

Dear Colleagues,

the diagnosis and treatment of the various Thrombocytopenias is still an area demanding new creative studies to elucidate the many obscure aspects of these diseases and to create the basis for an evidence-guided therapeutical approach. With the aim of coordinating the efforts of many distinguished hematologists involved in the thrombocytopenias, a Working Group (WG) on Immune and Non-immune Thrombocytopenias was established, by Francesco Rodeghiero (Vicenza, Italy) and Drew Provan (London, United Kingdom), within the European Hematology Association (EHA). Members of the Executive Committee are: Francesco Rodeghiero (Chairman), Drew Provan (Co-chairman), Paul Imbach, Pierre Fenaux, James Bussel, Bertrand Godeau. Scientific Secretary is Marco Ruggeri.

The first meeting of this group, under the auspices of the Board of the EHA, was held on Saturday 14th June 2003, during the 8-EHA congress in Lyon. A second, informal meeting was held on Friday 5th December 2003 in San Diego.

The main fields of interest include the immune thrombocytopenic purpuras in adults and children (idiopathic, secondary, neonatal alloimmune, post-transfusion purpura), congenital/hereditary thrombocytopenias and drug-induced thrombocytopenias.

The aims and activities of the WG on Immune and Non-immune Thrombocytopenias are to provide a platform to scientists with common interests to bring their expertise to EHA meetings and to interact; to identify priorities for future activities or collaborative studies in the field; to create a network of excellence, including investigators expert in the field and centers or laboratories, as a basis for specific projects; to discuss problems concerning nomenclature, standardization and methodology; to plan specific projects to be presented to funding agencies.

I hope this WG will attract the interest of all hematologists involved in clinical activity or basic research in the field of thrombocytopenias.

I will be glad to receive a confirmation of your interest in this initiative and/or suggestions and criticism through this application form.

Francesco Rodeghiero

Chair of the EHA-Working Group on the Thrombocytopenias .