



EUROPEAN  
HEMATOLOGY  
ASSOCIATION

# ANNUAL REPORT 2020



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**EHA** | POWERED BY YOU!

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This Annual Report contains an overview of EHA's activities in 2020, all executed to support EHA's mission:

**'The European Hematology Association (EHA) promotes excellence in patient care, research and education in hematology'**

**'Towards a cure for all blood disorders'**

It is an understatement that 2020 was a year like no other!

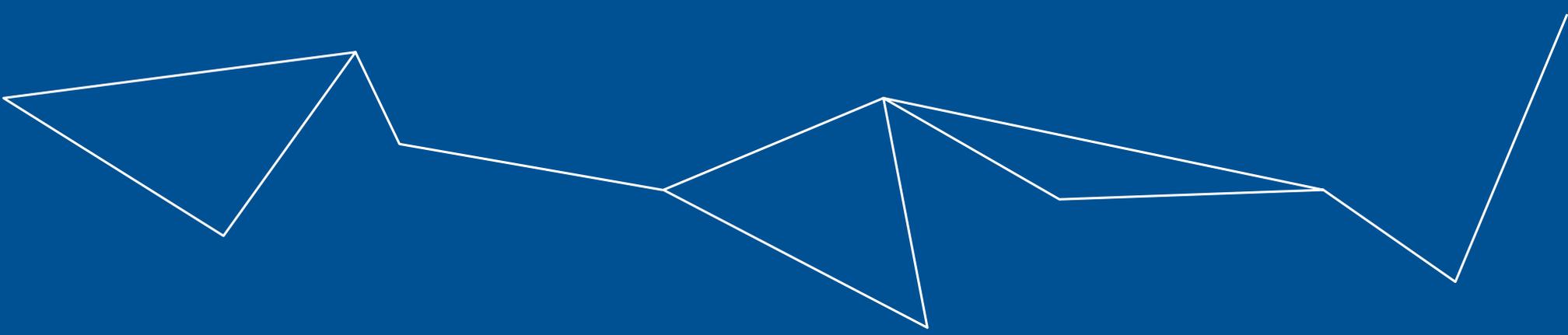
In 2020, like most of the world community, hematologists in and outside Europe faced unprecedented challenges. EHA needed to adapt to provide and amplify the benefits from our projects and programs, of which an overview is presented in this annual report. Rapid developments and a fluid landscape created not only a shifting environment, but also opportunities in hematology research and clinical practice. While the situation challenged us and we certainly missed being able to meet face to face, EHA continues to strive for excellence and professionalism in what we do and what we deliver, and we have looked to do this in our new virtual world.

A prime achievement in 2020 was EHA repositioning to generate COVID-19 webinar series, expert opinions and hematology research grants all done in response to the unprecedented crisis we all faced. Conversely, EHA Mentoring programs were particularly adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Heavily reliant on face-to-face interaction, the workshops should optimally resume in the 3rd quarter of 2021.

Whereas the plans for our annual Congress EHA25 were far advanced, we evolved in near-record time to a virtual format. While this redirection challenged us, the virtual Congress evolution afforded us a dramatic increase in participation, to nearly 27,000 participants. The EHA Campus took on increased importance in this virtual world. Additional EHA Guidelines were published. Also, in 2020 we continued our progress in EHA Topics-in-Focus, an initiative to raise awareness, provide education and promote research on two emerging topics: Immunotherapy and Hemoglobinopathies. We continue our advocacy program and we have published a series of position papers on topics such as access to medicines and worked with our patient advocacy groups. This is just a selection of our 2020 activities driven by the EHA Board and Committee members and the numerous volunteers we collaborate with to deliver this ambitious program. With our projects and programs, we aim to continue to serve the interest of hematologists in their journey towards a cure for all patients suffering from blood disorders.

**Professor John Gribben**  
EHA President

# ABOUT EHA



EHA is a non-governmental and not-for-profit membership organization guided by its mission and core values of independence, integrity, and transparency. Our Executive Board and Committees dedicate expertise and time on a voluntary basis. With our projects and activities, we serve the interest of hematology researchers and clinicians with the goal to improve patient care. To ensure that these interests are fulfilled, EHA has several instruments in place.

## How EHA is formed

The EHA Board is the governing body of the association and deals with issues of strategy and policy. The Board sets the goals and objectives in conformity with EHA's statutes.

The 2020 Executive Board consists of:

- **John Gribben**, President
- **Pieter Sonneveld**, Past President
- **Elizabeth Macintyre**, President-elect
- **Antonio Almeida**, Secretary
- **Shai Izraeli**, Treasurer
- **Kimmo Porkka**, General Member

The 2020 EHA Board consists of:

- **Maria Ester Bernardo**, Councilor
- **Ruud Delwel**, Councilor
- **Konstanze Döhner**, Councilor
- **Martin Dreyling**, Councilor
- **Sabine Eichinger**, Councilor
- **Hermann Einsele**, Councilor
- **Kirsten Grønbaek**, Councilor
- **Brian Huntly**, Councilor
- **Carol Moreno**, Councilor
- **Mariane de Montalembert**, Councilor

The EHA Board sets up committees and units to perform specific tasks and activities. Below is a list of active EHA committees:

- Curriculum Committee
- EHA Campus Editorial Board
- European Board for Accreditation in Hematology
- Education Committee
- EHA-ASH TRTH Joint Oversight Committee
- European Affairs Committee
- Fellowships and Grants Committee
- Global Outreach Program Committee
- Good Governance Committee
- Guidelines Committee
- HemaSphere Editorial Board
- Membership Committee
- Nomination Committee
- Online Case Unit
- Research Committee
- Scientific Program Committee, 25th Congress
- SPC Advisory Board, 25th Congress
- Sponsor and Fundraising Committee
- SWG Unit
- YoungEHA Committee

The EHA Board and its committees are supported by the Executive Office, located in The Hague, The Netherlands. The Executive Office is an international team of 35+ professionals who work in a dynamic, result-driven, and open environment, taking pride in serving the association in an efficient manner.

## | What EHA does...

By organizing an annual congress, providing an educational program based on the European Hematology Curriculum, publishing a journal, lobbying for hematology, promoting research, offering fellowships and mentoring programs, EHA supports hematologists in and outside Europe to further improve the plight of patients suffering from blood disorders.

### ...connects hematology professionals

With 4.448 members in 100 countries worldwide, EHA is the largest European-based association that connects hematology professionals and opens opportunities for both professional and personal development within the field of hematology.

### ...harmonizes hematology education

EHA is one of the largest international, independent providers of peer-reviewed hematological knowledge. As a knowledge platform, the association offers a comprehensive and integral curriculum which forms the basis of the Medical Education Program (MEP). The MEP enables professionals to improve their hematology knowledge through the EHA Learning Center, master classes and scientific meetings. This allows professionals to always be aware of the latest trends, developments, publications, and studies.

### ...makes hematology knowledge available worldwide

Based on its educational program, EHA develops meetings of smaller scale and exports them outside Europe.

### ...encourages professional development among hematologists

EHA delivers on its promise to support the careers of young researchers in hematology in Europe through its Career Development program. This program supports research funding, mobility, training and mentoring programs with top-tier scientists.

### ...lobbies for hematology

EHA represents hematology and hematologists in the European political and policy arena.

It does so primarily by:

- raising awareness of hematology as a distinct medical discipline with specific needs
- increasing the visibility of EHA as the representative of all hematology professionals in Europe
- advocating key EHA positions vis-à-vis policymakers, politicians, and interest groups
- contributing to policy debates, to influence future legislation/regulation
- building relationships and alliances that support and strengthen our advocacy work.

By engaging with EU institutions and other relevant stakeholders — patients, other medical professions, pharmaceutical companies, issue-based expert groups — EHA promotes the interests of its members in key policy areas.

EHA strives to achieve more and better research funding opportunities, improve regulation, increase the availability and affordability of medicines, and harmonize education and training of hematologists.



Figure: Core message



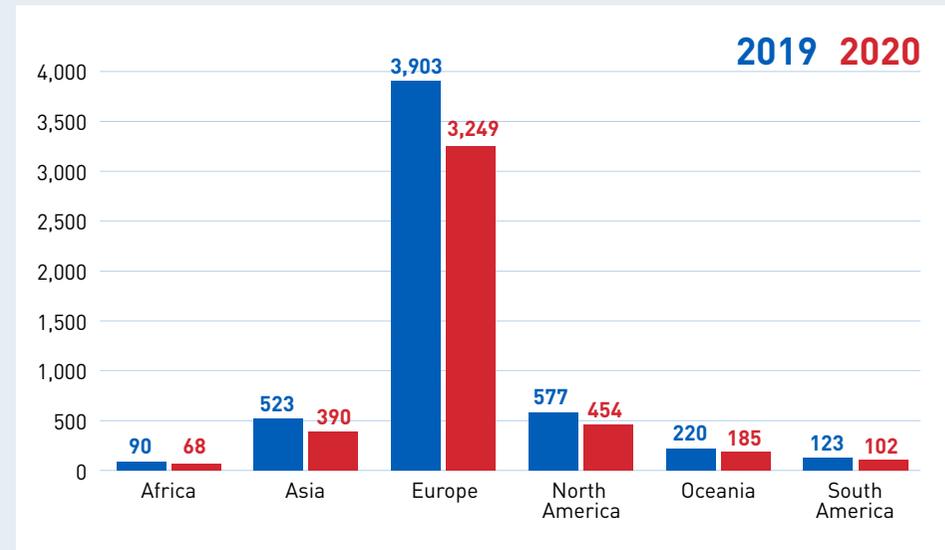
# CONNECTING HEMATOLOGISTS WORLDWIDE

## Membership

With 4,448 members in 2020, there has been a decrease in the number of EHA members. The decrease in membership can be attributed to the worldwide pandemic. The main membership base is situated in Europe, which accounts for almost 73% of EHA members.

In 2020 the joint membership with various National Hematology Societies in Europe was launched. Members of the Spanish, British, Italian and Swiss Societies of Hematology can make use of the joint membership.

Membership has been promoted via different communication channels like the website, promotion emails and congress. During and after the EHA congress in June, all the membership types are given a 50% discount.



