

Manuscript no. HAEMATOL/2009/020586 entitled “ Thalidomide maintenance treatment increases progression-free but not overall survival in elderly patients with myeloma“
Authors: Heinz Ludwig, Zdenek Adam, Elena Tóthová, Roman Hajek, Boris Labar, Miklós Egyed, Ivan Spicka, Heinz Gisslinger, Johannes Drach, Ingrid Kuhn, Axel Hinke, Niklas Zojer

Information about the contributions of each person named as having participated in the study

1) Guarantor(s), i.e., person(s) who is (are) responsible for the integrity of the work as a whole:

- **Heinz Ludwig**
- **Zdenek Adam**
- **Elena Tóthová**
- **Roman Hajek**
- **Boris Labar**
- **Miklós Egyed**
- **Ivan Spicka**
- **Heinz Gisslinger**
- **Johannes Drach**
- **Ingrid Kuhn**
- **Axel Hinke**
- **Niklas Zojer**

According to the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) (http://www.icmje.org/ethical_1author.html): “*Authorship credit should be based on: 1) substantial contributions to conception and design, acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data; 2) drafting the article or revising it critically for important intellectual content; and 3) final approval of the version to be published. Authors should meet conditions 1, 2, and 3 Acquisition of funding, collection of data, or general supervision of the research group alone does not constitute authorship*”.

The guarantors of this manuscript confirm that all persons designated as authors qualify for authorship, and that each author has participated sufficiently in the work to take public responsibility for appropriate portions of the content.

2) Authors who participated in the conception of the study:

- **Heinz Ludwig**
- **Ingrid Kuhn**
- **Axel Hinke**
- **Johannes Drach**

3) Design & Methods. The following authors were responsible for specific investigations (please detail):

- **Heinz Ludwig was responsible for acquisition of data**
- **Zdenek Adam was responsible for acquisition of data**
- **Elena Tóthová was responsible for acquisition of data**
- **Roman Hajek was responsible for acquisition of data**
- **Boris Labar was responsible for acquisition of data**
- **Miklós Egyed was responsible for acquisition of data**
- **Ivan Spicka was responsible for acquisition of data**
- **Heinz Gisslinger was responsible for acquisition of data**
- **Johannes Drach was responsible for acquisition of data**
- **Ingrid Kuhn was responsible for acquisition of data**
- **Axel Hinke was responsible for statistical analysis**
- **Niklas Zojer was responsible for acquisition of data**

4) **Results.** The following authors were responsible for specific portions of the results, including figures and tables (please indicate the person responsible for each figure and each table):

All authors indicated were responsible for contributing data on a proportion of patients who have been included into the analysis. Therefore the responsibility for the production of figures and tables was in the hand of the writing committee.

- Zdenek Adam
- Elena Tóthová
- Roman Hajek
- Boris Labar
- Miklós Egyed
- Ivan Spicka
- Heinz Gisslinger
- Johannes Drach
- Niklas Zojer

5) **Writing the manuscript.** The following authors were responsible for writing the manuscript:

- Heinz Ludwig
- Niklas Zojer
- Axel Hinke

6) **Contributors Listed in Acknowledgments:** (Examples of those who might be acknowledged include a person who provided purely technical help, writing assistance, or a department chair who provided only general support. Corresponding authors must declare whether they had assistance with the study design, data collection, data analysis, or manuscript preparation. If such assistance was available, the authors must disclose the identity of the individuals who provided this assistance and the entity that supported it. Financial and material support should also be acknowledged.)

- **Silvia Bakos, Administrative Assistant of Prof. Ludwig, Austrian Forum against Cancer, assisted in manuscript preparation.**
- **Zoran Birovljev, Data Manager of the CEMSG Study group, Wilhelminen Krebsforschung GmbH was responsible for data management.**