

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

10th edition of the EBMT Patients, families and donors Day

Barcelona, 23 March 2016 - The 42nd Annual Meeting of the European Society for Blood and Marrow Transplantation will be held in a few days in the host city of Valencia. In association with this the 10th edition of the Patient, Family and Donor Day that will take place on Saturday the 2nd of April in the Hospital Universitario y Politécnico La Fe. This day is dedicated to people who have had or are awaiting a bone marrow transplant, their relatives, caregivers and donors.

This event has been carefully organised by a team from the Hospital La Fe, the EBMT and patient associations. The programme includes sessions that will cover topics such as: “haematopoietic stem cell transplantation (HSCT): indications and types”; “description of the transplant process”; “nursing care and home care”; “research in transplantation” and issues like: “fertility preservation”; “ethical dilemmas in HSCT”; “social, psychological and educational aspects in transplanted patients”.

Miguel A. Sanz, EBMT 2016 Congress President and Head of the oncology and haematology department of the Hospital La Fe, underlines: “The objective of this forum is to allow all the parties involved in a transplant process to exchange experiences and learn from each other. This is an amazing opportunity to hear about the latest research outcomes in the field of blood and marrow transplantation from a panel of specialists. We do hope that the participants will enjoy this enthralling meeting”.

Historically this Day was meant to target patients and families however for the past two years donor-related topics have been incorporated into the programme and it will continue to be integrated in the coming years. More than 26 million people worldwide are currently listed as potential volunteer marrow donors in hopes of saving the lives of those battling life-threatening blood cancers and diseases. Enric Carreras, Director of the Spanish Bone Marrow Donors Registry (REDMO created by the Josep Carreras Foundation in 1991), will highlight the transplant activity around the world and the hematopoietic stem cell donation.

The day will be concluded with personal experiences of two transplanted patients. One of them is Maarten van der Weijden from the Netherlands who will tell about his amazing story. Maarten is a leukaemia survivor (2001) who went on to winning a gold medal at the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing for marathon swimming in open water.

Eugenia Trigos, Chair of the EBMT Nurses Group Paediatric Committee and Transplant Nurse at the Hospital La Fe explains: “The topics and issues that will be discussed during this special day have become part of the EBMT activities. We are committed to improving the care of patients receiving HSCT and promoting excellence in care through evidence-based practice.” She adds: “We are very much looking forward to this meeting in Valencia”.

For more information about this event, please visit the website:

<http://www.ebmt2016.org/patient-family-and-donor-day.html>

Online registration: http://www.aulafe.com/cas/info_curso/176

The EBMT 2016 Patient, Family and Donor Day is supported by VEA, NestléHealthScience, DKMS, Sanofi Oncology, Josep Carreras Leukemia Foundation, Takeda Oncology

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

The EBMT is a not-for-profit medical and scientific organisation established in 1974. It is dedicated to fighting life-threatening blood cancers and diseases and improving patients' lives. The EBMT Members - more than 4,000 physicians, nurses, scientists and other healthcare professionals - participate in a unique collaborative network of peers involved in haematopoietic stem cell transplantation (HSCT) and cellular therapy research. The membership encompasses at least 600 centres who are performing or are involved in HSCT in more than 60 countries. The EBMT holds a central role in performing co-operative studies and disseminating state-of-the-art knowledge aimed at increasing survival rates and enhancing the quality of life of patients with life-threatening blood cancers and diseases.

For further information about the EBMT, please visit the website: www.ebmt.org and follow us on Twitter: @TheEBMT

Note to editors

Today, the Foundation's Spanish Register of Bone Marrow Donors currently holds over 187,000 categorised bone marrow donors and more than 61,000 units of stored umbilical cord blood. REDMO is connected to the international network and has access to more than 26 million voluntary donors and more than 600,000 units of umbilical cord blood available throughout the world for each search.

More than 7,000 people around the world have been able to have a transplant because of searches that are conducted every day from REDMO.

http://www.fcarreras.org/en/spanish-bone-marrow-donors-registry_4768

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