

“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.

Many best wishes to you, Marie-France!

The whole ESH team will miss you as both a wonderful collaborator and a friend. ”

Didi JASMIN

On behalf of the ESH team,

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



“Hello and Good-bye...”

After many years working for ESH, time has now come for me to retire. The many contacts I have had over the past thirteen years, both on 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 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, I would like to thank my colleagues at ESH and all the people that I came into contact with. I will miss our collaboration and your kindness. ”

Marie-France SIMON

ESH Meeting Coordinator - Paris, France



extends sincere thanks to its institutional partners



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ESH website: WWW.ESH.ORG



2010 UPCOMING CONFERENCES

24-27 May, 2010 – Targu Mures, Romania

ESH-EBMT Training Course
BLOOD AND MARROW TRANSPLANTATION
Chairs: J. Apperley, E. Carreras,
E. Gluckman, T. Masszi
Local Organizer: E. Benedek

29 April-2 May, 2010 - Venue to be announced

ESH International Conference
IDIOPATHIC THROMBOCYTOPENIC PURPURA
Chair: D. Provan

24-26 September, 2010 - Washington, DC, USA

ESH-ICMLF 12th International Conference
CHRONIC MYELOID LEUKEMIA - Biological Basis of Therapy
Chairs: J.M. Goldman, J. Cortes, T. Hughes

30 September-3 October, 2010
Albufeira, Portugal

ESH International Conference
MYELOPROLIFERATIVE DISORDERS
Chairs: T. Barbui, A.R. Green, H. Pahl,
R. Skoda, W. Vainchenker

14-18 October, 2010 - Cascais, Portugal

ESH International Conference
MECHANISMS OF CELL DEATH AND DISEASE:
Advances in Therapeutic Intervention and Drug Development
Chairs: T.J. McDonnell, J.A. Hickman, K.M. Debatin

28-30 October, 2010 - Tunis, Tunisia

ESH International Conference
AN UPDATE ON HEMATOLOGICAL MALIGNANCIES,
from bench to bedside
Chairs: P. Fenaux, B. Meddeb, G. Salles

4-7 November, 2010 – Marseille, France

ESH-EUROCORD-NETCORD WORLD CORD BLOOD CONGRESS
President: E. Gluckman
Scientific Committee: W. Arcese, H.E. Broxmeyer,
J. Kurtzberg, F. Locatelli, A. Madrigal, V. Rocha, G. Sanz,
E.J. Shpall, S. Takahashi, J. Wagner
Local Organizer: C. Chabannon



WORKSHOPS

15-18 April, 2010
Cascais, Portugal

INNOVATIVE THERAPIES FOR RED CELL
AND IRON RELATED DISORDERS
Chairs: C. Camaschella, E. Gluckman, Ph. Leboulch,
C. Beaumont, M. Narla, Y. Beuzard

7-9 May, 2010 - Mandelieu, France

T-CELL ACUTE LYMPHOBLASTIC LEUKEMIA (T-ALL)
MEETS NORMAL T-CELL DEVELOPMENT
Chairs: J.P. Meijerink, J. Cools, A.A. Ferrando, J. Soulier

TYPE I HEMATOLOGY TUTORIAL

5-7 November, 2010 - Cascais, Portugal

FOCUS ON ACUTE MALIGNANCIES
Chairs: B. Bain, W. Erber, R. Foà, G. Zini

TYPE II HEMATOLOGY TUTORIALS

5-7 March, 2010 – Beirut, Lebanon

FOCUS ON LEUKEMIAS AND HEMOGLOBINOPATHIES
Chairs: A. Inati, M.D. Cappellini, R. Foà, A. Taher, G. Zini

25-27 June, 2010 - Istanbul, Turkey

FOCUS ON MYELOID MALIGNANCIES
Chairs: M. Arat, R. Foà, G. Zini

The ESH Newsletter is sponsored by



NEWSLETTER

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



International
Chronic Myeloid Leukemia
Foundation

In association with



11th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

CHRONIC MYELOID LEUKEMIA Biological Basis of Therapy

Organizers: J.M. Goldman, J. Cortes, T. Hughes,
T. Holyoake, D. Perrotti, J. Reiffers

