



10th WBMT WORKSHOP

An international scientific convention of the Worldwide network for Blood and Marrow Transplantation in collaboration with the Latin American Blood and Marrow Transplantation group and the Sociedad Panameña de Hematología



25-26 June 2026 – Workshop • Panama City

Panama City, PANAMA | Hybrid

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. 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 10th Workshop in Panama 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 Dr. Ninotchka Mendoza and Dr. Germán Espino and involves many neighboring countries in the Central America and the Caribbean 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 Panama culture and hospitality. On behalf of the organizing committee, we welcome you all to the 10th WBMT Workshop in Panama. This represents a historical event involving global experts, who are known for their efforts to improve health care access and treatment throughout the World.



Mickey Koh
WBMT President

About the Congress

About the Congress

What is the purpose of the Workshop?

It is our goal to guide for physicians to optimize their current hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (HCT) activities and to create awareness among policy makers about the value of HCT and other cellular therapies (CT), so that these activities might be expanded as part of national health plan and strengthened by ongoing effective oversight and support from health authorities. The overall objective is to assist Panama and other countries by building capacity, increasing access to life-saving therapies, and improving the quality of care.

Who is attending the Congress?

The Congress of the WBMT is addressed to clinicians and representatives of health authorities from Panama, as well as other neighboring countries that may have restricted sources and low transplant participants regarding minimum essential requirements for establishing or expanding HCT in emerging countries, indications for HCT, training and dissemination of knowledge, stem cell donor selection and donor safety, quality assurance in transplant centers and the importance of transplant outcome databases.

Who is WBMT?

The WBMT is a non-profit organization of twenty-one international societies involved in HCT around the world, with a primary mission of establishing broad standards and assisting countries with limited resources in planning, development, and performance of this activity.

The purpose of this cooperation is to engage exclusively in charitable, scientific, and educational activities and endeavors by promoting and fostering the exchange and diffusion of information and ideas relating to HCT and CT and encouraging investigations on these matters. The focus of the Network is to collaboratively advance the field of HCT and CT while not pre-empting the activities of its member societies.

Special Session:

FACT- JACIE QUALITY AND ACCREDITATION WORKSHOP PROGRAM

24 June 2026 | 2:00 – 5:00 PM

Chairperson: Joseph (Yossi) Schwartz

TIME	TOPIC TITLE / ACTIVITY	FOCUS	SPEAKER
	SESSION I		
2:00 - 2:30 PM	The What, Why & How of the FACT-JACIE Standards	General Overview of clinical, collections and processing standards	Joseph (Yossi) Schwartz (USA)
2:30 - 3:00 PM	Core Principles of Quality Management in Cellular Therapy	Documentation, internal audits and CAPAs, data management	Eugenia Trigo Arjona (Spain)
3:00 - 3:30 PM	Process Overview for Achieving FACT-JACIE Accreditation	A-Z of the FACT-JACIE Accreditation Process	Nina Worel, MD (Austria)
3:30 - 3:40 PM	Q&A – All Speakers		
3:40 - 3:50 PM	Coffee Break		
	SESSION II		
3:50 - 4:15 PM	Achieving FACT-JACIE Accreditation Under Resource Constraints: Lessons Learned	JACIE - FACT International Accreditation	Juan Carlos Olivares Gazca (Mexico)
4:15 - 4:40 PM	Initial Steps to Achieving Accreditation	Experience of successful accreditation in Low-Middle Income Countries	Cesar Homero Gutierrez (Mexico)
4:40 - 4:55 PM	Q&A – All Speakers		
4:55 - 5:00 PM	Adjournment		
	END OF PROGRAM		

