

PRESS RELEASE

The European Society for Blood and Marrow Transplantation (EBMT) is participating in World Lymphoma Awareness Day (WLAD) to increase awareness of this commonly diagnosed blood cancer

Barcelona, Monday September 15, 2014 – The EBMT takes the opportunity of the Lymphoma awareness day recognised across the globe every year on Sept. 15th to highlight that malignant lymphoma can be cured by stem cell transplantation.

A recent study published in the *Journal of Clinical Oncology** reveals for the first time that advanced-stage cutaneous T cell lymphoma (CTCL) can be cured by allogeneic stem cell transplantation. CTCL is a malignant illness which cannot be eradicated by chemotherapy or other modern cancer treatments. Patients who suffer from this disorder usually die within a few years once it has reached an advanced stage. Allogeneic stem cell transplantation (SCT) is a treatment which relies on transferring immune cells from a healthy donor to a cancer patient. The healthy immune cells expand in their new host and help to fight back his cancer cells. Because advanced CTCL is a very rare malignancy, it needs international cooperation to explore complex treatments such as SCT. Here the European Society for Blood and Marrow Transplantation (EBMT) comes into play. The EBMT is an organization of 4,323 members based in 563 transplant centres in 57 countries worldwide which collect detailed data of all performed SCT procedures. Over the years, more than 120,000 stem cell transplants for lymphoma have been registered with the EBMT, allowing unique scientific studies in all types of lymphoma including very orphan subtypes such as advanced CTCL.

Prof. Peter Dreger from the University of Heidelberg, Chairman of the EBMT Lymphoma Working Party, underlines that: “The work of the EBMT has largely contributed to the development of SCT-based lymphoma therapies which represent the current standard treatment for many types of lymphoma today, and thereby has helped to cure thousands of patients from their cancer.”

*The latest version is at <http://jco.ascopubs.org/cgi/doi/10.1200/JCO.2014.57.5597>

About The EBMT and the Lymphoma Working Party

The EBMT is a non-profit organisation established in 1974 to allow scientists and physicians involved in clinical bone marrow transplantation to share their experience and develop cooperative 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.

The EBMT Lymphoma Working Party (LWP) takes care of scientific and educational activities related to transplantations for lymphoma, which represents the largest single entity in the EBMT with almost 120,000 registered transplantations to date..

The 10th Edition of the EBMT Lymphoma Working Party Educational Event - Treatment of Malignant Lymphoma: State-of-the Art and the Role of Stem Cell Transplantation will take place on the 16-17 October 2014 in Nicosia, Cyprus.

For further information please visit www.ebmt.org

Press contacts:

EBMT

Mélanie Chaboissier

Phone: +34 93 453 8570 – Email : melanie.chaboissier@ebmt.org