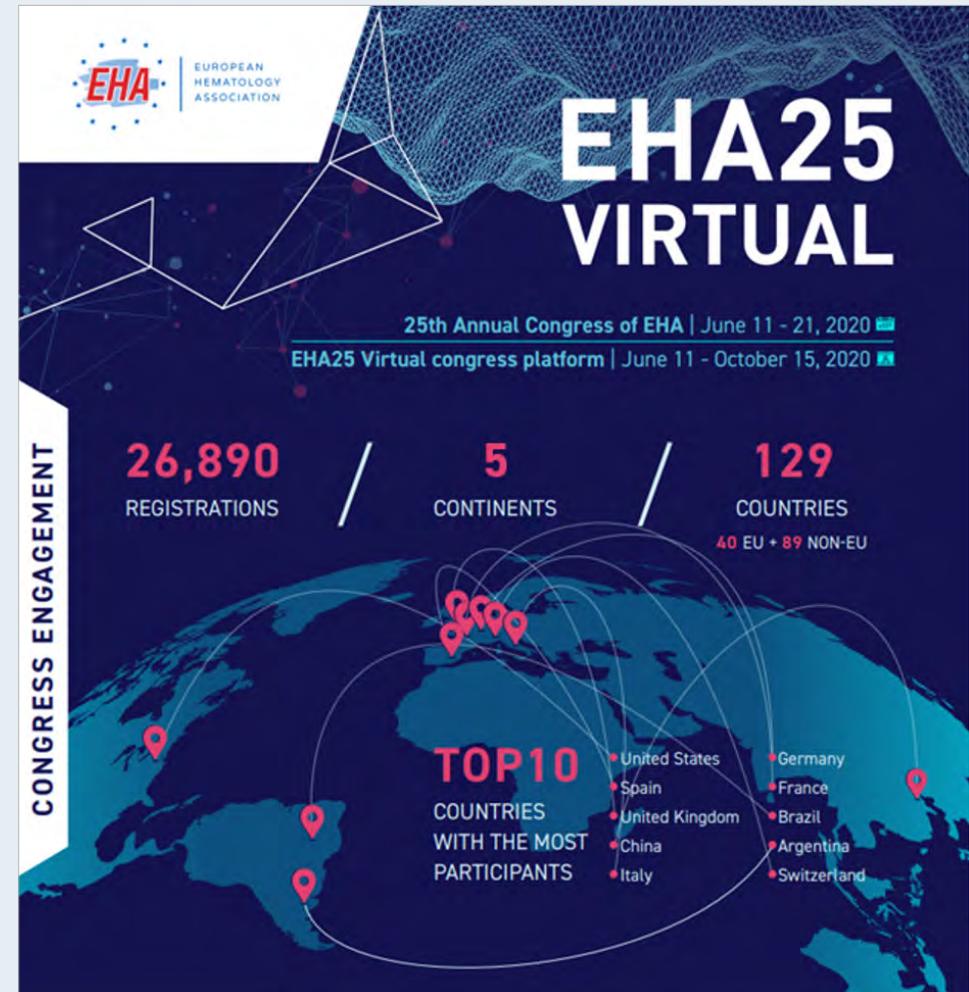
Main membership

## Annual Congress: EHA25 Virtual Congress

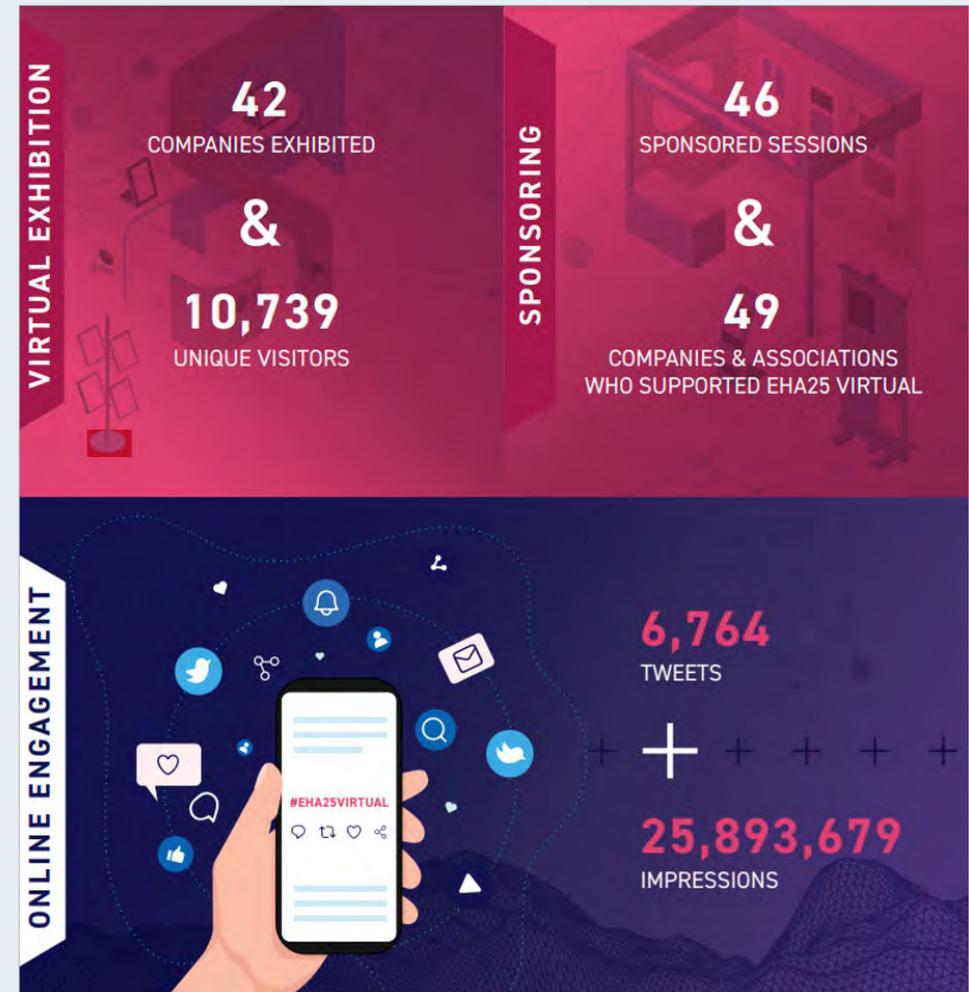
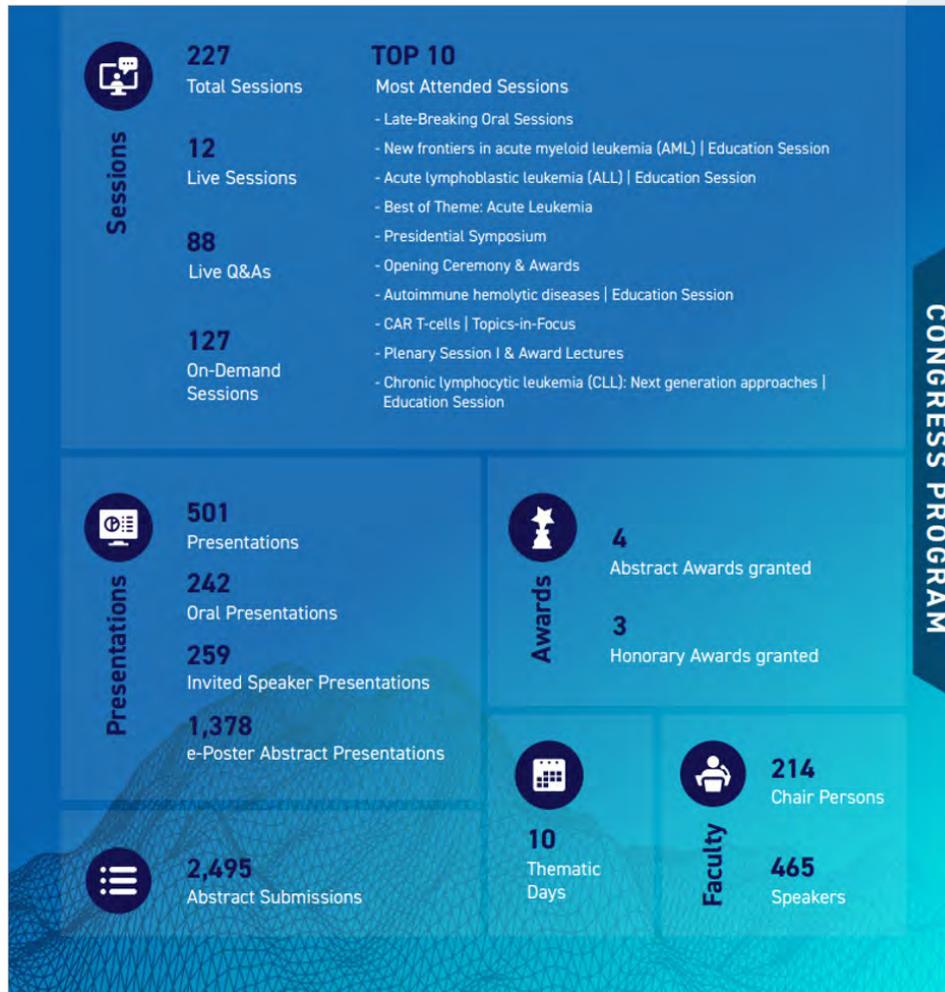
The world has changed tremendously, due to the impact of COVID-19 and for the first time in its history, EHA organized the Annual Congress as a fully virtual edition: EHA25 Virtual. Not only was the 25th EHA Congress a success, but it also reached a groundbreaking record of nearly 27,000 registrations. Participants were able to access the latest hematology and sub-specialty news, unpublished clinical and translational research results, and new evidence-based approaches to diagnosis and treatment.

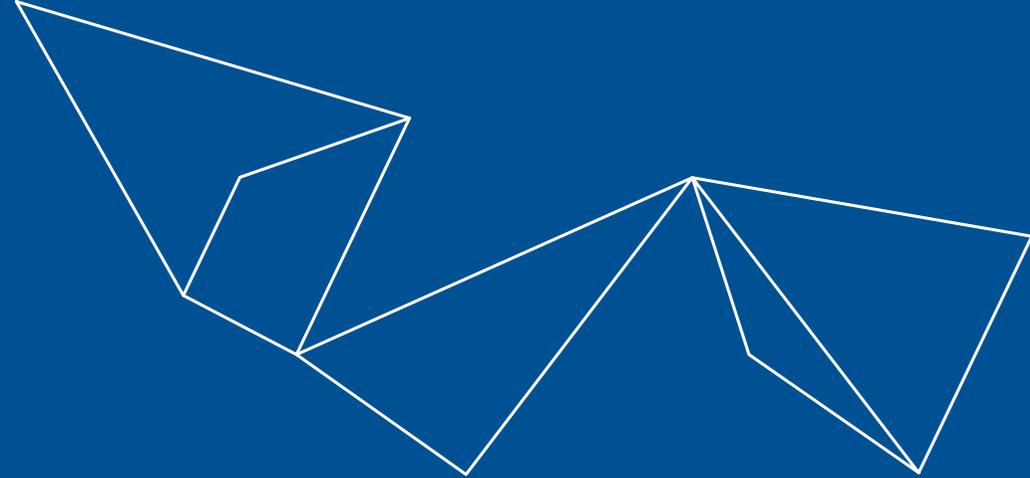
A wealth of scientific and educational content was shared, including special Thematic Days focused on topics such as: Acute leukemia, Chronic lymphoid neoplasms, Chronic myeloid neoplasms, Coagulation disorders, Immunology, Lymphoma, and Red and white cell disorders.

The EHA25 Virtual Platform closed in October after being open for four months, and we are working hard to bring members another exciting and comprehensive virtual Congress in 2021.



EHA25 VIRTUAL Numbers & Figures





# HARMONIZING HEMATOLOGY EDUCATION

## Medical Education Program

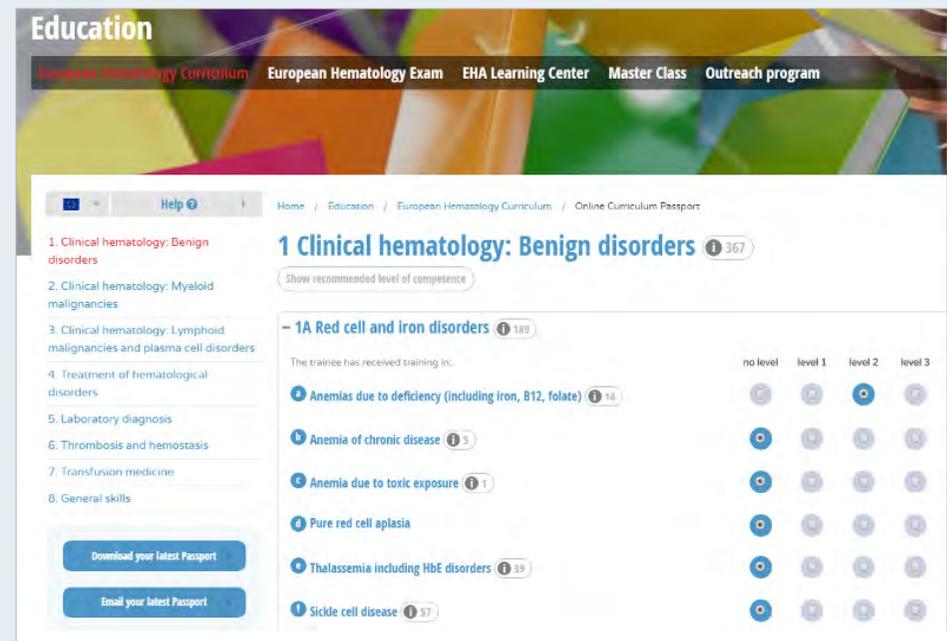
At EHA, hematology professionals can benefit from a variety of learning possibilities.

### EHA Hematology Curriculum

The EHA Hematology Curriculum is the backbone of EHA's medical education program. The Curriculum consists of sections of hematological competences and, within each section, a list of items. For each item, a recommended level of competency is included.

The Curriculum is used as a basis for study by many hematologists throughout Europe and beyond. This is illustrated by the fact that 273 new online Curriculum Passports, the online self-assessment tool, were created, and the total number of existing Curriculum Passports in 2020 was 1,399. The Curriculum will be revised in 2021-2022.

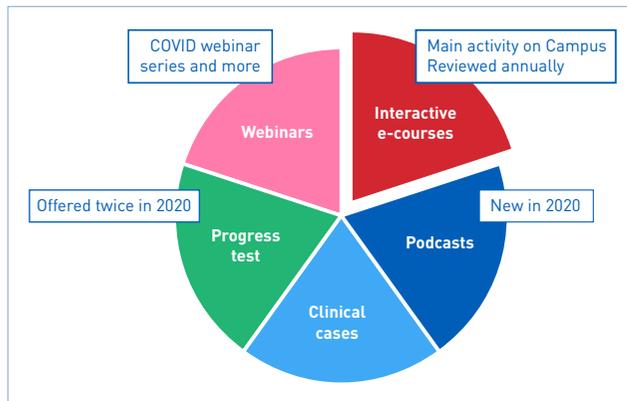
# 'An investment in knowledge pays the best interest'



The online Curriculum Passport

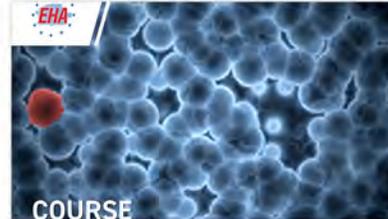
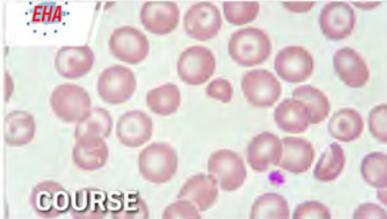


In 2020, the EHA Campus has grown and developed into an engaging platform offering a wide variety of educational material.



