

Haemoglobinopathies Working Party Annual Meeting

Regensburg, Germany | 16-18 September 2026



Haemoglobinopathies
HWP

WORD OF WELCOME

On behalf of the EBMT, we are pleased to invite you to the educational meeting of the Haemoglobinopathy Working Party (HWP) of the EBMT, which will take place in Regensburg, Germany, from Wednesday, 16 September to Friday, 18 September 2026. Now in its 8th edition, this meeting has become a well-established and highly valued event in the field of haemoglobinopathies.

The meeting will cover a broad range of topics addressing key aspects of sickle cell disease and thalassaemia, including pathophysiology, diagnosis, and treatment. Its highly interactive format—featuring roundtable discussions and ample opportunity for lively debate—encourages dynamic exchange, particularly benefiting young investigators through direct interaction with leading experts.

The three-day programme will include two keynote lectures, alongside plenary sessions and focused discussions on curative approaches, including alternative transplantation strategies and gene editing, as well as other emerging topics in the field.

The meeting will also host the HWP business meeting, during which proposals will be discussed and future studies planned. Overall, the programme is designed to foster collaboration and knowledge sharing through a combination of scientific sessions, interactive exchanges, and networking opportunities.

In line with the scientific scope of the Working Party and the educational objectives of the course, participants will have numerous opportunities to engage with experts during both formal sessions and social events. The welcoming atmosphere and strong sense of community—established since the first meeting in Regensburg in 2013—continue to make this a truly unique experience.

This stimulating scientific programme will bring together world-leading experts who are actively advancing our understanding of haemoglobinopathies.

Emanuele Angelucci - *Haemoglobinopathies Working Party Chair*

Josu de la Fuente - *Haemoglobinopathies Working Party Secretary*

Sandrine Bremathas - *Haemoglobinopathies Working Party Nurse Representative*

Donatella Baronciani - *Educational Taskforce Representative*

Selim Corbacioglu - *Local organiser*

For further information, please get in contact with scientificprogramme@ebmt.org

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Wednesday, 16 September 2026

14:00 - 14:15	Welcome & Introduction	Emanuele Angelucci (IT) Josu de la Fuente (UK) Selim Corbacioglu (DE)
14:15 - 15:30	Session I: The Hematopoietic Microcosm in Haemoglobinopathies Chairs: <i>Donatella Baronciani (IT) & Josu de la Fuente (UK)</i>	
14:15 - 14:35	Iron and inflammation are two sides of the same coin	Sarita Rani Jaiswal (IN)
14:35 - 14:55	Senescence targeting therapies can improve hematopoietic stem cell function during sickle cell disease	Shannon McKinney-Freeman (US)
14:55 - 15:15	The bone disease in haemoglobinopathies	Andrea Giusti (IT)
15:15 - 15:30	Round Table Discussion	All
15:30 - 16:30	Session II: From Pathophysiology to Clinical Presentation and Social Impact Chairs: <i>Sarita Rani Jaiswal (IN) & Donatella Baronciani (IT)</i>	
15:30 - 15:50	Transfusion-dependent thalassemia	Lucia de Franceschi (IT)
15:50 - 16:10	Non-transfusion-dependent thalassemia	Ali Taher (LB)
16:10 - 16:30	Round Table Discussion	
16:30 - 17:00	Coffee Break	
17:00 - 18:40	Session III: Update in Gene Therapy Chairs: <i>Mohsen Al Zahrani (SA) & Selim Corbacioglu (DE)</i>	
17:00 - 17:20	Conditioning regimen for hematopoietic cell transplant in transfusion dependent thalassemia: Recommendations from the EBMT practice harmonisation and guidelines committee	Mohammed Essa (SA) Lukas Jeker (CH)
17:20 - 17:40	The chemo-free conditionings in haemoglobinopathies	Selami Demirci (US)
17:40 - 18:00	Advances in hematopoietic stem cell gene editing and conditioning for sickle cell disease	Toni Cathomen (DE)
18:00 - 18:20	Turning CRISPR Into therapies: precision, pitfalls, and clinical Impact	Hans-Peter Kiem (US)
18:20 - 18:40	Toward in vivo gene therapy for hemoglobinopathies	

