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BCI BURJEEL
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4th Emirates Pediatric Bone Marrow Transplant & Gene Therapy Congress

"International get-together of Pediatric BMT physicians
to celebrate the success of saving children globally"

"Under the auspices of the Pediatric Diseases Working Party of
The European Blood and Marrow Transplantation (EBMT)"



8-9
November 2025



Grand Hyatt Hotel
Abu Dhabi, UAE

Conference Book

In association with



مؤسسة مستشفى سرطان
الأطفال - مصر
Children's Cancer Hospital
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WELCOME MESSAGE



Dr. Zainul Aabideen



Prof. Rupert Handgretinger

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you to the **4th Emirates Pediatric Bone Marrow Transplant and Gene Therapy Congress (EPBMTC 2025)**, held on **8–9 November 2025** at the prestigious **Grand Hyatt Hotel, Abu Dhabi, UAE**.

Building on the success of our previous editions, EPBMTC 2025 once again brings together leading experts, healthcare professionals, and researchers in Pediatric Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation (HSCT) and Gene & Cell Therapy. This congress serves as a unique platform to exchange knowledge, present groundbreaking research, and foster international collaboration, with the shared goal of advancing pediatric care and improving outcomes for young patients.

This year, we are proud to introduce the Pediatric BMT Course 2025, a comprehensive educational program designed for trainees and early-career healthcare professionals in pediatric bone marrow transplantation. Taking place prior to the main congress, this course is delivered by a distinguished international faculty from the USA, UK, Italy, Germany, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and India. It offers an in-depth exploration of both theoretical and practical aspects of pediatric BMT, laying a strong foundation for the next generation of leaders in this critical field.

The main congress boasts a robust and dynamic scientific agenda, featuring keynote lectures, panel discussions, and oral and poster presentations. The program will cover the latest innovations, best practices, and emerging challenges in pediatric bone marrow transplantation and gene therapy. This event also underscores the UAE's commitment to advancing pediatric transplant care and its vision to become a regional hub of excellence in this field.

With its rich scientific content and exceptional networking opportunities, EPBMTC 2025 promises to be a landmark event for all professionals involved in pediatric transplantation and related specialties. Your participation will play a pivotal role in shaping the future of pediatric care and inspiring progress across the region and beyond.

We also invite you to immerse yourself in the vibrant culture of Abu Dhabi, explore its rich heritage, and connect with peers and collaborators from around the world. Together, we can elevate pediatric bone marrow transplantation practices and inspire future breakthroughs that will transform the lives of our young patients.

Your presence and engagement are instrumental to the success of this event, and we hope it will spark meaningful collaborations, groundbreaking discoveries, and lasting contributions to pediatric healthcare.

Thank you for joining us, and we wish you an inspiring, productive, and memorable conference experience.

Warm regards,

Dr. Zainul Aabideen
CCT(UK), FRCPCH

Conference Chair
Chairman Organising & Scientific Committee
Consultant and Head of Pediatric Haematology,
Oncology & BMT, Burjeel Medical City Abu Dhabi, UAE

Prof. Dr. Rupert Handgretinger

Conference Co-Chair
Chairman Scientific & Co-Chair Organizing Committee
Prof. emeritus, Children's University Hospital, Germany
George and Jennifer Yeo Endowed Chair for
Pediatric Hematology, National University Singapore;
Consultant, Abu Dhabi Stem Cells Center (ADSCC)
and Yas Clinic Khalifa City (YCKC), Abu Dhabi, UAE

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Increase knowledge in bone marrow transplant in pediatrics.
- Deepen understanding of advanced topics in bone marrow transplant.
- Address the unmet need for greater understanding of and the screening for long-term complications in the growing population of survivors of transplantation for nonmalignant disorders
- Improve care of pediatric BMT patients
- Provide the tools for a successful bone marrow transplant and immune effector cellular therapy in an educational setting.
- Provide exposure and training in BMT
- Discuss updates in research in the field of BMT, and/or cellular therapy.
- Allow the opportunity to improve medical knowledge, and overall subspecialty competence related to the areas of bone marrow transplant.

HIGHLIGHTED TOPICS

- BMT for Non-Malignant conditions such as Hemoglobinopathies, Primary Immune Deficiency, Inherited Bone Marrow Syndromes, and metabolic conditions.
- BMT for malignant conditions.
- Autologous BMT in children.
- Pre-transplantation workup.
- Management of complications during BMT.
- Supportive care in BMT.
- Infections during BMT, monitoring, prevention, and treatment.
- Stem cell manipulations in pediatric BMT.
- Late Effects after Pediatric Hematopoietic Cell Transplantation
- And many more

KEY FEATURES

- Full two-day program.
- Presentations by renowned expert speakers
- Interactive Sessions
- Connecting scientific community
- World class exhibits.
- Pre-Conference Pediatric BMT Course

WHY YOU SHOULD ATTEND?

- Meeting renowned experts from around the world
- Networking and developing new partnerships
- Learning and sharing best practices
- Get introduced to success stories & achievements
- Learning novel concepts & practices in Pediatric Bone Marrow Transplant

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE



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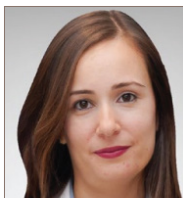
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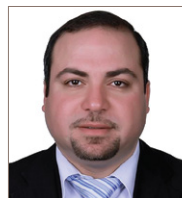
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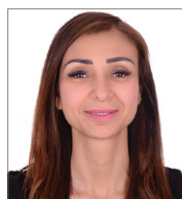
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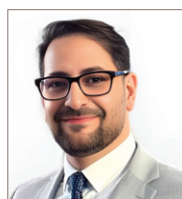
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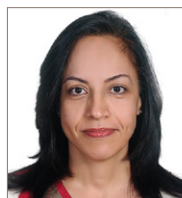
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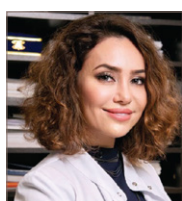
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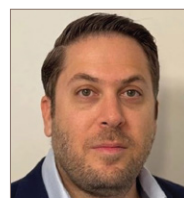
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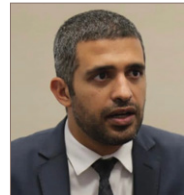
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SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

