

# European Perspectives on MDS Patient Management

Multi-stakeholder meeting

**3 May 2017, Valencia, Spain**

Palacio de Congresos de Valencia, Auditorium 3

Co-chairs:

**Guillermo Sanz - Spain**

**Theo de Witte - The Netherlands**



# Meeting Programme

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16:00	<b>Welcome and introduction</b>	<i>Co-chairs: Guillermo Sanz (ES), Theo de Witte (NL)</i>
16:05	<b>MDS-RIGHT– Providing the right care to the right MDS patient at the right time</b>	<i>Theo de Witte (NL)</i>
16:15	<b>MDS patient management challenges and solutions - Panel presentations and discussion</b>	
16:15	<b>Introductory remarks</b>	<b>Moderator:</b> <i>David Bowen (UK)</i>
16:20	<b>Medical specialist perspective</b>	<i>Pierre Fenaux (FR)</i>
16:30	<b>MDS patient perspective</b>	<i>Sophie Wintrich (UK)</i>
16:40	<b>Nurse perspective</b>	<i>Corien Eeltink (NL)</i>
16:50	<b>Regulatory/HTA perspective</b>	<i>David Bowen (UK)</i>
17:00	<b>Industry perspective</b>	<i>Margaret Doyle (IE), Alberto Vasconcelos (CH)</i>
17:15	<b>Discussion</b>	<i>All</i>
17:25	<b>MDS patient management recommendations &amp; interactive online support</b>	<i>Eva Hellström-Lindberg (SE)</i>
17:35	<b>Discussion</b>	<i>All</i>
17:45	<b>MDS-RIGHT/MDS-Europe online platform</b>	<i>Alex Smith (UK)</i>
17:50	<b>Discussion</b>	<i>All</i>
17:55	<b>Closing remarks</b>	<i>Guillermo Sanz (ES), Theo de Witte (NL)</i>
18:00	<b>Meeting close</b>	

# Welcome and introduction

## Co-chairs:

*Guillermo Sanz<sup>1</sup> & Theo de Witte<sup>2</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Haematology specialist - Hospital La Fe, Valencia, Spain

<sup>2</sup> MDS-RIGHT project coordinator - Radboudumc, Nijmegen, The Netherlands

# Stakeholders

*The following European stakeholders were invited to join us for this meeting:*

- *Medical specialists caring for MDS patients*
- Nurses and social workers caring for MDS patients
- MDS and blood disorder patient advocates
- Medical researchers and MDS co-operative study groups
- Healthcare authorities, regulators, HTA experts
- Pharmaceutical companies

# MDS-RIGHT Stakeholder meeting



Wednesday, May 3rd, 2017, 16.00-18.00 hrs CET

**Venue:** Palacio de Congresos de Valencia - Room: **tb**c

*Avda. Cortes Valencianas, nº 60, E-46015 Valencia, Tel.: +34 963179400*

[www.palcongres-vlc.com](http://www.palcongres-vlc.com)

## Meeting goals:

- Generate endorsement of accepted evidence-based guidelines & raise awareness (*Task 6.3*)
- Obtain insights on general MDS challenges & solutions across Europe
- Stimulate European MDS stakeholder information exchange & involvement in MDS-RIGHT
- Obtain stakeholder feedback on MDS treatment algorithm interactive tool (TAIT)
- Gain advice on how best to further improve the MDS-RIGHT/MDS-Europe website

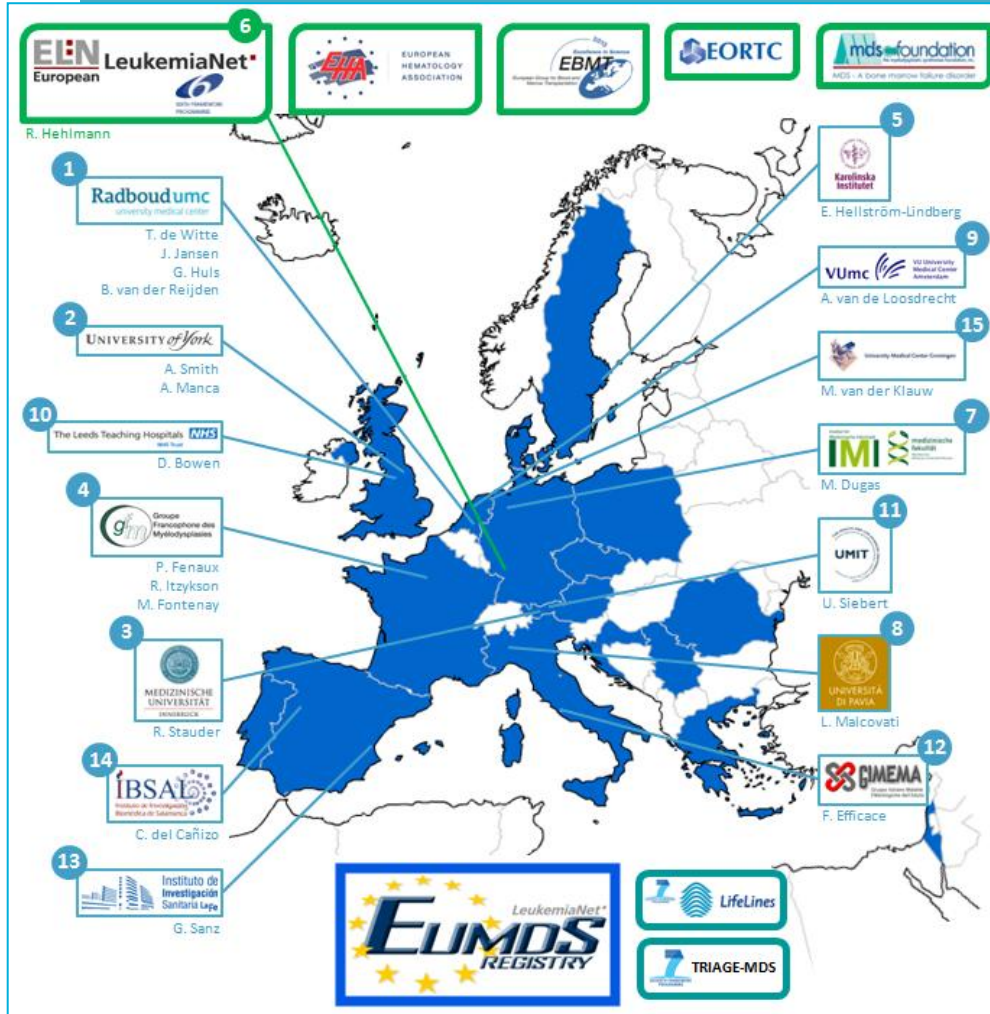
# MDS-RIGHT – Providing the right care to the right MDS patient at the right time

*Theo de Witte*

MDS-RIGHT project coordinator  
Radboudumc, Nijmegen, The Netherlands

# INTRODUCTION MDS-RIGHT

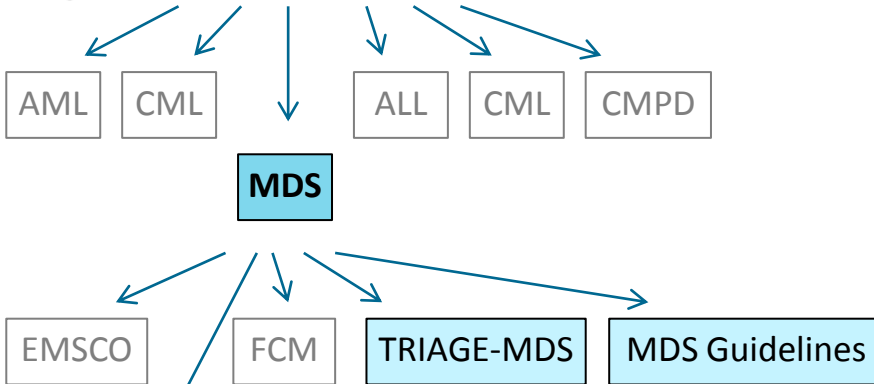
MDS-RIGHT stakeholder meeting  
 May 3<sup>rd</sup> 2017,  
 Valencia, Spain



# General introduction



**ELN** LeukemiaNet<sup>®</sup>  
European



EU FP6 grant – European Network for Leukemias  
start: 1-1-2004 (6 m€ - 86 mnd)

WP8 Coördinator: Theo de Witte  
various sub projects

Funding Pharma – European Registry MDS  
Start: 01-04-2008



>16 sub studies



EU H2020 grant – Personalising Health and Care  
Start: 1-5-2015 (6m€ - 60 mnd)



# Introduction



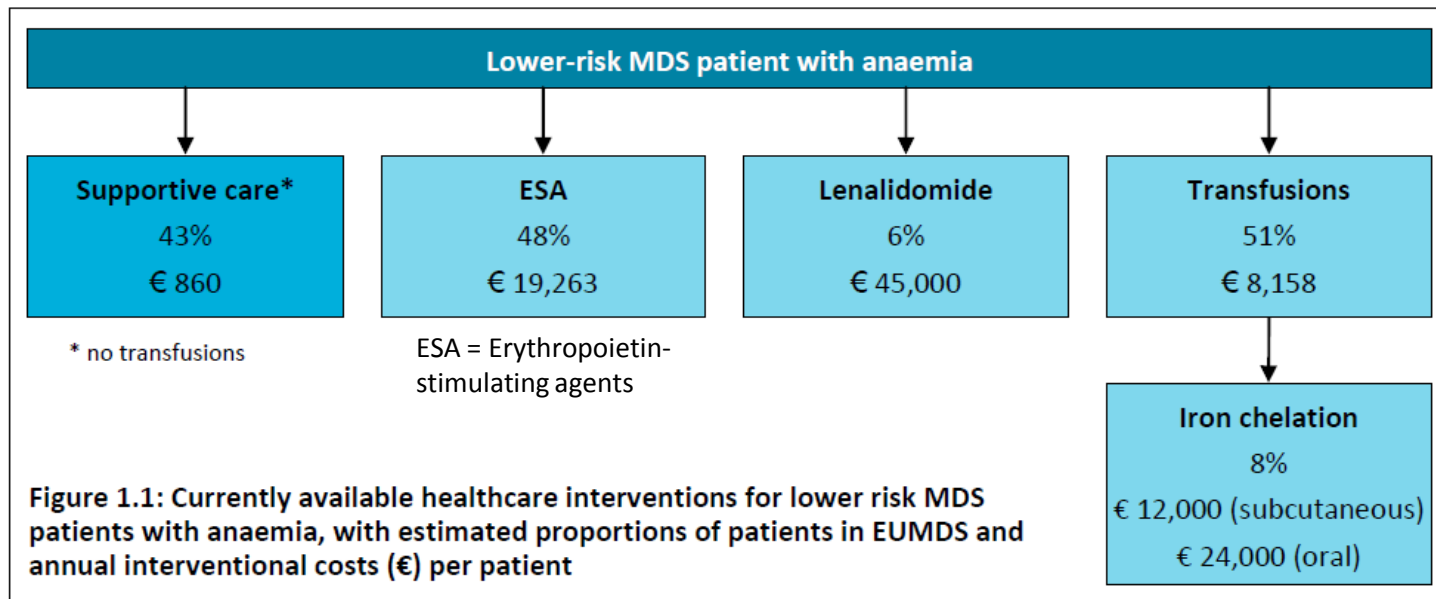
## EU Horizon 2020-funded 'Personalising Health and Care' research project

- **Goals:**
  - To assess (epi)genetic abnormalities and compare outcomes, costs and approaches to the diagnosis and treatment of MDS and anaemia in the elderly (>65 years of age)
  - To develop more effective and safer evidence-based, tailored interventions for elderly patients with anaemia and/or lower-risk MDS, leading to better treatment compliance and more cost-effective use of healthcare resources
- **Project duration / budget:** 1 May 2015 - 30 April 2020 / 6,000,000 EUR
- **Project coordination / partners:** Stichting Katholieke Universiteit (Radboud university medical center), Nijmegen, The Netherlands / 15 project partners
- **MDS data:** European MDS Registry ([www.eumds.org](http://www.eumds.org)):  
Prospective, observational data on >2,000 lower-risk MDS patients from 16 EU countries + Israel)
- **Reference population:** LifeLines 3-generation representative observational follow-up study in northern NL, incl. >14,000 individuals >65 years of age ([www.LifeLines.nl](http://www.LifeLines.nl))
- **Project website** [www.mds-right.eu](http://www.mds-right.eu) - launched in April 2016

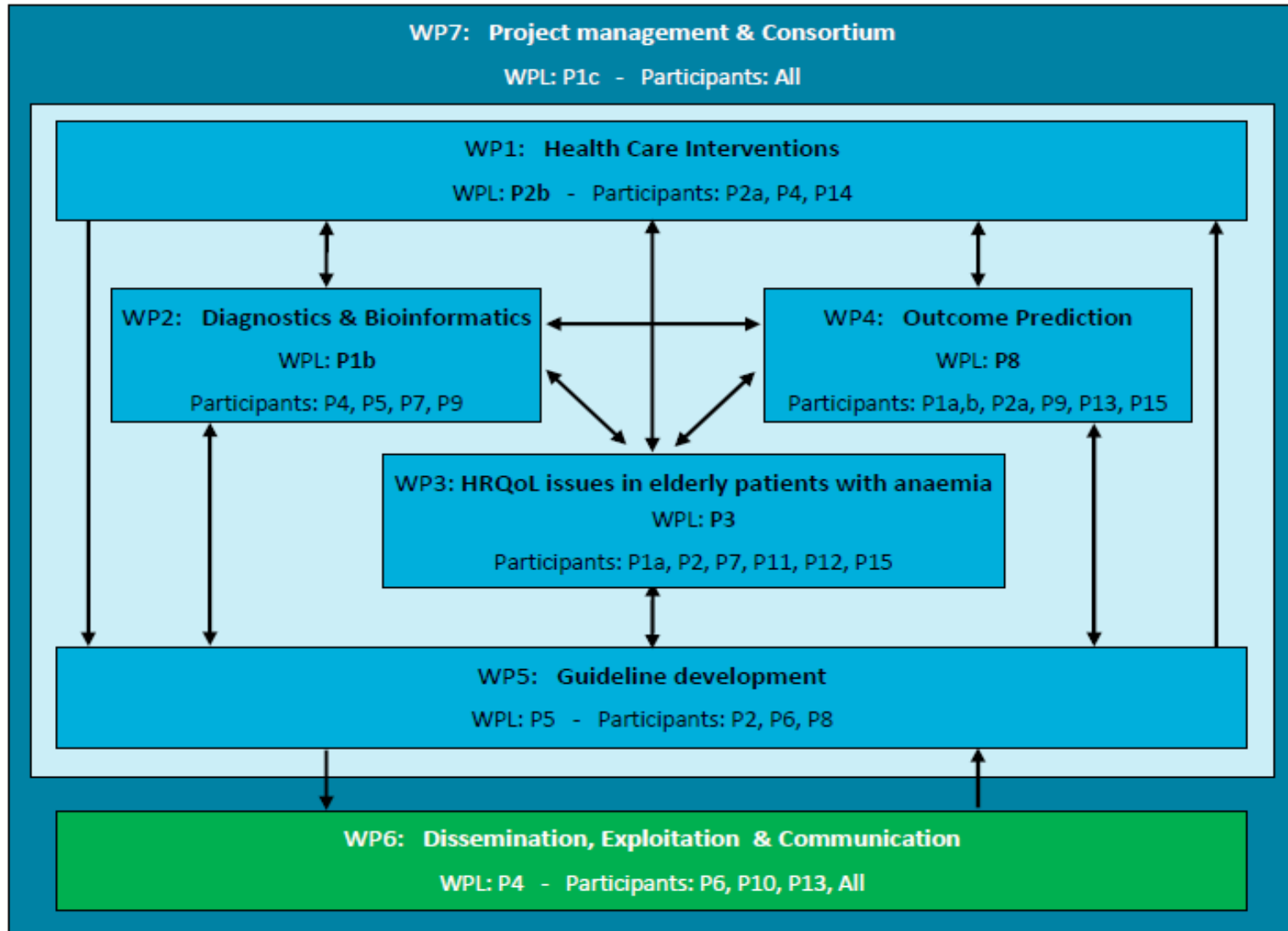


## Background and Rationale

- MDS: Chronic bone marrow malignancies , predominant in the elderly, complicated by severe anaemia (AoE = anaemia of the elderly, i.e., frail people >65 years of age)
- Lower-risk MDS in ca. 20% of cases with AoE = about 2 million European citizens
- Significant impact on quality-adjusted survival
- Continuously growing burden of disease (ageing population; newly identified MDS cases among those diagnosed with AoE)
- Increasing financial burden on patients and healthcare systems



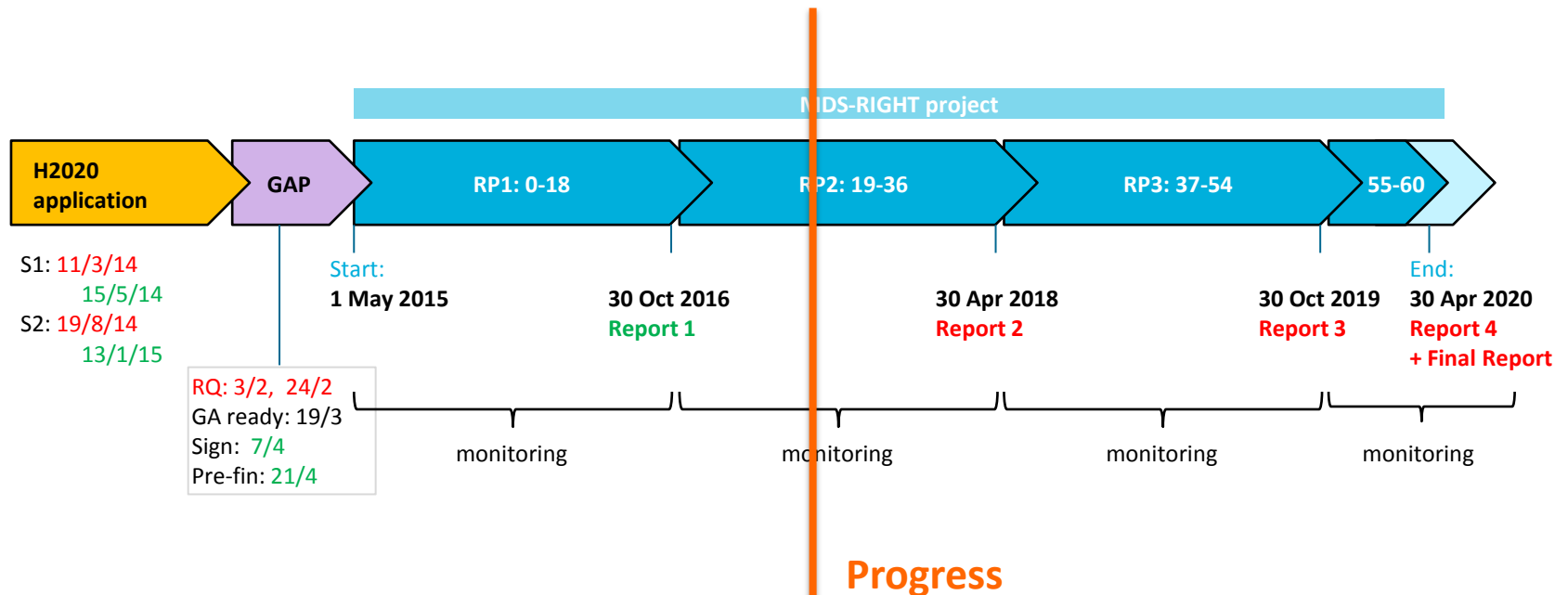
# Design of MDS-RIGHT



# MDS-RIGHT project - Timelines



- Start project: May 1st 2015
- Duration: 60 months
- Reporting periods: **18, 36, 54** and 60 months
- Meeting prior to official Kick-off in Vienna 11 June 2015:
  - Preparation meeting (GA): 2 Feb 2015 - Mannheim
  - Preparation KO meeting (WPLs): 1 May 2015 - Washington



Legend: Deadlines Outcome / Finalized

# General introduction and Welcome (1)

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1. MDS-RIGHT started officially on May 1st 2015.
  
2. Three successful meetings 2016:
  - [ELN Annual meeting Mannheim, 1-3 February, 2016](#)  
Progress of action points of the WPs during the first 18 months.
  
