Lisbon, 15 March 2018

Press Release

**The CRYOSTEM Cohort and its HTC Project endowment fund attend the 44th European Society for Blood and Marrow Transplantation (EBMT) congress**

* **The organisation, network operations and ISO 9001 certification of CRYOSTEM, a national cohort exclusively dedicated to hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (HSCT), will be the topics of two presentations during poster sessions.**
* **Two research projects conducted with the CRYOSTEM collection will be presented in plenary sessions**
* **The HTC Project endowment fund, initiated by CRYOSTEM, to finance CE marking of eGvHD, the first application worldwide for Graft-versus-Host Disease (GvHD) evaluation, presented to the scientific community at EBMT18**
* **The CRYOSTEM and HTC Project teams will welcome visitors and project leaders at booth 53**

CRYOSTEM, a French national cohort of biological resources exclusively dedicated to the complications of hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (HSCT) participates in the 44th edition of the annual congress of the European Society for Blood and Marrow Transplantation (EBMT) to be held in Lisbon from 18 to 21 March.

This is an opportunity for CRYOSTEM to renew its call for projects amongst the scientific community and to introduce the HTC Project endowment fund launched by the cohort at the end of 2017 to increase awareness in the general public of the complications of HSCT and to finance a dedicated international research program of excellence.

Initiated in 2010, CRYOSTEM is the first ISO 9001 certified and multicentric cohort in Europe to be in charge of the collection and treatment of biological resources of donor/recipient couples treated by HSCT for a serious blood disease or severe immune deficiency. In partnership with 23 Biological Resources Centres and 33 of the 36 French transplant units, CRYOSTEM has established a homogeneous collection of blood samples whose data are centralised in the secure MBioLims database,connected to the PRoMISe database that contains all the EBMT European clinical data.

"*In 6 years, our collection has been enriched by some 200 000 samples taken from over 5000 patients and 2300 donors,*" **explains Doctor Boris CALMELS**, biologist at the Paoli-Calmettes Institute’s Cell Therapy Facility, co-founder of CRYOSTEM and HTC Project, "a biological raw material with high added value that we are today able to propose to researchers worldwide under 3 different types of samples: cells in DMSO, dry red blood cells and plasma."

Originally dedicated to research projects in the field of acute or chronic GvHD (Graft-versus-Host Disease), the CRYOSTEM collection has been expanded to all the complications of HSCT and is today available for the scientific community via an international call for projects program validated by a committee of independent experts.

Two research projects conducted with the CRYOSTEM collection will be presented in plenary sessions:

* Monday, 19 March 2018 - 11:30 – 12:00, Auditorium II
Workshop 2 - Translational research in GvHD

**Role of the endothelium - Thomas Luft, Germany**

* Wednesday, 21 March 2018 - 11:40 - 11:50 Room 3C
Oral Session 16 - GvHD (clinical-1)

**Validation of Biomarkers of Graft versus-Host-Disease In The**

**Multicentric French Cohort CRYOSTEM of the SFGM-TC – Etienne**

**Daguindau, France**

The success of the cohort is achieved with 8 new projects submitted in 2017. "*To date, five French and one German project have been conducted with the CRYOSTEM collection (with 3800 samples) to better understand the complications of bone marrow transplant and to offer more adapted patient*

*care*" **said****Professor Jean-Hugues DALLE**, Pediatric Hematology Unit in Robert DEBRÉ University Hospital, Paris and member of the CRYOSTEM steering committee, "*we expect the first scientific publications in the course of the year*".

"*With HTC Project we want to increase power and multiply the research projects from the CRYOSTEM cohort. Thanks to the funds raised from individual and institutional contributors, and with the support of patient associations as well as all the stakeholders of the transplant community*" **concluded****Professor Régis PEFFAULT DE LATOUR**, Hematology-Bone Marrow Transplant Unit in the Saint-Louis Hospital, Paris, co-founder of CRYOSTEM and HTC Project.

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**ABOUT CRYOSTEM**

CRYOSTEM is a national cohort exclusively dedicated to the complications of bone marrow transplant. CRYOSTEM was initiated in 2011 by Professor Régis PEFFAULT DE LATOUR of the Hematology Unit in the Saint-Louis Hospital and Doctor Boris CALMELS at the Paoli-Calmettes Institute’s Cell Therapy Facility, under the aegis of the Francophone Society of Bone Marrow Transplantation and Cellular Therapy (SFGM-TC). The cohort is financed by the French Government in the framework of the "Investments for the Future" program (ANR) and supported by INCa (National Cancer Institute) and patient associations(Vaincre la Leucémie, Cent pour Sang la Vie, IRGHET, Associations Laurette Fugain, Aquitaine Espoir et Gueriduncancer). The CRYOSTEM collective brings together 33 transplantation units and 23 national Biological Resources Centres (CRB), 400 French research and healthcare players, and over 5000 patients and 2300 donors. To date, CRYOSTEM gathers already 70% of transplant patients in France and manages a collection unique in Europe of over 200 000 biological samples.

**Further information on cryostem.org**

**Follow us on Twitter @cryostem\_FR and on LinkedIn** [**https://fr.linkedin.com/company/cryostem**](https://fr.linkedin.com/company/cryostem)

**ABOUT the HTC Project endowment fund**

The HTC Project endowment fund was created on the initiative of the CRYOSTEM cohort to raise awareness of researchers, clinicians and civil society on the management of the complications of hematopoietic stem cell transplantation and to fund an international research program that aims to better understand, predict and treat the complications of hematopoietic stem cell transplantation. Of 24 000 transplanted patients each year in Europe for serious blood diseases or major immunodeficiency syndromes, 50% suffer, in the short- or medium-term, from infectious, pulmonary, cardiac or dermatological complications, 25% face severe and even fatal complications.

Support HTC Project today to give HSCT patients a real chance to make a fresh start.

**Further information on htcproject.org**

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