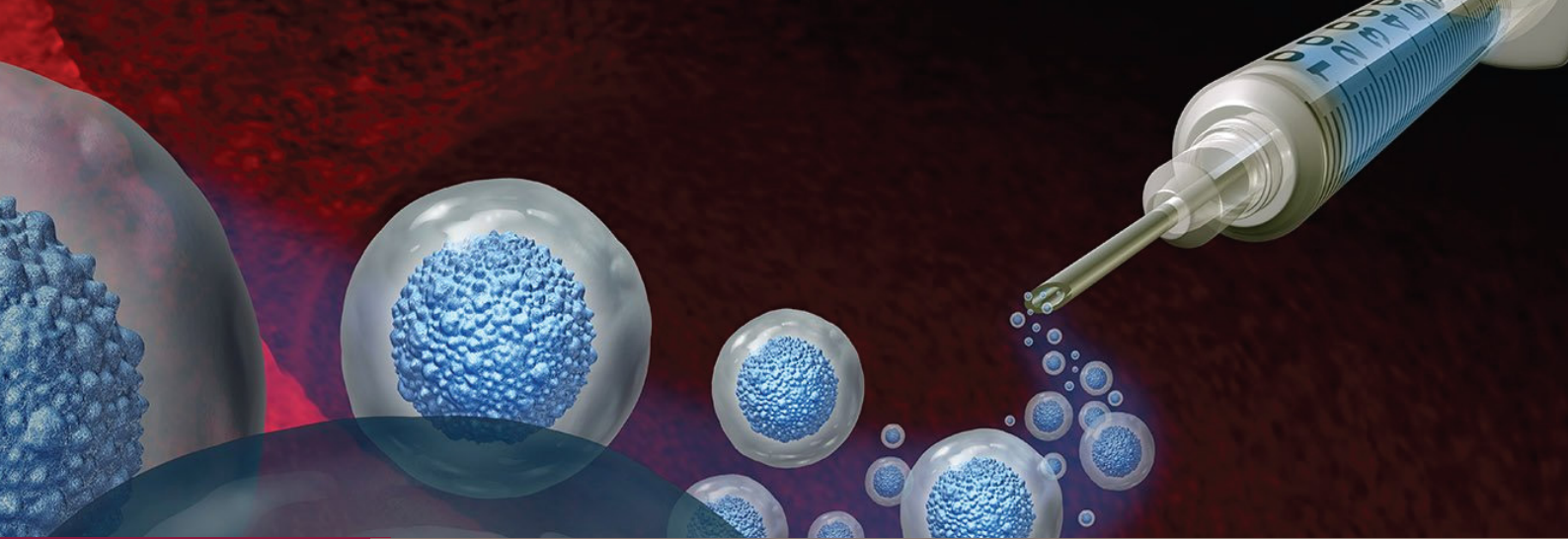
DAY 1: Saturday – 08 November 2025

TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER
07:50 – 08:50	Registration	
08:50 – 09:00	Welcome Speech	
SESSION 1 Moderators: Dr. Prasad Iyer & Prof. Yasser Elborai		
09:00 – 09:25	Clinical Trials in Gene Therapy	Prof. Shahrukh Khurshid Hashmi UAE
09:25 – 09:50	Expanding Access to Pediatric Gene Therapies: CHLA's Current and Emerging Programs	Malika Maddison USA Children's Hospital of Los Angeles
09:50 – 10:15	Cell & Gene Therapy: Current Landscape and Future Directions	Dr. Stephan Grupp USA Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
10:15 – 10:25	Panel Discussion	
10:25 – 10:55	OFFICIAL INAUGURATION	
10:55 – 11:10	Coffee Break Exhibition Visit & Networking Poster Presentation & Viewing	
SESSION 2 Moderators: Dr. Fatheya Abbas Al-Khaja, Dr. Santanu Sen & Dr. Zainul Aabideen		
11:10 – 11:35	Rewriting the Script – The Era of Gene Therapies in Thalassemia	Prof. Khaled Musallam BMC, UAE
11:35 – 12:00	Hemoglobinopathies – Real World Experience on Gene Therapy	Dr. Sami Althubaiti Saudi Arabia King Abdullah Specialized Children's Hospital
12:00 – 12:10	Panel Discussion	
12:10 – 12:35	CART Cell therapy in Autoimmune Diseases and the UK Experience in Children	Dr. Juliana Silva UK Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children
12:35 – 13:00	Impact of donor age on Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplant Outcomes	Dr. Paibel Aguayo-Hiraldo USA Children's Hospital of Los Angeles
13:00 – 13:25	The Advanced Therapies Platform at SJD Barcelona Children's Hospital A New hub for Gene Therapy on Primary Immunodeficiency	Dr. Alessandra Magnani Spain SJD Barcelona Children's Hospital
13:25 – 13:35	Panel Discussion	
13:35 – 14:30	Lunch and Prayer Break	
SESSION 3 Moderators: Dr. Muhammad Faisal Khanani & Dr. Omar Trad		
14:30 – 14:55	Gene Therapy for SCID: Updates from the Ongoing RAG1 Trial	Prof. Arjan C. Lankester Netherlands
14:55 – 15:20	Leveraging AI in Cell and Gene Therapy	Dr. Stephan Kadauke USA Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
15:20 – 15:45	Genome Edited Allogeneic CAR-T Cell Therapy in Paediatric Leukaemia	Dr. Robert Chiesa UK Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children
15:45 – 15:55	Panel Discussion	
15:55 – 16:05	Break	
SESSION 4 Moderator: Dr. Anjan Madasu, Prof. Anita Ramesh		
16:05 – 16:30	Simplifying Unrelated Donor Search – Easy, Fast & Smart!	Dr. Nitin Agarwal India Svenja Klett Germany
16:30 – 16:55	ECP in Low Weight Children	Dr. Rawad Suleiman Rihani Jordan
16:55 – 17:20	Fungal infection in HSCT in Children	Dr. Intezar Mehdi India
17:20 – 17:30	Panel Discussion	
17:30	End of Day 1	

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

DAY 2: Sunday – 09 November 2025

TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER
07:50 – 08:50	Registration	
08:50 – 09:00	Welcome Speech	
SESSION 5 Moderator: Dr. Esther Louis Majaliwa, Dr. Mohammed Ramzan		
09:00 – 09:25	Post Paediatric Transplant Vaccination schedule and Guidelines	Prof. Anita Ramesh India
09:25 – 09:50	Strategies to Reduce the Cost of Bone Marrow Transplantation (BMT) and Outcome	Dr. Mohana Reddy India
09:50 – 10:15	Translating Innovation into Functional Cure: Practical Insights on Gene Therapy for SCD and Thalassemia	Dr. Rabi Hanna USA
10:15 – 10:40	JACIE accreditation: towards excellence in stem cell transplantation care.	Prof. Frédéric Bernard France
10:40 – 10:50	Panel Discussion	
10:50 – 11:05	Coffee Break Exhibition Visit & Networking Poster Presentation & Viewing	
SESSION 6 Moderator: Dr. Naser Al Zein, Dr. Hany Dewedar, Dr. Abdullah Abubaker Saeed Baothman		
11:05 – 11:20	Abu Dhabi Biobank: Empowering the UAE's Stem Cell Transplant Ecosystem Through Data, Diversity, and Discovery	Dr. Hatim Alabbas Mostafa Abu Dhabi Biobank, UAE
11:20 – 11:45	Pediatric Chronic GVHD: What We Have and What Lies Ahead	Dr. Julia Marsal SJD Barcelona Children's Hospital, Spain
11:45 – 12:10	Gene Therapy for Sickle Cell Disease and Transfusion Dependent Thalassemia	Dr. Vinod K. Prasad Duke University School of Medicine, USA
12:10 – 12:35	CCHE 57357: A Worldwide Model	Dr. Moataz Elzemaity Children's Cancer Hospital, Egypt
12:35 – 13:00	Opportunities and challenges for sickle cell disease cure in Africa.	Dr. Lawrence Faulkner Italy
13:00 – 13:10	Panel Discussion	
13:10 – 14:00	Lunch Break	
SESSION 7 Moderator: Dr. Mohammed Al Nuaimi, Dr. Sally Alnaeem		
14:00 – 14:25	Pediatric Bone Marrow Transplantation Burjeel Experience	Dr. Zainul Aabideen UAE
14:25 – 14:50	Haematopoietic Stem Cell Transplant in Severe Combined Immunodeficiency (SCID)	Prof. Fouzia Nambiatheyil Aboobacker UAE
14:50 – 15:15	Autoimmune complications in children after BMT	Dr. Aditya Kumar Gupta India
15:15 – 15:40	Diagnosis and management of Childhood MDS	Dr. Mahmoud Hammad Egypt
15:40 – 16:05	Challenges and Achievements for Building Pediatric BMT Program in Developing Countries; Single Center Experience in Iraq	Dr. Hanafy Ahmed Mohamed Hafez Egypt
16:05 – 16:25	Panel Discussion	
16:25	Closing Remarks	
16:30	End of the Conference	



Pediatric Bone Marrow Transplant Course 2025

7 November 2025 | Grand Hyatt Hotel, Abu Dhabi, UAE

Followed by 2-Day Congress:

4th Emirates Pediatric Bone Marrow Transplant and Gene Therapy Congress
8-9 November 2025 | Grand Hyatt Hotel, Abu Dhabi, UAE

The **Pediatric BMT Course 2025** is a comprehensive and interactive educational program designed for trainees and early-career healthcare professionals specializing in **Paediatric Bone Marrow Transplantation**. The course offers a unique opportunity to engage with renowned international faculty from leading institutions across the **USA, UK, Italy, Germany, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and India**.

Who Should Attend

- Pediatric BMT Trainees
- Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Fellows
- Pediatric Clinicians involved in Transplant Medicine

Course Highlights & Topics

1. Introduction to Bone Marrow Transplantation, Cell & Gene Therapy
2. Histocompatibility (HLA) Typing and Its Clinical Relevance
3. Stem Cell Harvest and Cryopreservation
4. Autologous HSCT (HDC + ASCR): Background, Emerging Indications, and Practical Considerations
5. Donor Selection for Paediatric HSCT: MRD, MUD, and Haploidentical Donors
6. Practical Aspects of Conditioning Chemotherapy and Serotherapy
7. Graft Manipulation Techniques
8. GvHD Prophylaxis Strategies
9. Management of Acute GvHD: An Algorithmic Approach
10. Management of Chronic GvHD
11. Viral Infections in HSCT: Diagnosis and Management
12. Endothelial Complications: Risk Prediction and Prophylaxis
13. Principles of Haploidentical Bone Marrow Transplantation
14. Cell & Gene Therapy: Current Landscape and Future Directions



Pediatric Bone Marrow Transplant Course 2025

7 November 2025
Grand Hyatt Hotel,
Abu Dhabi, UAE

Course Directors



Dr. Zainul Aabideen

CCT(UK), FRCPC(H), Conference Chair,
Chairman Organising; Consultant and
Head of Pediatric Haematology, Oncology & BMT,
Burjeel Medical City Abu Dhabi, UAE



Dr. Santanu Sen

Senior Consultant & Head – Pediatric Hematology,
Oncology, BMT & Cellular Therapy
Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital
Mumbai, India



Dr. Intezar Mehdi

Director & Head,
Senior Consultant – Pediatric Hematology,
Oncology & BMT
HCG Cancer Center Bangalore
Bengaluru, India

Course Faculty



Dr. Stephan Grupp

Chief, Cellular Therapy and Transplant Section
Professor of Pediatrics, Children's Hospital of
Philadelphia & University of Pennsylvania School
of Medicine, Philadelphia, USA



Dr. Stephan Kadauke

Assistant Professor of Clinical Pathology
and Laboratory Medicine, Associate Director
of the Cell and Gene Therapy Laboratory
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia & University of
Pennsylvania School of Medicine, Philadelphia, USA