  - [Meeting during MDS course ESH, Estoril 14 April 2016](#)  
Launch of Website
  
  - [October Meeting \(Amsterdam, 15-16 Oct 2016\)](#)  
Focus on development of interactive guidelines (WP5) and the dissemination plan, including the Website structure (WP6)  
New CRFs for collecting data on Health economics and New Outcome Core sets  
Progress of 18 months report  
Involvement of patrons as stakeholders of MDS-Right

# Dissemination plan




WP6 leader: Pierre Fenaux (PF)

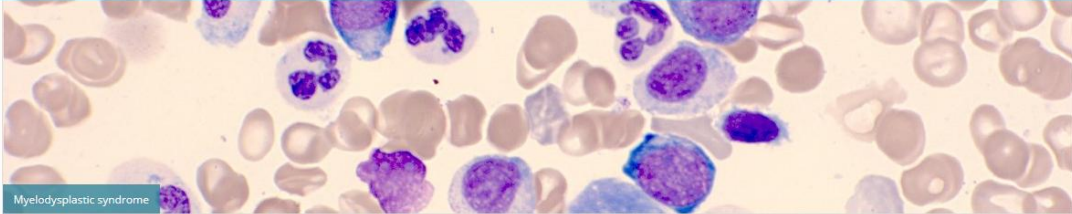
## Dissemination, Exploitation & Communication

# Dissemination Progress (WP6)



## Task 6.2: Creation of a discussion platform & common website for communication with stakeholders

[Home](#)  [User login](#) 



Myelodysplastic syndrome

### Welcome

Welcome to MDS Europe - the online home of the MDS-RIGHT project and the future hub for all European MDS (myelodysplastic syndromes) information and guidance.


On our pages you will find detailed information about MDS-RIGHT including the project's work packages, deliverables and the extensive team of project partners.

Coming soon:

- MDS Resources - pulling together a wide range of resources for patients, researchers and medical staff from across Europe
- Clinical Trials - information about all European MDS-related clinical trials
- Publications - the most important MDS publications, accessible from one place
- European MDS recommendations - European and National guidelines for the management of MDS
- Therapeutic Algorithm Interactive Tool - up-to-date, evidence-based information and regulatory guidance on the management of MDS


Check back often - the site will be regularly updated.

### News




#### MDS EUROPE in Estoril

Come and meet us and find out more about MDS EUROPE at the European LeukemiaNet booth at the European




#### MDS-RIGHT pages now live!

Find out more about the MDS-RIGHT project and how this feeds into MDS EUROPE




#### Work packages

Find detailed information about the work packages and deliverables for the MDS-RIGHT project



#### MDS-RIGHT partners

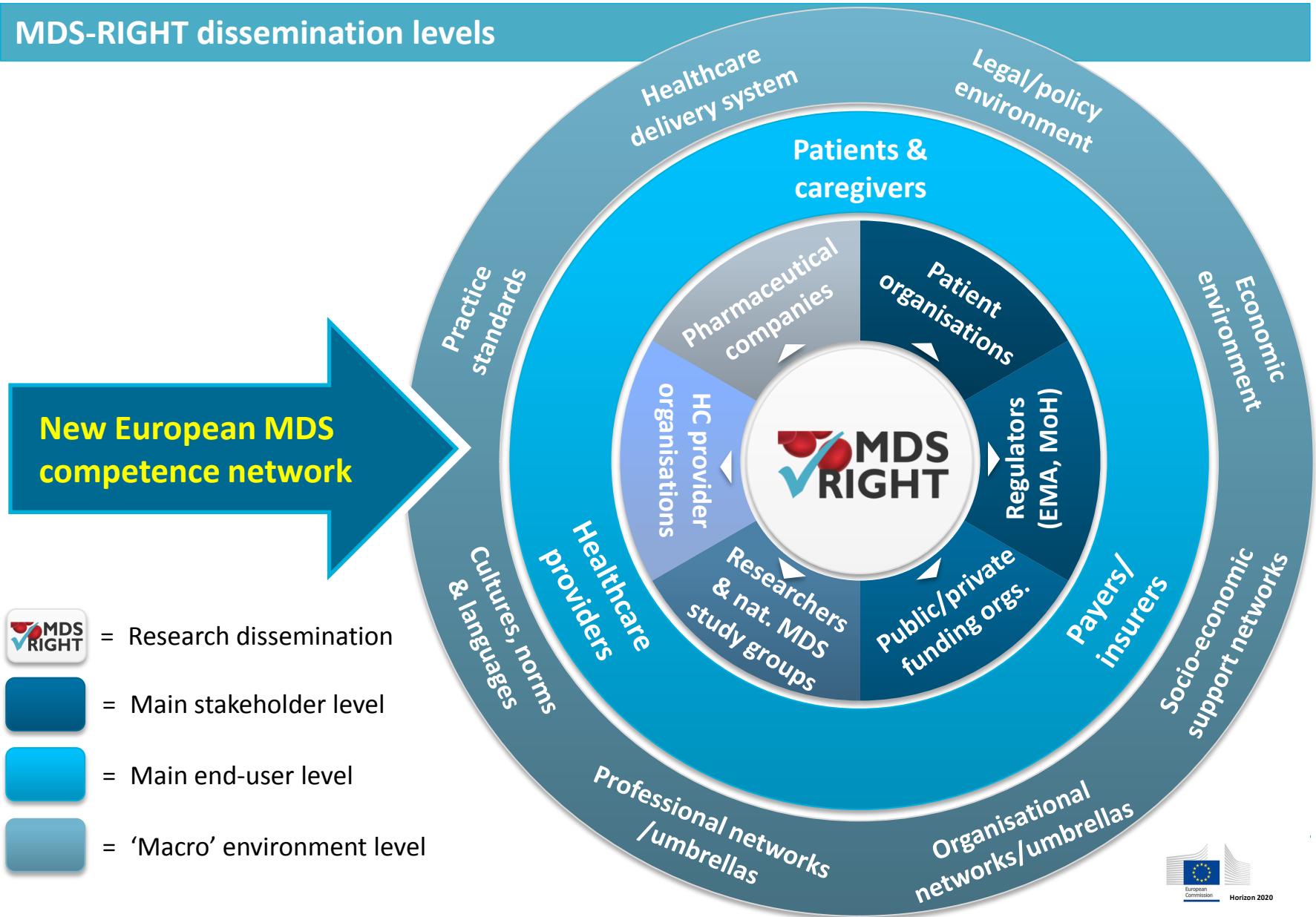
Explore our partners map to find out more about the institutions and teams working to carry out the MDS-RIGHT



European Commission  
Horizon 2020

# Dissemination Plan (WP6)

## MDS-RIGHT dissemination levels





# MDS-RIGHT General conclusions

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- The MDS-RIGHT project is progressing well
- The early deliverables and milestones appeared feasible and have been accepted by the Horizon 2020 commission
- The first stakeholders meeting of MDS-RIGHT will give you an overview of the perspectives by the involved major stakeholders and some examples of our dissemination platforms

# MDS patient management challenges and solutions

*- Panel presentations and discussion -*

***Moderator: David Bowen***

Honorary Professor of Myeloid Leukaemia Studies & Consultant Haematologist  
St. James's University Hospital, Leeds, United Kingdom

## MDS patient management challenges and solutions

16:15	<b>Introductory remarks</b>	<b><i>Moderator:</i></b>	<i>David Bowen</i>
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# Medical specialist perspective

*- Panel presentation -*

*Pierre Fenaux*

Haematology specialist  
St. Louis Hospital, Paris, France

# MDS: medical specialist perspective

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- **Where are we ?**
- **What do we need ?**

# MDS: medical specialist perspective

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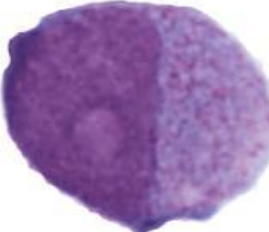

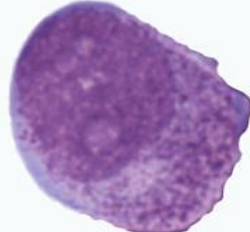


- Where are we ?
- What do we need ?

MDS : how far did we **improve diagnosis, prognostic factors** and treatment ?

- **Diagnosis**
  - Morphology
  - Cytogenetics
  - Somatic mutations
  - (Flow cytometry)
- **Prognostic factors**
  - IPSS and R-IPSS
  - Somatic mutations
  - (Flow cytometry)

# Blasts in MDS (J Goasguen)

Agranular blast		Agranular blast with basophilic cytoplasm fine chromatin and nucleoli
Granular blast		A subtype but with azurophilic granulations and <b>absence of Golgi zone</b>
Promyelocyte		Azurophilic granulations and A <b>clear visible Golgi zone</b> characteristic in promyelocytes
Myelodysplastic promyelocyte		Promyelocyte with an irregular distribution of granulations and reduced number of granules



# Blast cells in MDS (J Goasguen)

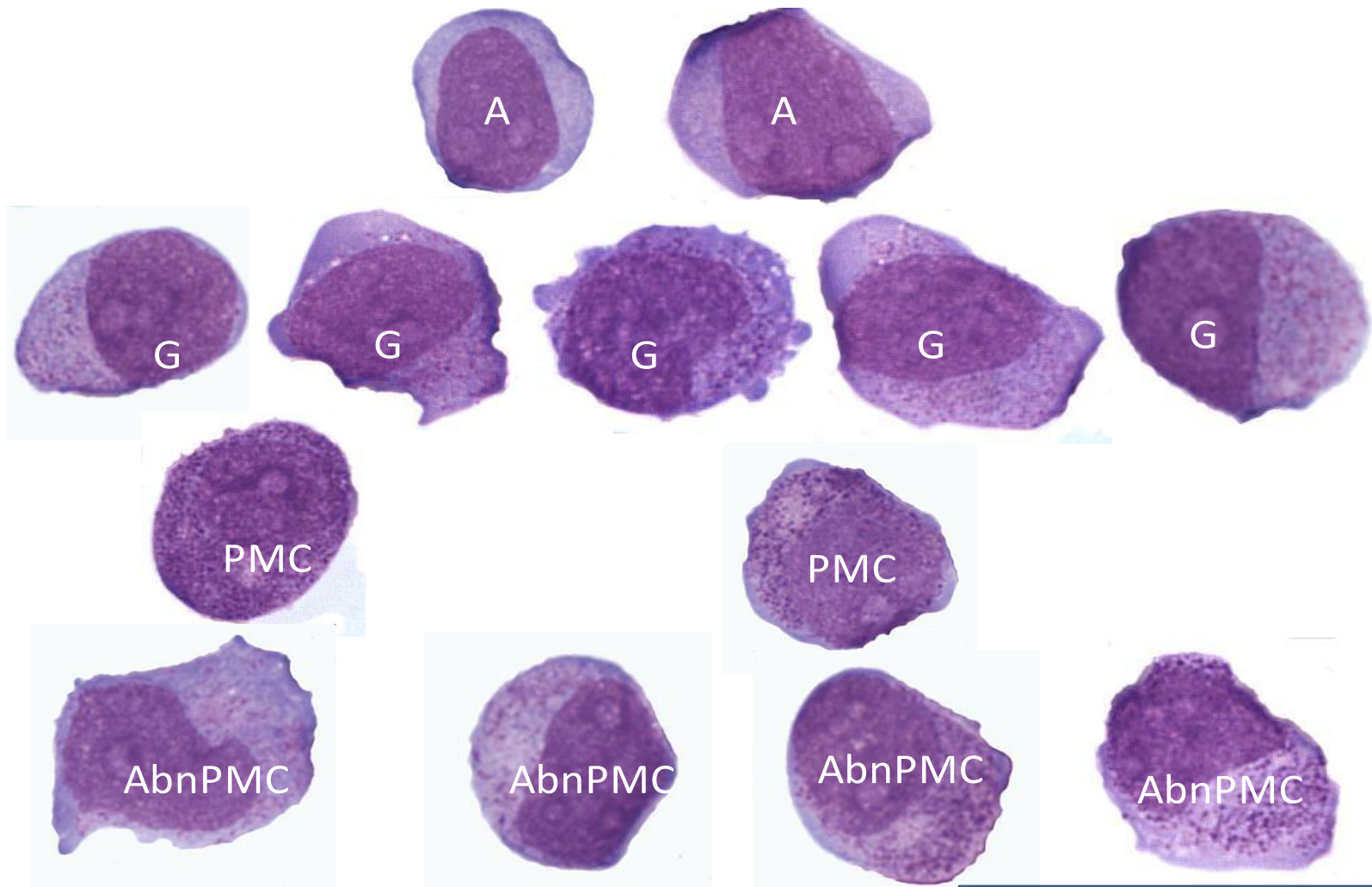


Photo: JeanE Goasguen

## Diagnostic role of cytogenetics: MDS without significant dysplasias?

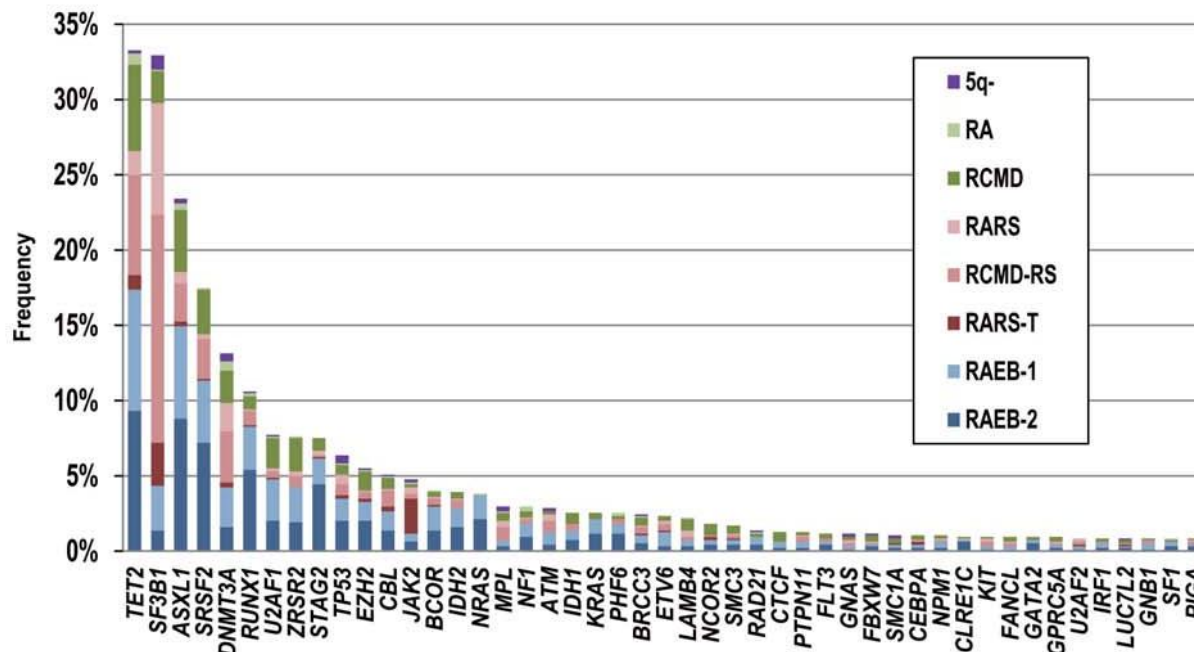
- Elderly woman with moderate anemia and del 5q
- Thrombocytopenia and del 20q
- Moderate Cytopenias and -7 ou +8

## LEADING ARTICLE

## Landscape of genetic lesions in 944 patients with myelodysplastic syndromes

T Haferlach<sup>1,10</sup>, Y Nagata<sup>2,4,10</sup>, V Grossmann<sup>1,10</sup>, Y Okuno<sup>2,10</sup>, U Bacher<sup>1</sup>, G Nagae<sup>3</sup>, S Schnittger<sup>1</sup>, M Sanada<sup>2,4</sup>, A Kon<sup>2,4</sup>, T Alpermann<sup>1</sup>, K Yoshida<sup>2,4</sup>, A Roller<sup>1</sup>, N Nadarajah<sup>1</sup>, Y Shiraiishi<sup>6</sup>, Y Shiozawa<sup>2,4</sup>, K Chiba<sup>6</sup>, H Tanaka<sup>5</sup>, HP Koeffler<sup>7,8</sup>, H-U Klein<sup>9</sup>, M Dugas<sup>9</sup>, H Aburatani<sup>3</sup>, A Kohlmann<sup>1</sup>, S Miyano<sup>5,6</sup>, C Haferlach<sup>1</sup>, W Kern<sup>1,10</sup> and S Ogawa<sup>2,4,10</sup>

- 944 patients 104 genes
- **89.5% had at least one mutation** (median, 3 per patient; range, 0-12).
- 47 genes significantly mutated
- **TET2, SF3B1, ASXL1, SRSF2, DNMT3A, and RUNX1** mutated in >10% of cases.



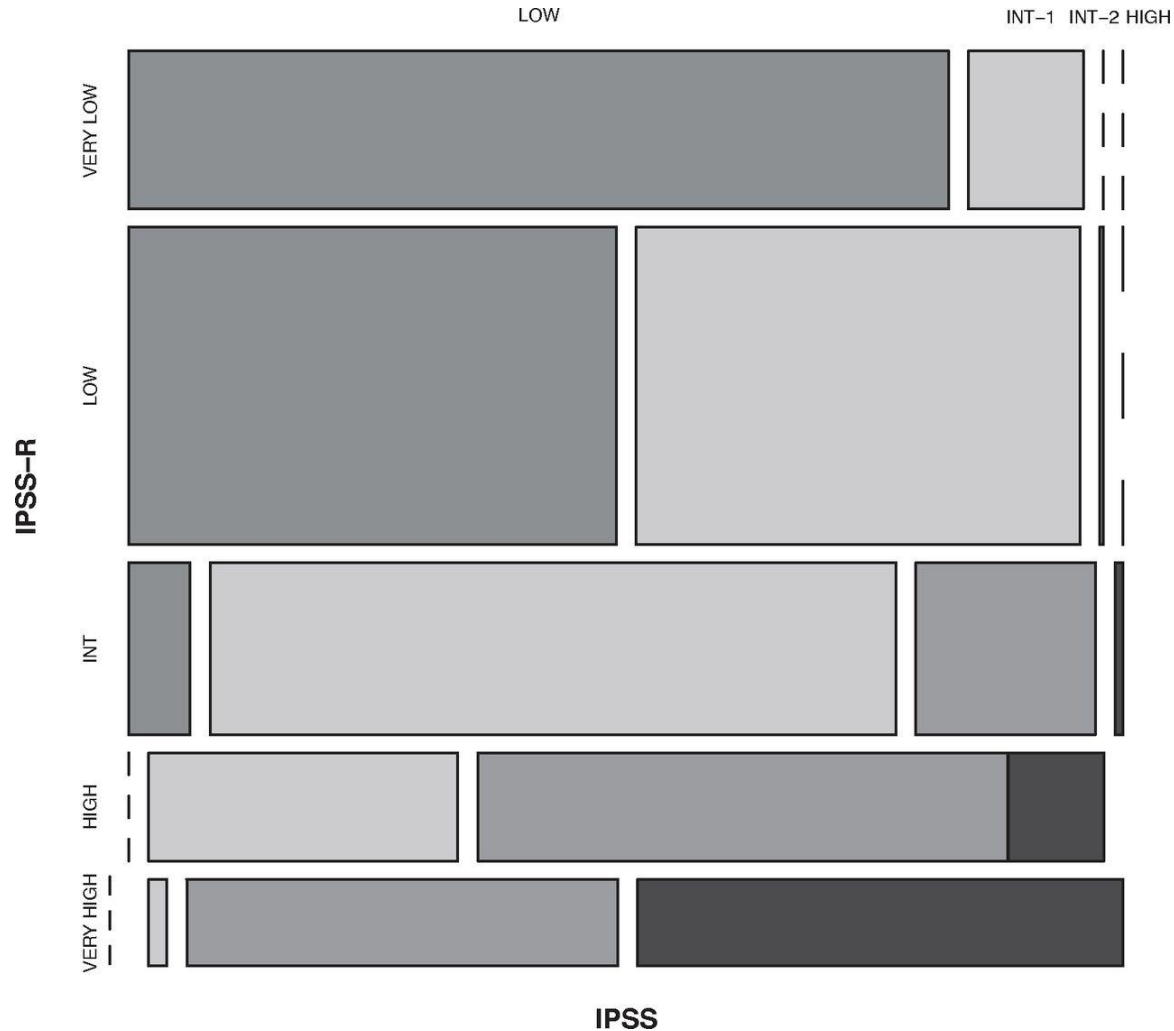
# Comparison of IPSS-R and IPSS



subgroups within the IWG-PM database patient cohort

blood

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HEMATOLOGY



Greenberg P L et al. Blood 2012;120:2454-2465



# Prognostic value of mutations

	HR (95% CI)	p-value
<b>Age</b>		
≥55 yrs vs. <55 yrs	<b>1.81 (1.20-2.73)</b>	<b>0.004</b>
<b>IPSS Risk Group</b>		
Int1 vs. Low	<b>2.29 (1.69-3.11)</b>	<b>&lt;0.001</b>
Int2 vs. Low	<b>3.45 (2.42-4.91)</b>	<b>&lt;0.001</b>
High vs. Low	<b>5.85 (3.63-9.40)</b>	<b>&lt;0.001</b>
<b>Mutational Status - Present vs. Absent</b>		
<i>TP53</i> Mutation	<b>2.48 (1.60-3.84)</b>	<b>&lt;0.001</b>
<i>EZH2</i> Mutation	<b>2.13 (1.36-3.33)</b>	<b>&lt;0.001</b>
<i>ETV6</i> Mutation	<b>2.04 (1.08-3.86)</b>	<b>0.029</b>
<i>RUNX1</i> Mutation	<b>1.47 (1.01-2.15)</b>	<b>0.047</b>
<i>ASXL1</i> Mutation	<b>1.38 (1.00-1.89)</b>	<b>0.049</b>

