

**Registration**



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**Speakers**

- Prof. Dr. med. Francis Ayuk**  
Interdisziplinäre Klinik für Stammzelltransplantation,  
Universitätsklinikum Hamburg-Eppendorf
- Anna Barata, PhD**  
Dept of Psychiatry  
Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, USA
- Meredith Cowden**  
Meredith A. Cowden Foundation  
Cleveland, USA
- Sabine Degen**  
Klinik für Hämatologie  
Departement Theragnostik, Universitätsspital Basel
- Michael Dorn**  
Abteilung für Physio- und Ergotherapie  
Universitätsklinikum Regensburg
- Prof. Dr. med. Matthias Edinger**  
Klinik und Poliklinik für Innere Medizin III  
Universitätsklinikum Regensburg
- Prof. Dr. med. Jörg Halter**  
Klinik für Hämatologie, Departement Theragnostik  
Universitätsspital Basel
- Lea Hansen**  
Patientin
- Prof. Dr. Anne Herrman (PhD)**  
Institut für Epidemiologie und Präventivmedizin  
Medizinische Soziologie, Universität Regensburg
- Hans Galka**  
Patient
- Elvie Ingoli**  
Interessengemeinschaft Sichelzellkrankheit und Thalassämie e.V.,  
Eschweiler, Germany
- Birgit Maier**  
Klinik für Hämatologie, Departement Theragnostik  
Universitätsspital, Basel
- Angelika Scheck**  
Klinik und Poliklinik für Innere Medizin III  
Universitätsklinikum Regensburg
- Prof. Dr. Helene Schoemans**  
Department of Hematology  
Leuven, Belgium
- Roswitha Soereide**  
Klinik für Hämatologie,  
Departement Theragnostik, Universitätsspital Basel
- Elke Stienissen**  
Patient  
Gent, Belgium
- Guy Tavori, MSW**  
Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Center  
Hematology Department, Israel
- Regina Wieser**  
Patient

**Information**

**Venue**

**Workshop & Dinner**

Hirschberg Castle  
Hirschberg 70  
92339 Beilngries  
Germany

**Organisation**

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Die Veranstaltung ist bei der BLÄK zur Zertifizierung angemeldet.



Graft versus Host Competence Center  
Department of Internal Medicine III

**German-Austrian-Swiss  
GVHD consortium**  
16th International Symposium  
Hirschberg Castle, Beilngries June 8th, 2024

**Dear colleagues and friends,**

hereby we would like to invite you to the spring meeting of the German-Austrian-Swiss GVHD consortium which will take place in Beilngries near Regensburg on June 8th 2024. We are happy to announce that the topic of this meeting will be:

“What patients after allogeneic stem cell transplantation would have liked to be asked ... but weren’t”

During the last decades, allogeneic stem cell transplantation has become a routine procedure in hematopoietic disorders but frequently causes significant long-term morbidity with chronic Graft-versus-Host Disease being one of the major complications along with long-term sequelae like metabolic and cardiovascular disorders, impaired fertility, socioeconomic loss, and secondary malignancies. As hematologists we typically focus on remission, GVHD status and immuno-reconstitution but less often on issues which survivors may perceive as particularly challenging to their daily lives, such as chronic fatigue, side-effects of medications, financial or family issues as consequence of chronic illness. To learn more about patients’ needs during and after their therapeutic journey, we would like to “swap” established roles and ask patients to tell physicians about their most pressing needs and expectations. By combining these personal narratives with insights from research in this area we will identify strategies to improve care after allogeneic stem cell transplantation.

We are looking forward to seeing you in Beilngries.

Anne Herrmann  
Meredith Cowden  
Anna Barata  
Susan Stewart  
Helene Schoemans  
Jörg Halter  
Matthias Edinger  
Daniel Wolff

11:00 **Registration and light lunch**

12:00 **Introduction**

Chair: A. Barata (Boston), J. Halter (Basel)

12:00 **Welcome**

M. Edinger (Regensburg)

12:10 **Ignored elephants in the room in the context of allogeneic stem cell transplantation**

M. Cowden (Cleveland)

12:35 **Let’s talk – challenges and opportunities for patient communication before and after allogeneic stem cell transplantation**

A. Herrmann

13:00 **Coffee break**

13:30 **Workshops**

**WG 1: Staying informed – an ongoing challenge**

M. Cowden (Cleveland), N. Hamad (Sydney)  
*Optimal information provision before, during and after transplantation, continuous communication along the entire disease trajectory (English)*

**WG 2: Partnership & sexuality & the support persons’ perspective**

R. Wieser (Regensburg), B. Maier (Basel)  
*Challenges in partnership including patients’ and their support persons’ needs, concerns and wishes (English or German)*

**WG 3: Getting back to life – physical and “social” activity**

Sebastian M. Dorn (Regensburg), H. Galka (Regensburg), J. Halter (Basel)  
*Sports, meeting friends, fatigue, neurocognitive impairment, “overprotection” vs. psychosocial rehabilitation (German)*

**WG 4: Patient- psychologist-communication**

E. Stienissen (Gent), A. Barata (Boston)  
*Role of psychologists in patients receiving an allogeneic stem cell transplantation including coping with distress, traumatic experiences, cognitive impairment, anxiety, and depression (English)*

14:30 **Coffee break**

15:00 **Workshops**

**WG5: Patient–nurse-communication**

C. Fässler (Basel), A. Scheck (Regensburg), S. Degen, R. Soereide (Basel)  
*Role of nurses in care before, during and after alloHSCT including low threshold contact, counselling, social care, long-term follow-up, remote monitoring (German)*

**WG6: Patient-physician-communication**

G. Tavori (Tel Aviv), H. Schoemans (Leuven), A. Herrmann (Regensburg)  
*Improving communication despite limited time and resources, shared decision making, breaking bad news and topics to be communicated during follow-up care (English)*

**WG 7: Feed-back systems in aftercare**

L. Hansen (München), D. Wolff (Regensburg)  
*How to effectively provide feedback between patients, physicians and nurses without offence (English)*

**WG 8: Different cultural backgrounds – challenges in communication**

F. Ayuk (Hamburg), Elizabeth Ingoli (Aachen)  
*How to address difficulties in communication resulting from differences in cultural backgrounds (German)*

16:00 **Coffee Break**

16:30 **Conclusions** (Summary of all working groups)  
Chair: H. Schoemans (Leuven) & D. Wolff (Regensburg)

**Closure**

18:30 **Dinner**