

€240,000 for your research project!

>> DKMS John Hansen Research Grant
Application period: August - November

In honor of John A. Hansen, this grant is intended to **provide financial support to promising young researchers** to advance the understanding of complications and therapeutic strategies in the field of hematological diseases. For each awardee, the grant provides up to **€240,000 paid out over a three-year period** (up to €80,000 annually), funded by the DKMS Stiftung Leben Spenden foundation and administered by the DKMS Group gGmbH.

Research scope

Proposals must address issues on **hematopoietic stem cell transplantation** or **cell therapy for hematological diseases**. Various aspects can be covered, including but not limited to: diagnostic and therapeutic strategies, transplant immunology, stem cell transplantation complications, donor selection, or cell manufacturing.

Eligibility of researchers

Applicants from all countries are invited to apply. A doctoral degree (PhD, MD, or equivalent achievements) within the last 10 years is required. Selected awardees will be invited to attend the award ceremony during the annual meeting of the European Society for Blood and Marrow Transplantation.

More than a grant: A network!

The grant also comes with the **opportunity for exchange** by providing a **connection to previous awardees and experts in the stem cell research community**. DKMS underlines this by creating an online platform and supporting frequent round tables, events and the sharing of information.



Awardees of 2026 together with previous awardees and Medical Council members Prof. Marcel van den Brink, MD, PhD (second from left) and Prof. Johannes Schetelig MD, PhD (second from right)

“This grant and the award ceremony gather the who’s who of the stem cell community.”

Prof. Hendrik Poeck, MD, PhD
Awardee of the DKMS John Hansen Research Grant 2017

Together, we foster research by aspiring scientists

Since its first presentation in 2015, the DKMS John Hansen Research Grant has been **given to 40 researchers already**. Their work has **benefited stem cell donors and patients with blood cancers or severe blood disorders**.

While the full list of awardees and alumni is available on our website, here are a few highlights:



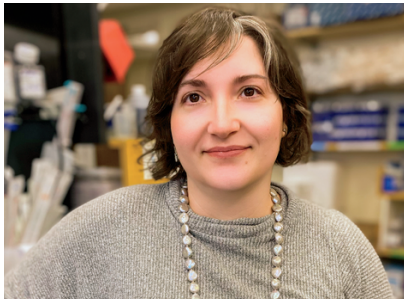
2017

Prof. Hendrik Poeck, MD, PhD

University Hospital Regensburg, Germany

PROTECTOR – Protecting the barrier by engagement of CyTOsolic nucleic acid receptors

In his award-winning project, he investigated strategies for protecting the intestinal stem cell niche in order to prevent graft-versus-host disease following allogeneic stem cell transplantation (allo-SCT). Today, he is also engaged in investigating anti-tumor responses, the triggering of resistance mechanisms in the treatment of cancer patients using immunotherapies, including allo-SCT and cellular therapies.



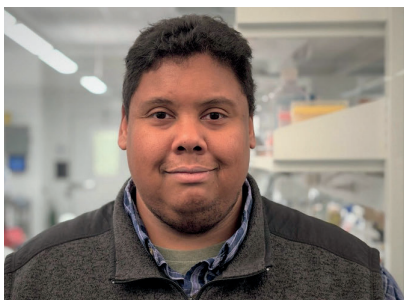
2024

Nicoletta Cieri, MD, PhD

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, USA

Systematic identification of minor histocompatibility antigens to inform GvHD outcomes

She developed a computational tool that makes it possible to comprehensively predict the full complement of minor histocompatibility antigens (mHAg) for any donor-recipient pair based on analysis and comparison of protein-coding DNA sequences from the donor versus the recipient. This opens the opportunity to gain knowledge of the individualized mHAg landscape, which might be associated with the risk of developing graft-versus-host disease (GvHD) and could potentially help refine current donor selection algorithms and enable personalized tailoring of post-transplant immunosuppression.



2025

Stephen Persaud, MD, PhD

Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, USA

Toxin-free antibody-based conditioning for hematopoietic stem cell transplantation

His research explores innovative antibody-only strategies for stem cell transplant conditioning that allow recipients to engraft donor stem cells without the harmful side effects of conventional chemotherapy and irradiation-based conditioning regimens. His preclinical research program, which seeks to develop novel conditioning strategies and understand how they impact host biology, aims to make stem cell transplantation safer and more broadly accessible to patients.

DKMS Stiftung Leben Spenden

DKMS Stiftung Leben Spenden
Kressbach 1, 72072 Tübingen, Germany

The DKMS Stiftung Leben Spenden is the foundation that ensures compliance with the organization's purpose and decides on objectives and strategic guidelines for all its subsidiaries worldwide.

Among its activities, the foundation has supported talented early-career researchers and their promising projects through the DKMS John Hansen Research Grant since 2015.

Contact

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Apply here!

More information



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