EHA Campus educational materials

The EHA Campus has also changed its look and courses are presented in the catalog in a visually appealing manner:

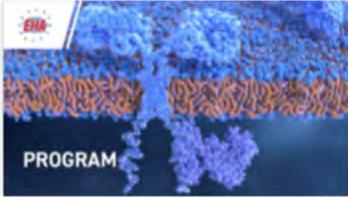
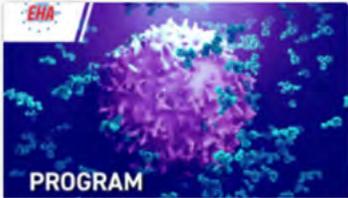
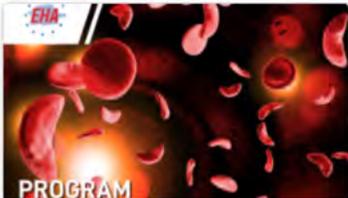
 <p><b>CLINICAL CASE</b></p> <p>Clinical Cases Uncovered - 24</p> <p>Publication date: Feb 19, 2021 8:00 AM</p> <p>English (US) Online course</p>	 <p><b>COURSE</b></p> <p>Thalassemia: Follow the Iron</p> <p>This course is supported by an unrestricted educational gra...</p> <p>Publication date: Apr 20, 2021 8:00 AM</p> <p>English (US) Online course</p>	 <p><b>COURSE</b></p> <p>MRD in CLL</p> <p>This course has been created by EHA and supported by an...</p> <p>Publication date: Oct 29, 2020 8:00 AM</p> <p>English (US) Online course</p>
 <p><b>COURSE</b></p> <p>Iron Deficiency - Reflection Webinar</p> <p>In collaboration with the World Heart Federation</p> <p>Publication date: Jan 27, 2021 8:00 AM</p> <p>English (US) Online course</p>	 <p><b>COURSE</b></p> <p>Epidemiology and Public Health Impact ...</p> <p>Publication date: Dec 01, 2020 8:00 AM</p> <p>English (US) Online course</p>	 <p><b>COURSE</b></p> <p>Tumor Antigen-Targeting Monoclonal...</p> <p>Publication date: Mar 26, 2021 8:00 AM</p> <p>English (US) Online course</p>
 <p><b>COURSE</b></p> <p>Ethics, Consent and the Need for...</p> <p>Now freely accessible to everyone!</p> <p>Publication date: Apr 30, 2021 8:00 AM</p> <p>English (US) Online course</p>	 <p><b>COURSE</b></p> <p>Women with Bleeding Disorders</p> <p>This course is supported by an unrestricted educational gra...</p> <p>Publication date: Mar 22, 2021 8:00 AM</p> <p>English (US) Online course</p>	 <p><b>COURSE</b></p> <p>ITP in Practice</p> <p>This course is supported by an unrestricted educational gra...</p> <p>Publication date: Feb 08, 2021 8:00 AM</p> <p>English (US) Online course</p>

Overview Featured Learning

New content has been developed on the Topics-in-focus areas:

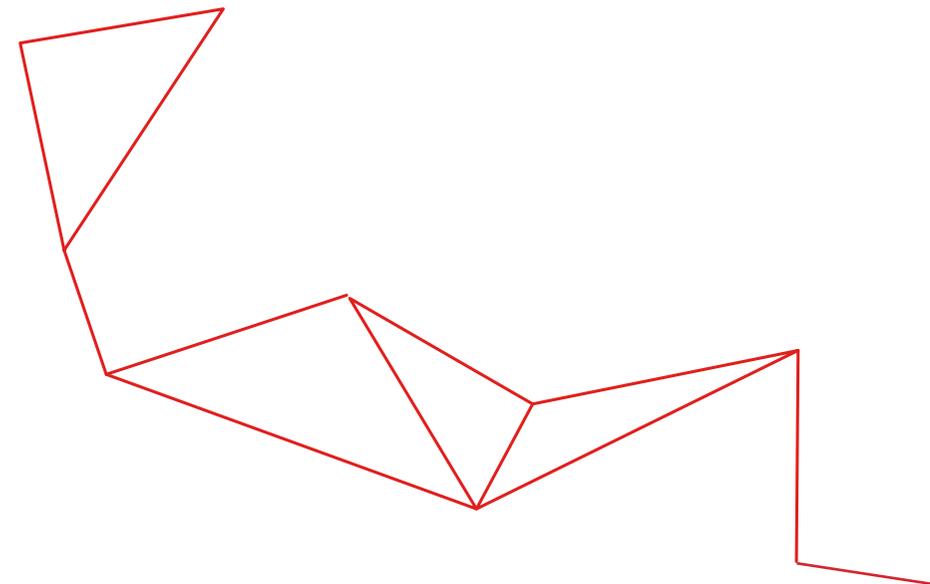
- **Immunotherapy**; an Immunotherapy Program, and a CAR-T Program,
- **Hemoglobinopathies**, a Sickle Cell Disease Program, and a Thalassemia Program.

Several courses in these programs are now live:

	<p><b>EHA CAR-T Program</b></p> <p>English (US)  Learning path</p>
	<p><b>EHA Immunotherapy Program</b></p> <p>English (US)  Learning path</p>
	<p><b>EHA Sickle Cell Disease Program</b></p> <p>English (US)  Learning path</p>
	<p><b>EHA Thalassemia Program</b></p> <p>English (US)  Learning path</p>

In 2020, 1,273 people from 96 countries found their way to the Campus.

In 2020, 100% of the courses planned were developed. There were 18,379 logins to the Campus by 3,708 visitors. The customer satisfaction index was 4.2/5, and the Net Promoter Score was 99.4%.



Some quotes:

“Knowledgeable and worthy for keeping up to date.”

“If you are a hematologist you must learn through EHA, ITS AMAZING...”

“The information provided is extensive, current and relatable to our work.”

“Easily available and gives CME points.”

“The information presented is precise and useful in the clinical practice”

## European Hematology Exam

The European Hematology Exam certifies excellent knowledge according to the criteria and topics of the European Hematology Curriculum. While the right to practice will still be granted by national authorities, the EHE provides an extra quality stamp for hematologists. It is an important step in the harmonization of hematology training/ education in Europe and supports professional mobility.

COUNTRY	NR	%
Armenia	5	3,9%
Bulgaria	7	5,5%
Greece	10	7,9%
Iraq	9	7,1%
Kuwait	11	8,7%
Lithuania	1	0,8%
Luxembourg	1	0,8%
Portugal	20	15,7%
Saudi Arabia	27	21,3%
Spain	14	11,0%
Switzerland	18	14,2%
Turkey	4	3,1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>100%</b>

In October 2020, the fifth edition of the Exam was held. Due to travel limitations, no main session could take place. Instead, 12 parallel sessions were organized, in collaboration with national hematology societies.

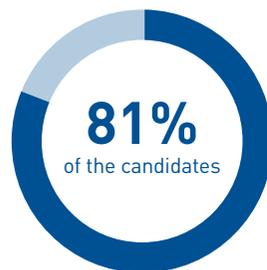
A total of 99 candidates (78%) passed the exam.

To guarantee independent judgment of the quality of the exam and the passing score definition, EHA collaborates with CITO, an internationally recognized professional research and knowledge institute in the field of testing and educational measurement. CITO's Psychometric Research and Knowledge Center perform the psychometric analysis of the results.

At the end of the exam, the candidates were asked to complete a short evaluation survey. The results of this survey showed that:



found the exam relevant (70%) or partly relevant (28%) to their hematology training.



experienced the exam setup as good or very good.



were able to finish the exam within 2,5 hours.

Quote candidate:

“Excellent exam with relevant and well-structured questions”



José Tomás Navarro, Chair of EHA Curriculum-Exam Committee and organizer of the Madrid session, opens the exam in Spain.

## EHA Progress Test

The Progress Test is an online test, based on previous Exams, to identify knowledge gaps, track progress, and receive feedback to focus studies on. It is also an excellent preparation for the exam. Each year a new test is prepared, which is open on the EHA Campus twice a year, for one month. In 2020, tests were open in March and November.

- March: 141 participants from 35 countries — 28% repeated in November
- November: 156 participants from 45 countries.

## EHA Master Class

The EHA Master Class is an online group-based clinical preceptorship for hematologists. It is divided into the Classical Master Class and the Bite-size Master Class.

Selected mentees learn through discussion with their peers and experts on different topics. Where the Classical Master Class offers five cases to be studied over the course of seven months, the Bite-size Master Class offers a selected group of mentees the chance to gain in depth knowledge on one topic, over the course of six weeks.

The Classical Master Class of 2019-2020 included 44 mentees. The program was put on hold at the height of the first wave of the pandemic but resumed and was completed in October 2020.

The Master Class program was put on hold for 2020/2021. However, the time was used to re-assess the design of the program and, implement adjustments to enhance the experience for both mentors and mentees. New cases have been written and the program will restart in September 2021. The Bite-size Master Class programs on Thrombosis and Thalassemia were also interrupted by the COVID pandemic.

Overall feedback on the Master Class:

“It is very useful to discuss and build a diagnostic line in small groups. This allows for a versatile assessment of each clinical case.”

“I would like to thank the EHA and the faculty members for taking their time to organize such a detailed multi step program. EHA masterclass is different to other seminars because it gives a chance for its participant to engage in the program.”

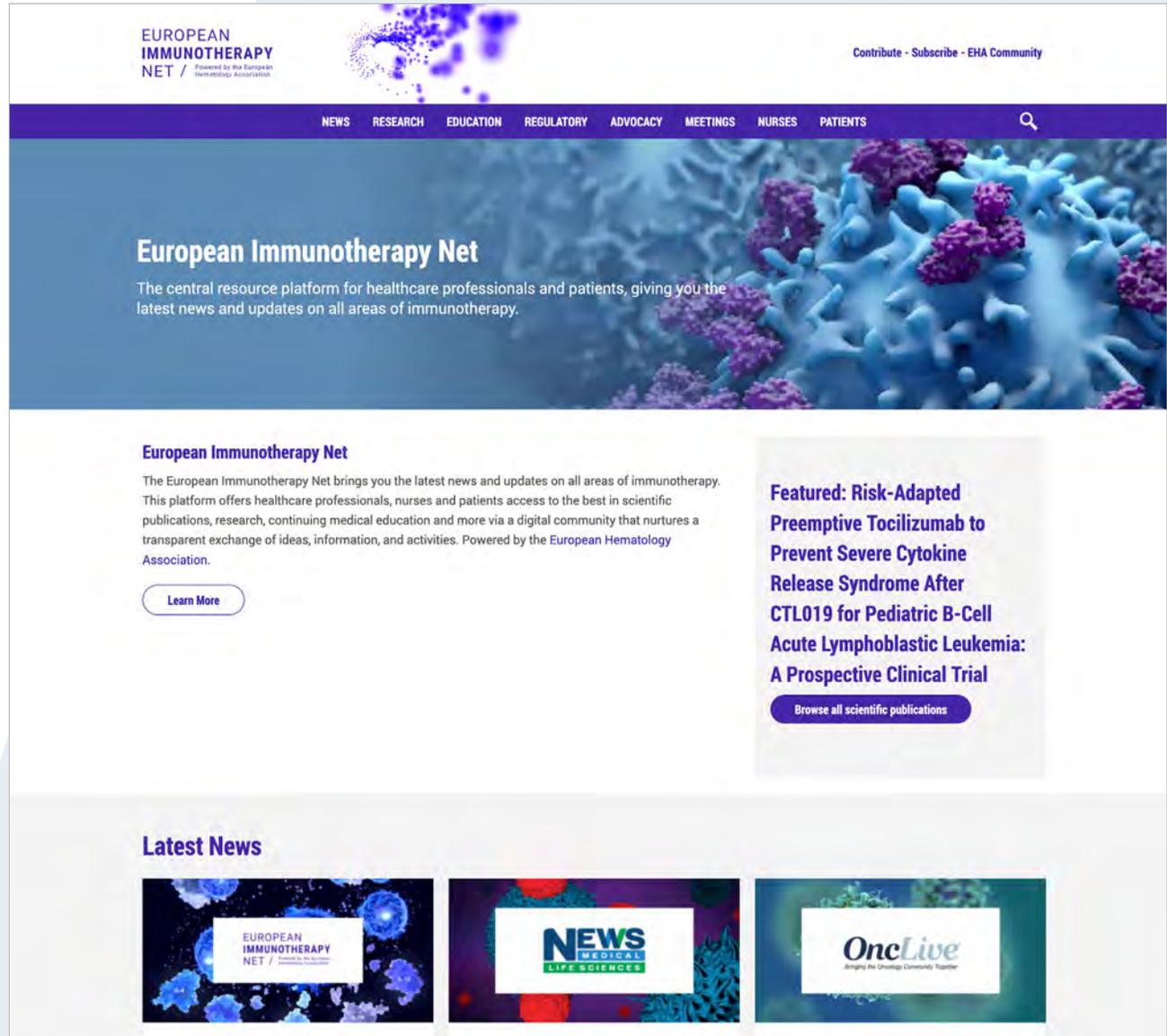
“Thank you so much for this great learning format!”

## European Immunotherapy Net website

The European Immunotherapy Net website is a central resource portal created and curated by EHA, offering healthcare professionals, nurses and patients access to the best in scientific publications, research, continuing medical education and more.

The website is updated every week and presents a selection of news and educational content for physicians, nurses, and patients, as well as scientific papers on the entire field of immunotherapy for hematological malignancies. Most relevant scientific publications are featured and briefly presented, and an entirely searchable new page was implemented for the website's collection of scientific papers. External contributions by field experts provide insight on the latest and more influential developments in immunomodulatory treatments. Highlights from the EHA Congress and meetings are offered to visitors.

