

NEW HORIZONS GIST

SEPTEMBER 5 – 7, 2018 – VIENNA, AUSTRIA

Our work in GIST

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The Max Foundation

NEW HORIZONS GIST

MAY 18 – 21, 2016 – SITGES/BARCELONA, SPAIN

Strange Bedfellows CML & GIST

- Imatinib bursts on the firmament of cancer treatment
- Larger numbers of CML patients
- Specific needs of GISTers left wanting
- Disease Information
- Physician interaction
- The need for GIST support group meets
- To provide care and support to GIST patients.

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Why we decided to do GIST focused meets:

- The first GIST focused meet was held by The Max Foundation and FOM on 11th Aug 2012 in Tata Memorial Hospital, Mumbai with help of Dr Shailesh Shrikhande and Dr Bhavana Sirohi.



- We have had GIST meetings in different cities in India viz. Kochi, Hyderabad, Bangalore, Delhi and Kolkata.

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What we do in these meetings:

- We have Q&A sessions where patients can openly ask ANY question to the physicians who may otherwise may not have the time to answer these queries during OPD visits. They can also listen to other questions. It gives them an impression that no question of theirs is too small; that there is a safe platform to address them.



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What we do in these meetings

- Provide informational materials in regional languages, conduct GIST focused sessions.



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What we do in these meetings:

- In each of our meetings, we try to include a therapy workshop which serves as a platform for our patients and caregivers to participate and open up and empathize with one another and build friendships. So far we have had-
 - Drama therapy



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What we do in these meetings:

- Quiz session

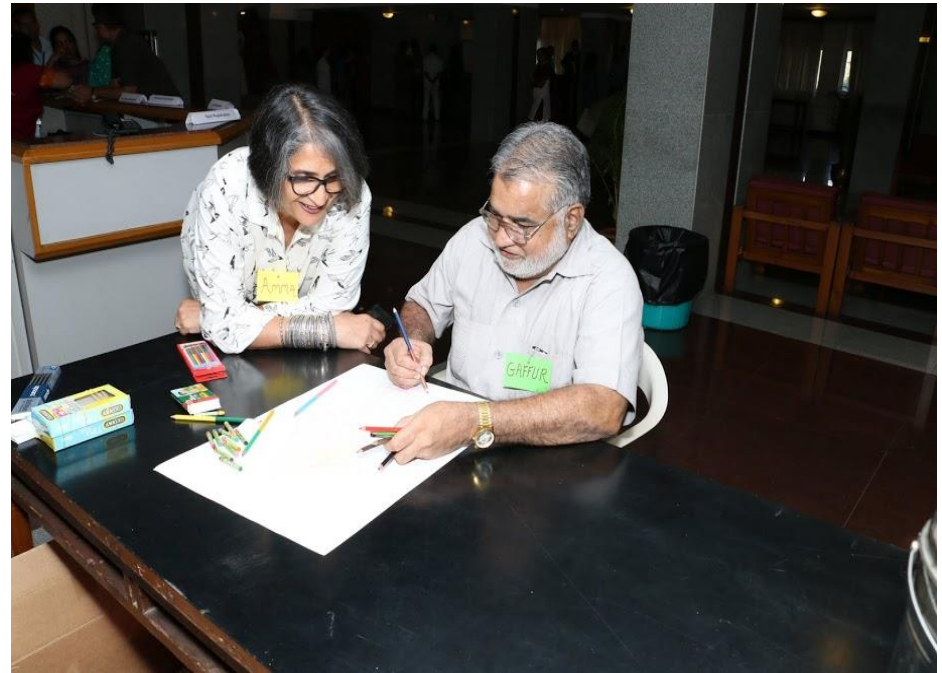


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What we do in these meetings:

- Art therapy



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What we do in these meetings:

- Testimonial sharing session



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What we do in these meetings:

- Yoga session



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What we do in these meetings:

- Compliance Workshop



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What we do in these meetings:

- We have been observing GIST Awareness Day (GAD) since 2014 with the goal of raising awareness about GIST. It serves as the yearly pinnacle of education, awareness and advocacy efforts and provides those outside the GIST community a chance to learn about and lend their support to this important cause.



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How it benefits the patients:

- Patients are empowered to take a larger role in their care.



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How it benefits the patients:

- Education through informational materials provided in local languages during the meetings play a very important role in better understanding.



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How it benefits the patients:

- Meetings provide a safe platform to patients to share their voice and concerns in an uninhibited manner and thus overcome feelings of stress and loneliness that comes with living with this condition.



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How it benefits the patients:

- Meetings serve as a platform for networking.



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How it benefits the patients:

- Results in improved ability to deal with condition, improved relationships & thus improved Quality of Life

