

PRESS RELEASE

Myeloma Euronet empowers patients and highlights inequalities in access to treatment and care for myeloma patients in Europe

(0601) Amsterdam, 15 June 2006 – For the first time, Myeloma Euronet, the growing European network of currently 15 myeloma patient groups from 11 countries, brings together myeloma patients and families from across Europe for an update on new developments in myeloma treatment and an international panel discussion on access to treatment and care for myeloma patients in Europe. The events take place on 17th June from 9-16 hrs at the NH Barbizon Hotel in Amsterdam.

Myeloma Euronet strives to unify the voices of myeloma patients in Europe to better address existing inequalities in access to myeloma treatment and care. In Europe, some 77,000 patients and their families are affected by multiple myeloma, an increasingly common and treatable, yet still incurable form of bone marrow cancer. However, many patients in Europe are still denied state-of-the-art treatment for this disease.

"We need to raise awareness of multiple myeloma, empower patients by providing patient-friendly updates on treatment options, and tackle the issue of existing inequalities in treatment and care," says Anita Waldmann, President of the Deutsche Leukaemie- und Lymphom-Hilfe (German leukaemia and lymphoma aid) and member of the Myeloma Euronet Steering Committee and the Cancer Patient Working Group of the European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO).

"We know the cost of treatment is not low but every patient deserves the best available treatment for her or his stage of disease. National health agencies must adopt myeloma treatments as they become available, and cost should not be the determining factor when making treatment decisions," she continues.

More information on the events and the most recent international survey on barriers to myeloma diagnosis, treatment, and care are available at www.myeloma-euronet.org.

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Myeloma Euronet – The voice of myeloma patients in Europe