
Call for Expressions of Interest to join the International Delphi Consensus Conference – *The Erythroblastic Anemia*

The Scientific Steering Committee of the **International Delphi Consensus Conference – *The Erythroblastic Anemia*** invites internationally recognized clinicians, scientists and researchers to participate in the development of the first international evidence-based consensus exploring the evolving concept of thalassemia as a disorder extending beyond globin gene defects toward a broader framework of hematopoietic stem cell dysfunction.

Over the past decade, increasing scientific evidence has demonstrated that ineffective erythropoiesis, stress hematopoiesis, hematopoietic stem cell biology, metabolic activation, autophagy, epigenetic regulation and bone marrow niche dysfunction all contribute substantially to disease pathophysiology and may represent novel therapeutic targets. This evolving paradigm has recently been summarized in the attached publication, *Reframing Thalassemia Syndrome as a Benign Hematopoietic Stem Cell Disorder* (Maggio A, Napolitano M, Taher AT, Bou-Fakhredin R, Ostuni MA. Br J Haematol. 2025; 206(2): 464–477. <https://doi.org/10.1111/bjh.19919>), which provides the scientific rationale supporting this initiative.

The initiative aims to critically evaluate the growing body of scientific evidence supporting the role of hematopoietic stem cell dysfunction and related biological pathways in determining disease phenotype, progression and therapeutic response.

Experts willing to join this collaborative initiative are kindly invited to confirm their participation by sending their short CV by email to garden.network@fondazionecutino.it **before 30 Sept. 2026.**

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Main Scientific Topics

- Hematopoietic Stem Cell Biology
- Ineffective Erythropoiesis
- Stress Erythropoiesis
- Bone Marrow Microenvironment
- Autophagy and Mitophagy
- Metabolic Regulation
- Epigenetic Mechanisms
- Iron Metabolism
- Translational Research
- Disease-Modifying Therapies
- Gene Therapy and Gene Editing
- Cell Therapy
- Future Therapeutic Strategies

Methodology

The Consensus will be developed over the following 18 months using a structured methodology, including agreed PICO questions and comprehensive literature analysis, multiple anonymous Delphi rounds, a consensus conference and final consensus recommendations.

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Participation

Selected applicants will become members of the **International Expert Panel** of the International Delphi Consensus Conference.

Panel members will contribute to one or more thematic Working Groups according to their field of expertise.

The majority of activities will be conducted remotely through virtual meetings and Delphi voting rounds over several months.

The project will conclude with an **International Consensus Conference in Palermo (Italy)**, where the International Expert Panel will meet to finalize recommendations, approve the consensus statements and establish the publication strategy for submission to a high-impact international peer-reviewed journal.

Areas of Expertise

Applications are welcome from experts in:

- Clinical Hematology
- Pediatric Hematology
- Hemoglobinopathies
- Hematopoietic Stem Cell Biology
- Molecular Genetics
- Translational Medicine
- Iron Metabolism
- Gene Therapy
- Cell Therapy
- Rare Diseases
- Clinical Trials
- Evidence-Based Medicine

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Expected Commitment

Selected experts will contribute to:

- Literature analysis
- Working Group discussions
- Delphi surveys and voting rounds
- Drafting of consensus statements
- Participation in the final Consensus Conference in Palermo

Scientific Collaboration

The Scientific Steering Committee welcomes the participation of established national and international scientific societies and collaborative research networks.

Networks whose members actively contribute to the Consensus process may be recognized as **Collaborating Scientific Networks** of the International Delphi Consensus Conference and acknowledged accordingly in the Conference programme, official communication materials and the resulting peer-reviewed publication. Where appropriate, collaborating networks may also be represented through the inclusion of their institutional logos among the scientific organizations supporting the initiative.