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Thursday, 17 September 2026

08:00 - 09:00	Session IV: Curative Therapy in Haemoglobinopathies Part I: Alternative Donor Transplantation Chairs: Akshay Sharma (US) & Sonali Chaudhury (US)	
08:00 - 08:15	Alternative transplantation in TDT: PTCY	Suradej Hongeng (TH)
08:15 - 08:30	Alternative transplantation in thalassemia: aβ T-Haplo	Sunil Bhat (IN)
08:30 - 08:45	Alternative transplantation in SCD: PTCY	Josu de la Fuente (UK)
08:45 - 09:00	Alternative transplantation in SCD: aβ T-Haplo	Selim Corbacioglu (DE)
09:00 - 10:00	Session V: Curative Therapy in Haemoglobinopathies Part II: Real World Data Gene Therapy Chairs: Hemalatha Rangarajan (US) & Selami Demirci (US)	
09:00 - 09:20	GT Real World: Saudi Arabia	Mohsen Al Zahrani (SA)
09:20 - 09:40	GT Real World experience: <i>what have we learnt?</i>	Sonali Chaudhury (US)
09:40 - 10:00	GT Real World data on TDT	Janet L. Kwiatkowski (US)
10:00 - 10:30	Coffee Break	
10:30 - 12:00	Session VI: Transplantation Hot Topics Chairs: Janet L. Kwiatkowski (US) & Toni Cathomen (DE)	
10:30 - 10:45	Mobilization and collection of HSC: New strategies and agents (Motixafortide)	Akshay Sharma (US)
10:45 - 11:00	Novel strategies to minimize graft failure	Hemalatha Rangarajan (US)
11:00 - 11:15	Conditioning: Are there ways to improve safety?	Jaap Jan Boelens (US)
11:15 - 11:30	Is there still a role for CB in Hemoglobinopathies	Eliane Gluckman (FR)
11:30 - 12:00	Round Table Discussion: <i>Curative therapies in Hemoglobinopathies</i>	All
12:00 - 12:30	Lunch Break	
12:30 - 13:15	Industry Symposium Slot kindly sponsored by Vertex: "Considering the optimal window for transplant and gene therapy in haemoglobinopathies" Chair: Josu de la Fuente (UK)	
12:30 - 12:35	Welcome and introduction	Josu de la Fuente (UK)
12:35 - 12:40	Why timing matters: Age as a key driver of transplant outcomes	Josu de la Fuente (UK)
12:40 - 12:55	The transplant journey: Age-tailored considerations in practice	Jaap-Jan Boelens (US)
12:55 - 13:15	Interactive panel discussion and Q&A, followed by close	All
13:15 - 14:00	Session VII: Is it time for a practice change in 2026? Chairs: Lucia de Franceschi (IT) & Selim Corbacioglu (DE)	
13:15 - 13:30	Overview: Integrating conventional care, transplantation & gene therapy (SCD)	Josu de la Fuente (UK)
13:30 - 13:45	Overview: Integrating conventional care, transplantation & gene therapy (TDT)	Emanuele Angelucci (IT)
13:45 - 14:00	Discussion	
14:00 - 14:30	Coffee Break	

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14:30 - 15:10

Round Table Discussion

Sunil Bhat (IN)

Emanuele Angelucci (IT)

Josu de la Fuente (UK)

Suradej Hongeng (TH)

Janet L. Kwiatkowski (US)

Selim Corbacioglu (DE)

Sonali Chaudhury (US)

Mohsen Al Zahrani (SA)

15:15 - 15:45

Keynote Lecture

Chair: Erfan Nur (NL)

Reducing intensity in conditioning for allogeneic transplantation in haemoglobinopathies: challenges and successes

Greg Guilcher (CA)

16:00 - 17:00

Poster Session

Take advantage of the networking opportunities during the coffee breaks and lunch to explore the poster exhibition, meet the presenters, and exchange ideas and insights during the poster session.

