Annual Meeting: EBMT 2012

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Welcoming address

Dear friends,

On behalf of the EBMT and the Swiss Blood Stem Cell Transplantation (SBST) Group, it is our pleasure to invite you to the 38th Annual Meeting of the EBMT, the 28th Meeting of the EBMT Nurses Group, the 11th Meeting of the EBMT Data Management Group, the 4th Meeting of the Quality Management Group and the 6th EBMT Patient & Family Day.

For the first time, we will also invite biologists and technicians working in cell processing laboratories to participate in this meeting and establish a programme of their own. We are therefore adding the 1st Meeting of the Cell Processing Group to the 38th Annual Meeting of the EBMT.

In addition, we will be introducing a special day for paediatric stem cell transplantation on Tuesday 3 April 2012. In order for all, or at least, almost all of the paediatric activities to take place on the same day we have decided to regroup the educational, working party, scientific and poster sessions. We hope that by having this special paediatrics day, we will be able to attract more paediatric hemato-oncologists to the conference.

The EBMT has grown and developed from the working parties which are the backbone of our organization. This is reflected in our objectives to promote excellence in research and in clinical care. As a result, the annual meetings have grown ever more important to ensure and encourage exchange, education and scientific productivity in order to improve upon what has been built over the years.

The Scientific Programme will include educational and scientific sessions covering key issues in stem cell transplantation and we hope that you will find the mix appealing.

The EBMT family has grown bigger and bigger over the years and includes physicians, nurses, data managers, quality managers and now processing laboratory personnel. This shows that the meeting is also an important place for professionals to meet and exchange ideas, a place from which one can return home with more ideas to put into action.

The EBMT family is also about friendship and having fun, over the years many of us have established lasting friendships with colleagues from abroad, highlighting the international and truly European character of our organization.

The Patient and Family Day has become a tradition symbolising the outreach of our organization towards patients and their family and highlights our belief that the educated patient is the best partner in a difficult treatment process such as stem cell transplantation.

Geneva is a truly international city. It was the home of the League of Nations after World War I and many international organizations continue to have their home in Geneva. One of the most important is the WHO. Geneva is located at a beautiful lake, the Alps are just one hour away and the city is known for banking but also a bustling old city with a rich cultural life.

We hope you will enjoy the meeting.

Jakob R Passweg
Congress President

André Tichelli
Scientific Committee Chair

Yves Chalandon
Local Organizing Committee Chair

Véronique Chapuis
Chair Local Nurses Committee
EBMT and JACIE stand for EBMT 2012

Following the success of the well-received, custom-built stand at EBMT 2011, the exercise of creating a bespoke booth will be repeated at EBMT 2012. This time the stand achieves even more prominence and will be the first to confront visitors as they come through the registration area and head for the exhibition space.

With approximately 100 m² of floor space, the design again provides ample room for visitors to consult various information sources, engage the EBMT and JACIE staff and even hold small side-meetings.

This year the revised concept also incorporates a special feature to showcase the recently relaunched EBMT website. EBMT hopes to familiarise members with the structure of the new website and demonstrate its utility. There will also be a presentation area highlighting the EBMT registry, clinical trials and latest activity survey.

For those congress attendees requiring a sit-down area for small impromptu meetings, a demarked area of the stand will again be available on a bookable basis. This area includes a meeting table with eight chairs.

Announcement of the EBMT General Assembly Meeting

Wednesday 4 April, room A.

EBMT members are cordially invited to attend the EBMT General Assembly meeting in Geneva for an update on the Society’s main activities, motion on the new bylaws, the announcement of the 2012 elections results, and the presentation of the poster awards.

