



PRESS RELEASE

The European Society for Blood and Marrow Transplantation is strongly supporting the World Cancer Day and is encouraging its members to sign the World Cancer Declaration

Barcelona, Monday February 2, 2015 – World Cancer Day will be observed on February 4th and the EBMT, the leading scientific organisation in the field of hematopoietic stem cell transplantation and cellular therapy, will take the opportunity of this important date to encourage its more than 4,300 members based in 563 transplant centres in more than 60 countries to sign the World Cancer Declaration.

Hematologic cancers¹, also called blood cancers, are relatively rare cancers that usually begin in blood-forming tissues, such as the bone marrow, or in the cells of the immune system (e.g. the lymph nodes). Examples of hematologic cancers include leukemia, lymphoma, or multiple myeloma. Hematopoietic cancers represent the fifth most commonly occurring cancers and the second leading cause of cancer death.² In 2014, an estimated 52,380 new cases of leukemia were diagnosed, and 24,090 deaths will be attributable to leukemia of all types.³

EBMT believes that many of these deaths can be avoided and is committed to being an active research organisation with the ultimate goal of advancing patient care and achieving cure. Over the time, the EBMT developed the largest worldwide registry on stem cell transplantation with records on more than 400,000 patients and more than 500,000 transplants from all over the world. As such EBMT is widely recognized being a force for progress in the treatment of patients with haematological malignancies and other life-threatening disorders.

The World Cancer Day is an initiative that takes place every year on the 4th of February. It aims to save millions of preventable deaths each year by raising awareness and education about cancer, and pressing governments and individuals across the world to take effective actions against the disease.

The President of the EBMT Professor Mohamad Mohty from the Saint-Antoine Hospital in Paris, France says: "we believe that it's our role to raise awareness among the general public and to encourage individuals and governments to take strong actions against these terrible diseases. This is the reason why the EBMT has asked its 4,300 members worldwide to sign the UICC World Cancer Declaration."

In 2008, UICC developed the World Cancer Declaration as a tool to help bring the growing cancer crisis to the attention of government leaders and health policymakers. The 11 Declaration targets, designed to significantly reduce the global cancer burden by 2020, have served as the basis for UICC recommendations to the World Health Organization (WHO). 531,847 people have signed the Declaration so far. Today, the EBMT is proud to join the global community by encouraging its members to sign in the Declaration.

The EBMT will also use Twitter to be part of the conversation leading up to, and on World Cancer Day, using the hashtags #WorldCancerDay and #NotBeyondUs.

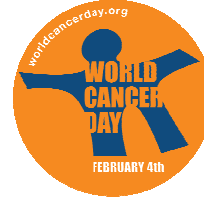
About the European society for Blood and Marrow Transplantation (EBMT)

The EBMT is a non-profit organisation that was established in 1974 in order 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.

¹ National Cancer Institute – Dictionary of Cancer Terms

² Insight Pharma Report

³ <http://www.cancernetwork.com/cancer-management/acute-leukemias>



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For further information about the EBMT, please visit the website: www.ebmt.org and follow us on Twitter: [@TheEBMT](https://twitter.com/TheEBMT)

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