

Jonathan GauciMalta Bleeding Disorders
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ACTIVITIES OF THE MALTA BLEEDING DISORDERS SOCIETY: THE IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS

The Malta Bleeding Disorders Society (MBDS) is a non-profit, autonomous, voluntary organisation founded on Saturday 2nd March 2019 in order to represent people with Haemophilia and other bleeding disorders in Malta. The MBDS has since obtained membership of the European Haemophilia Consortium and associate membership of the World Federation of Haemophilia. The MBDS organised its first educational workshop at the Salini Resort in Bahar ic-Caghaq, Malta. The event was opened by our medical advisor Prof Alexander Gatt, expert in Coagulation Medicine, Associate Professor and Head of Department of Pathology at the University of Malta. Our first speaker was Ms Chanel Cassar, who



delivered a presentation on Awareness Campaigns. Ms Cassar spoke about the importance of raising awareness on the symptoms and signs of bleeding disorders, both among healthcare professionals and lay people. The subject of bleeding disorders in women of child-bearing age was also discussed. Our international guest speaker was Prof Albert Farrugia, Professor at the University of Western Australia, and Advisor for the European Haemophilia Consortium and for the Associazione Emofilici di Toscana. Prof Farrugia delved into the history of Haemophilia and the use of clotting factor concentrates. He then explained the new and emerging treatments in Haemophilia, by highlighting the mechanism of action, advantages and disadvantages of extended half-life agents, non-factor agents and gene therapy. The talk was followed by a discussion on the way forward for MBDS as regards the application for the procurement of newer therapies in Malta.



Following this educational workshop, the MBDS members renewed friendships over dinner. Not only did this social event manage to increase knowledge on Haemophilia and other bleeding disorders, but it also served to build a sense of community among people with bleeding disorders and their families in Malta. The MBDS aims to organise several other educational workshops for its members. We are currently looking forward to our outreach event in the city of Valletta for the occasion of World Haemophilia Day 2022.