The Immunotherapy Net website was launched in September 2020, and in the first four months of life showed an average of 480 visitors per month.



The screenshot shows the homepage of the European Immunotherapy Net website. At the top left is the EHA logo and the text "EUROPEAN IMMUNOTHERAPY NET / Powered by the European Hematology Association". At the top right are links for "Contribute - Subscribe - EHA Community". A navigation bar contains links for "NEWS", "RESEARCH", "EDUCATION", "REGULATORY", "ADVOCACY", "MEETINGS", "NURSES", and "PATIENTS", along with a search icon. The main header features a large image of a cell surface with purple receptors and the text "European Immunotherapy Net" and "The central resource platform for healthcare professionals and patients, giving you the latest news and updates on all areas of immunotherapy." Below this is a section titled "European Immunotherapy Net" with a description: "The European Immunotherapy Net brings you the latest news and updates on all areas of immunotherapy. This platform offers healthcare professionals, nurses and patients access to the best in scientific publications, research, continuing medical education and more via a digital community that nurtures a transparent exchange of ideas, information, and activities. Powered by the European Hematology Association." A "Learn More" button is present. To the right is a featured article titled "Featured: Risk-Adapted Preemptive Tocilizumab to Prevent Severe Cytokine Release Syndrome After CTL019 for Pediatric B-Cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia: A Prospective Clinical Trial" with a "Browse all scientific publications" button. At the bottom is a "Latest News" section with three featured articles: "EUROPEAN IMMUNOTHERAPY NET / Powered by the European Hematology Association", "NEWS MEDICAL LIFE SCIENCES", and "OncoLive Bringing the Oncology Community Together".

## International collaboration & outreach

### Global outreach program

In 2020 EHA's Global Outreach Program looked different than the previous years. For the first time in EHA history the program was mostly virtual. Nevertheless, the program aimed at providing hematology medical education to mainly countries outside Europe, based on the local needs. EHA's Global Outreach Program consists of Hematology Tutorials, Joint Symposia and Highlights of Past EHA (HOPE).

### International collaboration

EHA's International Collaboration Program in 2020 sent European speakers to countries 'around the world' to virtually take part in a variety of Joint Symposia, sharing their knowledge and providing education. The program is an important tool to create connections between Europe and many countries around the world.

These joint symposia were organized at the annual congresses of the following partner societies:

	Pakistan Society of Hematology – HAEMCON2020
VIRTUAL	European Society for Blood and Marrow Transplantation Annual Meeting
VIRTUAL	Chinese Society of Hematology Congress
VIRTUAL	Japanese Society of Hematology Annual Congress
VIRTUAL	Hematology Society of Taiwan Annual Congress - <b>Cancelled</b>
VIRTUAL	Philippine Society of Hematology and Blood Transfusion Congress
VIRTUAL	Russian Onco-Hematology Society Congress
VIRTUAL	Turkish Society of Hematology Congress
VIRTUAL	British Society of Hematology Congress
VIRTUAL	Associação Brasileira de Hematologia, Hemoterapia e Terapia Celular
VIRTUAL	Indian Society of Hematology and Blood Transfusion Congress
VIRTUAL	American Society of Hematology Annual Meeting
VIRTUAL	International Society for Experimental Hematology Annual Meeting
VIRTUAL	Slovak Society Annual Meeting
VIRTUAL	European Association of Nuclear Medicine Congress
VIRTUAL	Philippine College of Hematology and Transfusion Medicine Meeting
VIRTUAL	Japanese Society of Hematology International Symposium - <b>Cancelled</b>
VIRTUAL	Korean Society of Hematology International Congress - <b>Cancelled</b>
VIRTUAL	Russian Society of Hematology Congress - <b>Cancelled</b>

## Hematology Tutorials

Hematology Tutorials are courses aiming to provide laboratory and clinical hematologists with an integrated diagnostic and clinical work-up of hematological disorders. The scientific program takes the participants through the diagnostic and clinical pathway with plenary lectures, interactively conducted clinical case study sessions and self-assessment sessions. The faculty is available to provide individual guidance to the participants throughout the meeting.

In 2020 the following hematology tutorials were held:

### **EHA-ISHBT Hematology Tutorial on Hematological Disorders**

**February 28-29, 2020, Chandigarh, India**

**Chairs: J Gribben, N Varma, P Malhotra**

EHA has a long-standing collaboration and scientific relationship with the Indian Society of Hematology and Blood Transfusion. This includes annual joint symposia and various hematology tutorials, such as this one. The program focused on a wide variety of hematological disorders, addressing the needs of both laboratory and clinical hematologists by providing an integrated diagnostic and clinical work-up of the following disorders or topics (through live and webcasted presentations).

This tutorial was organized for clinical hematologists, hemato-pathologists and fellows/post graduate residents in hematology and attended by 220 participants mainly from India, but also from neighboring SAARC countries such as Nepal, Bangladesh, and

Sri Lanka, as well as the Philippines. EHA provided travel grants to support young hematologists from our partner societies in the Asian region to participate in the program. The program consisted of lectures and clinical cases by the international faculty, and self-assessment cases by the national faculty from India. In addition, 45 abstracts were presented as posters and the best 10 abstracts were awarded with a prize at the closing ceremony of the tutorial

### **EHA-Baltic Hematology Tutorial on Bleeding Disorders & Thrombosis**

**August 28-30, 2020, Virtual & Riga, Latvia**

**Chairs: S Eichinger, S Lejniece**

The 2nd joint Hematology Tutorial with the Latvian Society of Hematology (LASH), the Estonian Society of Hematology (EHS) and the Lithuanian Society of Hematology (LISH) focused on Bleeding Disorders & Thrombosis. EHA and the Baltic Societies embarked in a new direction with the international faculty and Tutorial attendees, who came together physically and virtually. As part of the virtual program, almost a dozen faculty members live streamed presentations from their homes or offices, in Austria, Italy, Finland, Switzerland, UK, Germany, Sweden and the Netherlands. The program was followed by more than 25 remote attendees, that could not be present in person. In person, Prof. Lejniece coordinated in Riga the clinical case presenters from the region and about 60 attendees.

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**“Very fruitful and cozy event! We were all distracted by COVID, but EHA-Baltic Tutorial brought us on track in full power! Was so nice to feel it!”**

- S Trakymiene (Clinical Case presenter).

## Highlights of Past EHA (HOPE)

The highlights program is intended for physicians, scientists, and medical students in the Europe, the Middle East, Asia, and Africa who could not attend the EHA Congress or who were interested in additional sessions and interaction with the speakers.



### Highlights of Past EHA (HOPE) Europe, Middle East & Africa (EMEA)

October 9-10, 2020, Virtual

Chairs: J Gribben, GH Özsan

In the second weekend of October, EHA and the Turkish Society of Hematology (TSH) kicked-off the very first virtual HOPE meeting. The meeting was attended by more than 300 attendees from Turkey, the Middle East, North Africa, and the Balkan (EMEA) region, in total 34 countries were represented.

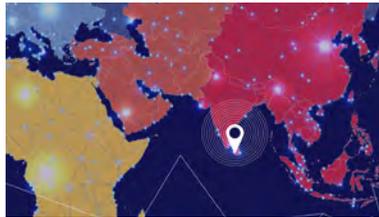
For this meeting, the program was completely transformed and covered a broad range of topics from the EHA25 Virtual Congress. The sessions started with an Overview presentation, which provided a summary of the recent developments within AML, MDS, MPN, plasma cell disorders, lymphoproliferative disorders, and benign hematology. After the Overview presentation, participants split up in three smaller break-out sessions, where experts gave a short summary on a specific subject followed by interactive discussions. Besides the regular sessions, an EHA-TSH Joint Symposium on Hemoglobinopathies was organized as well as two Keynote Lectures on CAR T-cells and CLL. The meeting platform allowed participants to schedule meetings and video calls with other registered participants, giving attendees a virtual chance to network.

The interactivity also extended into the meeting sessions. Many attendees seized the opportunity and posted live questions during the session and some also joined the faculty on-screen and participated in a video discussion.

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**“HOPE EMEA has been a very well-organized meeting, with truly excellent technical organization that favored interaction of the attendees who could express their opinions and views through different means: i) MCQs/polls; ii) questions posed through the chat; iii) live questions. EHA truly did its best to provide HOPE EMEA with a very nice platform for interaction.”**

- Faculty -



## Highlights of Past EHA (HOPE) Asia

October 16-17, 2020, Virtual  
Chairs: J Gribben, N Senadheera

This second edition of HOPE Asia was presented together with the Sri Lanka College of Haematologists (SLCH) on October 16 and 17, 2020. HOPE Asia 2020 was originally planned in Colombo, but due to governmental restrictions, this meeting was made fully virtual. The hosting partner, SLCH, made the move from a physical venue to an online platform so that many could attend from Sri Lanka, SAARC and ASEAN countries, and knowledge could still be exchanged.

During the meeting, a variety of international and regional lectures were presented, demonstrating the highlights of this year's EHA Congress (EHA25). Topics were selected to suit the regional hematologists, and ranged from hemophilia, thrombosis, ITP, myeloma, bone marrow failures, bone marrow transplantation and myeloproliferative neoplasms. Most sessions also gave participants insight to the Sri Lankan setting through the presentation of real patient cases. During the meeting, a variety of international and regional lectures were presented, demonstrating the highlights of this year's EHA Congress (EHA25). Topics were selected to suit the regional hematologists, and ranged from hemophilia, thrombosis, ITP, myeloma, bone marrow failures, bone marrow transplantation and myeloproliferative neoplasms. Most sessions also gave participants insight to the Sri Lankan setting through the presentation of real patient cases.

The over 150 attendees of the live sessions hailed from a variety of Asian countries in the SAARC and ASEAN region. EHA and SLCH offered scholarships which consisted of complimentary registrations to a selection of participants, to virtually attend.



## Highlights of Past EHA (HOPE) Latin America

November 13, 2020, Virtual  
Chairs: J Gribben, G Stemmelin

EHA and the Argentinian Society of Hematology (SAH) kicked-off the second HOPE Latin America meeting in a virtual format.

The meeting was offered free of charge to make it possible for as many hematologists in the region to participate and this was a great success! Attended by more than 575 attendees coming from over 29 countries beyond even the Latin America region, it was the first time that even hematologists from Cuba participated in the meetings.

For this meeting, the decision was made to organize a short, to the point program whilst still covering key topics from the EHA25 Virtual Congress. The day started with an EHA-SAHA Joint Symposium on Transplantation, with a presentation by EHA President John Gribben on the stem cell transplantation highlights presented at EHA25. Afterwards, the program was divided in two parallel programs covering the topics acute myeloid leukemia, chronic myeloid leukemia, acute lymphoblastic leukemia, mantle cell lymphoma, pediatric hematology, thrombosis, and hemostasis. Each session included a lecture by an EHA25 speaker and clinical case presentations given by local doctors.

**“The pandemic allows us to participate in meetings like this, and to share experience and knowledge. It was a very good experience for me.”**

- Local clinical presenter -

## EHA Research Committee

2020 was a year of tremendous changes for the EHA Research Committee (RC). New Chair and vice-Chair were nominated, and a new structure was adopted, with five “regular” members and seven representatives of other EHA Boards and Committees, that will help the RC develop own initiatives and maintain its connection and integrate with other Committees in the Research pillar. A call for interest for new members was concluded in the Summer of 2020 and the new EHA RC immediately initiated working on an ambitious Investment plan that is going to integrate existing activities with additional Grants and Education initiatives, and new activities like EHA Research Conferences and an enhanced promotion plan for HemaSphere, that will be developed during 2021 and 2022.

## EHA Scientific Working Groups and Meetings

EHA partners with Scientific Working Groups (SWGs) to foster science and spread knowledge in basic, translational, and clinical research in hematology in Europe. Currently there are 24 SWGs, covering both disease-oriented and overarching topics.

The current EHA-SWG activities include Scientific Meetings, Guideline production, SWG sessions at the EHA Annual Congress, SWG involvement in identifying experts for regulatory and lobbying needs, and connection with EHA training programs and YoungEHA. EHA is committed to promote the above activities in the form of posts on the EHA website and social media, reports or HemaSphere publications, for instance.

### 2nd EHA-EBMT European CAR T-cell Meeting

January 30 - February 1, 2020, Sitges, Spain

Spain hosted the 2nd European CAR T-Cell Meeting, organized jointly by the European Hematology Association (EHA) and the European Society for Blood and Marrow Transplantation (EBMT). Chaired by Professors Christian Chabannon (France) and Hermann Einsele (Germany), the conference offered a comprehensive overview of current CAR T-cell therapy research across Europe, the USA, and Asia, and featured 28 sessions spanning a broad range of topics.

The clinical landscape for CAR-T, and current developments in Europe were the focus of several presentations. Individual sessions were devoted to key indications for CAR T-cell therapy such as acute leukemia, myeloma, and lymphoma, and further examined the latest preclinical and clinical data in the CAR-T domain.

Within the global efforts to improve CAR T-cell therapy, presentations revolved around engineering of CAR-T, including next-generation CAR T-cells to overcome resistance, improved CAR-T approaches to lymphoid malignancies, targeted genomic insertion, virus-free gene transfer and genome editing, and adaptor/uni-CARs). Current CAR-T trial activities in China were also reviewed.