POSTER 01 | JASPREET GHARIAL (CA)

Knowledge and Attitudes of Pediatricians in Kenya Regarding Stem Cell Transplant for Children with Sickle Cell Disease

POSTER 02 | JASPREET GHARIAL (CA)

Allogeneic Hematopoietic Cell Transplantation for Sickle Cell Disease: Comparison of Costs and Health Care Utilization Across Centers Using Different Conditioning Regimens and Health Financing Frameworks

POSTER 03 | MARIA CARMELA GUERRESE (IT)

Comparison of Erythrocytapheresis in Three Patients with Sickle Cell Disease on a Chronic Regimen: Experience of the SIMT – Perrino Hospital in Brindisi

POSTER 04 | JOSE MANUEL MARCO SANCHEZ (ES)

Real-World Experience with Abatacept and PTCy GVHD Prophylaxis in Stem Cell Transplantation in Hemoglobinopathies: A Single Referral Pediatric Center Report from Spain

POSTER 05 | RESHMI HARIKUMAR PILLAI (IN)

Outcomes of Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation in Transfusion-Dependent β -Thalassemia Patients Aged 7–16 Years: A Single-Center Retrospective Study

POSTER 06 | HARISH SELVARAJ (UK)

Stem Cell Mobilization and Apheresis Outcomes in Patients with Sickle Cell Disease Undergoing Gene Therapy: A Single-Centre Experience

POSTER 07 | MADELEINE SUMNER (CA)

Assessing Patient Eligibility for CRISPR-Cas9 Gene-Editing Therapy for Pediatric Sickle Cell Disease in Canada: A Cross-Sectional Database Review

POSTER 08 | MAHARSHI TRIVEDI (IN)

Long-Term Outcomes of Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation for Transfusion-Dependent Thalassemia: A Single-Center Experience from a Resource-Limited Setting

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Friday, 18 September 2026

08:00 - 09:30	Haemoglobinopathies Working Party Annual Meeting Business Meeting <i>Open to all</i>	
09:30 - 11:10	Session VIII: Developing Countries Chairs: <i>Lawrence Faulkner (IT) & Fabio Giglio (IT)</i>	
09:30 - 09:50	HSCT for SCD in Tanzania	Happiness Igogo (TZ)
09:50 - 10:10	HSCT In the Near East	Miguel Abboud (LB)
10:10 - 10:30	Increasing Access to Transplantation: A DKMS Program for LMIC	Isabel Auer (DE)
10:30 - 10:50	Haploidentical HCT in Brazil	Luiz Guilherme Darrigo (BR)
10:50 - 11:10	Round Table Discussion	All
11:10 - 11:40	Coffee Break	
11:40 - 12:10	Keynote Lecture Chair: <i>Hans-Peter Kiem (US)</i> In vivo gene therapy and mRNA-based medicine - where are we now?	Neva Caliskan (DE)
12:10 - 13:45	Session IX: Focus on Special Issues Chairs: <i>Sunil Bhat (IN) & Miguel Abboud (LB)</i>	
12:10 - 12:30	The role of fibrosis as a biomarker of iron damage	Josu de la Fuente (UK)
12:30 - 12:45	EBMT/EHA guidelines for GT in TDT	Lucia de Franceschi (IT)
12:45 - 13:05	Late graft failure	Valeria Pinto (IT)
13:05 - 13:25	Growth, development and organ monitoring after treatment	Erfan Nur (NL)
13:25 - 13:45	Fertility in HCT and gene therapy: counselling, risk, preservation and outcome	Tamara Diesch-Furlanetto (CH)
13:45 - 14:00	Closing Remarks	Josu de la Fuente (UK) Selim Corbacioglu (DE)



FOR HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS ONLY

VERTEX ORGANISED AND SPONSORED SATELLITE SYMPOSIUM AT THE EBMT
HAEMOGLOBINOPATHIES WORKING PARTY ANNUAL MEETING 2026

Considering the optimal window for transplant and gene therapy in haemoglobinopathies

Thursday 17 September, 2026 | 12:30–13:15 CEST
Plenary Room, Novotel Regensburg Zentrum, Germany



Professor Josu de la Fuente (Chair)
St Mary's Hospital,
Imperial College NHS Healthcare Trust,
London, United Kingdom



Dr Jaap-Jan Boelens
Memorial Sloan Kettering
Cancer Center,
New York, USA

TOPIC	SPEAKER
Welcome and introduction	Professor Josu de la Fuente
Why timing matters: Age as a key driver for transplant outcomes	Professor Josu de la Fuente
The transplant journey: Age-tailored considerations in practice	Dr Jaap-Jan Boelens
Interactive panel discussion and Q&A, followed by close	All faculty panel, moderated by Professor Josu de la Fuente



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and beta thalassemia medical
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