

# Annual Report 2017

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*European Hematology Association*

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*RSIN/fiscal number: NL8090.86.864*

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## INTRODUCTION

This Annual Report contains an overview of EHA's activities in 2017; all executed to support EHA's mission:

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

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### About EHA

EHA is a Non-Governmental and Not-for-Profit membership organization that is guided by its mission. Guided by our core values of independence, integrity and transparency our Board and Committees dedicate expertise and time on a voluntary basis. With our projects and activities, we serve the interest of hematology and hematologists with the ultimate goal to improve hematology patient care. To ensure these interests, 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 policy. The Board sets the goals and objectives in conformity with EHA's statutes.

The current Executive Board consists of:

- Pieter Sonneveld, President
- Tony Green, Past President
- John Gribben, President-elect
- Martina Muckenthaler, Secretary
- Andreas Engert, Treasurer

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

- Communication Committee
- Curriculum Committee
- EHA Learning Center Editorial Board
- European Board for Accreditation in Hematology
- Early Career Advisory Group
- Education Committee
- European Affairs
- Fellowships and Grants Committee
- Fundraising and Sponsorship Committee
- Good Governance Committee
- Membership Committee
- Nomination Committee
- Online and Case Unit
- Outreach Unit
- Research Committee
- Scientific Program Committee 23rd Congress

- SPC Advisory Board 22nd Congress
- SWG Unit
- TRTH Joint Oversight Committee

Below you will find a clearer picture of how EHA is formed:



The EHA Board and its committees are supported by the Executive Office which is located in The Hague, The Netherlands. The Executive Office is an international team of 29 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, the EHA supports hematologists in and outside Europe to further improve the plight of patients suffering from blood disorders.

### *...connects hematology professionals*

With almost 5.000 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 of Europe.

### *...encourages professional development among hematologists*

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

The EHA Career Development program includes research grants, visiting fellowships, and prestigious training and mentoring programs.

Research Grants are open for clinical and non-clinical researchers who want to achieve independence. The grants last two years and are between €50,000 and €80,000 per year.

Mobility is encouraged by offering joint programs with the Japanese Society of Hematology Exchange Fellowship, and the International Society of Thrombosis and Haemostasis, among others.

Training and mentoring programs are focused on developing the skills and knowledge of early career scientist in translational or clinical research. The EHA Clinical Research Training in Hematology is a 9-month long unique training and mentoring experience focused on clinical research in Europe, with a global scope. The ASH-EHA Translational Research Training in Hematology is a 1-year training and mentoring program by international leaders in hematology for a selected group of early career scientists from all over the world.

### *...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 hematologists 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.

## WHAT WE DID IN 2017

The year 2017 was a fruitful one for EHA with a steady increase in membership, a successful congress in Madrid, Spain, the launch of our new online, open-access journal HemaSphere, the kick-off of the Big Data project HARMONY, a successful edition of Highlights of Past EHA in Cairo, the establishment of a Young EHA Committee, the launch of a new website, and much more.

More hematologists in- and outside Europe were able to benefit from our projects and programs, of which an overview is presented in this annual report. Rapid developments in hematology research and clinical practice, but also in the regulatory and technical environment challenged us to strive for excellence and professionalism in what we do and what we deliver. These developments will continue after 2017, and with the commitment and dedication of our Board and Committee members and the numerous volunteers we collaborate with, we are convinced to serve the interest of hematology and hematologists even better in the years to come. Being an open and inclusive association, we welcome initiatives to support us in our journey towards a cure for all blood disorders.

## CONNECTING HEMATOLOGY PROFESSIONALS

### MEMBERSHIP

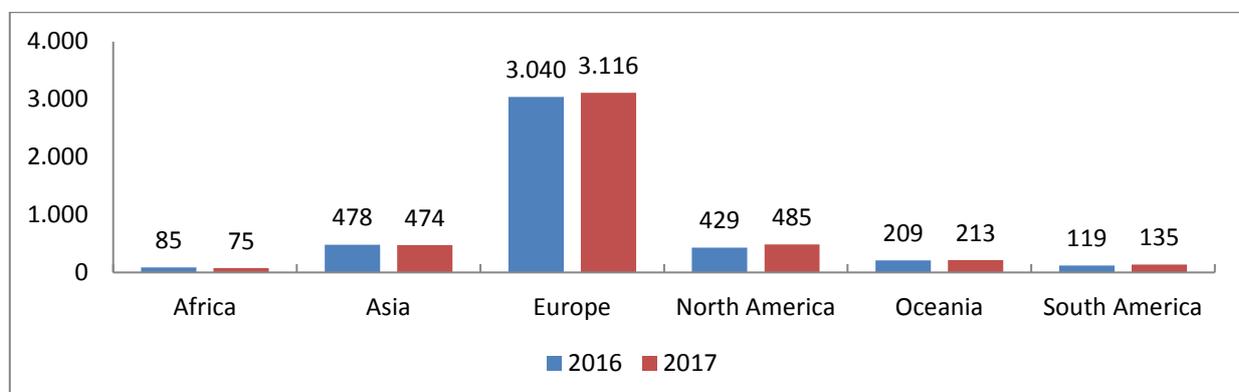
#### *Increase in numbers*

In 2017, we had over 4,498 members throughout Europe and beyond. There was an increase of 3% (138) in the total members compared to 2016. This increase is expected to continue in the years to come.