Prof. Dr. Arjan C. Lankester

Professor of Pediatrics and Stem Cell
Transplantation Willem-Alexander Children's
Hospital / Leiden University Medical Center,
Leiden, The Netherlands



Dr. Rabi Hanna

Chair, Department of Pediatric Hematology-
Oncology and Blood & Marrow Transplantation
Director of Pediatric BMT program
Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland Clinic Children's
Cleveland, Ohio, USA



Dr. Lawrence Faulkner

Pediatric Hematologist-Oncologist &
Bone Marrow Transplant Specialist
Cure2Children Foundation, Florence, Italy



Dr. Hanafy Ahmed Mohamed Hafez

Professor of Pediatric Oncology and BMT
National Cancer Institute, Cairo University
Cairo, Egypt



Dr. Charbel Khalil

Cell Therapy Lab Director Reviva Regenerative
Medicine Center, Bsalim, Lebanon
Cell Therapy Lab Director Burjeel Medical City,
Abu Dhabi, UAE, Assistant Professor Lebanese
American University of Beirut School of Medicine
Lebanon



Lalith Parmar

Director, Jagriti InnoHealth Platforms
Bangalore, India

Pediatric Bone Marrow Transplant Course 2025

7 November 2025 | Grand Hyatt Hotel, Abu Dhabi, UAE

TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER
08:00-08:30	Registration	
08:30-08:45	Introduction to the course	Dr. Zainul Aabideen, UAE
08:45-09:00	Pre Course Knowledge Questionnaire	
Session 1		
09:00-09:20	Introduction to Bone Marrow Transplantation, Cell & Gene Therapy	Dr. Santanu Sen, India
09:20-09:40	Histocompatibility (HLA) Typing and Its Clinical Relevance	Dr. Hanafy Mohamed Hafez, Egypt
09:40-10:00	Stem Cell Harvest and Cryopreservation	Dr. Charbel Khalil, Lebanon
10:00-10:20	Q & A Panel Discussion	
10:20-10:30	Coffee Break	
Session 2		
10:30-10:50	Indications for HSCT (Autologous, Allogeneic)	Dr. Santanu Sen, India
10:50-11:10	Donor Selection for Paediatric HSCT: MRD, MUD, and Haplo	Dr. Lawrence Faulkner, Italy
11:10-11:30	Practical Aspects of Conditioning Chemotherapy and Serotherapy	Prof. Arjan C. Lankester, Netherlands
11:30-11:50	Q & A Panel Discussion	
Session 3		
11:50-12:10	GvHD Prophylaxis Strategies	Dr. Hanafy Mohamed Hafez, Egypt
12:10-12:30	Management of Acute GvHD: An Algorithmic Approach	Prof. Arjan C. Lankester, Netherlands
12:30-12:50	Management of Chronic GvHD	Dr. Intezar Mehdi, India
12:50-13:10	Q & A Panel Discussion	
13:10-14:00	Lunch	
Session 4		
14:00-14:20	EPR for BMT: Introducing BMT Plus	Mr. Lalith Parmar, India
14:20-14:40	Viral Infections in HSCT: Diagnosis and Management	Dr. Intezar Mehdi, India
14:40-15:00	Principles of Haploidentical Bone Marrow Transplantation	Dr. Rabi Hanna, USA
15:00-15:20	Q & A Panel Discussion	
Session 5		
15:20-15:40	Graft Manipulation Techniques	Dr. Rabi Hanna, USA
15:40-16:00	Cell & Gene Therapy: Current Landscape and Future Directions	Dr. Stephan Grupp, USA
16:00-16:20	Cell Therapy: New Frontier in Manufacturing Cells	Dr. Stephan Kadauke, USA
16:20-16:40	Q & A Panel Discussion	
16:40-16:55	Post Course Knowledge Questionnaire	
16:55-17:00	Answers to questionnaire	
17:00-17:15	Presentation of certificates	Dr. Zainul Aabideen, UAE

GENERAL INFORMATION

Venue

Grand Hyatt Abu Dhabi Hotel & Residences Emirates Pearl offers a 5 star luxury hotel and events venue of awe-inspiring design and extraordinary architecture, located in the iconic West Corniche district of Abu Dhabi. This 5 star hotel in Abu Dhabi is conveniently accessible to the city's business hub, high-end shopping districts, and is a short 35-minute drive from Abu Dhabi International Airport.

Name Badges

Participants are required to wear their name badges throughout the meeting in order to be admitted to the lecture halls and other scheduled activities. Kindly ensure to scan in and scan out in the session halls attended.

Refreshment and Lunch

Refreshment and lunch will be offered in accordance with the breaks indicated on the Agenda.

Internet

Free internet will be available in the exhibition area during the conference.

Mobile Phones and Photography

Participants are kindly requested to keep their mobile phones silent mode in the conference hall and refrain from taking photographs with flash during sessions.

CME ACCREDITATION

This Conference has been Accredited by the Department of Health and designated for a maximum of **16.30 of DOH CME**

Day 1, 8/11/25 is Accredited for **8.10 CME Hours**

Day 2, 9/11/25 is Accredited for **8.20 CME Hours**

Accredited by the European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (EACCME®) with **16 European CME credits (ECMEC®s)**.

Day 1, 8/11/25 is Accredited for **8 CME Hours**

Day 2, 9/11/25 is Accredited for **8 CME Hours**

- For DOH CME, Delegates are required to claim their certificate through the DOH TAMM application.
- The certificate can be claimed within 60 days from the conference start date, after this period certificates will no longer be available for claim
- Please ensure to scan in your name badge before every session in the session halls attended.
- CME points are accumulated based on attended hours.
- A notification containing the link and instructions on how to download the certificates will be sent to your registered email address.
- Please note that you are required to complete the online evaluation of the conference before you can access the link to download your CME certificates. It is your responsibility to download and retain a copy of the certificate for your records.
- Each medical specialist should claim only those credits that he/she actually spent in the educational activity.

SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHY

SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHY



Dr. Zainul Aabideen

CCT(UK), FRCPCH, Conference Chair
Chairman Organising & Scientific Committee
Consultant and Head of Pediatric Haematology,
Oncology & BMT, Burjeel Medical City
Abu Dhabi, UAE



Dr. Zainul Aabideen is a UK-trained Consultant in Pediatric Hematology, Oncology, and Bone Marrow Transplantation with over 25 years of experience. He holds an MSc in Pediatric Oncology from the University of Birmingham and a Fellowship in Pediatric BMT from the Great North Children's Hospital, Newcastle. He has trained and worked at leading UK centers including Royal Marsden, UCLH, Imperial College and Manchester Children's Hospital.

Since moving to the UAE in 2016, Dr. Aabideen has played a pivotal role in advancing pediatric oncology services, leading the team that performed the first Pediatric BMT in the UAE in 2022. He is a Fellow of the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (UK), and an active member of SIOP and CCLG. He has published extensively and regularly chairs major regional conferences in Pediatric Oncology and BMT.



Dr. Stephan Grupp

Chief, Cellular Therapy and Transplant Section
Professor of Pediatrics
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia &
University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine,
Philadelphia, USA



Stephan A. Grupp, MD, PhD, is Section Chief of the Cellular Therapy and Transplant Section, Inaugural Director of the Susan S and Stephen P Kelly Center for Cancer Immunotherapy, and Medical Director of the Cell and Gene Therapy Laboratory and Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

Dr. Grupp develops and conducts preclinical testing of engineered cell therapies and signal transduction inhibitors in leukemia, in pediatric immunotherapy trials, and in the manufacture and use of cellular therapeutics in preclinical, good manufacturing practices, and clinical trial settings. Dr. Grupp leads most CTL019 (CD19 CAR) clinical trials, and his colleagues are the global leaders in highly active CAR T cell therapy.

The primary focus of Dr. Grupp's research is the development of targeted and cell therapies and study of molecular signaling pathways in acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL). His group has leveraged studies using primary human ALL xenografts into treatments tested in a number of clinical trials, including national phase III randomized and FDA registration trials.

As part of his role as medical director of the stem cell lab at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and transplant discipline chair for the Children's Oncology Group (COG), Dr. Grupp and his team have performed trials to improve outcomes in neuroblastoma. His team developed tandem transplant approaches at CHOP, piloted them in the COG and then designed a national phase III trial (ANBL0532) in the COG, the results of which are positive.

SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHY



Malika Maddison

Vice President, Service Line Strategy and Operations
Executive Director, Cancer and Blood Disease Institute and Gene Therapy
Children's Hospital of Los Angeles, Los Angeles, USA



Malika Maddison, MHA/MBA, RT (T) is the Vice President for Service Line Strategy and Operations and the Executive Director for the Cancer and Blood Disease Institute and Gene Therapy at Children's Hospital Los Angeles. As Vice President, Malika oversees several major service lines in addition to the Cancer and Blood Disease Institute which include the Autry Orthopedic Center, the Neurological Institute, the Heart Institute, Solid Organ Transplant and the Fetal and Neonatal Institute. Malika served as the Administrative Director for the Departments of Medicine, Neurology and Pediatrics at the New York Presbyterian Medical Group in Queens, New York. Prior to that, she was the Division Administrator of Pulmonology and Critical Care Medicine at Weill Cornell Medical College. Additionally, she held multiple roles at the University of Pennsylvania Health System which included Associate Clinical Director of hospital operations and Interim Director of Perioperative Services.

