

Bio-sketch of Meral Beksac

Meral Beksac MD is a Professor in the Department of Hematology at Ankara University, Turkey. Her current administrative position is Director of the Unrelated Donor Registry and the recently FACT/NETCORD accredited Cord Blood Bank. She has been actively involved in investigator initiated or pharma sponsored Phase II-III clinical trials since 1992, initially within the auspices of EORTC-LCG and most recently in collaboration with European Myeloma Network.

She received her medical and postgraduate training mainly in Ankara, Turkey, She has been visiting scientist or clinician in various Institutions including Divisions of Hematology / Bone Marrow Transplantation at the Karolinska Hospital, Sweden (1983-1984), Heidelberg University, Royal Marsden Hospital, University College Hospital and various institutions in USA. Apart from the pre-clinical studies and clinical trials, her field of research is focused on immune-genetics of plasma cell disorders and expansion of HSC or NK cells from cord blood.

Dr Beksac is an active member of Turkish Society of Hematology as well as international hematological societies, including EHA, ASH, EBMT, ASBMT and International Myeloma Foundation. She is currently the president of the "Turkish Bone Marrow Transplantation Foundation" and the "Immunohematology Subcommittee of the Turkish Society of Hematology". She has pioneered the collaboration between Clinical teams, publishing the first Turkish prospective randomized trials in AML and Myeloma in Turkey. She has recently been elected as the vice-chair of the "Balkan Myeloma Study Group" and Plasma Cell Disorders Subcommittee within EBMT.

Dr Beksac is also a member of the editorial board of scientific journals and has published many book chapters and 150 original papers in peer-reviewed journals with more than 6000 citations (H index: 35). Professor Beksac is editor and author of the book *Bone Marrow and Stem Cell Transplantation*, published by Springer in 2007 (first ed) and 2014(second ed). She has been an elected member of the Turkish Academy of Sciences following its foundation in 1994. Meral Beksac has also recently served in the EHA Scientific Program Committee, for a term (2013-2016).