

ANNUAL
REPORT

2014



EUROPEAN
HEMATOLOGY
ASSOCIATION

European Hematology Association

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1. Introduction

EHA promotes excellence in research, education and patient care in hematology. By organizing an annual congress, providing an education program based on the European hematology curriculum, publishing a journal, lobbying for hematology and promoting research the association supports hematologists in- and outside Europe to further improve hematology patient care. With over 4.000 members and with around 11.000 hematologists attending its annual congress, EHA is the largest organization representing hematology in Europe.

The EHA Board is in charge of the association. Through a nomination and ballot procedure, members elect the EHA Board. The EHA Board appoints from its members the Executive Board, existing of a Chairman, with the title of “president”, a president elect, a secretary and a treasurer. The term as President is succeeded by a two year term as Past President and member of the Executive Board. ,

- The president chairs the Business meeting (General Assembly)
- The secretary is responsible for the secretariat and the membership records of the Association. He ensures that minutes are taken of all meetings of the EHA Board and that all persons concerned are invited.
- The treasurer is responsible for the accounts and all financial matters of the Association. The Association is audited externally every year.

Composition of the Executive Board

President: Christine Chomienne

Past President: Ulrich Jäger

President Elect: Tony Green

Secretary: Jorge Sierra

Treasurer: Pieter Sonneveld

The association is supported by an Executive Office with 23 staff members and is located in The Hague, The Netherlands.



2. EHA's core activities; goals & objectives

This annual report contains an overview of the activities of the association in 2014. These activities derive from the course EHA is following in order to achieve its mission to promote excellence in research, education and patient care in hematology. In 2014 the EHA Board reviewed and updated the association's course for the next five years which can be summarized as follows:

1. To further strengthen basic, translational and clinical research in hematology
2. To continue to strive for lifelong learning in hematology by offering various peer-reviewed, high quality and unbiased educational tools in various formats, suitable for different target groups in- and outside Europe
3. To represent and advocate the interests of hematology and hematologists in European politics
4. To further improve its relationship with and the involvement of its stakeholders

Being a non-profit membership organization EHA is and will be fully aware of its responsibilities, while executing its activities. Therefore the EHA Board reinforced its principles which are leading in all the activities the association undertakes.

1. EHA should serve the hematology community through its members and National Societies. In that respect EHA should be transparent, unbiased, inclusive, a provider of information/education, and a strong representative at the European level.
2. Towards pharmaceutical companies, EHA should be a reliable partner and a strong academic counterpart with clear principles.
3. Towards patient organizations, EHA should be a partner organization with common goals and provide services, information and education.
4. Towards governments and EU authorities, EHA should be a strong representative of hematology with a strong EU commitment, and a reliable partner and source of information.

Chapters 2 to 5 contain an overview of EHA's activities in the area of science/research, education and outreach, membership and additional activities. The 2014 financial report is presented in chapter 6.



3. Report on Science/Research

2.1 ANNUAL CONGRESS

In 2014 the 19th Congress of EHA was organized in Milan, Italy. For this congress, which was attended by 10.094 participants, 2342 abstracts were submitted. For the first time late breaking abstracts were introduced; 74 of these abstracts, with clinical and non-clinical data, were submitted. Eight abstracts were selected for oral presentations and 11 were selected for poster presentations. Three new collaborations were introduced in the program:

- EHA-International Society of Thrombosis and Hemostasis Collaboration Lecture Topic: Treatment of Thrombosis in Cancer Patients
- EHA-Chinese Society of Hematology Joint Symposium
Topic: haplo-identical stem cell transplantation
- EHA-Russian Onco-Hematology Society and the Russian Hematology Society Joint Symposium
Topic: treatment of Hodgkin Lymphoma

2.2 CAREER DEVELOPMENT

EHA's Career Development program promotes European research in hematology and supports young basic, clinical and translational researchers in pursuing their career goals by offering a number of fellowships and training opportunities. Each fellowship has a specific target aimed at fulfilling the need of hematological researchers in different stages of their career, a certain area in hematology or a specific region. EHA Fellowships are also open to EHA members from non-European countries. This year 10 winners were awarded in the following categories:

1. Clinical Research Fellowships ; 2 winners
2. Non-Clinical Junior Research Fellowships; 3 winners
3. Non-Clinical Advanced Research Fellowships; 2 winners
4. EHA-JSH Collaboration Exchange Fellowship; 2 winners
5. Short Term Visiting Award; 1 winner

In addition, 20 winners of the prestigious Translational Research in Hematology Training Award 2014 (TRTH) were selected. This program has been developed by EHA in close collaboration with the American Society of Hematology and provides a yearlong intensive training to high potential translational researchers who are at the beginning of their career. The spring course in March was the kick-off for this intense one year training and mentoring experience.



