

Press release

Revolutionary cancer therapy: Emily Whitehead visits Barkey

CAR-T Cell Therapy uses technology from Leopoldshoehe

Leopoldshoehe, December 9, 2019 - The first cancer patient worldwide to be treated with the new CAR-T cell therapy was now in Germany for the first time. Emily Whitehead (14) has been cancer-free for seven years. She visited Barkey in Leopoldshoehe, because a product of the medical technology company is an essential element of CAR-T cell therapy: These highly sensitive cells are thawed with "plasmatherm" devices from Barkey.

In a ceremony at Barkey on Monday, Emily told employees and other guests about her story. In 2012 the girl contracted leukemia and was treated at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) as part of a clinical trial. Blood was taken from her, the white blood cells were extracted and programmed to fight the cancer cells. After the successful treatment, the parents Tom and Kari Whitehead established the Emily Whitehead Foundation and were committed to accelerating the approval process for CAR-T cell therapy. The therapy has been approved in the USA since 2017 and in Europe since 2018.

CEO Christian Barkey met Emily in October during a pharmacological conference in the USA and spontaneously invited her to Germany: "Meeting Emily personally and seeing what our products can contribute to is a touching experience. We also wanted to make this possible for our employees". On behalf of the company, Barkey symbolically handed over five plasmatherm devices to the Whitehead family: "The devices will be sold, and 100 percent of their proceeds will go to the Emily Whitehead Foundation," said Barkey.

"We are delighted to be here in Germany to visit the Barkey team." said Tom Whitehead. "We are very grateful that Barkey is supporting the Emily Whitehead Foundation and the fight against cancer. With our foundation, we hope to help patients and their families worldwide to receive less toxic cancer treatments and have the same positive result that we did. We are grateful for every opportunity to spread awareness of CAR-T cell therapy and our Foundation."

Among the guests at the ceremony were Markus Diener, Vice President of the Swiss Cancer Foundation, representatives of the community of Leopoldshoehe and Marcel Lossie, initiator of the "Fruchtalarm" project for children with cancer founded in Bielefeld.

You can find more information at

www.emilywhiteheadfoundation.org and at www.barkey.de"

In the group picture: (from left) Amanda Hunt (Emily Whitehead Foundation), Tom Whitehead, Emily Whitehead, Kari Whitehead, Christian Barkey

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