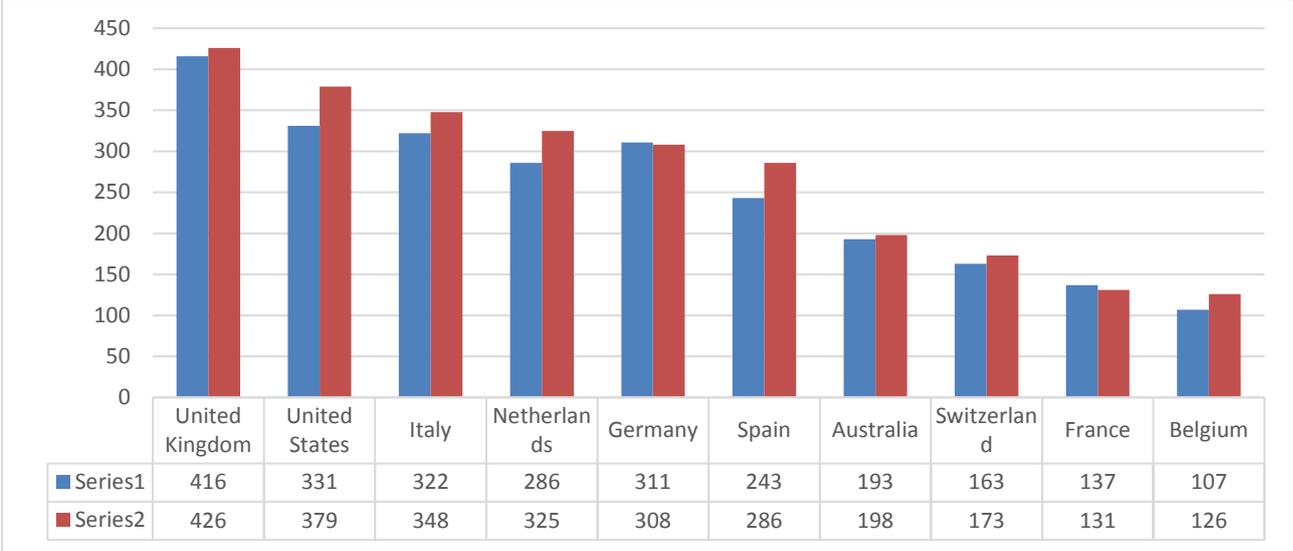
#### *More members, stronger voice*

The overall aim is to double membership numbers within the next five years. More members strengthen the position of the association and facilitate EHA's lobbying activities in the interest of hematology and hematologists.

Because we are a worldwide organization, we have members from all around the world. The main membership base is situated in Europe. This accounts for almost 70% of all our total members.



Looking at the different countries, we can see that the United Kingdom, United States, Italy, Netherlands, Germany and Spain have the highest number of EHA members.



Series1: 2016 | Series2: 2017

Membership has been promoted via different communication channels such as the website, leaflets, promotion emails and promotion at congresses and meetings. During and after the congress, all membership types were given a 50% discount.

### ANNUAL CONGRESS

*The beautiful and historic city of Madrid hosted the 22nd Annual Congress of the European Hematology Association (EHA) held on June 22-25, 2017. The unusual heat notwithstanding, some 10,517 delegates from around the world gathered in the Spanish capital to share the latest scientific and clinical research, reconnect with old friends, and meet new colleagues.*

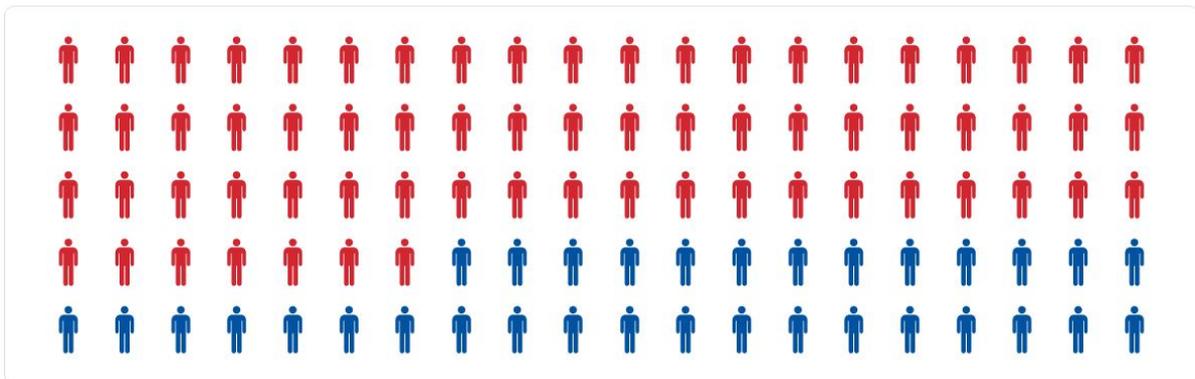
“Research lies in the heart of hematology,” said Professor Shai Izraeli, Chair of the Scientific Program Committee. “Therefore, the main goal of the scientific program is to bring the best of basic, translational, and clinical research in all areas of hematology.”

A record number of over 2,500 abstracts were submitted in 2017, a selection of which was presented in 193 sessions. Experts made another additional 60 presentations in the educational sessions while several special sessions were dedicated to career development and patient advocacy. The EHA’s partner organizations also arranged joint symposia that covered a wide range of subjects.

## Congress attendance breakdown

Below you will find a summary of congress attendees.

