

## PRESS RELEASE (*lay version*)

### € 40 million HEMATOLOGY PROJECT AIMS FOR FASTER, BETTER CARE FOR PATIENTS WITH BLOOD DISEASES



**Brussels/Salamanca, January 9, 2017. Patients struggling with blood disorders may look forward to more rapid and efficient treatment from the outcomes of the HARMONY project, an initiative that aims to create a roadmap for better access and care for patients with various blood diseases with the use of big data.**

Made up of 51 partners from 11 European countries, including 7 pharmaceutical companies, HARMONY will put together anonymous patient data to unlock valuable knowledge on multiple myeloma (MM), acute myeloid leukemia (AML), acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL), chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL), non-Hodgkins lymphoma (NHL), myelodysplastic syndromes (MDS) and blood disorders in infants and children.

HARMONY will build on pre-existing, long-lasting collaborations between academics, clinicians, patient organizations and the pharmaceutical industry. It shall further advance management of these diseases through a more efficient process of treatment development and rapid decision-making. The expected outcome will be better prognosis and quicker improved treatment decisions.

The project brings together key players in the clinical, academic, patient, HTA (health technology assessment), regulatory, economical, ethical and pharmaceutical fields to:

- Developing a data sharing platform that empowers clinicians and policy stakeholders to improve decision-making
- Establishing a network reflecting the European HMs landscape
- Defining clinical endpoints and standard outcomes in ALL (paediatric & adult), NHL, MM, AML, CLL, MDS
- Alignment of key stakeholders on relevance of these outcomes (policy makers, payers, patients)
- Providing means for analysing complex data sets comprising different layers of information
- Identifying specific markers for early registration of innovative and effective therapies for HMs

The HARMONY project's final deliverable is a big data platform that will integrate disease information in order to better understand the diseases and how to treat most efficiently. HARMONY will achieve this from a pan-European perspective by uniting and aligning European stakeholders and key opinion leaders in the field. The 5-year project will start in January 2017 and is funded through the Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI); Europe's largest public-private initiative aiming to speed up the development of better and safer medicines for patients.

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#### THE INNOVATIVE MEDICINES INITIATIVE

The Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI) is Europe's largest public-private initiative aiming to speed up the development of better and safer medicines for patients. IMI supports collaborative research projects and builds networks of industrial and academic experts in order to boost pharmaceutical innovation in Europe. IMI is a joint undertaking between the European Union and the pharmaceutical industry association EFPIA.

#### Disclaimer

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## Partners in HARMONY



### *Project management*

Instituto de Investigación Biomédica de Salamanca (IBSAL), Spain  
Instituto de Investigación Sanitaria del Hospital La Fe de Valencia (HULAFE), Spain  
Celgene International II SARL, Switzerland  
Novartis, Switzerland  
Synapse Research Management Partners, S.L. (SYNAPSE), Spain

### *Partners*

Universitaet Ulm (UULM), Germany\*  
Alma Mater Studiorum - Università di Bologna (UNIBO), Italy\*  
European Hematology Association (EHA), The Netherlands\*  
ELN Foundation (ELN), Germany\*  
GMV Soluciones Globales Internet S.A.U. (GMV), Spain\*  
European Alliance for Personalised Medicine (EAPM), Belgium  
Medizinische Universitaet - Wien (MUW), Austria\*  
Erasmus Universiteit Medisch Centrum Rotterdam (EMC), The Netherlands  
University of Navarra (UNAV), Spain  
Università degli Studi di Torino (UNITO), Italy  
Stichting VUmc, The Netherlands  
The Chancellor, Masters and Scholars of the University of Cambridge (UCAM), United Kingdom  
University of Rome 'Tor Vergata' (URTV), Italy  
Goethe University Frankfurt (GUF), Germany  
Group for Research on Adult Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (GRAALL), France  
Jose Carreras Leukaemia Research Institute (IJC), Spain  
European Research Initiative on CLL e.v. (ERIC), Italy  
Masaryk University (MU), Czech Republic  
Fundacio privada Institut D'investigacio Oncologica de Vall-Hebron (VHIO), Spain  
The Lymphoma Scientific Association (LYSA), France  
Ludwig-Maximilians-Universitaet - Muenchen (LMU-Muenchen), Germany  
Barts Health NHS Trust (BHT), United Kingdom  
Groupe Francophone des Myélodysplasies (GFM), France  
Heinrich-Heine-Universitaet - Duesseldorf (UDUS), Germany  
Fondazione Italiana per lo studio delle sindromi mielodisplastiche onlus (FISMonlus), Italy  
University of Newcastle upon Tyne (UNEW), United Kingdom  
German Society of Pediatric Oncology-Hematology GmbH gemeinnützig (GPOH), Germany  
Ospedale Pediatrico Bambino Gesù (OPBG), Italy  
University of York (UoY), United Kingdom  
European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer (EORTC), Belgium  
European Society for Blood and Marrow Transplantation (EBMT), The Netherlands  
Flanders Institute of Biotechnology (VIB), Belgium  
University of Helsinki (UH), Finland  
Assistance Publique - Hôpitaux de Paris (AP-HP), France  
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Agencia Española de Medicamentos y Productos Sanitarios (AEMPS), Spain  
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Bayer Pharma Aktiengesellschaft, Germany\*  
Menarini Ricerche S.p.A., Italy\*  
Takeda, United Kingdom\*

*\*Work package leaders and co-leaders*