

“The European Commission acknowledges TIF’s valuable work and dedication in helping patients with thalassaemia across in Europe and worldwide.

We are proud to support the Federation through an operating grant for the “THALassaemia In Action” (THALIA) project, the main aim of which is to shed light on thalassaemia and haemoglobinopathies across Europe, and the needs of patients arriving to Europe from third countries.

Thanks to THALIA, in 2018 more than 1,000 health care professionals received a pocket guide on the management of transfusion-dependent thalassaemia, attended thalassaemia-related conferences or accessed online publications. Special focus is and should be given on countries that receive most refugees and migrants from countries with high prevalence in thalassaemia, namely France, Germany, Sweden, and major transit countries for migrants, like Serbia and Austria.”

Roser Domenech Amado

Head of Unit



European Commission

Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety

“The news from the European Medicines Agency that they had approved the first gene therapy for thalassaemia is the first light at the end of the tunnel in finding a safe and effective cure for the patients (EMA Pres Release 29/3/2019). However, this Thalassaemia International Day, we must remember that there is fair way to travel before we reach this end.

We must congratulate TIF for having led text book public health programmes to improve global health. The public information and education campaigns, backed with screening and genetic counselling of young potential parents as a preventative measure has paid divided in many countries. We also know that TIF’s hard work at strengthening the health workforce and infrastructure has resulted in more haemoglobinopathy centres of excellence coming up. The antenatal and perinatal screening programmes that give the parents and informed choice far exceed the ethical standards required and it is comforting to know TIF has supported bereavement counselling programmes, where terminations are elected.

TIF has pushed hard to have safe, quality, acceptable, accessible, affordable and equitable healthcare for patients in many countries and your efforts to have safe blood transfusion services

(world health assembly side event 2017) and accessible and affordable iron chelation medicine as gone a long way.

Let's work hard next year. Gene therapy offers us a new horizon."

Mr. Kawaldip Sehmi, Chief Executive Officer, International Alliance of Patients' Organizations (IAPO)



"The International Society of Blood Transfusion (ISBT) supports TIF and the International Thalassaemia Day 2019. Through its educational programmes, ISBT is working hard to inform our membership across the globe of the special needs of patients with thalassaemia and other haemoglobinopathies with regard to ensuring safe blood transfusion practice."

Mrs. Judith Chapman, Executive Director, International Society of Blood Transfusion (ISBT)

