



In response to increasing demand from European researchers to focus on translational research, the European Hematology Association (EHA) and the American Society of Hematology (ASH) have collaborated to create a training program in this field. The translational researcher of the future will need to understand how to direct research in both the European and US systems. The Translational Research Training in Hematology (TRTH) program is a joint effort to foster this global research. The program will provide promising translational investigators an opportunity to undertake intensive training on the pathogenesis, diagnostics, and experimental treatment of hematologic disorders by the foremost leaders in the field.

Modeled after ASH's successful Clinical Research Training Institute, the TRTH program spans an entire year and includes three interactive courses. Beginning with the initial week-long spring course, participants will focus intensively on developing a research project through didactic sessions, small working groups, and mentoring sessions. Two subsequent follow-up courses, one at the EHA annual congress in June 2010 and another in conjunction with the ASH annual meeting in December 2010, will provide opportunities for further interaction and mentoring.

The inaugural TRTH will bring 20 early-career scientists to Marbella, Spain, during the week of March 20-26, 2010. This rigorous one-week training course will allow participants to concentrate on projects directly focused on the use of human samples or involving *in vitro* and/or animal studies close to translation to studies in human subjects. Leaders in the areas of biostatistics and biomarkers, genetic and molecular biology, ethics, and clinical studies will serve as mentors.

Didactic sessions will help researchers prepare to conduct hypothesis-driven research, design phase I and II clinical trials, use animal models, and employ diagnostics and biomarkers in translational research. Practical sessions will focus on career development and feature career retrospectives from hematology pioneers. Additionally, panel discussions will feature expert opinions regarding opportunities in translational research as well as grant preparation and funding sources.

This brochure includes information about the structure and content of the TRTH as well as information about the application process.

This exciting new global initiative draws on the strength of the partnership between EHA and ASH. Through this cross-cultural program combining both general hematologic expertise and specific methodology, participants will receive the tools, mentoring, and peer network to help position them as global leaders in the field of translational research. We hope you will join us!

Best wishes,

Willem Fibbe, MD, PhD
EHA Program Co-Director

Kenneth Kaushansky, MD
ASH Program Co-Director

Target Group

Translational Research Training in Hematology is geared toward medical trainees, biomedical trainees, and pharmaceutical doctorate trainees generally within twelve years of MD graduation or with less than eight years of post-doctoral experience. Trainees must be either an EHA or ASH member.

Overview

This unique program offers personalized instruction in all aspects of laboratory techniques, training in the skills required for translational research, and multiple opportunities for networking and mentoring.

TRTH starts with an intensive week-long course held in March 2010 in southern Spain. During this course participants will be provided with an understanding of the tools necessary to be successful. Through didactic and breakout sessions, participants will learn key regulatory, methodological, and organizational steps involved in refining their own translational research proposals.

The second TRTH course takes place during the EHA annual congress, where the participants and faculty meet for dinner and brief lectures. The final session is held in conjunction with the ASH annual meeting. This session starts with featured presentations by the faculty and is followed by updates from the participants on the progress of their projects and careers since the conclusion of the spring course.

Spring Course

The cornerstone of the TRTH program is the spring course, which includes the following components:

- **Principles of translational research**
Presentation of an overview of methodologies for designing and executing clinical research studies with laboratory correlates. Topics will include stem cell research and animal models, live cell and *in vivo* imaging, flow cytometry, cell therapy, cell and biobanking, design of clinical trials, principles of bioinformatics, molecular pathogenesis including genetics and epigenetics, pharmacogenomics, diagnostics and biomarkers, and identification of molecular targets.
- **Ethics in hematologic translational research**
Discussions focusing on ethical and regulatory issues in Europe and North America related to translational research. Topics will include good clinical practice, quality care assurance, good manufacturing practice, relationships with the pharmaceutical and biotech industry, and intellectual property.
- **Career retrospectives from leading hematologists with broad experience in translational research**
Hematology pioneers will speak about their personal and career challenges and successes, and maintaining a work-life balance.
- **Small-group working sessions for research project protocol refinement**
Group sessions with participants and faculty to review and improve individual research project proposals.
- **Trainees' presentation of their research proposals**
Presentation of research proposals by trainees at the beginning of the course; at the end, they will present revised proposals that incorporate the changes made throughout the week.



Educational Objectives

Participants will

- Understand the principles of translational research design and execution
- Detail the ethical and regulatory issues of translational research
- Learn the fundamentals of competitive grant writing, abstract presentation, and manuscript preparation
- Further develop and improve the quality of their own research proposals through input from faculty and peers
- Learn strategies for pursuing and developing a successful career in hematology research
- Develop contacts with other participants to facilitate collaboration
- Meet leaders in translational and clinical research who can enhance networking opportunities for career development

Curriculum

Highlights of the curriculum includes

- Instruction in a broad range of topics covering all aspects of laboratory techniques and skills required for translational research
- Instruction in designing and executing clinical trials with correlative science objectives, including principles of statistics and bioinformatics
- Discussion of approaches for forming and sustaining a multi-disciplinary translational research team
- Recommendations for maximizing mentoring and networking
- Tips for securing research funding
- Practice in the skills necessary for presenting one's work to diverse audiences
- Advice on preparing research results for publication

How to Apply

Applicants must submit a comprehensive translational research project proposal relevant to hematology. The research will be evaluated on the importance of the hypothesis and specific aims, originality, the clarity and feasibility of the experimental plan, and funding for the project. Applicants should also submit their curriculum vitae, letter of support from their mentor, and a career-development plan. Proficiency in English is required.

There is no application or registration fee. All participants will receive an allowance to cover the cost of travel to the spring workshop and follow-up meetings. By applying to the TRTH program, applicants agree that, if chosen for this award, they will participate in all three sessions and respond to follow-up surveys in the future.

Important Dates

Detailed information on how to apply is available on the EHA and ASH websites. The call for applications will be posted on **June 15, 2009**. Submissions and all relevant materials must be received by **September 15, 2009**. All applications must be submitted electronically using the form found in the Awards section of the EHA website www.ehaweb.org. Please send completed applications to training@ehaweb.org. A study section will review the applications, and winners will be notified by **December 1, 2009**.

Questions?

Contact the EHA Office at training@ehaweb.org or +31 (0)10 4361760.

TRTH MARCH 20–26, 2010

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TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH
TRAINING IN HEMATOLOGY



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