Agenda of the meeting:

President’s report - A. Madrigal (London, UK)
Treasurer’s report - Fred Falkenburg (Leiden, NL)
Secretary’s report - A. Sureda (Cambridge, UK)
2012 Elections results - A. Madrigal (London, UK)
Awards - Outgoing Board member A. Madrigal (London, UK)
Nature Publishing Poster Prizes - J. Goldman (London, UK)
Special sessions at EBMT 2012

Statistical course

For the last 4 years the statistical committee of the EBMT has run a statistical course during the EBMT meeting. This year, the course will take place in Geneva on Saturday 31 March between 3 and 6pm, and then on Sunday 1 April between 9am-12pm, and will consist of an interactive course covering the following topics:

- **Basic statistics** – descriptive statistics, comparison of groups (continuous and categorical data), association of variables

- **Survival analysis** – Kaplan-Meier, cumulative incidence, Cox regression

Datasets will be provided, allowing participants to carry out their own analyses using the statistical package SPSS.

Space on the Statistical course is limited to 30 participants; if you would like to attend, please let us know as soon as possible, so that you can be assured of a place.

In order to book a place, please complete [This form](file:///Users/jacobmunch/Documents/EBMT/newsletters/News%20November%202011/programming/november11-sitefolder/Resources/3.%20Annual%20Meeting%20EBMT%202012_Form%20Statistical%20course.doc) and fax it back to 0044 20 3313 8220 or return by email to r.szydlo@imperial.ac.uk. We will reply by email to let you know if you have a confirmed place on the course.

Statistical consultations

Members of the EBMT statistical subcommittee will be available for consultation on any aspects of study design or analysis, on a ‘walk-in’ basis, on Monday 2 April between 9.30-12.00 and 13.00-15.30 and Tuesday 3 April between 9.30 -12.00 am, in office 6.

To make an appointment in advance with the Biostatisticians, please contact Myriam Labopin at: myriam.labopin@upmc.fr

Advanced EBMT training course on European approach to the medical management of mass radiation exposure

Wednesday 4 April
14:00 - 18:00
Room Le Mont-Blanc

- Chairs: Ray Powles (London, UK) and Alejandro Madrigal (London, UK)
- Introduction: Alejandro Madrigal (London, UK)
- Basic irradiation physics for “beginners”: Duncan Cox (London, UK)
- Previous incidents / effects of irradiation: Leif Stenke (Stockholm, SE)
- Scenarios – hidden sources / overt: Duncan Cox (London, UK)
- Primary triage: Tony Bleetman (London, UK)
- Secondary triage METREPOL EBMT Pocket Guide: Ray Powles (London, UK)
- Supportive therapy to neutropenic patients: Graham Jackson (Newcastle-upon-Tyne, UK)
- BMT protocols / BMT triage: Tony Pagliuca (London, UK)
- Multi-organ dysfunction syndrome: Bahwana Sirohi (New Delhi, IN)
- EBMT REMM HPA website familiarisation: Jane Apperley (London, UK)
- Closing remarks: Ray Powles (London, UK)

If you want to register, please send an e-mail to: sharon.gage@srgprojectmanagement.co.uk
Nature Publishing Group

Tuesday 3 April
09:30 - 10:30
Room Le Salève

How to get your paper published?

This session is presented by Nature Publishing Group and Prof. John Goldman, who started the journal Bone Marrow Transplantation in 1986. With a vast array of journals available today to submit your research, this session will help to identify:

- how to pick an appropriate outlet for publication
- how to draft and finalise your manuscript for publication
- how the peer review process works
- key features sought by the Editor and how to interpret their response
- opportunities available to maximise visibility of your research post acceptance

Prizes and Awards at EBMT 2012

Van Bekkum award
Opening Session
18:45-20:15
Sunday 1 April
Room A & B

The Van Bekkum award is the most prestigious EBMT award. It is presented to the lead author of the best abstract submitted to the physician’s programme and is selected by the EBMT Board. The award of 3,000€ is supported by the EBMT.

