



## PRESS RELEASE

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Milan, Monday 17th March 2014

# PATIENTS, FAMILIES, DONORS AND PHYSICIANS MEET AT AN INTERNATIONAL MEETING

By the end of this month, the European Society for Blood and Marrow Transplantation (EBMT) is going to host the 8th Patient, Family and Donor Day in the city of Milan (Italy), within the framework of the 40th Annual Meeting of the Society. This recent, but already traditional event aims at reuniting bone marrow transplantation patients and their families with physicians and EBMT members to share their knowledge and experiences, as well as to creating new partnerships among all the actors involved. "We would like to acknowledge the financial and organising support received from pharmaceutical companies as well as from patient associations" says Francesco Onida, chair of the event and faculty member of the Haematology Department of the University of Milan.

This year's edition of the Patient and Family Day adds a new feature, which is the plenary session dedicated to donor associations, international donor registries and donor centres with the scope of formally acknowledging their efforts and sacrifices when passing through the donation process. For this reason, the event will be called the Patient, Family and Donor Day, and it will be part of EBMT's 40th Anniversary celebrations. The plenary session will include a debate with the most important European organisations dealing with hematopoietic stem cell donors such as Anthony Nolan, DKMS, Italian Bone Marrow Donor Registry and Italian Association of Marrow Donors.

Taking place at Università degli Studi di Milano on Saturday 29th of March, this event will cover topics such as 'safety, ethical and legal issues associated with stem cell donation', 'quality of life after transplantation' both from the patient and care giver perspectives, and 'transplant issues in thalassemia' chaired by Guido Lucarelli "a real predecessor of this type of transplant" according to Onida. The Patient, Family and Donor Day will also host the presentation of "Lulla's Journey", a multidisciplinary project lead by Beat Leukemia that explains in a short film the incredible journey of a stem cell from its harvesting to the patient.





The event is open to all donors, patients and their families and the registration can be done in <u>www.ebmt.org/pfdday2014</u> with a cost of  $10 \in$ .

Marco Bregni, President of the 40th EBMT Annual Meeting and head of the department of Oncology at Ospedale di Circolo (Busto Arsizio) says: "The Patient, Family and Donor Day is in line with EBMT mission to save the lives of patients with blood cancers and other life-threatening diseases by advancing the fields of blood and marrow transplantation through science, education and advocacy, as it presents a wide variety of transplant related hot topics to the directly affected by them: donors, patients and their families".

Thanks to the sponsors below for their generous support:

Associazione Italiana contro Leucemie-Linfomi e Mieloma (AIL), Beat Leukemia, Associazione Donatori Midollo Osseo (ADMO), Associazione Malattie del Sagne Onlus, Associazione Laura Coviello Onlus (ALC), Associazione Italian Lotta alla Sclerodermia Onlus (AILS), Associazione Amici de Sabrina Fadini Onlus (ASFO), Associazione Davide Soligo Onlus (ADSO), Associazione Donatrici Italiane Sangue Cordone Ombelicale (ADISCO), Comitato Maria Letizia Verga, Anthony Nolan, DKMS, Osteria Giulio Pane e Ojo, SANOFI, Pierre Fabre, Therakos, Takeda.

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#### About The European Society for Blood and Marrow Transplantation (EBMT)

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.

For further information please visit www.ebmt.org





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