Regulatory considerations and directions for the European CAR-T landscape are critical themes of the meeting, with an EMA perspective on CAR-T marketing authorization, as well as post marketing safety and efficacy studies. A patient representative provided a personal, non-clinical perspective on CAR T-cell regulation and access. Leading European grants/projects were reviewed in a session that covered progress on the CARAMBA, EURE-CART, CARAT and imSAVAR studies. One of the concluding sessions addressed the key issue of CAR T-cell implementation and practical recommendations coming from real-world evidence in Europe and the USA.

Over 1,000 persons registered for the meeting in person from 45 different countries. There were almost 200 live-stream registrations as well, from 43 different countries. There were 80 faculty members and 87 accepted abstracts – of which six received an oral presentation.

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**“Excellent meeting, an annual event in for me during the coming years.”** – delegate

## 15th Annual Sickle Cell and Thalassemia & 1st EHA European Sickle Cell Conference

October 26-31, 2020, Virtual Global Conference

Steering Committee: B Andemariam, A Campbell, M Cappellini, S Chakravorty, R Colombatti, B Inusa, R Kesse-Adu, D Rees, A Taher, M Treadwell

In the last week of October, consultants and specialist psychologists, nurses, scientists, and all relevant experts joined the Annual Scientific Conference on Sickle Cell and Thalassaemia Conference to see the latest advances in diagnosis, treatment, and emerging fields in hemoglobinopathies. The conference provided the opportunity to interact on the latest advances in clinical care, transition services and emerging new therapies including updates for curative treatment options.

This year's theme 'Hemoglobinopathies: Emerging Challenges and Future Therapies' reflected the rapid progress in research for new drug therapies and curative therapies. The fact that most patients with Sickle Cell Disease and Thalassemia live in low resource settings where these new therapies may not be readily accessible or affordable, means that we must therefore refocus our attention to improve newborn screening and comprehensive care, hydroxyurea therapy, blood transfusion and effective iron chelation.

Over 100 abstracts were accepted for either oral or poster presentations held and displayed on our online platform this year. The Abstract Book of the 15th Annual Sickle Cell and Thalassaemia, 1st EHA European Sickle Cell Conference, and 60th Anniversary of BSH is published as a supplement of HemaSphere. The 2020 abstract categories included:

- Basic Sciences and Emerging Therapies; Psychology, QOL and Patient Outcomes
- Clinical and Community Implementation Research; Public Health and Health Education
- Aging and Hemoglobinopathies; other aspects of Hemoglobinopathies

The meeting was completely transformed into a virtual conference, with a new fully functioning online forum, which was accessible for the delegates on the morning of October 26. The platform allowed 900 delegates and 103 speakers worldwide to come together to share best practice and develop strategies for the future. The 15th ASCAT meeting also hosted the 1st European Sickle Cell Conference (EHA) and was also the occasion to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the British Society for Hematology (BSH).

The conference content is available until August 2021 and to date the total registrations for this year's conference is over 1,000 delegates.

## **EHA-SWG Scientific Meeting on Immunotherapy**

**November 19-20, 2020, Virtual**

**Chairs: H Einsele, C Chomienne, J Sierra, A van de Loosdrecht**

This scientific meeting was organized together with the EHA Scientific Working Group on Immune Therapies for Hematological Disorders. Following the global pandemic, it was decided to hold a fully virtual meeting, resulting in the first virtual EHA-SWG Scientific Meeting!

The newly designed program brought the hottest topics in immunotherapy combined as on-demand content and live sessions. The on-demand content, in the form of recorded lectures, was made available on the meeting platform on November 12th. The live sessions were held a week later, providing delegates with a live keynote lecture at the start of each session, followed by an extensive Q&A and discussion period. During this Q&A period attendees could submit questions live, read out to the speakers by the session chair, who led some excellent discussions.

Topics that were addressed ranged from T-cells, checkpoint blockers, bispecific antibodies, and laboratory testing, to innovative antibody formats and artificial intelligence in immunotherapy treatments. The meeting did not address any CAR T-cell therapy topics.

The attendees formed a truly international audience – some 120 delegates registered for the meeting, with multiple participants from Asia as well.

## EHA Guidelines

Since 2018, EHA has been developing clinical practice guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment of hematologic diseases, and endorsing other societies and networks guidelines, following these methodology and SOP documents:

- [EHA Guidelines Methodology](#)
- [Guidelines SOP for collaborations and endorsements](#)

EHA has also established a framework collaboration with ESMO (European Society for Medical Oncology) to produce guidelines on hematologic malignancies.

## EHA-initiated Guidelines

In 2020, EHA published guidelines in the following area

### Red cells and Iron (2020)

→ [Management of Pregnancy in Rare Inherited Anemias](#)

As of December 31, 2020, there were also six EHA guidelines in the pipeline:

Guidelines Title	SWG(s) Involved	Experts from other Organizations/ Network involved
Antifungal prophylaxis and therapy in patients with AML treated with new agents	Infections in Hematology +	representatives from AML
Cardiovascular toxicity in older adults with hematologic malignancies	Aging in Hematology	ESC
Patient-reported outcomes measurement in hematology	QoL and Symptoms + specific malignancies SWGs	
Management of anti-thrombotic medication in the thrombocytopenic patients with malignancy	Bleeding and Thrombosis	ESC
Anti-coagulant and anti-platelet treatment in patients with inherited bleeding disorders	Bleeding and Thrombosis	EAHAD

## Guidelines in collaboration with other societies

EHA is collaborating with other societies in developing joint guidelines, such as the European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO), EuNet-COST-INNOCHRON, the British Society for Haematology (BSH) and EuroBloodNet.

EHA collaborative projects in 2020 are listed below:

Guidelines Title	SWG(s) Involved	Organization(s) / Network involved
Multiple Myeloma: EHA-ESMO Clinical Practice Guidelines for Diagnosis, Treatment and Follow-up	Multiple Myeloma	ESMO
Diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL)	Lymphoma Group	ESMO
Diagnosis and Treatment of Chronic Neutropenias	Granulocytes & Constitutional Marrow Failures Disorders	EuNet-COST-INNOCHRON
Use of next-generation sequencing in the diagnosis of congenital anemias	Red Cells and Iron	BSH
Recommendations for Diagnosis and Treatment of Methemoglobinemia	Red Cells and Iron	EuroBloodNet

## Endorsements of other societies guidelines

In 2020, EHA endorsed three ESMO guidelines on lymphoma:

- [EHA Endorsement of ESMO Clinical Practice Guidelines for Marginal Zone Lymphomas](#)
- [EHA Endorsement of ESMO Clinical Practice Guidelines for Newly Diagnosed and Relapsed Mantle Cell Lymphoma](#)
- [Hodgkin Lymphoma: Comments on ESMO Clinical Practice Guidelines](#)

EHA also endorsed the following guidelines.

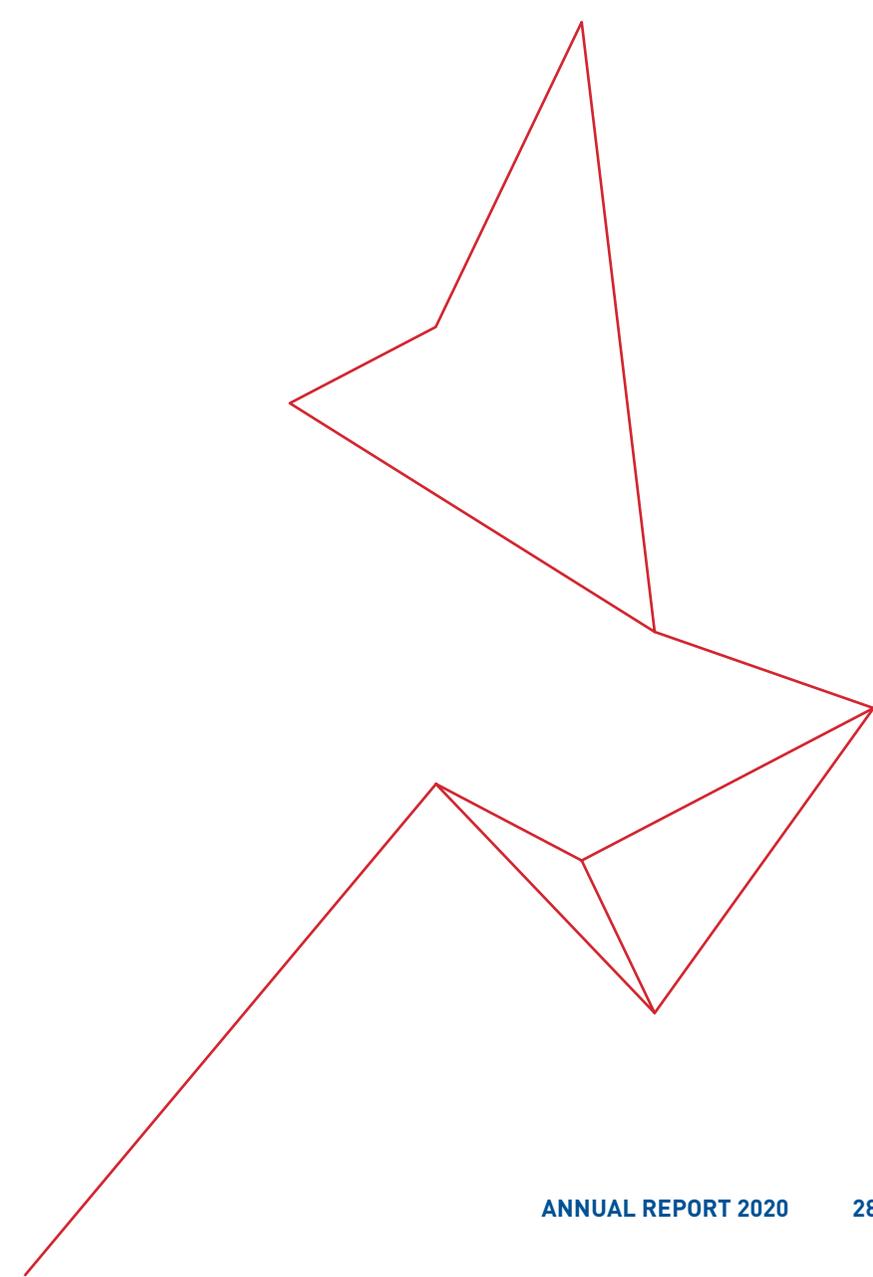
Guidelines Title	Organization(s) / Network involved
EHA Endorsement of the Global Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Management of Rare Mold Infection: An initiative of the ECMM in cooperation with ISHAM and ASM	European Confederation of Medical Mycology (ECMM), International Society for Human and Animal Mycology (ISHAM) and American Society for Microbiology (ASM)
EHA Endorsement of ESMO Clinical Practice Guidelines for diagnosis, treatment, and follow-up of Chronic lymphocytic leukaemia	ESMO
EHA Endorsement of ESMO Clinical Practice Guidelines for follicular lymphoma	ESMO
EHA Endorsement of ESMO Clinical Practice Guidelines for Waldenström's macroglobulinemia	ESMO
EHA Endorsement of ESMO Clinical Practice Guidelines for Myelodysplastic syndromes	ESMO

## EHA Guidelines Workshops

EHA has initiated a series of online workshops dedicated to guidelines (produced or endorsed by EHA) for diagnosis and treatment of hematologic diseases. These workshops are aimed at disseminating good practices and knowledge with the help of patient cases, presentations, and discussions with the guidelines' authors and EHA experts.

The workshops held in 2020 were:

Dates	Guidelines Workshop Topic
November 25, 2020	EHA Guidelines: Recommendations for Pregnancy in Rare Inherited Anemias
December 15, 2020	EHA Endorsement of ESMO Clinical Practice Guidelines on Hodgkin Lymphoma



# Providing advice on COVID-19 and patients with hematologic diseases

## EHA expert opinions on COVID and hematologic diseases

Since the pandemic struck, EHA has produced expert opinions regarding COVID and hematologic diseases.

In March 2020, the EHA Scientific Working Group on Infections in Hematology was prompted to develop [key questions and answers on the management of cancer patients with or at risk of COVID-19](#). This Q&A was supported with patient flowcharts and surveys amongst experts in the respective fields to get a better understanding of the perceived risk-benefit analyses of each targeted therapy.

