

January 18, 2024

Dear All,

Since 2018 the EHA Lymphoma Group (EHA-LyG) promotes the tutorial "**A special coach for the cantera**", usually abbreviated in "cantera", co-sponsored together with the Fondazione Italiana Linfomi (FIL, Italian Lymphoma Foundation).

This is a project devoted to young hematologists. This special course was founded in 2012 and takes inspiration from the famous Spanish cantera of the F.C. Barcelona, which is well known for regularly recruiting foreign players, as well as having a very respectable record for producing local players. "A special coach for the cantera" mimics this organization, and plans tutorials - each of which restricted to a "team" of 18-20 participants - scheduling educational activities in the field of lymphomas to train the young hematologists, i.e. the "cantera". As from the project name, the tutorials are headed by international leading experts on hematologic malignancies, who will act as the "coaches" of the "team" of young hematologists. The past ten editions were coached by Volker Diehl (2012), Bruce Cheson (2013), Richard Fisher (2014), Randy Gascoyne & Kerry Savage (2015), Andrew Zelenetz (2016), Steven Rosen & John Chan (2017), Stephen Ansell (2018), Anas Younes (2019), Wolfram Klapper & Martin Dreyling (2022), John Gribben (2023). Bruce and Anas also dedicated an editorial to their experience as a Coach, published on Clin Adv Hematol Oncol and Hemasphere, respectively.

As you can see from the attached agenda, this is a 2.5-day tutorial, preceded by an opening, informal, session the day before the start of the scientific sessions. The opening is usually held around 6 pm and includes the introduction of the coach to the "players" and vice versa and a dinner, in order to allow the players to break the ice with the coach and to lay the foundation for a fruitful interaction between the players and the coach from the beginning of the course.

Indeed, the cantera is not to be intended as a mere series of frontal lessons, but its format is based on a very interactive exchange among coach and

players. The coach is asked to give a 20-30 min talk in each session in order to have most of the time left to discussion and questions. Spending almost all the time altogether, having dinners altogether and a restricted number of participants allows to create an informal, friendly atmosphere that helps the young hematologists to take profit of this unique experience.

As you can see from the attached agenda, the last sessions of the training are devoted to the trainees: during the first session, they form small groups each of which will draft a proposal of investigation based on what they got from the training. The proposals are presented to the audience during the second session. Then, the coach and the members of the Board will decide during the third session which is the best among the proposed ideas, and finally the coach will announce the winner.

The course will take full advantage of the presentation of clinical cases, not only during a dedicated session in which the contribution of the athletes will be asked in bringing to the attention of the team cases of particular interest, but during all sessions.

The 2024 edition will have as special coach Prof. Ana Sureda (Head of the Hematology Department and Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplant Programme, Institut Català d'Oncologia - Hospital Duran i Reynals, Barcelona, Spain), who will coach the players on "***How the utilization of cellular therapy strategies looks like for lymphomas in 2024***". The course will take place in Lecce, a beautiful town in Salento (Italy), from May 14 to May 17, 2024.

The arrival of the coach is scheduled on Tuesday, May 14 afternoon, so that to have a first meeting with the "team" in the late afternoon. The actual course will be held from Wednesday May 15 to Friday May 17 in the morning.

To take part in the cantera a fee of **1100 Euro/participant** (VAT included) is due, which includes hospitality costs (3 nights), lunches/dinners (from the dinner of May 14 to the coffee break of May 17) and a contribution to the honorarium for the coach. Travel expenses are excluded and are on charge of each own participant.

To pre-register your coworkers to the "A special coach for the FIL and EHA LyG cantera" you will have to fill out the attached registration form and to send it to the Scientific Secretariat (Martina Manni, martina.manni@unimore.it). As anticipated, the course is restricted to 18-20 participants. Due to this it is



worth to send as soon as possible the pre-registration form to ensure a seat in the course for one of your coworkers.

In case of redundancy of requests, the first 18/20 members based on the date of Pre-Inscription will be admitted.

Both past coaches and participants enjoyed a lot the cantera, they said that the cantera experience enriched them both from the scientific and personal point of view. So, this is really an exclusive and fruitful opportunity for young hematologists not to miss to improve their knowledge in a unique kind of training!

We trust that the initiative will catch your interest, and we are waiting for your registrations!

Best regards,

Stefano Luminari, Cantera President

Igor Aurer, Chair of EHA-LyG

Massimo Federico, past-President of Cantera