

Press Release

The Blood Cancer Charity Event leaves its mark at Palau Robert in Barcelona

- Leading foundations and associations joined to raise awareness on blood cancer in a cheerful and family nature event.
- Hundreds of people have participated leaving their mark against diseases affecting some 18,500 people every year in Spain, such as leukaemia, myeloma or lymphoma.

Sunday, May 28th 2017. We have celebrated the Blood Cancer Charity Event this morning, an entertaining event full of activities for families, gathering hundreds of people at Palau Robert in Barcelona. The event, open and free of charge to all, aims to **raise awareness on diseases such as leukaemia, myeloma, lymphoma or myelodysplastic syndromes**, affecting some 18,500 people every year in Spain.

The event has been organised by DKMS Foundation and counted with the presence and cooperation of different associations such as **Josep Carreras Foundation, Unoentrecienmil, Aladina Foundation, Cris Contra el Cáncer, Sandra Ibarra Foundation** and **Elkarlan Iturrigorri**. During the event, the cooperating entities have joined forces in order to make known the different blood cancer types and to inform about the existing options to help patients.

Carmina Caralps, DKMS Spain country manager, has highlighted the importance of working together to fight blood cancer: “Our aim is to increasingly build more partnerships and join forces in the fight against these type of diseases in order to overcome them through research, treatments and overall support to patients and relatives”. In fact, the patient is the key point for DKMS Foundation’s activities. Accordingly, Caralps says: “Our goal is to protect patients as much as we can. They have to face their daily struggle and we are here for them, so we can improve where possible their well-being and that of their relatives”.

Marks that help to heal

During the event the participants have been able to enjoy different activities, being one of them leaving their mark in a **huge mural** as a symbol of support to patients and relatives affected by blood cancer. Adults and children have been able to write their warm wishes for the patients on cards, which they were taped to **balloons** parading through the garden to ‘make them come true’.

There were also plenty activities for children at the event, standing out a **clown** show by Germans Palom. There was also a **circus workshop**, a chance to have tattoos done with body paint and a pin design workshop.

Around noon we've had a chance to learn a few dance steps with the **swing workshop** by El Temple del Swing, and afterwards we have enjoyed an amazing **Gospel concert** by Blackiblanco. In addition it has been great to have the characters of **Star Wars** Catalunya surprising the participants.

In Spain there is a blood cancer case every 28 minutes

Blood cancer comprises several diseases affecting bone marrow and normal blood cell production and function. The most common ones are leukaemia, lymphoma and myeloma but there are up to **137 different diseases**.

Someone around the world is diagnosed with blood cancer every 35 seconds; in Spain this number is **every 28 minutes**. In fact, according to the Spanish Society of Medical Oncology, every year about **18,500 people is diagnosed with one of the main types of blood cancer in our country**. Specifically, about 6,500 is diagnosed with leukaemia, 9,200 with lymphoma and 2,700 with multiple myeloma.

DKMS Foundation

DKMS Foundation is a non-profit organisation committed to fight against blood cancer. In Spain, the Foundation focuses on patients, putting all the efforts into helping them overcome the disease. Among the actions, the **Patients' Aid Project** stands out, being implemented in five public hospitals and composed of two basic services: psychological support for the blood cancer patients and their relatives, and follow-up of long-term complications in bone marrow transplant patients.

Through this programme, three hospitals implemented the Follow-up **Unit for Post-transplant Side Effects** by the end of 2016: the Barcelona Clinic Hospital, the ICO, L'Hospitalet - Duran i Reynals Hospital and the ICO Badalona - Germans Trias i Pujol Hospital. The other two centres involved in the project, the Santa Creu i Sant Pau Hospital and the Vall d'Hebron Hospital, have implemented a **Psycho-oncological Support Service** for adults and children.