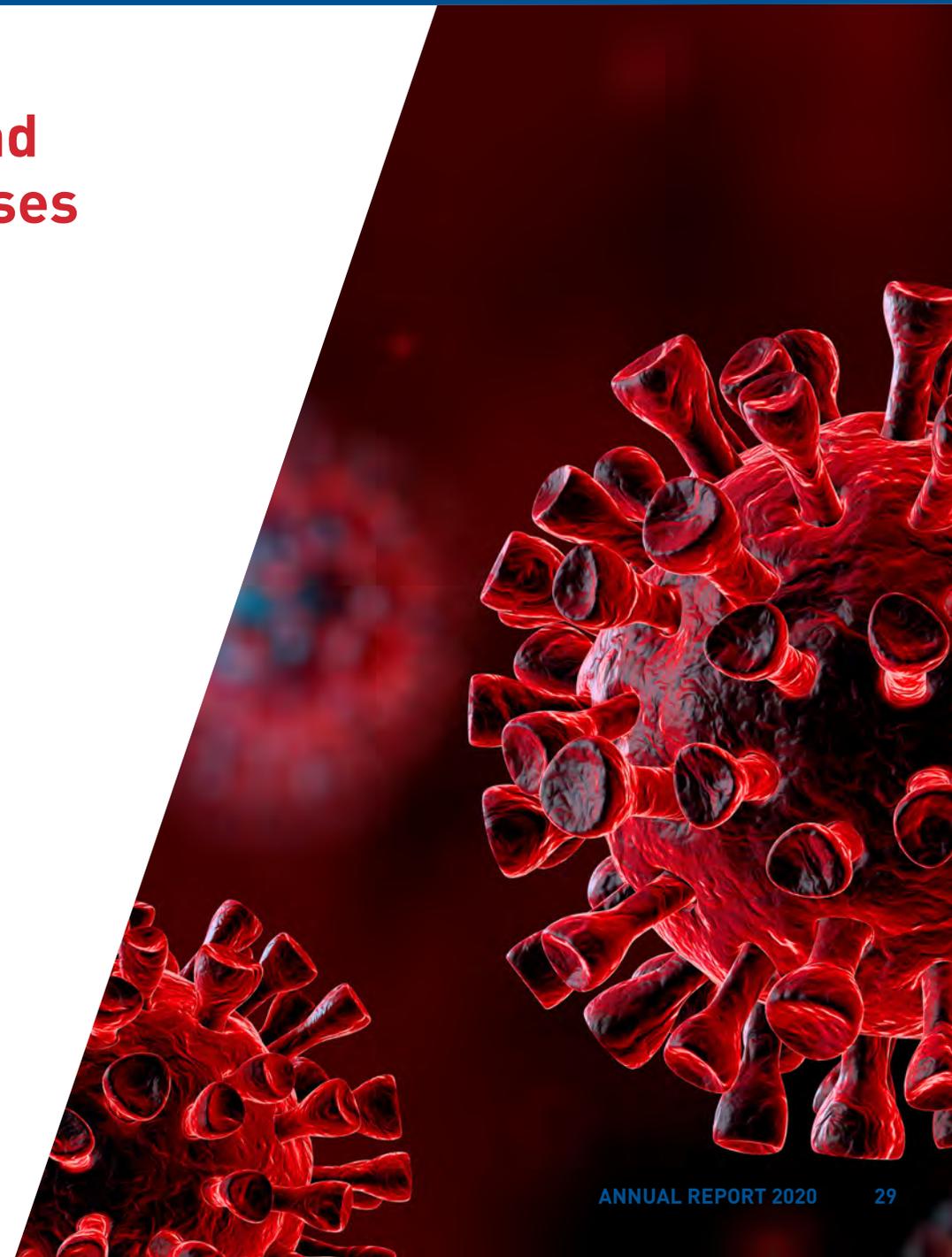
This was followed by expert opinions produced by or with contribution from the relevant EHA Scientific Working Groups on:

→ **Specific hematologic malignancies:**

- CML
- AML
- CLL
- MPN
- MM

→ **Specific non-malignant hematologic diseases:**

- Red Cells and Iron
- Bleeding Disorders
- Granulocytes and Constitutional Marrow Failure Disorders



## EHA webinars

From April until June 2020, EHA hosted a series of webinars focused on the care of hematology patients during the COVID-19 crisis. The webinars were organized in collaboration with renowned hematology professionals and representatives from relevant partner organizations, who shared their experiences from various perspectives and addressed key questions.

Date	Webinar
April 1, 2020	Session 1 (COVID-19 & Hematology Patient Care) - Addressing most urgent key questions for cancer patient care in coronavirus crisis.
April 9, 2020	Session 2 (COVID-19 & B-cell lymphoproliferative diseases) - The Implications of Treatments for B-cell Lymphoproliferative Diseases and the Immune Response to COVID-19 Infection.
April 16, 2020	Session 3 (SCD/Thalassemia and COVID-19) - Possible Risks and a Proposal for a Patient Pathway During the Pandemic.
April 23, 2020	Session 4 (COVID-19 & Myeloid Malignancies) - Managing Patients During the Pandemic.
April 30, 2020	Session 5 (COVID-19 & Researchers) - Special-edition webinar focused on the impact of the pandemic on hematology research and researchers.

Date	Webinar
May 7, 2020	Session 6 (COVID-19 & CRS) – Lessons from Immunotherapy
May 14, 2020	Session 7 (Coagulopathy in COVID-19 Patients) - Latest Data, Recommendations, and Perspectives
May 20, 2020	Session 8 (COVID-19 & Clinical Researchers) - Special-edition webinar focused on the continuity of clinical research during the current COVID-19 pandemic.
June 4, 2020	HARMONY-EHA COVID-19 Webinar: Integrating Harmonized COVID-19 Patient Data



# SUPPORTING CAREER DEVELOPMENT AND RESEARCH

EHA focuses on accelerating the career of promising researchers in hematology through providing funding for the lab-based research of talented early career researchers and physician-scientists with EHA Research Grants and supporting mobility through EHA Research Mobility.

## Research Grants 2020

The following exceptional early-career researchers received Research Grants:

### Advanced Research Grants



**Cristina Scielzo**  
**Ospedale San Raffaele, Italy**  
Exploiting A 3D Multi-organ System In-vitro to Identify Molecular Mechanisms Leading to Resistance to Therapy In CLL



**Biola M Javierre**  
**Josep Carreras Leukemia Research Institute, Spain**  
Dissecting the Role of Non-coding Genome in B-precursor Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia Under the THREE-DIMENSIONAL Genome Architecture Point of View [ALL-3D]

### Junior Research Grants



**David Lara-Astiaso**  
**University of Cambridge, United Kingdom**  
Characterization of Genome Regulatory Complexes in Hematopoiesis and Leukemia.



**Oriana Marques**  
**Heidelberg University Medical Center**  
Anemia of Inflammation - A Novel Role for Toll-like Receptors in Controlling Iron Restriction

### Physician Scientists' Research Grant



**Lina Benajiba**  
**Saint-Louis Research Institute, France**  
In Vivo Humanized Bone Marrow Functional Screening to Identify Microenvironment-related Therapeutic Targets in AML

## Research Mobility Grants 2020

EHA strives to develop the careers of young scientists through support of mobility by facilitating a visit to a research group in another institute. Both institutes should have complementary expertise as this visit is intended to promote collaboration between the institutes. These grants have a low threshold for application but with a quick turnaround in review and selection.

The call is open throughout the year. In 2020, marketing for these grants was ramped up in response to the increased budget of Euro 80.000 per year. This increased the number of applications received. By the beginning of March, the Fellowships & Grants committee had selected the following awardees:



### Miguel Quijada Álamo

**Home Institute:** Cancer Research Center of Salamanca. Jesus Maria Hernandez Rivas Lab  
**Host Institute:** Moores Cancer Center. University of California, San Diego. Thomas J Kipps Lab



### Yannouck Van Lier

**Home Institute:** Amsterdam UMC. Mette D. Hazenberg Lab  
**Host Institute:** Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Institute. Marcel R.M. van den Brink Lab



### Christiaan Stavast

**Home Institute:** Erasmus University Medical Center, Department of Immunology, Non-Coding RNA and Leukemia Lab  
**Host Institute:** Institute of Molecular Genetics of the Czech Academy of Sciences, Department of Hemato-Oncology.

As a result of the pandemic, these grants had to be put on hold as mobility was no longer feasible due to the restrictions imposed across the world. The committee expects that the call will be reopened as the situation stabilizes and borders reopen in the course of 2021.

## COVID-19 in Hematology Grants

In line with EHA's commitment to supporting the Hematology Community during the COVID-19 pandemic, EHA awarded three international leaders in hematological research the COVID-19 in Hematology Research Grants. The grants are intended for basic, translational, or clinical research questions that address either aspects of COVID-19 infection in malignant and benign hematologic disorders or hematological and immunological manifestations in COVID-19 infection.

With input from the EHA SWG on Immunotherapy, the Fellowships & Grants committee received and reviewed over 75 proposals for this call. The following three researchers were awarded:



**Chiara Bonini**  
**San Raffaele Hospital, Italy**  
Revealing the therapeutic potential of adaptive immunity to SARS-CoV-2



**Kirsten Grønbaek**  
**Rigshospitalet, Denmark**  
Clonal Hematopoiesis as a Cause of Hyperinflammation in COVID-19?



**George Vassiliou**  
**University of Cambridge, United Kingdom**  
Investigation of an association between clonal hematopoiesis and severe Covid-19 disease

### Cushioning EHA Grantees Against COVID-19

In 2020, EHA grantees, like their peers in Europe and around the world, were particularly vulnerable to the unprecedented disruptions that were caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Fellowships & Grants Committee therefore drafted a strategy to support these grantees through this challenging period. This was appreciated as most funders, especially fundraising charities, were not able to offer the same level of flexibility leaving EHA's grantees in peril.

With support from the EHA board, all grantees received unconditional no-cost extensions of 6 months and could reallocate funds within different budget as was necessary to take the project forward. Others were offered modest supplementary funding for reasonable project costs that a grantee could demonstrate were accrued during the period of disruption such as animal maintenance and salary.

To ensure transparency and fairness, all grantees were requested to submit a status report of any disruptions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, a plan for moving the projects forward, including proposed existing budget reallocations where needed and any extra costs that would be incurred. These reports were reviewed by the Fellowships & Grants committee and appropriate decisions on the level of support made.

### Research Grants 2021 program

For the 2021, a call for applications was opened in the fall of 2020. An unprecedented number of applications were received.

The Fellowships & Grants committee will have their hands full with the review of these applications, performing a preliminary review and subsequently routing successful applications for external review. Winners will be announced at the beginning of June 2021 after the interview meeting in May 2020.

In recognition of the expanding workload of the committee, the EHA Board approved the expansion of the committee from nine members to 12. The committee will expand its capacity more in 2021 with the approval of four more positions by the Board. Fortunately, the committee expanded from 8 members to 12 in 2020.

## Mentoring programs

Mentoring programs were particularly adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020.

Although the format of many programs could be changed to virtual offerings, EHA mentoring programs are only optimal with live, face-to-face interaction. These programs distinguish themselves from other events by their unique and personal mentorship aspect. The personal contact, conversations during lunch, coffee breaks, sitting next to each other at the seminar, are not replaceable by virtual meetings. These programs were therefore postponed. It is hoped that the workshops will resume at the end of summer 2021.

## Translational Research Training in Hematology (TRTH)

Translational Research Training in Hematology (TRTH) provides junior researchers with a unique, year-long training and mentoring experience. TRTH is a joint effort of the European Hematology Association (EHA) and the American Society of Hematology (ASH) and is focused on helping early-career hematological scientists build successful careers in hematological translational research.

The 2020 edition of the TRTH Spring course was postponed because of the onset of the pandemic in March 2020. To keep the class 'warm' as they wait for the face-to-face meeting at the end of August 2021, the co-directors have organized a series of thematic sessions beginning in November 2020 that will conclude in July 2021 before the face-to-face meeting.

## Clinical Research Training in Hematology (CRTH)

Through CRTH, EHA provides junior researchers with a nine-month long unique training and mentoring experience focused on clinical research in Europe, with a global scope. The program is undergoing a transition after its first three years. From a didactical program, with increasing interactivity over the course year, to a program that is interactive from the start. Hence, the scholars were asked to indicate in their application what problem in the clinic they wished to address with a clinical trial. During the course, this will grow into a full protocol and a plan of action.

### 2019-2020 Program

A record-breaking number of eligible applications for CRTH were received and, more importantly, the reviewers noted that many of these were of high quality.

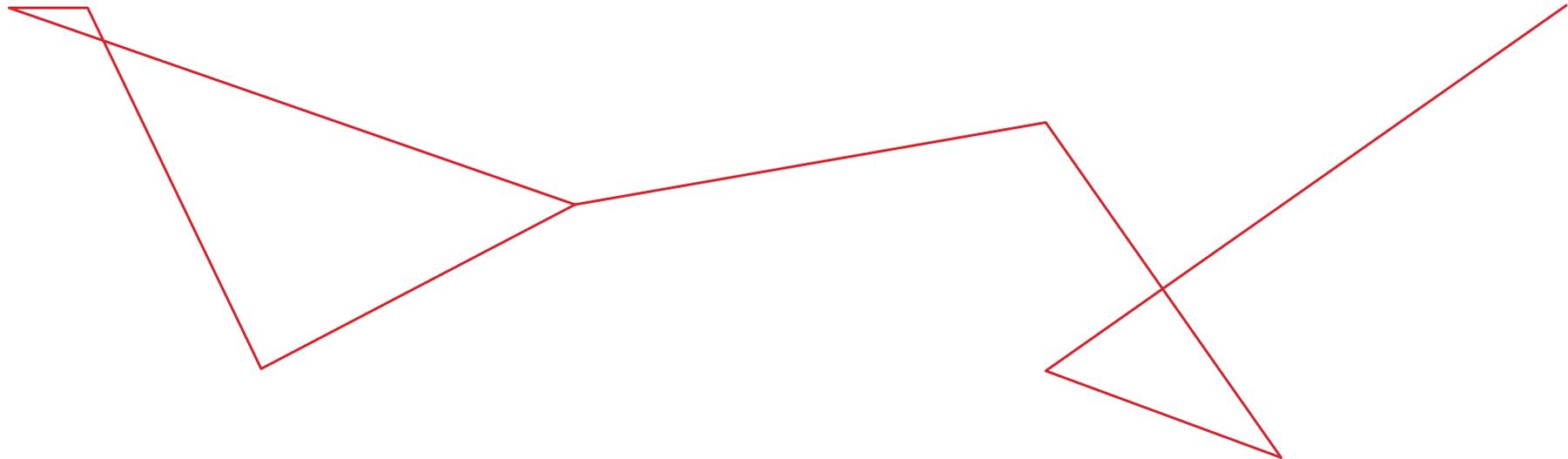
The 1st and 2nd workshops with 20 scholars each were held successfully, in November 2019 and February 2020, respectively. The final meeting at the EHA congress was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



CRTH Class of 2019-2020 together with faculty and staff at the 2nd Workshop in Rome, Italy

## New Grants Management System

With an expanding portfolio, it was time to improve the infrastructure. A new Grants management system was procured in 2020. This system is expected to improve efficiency in the Team but more importantly the user experience of the EHA community during application for opportunities, reviewing of applications etc. With one set of credentials, one can apply for a grant, apply for CRTH, apply for membership on a committee, be an external reviewer and much more. Relevant staff have been trained on the use of the system and already the 2021 round of Research Grants, the Call for applications for CRTH and the call for new members for EHA committees have been implemented in this new system.