10517 attendees from 6 continents



  
Europe **45** countries

  
Outside Europe **68** countries

Top 3 Europe

Spain **900** 

United Kingdom **739** 

Italy **703** 

Top 3 Outside Europe

United States of America **1391** 

China **443** 

Argentina **303** 

## Which topics were discussed

There were 193 sessions at the congress. Below you will find how they were divided.

193 sessions



Invited speaker program  
**97** sessions

  
**254** presentations

  
**108** chairs

  
**5** plenary sessions

Abstract program  
**96** sessions

  
**205** oral presentations

  
**519** poster presentations

  
**792** e-posters

  
**81** chairs

  
**55** Moderators

## Our supporters

Below you will find a breakdown of congress supporters.

### Updates-in-Hematology



**4** sessions



**4** companies



**2** days

### Satellite symposia



**34** satellites



**21** companies



**4** x 7 symposia

### Exhibition

3058 m2 exhibition



**53** pharmaceutical companies



**9** patient organizations



**12** non-profit organizations



**2** publishers

## HARMONIZING HEMATOLOGY EDUCATION

### EDUCATION

*"They say the best way of learning is to teach. I have been involved in EHA Hematology Tutorials for over eight years. The preparation of cases for the tutorials is an excellent way of keeping up to date. I have carried out over 200 podcasts and in doing this I have met many interesting people and hopefully the interviews provide a relaxed approach to learning." - Shaun R McCann, Ireland*

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#### **Medical education program**

EHA is one of the largest international, independent providers of hematological knowledge. To harmonize hematology knowledge, we offer a comprehensive and integral curriculum which forms the basis of the Medical Education Program, through which professionals acquire state-of-the-art knowledge by use of various means.

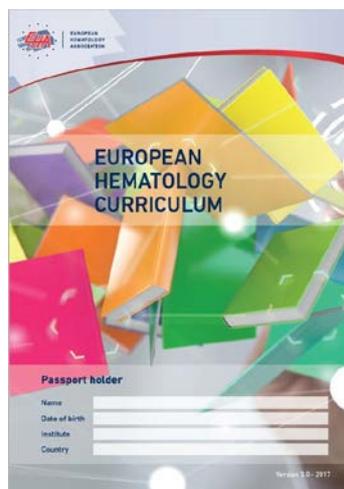
At EHA, hematological professionals can benefit from a variety of learning possibilities.

#### **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 competence was agreed upon.

Considerable developments in hematology in the last years have led to the update of the Curriculum to version 3. A panel of European experts has updated the previous version to ensure that it is in line with the new developments in technology, diagnostic methods and treatment modalities. In February 2017, version 3 was officially launched.

Together with this launch, the Curriculum Passport, the online self-assessment tool, has also been improved: a new look and feel and enhanced user-friendliness.



*The cover of the pdf version of the Curriculum/Curriculum Passport*

**Education**

European Hematology Curriculum European Hematology Exam EHA Learning Center Master Class Outreach program

Home / Education / European Hematology Curriculum / Online Curriculum Passport

**1 Clinical hematology: Benign disorders** 367

Show recommended level of competence

**1A Red cell and iron disorders** 189

The trainee has received training in:

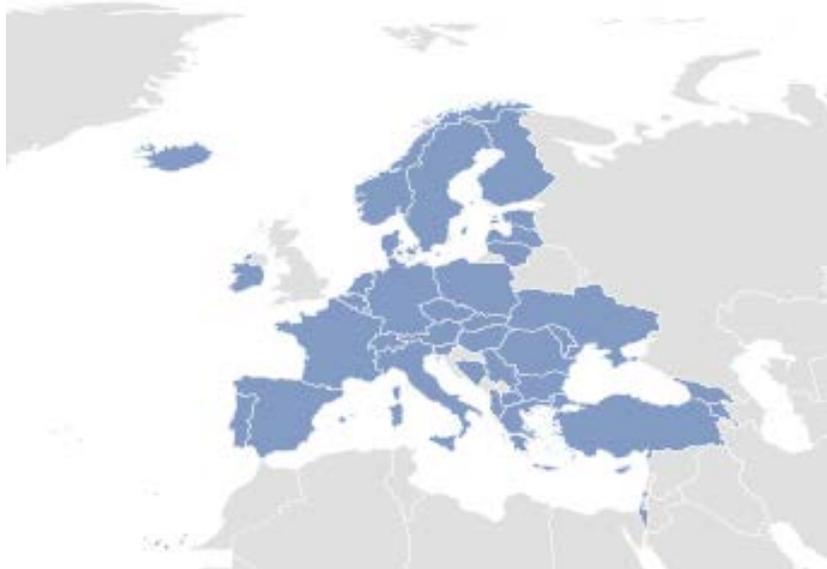
	no level	level 1	level 2	level 3
<b>a</b> Anemia due to deficiency (including iron, B12, folate) <span>14</span>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>b</b> Anemia of chronic disease <span>5</span>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>c</b> Anemia due to toxic exposure <span>1</span>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>d</b> Pure red cell aplasia	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>e</b> Thalassemia including HbE disorders <span>39</span>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>f</b> Sickle cell disease <span>57</span>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Download your latest Passport

Email your latest Passport

*The Online Curriculum Passport*

Version 3 of the Curriculum has been endorsed by 38 national societies.



