



## **For Immediate Release**

Media Contact:

Sharon Persaud

Senior Public Relations Manager

**DKMS**

**T** +1.212.209.6778

**C** +1.646.771.5378

[sharonp@dkms.org](mailto:sharonp@dkms.org)

## **DKMS Mechtild Harf Science Award 2017**

### **World-class physicians honored for their contribution to the fight against blood cancer**

**Tübingen / Marseille, 28.03.2017 – The DKMS Mechtild Harf Science Award 2017 was awarded by the DKMS Foundation for Giving Life during this year’s EBMT Congress (European Society for Blood and Marrow Transplantation). The award recognizes the outstanding achievements of internationally renowned physicians in the field of stem cell transplantation.**

Stem cell transplantations are currently used for the successful treatment of leukemia and other tumors of the blood-forming organs, making them an important part of the fight against blood cancer. Unfortunately, successful treatment does not always mean a permanent cure for all patients. Innovative research is therefore crucial in order to find new and better approaches to the treatment of blood cancer and to improve the outcome of stem cell transplantations. There is also still a need for fundamental research in order to better understand the implications of treatment: Why does the transplantation cure one patient, while causing complications or even a relapse for another patient?

DKMS is committed to the research of this issue, among others. “We want to advance medical research in order to find the best possible treatment for blood cancer patients and to improve stem cell transplantation worldwide,” says DKMS CEO **Dr. Alexander Schmidt**. For this reason, the DKMS Clinical Trials Unit (CTU) was founded in Dresden. DKMS also supports research projects and provides scholarships for the development of scientists.

The DKMS Mechtild Harf Science Award is granted annually to world-class physicians for their outstanding scientific work and research in the field of stem cell transplantation. This year’s awardees are the hematologists and oncologists **Prof. Dr. med. Dr. h.c. Dieter Hoelzer** from Germany and **Richard Champlin, MD** from the USA.

As a medical professor, Richard Champlin leads the stem cell transplantation unit at the MD Anderson Cancer Center of the University of Texas, Houston. In addition to his function as Founding President of the American Society for Blood and Marrow Transplantation and a member of various important medical associations, he has written over 700 scientific articles and clinical studies.

Dieter Hoelzer has been Director of the Department of Hematology/Oncology, Rheumatology and Infectiology at the University Hospital Frankfurt for more than 20 years. Since 1981, he has been leading

an important, large-scale study on acute lymphatic leukemia (ALL), with over 100 clinics participating. As a renowned hematologist, he is considered one of the world's best specialists on this form of leukemia.

“Through their work, both award winners have contributed fundamentally to enhancing the diagnosis and treatment of blood cancer diseases by the process of allogeneic stem cell transplantation to a new level. The lifetime achievements of both show the importance of the fight against blood cancer and the necessity of prioritizing the improvement of blood cancer treatment. DKMS Foundation for Giving Life is proud to recognize such dedicated and renowned physicians on their board,” said Alexander Schmidt.

#### Images



Download images [here](#).

#### About DKMS

DKMS is an international non-profit organization dedicated to the fight against blood cancer. Founded in 1991 in Germany by Dr. Peter Harf, DKMS has expanded internationally in recent years by establishing entities in the US, Poland, Spain and the UK. Today, DKMS has over 800 employees who, up until now, have helped register over 7 million potential stem cell donors and provided more than 60,000 patients with a second chance at life.

#### About DKMS Stiftung Leben Spenden (Foundation for Giving Life)

DKMS Stiftung Leben Spenden is the parent organization of DKMS. One of its primary focuses is the targeted promotion of research projects in the field of stem cell collection and transplantation. The DKMS Mechtild Harf Science Award has been presented since 2001 to recognize the best scientific advances in this field.

#### Previous Award winners



WE DELETE BLOOD CANCER

2016: Prof. Katharina Fleischhauer, Essen, Deutschland  
2015: John A. Hansen, M.D., Seattle, USA  
2014: Richard O'Reilly, M.D., New York, USA  
2013: Dennis L. Confer, M.D., Minneapolis, USA und Prof. Guido Lucarelli; Rom, Italien  
2011: Prof. Karl G. Blume, Stanford University, USA  
2010: Prof. Theodor Max Fliedner, Ulm, Deutschland  
2009: Prof. Rainer Storb, Seattle, USA  
2008: Jon van Rood, M.D., Ph.D., Leiden, Niederlande  
2007: Mary M. Horowitz, M.D., M.S., Milwaukee, USA  
2006: Prof. Dr. Hans-Jochem Kolb, München, Deutschland  
2005: Nobelpreisträger E.D. Thomas, M.D., Seattle, USA  
2004: Prof. Eliane Gluckman, Paris, Frankreich  
2002: Prof. Dr.med. Effie Wang-Petersdorf, Seattle, USA  
2001: Anita Waldmann und Dr. Helmut Geiger; Bonn, Deutschland