Malika received her bachelor's degree in radiologic science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She earned a dual master's degree in healthcare administration and business administration from the University of Houston at Clear Lake. She is also a licensed radiologic technologist, specializing in radiation therapy. Earlier in her career, she worked as a radiation therapist at MD Anderson Cancer Center and St. Luke's Episcopal Health System in Houston, Texas. Malika specializes in financial management, process improvement, operations, business development and strategic planning in clinical, research and education domains



Prof. Shahrukh Khurshid Hashmi

Director of Research Development,
Department of Health,
Abu Dhabi, UAE



Dr. Shahrukh Hashmi is currently the Director of Research at the Department of Health, Abu Dhabi, UAE; a Professor of Medicine (Transplant Center) at the Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine, Minnesota, US; and an adjunct Professor of Computer Vision at MBZ-University of Artificial Intelligence, Abu Dhabi, UAE. He graduated as the top student from Baqai Medical University, Pakistan, receiving the Gold Medal from the President of Pakistan, and holds a Master's Degree in Public Health (MPH) from Yale University, Connecticut, US.

Dr. Hashmi is triple-boarded in Preventive Medicine/Public Health, Internal Medicine, and Hematology in the US. He has served as PI or Co-PI on numerous industry- and NIH-sponsored trials. His research interests include premature aging biology, artificial intelligence, cellular therapies (CAR-T cells and gene therapy), and stem cell therapeutics, particularly in regenerative hematology. He has authored over 320 peer-reviewed articles, including publications in JAMA Oncology, Lancet Hematology, and NEJM, with more than 11,000 citations.

He chairs several national and international committees, including the WBMT Global Emergencies Committee, and is the Founding Chair of the American Society for Transplantation and Cellular Therapy Survivorship SIG. He has served as Ex Co-Chair of the CIBMTR Health Services Committee and was Medical Director of Research and Chairman of Hematology/Oncology at SSMC/Mayo Clinic.

His achievements include establishing the first BMT survivorship program at Mayo Clinic Minnesota, the first Clinical Trials Unit at KFSHRC, Riyadh, and the UAE's first Clinical Trials Unit at SSMC/Mayo Clinic Abu Dhabi. He pioneered First-in-Human senolytic trials approved by the US FDA and continues to lead Healthspan studies.

Dr. Hashmi has delivered over 80 invited plenary lectures globally and serves on numerous advisory boards, including the Make-A-Wish Foundation UAE, Emirates Thalassemia Society UAE, and is Associate Editor of JTCT, alongside memberships on multiple editorial boards of peer-reviewed journals.

SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHY



Dr. Paibel Aguayo-Hiraldo

Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Clinical Director
Children's Hospital Los Angeles/University of Southern California
Los Angeles, USA



Dr. Paibel Aguayo-Hiraldo is an Associate Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Southern California and an attending physician in the Transplantation and Cellular Therapy Section at Children's Hospital Los Angeles (CHLA). Board-certified in Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, and Pediatrics Heme-Onc, she completed advanced training in Pediatric Hematology-Oncology and Bone Marrow Transplantation at Baylor College of Medicine.

Dr. Aguayo-Hiraldo specializes in hematopoietic stem cell transplantation for non-malignant disorders focusing on immune deficiencies and immune dysregulatory disorders (PIRDS), and is deeply committed to improving access to transplant, cellular, and gene therapies. At CHLA, she leads efforts to expand therapeutic offerings and develop multidisciplinary programs, including the institution's first chronic GVHD clinic.

Her clinical and research interests include graft-versus-host disease, viral-specific T cell therapies, and improving transplant outcomes. She serves as CHLA Principal Investigator for multiple national trials through PTCTC (Pediatric Transplant and Cell therapy consortium), MAGIC (GVHD), and BMT Clinical trials Network (BMT CTN), and is an active member of key committees within ASTCT and COG.

A passionate educator and mentor, Dr. Aguayo-Hiraldo directs CHLA's Advanced Fellowship in Transplant and Cell Therapy and advocates for equitable access to immunotherapy for underserved populations. Her work continues to shape the future of pediatric transplant and gene therapy.



Prof. Arjan C. Lankester

Professor of Pediatrics and Stem Cell Transplantation
Willem-Alexander Children's Hospital /
Leiden University Medical Center,
Leiden, The Netherlands



Arjan Lankester is trained as pediatrician and immunologist and serves as professor of Pediatrics and Stem Cell Transplantation at the Willem-Alexander Children's Hospital/Leiden University Medical Center, Leiden, The Netherlands. He is heading the LUMC expert center on inherited immune disorders and stem cell transplantation (SCT), member of ERN-RITA. The pediatric SCT program serves as (inter-)national referral center for non-malignant diseases. The translational research program of his team is focused on individualized conditioning, immune reconstitution after stem cell therapy and gene therapy in inherited immune disorders. He has conducted several clinical trials on adoptive cellular therapy and is PI of the ongoing multinational trial on stem cell gene therapy in RAG1 SCID. He is past chair of the EBMT and ESID Inborn Errors Working Party and co-founder of the AGORA foundation.

SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHY



Dr. Robert Chiesa

Consultant in Bone Marrow Transplant
and CAR-T Cell Therapy
Bone Marrow Transplant Department
Great Ormond Street Hospital
London, UK



Dr. Stephan Kadauke is an Assistant Professor of Clinical Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine and serves as the Associate Director of the Cell and Gene Therapy Laboratory at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP). Dr. Kadauke has extensive experience in the clinical development and implementation of GMP-compliant engineered cell therapies. He is deeply involved in over 60 active cell therapy clinical trials and co-leads a project to build a new GMP Cell Therapy manufacturing facility. His work has significantly advanced the field of cell and gene therapies, particularly through developing innovative processes for CAR-T cell manufacturing.

Dr. Kadauke also serves as attending physician on the Apheresis service, where he treats patients with sickle cell disease and various autoimmune and neurological diseases. He also supervises cell collections for patients who require stem cell transplantation or other cellular immunotherapies.

In addition to his clinical work, Dr. Kadauke is the medical director of Cell and Gene Therapy Informatics (CGTI). CGTI is an agile team that builds systems to deliver reliable, high-quality, and timely data to Cell and Gene Therapy clinicians and researchers to help clinical decision making, improve and automate quality operations, and accelerate Cell and Gene Therapy clinical research.



Dr. Vinod K. Prasad

Professor, Pediatric Transplant and Cellular Therapy,
Duke University School of Medicine, Durham, NC, USA
Vice President, Medical Affairs and Clinical Research
& Development, bluebird bio, Somerville, MA, USA
Chapel Hill, USA



Dr. Prasad, a PTCT faculty at Duke since 2003, played a critical role in the patient care, research and academic arena. Duke's pioneering stem cell transplant program is internationally recognized and one of the largest in the world. Dr. Prasad directed an advanced fellowship program in PTCT at Duke for more than a decade. Prior to Duke, he was a fellow, chief fellow and a transplant faculty at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York for almost 10 years. He graduated from the University of Delhi with a medical degree and subsequent post-graduate qualification in Pediatrics. He received further training in the United Kingdom before moving to the United States in 1994.

Currently, he is the head of medical affairs and a clinical research and development lead at bluebird bio, a pioneering gene therapy company with three FDA approved products.

Dr. Prasad is well known internationally for his expertise in transplantation and is a sought-after speaker. In the last 20 years, he has delivered more than 100 invited lectures at medical institutions and conferences around the world. He has been involved in more than >2,500 pediatric transplants for a wide range of diagnostic spectrum. His research interests have spanned a number of areas including the use of unrelated cord blood transplantation for inherited metabolic disorders, novel cell therapy approaches, post-transplant adenovirus infection, new drug investigation and exploring the impact of molecular determinants of donor-patient alloreactivity on transplant outcomes. He has authored and co-authored about 200 abstracts and manuscripts for national and international meetings and journals.

He was awarded George Santos Award by American Society of Blood and Marrow Transplantation in 2000 for original research and the Fellowship of the Royal college of Physicians (London) in 2014 for his academic success.

SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHY



Dr. Juliana Silva

Consultant in Bone Marrow Transplant
and CAR T Cell Therapy
Great Ormond Street Hospital,
London, UK



Dr Juliana Silva trained in paediatric haemato-oncology and stem cell transplant in London at Great Ormond Street Hospital where she currently works as a consultant in Bone Marrow Transplant and CAR T cell therapy.

She is also the national lead for haematopoietic stem cell transplantation for auto immune diseases and for post-transplant lymphoproliferative disorders.

She leads on a number of studies in CAR T cells in malignant and non-malignant diseases such as systemic lupus erythematosus.

She is the principal investigator of a study using Obe-cel for paediatric patients with relapse/refractory B-ALL.

