



Date: February 20, 2013/uk3

## **10th Annual Symposium of the European LeukemiaNet**

**Mannheim February 5 - 6, 2013**

Coordinator: Prof. Dr. Rüdiger Hehlmann

### **Summary**

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The European LeukemiaNet is an EU - initiated research network of excellence with the aims to integrate leukemia research across Europe, to improve the management of leukemia, spread excellence globally and expand knowledge.

The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium of the European LeukemiaNet (ELN) was held on February 5 to 6, 2013 in Mannheim, Germany. The ELN Network management center (NMC) organized the scientific programme and provided the operational and organizational infrastructure of the symposium and workpackage (WP) meetings. This includes the scientific program, meeting facilities, catering, accommodations and reimbursement of travel costs. It was a major goal and challenge to get the members of all ELN workpackages face-to-face together. In total, 427 participants from 33 countries attended the Symposium including four invited speakers from Europe and the US. The programme was available for download on the ELN homepage. Traditionally this event is combined with the Annual Symposium of the German Competence Network on Leukemia (KNL), which directly follows the ELN Symposium and in 2013 already took place for the 14<sup>th</sup> time.

The 10th Annual Symposium of the European LeukemiaNet was supported with a grant by the European Science Foundation and used synergies with KNL. The ELN is grateful for the support.

### **Scientific content of and discussion at the Symposium**

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On the first day (**5.2.2013**), all ELN-Workpackages had their meetings. Challenges and new directions in leukemia and related disease entities were highlighted during the workpackage meeting in three consecutive sessions. Each WP reported on the different projects and discussed future objectives of the group for the coming year.



### **Session I (11:30 – 13:30)**

**WP4** (chronic myeloid leukemia (CML)) and **WP17** (registry) discussed the electronic case report forms (eCRF) and the methodology of the EURO-SKI study as well as the insurance question. The results and experiences from the Scandinavian countries regarding EURO-SKI were presented. The Russian and the Italian registries of pregnancies during CML summarized their current results, and the ELN-CML Registry presented an update. With an update on the relevance of CMR4,5 within the CML-Study IV, and an overview on upcoming WP meetings, session I was closed.

**WP7** (chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL))/ ERIC first provided general information on their WP work. Afterwards, concise summaries of current projects from different study groups were presented. The projects 8-colour MRD, p53 harmonisation and the final results of the phase IV ofatumumab as well as CLL accreditation in Europe were discussed. **WP8** (myelodysplastic syndromes (MDS)) had a broad spectrum of project progresses to present, including quality of life studies, the EU-MDS registry (where a first manuscript is ready for submission) and studies on the impact of transfusion on the biology and progression of MDS or the prognostic impact of declining cytopenias. There was considerable progress in the ELN guidelines to report.

### **Session II (15:00 – 17:00)**

**WP5** (acute myeloid leukemia (AML)) and **WP17** (registry) discussed the progress on the APL registry, and there was a report on therapy related APL. The German AML Studygroup and the Swiss HOVON-SAKK presented joint analyses in CEBPA-mutated AML. The update on the ELN/EBMT study of alloSCT in elderly AML was reported, and the prediction possibilities of overall and relapse-free survival in AML patients were discussed. Two additional reports dealt with molecular MRD and flow cytometric MRD in AML.

There were two presentations on MRD in the ALL session as well. Highlights in **WP6** (European working group for acute lymphoblastic leukemia (EWALL)) were the updates on targeted therapy studies with antibodies, dasatinib and nilotinib in Philadelphia chromosome positive ALL.

**WP11** (cytogenetics) and **WP13** (Next generation sequencing) organized a joint meeting, starting with a presentation on a novel prognostic model of AML solely based on new mutations. Reports on a German multicentre MONOSOMY7-study and the monosomal karyotype in MDS followed.

After an update on the IRON-II next generation sequencing studies, both WPs went on with separate sessions. WP11 reported about the quality management activities in 2012 (Round tests for FISH and



chromosome banding) and on the relevance of secondary abnormalities in CML. In the end upcoming activities in 2013 like workshops and joint research activities were planned.

WP13 discussed the FP7 framework and planned NGS activities. Further topics were the detection of significantly differentially methylated regions in reduced bisulfite sequencing data, the integrative analysis by GEP and methylation arrays, novel sample preparation techniques and the BCR-ABL1 mutation detection of Ph+ leukemias.

