

CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

We all know patients with lymphoma, including CLL, cope with compromised immune systems. Faced with the [current global coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\) pandemic](#), it is no wonder patients are fearful of contracting the disease and its potential effect.

It is important to recognise that doctors are also concerned about this. For example, [the following quote came from Dr. Steve Pergam](#), a clinical and infectious disease researcher at Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Seattle, Washington, USA. “The [early data from China](#), and reports from the ground in Italy and other sites of local transmission is that our cancer patients are going to be at increased risk. Patients with hematologic [blood] malignancies we believe will have the biggest risk,” he said. “Also, patients who are in active chemotherapy and bone marrow transplant patients. Those are the ones with the most profound immune deficits.”

There is additional concern due to the added pressure on health systems, as medical professionals cope with an influx of patients with COVID-19 on top of the patients who would already be under their care.

It is up to each of us working with this vulnerable population to be cautious and [follow the recommendations for self protection](#) provided by the World Health Organisation (WHO) - including hand washing, avoiding touching your face, social distancing and respiratory hygiene - and recommend patients and those they love do the same.

A number of countries have imposed their own measures to control the spread of the disease. We urge each of you if you have not done so already, whether or not there are country-wide restrictions, to carefully consider the programs you are running to ensure patient safety.

RESEARCH & GUIDANCE

- ASCO COVID-19 Clinical Oncology Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) [READ MORE](#)
 - Coronavirus Disease COVID-19: Updated EBMT recommendations for recipients and donors of hematopoietic cells [READ MORE](#)
 - The American Society for Transplantation and Cellular Therapy (ASTCT) Interim Guidelines for Covid-19 Management In Hematopoietic Cell Transplant And Cellular Therapy Patients [READ MORE](#)
 - Adult Survivorship: Considerations Following CAR T-Cell Therapy [READ MORE](#)
 - Survival Outcomes of Patients With Extranodal Natural-Killer T-Cell Lymphoma: A Prospective Cohort Study From The International T-Cell Project [READ MORE](#)
 - Richter Transformation Survival in CLL Appears Better Among Treatment-Naïve [READ MORE](#)
 - EHA-EBMT 2nd European CAR-T Cell Meeting [READ MORE](#)
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At the Lymphoma Coalition, the following has been put in place:

1. The April Community Advisory Board (CAB) meeting has been indefinitely postponed and we are working with confirmed partners on how to continue the work virtually until a face-to-face meeting becomes a safe option again.
2. The entire team – including those of us who work in the Global Office - will be working from home for the next three weeks, something that will be evaluated as we move forward.
3. All non-essential travel has been cancelled until such time as COVID-19 is no longer considered a global public health risk.
4. We are developing back-up plans for any events that are usually face-to-face, including the Global Summit set for October 5-6. While the general opinion is the coronavirus will have eased by then, it makes sense to be prepared.

As a global organisation, with members, stakeholders and team members all over the world, the technology is already in place that allows us to connect virtually. This measure will not affect any planned webinars or scheduled virtual meetings. LC will still be able to carry out its mission and deliver on its strategic plan.

We sincerely hope each of you and your families and loved ones stay in good health during this time.

2020 GLOBAL PATIENT SURVEY ON LYMPHOMAS & CLL

A sincere thank you to everyone who helped promote the 2020 GPS. The results are beyond expectations with over **10,100 respondents**. This far exceeds the 6,630 responses in 2018. 77% of responders were patients and 23% carers.

The final survey tally will be done in the coming weeks. In addition to the over 10,100 people who answered all the questions, there are a number of partial responses where the respondent agreed to the use of their data even though incomplete. A review will to be done to see if the amount of data completed is enough to add relevance to the overall results.

The final results will be shared as soon as they are available.

WLAD 2020

Join us for a World Lymphoma Awareness Day launch webinar to learn about this year's upcoming campaign and gather your feedback. Two webinars are scheduled to accommodate various time zones. Invitations with webinar call-in details will be sent out shortly:

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

CAR-T cells in lymphoid diseases: the patient journey

A web-conference by the International Academy for Clinical Hematology (IACH)

Saturday April 4th, from 9:00 to 12:15 CET

Registration is free and you can register [here](#).

Program includes regulatory approval considerations and results to date in lymphoma, myeloma and ALL.

NEW: LYMPHOMA LEARNING CENTRE

LC would like to introduce the Lymphoma Learning Centre (LLC). The LLC contains information to help members support their local community, including patient-friendly materials. This is not intended to replace local efforts, but rather provide support when everyone is coping with providing information on a new therapy class coming to market to ensure materials are ready rapidly; or provide more information on issues that patients raise in the Global Patient Survey.

Stay tuned for the release of the new **CAR-T toolkit**. An email will be sent to members soon with details on how to access the toolkit.

- 7 April at 8:00 PM EDT ([find your local time](#))
- 8 April at 8:00 AM EDT ([find your local time](#))

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Hrvatska udruga leukemija i limfomi (HULL) in Croatia on their 25th anniversary. An event was held at the Mimara Museum with many distinguished guests and patients in attendance to celebrate this milestone.



