variable communication and transport obstacles. Up until 2012, childhood cancer management was particularly challenging, with a scarcity of human resources, quality improvement initiatives, and limited treatment outcomes. There have been only 2 centers for childhood cancer treatment in Myanmar: Yangon Children's Hospital and Mandalay Children's Hospital (Hnin, T.M., *et al.* 2017).



### OBJECTIVES



The National Cancer Control Plan launched The National Childhood Cancer Action Plan for 2017-2021 that includes the increase of committed and trained health care providers. Several workforce training has been ongoing with international conferences, and on-site continuing education lectures from international visitors.

The EBMT NG Global Committee contributed with this training in the field of Haematology and Haematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation, to improve knowledge and skills for adult HSCT, and settle first learnings for paediatric HSCT as at the moment this programme has not been established.



### METHODS

A questionnaire in order to assess nurses education, patient assessment knowledge and learning preference, was distributed months before the meeting.

Training course was held in two days:

- First day, December 8<sup>th</sup>, with front lesson presentations - focused on evidence based quality of care in BM transplant, on principles of conditioning, nutrition control, BMT complications management such as, Mucositis, GvHD, Haemorrhagic Cystitis and Infection control and risk.
- The second day, December 9<sup>th</sup>, a practical course on central venous devices management was held by Mauro Pittiruti, particularly focused on peripherally inserted central lines (PICCs), with large participation of doctors from different hospitals across the country.

We also visited Yangon Children's Hospital, paediatric ward, laboratory and blood bank.

Program	
Training course for HSCT nurses - draft	
December 8 <sup>th</sup> - 9 <sup>th</sup> 2017	
Location: Myanmar, Yangon	
8 <sup>th</sup> December 2017 - Theoretical Presentation	
08:00 - 08:30	Welcome and introduction. Local authorities
08:30 - 09:00	Michelle Kenyon (UK)
09:00 - 09:30	Transplants, Principles of Conditioning & Cell infusion
09:30 - 10:00	Aleksandra Babic (Switzerland)
10:00 - 10:30	PICC Mobilization and Apheresis
10:30 - 11:00	Julia Ruiz (Spain)
11:00 - 11:30	Nurses care of immunosuppressed BMT patients (adult and children)
11:30 - 12:00	Infection risks: Hygiene, isolation & hand washing
12:00 - 12:30	Infection and infection control
12:30 - 13:00	Break
13:00 - 13:30	Eugenia Trigoso (Spain)
13:30 - 14:00	Nutrition control in children & Low bacterial diet
14:00 - 14:30	Alberto Castagna (Italy)
14:30 - 15:00	Early and acute HSCT complications and nurses care in children and adult
15:00 - 15:30	Mucositis & Oral Care
15:30 - 16:00	Management and control of events/nausea and diarrhea & Neutropenia and fever
16:00 - 16:30	Transfusion support
16:30 - 17:00	Julia Ruiz (Spain)
17:00 - 17:30	Nursing management of Graft Versus Host Disease (GVHD)
17:30 - 18:00	Break
18:00 - 18:30	Eugenia Trigoso (Spain)
18:30 - 19:00	Nursing Management of Haemorrhagic Cystitis
19:00 - 19:30	Michelle Kenyon (UK)
19:30 - 20:00	Nursing Management of Hepatic Veno-occlusive disease (VOD)
20:00 - 20:30	Break
20:30 - 21:00	Michelle Kenyon (UK)
21:00 - 21:30	Quality of life post BMT
21:30 - 22:00	Eugenia Trigoso (Spain)
22:00 - 22:30	Reflections on the day
22:30 - 23:00	End of day 1
9 <sup>th</sup> December 2017 - Practical course in hospital or outpatient	
09:00 - 11:00	MAURO PITIRUTI (Italy)
11:00 - 12:00	PICC - Peripherally inserted central line- practical course and CVC management
12:00 - 12:30	Discussion - PICC positioning/flushing, dressing
12:30 - 13:00	Discussion on venous tool
13:00 - 13:30	Break
13:30 - 14:00	Discussion on venous tool
14:00 - 14:30	Break
14:30 - 15:00	Hospital visit
15:00 - 15:30	Hospital visit
15:30 - 16:00	End of training



### RESULTS

Over a hundred nurses together with some physicians, attended from Yangon Children's Hospital, Mandalay Children's Hospital, and satellites centers, and they were extremely interested, especially on BMT complications.

Most nurses are Diploma and Bachelor's degree, Master's degree course is available, but nurses don't have the opportunity to attend it currently.

Our educational course was a stepping stone, indicating to local nurses JACIE oriented direction on how to implement their learning priorities in the future.



### CONCLUSION



The future plans within the National Childhood Cancer Action Plan, are to continue and strengthen the workforce and promote effective definitive treatment and supportive care.

Workforce continuing education has been established based on online continuing education with international hospital partners. EBMT NG Global Committee is looking forward to collaborate and establish an online continuing education focused on HSCT issues. For that reason we look forward to continue our collaboration with a second step, an advanced training course focused on management of adult and paediatric patients undergoing BMT, using the new technologies possibilities such as on-line follow up, courses.



### REFERENCES

Hnin, T.M., *et al.* (2017). National capacity-building initiatives for childhood hematologic malignancies in Myanmar. *Blood advances*. Global capacity-building showcase, 1 (1) 52-55. DOI:10.1182/bloodadvances.2017.GS102480.