### **Session III (17:30 – 19:30)**

**WP9** (chronic myeloproliferative disease, MDS) reported on new response criteria in polycythaemia vera (PV), essential thrombocythemia (ET) and primary myelofibrosis (PMF). Two projects on splanchnic and cerebral vein thrombosis were introduced. Finally, the ELN consensus for bone marrow transplantation in MPN was discussed. **WP10** (diagnostics) and **WP12** (minimal residual disease) had a joint meeting and reported updates on morphology, new cells, flow cytometry and minimal residual disease. A roundtable about accreditation in flow cytometry followed. **WP12** (minimal residual disease) discussed the topics MRD in flow cytometry in AML and MRD after allogeneic stem cell transplantation. Preliminary results on the use of a new tool for an harmonized morphological diagnosis were presented, and the accreditation and quality in flow cytometry was discussed. **WP14** (stem cell transplantation) gave an overview on projects concerning the topic HCT vs CT randomized study in elderly patients with AML, in particular an a Graft-versus-Host-Disease consensus, CML redommentations, the Global Transplant activity and information on the Worldwide Network for Blood and Marrow Transplantation (**WBMT**). There were several presentations dealing with the two types of conditioning regimen before transplantation (RIC-MAC).

The joint **ELN/ESF-ELN Steering Committee Meeting (20:00 – 22:00)** followed in the evening on the first day (by invitation only, separate protocol).

On the second day (**6.2.2013**), each workpackage summarized results in a plenary session (8:00 – 10:30).

The scientific symposium started with the presentations of three ELN Merit Awards to Profs. Büchner (Münster), Simonsson (Uppsala) and Baccarani (Bologna).



Four keynote lectures followed with invited speakers from Europe and the US. A. van de Loosdrecht from Amsterdam, the Netherlands, summarized the implementation of flow cytometry in myelodysplastic syndromes. J. Guilhot from Poitiers, France, reported on the biometric standards for clinical trials in CML and B. Falini from Perugia, Italy, on new mutations in AML. N. Gökbuget from Frankfurt, Germany, introduced the new proposed European clinical trials regulation.

The ELN **General Assembly** approved five new institutions, so that to date 193 institutions participate from 39 countries. There was one new country (Lebanon).

The ninth information letter was prepared for the symposium in 2013, highlighting the current progress on projects and listing studies and upcoming meetings. It fosters cooperation amongst network members and informs the public on current topics in leukemia.

#### **Assessment of results and impact of the Symposium on the future direction of the field**

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The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium highlighted upfront European research in leukemia, also reaching out to other continents like the US and Asia. Leukemia is a rare disease and European clinical trials are important to gain a broad patient collective, to discuss and compare results and offer optimal treatment for patients. European harmonisation efforts are of major importance for progress in all leukemias. Important activities include consensus decisions in clinical study endpoints, the set up of patient registries for all leukemias, common standardisation procedures and classification systems in diagnosis and follow up (molecular monitoring, cytogenetics, minimal residual disease assessment, but also harmonisation in data evaluation and reporting. Cooperative research is the only way to cure leukemia.

The ELN offers innovative ideas and internationally recognized researchers. The ELN integrates a large portfolio of new disease markers, novel targets, drugs, drug-combinations and dose-optimisation studies, vaccination approaches and next generation high-throughput technologies developed in a harmonised setting of European collaborations. All WPs and projects are the basis for high quality research, essential for European excellence in the field of leukemia research and cure of leukemia. This impacts patients, health care economics and society and results in faster implementation of best treatment options for all patients across Europe.