*All countries marked in blue have endorsed version 3 of the Curriculum.*

### **EHA Learning Center**

With the EHA Learning Center, a broad variety of educational tools including webcasts, interviews with key opinion leaders, accredited courses and online patient cases as well as annual congress materials are made available on one platform. EHA members have free access to all peer reviewed

and evidence-based learning materials. Congress delegates have temporary and free access to annual congress materials. EHA Guests have access to materials that are freely available.

The focus in 2017 lied on the development of more e-learning tools, related to one or more topics of the European Hematology Curriculum. This was achieved by the launch of several new e-courses and clinical cases on the EHA Learning Center.

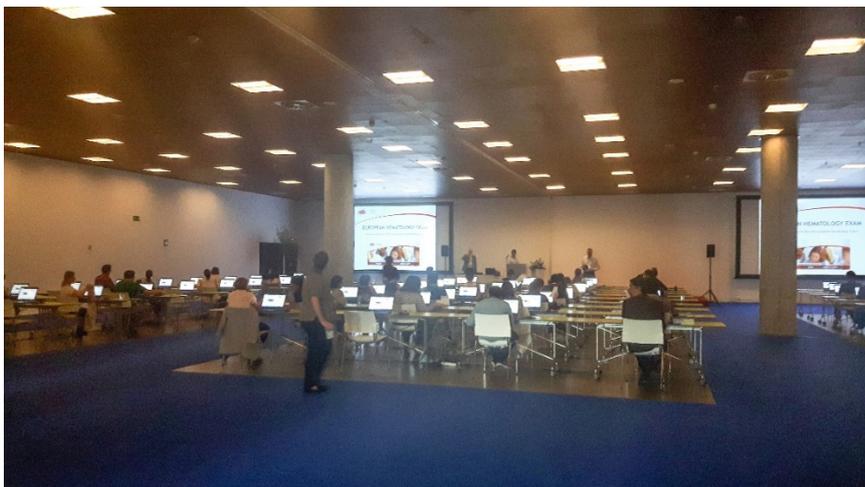
On an average 6.000 unique users per month visit the EHA Learning Center, with a clear peak around the Congress (more than 16,000 unique users).

### *EHA Hematology Exam*

In June 2017, the first edition of the European Hematology Exam (EHE) took place in Madrid, Spain. The European Hematology Exam aims to certify 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 European Hematology Exam will be regarded as an extra quality stamp for hematologists. It is an important step in the harmonization of hematology training/education in Europe and will support professional mobility.

Statistics:

- Final number of examinees: 64
- 52 successful candidates (passing rate of 81.2%)
- Average age candidates: 35 years old
- Gender
  - Male: 42%
  - Female: 58%
- Candidates came from 25 different countries and 5 continents



*The Exam in Madrid*

To guarantee the quality of the European Hematology Exam, EHA has asked CITO, an independent professional test analysis institute, to perform a quality control analysis. CITO concluded that the reliability of the results can be considered as adequate, that both quality and difficulty of the questions was sufficient, and that the scoring method and calculation of passing score were evidence based.

### **EHA Master Class**

The EHA Master Class is an online problem-based group learning experience for hematologists. The course, developed for junior as well as senior hematologists, is aimed to contribute to enhancing the harmonization and quality of hematology practice across Europe and beyond.

In 2017, 35 mentees successfully finished the EHA Classical Master Class of 2016-2017. One bite-size course was held in February on the topics of thrombosis, thrombophilia and anticoagulation and on thalassemia. Sixteen mentees benefitted from this course.

In October, another bite-size course was held on the topics of thrombosis, thrombophilia and anticoagulation, thalassemia and transplantation.

In this course, twenty mentees have received their certificates of participation.

## OUTREACH

For many years, EHA has had an Outreach Program which is aimed at providing hematology medical education to countries outside Europe that expressed an interest in co-organizing such education and training in their country. One of the core principles in this program is that these are always organized based on the needs indicated by these countries.

EHA's Outreach Program consists of hematology tutorials, joint symposia and Highlights of Past EHA (HOPE) which is based on the program of EHA's annual congress.

Hematology Tutorials are courses aiming to provide laboratory and clinical hematologists with an integrated diagnostic and clinical work-up of hematological disorders.

In 2017, these Hematology Tutorials took place:

- Lymphoid malignancies, MM and bone marrow failure syndromes, Sri Lanka (February)
- Lymphoid Malignancies, Poland (March)
- Myeloid malignancies, Armenia (October)

HOPE was held in Cairo.



# SUPPORTING CAREER DEVELOPMENT AND RESEARCH

## CAREER DEVELOPMENT

*"To accelerate the careers of real talents with programs that have an impact, in a professional and transparent manner"*

### Accelerate careers

Mobility, funding, and mentoring are known to improve skills, results and foster high quality researchers. As EHA strives to enhance research in hematology by supporting the careers of talented researchers, mobility grants, research grants, and mentoring programs are being offered.



- Research Funding      Research Grants have been restructured to promote the careers of not yet established researchers
- Research Mentoring    Clinical Research Training in Hematology (CRTH)  
Translational Research Training in Hematology (TRTH)

### Recipients of Talent Accelerator awards: real talents

The selection procedure for the Talent Accelerator programs are quite rigorous and competitive. Based on the scientific proposal, the profile of the scientist and whether the home institute is adequately supportive of the scientist’s work and ambition, the reviewers score the applications. The applications are ranked and subsequently the top is selected.



