



Imperial College
London

PRESS RELEASE

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PATIENTS AND FAMILIES INVITED TO SPECIAL BONE MARROW TRANSPLANT DAY

Next month will see London host the 39th annual meeting of the European Group for Blood and Marrow Transplantation (EBMT). In association with this we are pleased to announce the 7th annual EBMT Patient and Family Day, for people who have had, or are awaiting, a blood or marrow transplant.

Organised by a team from Imperial College, London, EBMT and the Anthony Nolan, the event has been supported by a number of blood disease charities. The day will give people with blood disorders the chance to meet other patients, talk to medical experts and hear about the latest developments in blood and marrow transplantation. Patients from across Europe will be attending the day.

Taking place at The Mermaid in London on Saturday 6th April, the event will cover topics such as, 'what's new in transplantation', 'treatment of Graft vs Host Disease' and issues like 'life after transplant' and 'fertility and later effects'. Professor Jane Apperley, EBMT 2013 Congress President and Chair of the Centre for Haematology at Imperial College, underlines: "These patient and family topics have become an integral part of the EBMT's activities." She adds: "I want to thank the organising committee for their outstanding work and our sponsors for their generosity. They have made this day possible."

This day comes soon after the announcement by the WMDA (the World Marrow Donor Association) of the 1 millionth transplant worldwide, a testament to the growing success of blood and marrow transplantation as a potential cure for many diseases. Last year alone, UK charity and donor register Anthony Nolan gave 1,000 people the chance of life through unrelated bone marrow matches.

Alejandro Madrigal, EBMT President and Scientific Director at Anthony Nolan, highlights: "The mission of the EBMT is to save the lives of patients with life-threatening diseases blood diseases



by advancing the fields of blood and marrow transplantation and cell therapy worldwide, through science, education and advocacy. We do hope that patients and their families will be able to attend this fantastic day.”

Maria Gilleece, Chair of the EBMT Patient & Family Day and Consultant Haematologist, Leeds Teaching Hospitals, adds: ‘Progressive breakthroughs in blood and marrow transplantation over the last forty years, have led to greater numbers of patients undergoing and surviving treatment. This day will provide patients with a wonderful opportunity to hear about the latest developments in blood and marrow transplantation - whether the transplant is behind them, or ahead of them, they will find this day useful. An international panel of specialists will talk about how volunteers and family donors are chosen, how a transplant is performed and how to get back to a healthy and great quality of life after transplant. We want to inform and empower our patients so that they can work with their transplant teams to achieve the best possible result.’

The day is open to all patients who may need a blood or marrow transplant, and their family members. Patients can register online at www.ebmt.org/pfday2013.

The event will be held at The Mermaid Theatre, Puddle Dock, Blackfriars, London EC4V 3DB. It will run from 09.30am – 6pm and registration costs £10 per person, including lunch. For more information, or to register for the day, patients should visit www.ebmt.org/pfday2013.

Thank to the sponsors below for their generous support:

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Ends



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About Anthony Nolan

Anthony Nolan is a pioneering charity which helps save the lives of people with blood cancer. Every day we use our register to match individuals willing to donate their bone marrow to patients in desperate need of a lifesaving transplant. For more information about our work or to sign up online, please visit www.anthonynolan.org.

About the European Group for Blood and Marrow Transplantation (EBMT)

The EBMT is a non-profit organisation that was established in 1974 to allow scientists and physicians involved in clinical bone marrow transplantation to share their experience and develop co-operative studies. The EBMT aims to promote all aspects associated with the transplantation of haematopoietic stem cells from all donor sources and donor types including basic and clinical research, education, standardisation, quality control and accreditation for transplant procedures. For further information about the EBMT, please visit the website: www.ebmt.org

About the Imperial College

Imperial College, London is a science-based institution with a reputation for excellence in teaching and research that is consistently rated amongst the world's best universities. The Centre for Haematology at the College and the associated clinical department at Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust is internationally renowned for its research and clinical management of patients with blood disorders. They have performed more than 2000 transplants since the first procedure 1977 and have a long-standing commitment to improving transplant outcome through excellence in clinical care, research and education.

Notes to editors

Key messages

- The efforts of the EBMT have resulted in the compilation of the largest transplant registry in the world (450,110 transplants were registered in the EBMT Registry at the end of the year 2012)
- Anthony Nolan uses its register to match potential bone marrow donors to blood cancer patients in desperate need of a bone marrow transplant.
- We need more young men aged 16-30 to sign up, as they account for 80% of bone marrow donations yet make up just 12% of our register.



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- We urgently need people from Black, Asian and other Ethnic Minority backgrounds to sign up, as they are currently under-represented on the register.

Key statistics

- Every 20 minutes someone in the UK is diagnosed with a blood cancer.
- There are around 1700 people in the UK in need of a bone marrow, or blood stem cell, transplant. This is usually their last chance of survival.
- 70% of patients will not find a matching donor from within their families; instead they turn to us to find them an unrelated donor.
- We can only find a suitable donor for around half the people who need a lifesaving bone marrow transplant.
- White Northern Europeans have a 90% chance of finding a bone marrow donor. This falls to just 40% for people from Black, Asian, and Ethnic Minority backgrounds.
- We particularly need young men aged 16-30 to join the register, as they are the most likely to be chosen as donors.
- 90% of donations take place via PBSC (peripheral blood stem cell collection). This is an outpatient appointment and is similar to donating blood.
- To join the register, you must be aged between 16 and 30, weigh more than 8 stone (51kg) and be in general good health.