2.3 EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

In 2014 the project “Roadmap for Research in Hematology in Europe” was launched. In this project over 300 top experts in hematology from all over Europe worked together to draft a consensus document on the state of the art and the future needs for hematology research. With this document EHA will provide policy makers (politicians and civil servants) with the facts that allow them to make well-balanced and informed decisions on the distribution of research funds. The manuscript will be written, reviewed and published in a scientific journal by the end of 2015.

In addition a project on the costs of blood disorders was initiated in which researchers from the University of Oxford (UK) with the aim to provide a ‘picture’ on the direct and indirect costs in Europe regarding the diagnosis and treatment of patients with hematological disorders. The final report of this project is planned for mid-2015.

2.4 HAEMATOLOGICA

As the journal of EHA, Haematologica is determined to focus on excellence in the three core areas of scientific publishing: (1) excellent scientific content of articles, (2) excellent peer review process, (3) excellent production process and dissemination.

The impact factor (based on citations of 2013 to papers published in 2011+2012) was 5.868. Haematologica is ranked 5th of 68 hematology journals.

In June the updated website and the Haematologica App were launched.

In 2014 the acceptance rate was 19% of the in total 1.392 articles and letters that were submitted to Haematologica. The average time to reach a first decision regarding publishing articles and letters (or not) was 17 days.

In 2014 twelve editions of Haematologica were published. Being an open access journal provides the scientific community with the possibility to view, read, and download articles and use the information for their professional development. All EHA members received a hardcopy of Haematologica by regular mail.

Some facts:

In 2014 this resulted in almost 1,4 million downloads.

The Haematologica website: 552,577 views

Table of contents: 215,525 views

Abstracts & full text article views: 995,055 views

Article pdfs: 1,378,164 downloads

4. Report on EHA's Medical Education Program & Outreach

3.1 INTRODUCTION

EHA offers a comprehensive Medical Education Program which consists of various online learning tools as well as live events and blended learning programs. The program is based on the following principles:

- It is comprehensive and covers all topics of hematology.
- It is aimed at serving different target groups and offers a range of activities and tools.
- It is evidence-based and peer-reviewed.
- The content is developed, reviewed and delivered by a faculty who are experts in their field.

EHA's Medical Education Program has been designed based on the European Hematology Curriculum, needs assessments, and continuous review of EHA's existing learning tools.

3.2 EHA LEARNING CENTER

In November 2013 the EHA Learning Center was launched with a variety of educational tools including webcasts, interview podcasts with Key Opinion Leaders, online real patient cases as well as abstracts and education manuscripts from EHA congresses. EHA members have free access to all peer reviewed learning materials. Congress delegates have a temporary access to the congress materials. EHA Guests have access to materials that are freely available. In 2014 an increase in the number of registered users was visible. Around the congress 14.000 visits were logged.



3.3 EHA SWG SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS

EHA collaborates with 19 Scientific Working Groups active in the field of various hematological disorders. The overall aim is to foster the scientific collaboration and concentrate on activities directed towards basic and translational research. As part of this collaboration EHA and the SWGs organize scientific meetings which are designed to create a high quality scientific program and to share in-depth scientific knowledge with hematologists. In particular, these meetings provide an innovative format that includes e.g. discussions with patient organizations, regulators and other stakeholders. Besides that voting boxes are used for the self-assessment of participants.



In 2014 two EHA SWG Scientific meetings were organized.

EHA-SWG Scientific Meeting new molecular insights: emerging therapeutic strategies in ALL
February 28-March 2, 2014 – 137 participants

EHA-SWG Scientific Meeting on multiple myeloma
September 5-7, 2014 – 122 participants

3.4 EHA MASTERCLASS

The EHA Hematology Master Class, a peer learning program, has been developed for hematologists approaching the end of their training. Twenty-five trainees are divided into five groups of mixed nationalities. Each group is facilitated by an experienced hematologist as mentor who functions as discussion facilitator. The Master Class makes use of remote (online) learning tools in an integrated way; a social networking site for the main learning and discussion, and a web-conferencing tool for feedback on the trainees' reports and asynchronous question-and-answer session from the 'experts' who designed the study material. In 2014 the fourth Masterclass was organized.

Also in 2014 a shorter version –the so called bite size Masterclass- has been developed and implemented. This short version targets more specific knowledge gaps by focusing on single subjects.

3.4 COMPETENCE SURVEY

In order to monitor the development of professional competences in hematology in Europe, the European Professional Competence Survey was initiated in October 2014.

The European Professional Competence Survey is based on the self-assessment of knowledge, skills, and competences of hematologists in training and hematologists who recently completed their specialty training. Based on their self-assessment, an analysis will be made concerning the quality and completeness of hematology training provided throughout Europe.

