

Welcome Note

The Worldwide Network for Blood and Marrow Transplantation (WBMT) is incorporated as a non-profit organization for educational, scientific and philanthropic purposes under the laws of Switzerland and a non-Governmental Organization in official working relations with the World Health Organization (WHO). The Network promotes excellence in Hematopoietic cell transplantation (HCT), stem cell donation, cellular therapy (CT) and accreditation as well as access to HCT worldwide through collaboration of existing international societies using coordination, communication and advocacy.

The purpose of this cooperation is to engage exclusively in charitable, scientific, and educational activities and endeavors including specifically, but not limited to, promoting and fostering among the many scientific and clinical disciplines, the exchange and diffusion of information and ideas relating to HCT and CT. The focus of the WBMT is to advance the field of HCT and CT in collaboration with its member societies by providing an excellent platform where different specialists are working together offering their decades of experience and expertise to develop and improve transplant activities in resource restricted countries.

The tools used to obtain this mission are biennial surveys, recommendations and workshops. This 9th Workshop in Mongolia will include delegates from North America, Latin-America, Asia Pacific, Eastern Mediterranean/Africa and Europe who will all be involved in discussion and guidance on establishing transplantation programs, donor selection, coordination among transplant societies and centers, transfusion support, accreditation system, cell processing and quality assurance. Regional experts will be presenting transplant activities and local health authorities will be engaged to sensitize them about the importance of HCT as a curative therapy for a variety of malignant and non-malignant disorders. The local organization of this event is headed by Prof. Dr. Khishigjaral Batsukh of Mongolia and involves many neighboring countries in the Asia-Pacific, European and East-Mediterranean Region.

We are delighted to welcome our friends and participants from all over the world to this prestigious event. We hope that this event will increase knowledge, skill, networking with new friends and colleagues and last but not the least, to enjoy the Mongolian culture and hospitality. On behalf of the organizing committee, we welcome you all to the 9th WBMT/**WHO** Workshop in Ulaanbaatar. This represents a historical event involving global experts, who are known for their efforts to improve health care access and treatment throughout the World.



Damiano Rondelli, MD
WBMT President