# Prognosis of TP53/p53 mutations



with all available treatments

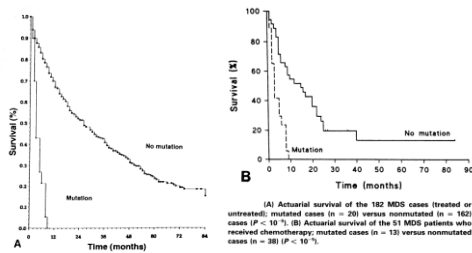


blood

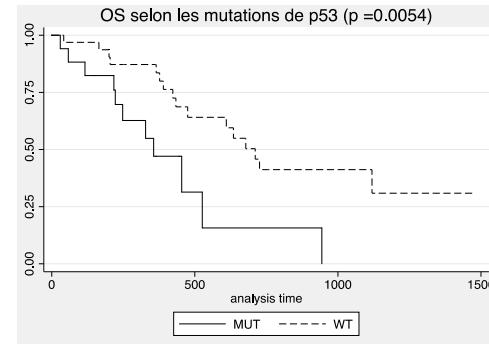
1994 84: 3148-3157

## p53 mutations are associated with resistance to chemotherapy and short survival in hematologic malignancies

E Wattel, C Preudhomme, B Hecquet, M Vanrumbeke, B Quesnel, I Dervite, P Morel and P Fenaux



## TP53 mutations and results of AZA in MDS (Bally, Leuk Res, 2013)



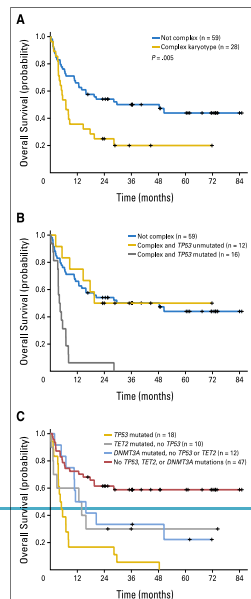
VOLUME 32 · NUMBER 25 · SEPTEMBER 1 2014

JOURNAL OF CLINICAL ONCOLOGY

ORIGINAL REPORT

### Somatic Mutations Predict Poor Outcome in Patients With Myelodysplastic Syndrome After Hematopoietic Stem-Cell Transplantation

Rafael Bejar, Kristen E. Stevenson, Bennett Gaughay, R. Coleman Lindsay, Brenton G. Marc, Petar Stojanov, Gad Getz, David P. Steensma, Jerome Rizk, Robert Soffer, Joseph H. Antin, Edwin Alyea, Philippe Armand, Vincent Ho, John Koreth, Donna Neuberg, Corey S. Cutler, and Benjamin L. Ebert



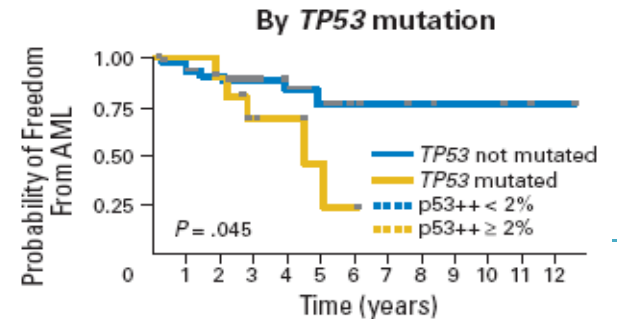
VOLUME 29 · NUMBER 15 · MAY 20 2011

JOURNAL OF CLINICAL ONCOLOGY

ORIGINAL REPORT

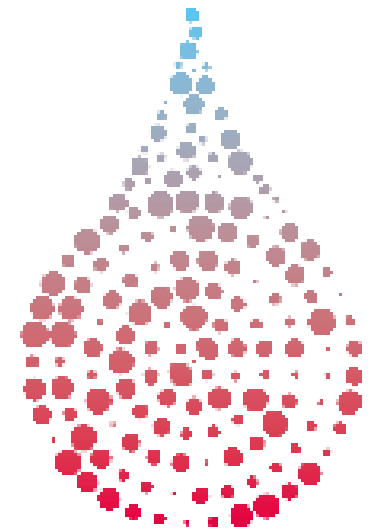
### TP53 Mutations in Low-Risk Myelodysplastic Syndromes With del(5q) Predict Disease Progression

Martin Jädersten, Leonie Safi, Alexander Smith, Austin Kulasekararaj, Sabine Pomplun, Gudrun Göhring, Anette Hedlund, Robert Haas, Brigitte Schlegelberger, Anna Porwin, Eva Hellström-Lindberg, and Ghulam J. Mufti



## Prognostic factors of HMA treatment in higher risk MDS

- EU funded HARMONY project
- About 3000 high risk MDS/CMML studied, 1000 of whom had NGS
- Also testing flow cytometry, epigenetic studies, etc.



HARMONY

# MDS: medical specialist perspective



MDS : how far did we improve diagnosis, prognostic factors and **treatment** ?

- Allogeneic SCT
- Hypomethylating agents
- Erythropoietic stimulating agents
- Lenalidomide



# MDS: medical specialist perspective



Outcome of higher-risk MDS according to donor availability: *M Robin, Leukemia, 2014*

- **163 patients** : 21%no donor; 71% HLA-matched donor (34% sibling and 37% unrelated) and 9% patients HLA mismatched donor
- **117 patients treated by AZA and 40 by CT.** marrow blasts < 10% achieved in 68% and 57% for patients without and with donor

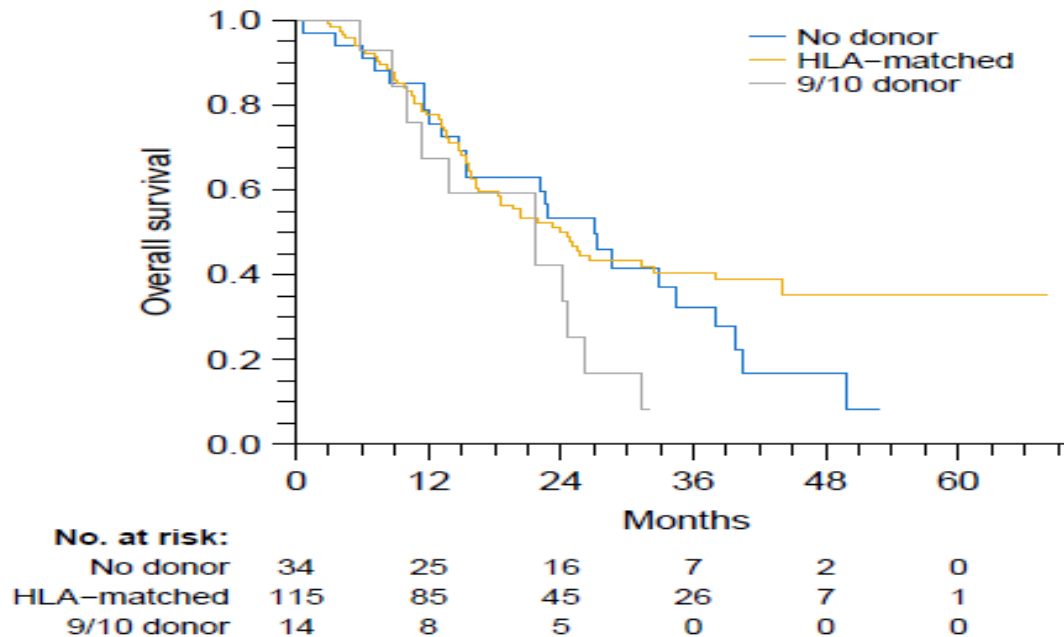


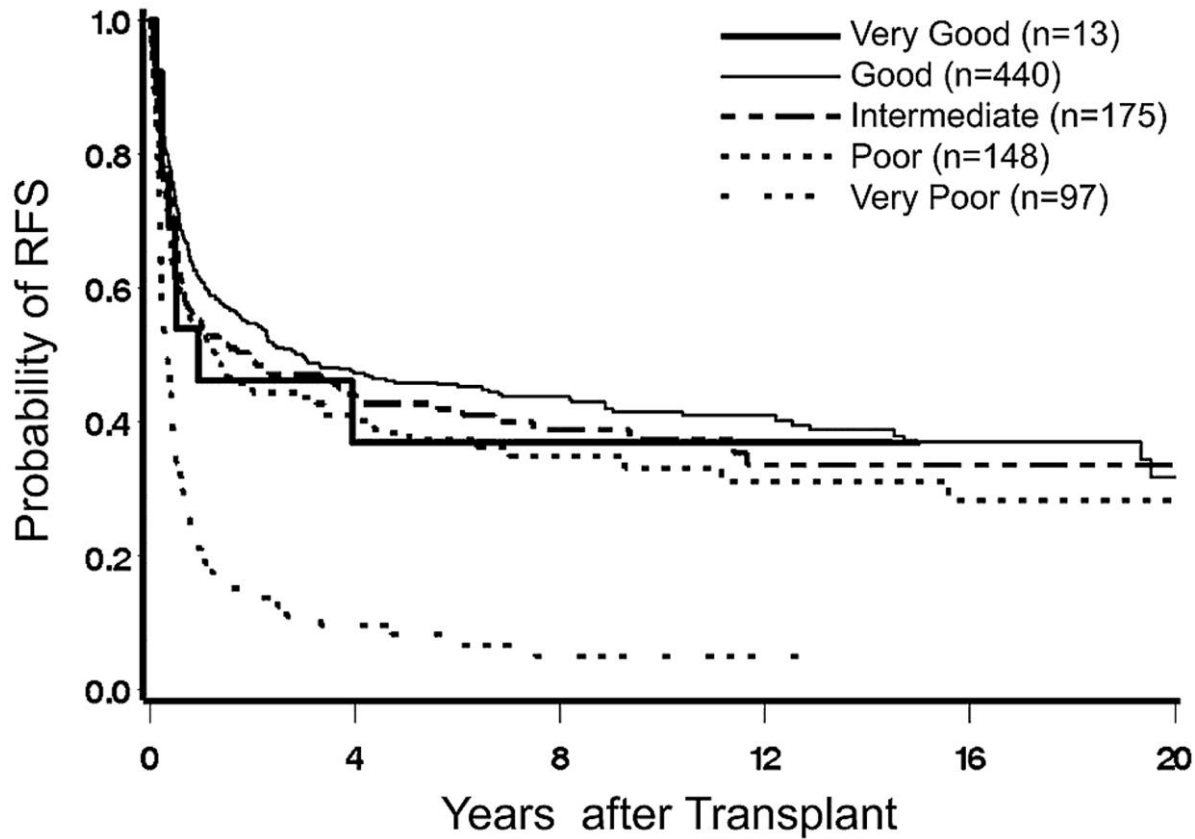
Figure 1: Overall survival according to donor group.

## Allo SCT and very poor karyotype (IPSS-R)

blood

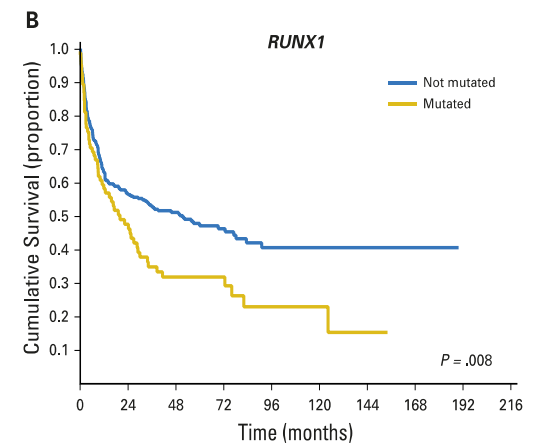
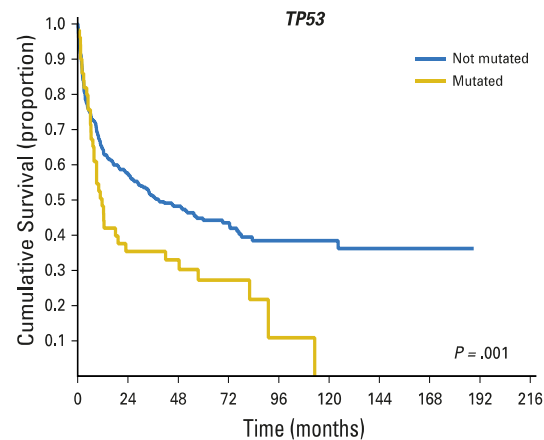
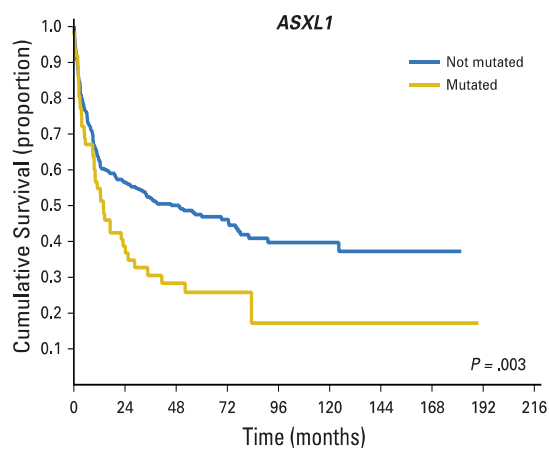
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Survival by 5-group cytogenetic classification.

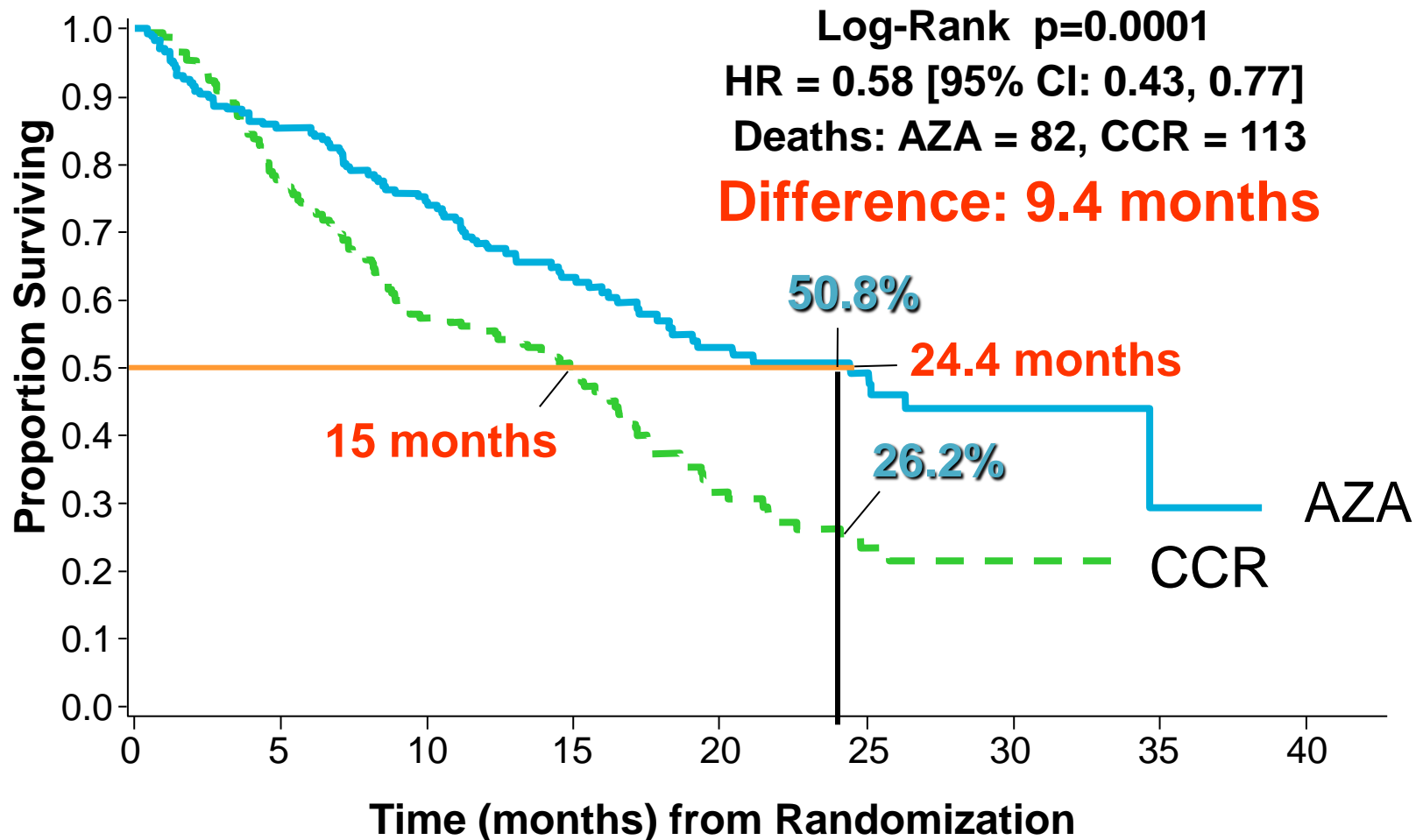


## Clinical Effects of Driver Somatic Mutations on the Outcomes of Patients With Myelodysplastic Syndromes Treated With Allogeneic Hematopoietic Stem-Cell Transplantation

Matteo G. Della Porta, Anna Galli, Andrea Bacigalupo, Silvia Zibellini, Massimo Bernardi, Ettore Rizzo, Bernardino Allione, Maria Teresa van Lint, Pietro Pileri, Paola Marengo, Alberto Bosi, Maria Teresa Voso, Simona Sica, Mariella Cazzola, Emanuele Angelucci, Marama Rossi, Maria Ubezio, Alberto Malovini, Ivan Limongelli, Virginia V. Ferretti, Orietta Spinelli, Cristina Tresoldi, Sarah Pozzi, Silvia Luchetti, Laura Pezzetti, Silvia Catricalà, Chiara Milanesi, Alberto Riva, Benedetto Bruno, Fabio Cicci, Francesca Bonifazi, Riccardo Bellazzi, Elli Papaemmanuil, Armando Santoro, Emilio P. Alessandrino, Alessandro Rambaldi, and Mario Cazzola



AZA 001 trial: Overall Survival: Azacitidine vs CCR (*Lancet Oncol, 2009*)



# MDS: medical specialist perspective



## North American Intergroup Randomized Phase 2 MDS Study S1117: Study Design

Higher-risk  
MDS or  
CMML

(IPSS  $\geq 1.5$   
and/or  
blasts  $\geq 5\%$ )

AZA (IV/SC)  
75 mg/m<sup>2</sup>/d (d1-7)  
N=92

AZA (IV/SC) + LEN (PO)  
75 mg/m<sup>2</sup>/d (d1-7) + 10mg/d x 21d  
N=93

AZA (IV/SC) + Vorin (PO)  
75 mg/m<sup>2</sup>/d (d1-7) + 300mg BID (d3-9)  
N=91

Groups: SWOG, ECOG,  
Alliance, NCIC

Total Sample Size: 276

Primary Objective: 20%  
improvement of ORR  
(CR/PR/Hi) based on  
2006 IWG Criteria