**Full list of speakers and participants is attached in a separate file.**

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# PROGRAM

**2013**

**10<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium of the  
"European LeukemiaNet"**

**14<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium  
of the German Competence Network  
"Acute and chronic Leukemias"**

**February 5-6, 2013  
m:con Congress Center Mannheim**

**Tuesday, February 5, 2013**

**08.00 - 10.45 h Opportunity for breakfast meetings**

**08.15 - 10.30 h ELN CML registry (EUTOS)**  
*(by invitation only)*

**European LeukemiaNet**

**11.00 h Welcome and outline of the program**  
*R. Hehlmann*

**11.30 - 19.30 h ELN-Workpackages (German Competence Network integrated)**

**11.30 - 13.30 h Session I**  
*B. Simonsson, M. Bacarani, F. Guilhot, A. Hochhaus, R. Hehlmann, J. Hasford:*  
**CML (WP 4), Registry (WP 17)**  
*P. Ghia:*  
**CLL (WP 7)**  
*T. de Witte, P. Fenaux, M. MacKenzie, A. Symeonidis, R. Stauder,*  
*U. Platzbecker, A. van de Loosdrecht:*  
**MDS (WP 8)**

**13.30 - 14.30 h Lunch**

**14.30 - 15.00 h General Assembly**

**15.00 - 17.00 h Session II**  
*T. Büchner, G. Ossenkoppele, M. Sanz, J. Hasford:*  
**AML (WP 5), Registry (WP 17)**  
*D. Hoelzer, N. Gökbuget, R. Bassan, H. Dombret, R. Foà, J. M. Ribera:*  
**ALL (WP 6)**  
*H. Rieder, C. Haferlach, D. Haase, T. Haferlach:*  
**Cytogenetics (WP 11), Next generation sequencing (WP 13)**

**17.00 - 17.30 h Coffee break**

**17.30 - 19.30 h Session III**  
*T. Barbui, J. Kiladjian:*  
**CMPD (WP 9)**  
*M. C. Béné, G. Zini, D. Grimwade:*  
**Diagnostics (WP 10), Minimal residual disease (WP 12)**  
*D. Niederwieser, J. Apperley:*  
**Stem cell transplantation (WP 14)**

**19.30 h Dinner at the Congress Center Rosengarten**

**20.15 h ELN/ESF-ELN Steering Committee Meeting**  
*(by invitation only)*

## Reports of Sessions I-III

08.00 - 10.30 h

### WP 2, 4-9

*Chair: T. de Witte, P. Ghia*

*N. Gökbüget, K. Ihrig, S. Hehn:*

**ELIC (WP 2)**

*B. Simonsson, M. Baccarani, F. Guilhot, A. Hochhaus, R. Hehlmann:*

**CML (WP 4)**

*T. Büchner, G. Ossenkoppele, M. Sanz:*

**AML (WP 5)**

*D. Hoelzer, N. Gökbüget, R. Bassan, H. Dombret, R. Foà, J. M. Ribera:*

**ALL (WP 6)**

*P. Ghia:*

**CLL (WP 7)**

*T. de Witte, P. Fenaux, M. MacKenzie, A. Symeonidis, R. Stauder,*

*U. Platzbecker, A. van de Loosdrecht:*

**MDS (WP 8)**

*T. Barbui, J. Kiladjian:*

**CMPD (WP 9)**

### WP 3, 10-17

*Chair: M. C. Béné, H. Rieder*

*M. C. Béné, G. Zini:*

**Diagnostics (WP 10)**

*H. Rieder, C. Haferlach, D. Haase:*

**Cytogenetics (WP 11)**

*P. Pallisgaard:*

**Minimal residual disease (WP 12)**

*T. Haferlach:*

**Next generation sequencing (WP 13)**

*D. Niederwieser, J. Apperley:*

**Stem cell transplantation (WP 14)**

*J. Hasford:*

**Registries, definitions, common data sets, meta-analysis, prognosis (WP 3, WP 17)**

10.30 - 11.00 h

## Coffee break and group photo

11.00 - 13.00 h

## Scientific Symposium

*Chair: R. Hehlmann, D. Hoelzer*

11.00 - 11.20 h

## ELN Merit Awards

*T. Büchner (Münster) Introducer D. Hoelzer (Frankfurt)*

*B. Simonsson (Uppsala) Introducer H. Hjorth-Hansen (Trondheim)*

*M. Baccarani (Bologna) Introducer F. Pane (Naples)*

11.20 - 13.00 h

*A. van de Loosdrecht:*

*(Amsterdam/The Netherlands)*

**The implementation of flow cytometry in myelodysplastic syndromes**

Wednesday, February 6, 2012

*J. Guilhot:*

(Poitiers/France)

**Biometric standards for clinical trials in CML**

*B. Falini:*

(Perugia/Italy)