She led on large studies within the PDWP and Eurocord framework, on the outcome of stem cell transplant in hemophagocytic lymphohistiocytosis and Extramedullary disease in acute myeloid leukemia.

Dr Silva is the Chair of Young Investigators of the Paediatric Diseases Working Party at the European Bone Marrow Transplant Society (EBMT) and she has several publications in high impact journals such as Lancet Rheumatology, Blood Cancer, Blood and Nature Medicine.



Dr. Rabi Hanna

Chair, Department of Pediatric Hematology-
Oncology and Blood & Marrow Transplantation
Director of Pediatric BMT program
Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland Clinic Children's
Cleveland, Ohio, USA



Rabi Hanna, MD, is the Chairman of the Pediatric Hematology-Oncology Division, and the Director of Pediatric BMT Program at Cleveland Clinic Children's. He earned his medical degree from Aleppo University Faculty followed by residency at Duke University Medical Center, and a pediatric hematology-oncology fellowship at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center and Seattle Children's Hospital in Seattle, Washington.

Dr. Hanna's specialty interests include Transplant and Cellular therapy to treat life-threatening malignant and non-malignant disorders. His clinical research aims to design new clinical trials to offer innovative life-saving therapies such as Gene therapy using CRISPR platform to treat sickle cell disease and thalassemia. He serves on many scientific national committees and has published extensively in the field of Pediatric Transplant, Cellular and Gene Therapy.

SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHY



Dr. Hanafy Ahmed Mohamed Hafez

Professor of Pediatric Oncology and BMT
National Cancer Institute, Cairo University
Cairo, Egypt



Professor of Pediatric Oncology and BMT at National Cancer Institute, Cairo University. Head of Pediatric Oncology Department, Warith International Oncology Institution, Iraq and Head of Pediatric BMT Program, El Mojtaba Hospital, Iraq.

Dr. Hanafy A. Hafez is currently Professor of Pediatric Oncology and BMT at National Cancer Institute, Cairo University. He is also currently the Head of Pediatric Oncology Department, Warith International Oncology Institution, Iraq and Head of Pediatric BMT Program, El Mojtaba Hospital, Iraq. Program Committee member for the Children's Cancer Hospital Egypt and Dana-Farber Children's Hospital Cancer Centre/Pediatric Oncology Fellowship program, which is a very specialized 30 months training program in different aspects of pediatric oncology. Member of the advisory research committee for the Pediatric Oncology East and Mediterranean Group (POEM). Dr. Hanafy's Primary interest and specialization in Pediatric Stem Cell Transplant. He has many publications in pediatric hematopoietic stem cell transplant, childhood soft tissue sarcoma, and pediatric solid tumors. He is also experienced and talented in education within the medical field, specializing in pediatric oncology and BMT.



Dr. Stephan Kadauke

Assistant Professor of Clinical Pathology
and Laboratory Medicine, Associate Director
of the Cell and Gene Therapy Laboratory
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia &
University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine
Philadelphia, USA



Dr. Stephan Kadauke is an Assistant Professor of Clinical Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine and serves as the Associate Director of the Cell and Gene Therapy Laboratory at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP). Dr. Kadauke has extensive experience in the clinical development and implementation of GMP-compliant engineered cell therapies. He is deeply involved in over 60 active cell therapy clinical trials and co-leads a project to build a new GMP Cell Therapy manufacturing facility. His work has significantly advanced the field of cell and gene therapies, particularly through developing innovative processes for CAR-T cell manufacturing.

Dr. Kadauke also serves as attending physician on the Apheresis service, where he treats patients with sickle cell disease and various autoimmune and neurological diseases. He also supervises cell collections for patients who require stem cell transplantation or other cellular immunotherapies.

In addition to his clinical work, Dr. Kadauke is the medical director of Cell and Gene Therapy Informatics (CGTI). CGTI is an agile team that builds systems to deliver reliable, high-quality, and timely data to Cell and Gene Therapy clinicians and researchers to help clinical decision making, improve and automate quality operations, and accelerate Cell and Gene Therapy clinical research.

SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHY



Dr. Rawad Suleiman Rihani

Chairperson, Department of Pediatrics, King Hussein Cancer Center
Pediatric Blood and Marrow Transplantation and Cellular Therapy Program
President Elect, Pediatric Oncology East and Mediterranean Group (POEM)
Amman, Jordan



Dr. Rawad Rihani, MD, MSc (GCH), is the Chairperson of the Department of Pediatrics at King Hussein Cancer Center (KHCC), Amman, Jordan, where she leads the Pediatric Blood and Marrow Transplantation and Cellular Therapy Program. She currently serves as President Elect of the Pediatric Oncology East and Mediterranean Group (POEM) and is the Ex-President of the Jordan Society for Pediatric Oncology.

Dr. Rihani has been a consultant and associate member of KHCC's Pediatric Hematology/Oncology/BMT Program since 2005. She holds a Master of Science in Global Child Health from St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, and completed her Pediatric Hematology/Oncology/BMT fellowship at the Sydney Children's Hospital, University of New South Wales, where she also served as a lecturer.

She is an Associate Professor at the University of Jordan, Faculty of Medicine, and holds multiple pediatric qualifications, including the Jordanian Board of Pediatrics, Arab Board of Pediatrics, and Jordanian Board of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology.

Dr. Rihani is actively involved in international collaborations, serving as Chair of the Scientific Committee of POEM, PI for Pediatric BMT-KHCC in collaboration with EBMT, and as a member of the World Blood and Marrow Transplantation (WBMT) group. Her work focuses on advancing pediatric hematology-oncology care, research, and education in the region.



Prof. Frédéric Bernard

Consultant & Head of the Unit,
Paediatric Pain and Palliative Care Unit
Montpellier University, France

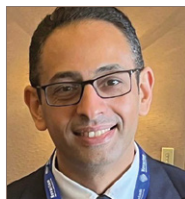


Consultant in Paediatric Pain and Palliative Care unit in Montpellier university hospital (South of France) – Head of the unit.

Trained in Paediatric Haematology and Oncology – Previously Head of the Paediatric Stem Cell Transplant unit in Montpellier during 20 years.

Involved in quality as active member of JACIE as inspector and member of the JACIE Accreditation Committee (JAC).

SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHY



Dr. Mahmoud Hammad

Professor of Pediatric Oncology &
Stem Cell Transplant
National Cancer Institute of Egypt,
Cairo University, Egypt



Dr. Mahmoud Hammad is a pediatric oncologist with extensive clinical and research experience. He is currently Professor of Pediatric Oncology & Stem Cell Transplant at the National Cancer Institute of Egypt, Cairo University. He is the Director of Nasser Institute Oncology and Nuclear Center. He is the head of oncology department Kafr EL-Sheikh Cancer Center. Dr. Hammad is the Chair of education and training committee SIOP-Africa. He is member of the Supreme Council of Egyptian Ministry of Higher Education. He is senior consultant of oncology and Stem cell transplant at Dar Al-Fouad Hospital, Saudi German Hospital Egypt, Wadi El-neel Hospital, and Dar El-Salam Cancer center. He shared in establishing many pediatric stem cell transplant programs in Egypt including Children's Cancer Hospital Egypt (57357), Assiut university, Dar El-Salam Cancer center, Saudi German Hospital. His main interest is Leukemia, Juvenile Myelomonocytic Leukemia, MDS, CML and bone marrow failure disorders.



Dr. Mohana Reddy

Pediatric Hemato-Oncologist & Bone Marrow
Transplant (BMT) Physician
Program Director,
Sankalp India Foundation BMJH,
Bengaluru, India



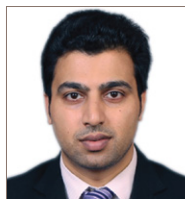
Dedicated Pediatric Hemato-Oncologist and Bone Marrow Transplant (BMT) physician, currently serving at Sankalp India BMJH. With an unwavering passion for advancing curative therapies in children with blood disorders, clinical and academic interests are deeply focused on hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (HSCT) for hemoglobinopathies.

Actively involved in pioneering transformative treatment approaches that provide safe, accessible, and long-term curative options for patients with thalassemia, sickle cell disease, and other inherited blood disorders in India.

Combines clinical expertise, research insights, and patient-centered care to improve transplant outcomes and post-transplant quality of life. Committed to capacity building, multidisciplinary collaborations, and training initiatives that empower institutions to offer equitable transplant opportunities to underprivileged children.

Motivated by the vision of achieving cure through HSCT for every child in need, continuously contributing to advancing standards of care and making a meaningful difference in the lives of young patients and their families.

SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHY



Dr. Aditya Kumar Gupta

Additional Professor
All India Institute of Medical Sciences
New Delhi, India



Dr Aditya Kumar Gupta has an experience in in Paediatric Oncology (13 years) and Pediatric bone marrow transplant (13 years). He has played a major role in setting up the pediatric bone marrow transplant services in the Department of Paediatrics at AIIMS, New Delhi. He has performed more than 80 HSCT in pediatric patients till date, including HSCT for rare genetic disorders. He has successfully performed haploidentical HSCTs for both rare genetic diseases and malignancies. He has publications in the field of HSCT and pediatrics. His team are one of the few government centres performing pediatric HSCT in India.

