



**Press Release** | EHA24 | Amsterdam | 15 June 2019

## **HARMONY reaches milestone capturing data from 45,000 patients with blood cancers**

- The HARMONY Big Data Platform is collecting 45,000 anonymized patient records, becoming one of the largest of its kind in the world;
- The goal of HARMONY is to help drive the development of better therapies and improve care for patients with various hematologic malignancies;
- The HARMONY Alliance is a public-private partnership of more than 80 partners (53 Partners and 35 Associated Members) funded by the Innovative Medicines Initiative for a period of 5 years (2017-2021).

The European public-private partnership ‘HARMONY’ announced today that its innovative Big Data Platform has reached an important milestone capturing anonymized data records from 45,000 patients with blood cancers.

The HARMONY Big Data Platform is one of the largest of its kind in the world and the team is aiming to expand it to at least 100,000 patients during the lifetime of the HARMONY Alliance.

*“To answer the key outstanding questions in the field of hematology, we need harmonized and high-quality data on treatment outcomes in thousands of patients which today are contained in multiple clinical trials and registries”,* says Mario Boccadoro, University of Turin, Leadership of the HARMONY Research Project on Multiple Myeloma. *“HARMONY has developed technical and organizational procedures to overcome these obstacles, allowing the alliance to assemble anonymized data records from thousands of European patients into one harmonized Big Data Platform.”*

HARMONY researchers are already mining the Big Data Platform to address pressing research questions such as: Does one specific treatment provide improved outcomes in patients with aggressive Multiple Myeloma?; Which subgroups of Myelodysplastic Syndromes patients benefit from treatment with hypomethylating agents? What are the most important outcomes for Acute Myeloid Leukemia, according to patients, clinicians, health authorities, and the pharmaceutical industry?

[Read more about the current 7 HARMONY Research Projects and its HM project teams >](#)

*“Mining this unique Big Data Platform to address pressing research questions will give us better insight in the molecular landscape of blood cancers and the prognostic value of disease related variables, hence increasing our understanding of their pathophysiology. Making use of Big Data analytics in blood cancer research will lead us faster to identifying novel drug targets”,* says Bruno Costa, Celgene and representing the EFPIA members in HARMONY. *“Ultimately, our goal is that, together, we can accelerate drug development, regulatory evaluation, access appraisal, and treatment strategies to improve the care of patients with these blood cancers.”*



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**Note to the press:**

- You are invited to [attend the HARMONY session](#) at the 24h Annual Congress of the European Hematology Association, on 15 June 2019 in Hall E106, 14:45 – 16:15 hrs.
- In addition, please [join us at the HARMONY Partnering Meeting for interviews](#) or in-depth talks on 15 June 2019 in Hall D201, starting at 16:15 hrs.
- Find HARMONY at the [EHA24 exhibition](#) in the EHA Collaboration Plaza.

**More information:** [www.harmony-alliance.eu](http://www.harmony-alliance.eu)

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**Relevant links:**

- [HARMONY: Next-generation science: Sharing data and knowledge >](#)
- [The HARMONY Big Data Platform: Algorithms to transform knowledge into better medicine outcomes for hematology patients >](#)
- [The HARMONY Anonymization Concept Reconciles Data Quality, Safety, and Privacy >](#)
- [HARMONY Research Projects addressing specific questions for Hematologic Malignancies \(HM\) >](#)
- [The HARMONY Delphi Survey to Develop a Core Outcome Set for Acute Myeloid Leukemia >](#)

**About the HARMONY Alliance:** a public-private European Network of Excellence for Big Data in Hematology, established in January 2017. Our mission is to unlock and spread valuable knowledge on hematologic malignancies (blood cancers) among a large number of stakeholders, with the goal to harness and mine Big Data to speed up the development of improved treatments for patients and more effective treatment strategies.

HARMONY currently has 53 Partners and 35 Associated Members from 22 countries. HARMONY 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.

HARMONY has received funding from IMI 2 Joint Undertaking and is listed under grant agreement No. 116026. This Joint Undertaking receives support from the [European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme](#) and the [European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations \(EFPIA\)](#). IMI supports collaborative research projects and builds networks of industrial and academic experts in order to boost pharmaceutical innovation in Europe.