Scientific Advisory Committee: A.M. Carella, G.Q. Daley,
C. Gambacorti, F. Guilhot, R. Hehlmann, F.-X. Mahon, J.V. Melo,
G. Saglio, C. Schiffer, P. Valent, R. van Etten

11-13 September, 2009 - Bordeaux, France

The 11th ESH-ICMLF international conference on Chronic Myeloid Leukemia (CML) took place in the beautiful city of Bordeaux, hosted by Professor Josy Reiffers, Deputy Mayor of the city, and Professor François-Xavier Mahon.

For this occasion, former Prime Minister of France and Mayor of the city of Bordeaux, Alain Juppé, presented the Medal of the City to Brian Druker and 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

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 on a number of different occasions.



ESH is proud to contribute to education in the field of CML in association with the International Foundation for Chronic Myeloid Leukemia (ICMLF), newly founded by John Goldman, Jorge Cortes, Brian Druker, Michele Baccarani and Tim Hughes.

Eliane Gluckman,
ESH President

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**ESH SYMPOSIUM AT THE 19th IAGG WORLD CONGRESS
OF GERONTOLOGY AND GERIATRICS**

Chair: **L. Balducci**

Speakers: **L. Balducci, P. Fenaux, B. Penninx**
8 July 2009 - Paris, France



The symposium adopted an interdisciplinary approach to the frequent problem of anaemia in the elderly, bringing together the professional experience of a geriatric oncologist, a haematologist and a geriatrician. This novel, interdisciplinary approach attracted over 200 attendees from all over the world and catalyzed considerable interest within the international community of geriatricians.

The Symposium's topics included the epidemiology of anaemia and ageing (L. Balducci), the functional consequences of anaemia (B. Penninx), and myelodysplasia as a treatable cause of anaemia in the elderly (P. Fenaux).

The audience was interested to learn that 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 of inflammation 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.

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

- Anaemia is not a natural consequence of ageing, at least up to age 95;
- Anaemia is a surging epidemic among older individuals;
- Anaemia, however mild, is associated with death and disability and so should be aggressively investigated;
- Most causes of anaemia in the elderly are reversible or at least treatable;
- Anaemia of aged is a cross-road of multiple different conditions.
The geriatrician has primary role as "traffic cop" in this busy cross-road.

The symposium may have far reaching consequences for the clinical and scientific collaboration of geriatricians and haematologists. Geriatricians and gerontologists have long been aware that the clinical management of older individuals is a team endeavor.

The symposium shed light on a number of different avenues along which haematologists and geriatricians could meet, to improve the health of older individuals and to promote our understanding of ageing.

Dr Lodovico Balducci
Lee Moffitt Cancer Center
Tampa, FL (USA)

Thanks to unrestricted educational grants from



EUROCORD-ED: An on-line curriculum for cord blood biology & clinical applications

www.eurocord-ed.org

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.esh.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

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

International Conference MYELODYSPLASTIC SYNDROMES

Chairs: M. Cazzola, P. Fenaux, E. Hellström-Lindberg
22-25 October, 2009 - Mandelieu, France

In October, an audience of 285 haematologists gathered together on the southern coast of France for the third ESH conference on Myelodysplastic Syndromes.



The scientific programme offered a variety of formats including plenary sessions, case study sessions, debates, poster sessions and a thematic luncheon. The conference was also an excellent opportunity for informal networking with the participants and speakers being lodged and sharing all meals on-site.

Participants came to the meeting from 31 different countries:

Austria, Brazil, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, France, Italy, Ireland, Israel, Germany, Greece, Lebanon, Norway, Oman, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, The Netherlands, Turkey, UK, USA, Venezuela



From left to right: Prof. M. Cazzola (Pavia, Italy), Prof. E. Hellström-Lindberg (Stockholm, Sweden), Prof. P. Fenaux (Paris, France)

The meeting benefited from unrestricted educational grants from  and 

See the conference webcast as of December 15, 2009 : 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-physiology sessions."