Secondary Objectives: OS,  
RFS, LFS

Power 81%, alpha 0.05 for  
each combo arm vs. AZA

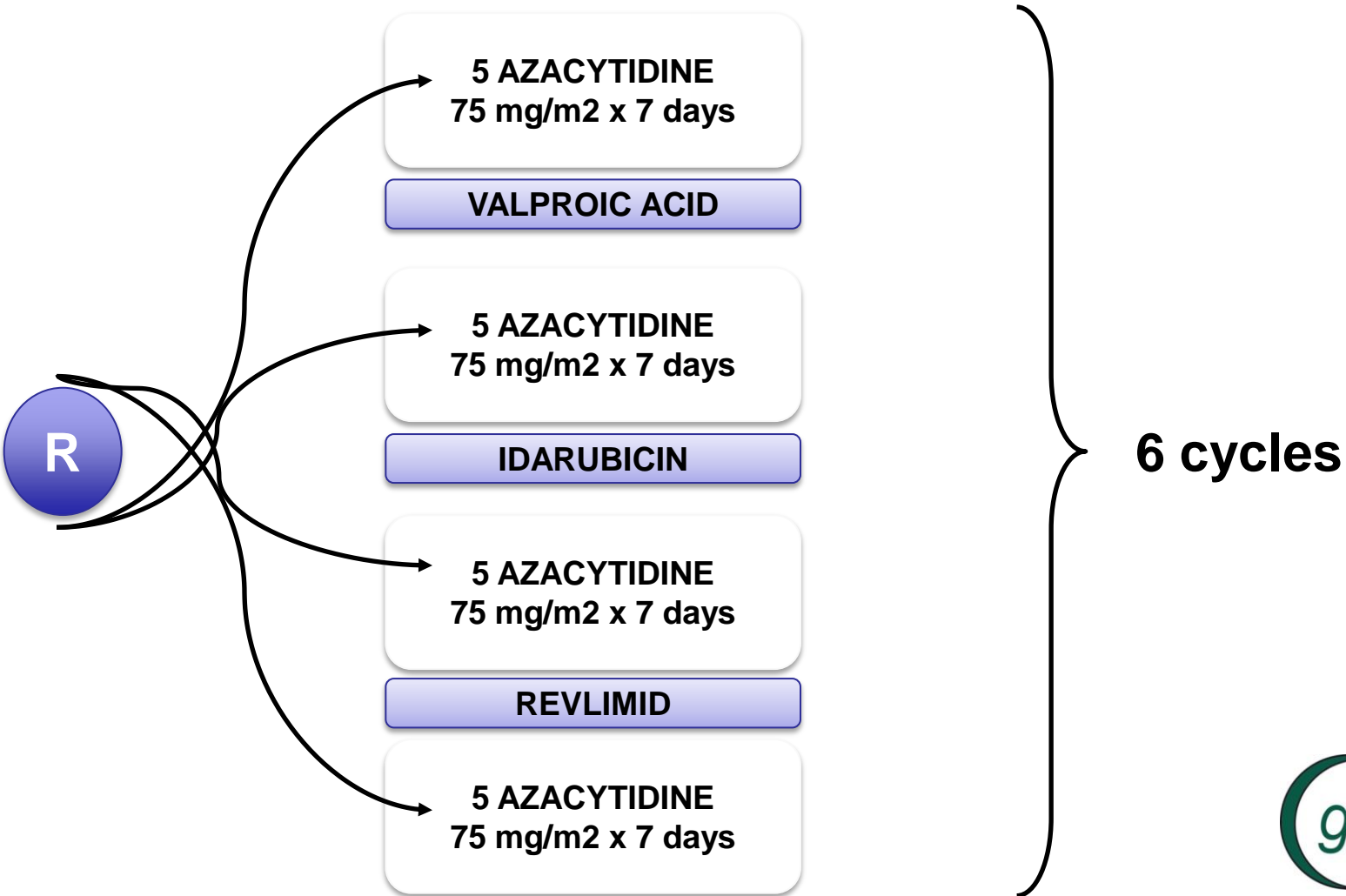
03/2012 – 06/2014

*Sekeres et al. ASH 2014: LBA - 5*

# MDS: medical specialist perspective



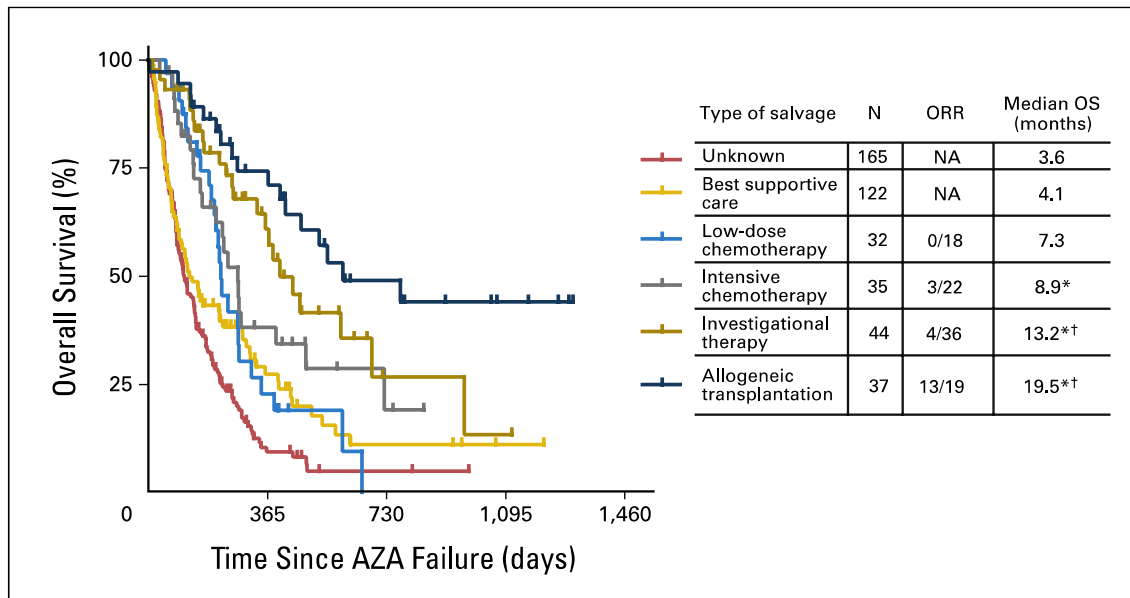
High risk MDS 1<sup>st</sup> line **AZA PLUS** trial «pick the winner»



## Outcome of High-Risk Myelodysplastic Syndrome After Azacitidine Treatment Failure

Thomas Prébet, Steven D. Gore, Benjamin Esterni, Claude Gardin, Raphael Itzykson, Sylvain Thepot,

Prébet et al



# New drugs in higher-risk MDS

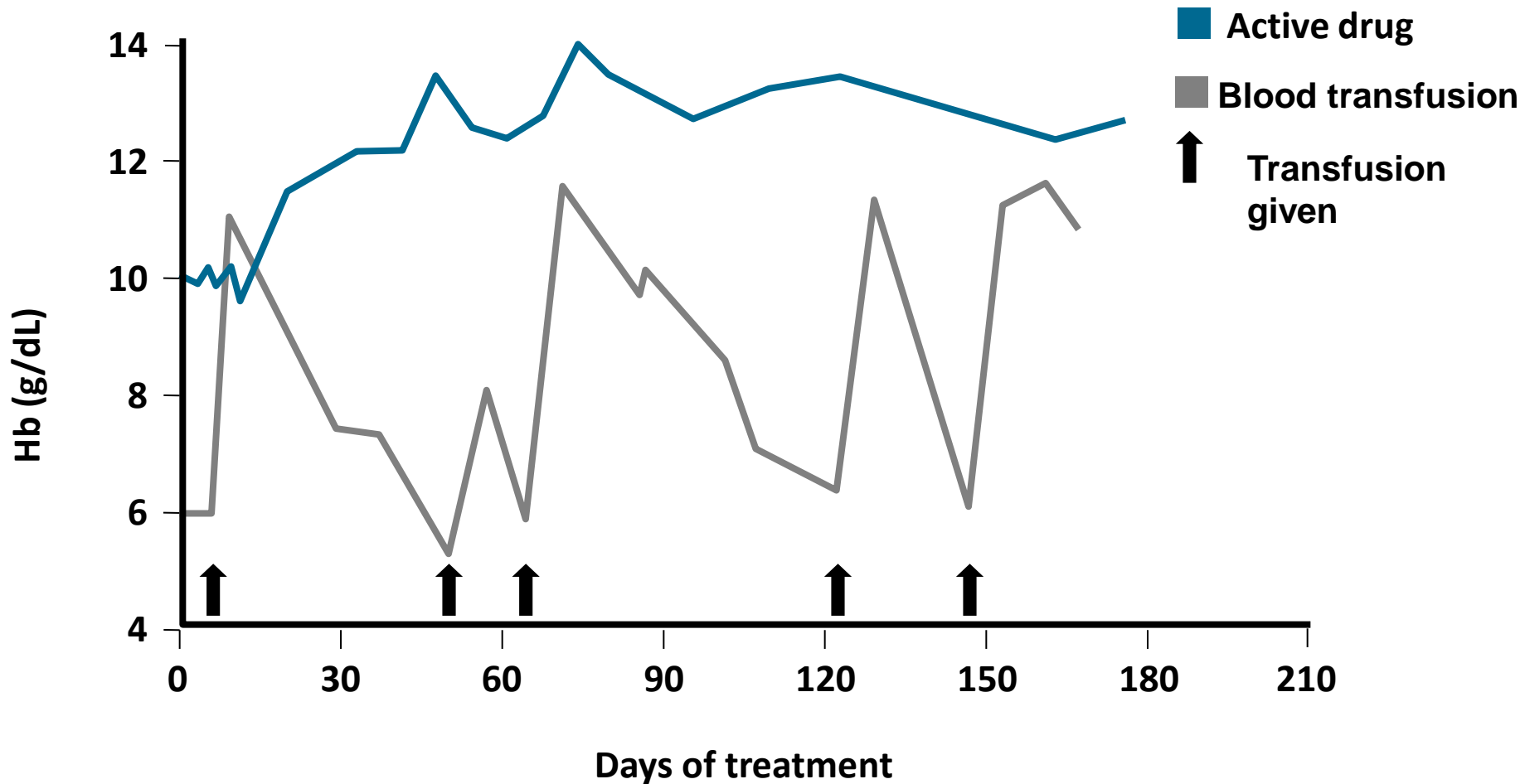
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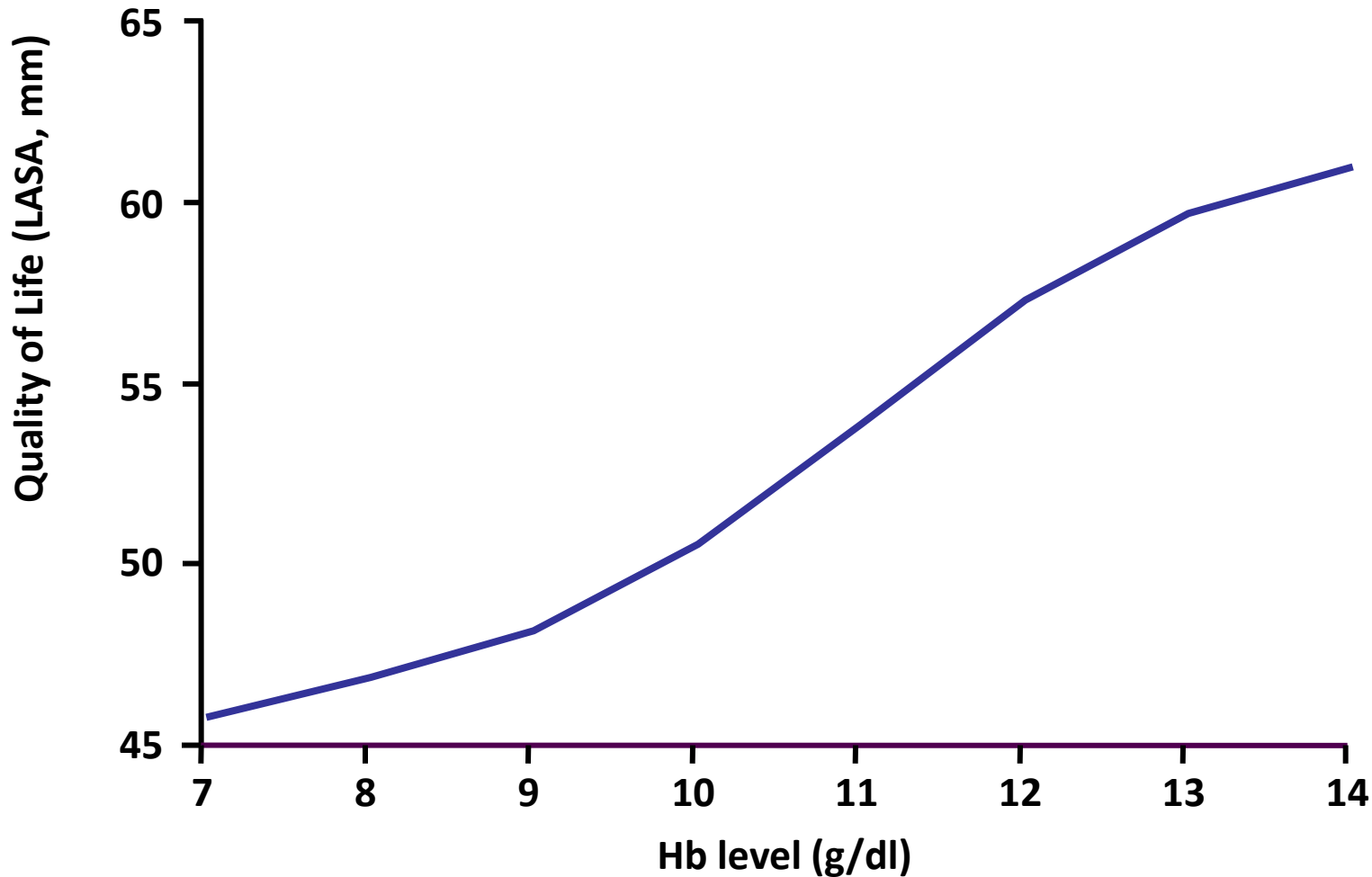
- Intensive HMA regimens (AZA,DAC)
- New HMAs (guadecitabine, oral AZA)
- IDH1 , IDH2 inhibitors
- Polo like kinase inhibitors ( Rigosertib)
- Anti CD 33, anti CD 123 MoAb (and double antibodies)
- Anti bcl2 (Venetoclax)
- Checkpoint inhibitors (anti PD-1, anti PD-L1, anti CTLA4)
- Spliceosome inhibitors (SRSF2)



# Treatment of anemia in lower risk MDS



# Quality of Life is correlated to Hb levels



Crawford et al. *Cancer* 2002; 95: 888–95

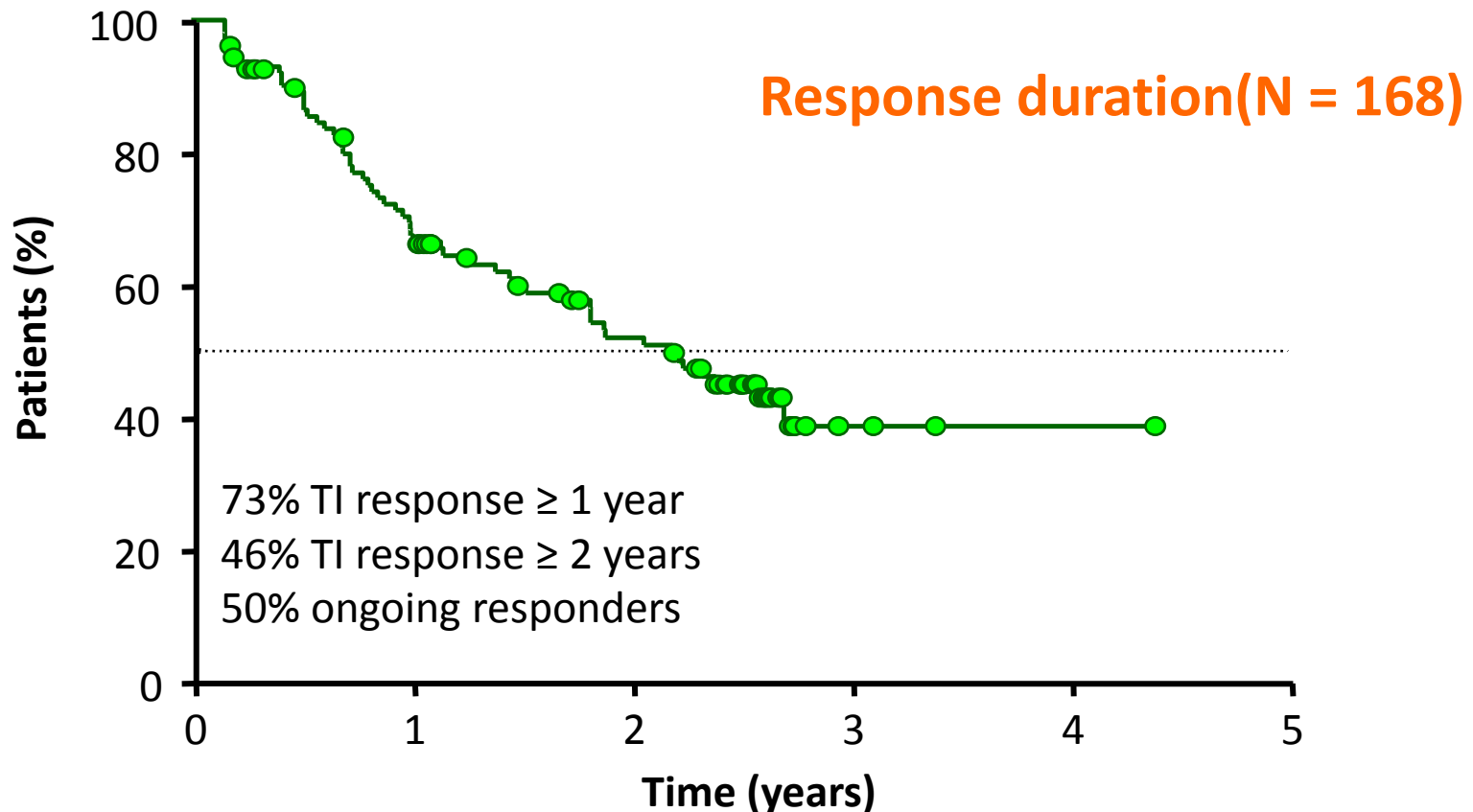
## EPO +/- G-CSF in MDS: prognostic factors of response *(Park, Kelaidi, Blood 2007)*

- N=403 pts treated with EPO+/- G-CSF or Darbepoetin alpha
- Hb<10g/dl (54%transfused)
- **63% response (43% major, 20% minor)**
- **Median response duration: 24 months**

# MDS: medical specialist perspective



Lenalidomide Erythroid Response: lower risk Del 5q (*List, NEJM 2006*)



- Censored patients who remain TI at time of data cut-off or discontinuation of study

## Factors Affecting Response and Survival in Patients With Myelodysplasia Treated With Immunosuppressive Therapy

*Elaine M. Sloand, Colin O. Wu, Peter Greenberg, Neal Young, and John Barrett*

**129 pts**

- 24% response (CR+PR) to ATG
- **48% response to ATG+ CsA**
- 8% response to CsA
- 31% responses were complete

### Prognostic factors of response :

- Younger age (<60 y)
- Recent onset of transfusions
- HLA DR 15
- ATG+ CsA
- IPSS low or int 1

If compared to IPSS database: **immunosuppression improves survival in younger patients**

## A randomized phase II trial of azacitidine +/- epoetin- $\beta$ in lower-risk myelodysplastic syndromes resistant to erythropoietic stimulating agents

Sylvain Thépot,<sup>1\*</sup> Raouf Ben Abdelali,<sup>2\*</sup> Sylvie Chevret,<sup>3</sup> Aline Renneville,<sup>2</sup> Odile Beyne-Rauzy,<sup>4</sup> Thomas Prébet,<sup>5</sup> Sophie Park,<sup>6</sup> Aspasia Stamatoullas,<sup>7</sup> Agnes Guerci-Bresler,<sup>8</sup> Stéphane Cheze,<sup>9</sup> Gérard Tertian,<sup>10</sup> Bachra Choufi,<sup>11</sup> Laurence Legros,<sup>12</sup> Jean Noel Bastié,<sup>13</sup> Jacques Delaunay,<sup>14</sup> Marie Pierre Chaury,<sup>15</sup> Laurence Sanhes,<sup>16</sup> Eric Wattel,<sup>17</sup> Francois Dreyfus,<sup>6</sup> Norbert Vey,<sup>5</sup> Fatiha Chermat,<sup>18</sup> Claude Preudhomme,<sup>2</sup> Pierre Fenaux<sup>19</sup> and Claude Gardin<sup>1</sup> on behalf of the Groupe Francophone des Myélodysplasies (GFM)

**Haematologica** 2016  
Volume 101(8):918-925

- **93 pts**
- Mainly “purely anemic patients”
- Randomized phase II trial AZA+/- EPO beta  
*In patients CLEARLY resistant to ESAs (at least 12 weeks using 60000 U/ w EPO or 250ug/w Darbepoetin)*
- **33% responses, transfusion independence in 19% of patients**

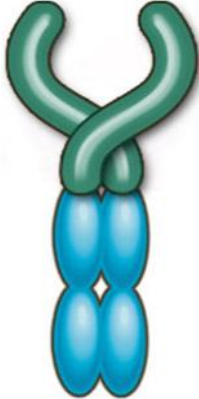

## LEN+/-EPO in lower risk MDS resistant to EPO (ITT population, n=129)

	LEN + EPO N = 65	LEN N = 64	
Erythroid response (IWG 2006)	40 %	23.4 %	RR1.7 p= 0.043

- Median response duration was 18.1 and 15.1 months in the L and LE arms, respectively (P = 0.47)
- Low baseline serum EPO level and a G polymorphism of CRBN gene predicted HI-E.

