



**MDS FOUNDATION INTERNATIONAL MEETING TO EVALUATE NEW TREATMENT
OPTIONS AND NEW STUDIES OF THE GENETICS UNDERLYING THIS GROUP OF
MALIGNANT BLOOD DISORDERS**

—New Treatments to be Discussed Include Potential of Drug Combinations—

—Updates on assessing prognosis and deciding on treatment options to be presented—

—Genetic Studies Help Unravel Complexities of Myelodysplastic Syndromes (MDS)—

—Patient Seminar in Edinburgh May 20th—

Yardville, New Jersey and Edinburgh, UK– (May 17, 2011) – The Myelodysplastic Syndromes (MDS) Foundation today said significant advances in understanding and treating MDS will be discussed and evaluated at the 11th International Symposium on Myelodysplastic Syndromes (or MDS 2011). Researchers will present new information on different combination drug regimens, that aim to improve the results of hypomethylating agents, and other agents that effect the underlying abnormalities present in this disease. They will also discuss new findings regarding the genetic pathways of MDS and new tools to diagnose and predict patient response to disease and treatment. The new findings will be presented at MDS 2011, being held this week in Edinburgh, UK.

MDS is a group of malignant conditions of cells in the bone marrow. Patients require blood transfusions that can lead to iron overload, and the condition can progress to AML, a serious form of leukemia that has a median survival of less than one year. The incidence of MDS and AML is underestimated, conservatively affecting tens of thousands of people annually.

“We are pleased to see the progress being made in the treatment of MDS, and the use of new genetic tools to help unravel the complexities underlying the causes of this syndrome,” said David Bowen, MD, Chairman, 11th International Symposium on Myelodysplastic Syndromes and Consultant Hematologist and Honorary Professor of Myeloid Leukemia Studies, St. James’s Institute of Oncology, Leeds. “It is encouraging to see that our treatment options may expand with the testing of new drug combinations and with preliminary data from additional new drugs in development.”

Key MDS and AML studies to be presented at MDS 2011 include:

- New therapeutic combinations, particularly those that may target the pathogenesis of the disease
- Early data for new drugs in development
- Research into genomic changes in subgroups of MDS patients, found using next-generation DNA sequencing technology
- Data on how new technology including flow cytometry is being used in diagnosing and predicting MDS patient outcomes

Researchers will also discuss the role of stem cell transplants and iron chelation therapy in treating MDS, as well as treatment strategies for patients with the specific genetic abnormality designated deletion 5q.

The 11th International Symposium on Myelodysplastic Syndromes is being held May 18th-21st in Edinburgh, Scotland with an expected attendance of 1,500 delegates. The symposium offers professional educational opportunities to medical, nursing and scientific delegates. New initiatives at this year's meeting include two nursing symposia and a trainee workshop for doctors and students new to the MDS field. The symposium will place special emphasis on physician-patient interaction, with a focus on the physician-patient relationship in the opening educational session and a Patient Forum being held concurrently with the symposium on May 20th. To learn more about MDS 2011, please visit www.kenes.com/MDS.

About the MDS Foundation

The Myelodysplastic Syndromes Foundation, Inc. is a multi-disciplinary, international organization devoted to the prevention, treatment, and study of the myelodysplastic syndromes. The organization is based upon the premise that international cooperation will accelerate the process leading to the control and cure of these diseases. For further information, please visit www.mds-foundation.org.