After many years of loyal service, Marie-France Simon is retiring at the end of 2009. Marie-France’s role at the School has always been important. Over the years, she has organized many ESH meetings and coordinated ESH handbooks and newsletters. She has also worked closely with me on many European Commission projects.

Lose a paper: Marie-France will find it for you. Forget something that happened some years back: you can count on Marie-France to pull the evidence out of the records. The energy and commitment I put into each conference was always rewarded by the friendly smiles and little thank you emails sent by participants and faculty members. I am very grateful for the trust you have had in me and for all these signs of friendship and humanity.

In addition to the many scientists and clinicians with whom I had a very privileged relationship, the professional and social levels have created precious memories and established personal links that will remain very dear to me.

Working for ESH, organizing conferences, preparing handbooks, and coordinating EU projects has been a very fulfilling and enjoyable experience. The whole ESH team will miss you as both a wonderful collaborator and a friend.

On behalf of the ESH team,

Didi Jasmin

Marie-France Simon

ESH Meeting Coordinator - Paris, France

extends sincere thanks to its institutional partners

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Alain Juppé, former Prime Minister of France and Mayor of the city of Bordeaux, decorating Dr Brian Druker and Prof. John Goldman

Alain Juppé warmly acknowledged Brian Druker’s essential contribution to the development of imatinib, the tyrosine kinase inhibitor that introduced the era of targeted therapy and revolutionized the clinical management of CML. He also congratulated John Goldman for his major scientific contributions to the elucidation of the molecular underpinnings of the disease and to the translation of new findings into clinical practice.

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Didi Jasmin

On behalf of the ESH team,

Eliane Gluckman, Ghyslaine Lebougault, Céline Caudroit, Nancy Hamilton, Caroline Lamy, Sylvain Le Pen

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effective therapy, and underscored his unique contribution to education in the field of Hematology.

John Goldman has been the senior chairman of ESH conferences on CML since they were created. Initially organized biennially in Italy and then in other European locations, the conferences now take place annually, alternately in Europe and in North America. They have become the most important international scientific event in the field and 450-500 scientists now attend the meeting each year. Brian Druker has been the keynote speaker since they were created. Initially organized biennially in Italy and then in other European locations, the conferences now take place annually, alternately in Europe and in North America. They have become the most important international scientific event in the field and 450-500 scientists now attend the meeting each year. Brian Druker has been the keynote speaker.

Perhaps the most important conclusions drawn by the audience include the following:

- Anaemia is associated with a number of geriatric syndromes including functional dependence, falls, and dementia. In addition, they were intrigued by the pathogenesis of anaemia because of its pertinence to the ageing process which entails progressive, chronic inflammation. Also of interest was the possibility that low androgen levels may be a cause of anaemia in both older men and women.

- It was underscored that the majority of anaemias in older individuals are reversible - caused by iron or cobalamin deficiency or by renal insufficiency.

- The symposium included an excellent overview on myelodysplasia, with information on new drugs that can improve survival and quality of life.

- The geriatrician has primary role as “traffic cop” in this busy cross-road.

The symposium shed light on a number of different avenues along which haematologists and geriatricians can meet. Geriatricians and haematologists have long been aware that the clinical management of older individuals is a team endeavor. The symposium may have far reaching consequences for the clinical and scientific collaboration of geriatricians and haematologists. Geriatricians and haematologists have long been aware that the clinical management of older individuals is a team endeavor.

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Thanks to unrestricted educational grants from and
The EUROCORD-ED partners met in November 2009 to review progress made during the first year of development of the on-line curriculum and to make plans for future development.

The website was launched in January 2009 and today it provides a variety of audio-visual documents and texts on cord blood, as well as links to other relevant organizations and publications.

**UPCOMING EUROCORD-ED CONGRESS:**

The Second World Conference on the Biology and Clinical Applications of Cord Blood Cells will take place in Marseille, France on 4-7 November, 2010. Registration is now open at [www.eurocord-ed.org](http://www.eurocord-ed.org).