Based on this analysis, areas in educational programs needing improvement can be identified at national and regional levels. This information will be important input for educational institutions to further develop their program in these specific areas. Improving education will raise the overall standards in hematology, which ultimately will lead to improved patient care.

A promotional campaign was launched on October 30, with invitation letters sent to 35 National Societies in Europe, advertisements in Haematologica, a mailing to junior hematologists and flyers for dissemination at hematology events. As of the first quarter in 2015 survey results will be analyzed and will be used to further improve EHA's Medical Education Program.

4. Report on Membership and National Hematology Societies

4.1 EHA membership

Members are the core of EHA. To better suit their needs a new tangible benefit to the Membership program was introduced: unlimited access to all content of the EHA Learning Center.

The total number of active EHA members in 2014 is: **3,821 members**

Country	Full Members	Junior Members < 36 years	Health Care Affiliated Professionals	Emeritus Members	Expiring Junior Members 36 years	Total
UNITED KINGDOM	209	133		16	10	368
ITALY	131	173		23	8	335
GERMANY	180	92		8	10	290
NETHERLANDS	196	71	2	5	5	279
UNITED STATES	174	54	1	21	10	260
SPAIN	60	96	1	2	4	163
SWITZERLAND	116	24		8	4	152
AUSTRALIA	91	24		19		134
SWEDEN	68	40	1	10	2	121
BELGIUM	68	44		4	2	118
FRANCE	75	32		11		118
JAPAN	69	14		5		88
TURKEY	42	24			3	69
PORTUGAL	18	48		1		67
CANADA	37	17		5	1	60
AUSTRIA	30	24	1	3	1	59
GREECE	40	16	1		1	58
CZECH REPUBLIC	22	26			1	49
DENMARK	22	18	6	1	2	49
BRAZIL	27	13		6	1	47

4.2 National Hematology Societies

In 2014 a dedicated group has been established to intensify the relationship with National Hematology Societies in Europe.



5. Other activities

EHA is a member of the European Alliance for Personalized Medicine (EAPM). This alliance brings together Europe's leading healthcare experts and patient advocates to improve patient care by accelerating the development, delivery and uptake of personalised medicine and diagnostics.

It is calling for the European Commission, the European Parliament and EU member states to help improve the regulatory environment so that patients can have early access to personalised medicine, and so that research is boosted. Since hematology is at the forefront of the development of personalized medicine, it actively participated in EAPM activities to support its mission. Various meetings and conferences with members of the European parliament took place. In addition, in 2014, a start was made to develop and implement a European training program for various medical specialties on personalized medicine.

EHA is also a member of the Alliance for Biomedical Research in Europe. This Alliance is a unique initiative representing 21 leading research-oriented medical societies that include more than 400,000 researchers across Europe. The BioMed Alliance is committed through its actions to promote excellence in European biomedical research and innovation with the goal of improving the health and well-being of all European citizens. In 2014 EHA participated in various meetings, supported the establishment of the Scientific Panel for Health in Horizon 2020, the EU's research-funding program, for the period 2014-2020, and various other activities the Alliance undertook in order to realize its mission.

6. Report on Finances

EHA is a Common Good Organization under Dutch law. Profits generated from its activities 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 does not have a CAO (collectieve arbeidsovereenkomst) but it 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 of the management team in 2014 was € 181.150. The individual wages do not exceed the VPI (Balkenende) norm. Every year a financial audit is executed by an independent registered accountant which resulted for 2014 in a positive auditor statement. A summary of EHA's financial position is mentioned below.

Balance as per December 31, 2014

	2014	2013
Assets		
Fixed assets	€ 248.562	€ 298.421
Current Assets	€ 11.304.639	€ 10.614.464
Total Assets	€ 11.553.201	€ 10.912.885
Liabilities		
Capital	€ 6.370.783	€ 6.021.163
Provisions	€ 0	€ 239.646
Current liabilities	€ 5.182.418	€ 4.652.076
Total liabilities	€ 11.553.201	€ 10.912.885

State of income and expenses 2014

	2014	2013
Income	€ 9.219.331	€ 7.842.392
Expenses		
Annual conference	€ 4.950.177	€ 3.719.968
Fellowships and grants	€ 1.533.000	€ 2.650.500
Other and general expenses ***	€ 1.388.844	€ 2.387.202
Activities	€ 1.142.033	€ 741.272
Housing and depreciation	€ 198.817	€ 159.301
Total expenses	€ 9.212.871	€ 9.658.243
Operational result	€ 6.460	-€ 1.815.851
Interest and taxes	€ 343.158	€ 797.335
Result	€ 349.618	-€ 1.018.516

*** Including staff costs