# Novel Ligand Traps TGFβ Superfamily Ligands

## ACE-011 (*Sotatercept*) and ACE-536 (*Luspatercept*)

	<b>ACE-011</b> <b>(Sotatercept)</b>	
<p>Fusion protein with ligand trap activity toward the activin type 2 receptors</p> <p>Drug does not bind EPO receptors</p>	 <p>Extracellular Domain of ActRIIA</p> <p>Fc Domain of human IgG<sub>1</sub> Antibody</p>	 <p>Modified Extracellular Domain of ActRIIB</p> <p>Fc Domain of human IgG<sub>1</sub> Antibody</p>
<p>Heme effect</p>	+	+
<p>Bone effect</p>	+	-



# MDS: medical specialist perspective

---



- Where are we ?
- What do we need ?

## What do we need ?

- **Diagnosis:**
  - Trained morphologists and cytogeneticists
  - NGS
- **Prognosis:**
  - large international studies like HARMONY
- **Treatment**
  - ++++ New drugs, and companies willing to have them approved in MDS
  - Help from companies for academic trials
  - International cooperation
  - Help from patient support groups

- Activates clinical trials in MDS
  - (35 centers in France and Belgium + Switzerland)
- Website: [www.gfmgroup.org](http://www.gfmgroup.org)
- Online registry of French MDS cases
- Close cooperation with:
  - a patient support group
  - the International MDS Foundation
  - the European Leukemia Net

# MDS patient perspective

*- Panel presentation -*

*Sophie Wintrich*

Chief Executive/Patient Liaison of the MDS UK Patient Support Group  
King's College Hospital, London, United Kingdom

## Who is MDS Alliance?

- **Umbrella organisation of national MDS patient groups**
- **6 founding members**
- **Established to promote collaboration, shared information, and increased awareness of MDS worldwide**
- **Currently 25 members – fully checked and validated**
- **A shared pool of knowledge, skills and resources**
- **Training and assistance opportunities for junior groups**

## Audience and Aims of MDSA

- **Our audiences:**
  - patients/relatives/clinicians/regulatory/HTA-payers
- **Our aims = to help improve & promote:**
  - Strategic and accelerated pace of research
  - shared and collaborative research
  - Increased clinical trials
  - Better REAL patient data – Increased evidence - QOL data
  - Increased access to more effective therapies - espec in low-risk MDS
  - Knowledge of clinical guidelines

**Based on our experience with EMA and HTA's**

## Data is key

### Solutions = robust registries

- **Projects like EU MDS Right (also ERN & Harmony)** with special emphasis on:
  - widespread use of molecular analysis – **EMA and HTA**
  - Use of robust QOL tools (*QUALMS, but also QOL-e – not just EQ5D!*) – **EMA and HTA**
  - Tissue banking & well-kept databases – effective, accurate & truly usable
  - Increased essential 'real-world' data (community data vs limited trial data)
  - Improved cross border system for patients and samples
  - strengthened collaboration with patients, clinicians, researchers and pharma industry
- **FOR**
  - Better understanding of MDS
  - Refined and more accurate prognostic tools
  - Hope for **AND ACCESS** to a larger choice of treatment
  - More personal treatments
  - Less “wasted” time for patients
  - **Financially viable access** to treatments with more assured response rate

**ROBUST DATA is a must**

**Non-response rates = hard to cope with**

# Nurse perspective

*- Panel presentation -*

*Corien Eeltink*

Clinical Nurse Specialist  
VU medical center, Amsterdam, the Netherlands





## Heterogeneous Population

- MDS
- Higher incidence among older population
- Fit versus frail
- Increased life expectancy versus Quality of Life



## **Supplemented with:**

- **Living conditions**
- **Literacy**
- **Vision and hearing screening**
- **NCCN distress thermometer and problem list**
- **Medication adherence**
- **Quality of Life**
- **Social network (presence of adequacy of caregiver) and Quality of Life of the caregiver**
- **Access to transportation**
- **Meaning of life**

## Relevance of a systematic geriatric screening and assessment in older patients with cancer: results of a prospective multicentric study

C. Kenis<sup>1</sup>, D. Bron<sup>2</sup>, Y. Libert<sup>3</sup>, L. Decoster<sup>4</sup>, K. Van Puyvelde<sup>5</sup>, P. Scalliet<sup>6</sup>, P. Cornette<sup>7</sup>, T. Peppersack<sup>8</sup>, S. Luce<sup>9</sup>, C. Langenaeken<sup>10</sup>, M. Rasschaert<sup>11</sup>, S. Allepaerts<sup>12</sup>, R. Van Rijswijk<sup>13</sup>, K. Milisen<sup>14,15</sup>, J. Flamaing<sup>14,16</sup>, J.-P. Lobelle<sup>17</sup> & H. Wildiers<sup>18,19\*</sup>

**Table 2.**

Results of the screening

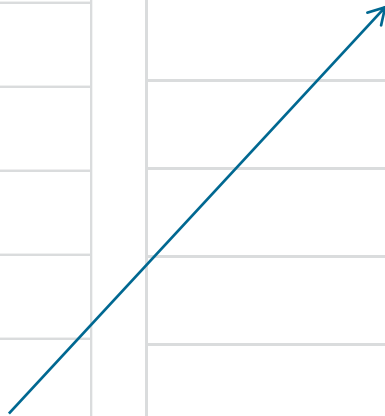
SCREENING	Instrument	Score	n	%	95% CI
Geriatric profile	G8 (0–17) (n = 1967)	Absence of a geriatric profile: score >14	576	29.3	27.3–31.3
		Presence of a geriatric profile: score ≤14	1391	70.7	68.7–72.7

- The assessment detected unknown geriatric problems in 51.2% of patients.
- The treatment decision was influenced in 25.3% of patients.

# Nurse perspective

diagnosis
multidisciplinary meeting
decision making process
patient information/ <b>geriatric assessment</b>
treatment/ supportive care

diagnosis
<b>geriatric assessment</b>
multidisciplinary meeting
decision making process
patient information
treatment/ supportive care







## Nursing roles

- Patient education and patient information
- Upfront Geriatric Assessment
- Understanding of Quality of Life
- Case manager
- Nursing research



## In conclusion

- A full GA is time-consuming but detects unknown geriatric problems in older patients
- A two-step approach: a short screening test followed by geriatric evaluation for patients at risk can lead to many older patients still needed to be assessed by GA
- Involve dedicated nurses in your plans and provide adequate training
- Quality of Life is an important outcome, therefore results should be available to discuss with every patient

# Regulatory/HTA perspective

*- Panel presentation -*

*David Bowen*

Honorary Professor of Myeloid Leukaemia Studies & Consultant Haematologist  
St. James's University Hospital, Leeds, United Kingdom

## justification for giving this presentation

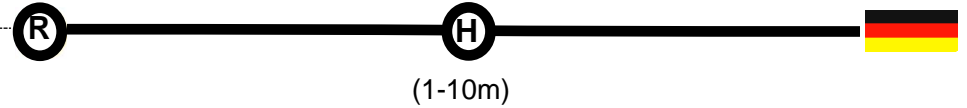
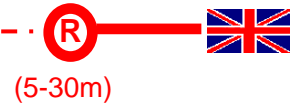
- **MDS clinician / researcher**
- Member of National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (**NICE**) **Technology Appraisal Committee** member since 2013
- Seconded as National Expert to Scientific Advice Unit (Geriatric Medicines & Adaptive Pathways), **European Medicines Agency** for 12 months (2015)

regulators – EU MA

HTAs & payers – national P&R

EAMS

NICE



EMA

EC



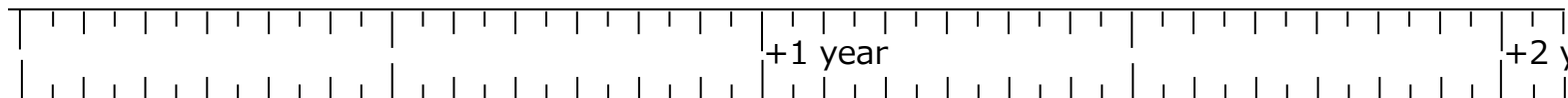
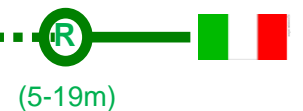
ATU

HAS



Law 648/96

AIFA



# Stakeholder targets (for this talk)

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- **Pharmaceutical companies**
- **Regulatory authorities**
  - EMA
  - National Competent Authorities
- **Health Technology Assessment Bodies**
- **Payers**

# How EUMDS / MDS-RIGHT could assist:



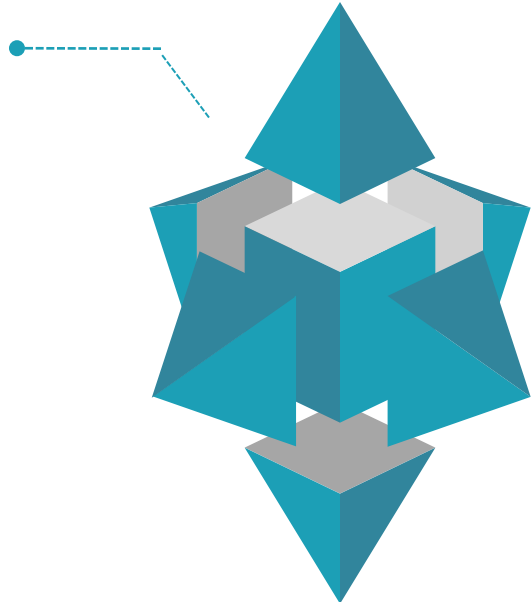
## Pharmaceutical companies

- **Assist with trial design**
  - Prevalence of sub-populations of MDS
  - Outcomes with current standard of care
- **Regulatory submission**
  - Supportive data for clinical trials (e.g. outcomes of SOC arm)
- **Post marketing commitment**
  - Real-world data (RWD) (*prospective*)
    - demographics including co-morbidity
    - outcome
    - QoL

# Early access tools: Overview

## PRIME

Major public health interest, unmet medical need.  
 Dedicated and reinforced support.  
 Enable accelerated assessment.  
 Better use of existing regulatory & procedural tools.



## Accelerated Assessment

Major public health interest, unmet medical need.  
 Reduce assessment time to 150 days.

## Adaptive Pathways

**Scientific concept of development and data generation.**

**Iterative development with use of real-life data.**

**Engagement with other healthcare-decision makers.**

## Conditional MA

Unmet medical need, seriously debilitating or life-threatening disease, a rare disease or use in emergency situations.

Early approval of a medicine on the basis of less complete clinical data.

# How EUMDS / MDS-RIGHT could assist:



## *Regulators*

- **Prospective RWD** to assist early Scientific Advice (EMA/NCA)
- **Implementation of Adaptive Pathways concepts**
  - Real world data (RWD) collection
  - Elements of pharmacovigilance (second primary malignancies / specific safety signals captured by comorbidity)



# How EUMDS / MDS-RIGHT could assist



## *Health Technology Assessment*

- **Country specific outcome data**
- **Comparative effectiveness**
  - Academic Evidence Review Groups
- **Resource Utilisation**
  - Comparator
- **Prospective outcome data with longer follow up than clinical trials**
  - Validity of extrapolation models for outcomes (reduce uncertainty)

# How EUMDS / MDS-RIGHT could assist:



## *Payers*

- Assist in HTA evaluation
- Provide ongoing outcome data for regular re-evaluation of 'value'

## Conclusion

- EUMDS is the only prospective registry for low risk MDS
- Now amended to include
  - high-risk MDS
  - Health economics
  - Expanded QoL
- A unique resource



# Industry perspective <sup>(1)</sup>

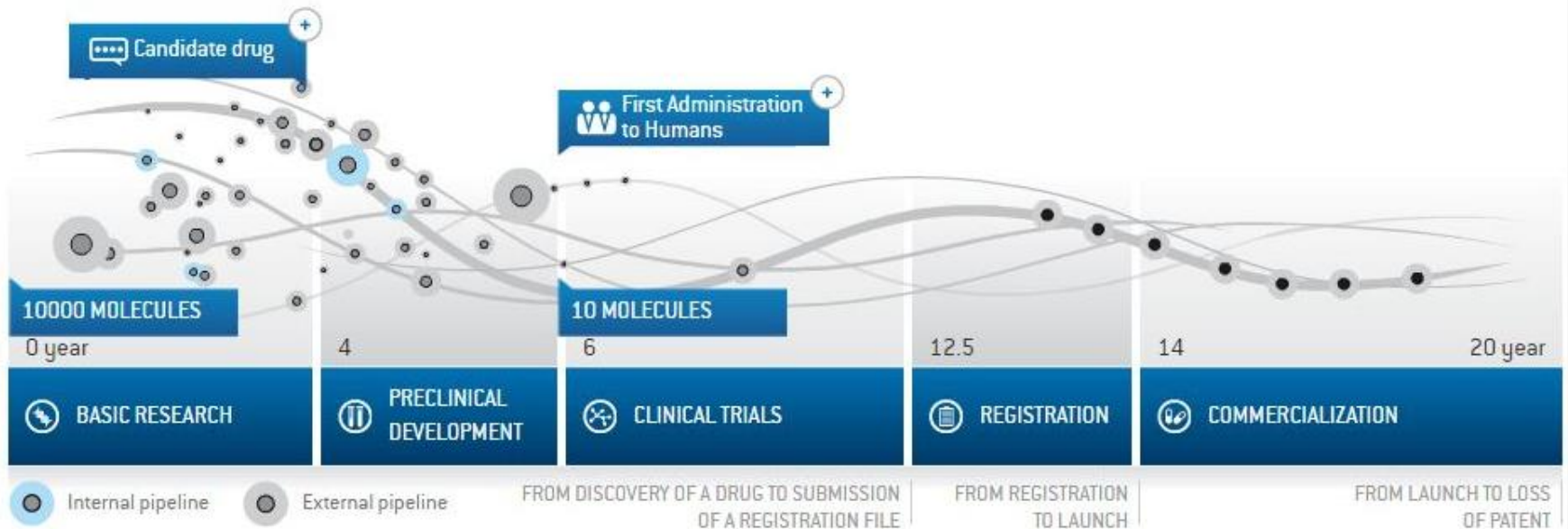
*- Panel presentation -*

*Margaret Doyle*

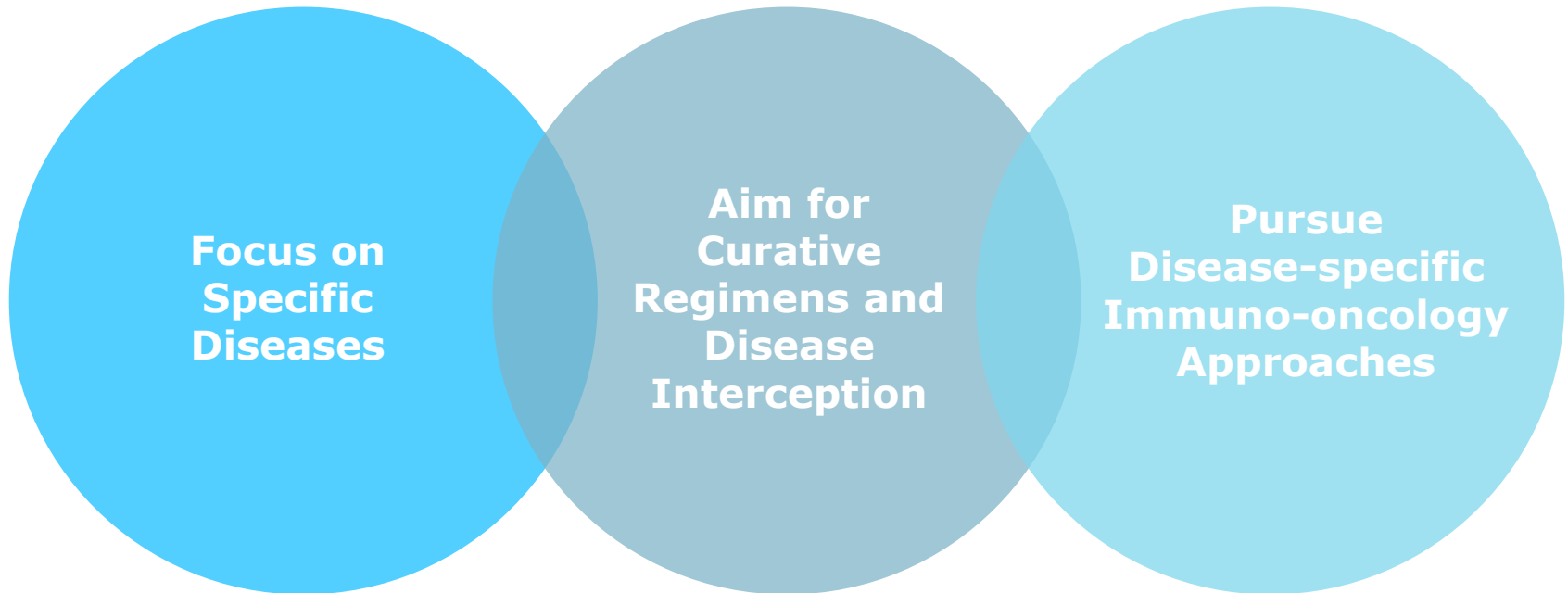
Global Medical Affairs Director, Haematology  
Janssen, Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson, Dublin, Ireland

## From Molecule to Medicine

There are a great many medical problems that remain unsolved. And there could be a whole lot more to come. There is a global need for new treatments for [chronic] diseases - such as HIV, cancer and central nervous system disorders.



## Janssen's Vision: The Elimination of Cancer



## Leveraging Novel Science in Areas of Large Unmet Need

- *Massive Need Remains: 8+ Million Deaths, 14+ Million New Diagnoses Each Year WW*

## Heme Malignancies

Complex group of diseases with many types and subtypes, one of which is:

**Myelodysplastic Syndromes;  
37,820 patients\***

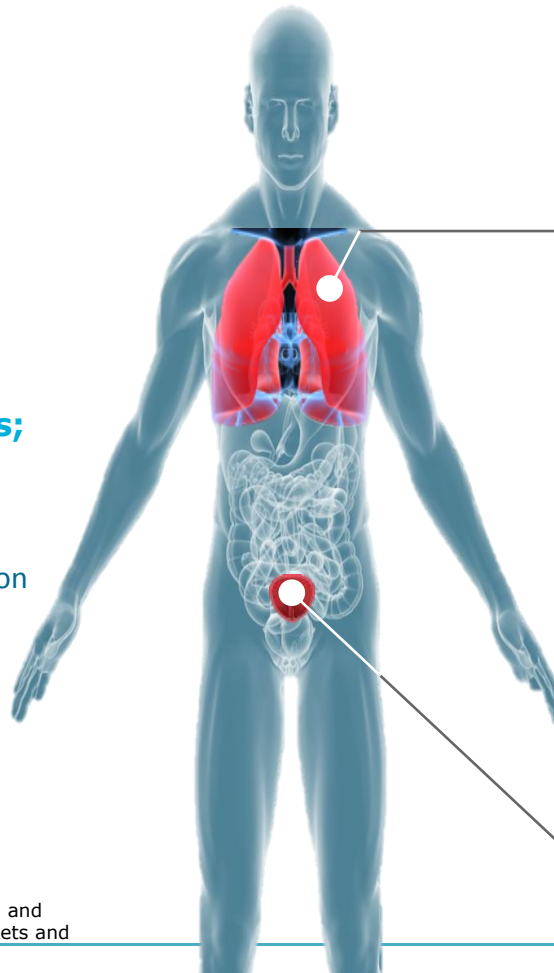
\*Diagnosed Incident Patient Population  
(US+G5; 2019 projections)

## Lung Cancer

The most common cancer worldwide

## Prostate Cancer

Most common cancer among men in the US



### How do we:

- Address the true unmet needs of patients?
- Understand outcomes and deficiencies of current therapies today?
- Shorten time for regulatory approval & market access?