He has experience in conducting clinical trials and has supervised MD (3), DM (7) and PhD (1) students. The studies of his students have been published in reputed journals. He has undertaken many funded projects as principal or co-investigator and has successfully completed them.

He has been an external examiner for MBBS and MD students in AIIMS New Delhi, BHU Varanasi, Delhi University, BCPS (Dhaka) .

Google scholar id: <https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=VZqrVJsAAAAJ&hl=en>



Dr. Alessandra Magnani

Head of Advanced Therapies and
Immunotherapy Platform
Sant Joan de Déu Barcelona
Barcelona, Spain



Dr. Alessandra Magnani is Head of the Advanced Therapies and Immunotherapy Platform and responsible for the Gene Therapy Program at Sant Joan de Déu Children's Hospital (HSJD) in Barcelona, Spain. A pediatric immunologist and researcher, she has extensive experience in inborn errors of immunity, hematopoietic stem cell transplantation, and gene therapy for monogenic diseases. Trained in leading academic and clinical centers in Paris, Basel, and Genoa, she worked more than 10 years at Necker-Enfants Malades Hospital with Prof. Alain Fischer and Marina Cavazzana, where she served as Medical Director and Qualified Person of the GMP facility for several phase I/II gene therapy trials. She currently focuses on clinical translation and GMP production of advanced therapies for pediatric patients and serves as Vice-Coordinator of the European Reference Network for Immunological Rare Diseases (ERN-RITA).

SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHY



Dr. Júlia Marsal Ricomà

Head of the SCT Unit
SCT Unit, Oncology,
Sant Joan de Déu Barcelona
Barcelona, Spain



Dr. Júlia Marsal Ricomà is a pediatric hematologist and Head of the Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplant Unit at Sant Joan de Déu Children's Hospital in Barcelona, an international reference center in pediatric oncohematology. She Trained at Hospital de la Santa Creu i Sant Pau and made observer's stage at the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York and St. Anna Children's Hospital in Vienna, to build her career in the field of pediatric allogeneic transplantation.

Her work combines highly complex clinical practice with clinical research and active participation in national and international collaborative networks. She has contributed to multicenter studies on haploidentical transplantation in high-risk pediatric leukemias, as well as to publications addressing relevant transplant-related complications.

From the Transplant Unit, she promotes initiatives to improve patients' quality of life and continuity of care, with special emphasis on the transition from pediatric to adult healthcare systems. The work of the team she leads reflects Sant Joan de Déu Hospital's commitment to clinical excellence, innovation, and the constant improvement of outcomes in pediatric hematopoietic stem cell transplantation.



Dr. Nitin Agarwal

Consultant Physician and Head of Department
(Donor Request Management)
DKMS Foundation India
Bengaluru, India



Dr. Nitin Agarwal is the Head of the Department, Donor Request Management at DKMS Foundation, India.

MD in Transfusion Medicine from SGPGI, Lucknow and has worked at some of the known organizations including AIIMS, New Delhi and Jaypee Hospital, Noida.

He has over 15 years of experience in this field of Stem cell harvest, Cryopreservation and Immunohematology.

He also has more than 20 articles in International and National Journals to his credit. He has international recognitions like Harold Gunson Fellowship from Amsterdam and ICKSH fellowship from Seoul.



Svenja Klett

Search Coordinator
DKMS Registry
Tübingen, Germany



Svenja Klett joined DKMS Registry in Germany in 2021 after spending several years in the United States working across diverse professional fields. She began her role at DKMS as a Registry Coordinator, serving as an intermediary between transplant institutions and DKMS Donor Centers. This position allowed her to gain in-depth knowledge of the registry processes and collaborate closely with various departments across the organization. In 2023, she transitioned to the Search Coordination Team, where she now supports transplant centers in seven countries in identifying and procuring unrelated stem cell products for patients in need. She completed the WMDA advanced course "Search Strategy and Source Selection for HSCT" in 2024, deepening her expertise in donor search and selection. Svenja is especially committed to expanding access to unrelated donor transplants in countries with limited resources or no previous experience with importing unrelated donors cells. Together with her team she supports transplant professionals through every step of the procurement process.

SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHY



Dr. Intezar Mehdi

Director & Head,
Senior Consultant – Pediatric Hematology,
Oncology & BMT
HCG Cancer Center Bangalore
Bengaluru, India



MBBS, DNB (Pediatrics), MRCPCH (UK), FRCPCH (UK)

Director & Head of the Department, Senior Consultant, Dept. of Pediatric Hematology, Oncology & BMT
HCG Hospital, Bangalore, India

Executive Committee Member- IAP BPS 2017, Executive Committee Member- IAP PHO Karnataka chapter-2017-until date

IAP-PHO CME- National Advisory Board, ISBMT- Membership Committee

- Faculty in Local, State, National and International conferences
- Areas of Interest : Hematolymphoid malignancies(Leukemia/Lymphoma), Thalassemias, Aplastic anemia, Bone tumors, solid tumors and BMT
- Reviewer : Indian Journal of Child Health, Indian Journal of Pediatrics, Indian Journal of case reports, Indian Journal of Palliative care
- Editor : Journal of Precision Oncology
- Life Member of IAP, IAP-BPS, RCPCH, IAP-PHO chapter, IMA, KC-ISHBT
- Member – Indian Society of Blood and Marrow transplant (ISBMT) , IPHOG, IAP- PHO (Karnataka), InPOG, SIOP- International Society for Paediatric Oncology
- Actively involved in Academic and social activities
- Faculty and Program Director- Fellowship in Pediatric hematology, oncology and BMT, HCG hospital, Bangalore
- Has publications in reputed journals, Presented various papers in National and international conferences
- PI for clinical trials



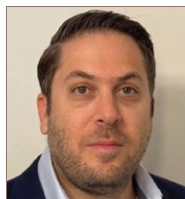
Dr. Lawrence Faulkner

Pediatric Hematologist-Oncologist and
Bone Marrow Transplant Specialist
Medical Director
Cure2Children Foundation
Florence, Italy



Dr. Lawrence Faulkner graduated from the Medical School of the University of Florence and moved to the US where he completed his pediatric hematology-oncology fellowship at the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center and New York Hospital - Cornell University combined program in 1992. He returned to Italy, his home country, and developed the bone marrow transplant service and support laboratory at the Children's Hospital of Florence (Meyer Hospital). Since 2008, as the Medical Director of the Cure2Children Foundation, Dr. Faulkner has extensively applied a cloud-based platform for online and on-site co-management of children undergoing bone marrow transplantation (BMT) in several start-up units across the Indian subcontinent and the Middle East. He was involved in over 1,000 transplants, training and supervising local teams of physicians and nurses with no or little previous BMT experience. In February 2021 Dr Faulkner received the Distinguished Service Award by the Center for International Blood & Marrow Transplant Research. He currently chairs the Outreach Subcommittee of the Pediatric Diseases Working Party of the European Blood and Marrow Transplantation group.

SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHY



Prof. Khaled Musallam

Group Chief Research Officer, Burjeel Holdings;
Founding Director, Center for Research on Rare Blood Disorders
Director, Thalassemia & Sickle Cell Center
Burjeel Medical City, Abu Dhabi, UAE



Group Chief Research Officer, Burjeel Holdings; Founding Director, Center for Research on Rare Blood Disorders (CR-RBD); Director, Thalassemia & Sickle Cell Center; Head, Innovative Trials Unit, Genetics and Rare Disease Center, Burjeel Medical City, Abu Dhabi, UAE

Global Research Lead, Burjeel Institute for Global Health, New York, USA

Adjunct Professor, Khalifa University, Abu Dhabi, UAE; Weill Cornell Medicine, New York, USA

Dr. Khaled Musallam is the Group Chief Research Officer for Burjeel Holdings (VPS Healthcare) and Founding Director of the Center for Research on Rare Blood Disorders (CR-RBD) at Burjeel Medical City, Abu Dhabi. He established the clinical research function across the Group's hospitals and leads numerous real-world evidence studies and clinical trials as principal investigator. In 2025, he founded the Thalassemia & Sickle Cell Center at Burjeel Medical City to provide comprehensive treatment pathways for patients with hemoglobinopathies and also heads the Innovative Trials Unit at the Genetics and Rare Disease Center. Dr. Musallam co-chairs Burjeel Holdings' Institutional Review Board/Ethics Committee and serves as Global Research Lead at the Burjeel Institute for Global Health in New York. He is also an Adjunct Clinical Professor at Khalifa University and Weill Cornell Medicine and serves on the Abu Dhabi Health Research and Technology Committee.

Dr. Musallam's research focuses on hemoglobinopathies, iron overload, ineffective erythropoiesis, anemia, and related morbidity and mortality outcomes. His work has led to transformative advances in thalassemia management, supporting the development of oral iron chelation therapies, novel disease-modifying agents, and gene editing trials. He established the Alpha Thalassemia Global Cohort study and contributed to international management guidelines for both transfusion-dependent and non-transfusion-dependent thalassemia.