The Fellowships & Grants Committee awarded the following people with research funding:

Category	Name Candidate	Amount won
Clinical Research Grant	Tim Ripperger	€160.000,-
	Aldo Roccaro	€160.000,-

Non-Clinical Advanced Research Grant	Bruno Paiva	€160.000,-
	Sidinh Luc	€160.000,-
Non-Clinical Junior Research Grant	Dafna Groeneveld	€100.000,-
	Julie Morscio	€100.000,-
Short Term Collaboration Award	Stephania Contreras	€ 10.000,-
	Maria Tsagiopoulou	€ 7.500,-
	Petr Daněk	€ 10.000,-

### YoungEHA – representing early career researchers and caregivers in hematology

In 2017, the YoungEHA committee was established to represent the voice of young hematologists and junior members within EHA, and to advise the EHA Board and relevant committees about activities for to junior European hematologists and scientists.



### HEMATOPICS



In December 2017, EHA launched a new online open access journal called HemaSphere. HemaSphere aims to be the premier hematology information resource combining scientific articles with association updates and insightful discussions on all aspects related to hematology. HemaSphere publishes results of highly relevant basic, translational and clinical research in hematology and welcomes all types of articles (original articles, reviews, case reports, guidelines, short articles). The journal lead by two editors-in-chief Prof Jan Cools and Prof Andreas Engert has an international editorial board composed of 12 associate editors and 4 scientific editors. The first issue was composed of 19 articles including HemaTopics/HemaPolitics articles that was previously published separately.

## LOBBYING FOR HEMATOLOGY

### REPRESENTING HEMATOLOGY AND HEMATOLOGISTS IN EUROPE

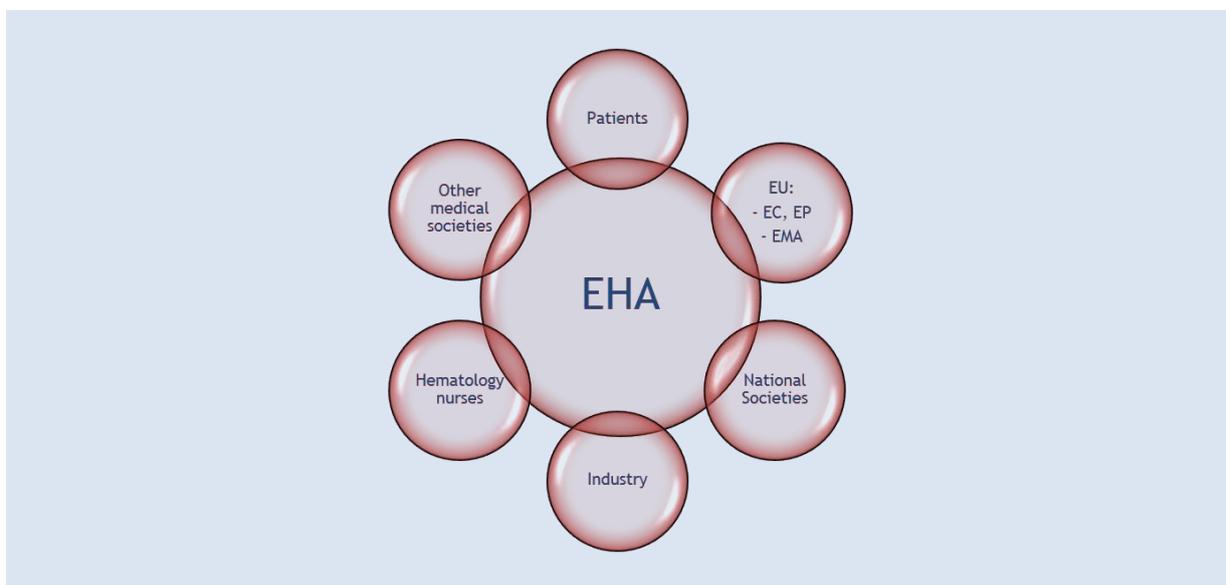
**Awareness, advocacy and alignment** are the keywords in EHA's approach to lobbying and stakeholder relations.

EHA is working continuously to increase awareness of hematology as a medical discipline with distinct clinical and research needs of its own, and its own visibility as the leading representative of hematology professionals in Europe.

EHA has 5 lobby priorities:

- Support for hematology **research** (EU funding programs)
- Ensuring **access** to treatment for patients with blood disorders
- Improving **access** to and **affordability** of innovative medicines
- Europe-wide definition of **professional qualifications**
- Improved implementation of EU legislation on **blood and blood components**

Engagement with stakeholders aimed at advancing these advocacy priorities takes multiple forms: from pro-active networking and alignment on policy issues, to active participation in alliances and EU-funded projects.



### HIGHLIGHTS 2017

#### EHA Task Force on Fair Pricing

Following a decision by the European Affairs Committee to make the pricing of innovative medicines a top priority, a task force was installed in late 2016 to formulate positions and develop a lobby strategy. The goal is to curb the prices of innovative medicines, to keep them accessible and affordable for patients and to contribute to ensuring the sustainability of healthcare systems. To achieve this goal, EHA – in collaboration with other medical societies, patient groups, payers and

public health advocates – advocates for new business and pricing models, for transparency and collaboration between EU member states on negotiations and reimbursement, and for EU action on price maximization, publicly funded trials and improved market access for biosimilars.