# Industry perspective



An Opportunity in our Common Goals

## Janssen: Committed to Collaboration in Drug Development



## An Opportunity in our Common Goals through Collaboration

- Provide **timely access to innovative drugs**
- **Collect data** to improve our understanding and **find new ways to treat disease**
  - Increase the number of patients enrolled in clinical trials
  - Enhance translational programs to accelerate clinical development; identify early benefits of new treatments
  - Improved trial design flexibility as the science evolves
  - Overcome current deficiencies in our understanding of therapies and solutions

# THANK YOU!



“There’s so much more to be done. **Patients are waiting.**”

Dr. Paul Janssen

When we see something special in oncology research, we will go to the ends of the earth to get it done.”

Craig Tendler, M.D. VP, LATE DEVELOPMENT & GLOBAL MEDICAL AFFAIRS

“We’re striving to change expectations of what a cancer diagnosis means. Together with our partners, we are focused on delivering solutions that make a positive impact on people’s health”

Jane Griffiths, Ph.D. COMPANY GROUP CHAIRMAN, EMEA

# Industry perspective (2)

*- Panel presentation -*

*Alberto Vasconcelos*

Director, Medical Affairs Myeloid Disease Lead for Europe, Middle East & Africa (EMEA)  
Celgene , Boudry, Switzerland

Celgene is committed to changing the course of human health through bold pursuits in science and transformational medicines.

*“Extraordinary claims require extraordinary evidence”*

*Carl Sagan*

## Randomized clinical trials

- Often need to exclude groups such as patients with given comorbidities, children, pregnant women, chronic disease patients, very elderly/frail



## Randomized, controlled clinical trials:

- Limited power to detect rare drug adverse events
- Sometimes not able to assess long-term safety or effectiveness
- Some hypothesis impossible to test for ethical reasons

→ No matter how well designed, geographically broad, long follow-up, flawless monitoring & data collection, no single trial, or cluster of trials, is ever capable of answering all the relevant questions!

# Industry perspective (2)





**Experimental  
Evidence**

**Real World  
Evidence**



**Clinical Trials**

**Clinical Routine  
High Quality  
Registries**

In 2014, the EMA commenced a Registry Initiative aiming to optimise the use of registries in supporting medicines authorisations.



EUROPEAN MEDICINES AGENCY  
SCIENCE MEDICINES HEALTH

13 February 2017  
EMA/69716/2017  
Inspections, Human Medicines, Pharmacovigilance and Committees Division

**Patient Registries Workshop, 28 October 2016**

Observations and recommendations arising from the workshop

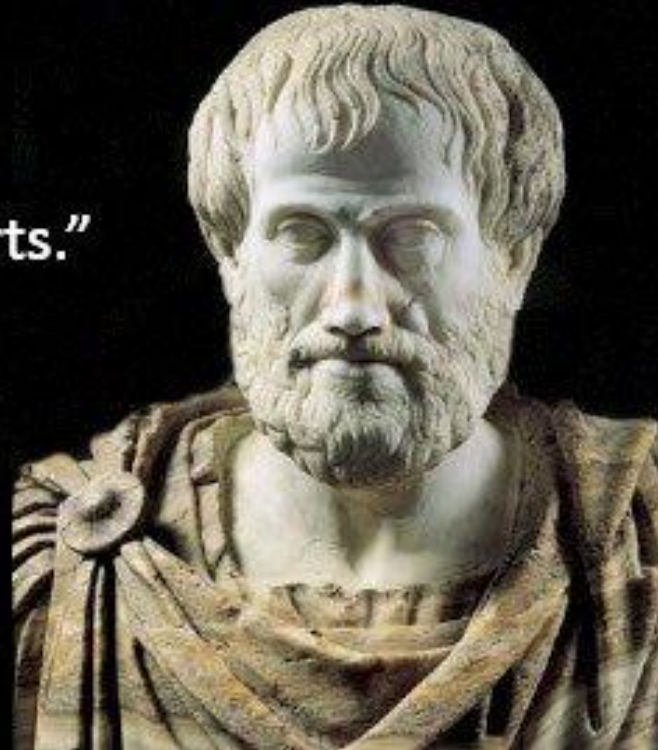
The European Medicines Agency Registry Initiative is based on the recognition of the need for information across the life cycle of medicinal products in order to better understand disease characteristics and progression, to understand current clinical care and collect data on the effectiveness and safety of medicines beyond what is available from the evidence supporting the marketing authorisation.

Such evidence is generally derived from randomised controlled studies, which in order to investigate efficacy, are conducted in tightly defined populations and often exclude patients in whom the medicine may be used when the product is marketed.

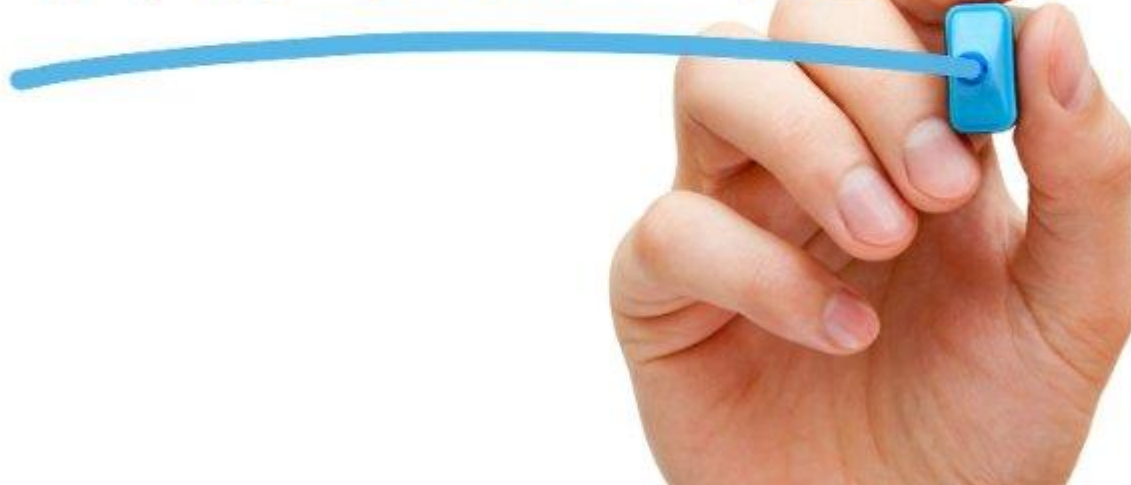
EMA may require the marketing authorisation applicant or holder (MAA/MAH) to provide evidence on disease outcomes, effectiveness and safety unavailable from clinical trials. There are multiple real world evidence sources of potential value, including registries, typically patient registries as defined in the EMA's Patient Registry Initiative.

**“The whole is greater  
than the sum of its parts.”**

**-Aristotle**



THANK YOU



# MDS patient management challenges and solutions

*- Panel discussion -*

**Moderator:** David Bowen

# MDS patient management recommendations and interactive online support

*Eva Hellström-Lindberg*

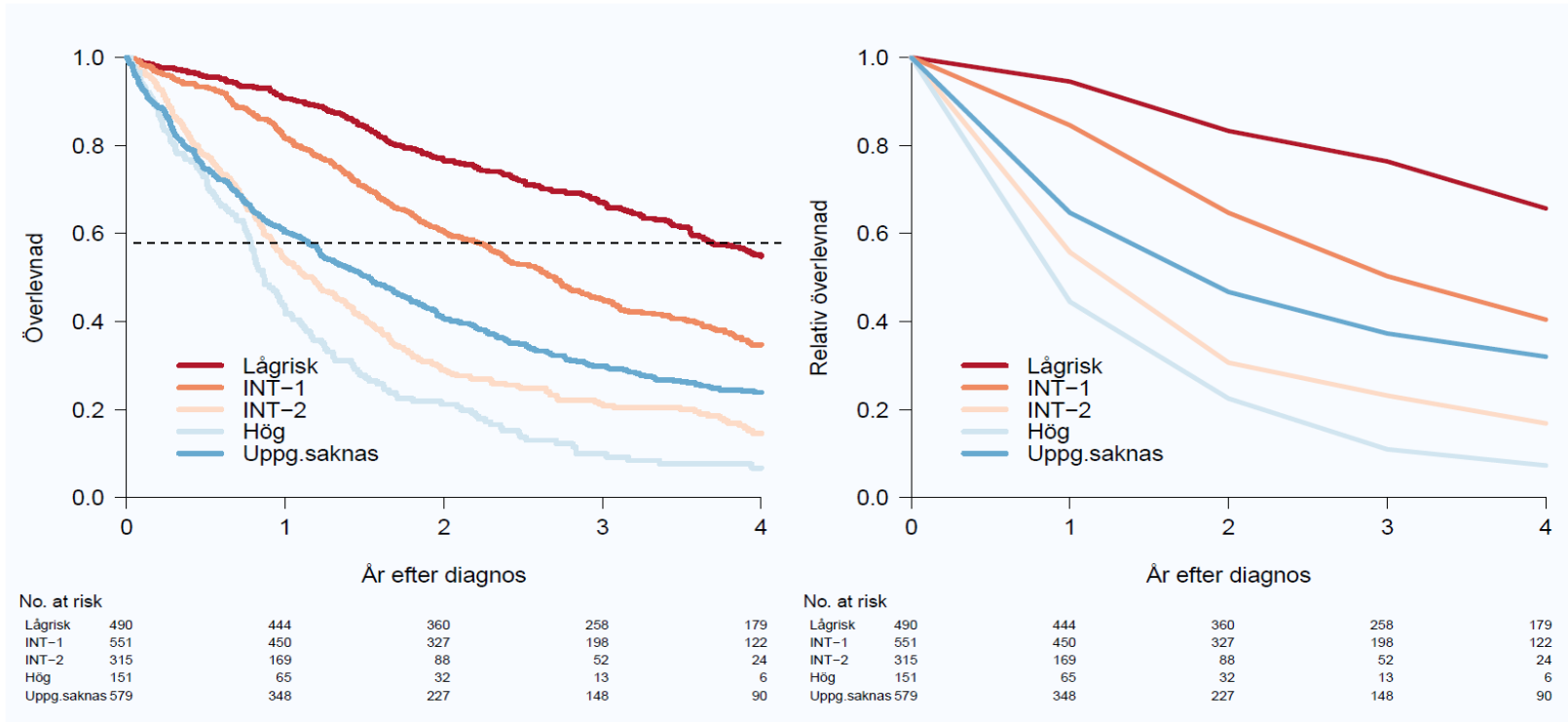
Haematology specialist

Karolinska Institute - Huddinge University Hospital, Huddinge, Sweden

## Who needs them?

- MDS specialists
  - In order to establish national guidelines
- Hematologists
  - In order to establish local therapeutic routines
- Internists / trainees
- Patients and relatives
- Patient organizations
- Health care systems – regulators
- Researchers
- Pharma
- Others



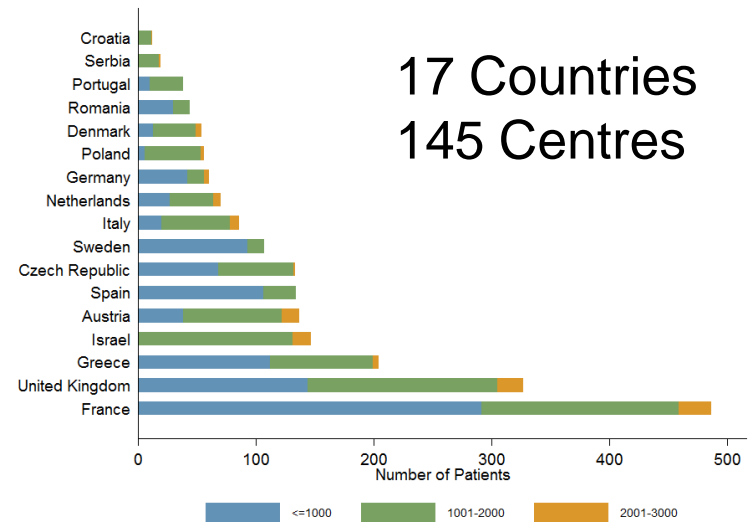
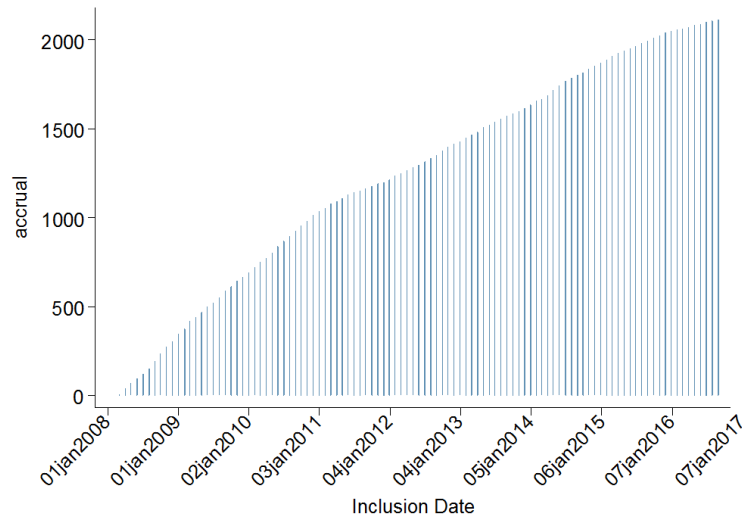


**50% of patients are transfusion-dependent at diagnosis**

**Important to make right treatment decisions upfront**

*(2200 patients from the Swedish population-based registry 2009-2014)*

## What have we learned from EU MDS Registry?



## Recruited = 2,161 MDS IPSS Low and INT-1

- Transfusions, co-morbidities, treatment, disease progression, survival, quality of life

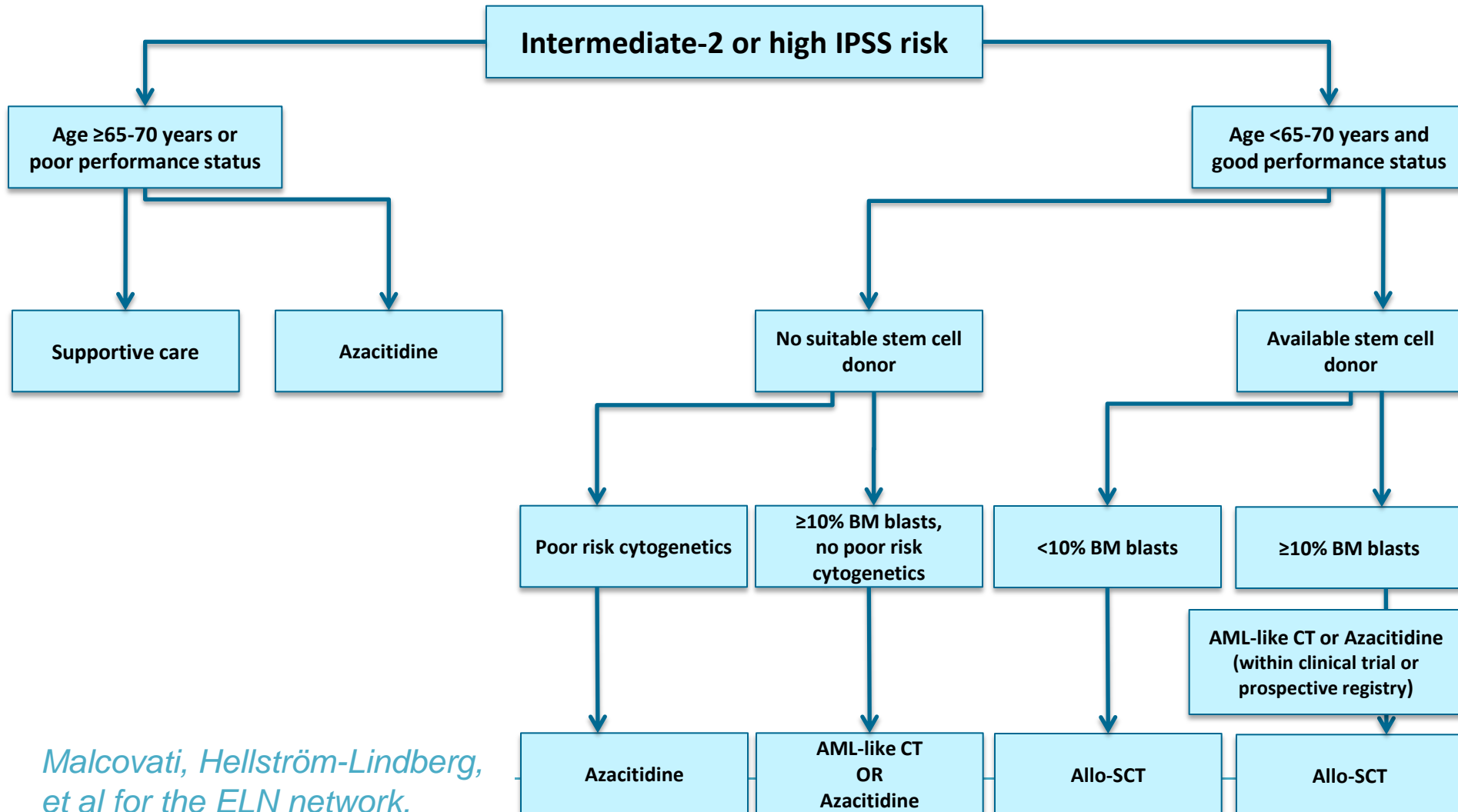
## Expanded registry from 2017

- all MDS subtypes and more details regarding treatment, outcome and health economy

