World Hemophilia Day 2013
By Sarah Ford, WFH communications manager

50 Years of Advancing Treatment for All

Every year on April 17, World Hemophilia Day is marked around the world in order to increase awareness of hemophilia and other inherited bleeding disorders.

The World Federation of Hemophilia (WFH) and the global community have worked together, for the past 50 years, to improve care and treatment for inherited bleeding disorders. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the WFH, so World Hemophilia Day 2013 will take on a special significance as we mark 50 Years of Advancing Treatment for All.

“One of the greatest benefits of participating in World Hemophilia Day is the recognition that our community is more powerful when we work together,” says Alain Weill, WFH president. “People from around the world will mark this day and raise awareness about the need to achieve Treatment for All.”

World Hemophilia Day was started in 1989 and the WFH chose April 17 in honour of the WFH founder, Frank Schnabel, who was born on that day. The WFH will premiere the video The Journey Begins on April 17. This video explores the inspired role that Schnabel played in bringing together the global bleeding disorders community to form the WFH and will be available at www.wfh.org/50.

Join the international bleeding disorders community April 17 to mark World Hemophilia Day. For more information and to access materials to support your World Hemophilia Day activities, please visit www.wfh.org/whd.

Treatment for All: Be part of the vision

The WFH has made substantial progress in bringing about sustainable treatment, around the world, by training experts in the field to properly diagnose and manage patients; advocating for an adequate supply of safe treatment products for all people with bleeding disorders; and educating and empowering people with bleeding disorders to live healthier, longer, and more productive lives. However, there is much left to be done to bring proper care to all who live with bleeding disorders.
In spite of the tremendous progress made over the last half century, the vast majority of people with bleeding disorders, living in developing countries, do not have access to proper care. In fact, 75 per cent of people with bleeding disorders still receive very inadequate treatment or no treatment at all. The percentage is even higher for those with von Willebrand disease and rare factor deficiencies.

It is important that we reflect on where we have been, where we want to go, and that together, we can Close the Gap. Connect with the global online community, on the WFH’s Facebook page at www.facebook.com/wfhemophilia, and share your hopes and wishes for the next 50 years.

With your support, the WFH will lay a solid foundation upon which future care and support can develop. Join us in this important effort — to close the gap in care and ensure that Treatment for All may soon, one day, become a reality for us all. Visit www.wfh.org/closethegap for more information.