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

"I loved the conviviality!"

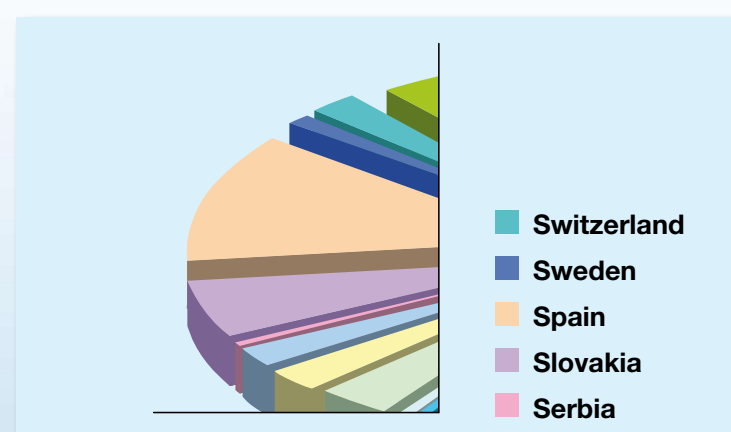
EUROCORD-ED PARTNERS :



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.

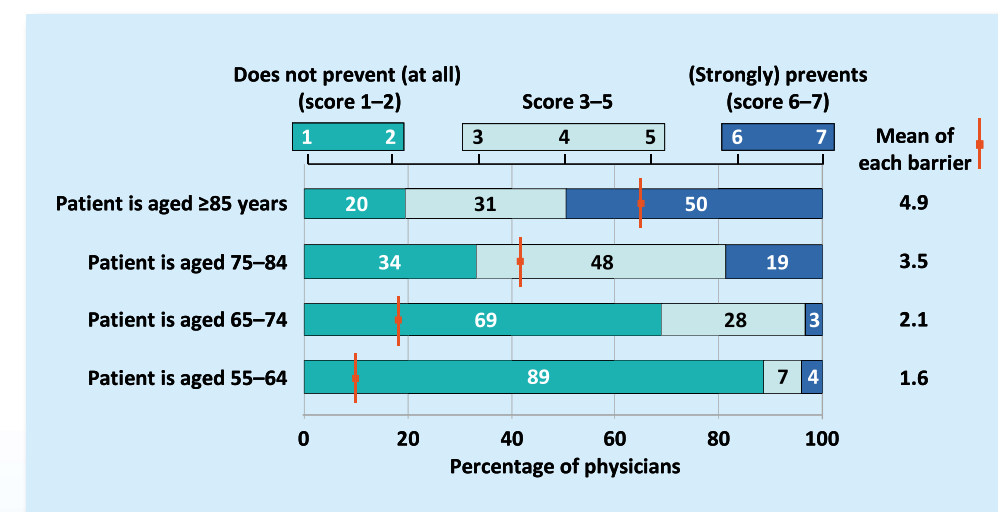
The 15-minute MIDIS survey, which comprised 33 structured and five open-ended questions, was translated into Dutch, French, German, Italian, Spanish and Swedish. It was initiated at the 2008 annual meeting of the American Society of Hematology, and was promoted through e-mails, letters and flyers distributed 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.



The results showed that the majority of respondents thought that detecting iron overload in transfusion-dependent patients with MDS is important (46% replied that this was 'very important' and 27% thought it was 'important'). They indicated that one of the key barriers to detecting iron overload was levels of serum ferritin (a common test for iron overload) not being regularly monitored in transfusion-dependent patients. Most physicians also felt that treating iron overload was 'very important' or 'important'.

90% of the physicians said they treated their iron-overloaded patients with MDS with iron chelation therapy, and a total of 38% of the transfusion-dependent patients they saw in their clinics were chelated. Dr Aristoteles Giagounidis, of St. Johannes Hospital, Duisburg, Germany, and advisor to the MDS Foundation, said "this figure of 38% is indicative of the proportion of patients who are candidates for iron chelation therapy, and reflects physicians' active iron chelation treatment strategy."