# MDS patient management recommendations



## Therapeutic Algorithm for Patients with Primary MDS and Int-2 or High IPSS Score (ELN)

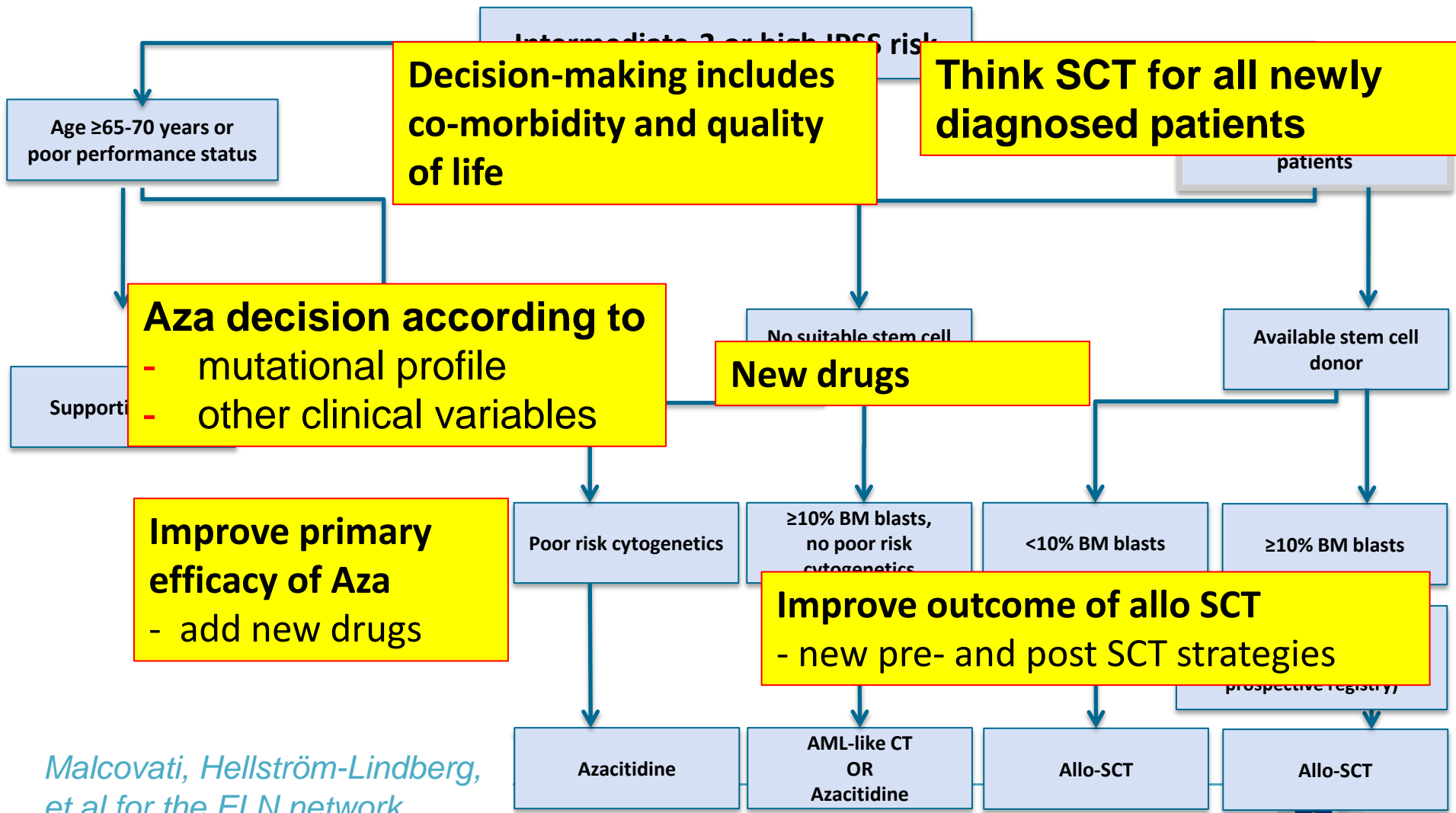


Malcovati, Hellström-Lindberg, et al for the ELN network, Blood 2013

# MDS patient management recommendations



## 2017-2020 strategies to improve outcome for patients with higher-risk MDS

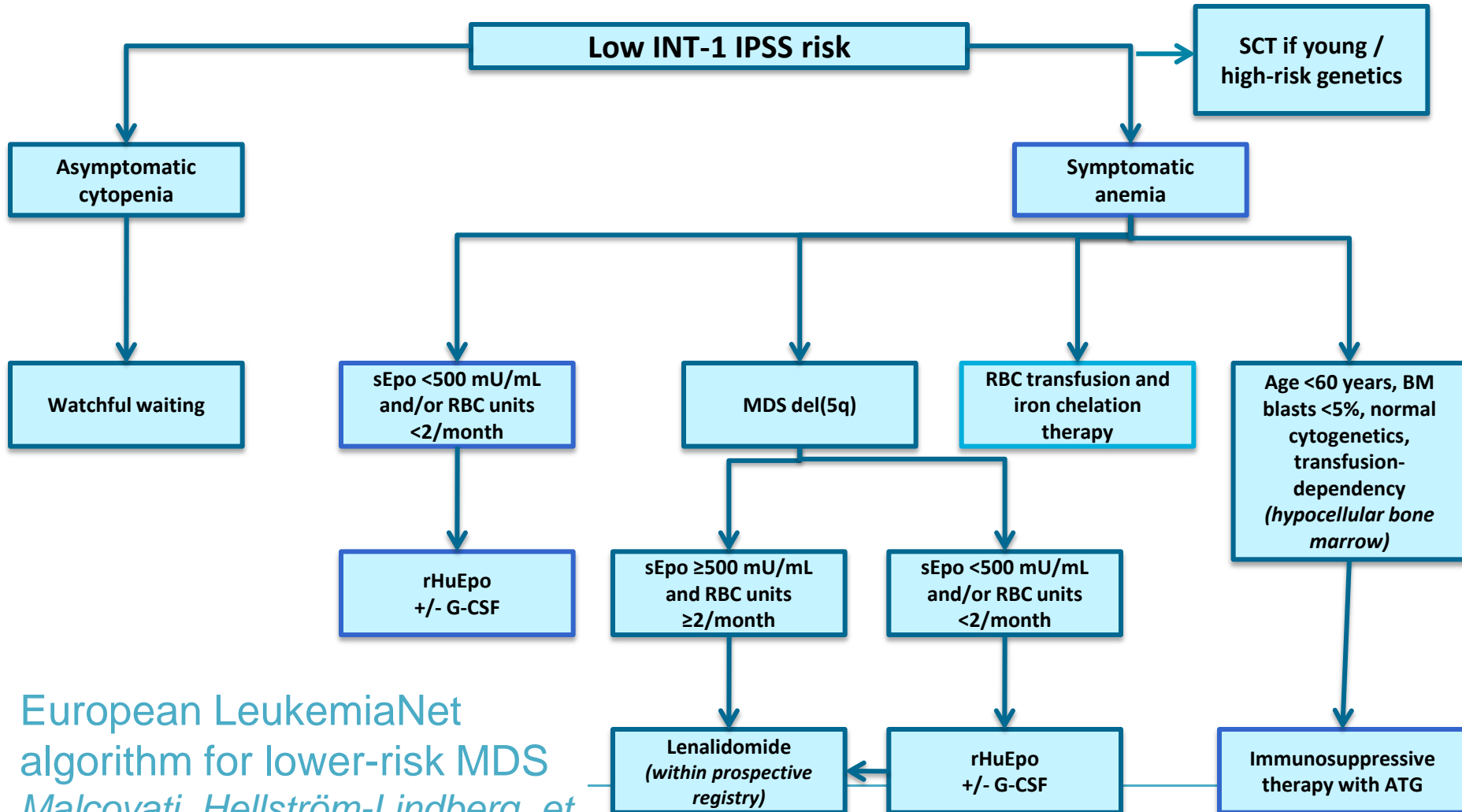


Malcovati, Hellström-Lindberg, et al for the ELN network, Blood 2013

# MDS patient management recommendations



## Therapeutic Algorithm for Patients with Primary MDS and Low or INT-1 IPSS Score (ELN)



European LeukemiaNet  
algorithm for lower-risk MDS  
*Malcovati, Hellström-Lindberg, et al, Blood 2013*

### ESA treatment:

- Effective treatment for the anaemia of lower-risk MDS
- Significantly delays the time to onset of a regular transfusion need
  - Significantly more effective if initiated before the onset of a regular transfusion need
- If initiated before the onset of transfusion – associated with improved survival (p=0.07)
- Major differences between European countries with regard to Hb level at start of ESA
- Major differences in the rules for reimbursement for ESA
  - Transfusion need mandatory in some countries

# MDS patient management recommendations



2017-2020 strategies to improve outcome for patients with lower-risk MDS

**Decision-making includes co-morbidity and quality of life**

**Risk assessment and SCT decision based on new knowledge**

Asymptomatic  
cytopenia

Symptomatic  
anemia

**Treatment decision according to**

- mutational profile
- other clinical variables

**New drugs**

Watchful waiting

and/or RBC units  
<2/month

MDS del(5q)

RBC transfusion and  
iron chelation  
therapy

Age <60 years, BM  
blasts <5%, normal  
cytogenetics,  
transfusion-  
dependency  
*(hypocellular bone marrow)*

**Better treatment options for anemia**

rHuEpo  
+/- G-CSF

sEpo ≥500 IU/kg  
and RBC units  
≥2/month

**Improve survival after allo SCT**  
- new pre- and post SCT strategies

Lenalidomide  
*(within prospective registry)*

rHuEpo  
+/- G-CSF

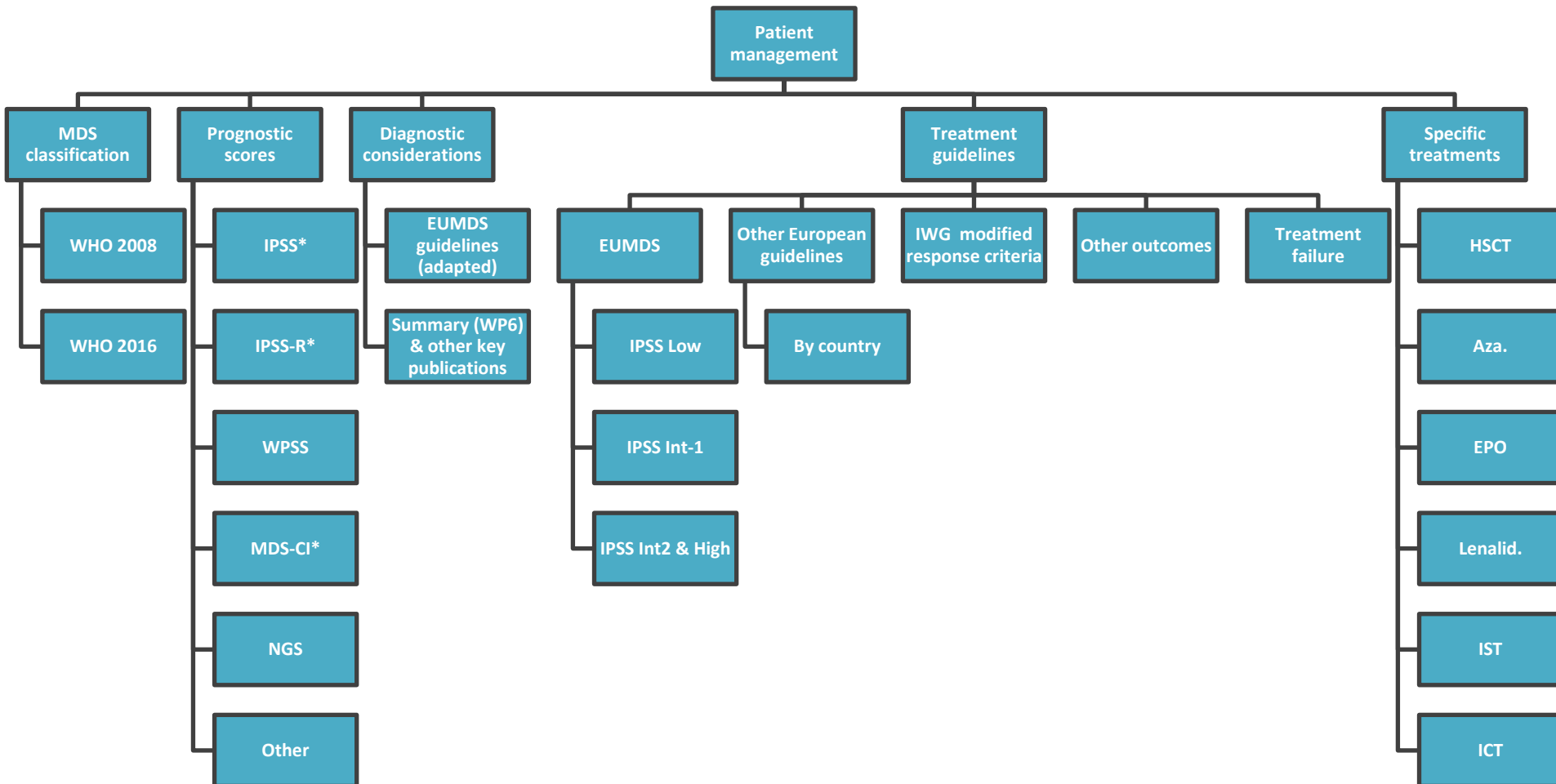
Immunosuppressive  
therapy with ATG

European LeukemiaNet  
algorithm for lower-risk MDS  
*Malcovati, Hellström-Lindberg, et al, Blood 2013*

# MDS patient management recommendations



## MDS-RIGHT Patient management





# MDS patient management recommendations



**MDS EUROPE** EU-MDSCopy

Home  
MDS-Right  
Overview  
Partners  
Documents  
Resources  
About MDS  
Resources  
Countries  
Patient information  
Patient organisations  
Study groups  
National haematology societies  
Publications  
Recommendations  
EU-MDS  
EU-MDSCopy  
HSCT Recommendations - revised  
Contact information  
Legal statements  
Demo

**MDS EUROPE**

Low WT: 1 (PS $\geq$ 80)

- Worsful eating
- Asymptomatic cytopenia
- Symptomatic anemia
- SCT if young / high-risk genomics

- 1Epo <500 iu/mL and/or RBC units <2/month
- MDX iv/Oral
- RBC transfusion and iron chelation therapy
- Age <60 years, BM blasts <5%, normal cytogenetics, transfusion-dependency (physiologic bone marrow)

- rHuEpo +/- G-CSF
- 1Epo <500 iu/mL and/or RBC units <2/month
- 1Epo <500 iu/mL and/or RBC units <2/month
- Immunosuppressive therapy with ATG

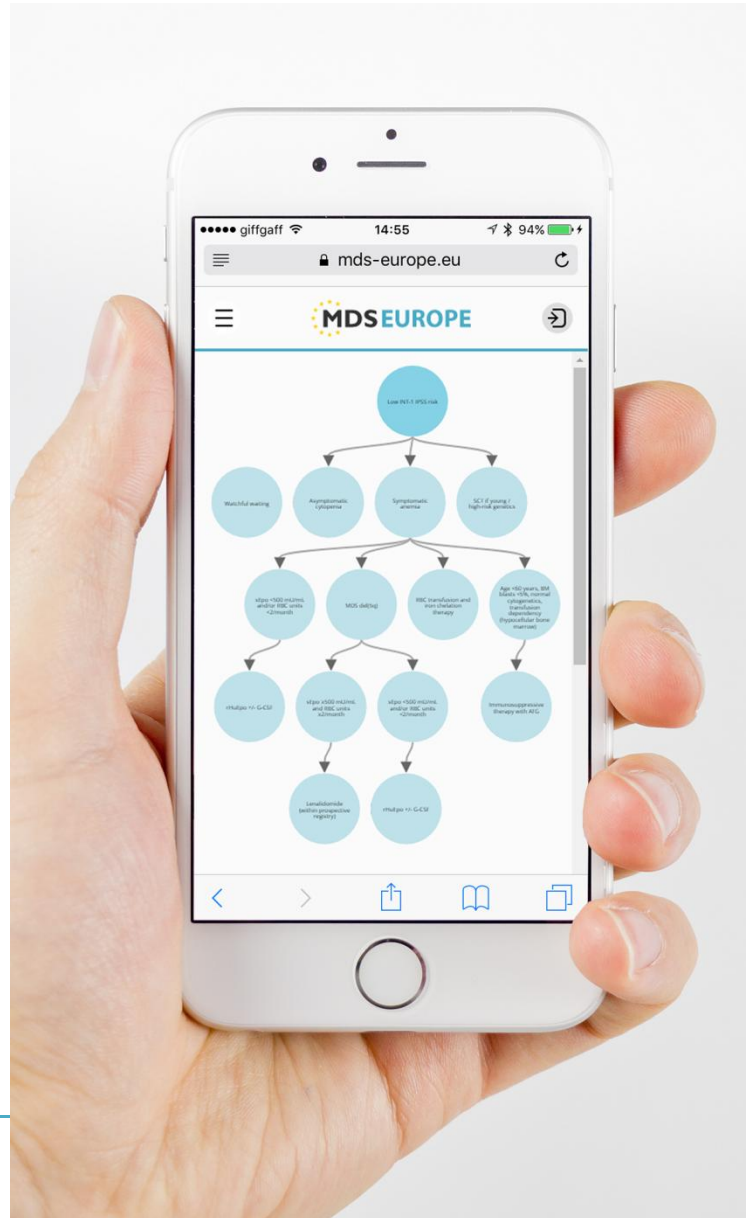
- Lenalidomide (best prospective registry)
- rHuEpo +/- G-CSF

This site is designed and maintained by the Systemology & Cancer Statistics Group at the University of York, Department of Health Sciences, The University of York. The University of York legal services. This program has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation under grant agreement No. 633789.

EUSO UNIVERSITY OF YORK European Commission

iiyama

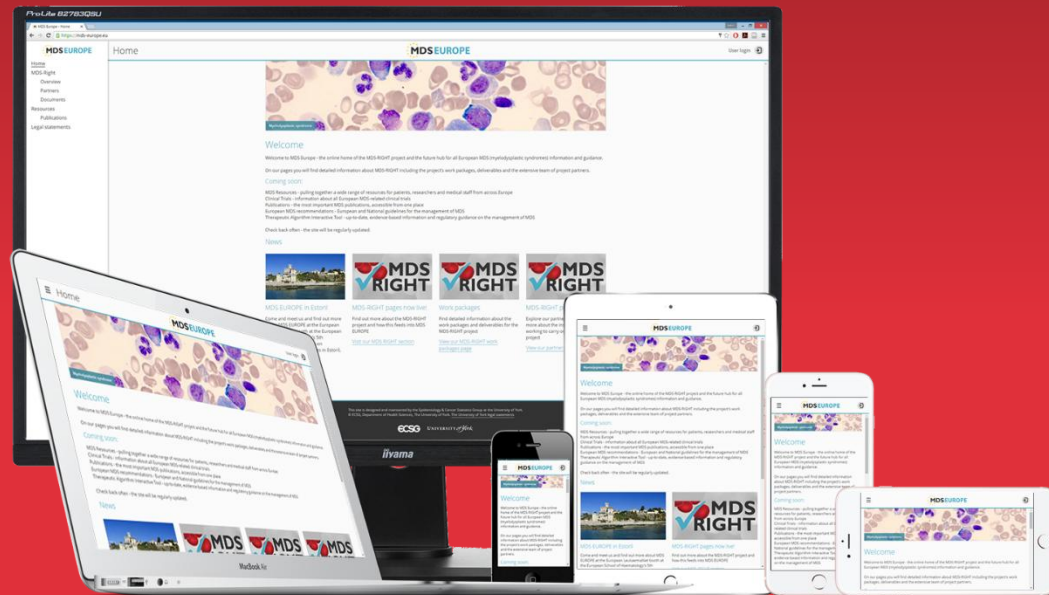
# MDS patient management recommendations



# MDS patient management recommendations and interactive online support

*- discussion -*

# MDS-RIGHT / MDS Europe online platform



*Alex Smith*

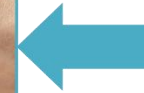
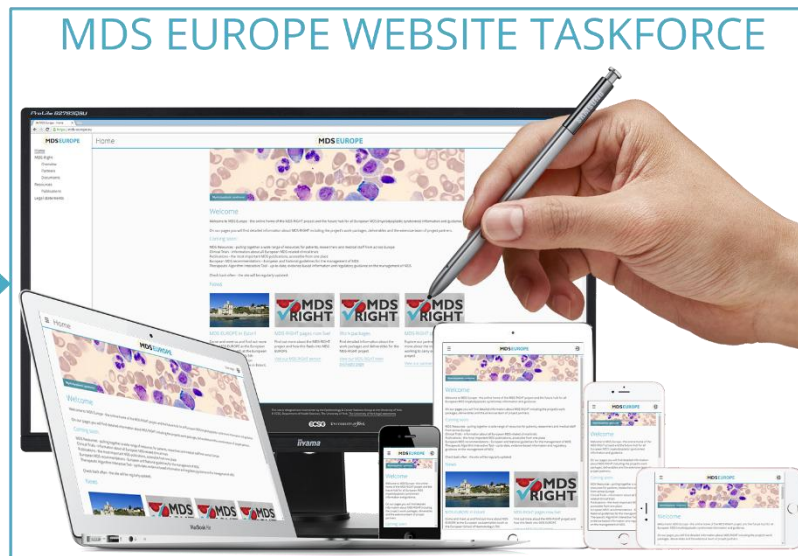
Senior Research Fellow, Epidemiology & Cancer Statistics Group  
University of York , York, United Kingdom

- **Aim:**
  - Creation of platform and website for communication with stakeholders
- **Collaborative**
  - e.g. MDS stakeholders were polled on their preferred domain names
- **Task force established:**
  - Theo de Witte, Eva Hellström-Lindberg, Pierre Fenaux, Martin Dugas
  - Robert Schäfer
  - Corine van Marrewijk, Karien Croezen
  - John Blase, William Curson, Dan Painter, Alex Smith
- **Soft Launch April 2016**

## MDS EUROPE WEBSITE TASKFORCE

### Collaborative

11 members  
6 centres  
5 countries



### Broad expertise

Haematologists  
Researchers  
Communications experts  
Technical specialists  
Project management

MDS Europe - Resources x  
Secure | https://mds-europe.eu/resources

Navigation

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- Media centre
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Resources

MDSEUROPE

John Blase

## Resources


Click the section links below to explore our resources.



### Countries

All of our resources, sorted by country


[View resources by country](#)



### Patient information

Patient information links in a range of languages


[View patient information](#)



### Patient organisations

Links to local patient organisations and charities


[View patient organisations](#)



### Study groups

Research groups and projects from across Europe


[View study groups](#)



### National haematology societies

European national haematology society information


[View national haematology societies](#)



### Publications

A curated list of MDS publications in a range of topics

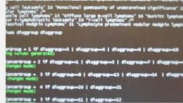
[View publications list](#)



### Clinical trials

Links to clinical trial databases

[View clinical trials](#)




### Research tools

A collection of tools to assist research

[View research tools](#)

UNIVERSITY of Leeds



Horizon 2020



## MDS patients speak out

### Connaitre et combattre les myélosdysplasies (CCM)

When questioned about our disease, we and our doctors speak first of fatigue, but most words that are used – weariness, tiredness, numbness, heavy legs, stiff muscles, short breath – are not strong enough.



Patrick Festy

11 April 2017

One patient describes it aptly:

“

It's more a sensation of exhaustion than tiredness. I asked: Why am I like this? Why can't I do the things I should be doing? I was told: You are tired, that's normal, you are over 60, you are a grandparent, you want to continue to be active, but it's normal. No, I felt, it's not normal. I am not tired, I am totally exhausted. Something is wrong with me.

”

The widow of an MDS patient said:

“

Few of those they share their lives with or who assist them can comprehend the harassing fatigue that MDS patients suffer. My husband used to say: "We wonder if the specialists who are caring for us understand what this fatigue is really like."

