



Region of Crete

Public Cord Blood Bank Crete (CBBC)  
of the Hematology Clinic of the University Hospital of  
Heraklion Crete (PAGNI)



November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**#StemCellAwarenessWeek2020**

**Stem Cell Awareness Week by the Region of Crete & Cord Blood Bank Crete  
Joint Press Release**

Public Cord Blood Bank Crete ([CBBC](#)) of Hematology Department of the University Hospital of Heraklion Crete, organises for the fourth consecutive year the **'Stem Cell Awareness Week'** running through **November 16<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> 2020**. This year's awareness week is co-organized with the Region of Crete. Participating partners during this year's activities include the Region of Crete, 7th Health Prefecture of Crete, the School of Medicine of the University of Crete, the Foundation for Research and Technology – Hellas (FORTH), the Regional Directorate of Secondary Education of Heraklion, the Medical Association of Heraklion and the National Transplant Organization. All activities are planned on the occasion of [World Cord Blood Day](#) (November 17<sup>th</sup>).

This year's Stem Cell Awareness Week kick's-off on Monday **16<sup>th</sup> November** with the HQs of the Region of Crete to illuminate throughout the week to raise public awareness on the value of cord blood donation and its use in transplants for patients with hematological diseases as well as for its potential use in future therapies. In addition, an honorary award is to be delivered to the Regional Governor – following the ease of the COVID19 restrictions - for his important support to the Public CBBC.

On Tuesday **November 17<sup>th</sup>**, Public CBBC will be informing the general public on cord blood donation and its therapeutic properties for transplants through its presence on a number of media, on local and national tv, radio and online media.

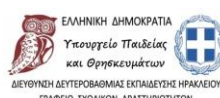
Furthermore, in collaboration with the **Regional Directorate of Secondary Education of Heraklion**, more than a **hundred (100) students** from **five (5) Lyceums** will be informed about the evolving field of stem cells and their applications in Medicine and Biology. Online interactive lectures will be performed by CBBC scientific staff and the [Haemopoiesis Research Laboratory](#) of the University of Crete, School of Medicine. Moreover, students will have the opportunity for the first time to get a tour and a closer look at the procedures taking place at CBBC through o **a virtual tour** and **new audio-visual material**. In addition, should the COVID19 restrictions allow, a **traineeship programme** will take place during **June/July 2021** for **five (5) secondary school**



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ΙΑΤΡΙΚΗ ΣΧΟΛΗ



ΙΝΣΤΙΤΟΥΤΟ ΠΛΗΡΟΦΟΡΙΚΗΣ



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ΣΥΛΛΟΓΟΣ  
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**students** at the Public CBBC and the Haemopoiesis Research Lab (Department of Haematology) School of Medicine, University of Crete.

On **November 18<sup>th</sup>** Public CBBC in collaboration with the **Medical Association of Heraklion**, holds an **online seminar** for the scientific community on «The HLA (histocompatibility antigens) of the population of Crete". President of the National Transplant Organization **George Papatheodoridis** and President of the Medical Association of Heraklion will welcome participants. Professor Emeritus of Immunology of the University of Thessaly **Anastasios Germenis** will speak about the "*Role of HLAs in immunology and disease pathology*" while **Helen Latsoudi** Molecular Biologist and Genetist of Institute of Computer Science (ICS), Foundation for Research and Technology - Hellas (FORTH) will speak about "*Current methods in the study and analysis of HLAs*". Finally, Professor of Hematology, Director of the Hematology Department of the University Hospital of Heraklion and Head of the Public CBBC, **Eleni Papadaki** will speak about "The special properties of the HLAs of the population of Crete and their importance in transplantations".

Throughout the Stem Cell Awareness Week, the general public will have the opportunity to go online and experience the **Virtual Art Exhibition** by the students of the University of Crete and overseas Universities entitled: "**Multipotent colors: Painting for the Stem Cells Awareness Week**".

In addition, on **November 20<sup>th</sup>** **Medical students of the University of Crete** will hold an **online seminar** entitled: "*Cord blood stem cells: A Time Travel*". On **November 20<sup>th</sup>** a **Blood & Marrow Drive and voluntary sign-up on the National Registry** will take place in collaboration with the **Blood Donation Department of the University Hospital of Heraklion (PAGNI)**.

The Stem Cells' Awareness Week is designed bearing in mind all the precautions and measures against Covid-19 pandemic.

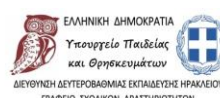
The Week includes the **honorary award to the Midwives** of the '*parental prep programme*' of the Health Centre of Heraklion of the 7<sup>th</sup> Health Prefecture of Heraklion, for its substantial contribution to Public CBBC work, at a later time, following the ease of the restrictions.



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#StemCellAwarenessWeek2020 #WorldCordBloodDay #creteregion #PublicCBBC

Related links:

[Poster](#) Stem Cell Awareness Week 16-22November 2020

[Virtual Art Exhibition](#) of University of Crete Medical Students and overseas Universities

[To register](#) for the online seminar by the Medical Students of the University of Crete

[Infographic](#) on cord blood donation at Public CBBC

[Ensuring the health of the population of Crete Region](#)

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