

## Press Release

### **DKMS offers scholarships for blood cancer research**

**Application period begins on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015**

**Tübingen/Dresden, September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015 – For the second time, the German non-profit organization DKMS Stiftung Leben Spenden (Foundation for Giving Life) will award two scholarships for young scientists working in the area of blood cancer research. Research projects in the field of hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (HSCT) or cellular treatment for blood cancer will qualify. The application period begins on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015.**

The DKMS Mechtild Harf Research Program, funded by DKMS Stiftung Leben Spenden, began awarding the annual *DKMS Mechtild Harf Research Grant* to two young scientists in 2015. These scholarships will focus on clinical studies and fundamental research. The call for applications is open to all aspirants worldwide, as the DKMS German Bone Marrow Donor Center understands it's work as part of an international effort.

The scholarships will offer financial support of up to € 80,000 per year for a maximum of three years. The first scholarship term for this current call of applications begins on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016. The application period starts on October 1<sup>st</sup> 2015 and ends January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016.

Applicants for the DKMS Mechtild Harf Research Program must have completed their doctoral studies (M.D., Ph.D., Dr. med. or equivalent qualification) in one of the areas relevant to the scholarship. They must be working at an academic research institute on hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (HSCT) or cellular treatment for hematological neoplasias (oncology).

The call for proposals and the granting of these scholarships is in keeping with the scientific focus of DKMS, which aims to foster innovative methods for continual improvement in the outcomes for stem cell transplant patients. In 2015 the scholarships were awarded to Jarrod Dudakov (PhD), Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, and Luca Vago (M.D., Ph.D.), Fondazione Centro San Raffaele.

**Further information and application forms are available for downloading at:**

<http://www.deletebloodcancer.org/mechtild-harf-research-program>

### **About the DKMS family**

Every year more than 917,000 people worldwide are diagnosed with a form of blood cancer. These life-threatening diseases can affect anyone, anywhere in the world. DKMS finds and contacts stem cell donors for people with blood cancers and other blood disorders. With over 5.6 million registered donors worldwide and more than 51,000 stem cell transplants to its credit, it is the largest network of bone marrow donor centers in the world. The inspiration for founding this organization came from blood cancer patient Mechtild Harf, who was diagnosed with leukemia in 1991 and urgently needed a stem cell transplant. Over the next two decades DKMS expanded its mission globally, opening branches in the USA (Delete Blood Cancer), Poland (DKMS Polska), Spain (Fundación DKMS España) and the United Kingdom (Delete Blood Cancer UK).