He has authored over 230 peer-reviewed publications, book chapters, and international guidelines, with an h-index of 63, and presented at leading international congresses including ASH and EHA. Dr. Musallam has received the European Haematology Association Clinical Excellence Award and Khalifa University Adjunct Faculty Research Excellence Award, and is recognized among the top 0.1% of global experts in anemia and beta-thalassemia.

Dr. Musallam has extensive pharmaceutical industry experience and has led global clinical trials, regulatory submissions, and consultancy services, while also mentoring and training young investigators worldwide.

SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHY



Dr. Sami Althubaiti

Consultant – Pediatric Hematology,
Oncology & BMT, King Abdulaziz Medical City,
Ministry of National Guard Health Affairs (MNGHA)
Chairman – Pediatric Hematology & Oncology,
King Abdullah Children's Hospital,
Ministry of National Guard Health Affairs,
Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

Dr. Sami Althubaiti is a Consultant in Pediatric Hematology, Oncology, and Bone Marrow Transplantation (BMT) at King Abdulaziz Medical City, Ministry of National Guard Health Affairs (MNGHA), Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. He also serves as Chairman of Pediatric Hematology Oncology at King Abdullah Children's Hospital and holds academic appointments as Assistant Professor and Associate Dean of Clinical Affairs at King Saud bin Abdulaziz University for Health Sciences (KSAU-HS), College of Medicine, Jeddah.

Dr. Althubaiti earned his MBBS from Umm Al-Qura University, completed his Pediatric Residency at KSAU-HS, and pursued Pediatric Hematology-Oncology Fellowship training at the Hospital for Sick Children, University of Toronto. He holds a Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada certification and completed a Pediatric Simulation Education Fellowship at the University of Toronto.

With extensive experience in clinical care, Dr. Althubaiti leads several administrative and academic committees, including the Pediatric Hematology Oncology Fellowship Training Program, physician recruitment, and simulation-based education. He is an active member of national and international societies, including SAPHOS, ASH, SIOP, and EBMT, and has contributed to multiple guideline development projects for pediatric hematology and transplantation.

Dr. Althubaiti is deeply involved in teaching, training fellows and residents, and delivering educational programs nationwide. His research focuses on pediatric leukemia, lymphoma, BMT outcomes, hemophagocytic syndromes, and innovative therapies, with numerous peer-reviewed publications. He also leads and collaborates on IRB-approved clinical studies, advancing evidence-based care in pediatric hematology and oncology.

Dr. Althubaiti's expertise combines clinical excellence, academic leadership, and research, establishing him as a recognized figure in pediatric hematology-oncology in Saudi Arabia and internationally.



Dr. Moataz Elzemaity

Chief Medical Officer
Children's Cancer Hospital Egypt (CCHE) 57357
Cairo, Egypt



Moataz Elzemaity is a healthcare executive with a background in medicine and healthcare management. His academic qualifications include a Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery from Cairo University, a Diploma in Healthcare Total Quality Management from The American University in Cairo, and a Certified Professional in Healthcare Quality (CPHQ) certification. He also holds a Master of Business Administration from Edinburgh Business School, Heriot-Watt University. His career showcases a rapid ascent from a General Practitioner with the Egyptian Ministry of Health to senior leadership roles, primarily within the renowned Children Cancer Hospital Egypt (CCHE 57357), where he currently serves as Chief Medical Officer and Medical Director. His professional journey also includes impactful contributions as a Healthcare Quality and Patient Safety Consultant for the World Bank Group's IFC and in operational leadership at Andalusia Maadi Hospital. His areas of expertise are comprehensive, encompassing hospital operations, governance, strategy management, accreditation, and performance management.

SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHY



Prof. Anita Ramesh

Professor and Head of Medical and Paediatric Oncology,
Saveetha Medical College Hospital,
Saveetha University, Senior Consultant in Medical and Paediatric Oncology
Apollo Speciality Hospitals, Chennai
Kauvery Cancer Center, Founder and Manager Trustee,
Freedom From Cancer Relief and Research Foundation, Chennai, India



MBBS (Hons), DCH (UK), MD, Dip. NB, DtVI (IVledical Oncology), M.Sc.Oncology (UK), IvBA, Ph.D

- 23 years of experience in the field of oncology, both as Physician and in Teaching
- Post of Professor in Medical Oncology and Head of N/ledical Oncology 13 years
- More than 50 publication and abstracts in Peer review journal with impact factor of 80 published in Oncology
- More than 100 International & National presentations
- Member of European and American Cancer Society and Executive Mernber of Indian Society of Medical and Paediatric Oncology.
- Actively involved in ClinicalTrials as Principle Investigator for more than 24 trials



Prof. Fouzia Nambiatheyil Aboobacker

Co-Chair of scientific committee
Professor of Hematology
Consultant Pediatric Hematology
Department of Hematology,
Burjeel Medical City, Abu Dhabi, UAE



Dr. Fouzia Nambiatheyil Aboobacker is a highly skilled and experienced hematologist with extensive expertise in pediatric hematology and stem cell transplantation. She began her medical journey by obtaining her Medical Degree (MBBS) in 1996, followed by a Diploma and a DNB degree in Child Health. Subsequently, Dr. Aboobacker joined the Department of Hematology at Christian Medical College, Vellore, as a Registrar and completed her Postgraduate degree in Clinical Hematology in August 2013. Demonstrating her commitment to excellence, she continued her journey at the same institution as an Assistant Professor, transitioning to the role of Professor in the Department of Hematology in January 2022. She has also worked in the UAE as a Consultant in Pediatric Hematology at ADSCC/Yas Clinic from December 2023 to July 2024.

Throughout her career, Dr. Aboobacker has demonstrated exceptional proficiency in diagnosing and managing various malignant and non-malignant hematological disorders, including stem cell transplantation, CAR-T cell therapy, and gene therapy for hemophilia. She has a particular interest in primary immunodeficiency disorders, inherited metabolic disorders, red cell disorders, and disorders of hemostasis.

Dr. Aboobacker's contributions extend beyond clinical practice, as she has actively engaged in national health education programs for hemophilia, sickle cell anemia, and hemoglobinopathies. She has served as a principal investigator and co-investigator for various research studies, including those on recombinant human coagulation factor VIII fusion protein and mutation analysis for hemolytic anemias. She is also the co-principal investigator for the DBT/Wellcome Trust India Alliance-granted project "Functional Assessment of Genetic Variants Associated with Fetal Hemoglobin Levels Using Base Editor- Mediated Saturated Mutagenesis for the Treatment of Beta Hemoglobinopathies." With over ten years of experience as a consultant, Dr. Aboobacker continues to play a pivotal role in managing complex hematological conditions, including stem cell transplantation, CAR-T cell therapy, and gene therapy, and contributes to the advancement of hematology research.

SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHY



Dr. Hatim Alabbas Mostafa

Head of Cord Blood Bank,
Abu Dhabi Biobank
Abu Dhabi, UAE



Dr. Hatim Alabbas Mostafa, with a PhD in Immunology from the University of Khartoum, is the Director of Cord Blood Bank M42. His clinical interests encompass immunology, immunogenetics, transplantation, and cellular therapy. He has extensive experience in healthcare and laboratory medicine, having established laboratories in both public and private sectors. He led the establishment of the first dedicated laboratory for histocompatibility and immunogenetics research at Ahfad University in Sudan and the Pathology Department at Royal Care Hospital in Sudan. Additionally, he introduced NGS HLA technology to DHA -Dubai and holds academic positions as a visiting Professor at Khartoum University (Sudan). He is a member of the executive board of the Arab Society of Histocompatibility and Immunogenomics . His academic qualifications include a BSc in Medical Laboratory Science, an MSc in Immunology, a Doctorate in Immunology from Sudan, and a Diplomate of the American Board of Regenerative Medicine.