DAY ONE - WORKSHOP PROGRAM. Thursday, 25 June 2026

Time	Topics	Chairs/Speakers/Panelists
	Opening	
8:30 AM – 9:20 AM	Local Organizing Committee Leadership	Germán Espino & Ninotchka Mendoza
	Sociedad Panameña de Hematología – President	Carlos Omar Montero Osorio
	Caja del Seguro Social - Medical Director	Marcos Young Rodríguez
	Caja del Seguro Social - Director General	Dino Mon
	WBMT - President	Mickey Koh
	LABMT - Vice-President	Andrés Gómez-De León
	PAHO/WHO Representative in Panama	Ana Rivière Cinnamon
	Ministry of Health	tbd
	Hematopoietic cell transplantation (HCT) and cellular therapies (CT) in the global, regional and national context	<i>Chairpersons:</i> Mickey Koh (UK/Singapore) Cristóbal Frutos (Paraguay)
9:20 AM – 9:40 AM	PAHO - Regional Perspective on HCT	Mauricio Beltrán* (PAHO)
9:40 AM – 10:00 AM	Panama's health care system including HCT	Jeannette Ortega (Transplant Committee, Ministry of Health- Panama)
10:00 AM – 10:15 AM	Coffee Break	
Session I	WBMT – ISBT joint session: Regional HCT activity & development	<i>Chairpersons:</i> Sebastian Galeano (Uruguay) Ninotchka Mendoza (Panama)
10:15 AM – 11:30 AM (75 min)	Colombia	Amado Karduss
	Costa Rica	Oscar Porras
	Cuba	Calixto Hernandez
	Dominican Republic	María Jesús Benzo*
	El Salvador	Maritza Martínez Miranda
	Guatemala	Jhohan Vásquez
	Honduras	José Angel Sánchez
	Jamaica	Dwight Lowe
	México	Andrés Gómez-De León
	Nicaragua	Indirha Coronado*
	Puerto Rico	Alexis M. Cruz-Chacón
	Trinidad and Tobago	Kenneth Charles
11:30 AM – 12:30 PM	Roundtable discussion: Developing HCT and CT in Central America & Caribbean: financial, legislative and regulatory challenges.	
12:30 PM – 1:30 PM	Lunch Break	
Session II	Essential requirements for establishing an HCT Program	<i>Chairpersons:</i> Hildegard Greinix (WBMT) Juan Carlos Olivares-Gazca (Mexico)
1:30 PM – 1:45 PM	Establishing a sustainable HCT program	Marcelo Pasquini* (USA)
1:45 PM – 2:00 PM	How I started an HCT program	Cristóbal Frutos (Paraguay)
2:00 PM – 2:15 PM	Cooperation to establish an HCT program	Marta Verna* (Italy)
2:15 PM – 2:45 PM	Roundtable discussion: What is essential, what is preferred and what is optimal?	<i>Panelists:</i> Daniel Weisdorf (USA) Reguia Belkhedín (France) José Luis Franceschi (Panama) Andrés Gómez-De León (Mexico)

Session III	Getting Started with the Transplant Program and Indications for HCT	<i>Chairpersons:</i> Dietger Niederwieser (WBMT) Oscar Porras (Costa Rica)
2:45 PM – 3:00 PM	Malignant vs Benign Hematologic Diseases: Where to start?	Mohamed Kharfan-Dabaja (USA)
3:00 PM – 3:20 PM	HCT - decision making and indications	John Snowden (UK)
3:20 PM – 3:50 PM	Roundtable Discussion: Limitations and Contraindications of HCT	<i>Panelists:</i> Laurent Garderet (France) Catherine Gutierrez (Chile) Natalie Buitron (Panama) Oscar Bueso (Honduras)
3:50 PM – 4:05 PM	Coffee Break	
Session IV	Training and Dissemination of Knowledge	<i>Chairpersons:</i> Mohamed Kharfan-Dabaja (WBMT) Ricardo Aguilar (Panama)
4:05PM – 4:20 PM	How to become a transplant physician, staff nurse and technician	Daniel Weisdorf (USA)
4:20 PM – 4:35 PM	Training of HCT nursing	Reguia Belkhedim (France)
4:35 PM – 5:05 PM	Roundtable Discussion: Establishing a curriculum for training in HCT (tools for education, Internet, telemedicine)	<i>Panelists:</i> Dietger Niederwieser (Germany) Paola Viveros (Chile) Ninotchka Mendoza (Panama) Iris Rivera (El Salvador)
Session V	Transfusion services for HCT centers	<i>Chairpersons:</i> Mickey Koh (UK/Singapore) José Angel Sánchez (Honduras)
5:05 PM – 5:20 PM	Panama transfusion reports: Access to safe and effective blood transfusions including blood component therapy	Carlos Montero (Panama)
5:20 PM – 5:35 PM	Guidelines for blood transfusion including guidelines for transfusion in HSCT	Nina Worel (Austria)
5:35 PM – 6:05 PM	Roundtable Discussion: Blood product screening and alloantibodies in HSCT	<i>Panelists:</i> Hildegard Greinix (Austria) Carole Charley (UK) Johanna Morris (Panama) Dwight Lowe (Jamaica)