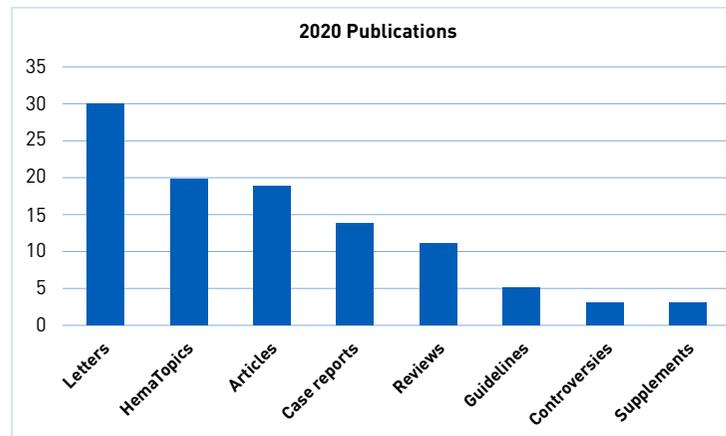


## HemaSphere

EHA's official open-access journal, *HemaSphere*, publishes the results of highly relevant basic, translational, and clinical research in hematology. HemaSphere also serves as a premier hematology information resource by way of the HemaTopics section that covers hot topics such as recent research developments, updates on diagnosis and treatment, policy- and guidelines news, and more. HemaSphere offers a fast and constructive review process and low article processing fees. To date in 2020, it officially released six issues per year, but due to the journal's online nature, HemaSphere publishes a steady flow of new content.

### Milestones reached

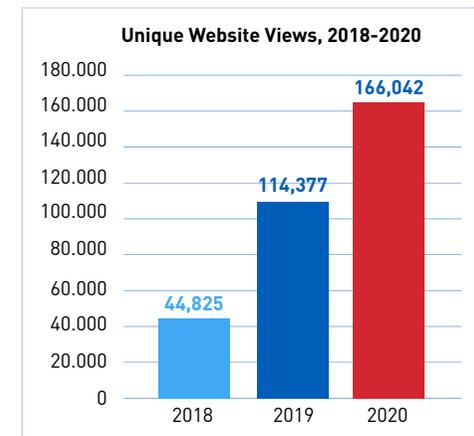
- **1. Publishing Statistics** – *HemaSphere* hosted nine issues and three supplements in 2020. Below, the breakdown of articles per type is illustrated. At the end of 2020, it was announced that starting in 2021, the journal would start publishing monthly issues (12) per year.



Milestone 1. Publishing Statistics

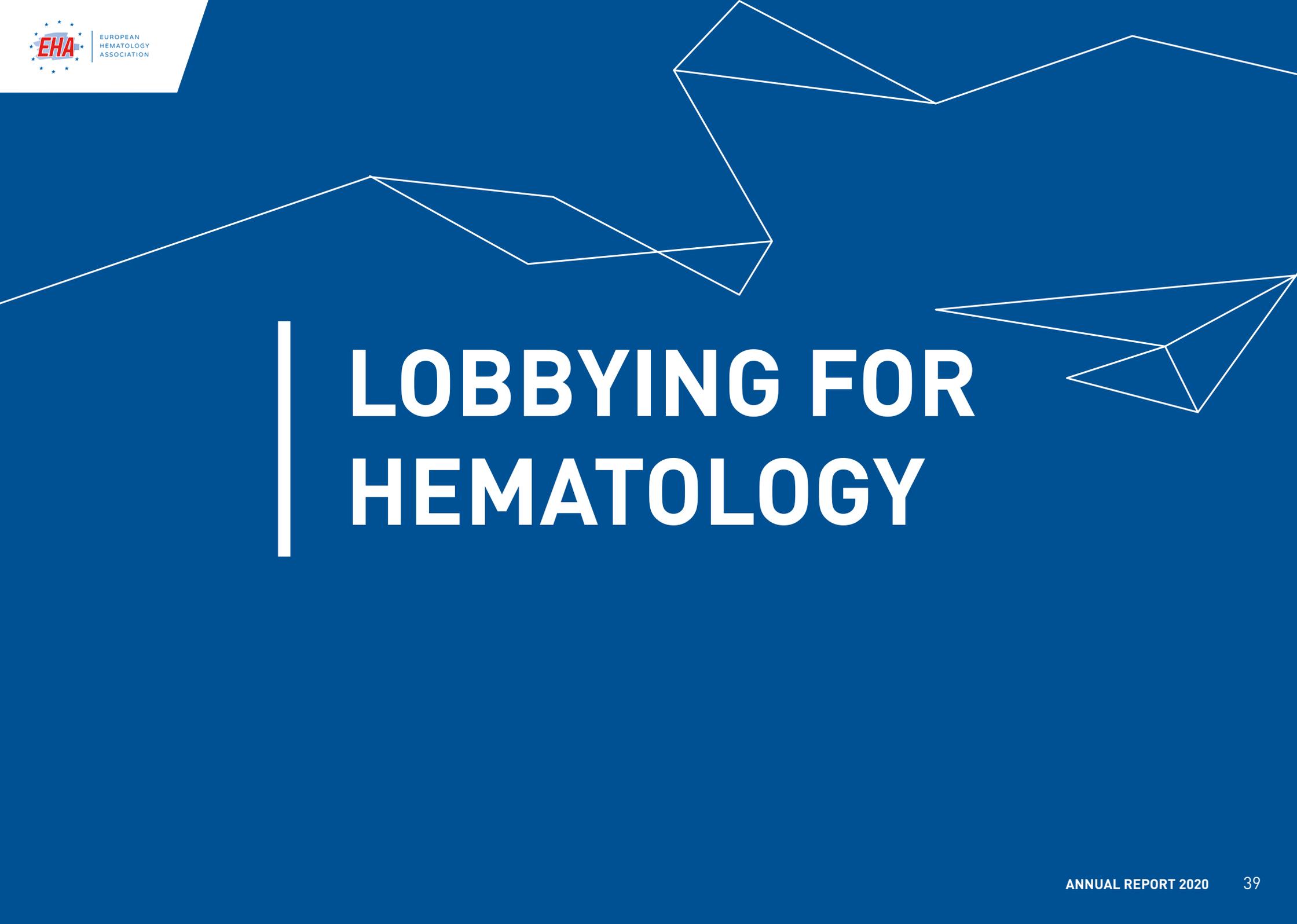


Milestone 2. Gene Therapy Special Collection



Milestone 4. Website Visits

- **2. Gene Therapy Special Collection** – in 2020, *HemaSphere* kicked-off a special collection dedicated to gene therapy. This collection is accessible via a dedicated portal on the journal's website and is ongoing due to delays caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **3. HemaSphere Twitter Account** – in June 2020, *HemaSphere* launched a dedicated Twitter account in an effort to further extend its journal content reach in the world and ensure digital relevance. The account has steadily gained followers and is proving to be an impactful communication tool.
- **4. Website Visits** – *HemaSphere*'s website has proudly seen a steady increase in unique website views over the past three years. Towards the end of 2020, the journal launched a refreshed webpage, offering a more modern look and easier navigation.
- **5. Increasing Citations** – during 2020, the journal saw a significant increase in the number of citations it received, which is encouraging as we look ahead to a hopeful future regarding impact-factor assignment.



# LOBBYING FOR HEMATOLOGY

# ‘Representing Hematology and Hematologists in Europe’

## Awareness, advocacy and stakeholder relations

EHA serves as the voice of hematologists in Europe, working to raise awareness of their contribution to healthcare and health research and to promote their specific needs and interests. To be an effective advocate for hematology professionals and their patients, EHA interacts and collaborates with all key stakeholders, taking an integrated approach to policy, regulatory and scientific relations.

## Advocacy priorities

EHA’s policy and lobby activities are based on three overarching priorities:

- Support for hematology **research** (increased funding, improved governance)
- **Access** to affordable diagnostics and treatment for patients with blood disorders
- An optimized **regulatory** framework in line with the needs of hematology and hematologists

## Stakeholder relations

At the basis of EHA’s policy and advocacy work is pro-active and sustained engagement and alignment with patient organizations, nurses, EU institutions, industry partners and national hematology societies. Active participation in alliances and EU-funded projects is an integral part of our stakeholder strategy.

# Highlights 2020

## Policy & regulatory

### Access to innovative therapies: new EHA position papers

In support of EHA's overarching advocacy priority – affordable access to innovative therapies for patients with blood disorders – four new complementary position papers were published in HemaSphere:

- [EHA position paper on Precision Diagnostics](#)
- [EHA position paper on Personalized Medicine](#)
- [EHA position paper on Access to Affordable Orphan Medicines](#)
- [EHA position paper on Fair Pricing of Innovative Medicines](#)

The position papers serve as basis for engagement with the EU institutions and other stakeholders in the context of new EU policies and funding programs, such as the EU Pharmaceutical Strategy, Europe's Beating Cancer Plan, EU4Health and Horizon Europe.

### Bureaucracy in clinical trials

What started as a dialogue between hematologists, patients and regulators about potential ways to reduce the administrative burdens for clinical researchers was, over the course of 2020, expanded into an ambitious cross-disciplinary campaign, led by EHA in close collaboration with the BioMed Alliance. Following a 'Call to Action' published in [HemaSphere](#), 'Reducing bureaucracy in clinical trials', EHA set out to build a coalition

of medical societies and patient advocates, resulting in the joint statement 'Reducing bureaucracy in clinical trials: now is the time!' in [September](#). Coalition working groups subsequently set out to draft recommendations on safety reporting, informed consent, and regulatory guidelines, which will serve as basis for multi-stakeholder roundtable discussions in 2021. The coalition's goal is to reach agreement on several pragmatic consensus solutions that will allow investigators to focus on what really matters: the safety of patients and the quality of clinical trials.

### In Vitro Diagnostics Regulation (IVDR) and precision diagnostics

Since late 2018 EHA has engaged with the European Commission and the National Competent Authorities on the implementation of the In Vitro Diagnostic medical devices Regulation (IVDR). Input is coordinated by the EHA Task Force on IVD and where possible aligned with the BioMed Alliance IVDR working group, the latter led by EHA President-elect Elizabeth Macintyre who represents the academic diagnostic community in the EU's Medical Devices Coordination Group (MDCG).

The IVDR will come into full effect in 26 May 2022 and will have substantial consequences for diagnostic laboratories, and for the availability of in-house developed tests in particular. It is EHA's aim to support European hematology laboratories in preparing for the implementation of the IVDR, to ensure continuity in laboratory diagnostics in 2022 and beyond.

### Health Technology Assessment (HTA)

EHA in 2020 continued to be an active voice in the political debate about EU-level HTA. It co-drafted a new BioMed Alliance [statement](#) urging Member States to reach a compromise on the European Commission proposal for an EU Regulation on HTA and emphasizing the importance of involving healthcare professionals in the debate. On a practical level, EHA continued collaboration with EUnetHTA which has been piloting EU collaboration on HTA. An EU mechanism for high-quality joint clinical assessments would reduce duplication, improve efficiency, reduce costs, and increase access to treatments with real added value for patients.

## Scientific collaborations

### Scientific advice

By providing expert input for policies, funding programs, investigations, regulatory assessments or the implementation or evaluation of legislation, EHA contributes to the quality of policy and regulatory processes while seeing to it that the interests of the hematology community are considered in their design and implementation.

In 2020, EHA identified and nominated expert evaluators for the European Medicines Agency (EMA) (scientific advisory group meetings) and EUnetHTA (joint clinical assessments by national HTA agencies). EHA also provides expert advice, on a structural basis, on the implementation of EU regulations for in vitro diagnostics and clinical trials (see above). In addition, EHA has established a new Health Data Advisory Group to propose a clear EHA strategy on Health Data and provide input for policymakers and regulators on this important topic.