Starting with a multidisciplinary brainstorm meeting in The Hague, the EHA Task Force on Fair Pricing initiated a string of activities in 2017:

- Participation in stakeholder forums (OECD, WHO)
- Headline session at the EHA22 Advocacy Track in was dedicated to fair pricing
- Development of a biosimilars strategy, discussions with biosimilar manufacturers
- Formation of a working group on new pricing models with top health economists
- Publication on task force priorities in *HemaSphere*
- Engagement with the European Medicines Agency



*Prof. Anton Hagenbeek, chair of the Task Force on Fair Pricing, at the session dedicated to medicine prices at EHA22 in Madrid.*

### **Madrid Declaration**

At its annual congress in Madrid, EHA launched the *Madrid Declaration on enhanced training requirements for hematologists in the Professional Qualifications Directive*. The declaration was co-signed by 26 out of 28 national hematology societies in EU Member States and received support from the Hematology Nurses & Healthcare Professionals Group (HNNHCP) as well as from nearly a dozen patient organizations.

To boost high-quality patient care and optimal professional mobility, the declaration calls upon the European Commission and the EU Member States to raise the minimum training period (from 3 to 5 years) required for automatic cross-border recognition of hematology professionals. It also urges the responsible authorities in Member States to adopt or maintain this minimum at the national level and harmonize training requirements based on the European Hematology Curriculum.

The Madrid Declaration was developed and has been brought to the attention of the European Commission by EHA but serves first and foremost as a lobbying tool for National Societies that need to convince their health and education authorities of the importance of the proposed changes.



*Many congress delegates expressed their support for the Madrid Declaration at the 'signing wall'.*

## HARMONY

In 2017, the HARMONY project was formally launched. HARMONY intends to capture, integrate, analyze and harmonize anonymous patient data from high-quality multidisciplinary sources to unlock valuable knowledge on multiple myeloma (MM), acute myeloid leukemia (AML), acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL), chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL), non-Hodgkins lymphoma (NHL), myelodysplastic syndromes (MDS) and pediatric HMs.

Building on pre-existing, long-lasting collaborations between academic institutes and the pharmaceutical industry, the HARMONY project shall further advance HM management through a more efficient process of treatment development and rapid decision-making. The expected outcome will be better prognosis and quicker life-saving decisions, important for patients suffering from these hematological diseases.

The project brings together key stakeholders in the clinical, academic, patient, HTA (health technology assessment), regulatory, economical, ethical and pharmaceutical fields to:

- Developing a data sharing platform that empowers clinicians and policy stakeholders to improve decision-making
- Establishing a network reflecting the European HMs landscape
- Defining clinical endpoints and standard outcomes in ALL (paediatric & adult), NHL, MM, AML, CLL, MDS
- Alignment of key stakeholders on relevance of these outcomes (policy makers, payers, patients)
- Providing means for analysing complex data sets comprising different layers of information
- Identifying specific markers for early registration of innovative and effective therapies for HMs

The HARMONY project's final deliverable is a big data platform which integrates outcome measures and endpoint definitions for HMs. HARMONY will achieve this from a pan-European perspective by uniting and aligning European stakeholders and key opinion leaders in the field. The 5-year project will start in January 2017 and is funded through the Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI); Europe's largest public-private initiative aiming to speed up the development of better and safer medicines for patients. Harmony is coordinated by two public leads: Prof. Dr. Jesús María Hernández from Instituto de Investigación Biomédica de Salamanca, Spain, and Dr. Guillermo Sanz from Instituto de Investigación Sanitaria del Hospital La Fe de Valencia, Spain, and by two EFPIA leads, Tayyab Salimullah from Novartis Oncology and Pam Bacon from Celgene International.

EHA is one of the 51 partners in HARMONY and is leading the Work Package on Communication, Dissemination & Training, as well as participating in other Work Packages and in the HARMONY Steering Committee.

## MAINTAINING RELATIONSHIPS AND PHILANTHROPY

### Sponsoring 2017

Thanks to the continuous support of our sponsors towards our organization, EHA could step up its efforts to represent the hematology care in Europe, while EHA sponsors benefit from the networking establishing new business relations within the field. Mutual trust and collaborative efforts form the basis to achieve the best results for both parties.

EHA believes that rigorous and continuous cooperation at all levels is key to the dissemination of information regarding the education and research development, from the manufacturers through to the patients. With that purpose, EHA diversified its sponsorship opportunities to welcome both large companies and startups, ensuring structured and **systematic discussion among partners**.

EHA is proud of the long-term cooperation with its current sponsors. EHA has [38 corporate partners](#) (Novartis Oncology, Celgene Corporation, Bristol-Myers Squibb, AbbVie, Janssen, Takeda Oncology, Amgen, Gilead, F. Hoffmann - La Roche Ltd., Servier, Pfizer, Astellas Pharma Europe Ltd, Incyte Corporation, Jazz Pharmaceuticals, SeaGen International GmbH, Alexion Pharmaceuticals, Otsuka, AstraZeneca, Daiichi Sankyo, Sanofi/Genzyme, Teva, Shire Pharmaceuticals Limited, GlaxoSmithKline, Prothena, MorphoSys AG Pharmaceuticals, Pharmacyclics, Agios, Karyopharm, Bluebird Bio, Kite a Gilead company, PharmaEssentia, TG Therapeutics, Oncopeptides AB, Octapharma, Celltrion, Helsinn, Nordic Nanovector, Achillion).