DAY TWO - WORKSHOP PROGRAM. Friday, 26 June 2025

Time	Topics	Chairs/Speakers/Panelists
Session VI	Donor Selection and Donor Safety	<i>Chairpersons:</i> Adriana Seber (Brazil) Lineth López (Panama)
8:00 AM – 8:15 AM	Principles of HLA	Medhat Askar (USA)
8:15 AM – 8:30 AM	Mismatched family donors	Damiano Rondelli (USA)
8:30 AM – 8:45 AM	Donor safety	Nina Worel (Austria)
8:45 AM – 9:15 AM	Roundtable Discussion: How to choose the best donor	<i>Panelists:</i> Yoshihisa Kodera (Japan) Reguia Belkhedim (France) Alejandro Vernaza (Panama) María Jesús Benzo* (Dominican Rep)
Session VII	Emerging infectious diseases	<i>Chairpersons:</i> John Snowden (UK) Ana Belén Arauz (Panama)
9:15 AM – 9:30 AM	Emerging Viral Infections (Dengue, Zika, Chikungunya, Yellow fever)	Clarisse Machado* (Brazil)
9:30 AM – 9:45 AM	Chagas disease	Mauricio Beltrán* (PAHO)
9:45 AM – 10:15 AM	Roundtable Discussion: What specific characteristics should we consider when evaluating infections in tropical regions?	<i>Panelists:</i> Sebastian Galeano (Uruguay) Eugenia Trigoso (Spain) Kristel Rodríguez (Panama) Cristóbal Frutos (Paraguay)
10:15 AM – 10:30 AM	Coffee Break	
Session VIII	Cell Collection and Processing	<i>Chairpersons:</i> Joseph Schwartz (USA) Juan Carlos Olivares-Gazca (Mexico)
10:30 AM – 10:45 AM	Apheresis, techniques, indications, and complications	Nina Worel (Austria)
10:45 AM – 11:00 AM	Stem cell storage: Controlled freezing versus cryopreserved (-80C) versus freshly collected stem cells: Which and Why?	Amado Karduss (Colombia)
11:00 AM – 11:15 AM	Minimal requirements for a cell processing lab	Christian Chabannon (France)
11:15 AM – 11:45 AM	Roundtable Discussion: How to successfully establish a collection and cell processing facility	<i>Panelists:</i> Laurent Garderet (France) Carole Charley (UK) Amarelis De León (Panama) Calixto Hernández (Cuba)

Session IX	Complications of HCT and laboratory infrastructure	<i>Chairpersons:</i> Christian Chabannon (France) Wendy Franco (Panama)
11:45 AM – 12:00 AM	Donor-specific antibodies and chimerism evaluation	Medhat Askar (USA)
12:00 AM – 12:15 AM	The role of the hematology lab (cytology, cytogenetics, flow, molecular, MRD)	Gregor Hörmann* (Germany)
12:15 AM – 12:45 AM	Discussion:	<i>Panelists:</i> Dietger Niederwieser (Germany) Reguia Belkhedim (France) Amarelis De León (Panama) Kenneth Charles (Trinidad & Tobago)
12:45 AM – 1:45 PM	Lunch Break	
Session X	Quality Assurance in HCT Centers	<i>Chairpersons:</i> Adriana Seber (Brazil) Joseph Schwartz (USA)
1:345PM – 2:00 PM	Overview and principles of quality systems in HCT centers	Carole Charley (UK)
2:00 PM – 2:15 PM	How to get an HCT program in Low-Middle Income countries accredited	Carlos Bachier (Puerto Rico)
2:15 PM – 2:30 PM	Labelling and traceability of cell products: How to implement ISBT 128 from the ground up	Mónica Freire* (USA)
2:30 PM – 3:00 PM	Roundtable Discussion: Where do we start? From following standards to successfully obtaining accreditation	<i>Panelists:</i> Christian Chabannon (France) Eugenia Trigo (Spain) Diana Cedeño (Panama) Alexis M. Cruz-Chacón (Puerto Rico)
3:00 PM – 3:15 PM	Coffee Break	
Session XI	Patient/Donor Registration and Outcome Database	<i>Chairpersons:</i> Laurent Garderet (France) Calixto Hernández (Cuba)
3:15 PM – 3:35 PM	Role of registries in HCT	Dietger Niederwieser (Germany) Daniel Neumann* (Germany)
3:35 PM – 3:50 PM	The transplant activity survey WBMT/GTR	Helen Baldomero (Switzerland)
3:50 PM – 4:05 PM	LABMT/GTR Registry for HCT and CT	Juliana Martínez-Rolon (Argentina)
4:05 PM – 4:15PM	HCT activity registry: Andean	Julia Palma (Chile)
4:15 PM – 4:25 PM	HCT activity registry: Donasur and Incucaí	Richard Malán* (Argentina)
4:25 PM – 4:40 PM	Outcome Registries: CIBMTR	tbd
4:40 PM – 5:55 PM	Outcome Registries: EBMT	Anna Sureda (Spain)
5:55 PM – 6:25 PM	Roundtable Discussion: The importance of data collection and trends at the regional and global levels.	<i>Panelists:</i> Sebastian Galeano (Uruguay) Dorian Navarro (Mexico) Ninotchka Mendoza (Panama) Marlene Chávez (Costa Rica)
	Closing remarks	
6:25 PM – 6:40 PM	Short summary	Mickey Koh (UK/Singapore)

*: online participation