POSTER PRESENTERS

- 1 **Second Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation With CY-TBI Conditioning Improves Outcomes in Pediatric Beta-Thalassemia After Graft Rejection**
Dr. Batool Al-Ghadeer, Consultant Pediatric Hematology Oncology, King Fahad Hospital, Hamad Aljaber Oncology Center, Hofuf Al-Ahsa, Saudi Arabia
- 2 **HAEMATOPOIETIC STEM CELL TRANSPLANTATION (HSCT) FOR INBORN ERROR IMMUNITY IN HOSPITAL TUNKU AZIZAH KUALA LUMPUR (HTAKL), MALAYSIA.**
Dr. Ivo Rekha Salwa Binti Salammon, PAEDIATRIC HEMATOLOGY AND ONCOLOGY FELLOW, HOSPITAL TUNKU AZIZAH KUALA LUMPUR, KUALA LUMPUR
- 3 **Outcome of Stem cell Transplant for Hodgkins lymphoma-A Single centre experience from North India**
Dr. Mohammad Rizwan Athar, Assistant professor, Sanjay Gandhi postgraduate institute of medical sciences Lucknow, India
- 4 **HEMATOPOIETIC STEM CELL TRANSPLANTATION IN ACUTE MYELOID LEUKEMIA WITH EMBERGER SYNDROME IN A PEDIATRIC PATIENT**
Dr. Mohammad Rizwan Athar, Assistant Professor, Sanjay Gandhi postgraduate institute of medical sciences, Lucknow, India
- 5 **CLINICAL IMPLICATIONS OF UNEXPECTED ALLO-REACTIVITY IN PEDIATRIC ADA2 DEFICIENCY PATIENTS: A CASE SERIES**
Dr. Moshe Israeli, Director of Tissue Typing Laboratory, Rabin Medical Center, Petach-Tikva, Israel
- 6 **IMMUNE-MEDIATED CYTOPENIAS IN PATIENTS WITH NON ONCOLOGICAL DISEASES UNDERGOING ALLOGENIC STEM CELL TRANSPLANTATION: DESCRIPTION OF A SINGLE- CENTER PEDIATRIC EXPERIENCE**
Dr. Soncini Elena, PHYSICIAN, Paediatric BMT and Oncohaematology Unit asst Spedali Civili, BRESCIA, ITALY
- 7 **Evaluating ruxolitinib toxicity in pediatric patients with steroid refractory Graft-Versus-Host Disease: A single-center experience**
Dr. Mennatallah Shehab Elnaggar, Clinical Pharmacist, Children Cancer Hospital Egypt 57357, Egypt
- 8 **Challenging the Standard: A 4-Year Study on the Efficacy of PICC Lines in High-Risk BMT Patients**
Dr. Shyla Sen, Senior House Officer, Colchester Hospital, Colchester, UK
- 9 **Dyskeratosis Congenita: Case series; various presentations and outcomes post Allogenic Stem Cell Transplant.**
Dr. Hema Nalapalu Srinivasan, MBBS, MD, DM- Haematology, Associate Professor/ Christian Medical College, Vellore, Tamil Nadu, India
- 10 **OUTCOMES OF AUTOLOGOUS HAEMATOPOIETIC STEM CELL TRANSPLANTATION FOR PAEDIATRIC MALIGNANCIES: TWO DECADE EXPERIENCE**
Dr. Hema Nalapalu Srinivasan, MBBS, MD, DM- Haematology, Associate Professor/ Christian Medical College, Vellore, Tamil Nadu, India
- 11 **NOVEL & EFFECTIVE USE OF LOW-DOSE CIDOFOVIR FOR PRE-ENGRAFTMENT CMV PROPHYLAXIS: A REAL WORLD STUDY**
Dr. Santanu Sen, Senior Consultant & HOD: Pediatric Hematology, Oncology & BMT, Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital, Mumbai, India
- 12 **Hematopoietic stem cell transplantation in Infantile Osteopetrosis: Experience from a low and middle-income country**
Dr. Hashim Khan, Registrar pediatric hematology and BMT, Gambat institue of Medical Science Gambat, Khairpur sindh Pakistan
- 13 **TREATMENT OF AVASCULAR NECROSIS (AVN) AFTER HEMATOPOIETIC STEM CELL TRANSPLANT(HSCT) IN PEDIATRIC PATIENTS - SINGLE CENTRE EXPERIENCE**
Dr. Rajpreet Soni, Medical doctor, Hematopoietic Stem cell transplantation unit-Department of Hematology and Oncology, IRCCS Istituto G Gaslini, Genova Italy Gandhi Medical College and Hospital, Jaipur, India Genova, Italy
- 14 **Childhood Cancer Survivor after Multiple Malignancies: the importance of a patient-driven treatment approach.**
Dr. Rajpreet Soni, Medical Doctor, Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplant Unit- Department of Hematology and Oncology,IRCCS, Istituto Giannina Gaslini,Genova, Italy and Mahatma Gandhi Medical College and Hospital, Jaipur,India, Genova,Italy
- 15 **ATYPICAL MANIFESTATION OF ENGRAFTMENT SYNDROME FOLLOWING HEMATOPOIETIC STEM CELL TRANSPLANT IN A CHILD WITH RELAPSED HODGKIN LYMPHOMA TREATED WITH NIVOLUMAB**
Dr. Sachin M P, Pediatric Resident, Vardhman Mahavir Medical College and Safdarjung Hospital, India

POSTER PRESENTERS

- 16 **Incidence and Outcomes of Febrile Neutropenia in Pediatric Patients with Hematologic Conditions: A Retrospective Study**
Prof.Dr. Saqib Hussain Ansari, CEO, Children hospital karachi, Karachi Pakistan
- 17 **PRE-TRANSPLANT MEASURABLE RESIDUAL DISEASE TRIPLES RELAPSE RISK AFTER PEDIATRIC AML ALLOGENEIC HSCT: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW AND META-ANALYSIS**
Dr. Muhammad Farhan, Student, Ajman University, Ajman, United Arab Emirates
- 18 **OUTCOME OF BONE MARROW TRANSPLANT IN RARE GENETIC DISORDERS**
Dr. Misbah Wasim Munir, medical director, children hospital karachi, karachi & pakistan
- 19 **Pediatric Allogeneic Stem Cell Transplant Outcomes in the United Arab Emirates: A Multi-Center Analysis of Survival and GVHD (2009-2023)**
Dr. Syed Naveed, SPECIALIST PHYSICIAN/HEMATOLOGY, SHEIKH SHAKBOUT MEDICAL CITY, UAE
- 20 **PAIN AND MUCOSITIS MANAGEMENT IN PEDIATRIC BONE MARROW TRANSPLANT**
Dr. Rahaf Hossam Ghazal, medical intern, skmc abudhabi, Abu Dhabi, UAE
- 21 **Excellent Immune reconstitution and reduced viral reactivation in haploidentical stem cell transplant (HSCT) with TCR $\beta\gamma$ and CD45RA depletion for Transfusion Dependent Thalassemia (TDT)**
Dr. Subhasish Paul, ASSOCIATE CONSULTANT, APOLLO MULTISPECIALITY HOSPITAL, KOLKATA, INDIA
- 22 **EFFECT OF THERAPEUTIC PLASMA EXCHANGE ON PANEL REACTIVE ANTIBODIES' TITRES IN PATIENTS WITH TRANSFUSION DEPENDENT THALASSEMIA UNDERGOING HSCT WITH FULLY MATCHED RELATED DONOR: A SINGLE CENTRE STUDY**
Dr. Nirali Sanghvi, SENIOR ASSOCIATE CONSULTANT, KOKILABEN DHIRUBHAI AMBANI HOSPITAL MUMBAI, INDIA
- 23 **A cost-conscious and highly successful start-up strategy for hematopoietic cell transplantation in middle-income countries supported by DKMS**
Dr. Lawrence Faulkner, Medical Director, Cure2Children Foundation, Florence, Italy
- 24 **Gene Therapy and Transplant Strategies in Inherited Blood Disorders**
Dr. Maysoon Ahmad Azzam, Medical Intern Sheikh Khalifa Medical City, Abu Dhabi, UAE
- 25 **CURCUMIN - A SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND ITS POSSIBLE CLINICAL APPLICATIONS TO IMPROVE THE SUCCESS OF CELL TRANSPLANTATION**
Prof. Usha Kolpe, Attending/Prof., VA Medical Center, Hines, USA
- 26 **Successful TCR AB and CD45RA depleted Haploidentical Stem Cell Transplant In Amegakaryocytic Thrombocytopenia Secondary To MECOM Mutation**
Dr. Subhasish Paul, ASSOCIATE CONSULTANT, APOLLO MULTISPECIALITY HOSPITAL, KOLKATA, INDIA
- 27 **Breaking Barriers: One of the Youngest Reported Non-Identical Twin Peripheral Blood Stem Cell Donor- Enabling Curative HSCT in Infantile ALL**
Dr. Amitabh Singh, Pediatric Oncologist, AIIMS, NEW DELHI, New Delhi, India
- 28 **From Marble Bones to New Life: Haploidentical TCR $\beta\gamma$ -depleted HSCT in Malignant Infantile Osteopetrosis – A Case Report**
Dr. G Shravani Reddy, DM Pediatric Oncology Resident, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, India
- 29 **Challenges and Outcomes of Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation in Genetically Unclassified Primary Hemophagocytic Lymphohistiocytosis: A case Report and Literature Review**
Dr. Ruksana Sidhique P R, Senior Resident, DM Pediatric Oncology, All India Institute Of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, India
- 30 **Patient/Family Illustrated English/Arabic Booklet Guide About Bone Marrow Transplant Journey**
Dr. Manal Mahmoud Mohamed Elewah, WHO Egypt Representative of Global Initiative for Childhood Cancer/Certified Expressive Art Therapist, Borg Al Arab University Hospital, Alexandria Egypt
- 31 **FIRST REPORT OF ALLOGENEIC STEM CELL TRANSPLANTATION FOR PATIENTS WITH B-THALASSEMIA MAJOR IN ALGERIA**
Prof. Malek Benakli, Hematologist, Pierre and Marie Curie Center, Algeria
- 32 **Equivalent outcome irrespective of type transplant in Acute myeloid leukemia in children: A report from tertiary care centre**
Dr. Radha Bhardwaj, Pediatric Hematology, "Rajiv Gandhi Cancer Institute and Research Centre, New Delhi, India

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