This year’s winning abstract is:
TCR gene editing results in effective immunotherapy of leukaemia without the development of GvHD.
Elena Provasi, Pietro Genovese, Angelo Lombardo, Zulma Magnani, Lui Pei-qi, Andreas Reik, Victoria Chu, David Paschon, Lei Zhang, Jurgen Kuball, Barbara Camisa, Attilio Bondanza, Giulia Casorati, Maurilio Ponsoni, Fabio Ciceri, Claudio Bordignon, Philip Greenberg, Michael Holmes, Philip Gregory, Luigi Naldini, Chiara Bonini (Milan, IT; Richmond, Seattle, US)

Basic Science award
Presidential Symposium
09:30-11:00
Monday 2 April
Room A & B

This award is presented to the best basic science abstract submitted to the physicians’ programme. It is selected by a Scientific Committee headed by the Chairs of the EBMT Developmental Committee. The aim of the award is to increase the level of basic science at the meeting and to encourage young investigators to submit their work to the EBMT Congress. The award of 2,000€ is generously supported by an educational grant from Genzyme.

This year’s winning abstract is:
Nerve growth factor and collagen 1 prevent apoptosis and maintain durable self-renewal of adult mouse haematopoietic stem cells stimulated with proliferative cytokines.
Stefan Woehrer, David Knapp, Keegan Rowe, Heidi Mader, Michael Copley, Claudia Benz, David Kent, Robert Oostendorp, Connie Eaves (Vienna, AT; Vancouver, CA; Munich, DE)
Jon van Rood award
Immunobiology Working Party Session
11:30-13:00
Monday 2 April
Room C

This important award is given for outstanding contributions in the field of hematopoietic transplantation immunology, immunogenetics, tolerance and graft-vs-leukaemia/tumour effects.

The fourth edition of this award is organised by Prof Hans-Jochem Kolb (Munich, Germany) and the selection is carried out by a distinguished International panel under the supervision of Prof J.J. van Rood himself. Papers published or accepted for publication were evaluated for the 2012 award and the panel was made up of the following experts: D. Charron, H. Einsele, F. Falkenburg, H.J. Kolb, A. Madrigal and A. Velardi.

The award is generously supported by Fresenius Biotech GmbH with an unrestricted educational grant of 10,000€. We are very grateful to the sponsor for supporting the award for the five year period from 2010 to 2014.

The voting for the award is completed and the winner is the paper by Goodyear et al., entitled: Azacitidine augments expansion of regulatory T cells after allogeneic stem cell transplantation in patients with acute myeloid leukemia (Blood 2011).

Jian-Jian Luan award for Lymphoma Transplant Research
Lymphoma Working Party Session
16:00 – 17:30
Tuesday 3 April
Room Le Mont-Blanc

This award is in commemoration of Jian-Jian Luan, who worked as study coordinator for the EBMT Lymphoma Working Party and tragically died due to an alpine hiking accident. The award aims to encourage research leading to improved results of lymphoma treatment through transplantation strategies. Both experimental and clinical work is eligible. The award will be presented to the best abstract submitted under the ‘lymphoma’ topic and selected by a scientific committee headed by the Chairperson of the EBMT Lymphoma Working Party. The award of 1,000€ is generously supported by the EBMT LWP.

This year’s winning abstract is:

CMV-replication after allogeneic stem cell transplantation is associated with a GvHD-independent reduced relapse risk in lymphoma: evidence for a putative virus-versus-lymphoma effect.

Ahmet Elmaagacli, Michael Koldehoff, Dietlinde Janson, Nina Steckel, Monika Lindemann, Markus Ditschkowski, Tanja Gromke, Sandra Christoph, Rudolf Trenschel, Rudolf Stefan Ross, Dietrich Beelen (Essen, DE)

Nature Publishing Poster awards
General Assembly Meeting
07:30-08:30
Wednesday 4 April
Room A

Two awards for the best physician poster presentations (best clinical and best science poster) are sponsored by Nature Publishing Group. They will be presented by John Goldman. Each award is £1,000.

Nurses Group awards and prizes:
The 4th Distinguished Merit Award - Monday 2 April - 10:45 - 16:00.
Best abstracts and best poster