### EuNet-INNOCHRON

Formally established in November 2019, the European Network for Innovative Diagnosis and treatment of Chronic Neutropenias (EuNet-INNOCHRON) is a COST Action co-proposed and supported by EHA. EU funding through COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology) supports the bottom-up creation of research networks. The main goal of the Action is to establish a wide network of researchers with special interest in Chronic Neutropenias and facilitate interactions and collaborations among top-level European experts and young investigators from different scientific areas. Throughout 2020, EHA has been assisting this network with the dissemination of its different initiatives and has supported the publication of a HemaSphere article on the challenges, perspectives, and implementation of the EuNet-INNOCHRON Action. In addition, the development of EHA-EuNet-INNOCHRON Joint Guidelines on Chronic Neutropenias has been initiated.

## Stakeholder networks

### EMA-EHA Relations

Interaction with EMA has been intensified in several areas, including scientific advice and clinical trials regulation. An important platform for discussion and collaboration with EMA is the Health Care Professionals Working Party (HCPWP). Prof Ulrich Jäger helped draft the joint work plan of the HCP and patient working parties and was subsequently elected HCPWP co-chair for the 2019-2022 mandate. He was succeeded as EHA representative by Ole Weis Bjerrum.

Relevant topics on the HCPWP agenda include big data and data sharing, medicine shortages, authorization of innovative therapies and orphan medicines, Regulatory Science and HCP training. The latter two are part of efforts to promote the structural and timely exchange of information between the regulator, which needs the latest insights to keep up with medical and technological innovation, and HCPs and patients who need to understand the regulatory processes to enable effective involvement.

The first of what will be periodic leadership calls between EMA and EHA took place in December. The objective was to discuss ways to structure the expanding collaboration and particularly to explore how EMA can contribute information that is relevant for EHA members, and how EHA can share expertise with EMA on specific topics. The following joint activities were discussed specifically:

#### Priority

1. EMA Session at EHA Congress
2. Submission of summaries of scientific assessments behind the approval of drugs and a regular editorial/column in *Hemasphere*

#### Other suggestions

3. EMA corner at EHA website
4. Joint symposia/workshops on scientific topics
5. Educational activities
6. Increasing EMA experts' network (incl. dissemination of Collaborating Expert Programme)



# HARMONY ALLIANCE

## ‘Accelerating better treatments for blood cancer patients’

The HARMONY Alliance is presented as an interdisciplinary network that unites the European / international hematological community. Since its inception in 2017 it is positioned as a unique and largest Public-Private Partnership on Big Data in Hematology driven by its mission to improve outcomes for blood cancer patients. The HARMONY Alliance consists of 2 projects, both of which EHA is a lead Partner.



### HARMONY

- Focus on Big Data in: Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL), Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML), Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia (CLL), Multiple Myeloma (MM), Myelodysplastic Syndromes (MDS), Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma NHL, Pediatric Hematologic Malignancies
- Community of 53 Partners, Patient Cluster with 7 European Patient Organizations and 43 Associated Members
- Budget Euro 40 million | 5-year project from January 2017 until Dec 2021



### HARMONY **PLUS**

- Focus on Big Data in: Myeloproliferative (MPN) disorders; Chronic Myeloid Leukemia (CML), Polycythaemia Vera (PV), Essential Thrombocythemia (ET), Myelofibrosis; Hodgkin’s Lymphoma, Waldenström Macroglobulinaemia and other rare blood cancers.
- Community of 39 Partners and 8 Associated Partners
- Budget Euro 11,8 million | 3-year project from October 2020 until Dec 2023

## HARMONY reached the following key milestones 2020

- In 2020 data sets were continuously loaded into the [HARMONY Big Data platform](#), following the highest security standards. These data sets have been harmonized to the Common Data Model (CDM) structure and are available for analysis using the different tools that were implemented in the HARMONY Big Data Platform. In addition, HARMONY focused on the completion of the technical requirements, on the exploitation of the platform and on providing support to the approved research proposals.
- In 2020 almost 60,000 patient data sets have been identified by both public and private HARMONY Partners, more than 28,000 were already transferred into the platform. In 2020 seven new HARMONY Research Projects have been approved, which lead to a total of 16 Research Projects.
- One of the HARMONY aims is to increase consistency in future clinical trials, allowing for the results to be compared and combined. To do this, clinical trials need to use consistent core outcomes. In 2020, several HARMONY Delphi Surveys were conducted to achieve a consensus in Core Outcome Sets. [Read more →](#)
- HARMONY responded to global health threat due to COVID-19. In 2020 launched the COVID-19 Data Platform, to play the vital role and to facilitate the delivery of harmonized datasets, know-how, and expertise together with trusted European health institutions. [Read more →](#)

- Communication and dissemination activities continued to play a pivotal role in the collection and promulgation of information about HARMONY and its activities, both internally and externally in 2020. EHA is leading all internal and external HARMONY communication activities. The COVID-19 pandemic has been a massive burden for all HARMONY community members and had an impact on the internal and external communications activities leading to reduced communication

### Highlights of the general HARMONY communication strategy in 2020:

- Continuously identify topics and information to turn into meaningful content and disseminate it in an effective manner.
- Put the right people together in the right way to maximize the flow of information and the accomplishment of results, thus enhancing cooperation and collaboration.
- Encourage thinking “outside the box” in terms of encouraging cross-stakeholder and cross-section connections and in relation to developing mechanisms for developing innovative communications tools.
- Ensure that HARMONY communicated in its internal community and external global network, in a uniform manner. In addition, ensure that both content and style were/ are consistent throughout all publications, presentations, articles, posters, and other multi-layered communications tools.
- Safeguard the distinct identity and reputation of the HARMONY Alliance.
- Promote a steady growth in the HARMONY (internal) community and (external) network.

## Highlights of the HARMONY strategy related to COVID-19 pandemic in 2020:

- Become a reliable contributor in international projects, aiming to help scientists to examine the characteristics of coronavirus.
- Offer a proficient data hub, facilitating the delivery of harmonized datasets, know-how, and expertise.
- Monitor European and global initiatives that can have a substantial impact on coronavirus research.
- Stay in touch with relevant public health organizations and European authorities.
- Initiate research projects designed to analyze the impact of COVID-19 impact on outcomes in blood cancers.

## Highlights of the main HARMONY communication and dissemination achievements in 2020:

- Increased the overall (virtual) visibility of HARMONY as a unique and large-scale Public-Private Partnership by successfully maintaining and profiling the HARMONY Alliance as a fully functioning and effective virtual organization with its own unique format and form.
- Implemented communications and dissemination strategies for expanding awareness about the critical importance of Big Data in relation to hematology and in HARMONY'S work.
- Re-positioned current and introduced new HARMONY Research and Delphi Survey Projects.
- Organized and participated in a vast number of meetings to create awareness, to disseminate, and to seek more organizations to become involved. HARMONY also has been presented in meetings with strong industry involvement. Some examples:

→ June 2020: [HARMONY-EHA webinar: The power of integrating harmonized COVID-19 patient data in hematology research](#)

→ June 2020: [HARMONY Alliance to attend 25th EHA Virtual Annual Congress](#)

→ October 2020: [HARMONY Alliance Virtual General Assembly](#)

→ [An overview of all meetings can be found here](#)

- Published a vast amount of new content at the external HARMONY website and continuously updated and improved the user experience. Some examples of new content:
  - [HARMONY news items including press releases](#)
  - [HARMONY become involved video](#)
  - [Launch of HARMONY PLUS](#)
- Developed digital materials to deliver HARMONY'S "message" in relation to the innovative, and medically ground-breaking nature of its mission. Examples:
  - [HARMONY factsheet](#)
  - [HARMONY explanatory PPT presentation](#)
  - [HARMONY ASH participation AML promotion video](#)
- Continued to maximize the use of all available social-media tools (posts, alerts, blogs, etc.) to increase global awareness of HARMONY'S achievements and its ongoing work.
- Ensured that knowledge of HARMONY'S work reached not just a European-wide audience, but an international one as well.
- Ensured the use of HARMONY'S corporate design for consistency of content, tone, and style.

# MAINTAINING RELATIONSHIPS AND PHILANTHROPY

# Partnerships and financial support 2020

2020 was the year predominated by the COVID-19 pandemic and left EHA to deal with rapid and invasive changes to the EHA programs such as the annual EHA Congress, Scientific Working Group (SWG) Meetings, outreach programs, etc., without compromising EHA's ongoing mission in connecting hematologists worldwide, advocating the interests of hematologists and hematology, supporting career development and research, and harmonizing education in hematology.

Supported by mutual trust and collaborative efforts that already formed the basis to achieve the best results for both EHA and our partners, EHA has been able to continue shaping and broaden the relations ultimately leading to supporting the existence of EHA as an organization as well as running our amended programs.

Even though the strategy for our industry partner relationships could not fully be deployed in 2020 due to all the COVID-19 restrictions, EHA has been in continuous conversations with our partners throughout the year to ensure that EHA was able to offer a variety of sponsorship opportunities to welcome both large and small companies and startups, to support its numerous activities and to create win-win outcomes.

EHA is grateful to its partners for their continuous support and commitment and is looking forward to further strengthen and expand relationships by providing meaningful and innovative support opportunities for its existing and new programs in the post-pandemic environment.



# FINANCIAL REPORT

EHA is a Common Good Organization under Dutch law and receives its funding through Corporate Partnerships with industry partners as well as through activity-based sponsorship for EHA's programs. Any profits generated from its congress and/or other programs will be invested in other activities to that serve the hematology community, according to the mission of EHA.

EHA is a Board-led organization and the Executive Board, the Board and its committee members contribute on a voluntary basis to the association's work for a certain period. The EHA Executive Office leads all efforts in executing the EHA strategy and employs a variety of highly experienced employees on a permanent or temporary basis.

## Balance sheet as of December 31, 2020 (in €)

	2020	2019
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Fixed assets	232,402	271,302
Current Assets	22,672,583	19,866,500
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>22,904,985</b>	<b>20,137,802</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Equity	19,824,303	16,297,631
Current liabilities	3,080,682	3,840,171
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>22,904,985</b>	<b>20,137,802</b>

## Statement of income and expenses 2020 (in €)

	2020	2019
<b>INCOME</b>	<b>11,219,365</b>	<b>15,459,335</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Annual congress	2,109,757	6,360,277
Research & Mentoring	1,642,652	1,699,942
Education & Training	435,932	811,925
Direct operations	182,269	127,573
Indirect operations*	3,281,445	3,011,236
Harmony project	(41,248)	(21,419)
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>7,610,806</b>	<b>11,989,535</b>
<b>OPERATIONAL RESULT</b>	<b>3,608,559</b>	<b>3,469,800</b>
Interest & bank costs	(81,886)	(18,549)
<b>Result</b>	<b>3,526,673</b>	<b>3,451,251</b>

\* Including staff costs

## Work Plan and Budget 2021

Based on EHA's Strategy, input was collected from EHA's Committees and Working Groups for the 2021 Work Plan and Budget. Input was provided at two levels:

- EHA's existing program portfolio and proposed strategic direction in 2021
- New EHA program initiatives fitting within EHA's overarching strategy.
- For ongoing projects as well as for new program initiatives the scopes of these initiatives had been developed, including the budgets, and collected in a draft Work Plan and Budget 2021 which was approved by the Board. The approved budget is summarized in this table.

\* Please note that the COVID-19 pandemic and the restrictions might have led to necessary changes and/or amendments to EHA initiated programs

### Approved budget 2021 (in €)

	2021
<b>INCOME</b>	<b>8.831.000</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Annual congress	1.364.000
Research & Mentoring	2.810.000
Education	1.565.000
Direct operations	425.000
Indirect operations	4.600.000
Harmony	-
Financial income and expenses	100.000
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>10.864.000</b>
<b>ESTIMATED RESULT</b>	<b>(2.033.000)</b>

## Investing in the future

At the October meeting the EHA Board also discussed its ambition to grow and expand activities in Research & Mentoring, Education, Congress & Meetings and Communication to ensure that EHA broadens its current benefits for members and non-members and can fulfil and broaden its strategic goals. In lieu of this, the EHA Board has decided that within the organization one additional department was specifically formed to solely work on relationship building for all EHA stakeholders in and beyond Europe. EHA's financial position and forecast is solid which allows the Association to develop and implement considerable programs that contribute to achieving its strategic goals. All new programs have been presented to the EHA Board to obtain approval for an additional investment plan for 2021.

### Notes to the statements:

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the Guideline for annual reporting 640 'Not-for-profit organizations' of the Dutch Accounting Standards Board.

The financial statements are prepared in euro, the functional currency of the European Hematology Association.

Valuation of assets and liabilities and determination of the result takes place under the historical cost convention. Unless presented otherwise at the relevant principle for the specific balance sheet item, assets and liabilities are carried at nominal value.

Income and expenses are accounted for on accrual basis. Profit is only included when realized on the balance sheet date. Losses originating before the end of the financial year are considered if they have become known before preparation of the financial statements.

Revenues from goods are recognized upon delivery. The cost price of these goods is allocated to the same period. Revenues from services are recognized in proportion to the services rendered. The cost price of these services is allocated in the same period. Transactions in foreign currencies are recorded at the FX-rates of the dates of the transactions. At the end of the financial year the unsettled balances of foreign currency transactions are revalued at the year-end FX-rates.



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