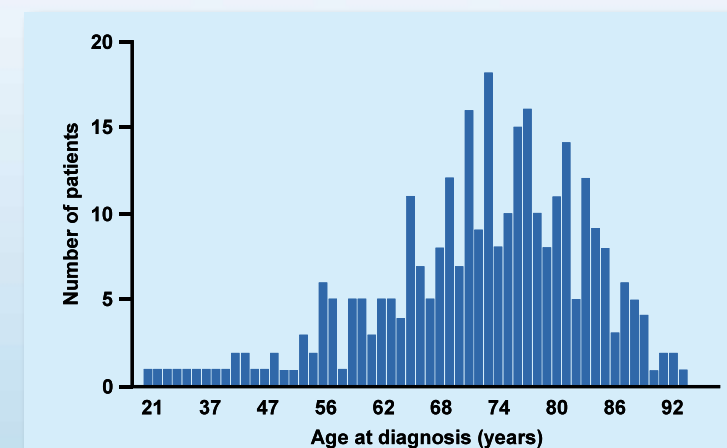
MIDIS demonstrated that the key barriers to treatment for the remaining patients were limited patient life expectancy (<1 year) and older patient age (especially ≥ 85 years). While limited life expectancy is in line with recommendations made by various European guidelines for the treatment of MDS, the 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.



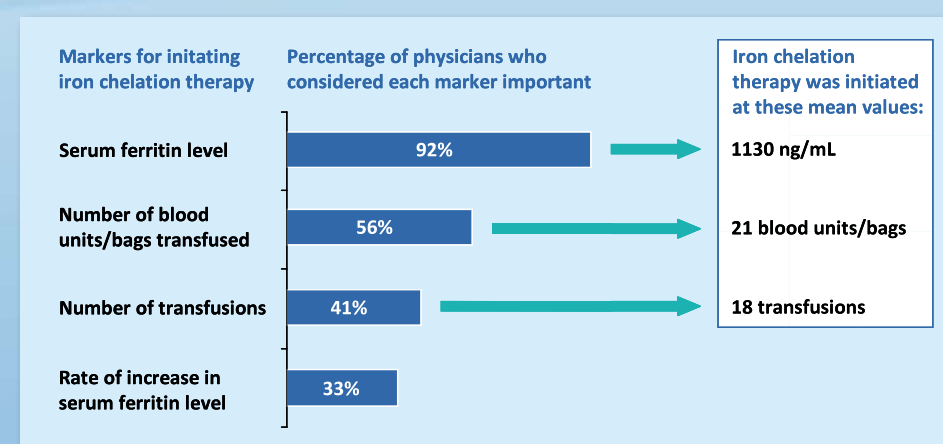
Age as a barrier to iron chelation therapy. MIDIS showed that patient age ≥75 years prevented physicians from initiating iron chelation therapy

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.

Age at diagnosis. The age distribution of 308 patients with MDS from the Düsseldorf MDS Registry. Reproduced with permission. Germing U, et al. *Haematologica* 2004;89:905–910. Obtained from *Haematologica*/the *Hematology Journal* website <http://www.haematologica.org> with kind permission of the Ferrata Storti foundation, Pavia, Italy.



The MIDIS study revealed that patients were selected to receive iron chelation therapy based on their serum ferritin level, the rate of increase of their serum ferritin level, or the number of red blood cell units or transfusions that the patients had received. Candidacy for allo-stem cell-transplantation was also a strong trigger for initiating iron chelation therapy. These markers are also in line with the MDS treatment guidelines that have been published by the MDS Foundation.



Triggers for iron chelation therapy. Each marker served as an indicator of when to initiate iron chelation therapy.

In May 2009, results from the MIDIS study were presented at the 10th International Symposium on Myelodysplastic Syndromes, which took place in Patras, Greece, where they were well received.