”

But fatigue is not the whole story. For MDS patients it is associated with symptoms that do not necessarily have a clinical link to MDS but are nevertheless an



Caocci G. et al. (2015), Accuracy of physician assessment of treatment preferences and healthstatus in elderly patients with higher-risk myelodysplastic syndromes, *Leukemia research*

Efficace F. et al. (2014), Prevalence, severity and correlates of fatigue in newly diagnosed patients with myelodysplastic syndromes, *British journal of haematology*

Efficace F. et al. (2015), Prognostic value of self-reported fatigue on overall survival in patients with myelodysplastic syndromes: a multicentre, prospective, observational, cohort study, *The Lancet*

## Join the conversation

To add a new comment, click the speech bubble icon below. To reply to an existing comment, click the reply button.

Comments are moderated before being made public.

Before commenting, please read our community standards and participation guidelines.



Esther Oliva

11/04/2017 18:07:18

I am happy to contribute to this exchange of thoughts. As an author of QOL-E, the unique validated MDS-specific measure of quality of life, I confirm that physicians do not fully understand their patients' perceptions. We published an Italian trial that explored and confirmed the differences encountered between physicians and patients.

As far as fatigue is concerned, several clinical trials in MDS patients using the QOL-E and the more generic oncological instrument, EORTC QLQ-C30, have demonstrated that in patients with a less severe MDS, fatigue is not a prevalent issue. Other factors, such as difficulty in climbing stairs, disturbances related to transfusions/treatments and dependence on health care may be more relevant.

Communication between physicians and patients may, in part, be facilitated by the use of appropriate instruments. In fact, in a recent trial to evaluate the safety and benefits of eltrombopag (a platelet growth factor) in low risk MDS, only the QOL-E instrument (not the EORTC QLQ-C30) was able to detect changes in quality of life in all its dimensions associated with changes in platelet counts. As patients do underscore, low platelet counts per se are not the culprits, but the bleeding and, worse, the fear of bleeding, are what impact patients' lives.

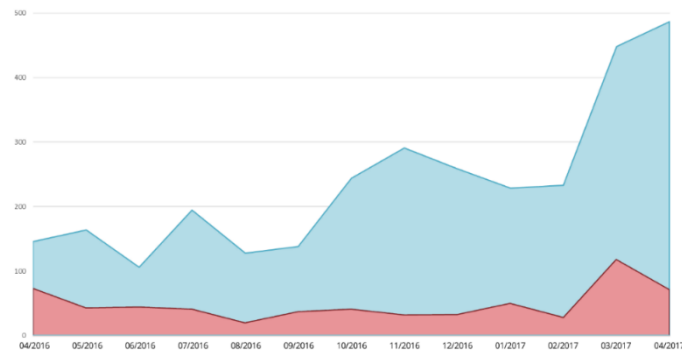
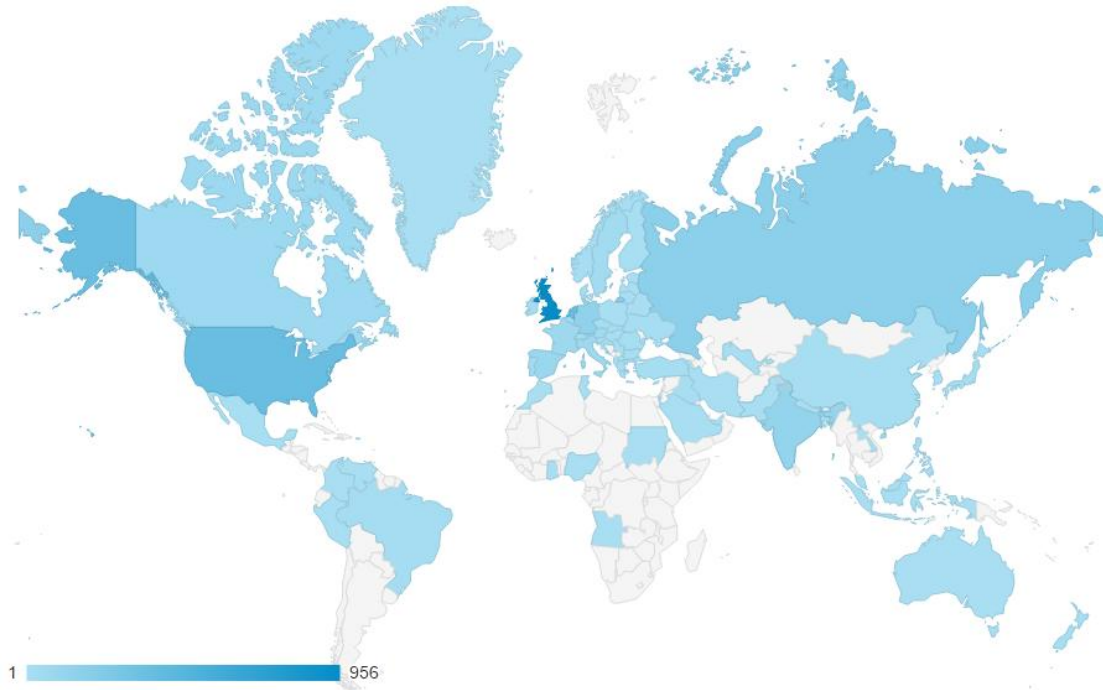
Since MDS is still an incurable disease, patients' voices should be included in all clinical trials using validated instruments.

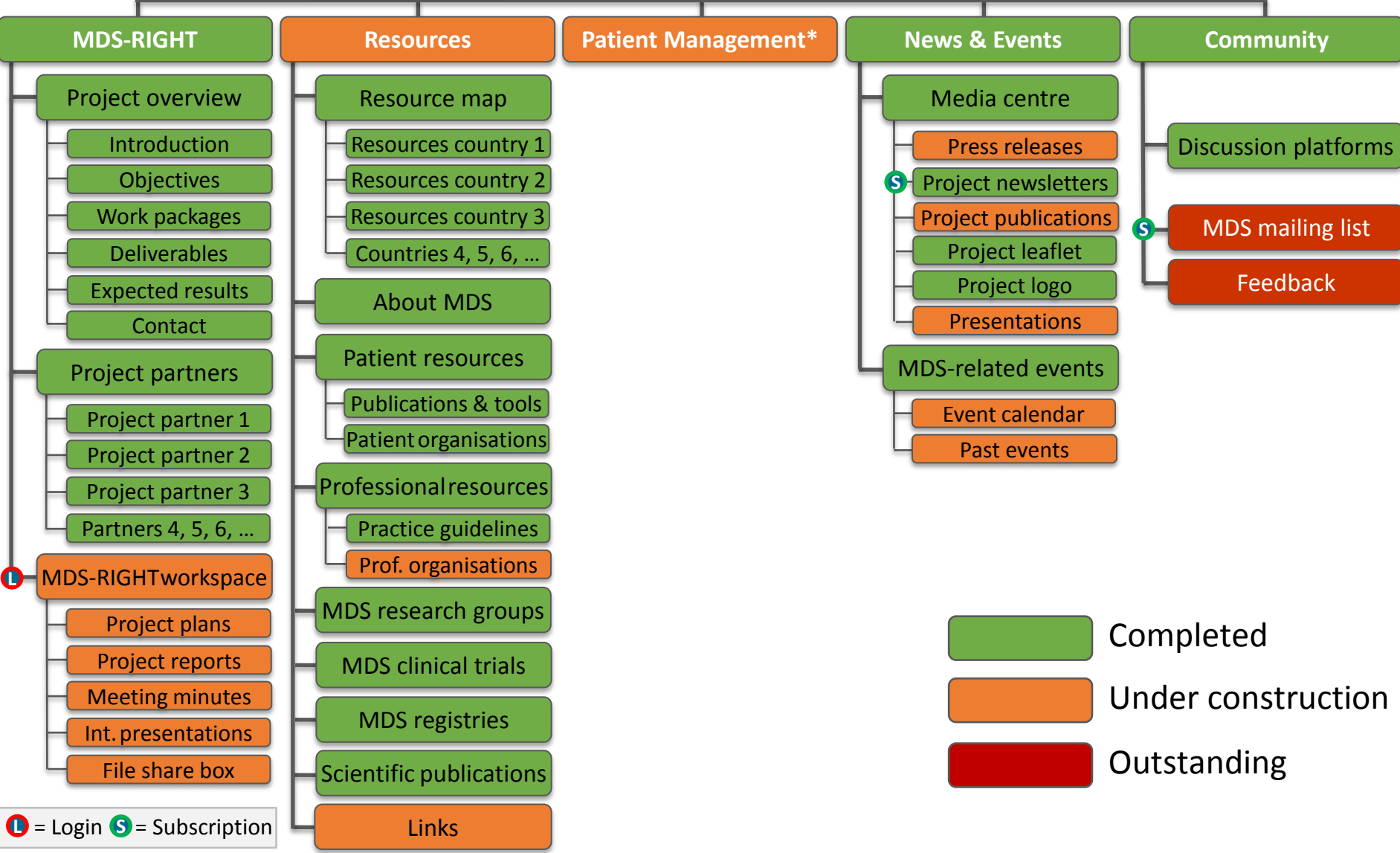



# Treatment guidelines - HSCT

Diagnosis	MDS	Donors	Conditioning	HSCT
IPSS-R Risk	Very Low to Intermediate	Standard donors: HLA-identical siblings (including one Class I[A/B] mismatch), Syngeneic donors, Matched unrelated donors 8/8 and 10/10	Myeloablative	Option 1 <small>(click for details)</small>
Karnofsky Score	≥ 80		Reduced intensity	Option 2
HSCT-CI Score	0	Alternative donors: Mismatched related / unrelated donors, Cord blood	Myeloablative	Option 1 <small>(click for details)</small>
Marrow Blasts	10 to 15%		Reduced intensity	Option 2
Blast Increase >50%	No	Alternative donors: Mismatched related / unrelated donors, Cord blood	Myeloablative	Option 1 <small>(click for details)</small>
Cytogenetic Risk	Very Good to Intermediate		Reduced intensity	Option 2
Marrow fibrosis	No	Alternative donors: Mismatched related / unrelated donors, Cord blood	Myeloablative	Option 1 <small>(click for details)</small>
Neutrophil count	< 0.3 x 10 <sup>9</sup> /L		Reduced intensity	Option 2

# MDS Europe visitors

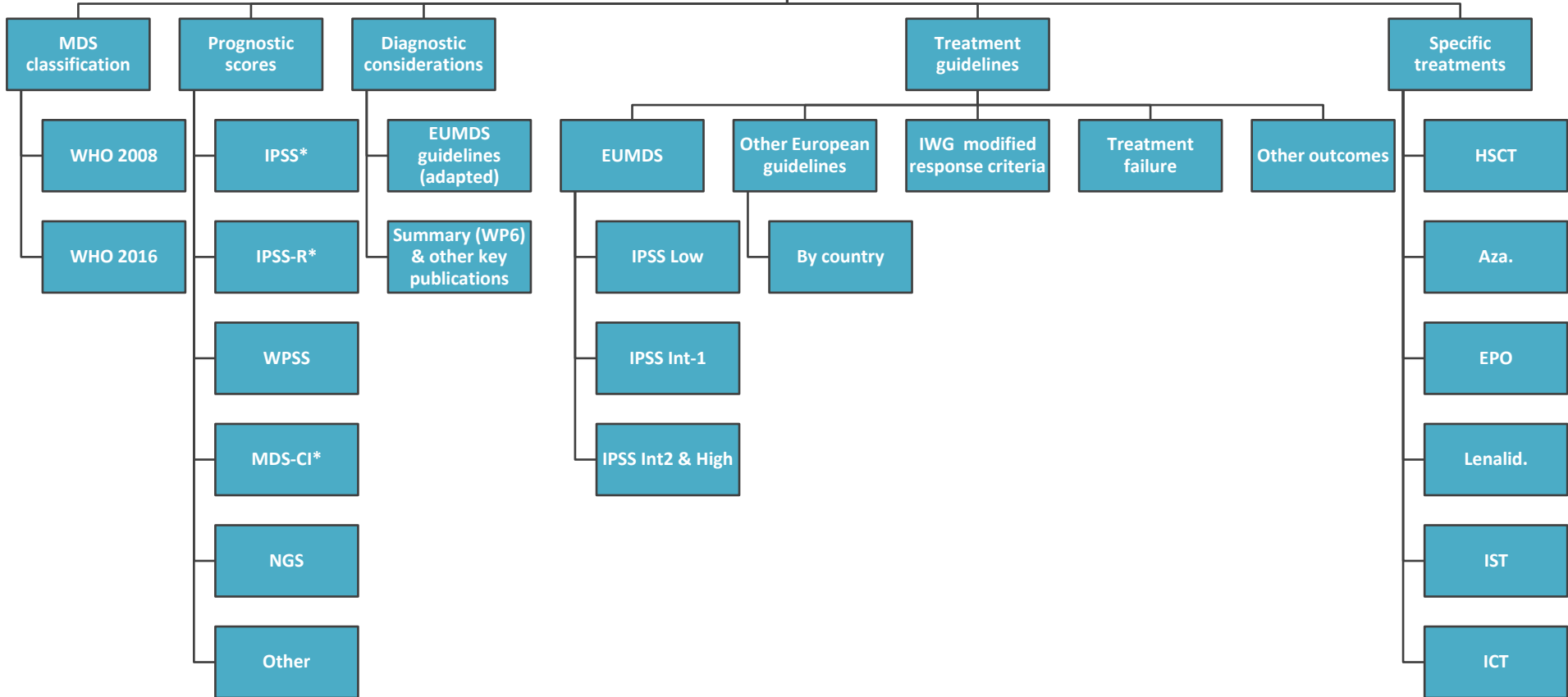




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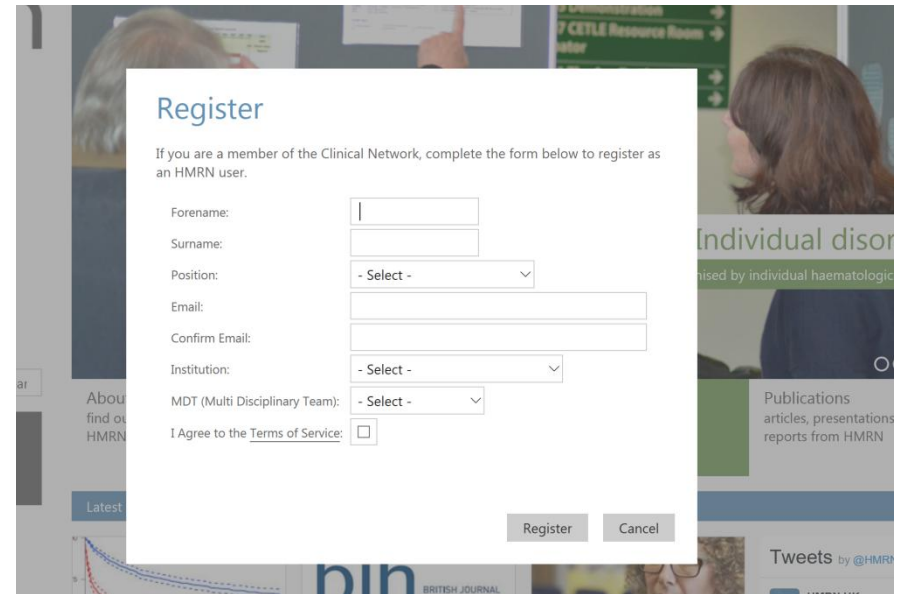
# Patient management



\* calculator

## Proposed content

- Document upload/download/share
- Plans
- Progress reports
- Minutes
- Internal presentations
- Study documentation

A screenshot of a 'Register' form overlay on a website. The form is white with a blue header 'Register'. Below the header, it says 'If you are a member of the Clinical Network, complete the form below to register as an HMRN user.' The form contains several input fields: 'Forename:' (text box), 'Surname:' (text box), 'Position:' (dropdown menu with '- Select -'), 'Email:' (text box), 'Confirm Email:' (text box), 'Institution:' (dropdown menu with '- Select -'), 'MDT (Multi Disciplinary Team):' (dropdown menu with '- Select -'), and 'I Agree to the Terms of Service:' (checkbox). At the bottom right of the form are two buttons: 'Register' and 'Cancel'. The background shows a blurred website interface with text like 'Individual disorder', 'Publications', and 'Tweets by @HMRN'.

### Network

Audit committee  
Governance  
Guidelines  
SCN meetings  
Statistics  
SOPs

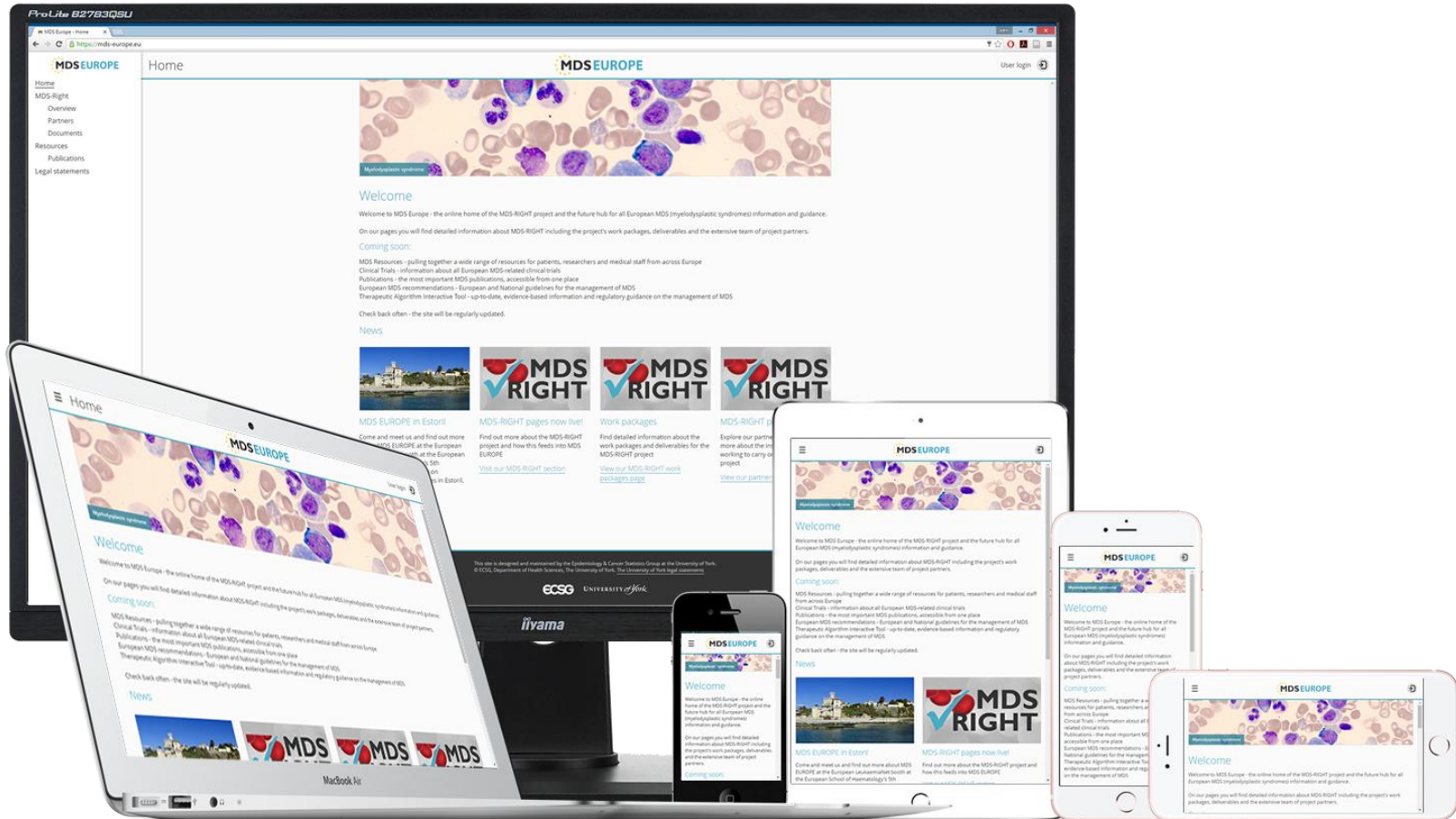
### Files

JSC meetings  
Terms of reference  
Agendas  
Minutes  
Correspondence  
Other material  
Progress and results  
Study documentation  
Weekly calls

# MDS Europe



- mds-europe.eu
- mds-europe.org
- mds-right.eu
- mds-right.org



17:50-17:55

# MDS-RIGHT / MDS-Europe online platform

- *discussion* -



# Closing remarks

*Guillermo Sanz & Theo de Witte*

Thank You