We would like to thank all partners for their continuous support and commitment towards our association. We look forward to continuing the future innovative partnerships, patient-centered integrated care programs, corporate responsibility, strong collaboration with the industry to shape the future of healthcare provision together.

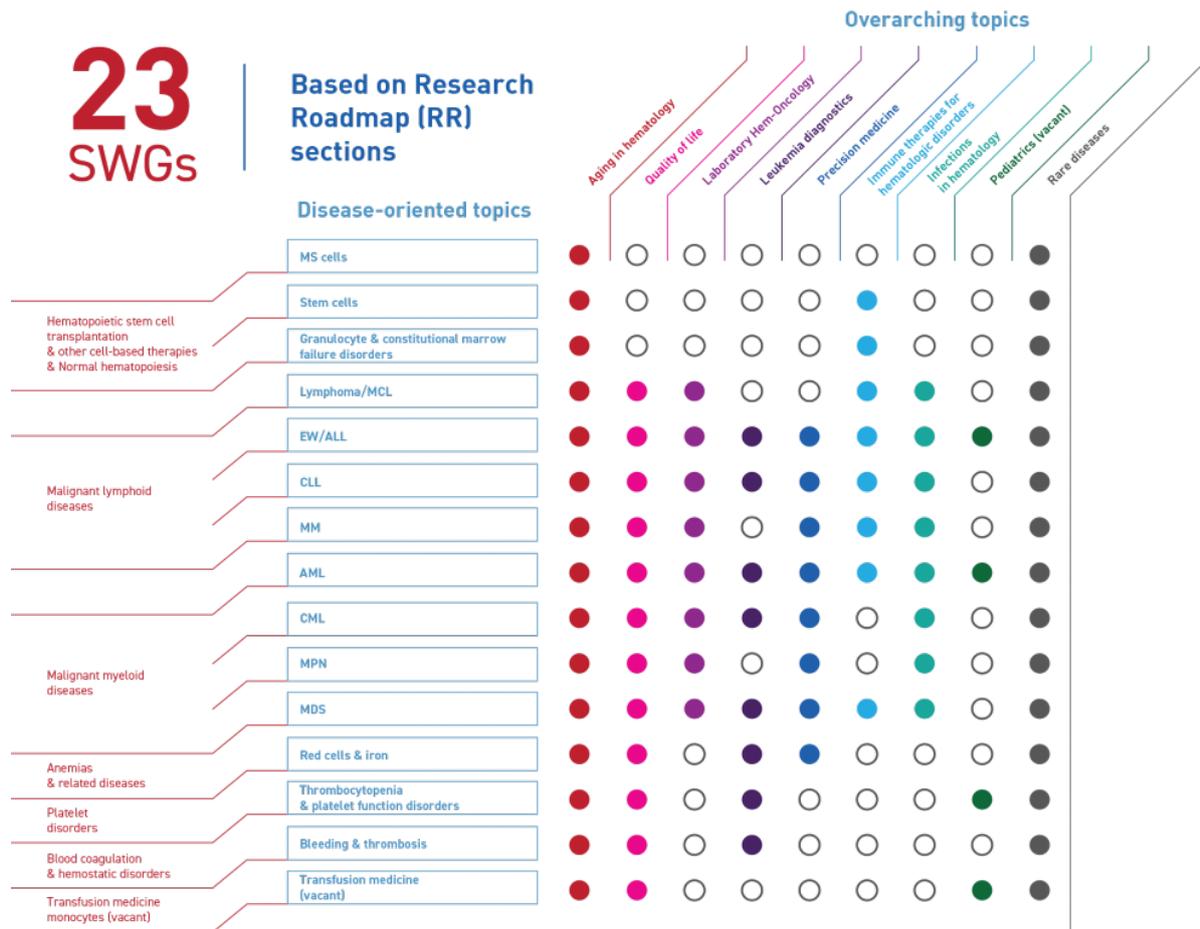
### **EHA Friends' Fund**

In 2017 the engagement with EHA Friends continued to take major steps forward after the launch of [EHA Friends' Fund](#) at EHA Congress in Copenhagen in 2016. To respond to all challenges in hematology care in Europe and beyond, EHA created a fund to support research and education in hematology. The **engagement with the community** secures funding for education and it helps us in our efforts to offer more opportunities for junior hematologists and demonstrates the important role of our sector and its' benefit to the patients. **EHA Friends Fund is** promoted through EHA mailings, journals, EHA Congress Run, campaign with EHA Friends mugs (merchandising), Friends' donation page, events registrations system/link and meetings' materials.

### **Scientific Working Groups (SWGs)**

The 21 Scientific Working Groups promote high-quality science within the hematology community and create independent scientific networks that serve under the umbrella of EHA. They provide a vital link between manufacturers, pharmacies, doctors, hospitals and ultimately the patients. They serve as a forum for collaboration and foster the **dissemination** of basic, translational and clinical research in hematology in and outside Europe. SWGs are a space for **learning, dialogue and exchange** among everyone involved in hematology research.

Reflecting on the SWG goals and needs in research, the [new SWG structure](#) was implemented in 2017 to paint a comprehensive and up-to-date picture of the research areas relevant to the future of hematology. The model is based on the nine sections of the EHA Roadmap for European hematology research; a consensus document ([Haematologica 2016, vol. 101](#)). The EHA structure enables the continuous research developments in Europe and development of science.



