

Date: January 20, 2025

Subject: Application for the Chair Position of the CTIWP

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

It is with great enthusiasm and a strong sense of responsibility that I submit my candidacy for the **position of Chair of the Cellular Therapy & Immunobiology Working Party (CTIWP)**. Having had the privilege to serve as Secretary of the CTIWP, I have gained in-depth insight into the scientific mission, organizational functioning, and collaborative spirit that define our working party. This experience has reinforced my motivation to contribute further to the strategic development and long-term impact of the CTIWP.

During my mandate as Secretary, I have been actively involved in coordinating CTIWP activities, organizing scientific meetings, supporting study groups, and fostering collaboration among members. I have worked closely with the Chair and the CTIWP team at the EBMT Leiden Office, to ensure efficient communication, timely execution of projects, and alignment with EBMT priorities. These responsibilities have allowed me to develop a comprehensive understanding of both the strengths of the CTIWP and the challenges we face in a rapidly evolving scientific and clinical landscape.

If elected Chair, my primary objective will be to enhance the scientific visibility, productivity, and impact of the CTIWP. Cellular therapy and immunobiology are at the core of innovation in hematopoietic transplantation and beyond. I aim to promote ambitious, hypothesis-driven studies, large multicenter collaborations, and high-quality publications that position the CTIWP as a reference working party within EBMT and internationally. Particular attention will be paid to translational research that bridges fundamental immunology with clinical practice, ensuring that our scientific output translates into tangible benefits for patients.

A second key priority will be to strengthen collaboration across EBMT working parties and with external international consortia. Many of today's most relevant scientific questions lie at the interface of disciplines, including graft-versus-host disease, infection and immune reconstitution, relapse biology, cellular immunotherapies, and long-term survivorship. I strongly believe that fostering cross-working-party initiatives and strategic partnerships will allow us to address these complex challenges more effectively, avoid fragmentation, and maximize the impact of EBMT-driven research.

I am also deeply committed to supporting and mentoring junior members of the CTIWP. The sustainability and future success of our working party depend on our ability to attract, engage, and empower the next generation of clinicians and scientists. As Chair, I would actively promote opportunities for junior investigators to lead studies, present at meetings, and participate in leadership roles within CTIWP activities. Creating a dynamic, inclusive, and supportive environment will be central to my vision.

Innovation will remain a cornerstone of my leadership approach. I intend to encourage the exploration of emerging areas such as next-generation cellular therapies, immune monitoring, biomarkers, digital health tools, and survivorship-related immunological challenges. At the same time, I believe it is essential to maintain a patient-centered perspective, ensuring that innovation ultimately serves the goal of improving outcomes, quality of life, and long-term care for transplant and cellular therapy recipients.

My clinical background, scientific expertise, and long-standing commitment to EBMT have shaped my leadership style, which is based on collaboration, transparency, and shared responsibility. I see the role of Chair not only as providing direction, but also as facilitating collective intelligence, encouraging open dialogue, and ensuring that all voices within the CTIWP are heard and valued.

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In conclusion, I am highly motivated to serve as Chair of the CTIWP and to work closely with all members to guide the working party into its next phase of growth and impact. It would be an honor to build on the strong foundations already in place and to contribute, together, to advancing the frontiers of cellular therapy and immunobiology within EBMT.

With best regards,

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