**EUROCORD-ED WEBCASTS:**

EUROCORD-ED has also webcasted or placed the powerpoint presentations of the following past conferences. They are freely available to you on EUROCORD-ED: [www.eurocord-ed.org](http://www.eurocord-ed.org).

### 2009

- **Excerpts of the 13th ESH-EBMT Training Course on Haemopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation, May 2009**  
  Chairs: J. Apperley, E. Carreras, E. Gluckman, A. Gratwohl, T. Masszi

- **ESTM Conference on Organisational, Technical and Clinical Aspects of Cord Blood Banking, November 2009**  
  Chairs: A. Iacone, J. Garcia, P. Wernet, T. Bonfini, P. Rebulla

- **Adult Somatic Stem Cells: New perspectives, November 2009**  
  Scientific Committee Chair: E. Gluckman  
  Members: H. E. Broxmeyer, C. McGuckin, J. Suaudeau, A. Vescovi

### 2008

- **Biology and Clinical Applications of Cord Blood Stem Cells, October 2008**  
  Chairs: J. Garcia, E. Gluckman, J. Kurtzberg, E.J. Shpall

**EUROCORD-ED PARTNERS:**

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### 2008

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The meeting benefited from unrestricted educational grants from and [www.esh.org](http://www.esh.org).

**COMMENTS FROM CONFERENCE ATTENDEES:**

“I appreciated the complete coverage of the MDS field and the size of the conference which made for lot of fruitful interaction.”

“Excellent presentations, state of the art lectures and lunch discussion tables, giving a great overview of MDS.”

“I liked most the diagnostic work-up of MDS with the epidemiology and patho-physics sessions.”

“The organization of the conference was perfect and the discussions which followed each lecture were stimulating and really fruitful.”

“I loved the conviviality!”
We are pleased to share the results from MIDIS (MDS Iron-Overload Detection: Insight Survey) – the first European survey among haematologists on the subject of iron toxicity in myelodysplastic syndromes (MDS). 60–80% of patients with MDS will develop symptomatic anaemia during the course of their disease, and 80–90% of these will benefit from red blood cell transfusions to improve their haemoglobin levels. Despite the benefits that patients receive from regular transfusions, those who become dependent on transfusions will develop iron overload, known to cause progressive damage to the heart, liver and endocrine organs if not adequately treated with iron chelation therapy.

MIDIS is a joint initiative by the European School of Haematology, the MDS Foundation and Novartis Oncology, who would like to thank all the physicians who took part in the survey. It was initiated to gain helpful insights into what haematologists across Europe perceive to be the barriers to the optimal detection and management of iron toxicity in patients with MDS. MIDIS will lead to the development of a range of educational initiatives aimed at improving detection and treatment of iron-overloaded patients with MDS.

The 15-minute MIDIS survey, which comprised 33 structured and five open-ended questions, was translated into Dutch, French, German, Italian, Spanish and Swedish. It was initiated at the 2008 annual meeting of the American Society of Hematology, and was promoted through e-mails, letters and flyers distributed at conferences, as well as links via the MDS Foundation and European School of Haematology websites. The survey was completed by 338 physicians – mostly haematologists – from 27 European countries. Together, the respondents were a highly skilled group of physicians; 26% had more than 25 years’ experience of treating patients.

MIDIS demonstrated that the key barriers to treatment for the remaining patients were limited patient life expectancy (<1 year) and older patient age (especially ≥ 85 years). While limited life expectancy is in line with recommendations made by various European guidelines for the treatment of MDS, the guidelines do not recommend an age range for patients who are most likely to benefit from iron chelation therapy. The MIDIS results conveyed that patients aged 75 years or older are less likely to be chelated than younger patients.

The Düsseldorf MDS registry cites the median age of patients at diagnosis of MDS as 72 years. Experts agree that the prognosis and physiological condition of the patient should be assessed rather than the chronological age in terms of treatment selections.