Thanks to their effective role, they work on clinical trials, develop registrars, share new data and develop treatment guidelines. Furthermore, they build relations with patient organizations and pharmaceutical industry and they identify new innovative areas for research. In collaboration with EHA they organize the EHA SWG Scientific Meetings, sessions at the EHA Congress and provide scientific input for the EHA Medical Education and European research projects. They often help define a policy agenda for hematology and they contribute to the development of EHA position papers and lobbying in Brussels. New initiatives will be explored to meet current developments and future needs in hematology research.

### EHA-SWG Scientific Meetings

EHA facilitates 19 Scientific Working Groups (SWGs). These are active networks of researchers and scientists with an interest in a specific hematological topic. The EHA-SWG Scientific Meetings are established as scientifically-focused meetings which aim to exchange scientific knowledge and promote collaboration within the hematology community. The meetings cover both hematologic malignancies and non-malignant topics. The programs deliver experts' perspectives on the latest findings, offer discussions with patient organizations, interactive clinical cases and round table sessions.

Furthermore, it provides an opportunity to discuss evolving therapies with leading experts in hematology as well as the opportunity to network among faculty and colleagues. The network

opportunity is also always very much appreciated. The small-scale meetings make it easy to talk to the faculty and other delegates.

In 2017, scientific meetings on the following topics took place:

- Anemias/Red Cells (February)
- Rare Lymphomas (March)
- MPN (October)
- MSC (November)

### **PRESENT EHA SCIENTIFIC WORKING GROUPS BASED ON ABOVE GUIDELINES**

#### **DISEASE-ORIENTED TOPICS**

1. Acute myeloid leukemia. Chair G Ossenkopelle
2. Bleeding and thrombosis. Chair A Falanga
3. Chronic myeloid leukemia. Chair R Hehlmann
4. European Research Initiative on CLL. Chair P Ghia
5. European Working Group for Adult ALL. Chair N Gökbuget
6. European Working Group for Philadelphia-negative Myeloproliferative Neoplasms. Chair JJ Kiladjian
7. European Working Group for Stem Cells. Chair D Bonnet
8. Granulocyte and constitutional marrow failure disorder. Chair C Dufour
9. Lymphoma & European MCL Network. Chair MJ Kersten & Chair M Dreyling
10. Mesenchymal stromal cells. Chair W Fibbe
11. Multiple myeloma. Chair P Sonneveld
12. Myelodysplastic syndromes. Chair U Platzbecker
13. Red cell and iron. Chair A Iolascon
14. Thrombocytopenias and platelet function disorders. Chair C Balduini
15. Transfusion medicine (vacant)

#### **OVERARCHING TOPICS**

1. Aging and hematology. Chair D Bron
2. Immune therapies for hematologic disorders. Chair H Einsele
3. Infections in hematology. Chair OA Cornely
4. Laboratory Hem-Oncology & Leukemia Diagnostics (4.a ESLHO-EuroMRD and ESLHO-EuroFlow) & (4.b Leukemia diagnosis: morphology and flow cytometry) Chair J van Dongen & Chair MC Béné
5. Pediatric hematology (vacant)
6. Precision Medicine. Chair M Cazzola
7. Quality of life and symptoms. Chair E Oliva
8. Rare diseases

More at <https://ehaweb.org/research-and-awards/scientific-working-groups/>

## FINANCIAL REPORT

EHA is a Common Good Organization under Dutch law. Profits generated from its congress are invested in other activities to that serve the hematology community. The Board and Committee members contribute on a voluntary basis to the association's work. Expenses for meetings are reimbursed. The EHA Executive Office has its own employment arrangements. The employees in the Executive Office function according to various job profiles, which are linked to the remuneration policy.

The remuneration (SV loon) of the management team in 2017 was € 170.700. The individual wages do not exceed the VPI (Balkenende) norm. Every year, a financial audit is executed by an independent certified auditor which resulted to a positive auditor statement in 2017. A summary of EHA's financial position is provided below.

Balance sheet as per December 31, 2017

	2017	2016
<b>Assets</b>		
Fixed assets	€ 423.973	€ 170.497
Current Assets	€ 13.224.375	€ 13.519.415
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>€ 13.648.348</b>	<b>€ 13.689.912</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Equity	€ 9.661.708	€ 7.627.409
Current liabilities	€ 3.986.640	€ 6.062.503
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>€ 13.648.348</b>	<b>€ 13.689.312</b>

State of income and expenses 2017

	2017	2016
<b>Income</b>	<b>€ 11.554.639</b>	<b>€ 10.319.962</b>
Expenses		
Annual conference	€ 5.423.825	€ 4.872.458
Fellowships and grants	€ 758.210	€ 802.786
Other and general expenses ***	€ 1.787.269	€ 1.854.654
Activities	€ 1.301.704	€ 1.615.583
Housing and depreciation	€ 261.804	€ 198.401
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>€ 9.532.812</b>	<b>€ 9.343.882</b>
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<b>Operational result</b>	<b>€ 2.021.827</b>	<b>€ 976.080</b>
Interest & bank costs	€ 12.472	€ -13.548
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<b>Result</b>	<b>€ 2.034.299</b>	<b>€ 962.532</b>

\*\*\* Including staff costs

## Notes on statements:

General Accounting Principles for the preparation of the financial statements:

The financial statements are prepared according to the Netherlands Civil Code.

Validation 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 presented at face 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 taken into account if they have become known before preparation of the financial statements. Revenues from services are recognized in proportion to the services rendered. The cost price of these services is allocated to the same period.

