I would like to thank Ludwig Hiermaier Foundation for Applied Cancer Research to provide the opportunity to participate in 21th EHA congress in Copenhagen, June 9 – 12, 2016.

This Congress really enhanced my knowledge in approaches on treatment of hematologic disease. It was a very well scheduled meeting; everything was well organized. Now I am truly motivated to prepare more scientific data and to share my knowledge with other research groups in future meetings. Furthermore I learnt about the latest updates in techniques for investigating hematological disorders, and realized the necessity of translational research and approaches to help to improve the bench side in translational research.

The idea behind green registration with downloading online application of the congress was brilliant, and I realized how important it is for an organization to conserve our natural resources. The meeting organization also put much effort into ways to share more knowledge and to present the science of hematology and oncology including workshops, educational sessions, oral and poster presentations and plenary sessions. I found it a really intensive congress which aimed to transfer as much information to the audience as possible.

I used a special discount for EHA members and young scientists for registration in this congress that provided a good opportunity for students like me to take part in this meeting. Also the possibility of grant applications and introducing award winners motivated me to get more idea and plan for my future to work in an efficient way to help advance oncology and publish in research journals.

Although the congress was more medical than basic science, it was the best opportunity to get familiar with the importance of issues in oncology and hematological disorders because they included sessions like gene therapy and stem cell research which could make a great relationship between bed and bench site. Moreover presentations about acute lymphoblastic leukemia provided in both biological and clinical aspects were discussed in 3 different sessions. Granulocyte and monocyte disorders were discussed in one of the most attractive sessions on Saturday; I found very interesting talks about leukemogenesis principles, aging and leukemogenesis, and also signaling pathways. I found some presentations like targeted genome editing in hematopoietic stem cells that were very important - 3 halls allocated at the same time to this session. This shows how important genome editing issues are in cancer therapy.

I could evaluate our research group by understanding how other research groups plan for experiments and how I could plan better and faster to be successful in our scientific idea. Now I know many terms and plan to read more about what I’ve heard during the congress about AML, CML and other disorders in pediatric and elderly area. I am very grateful that now as an EHA member I can access all abstracts and information about hematology and oncology, journals and books that I didn’t know before. I could share our group
research strategy with some other researchers that had the same goals in oncology with different drugs and antibodies in the congress exhibition.

Now I think beyond my small laboratory. I ask myself how I can help patients who have hematological disorders. I am sure your provided grants will help research groups to improve themselves and find the best ways to help patients when they understand more and more about the important issues discussed in these congresses by sharing their knowledge.

Thank you very much again for the opportunity that your institution provided for me.

Azadeh Zahabi
PhD candidate, AG Skokowa research group