

## The European Myeloma Network (EMN)

The EMN is a consortium, integrating laboratory research and innovative cancer therapy in multiple myeloma (MM) and related disorders.

The network was established in 2003 by integrating research institutions and trial groups with the intent to support development of novel diagnostics and therapies for multiple myeloma.

### Objectives

The network has identified major research areas with the ultimate goal to improve patient care, including possible preventive measures, identification of individuals at high risk of developing myeloma, timely diagnosis, tumour treatment and supportive care of individuals suffering from monoclonal gammopathy (MG), particularly multiple myeloma (MM).

### Goals

The expertise is networked around a joint programme which includes three interlinked goals:

- Construction of an online communication system as a core function of the network for communication, documentation, education, information and registration.
- Establishment of a European based laboratory and clinical network of excellence for the exploitation and strengthening of translational research, technology and training.
- Regulation of clinical oriented research, in particular clinical trials.

The network will remain open due to an ongoing process of recruitment of new members and activities.

Europe will capitalize on this network by integrating the latest developments in scientific and technological advances into patient management.

PAST

## Organization

The EMN is now legalised and ready to support co-operative clinical trials and laboratory research. The synergy and the overall objectives will be supported by multiple qualitative and quantitative indicators and components:

- The management of a research portfolio and training programme.
- Strong support to research projects.
- The research infrastructure, equipment, tools and technical platforms, e.g. generation of an extensive tissue bank and clinical database.
- Integration of basic research including new technologies with clinicians in order to promote translation from bench to bedside, e.g. coordinate development of "chip" based diagnostic tests based on genomics, proteomics and cytomics.
- Great extent of mutual specialization and complementary, e.g. by development of a strategy to organize and conduct large-scale, international clinical trials being able to address therapeutic issues that cannot be solved at a national level.
- Interactive registration of data and educational training programme through electronic communication systems.
- Strong commitment to secure funding beyond the period.

## Working Groups

- Clinical Trials
- Allogeneic Stem Cell Transplantation and Immunotherapy
- New Drugs
- Pathogenesis and Standardization
- More can be established if required

PRESENT

## Activities

The EMN has planned several future activities. These involve:

- EU proposals for the 7th Framework calls
- Workshop on Biobanking in Europe
- Support of European clinical trials
- Preparation of a business plan

At present the EMN has submitted two EU proposals for the 7th Framework calls:

- EMNBIO: a strategy for developing standards and norms for existing and future biosamples from patients suffering from multiple myeloma and related disorders.
- EMNOMICS: Developing a genomic platform for the detection of prognostic and predictive biomarkers in multiple myeloma.

## More than 130 members

The EMN has more than 130 registered members all over Europe. The membership is free of charge for individuals. Please visit our web site at [www.myeloma-europe.org](http://www.myeloma-europe.org) and register your membership online.



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