**Mutations in AML: any hope for a targeted therapy?**

*N. Gökbüget:*

(Frankfurt/Germany)

**The new European clinical trials regulation**

**13.00 - 14.00 h Lunch**

**Kompetenznetz Leukämien**

**14.00 - 15.15 h Möglichkeiten für Arbeitsgruppensitzungen**

**14.00 - 15.00 h** *N. Gökbüget, K. Ihrig*

**GCP-Update 2012:**

**Änderungen des AMG/GCP-V und Konsequenzen für Prüfgruppenleiter**

**15.15 - 16.30 h Berichte über laufende KNL-Projekte 2013/2014**

*Chair: A. Ganser (angefragt), C. Aul*

*M. Dugas:*

**Plattform 3: IT, AML-Register**

*N. Gökbüget, K. Ihrig, S. Hehn:*

**Plattform 2 und 4: Informationsplattform, Studieninfrastruktur**

*R. Hehlmann, A. Hochhaus, S. Saußele, J. Hasford:*

**Plattform 4: CML**

*C. Aul, A. Ganser, W. K. Hofmann:*

**Plattform 4: MDS**

*D. Hoelzer, N. Gökbüget, O. G. Ottmann:*

**Plattform 4: ALL**

*M. Griesshammer, E. Lengfelder, A. Reiter:*

**Plattform 4: BCR-ABL-negative CMPE**

*T. Büchner, H. Döhner, G. Ehninger, A. Ganser, D. Niederwieser,*

*R. Hehlmann, D. Hoelzer, J. Hasford, M. Pfirrmann, W. Hiddemann:*

**Plattform 4: AML-Intergroup**

*A. Giagounidis:*

**Plattform 5: Morphologie**

*M. Kneba, T. Raff:*

**Plattform 5: Molekulargenetik, MRD-Diagnostik**

*R. Schabath:*

**Plattform 5: Immunphänotypisierung**

**16.30 - 17.30 h Vorstandssitzung des Kompetenznetzes**

**„Akute und chronische Leukämien“**

*(by invitation only)*

### ESF

The European Science Foundation (ESF) was established in 1974 to provide a common platform for its Member Organisations to advance European research collaboration and explore new directions for research. It is an independent organisation, owned by 78 Member Organisations, which are research funding organisations and research performing organisations, academies and learned societies from 30 countries. ESF promotes collaboration in research itself, in funding of research and in science policy activities at the European level.

### EMRC

The European Medical Research Councils (EMRC) is the membership organisation for all the medical research councils in Europe under the auspices of the ESF. EMRC's mission is to promote innovative medical research and its clinical application towards improving human health. EMRC offers authoritative strategic advice for policy making, research management, ethics and better health services. In its activities, EMRC serves as the voice of its Member Organisations within the European scientific community. EMRC disseminates knowledge and promotes the socio-economic value of medical research to the general public and decision makers.

### RNP

Research Networking Programmes (RNPs) are the platform for nationally funded groups to address major scientific and research infrastructure issues with the goal to advance the frontiers of science. Successful proposals, selected following an open call and an international peer review process, must deal with high-quality science and demonstrate a clear added value of being carried out at the European level. RNPs are funded *à la carte* by ESF Member Organisations interested in funding such proposals recommended by ESF.

### ESF-ELN-RNP Member Organisations

Austria	Austrian Science Research Fund (FWF)
Czech Republic	Haimaom Foundation* Czech Leukemia Study Group for Life (CELL)*
Finland	Academy of Finland, Research Council for Health (AKA)
Germany	Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG)
Norway	Research Council of Norway
Romania	<i>Consiliul National al Cercetarii Stiintifice din Invatamantul Superior (CNCSIS), National University Research Council</i>
Sweden	Swedish Research Council (VR)
Switzerland	Swiss National Science Foundation (SNF)
The Netherlands	Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO)
United Kingdom	Medical Research Council (MRC)

\*not an ESF Member Organisation

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<http://www.esf.org/esf-eln>

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Das Kompetenznetz „Akute und chronische Leukämien“ wurde bis 2010 vom Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung, vertreten durch den Projektträger Gesundheitsforschung im DLR gefördert und wird seit 2006 von der Deutschen José-Carreras-Leukämie-Stiftung e. V. gefördert.

Gefördert vom

