Scientific Working Group – Chronic Myeloid Leukemia

Annual Report

Title
Scientific Working Group for Chronic Myeloid Leukemia

Objectives:
To bring to the attention of the audience biological data relating to CML that has not been a focus of attention in any other part of the EHA meeting. In general clinical data tends to be very well covered in other sections of the meeting but such data are not excluded from the SWG. Topics are selected on the basis of discussion with members of the organizing committee of the Annual iCMLf/ESH CML Conference (see below) and other persons on both sides of the Atlantic with a special interest in CML.

Frequency of meetings:
The SWG meets only once a year – at the Annual EHA Congress. There is currently such a plethora of national and international meetings dedicated to CML, some strictly academic and others organised by pharmaceutical companies for marketing purposes, that many would feel, as does the writer, that to attempt to organise yet another CML meeting other than the SWG meeting which takes place at the EHA meeting would be superfluous.

Last year the SWG meeting was preceded by a 60-minute mini-reception to which speakers and other CML aficionados were invited (about 20 persons). The major objective of this reception was to discuss the content of the annual conference and other new developments that might be suitable for the SWG for the ensuing year. This mini-reception will take place again in Amsterdam in June 2012.

Chair:
John Goldman

Program for 2011:
Thursday 9 June 2011
1. Michael Deininger (Salt Lake City) - BCR-ABL expression in CML stem cells
2. Francois Mahon (Bordeaux) - Genetic manipulation of stem cells in CML
3. Tessa Holyoake (Glasgow) - CML stem cells – evading the immune response.
4. Daniela Cilloni (Torino) - Signalling pathway(s) involved in CML progression

List of persons who attended the 2011 meeting
A partial list of persons who attended the 2011 meeting in London is attached. Unfortunately the room was relatively small and a number of people were excluded from attending. Moreover the list of those who did attend was not complete. The estimated total number of persons in the room was about 100.
Program for 2012

Thursday 14 June 2011
1. Michael Deininger (Salt Lake City) - STAT 3 as cause of resistance to TKI
2. Richard Clark (Liverpool) - CIP2A and prediction of disease progression
3. Paolo Vigneri (Catania) - Kinase domain mutations involving only selected residues
4. Katarina Macghova-Polakova (Prague) Role of microRNA in CML

Associated meeting:
The EHA CMLSWG is run in close association with the Annual iCMLf/ESH conference on CML, which this year takes place in Baltimore in September. The organizing committee for this conference includes Jerry Radich, Tim Hughes, Tessa Holyoake, Danilo Perrotti, Francois-Xavier Mahon, Rick van Etten. The Scientific Advisory Committee includes Rudiger Hehlmann, Junia Melo, Angelo Carella, Pierre Laneuville, George Daley, Giuseppe Saglio Charles Schiffer, Carlo Gambacorti, Francois Guilhot and Peter Valent

Associated organisation:
The EHA CMLSWG is run in close coloration with the International CML Foundation (iCMLf) whose principal objectives are to spread knowledge of CML to patients and hematologists in less wealthy countries. It does this by distributing educational material, organising hematologists to be hosted in specialist centers for 2-4 week periods (preceptoships), by inviting hematologists attending the ASH meeting to a dedicated 2-hour reunion and by providing resources to facilitate diagnosis and monitoring of individual patients by cytogenetics or molecular methods in countries where such facilities do not yet exist. Directors of the iCMLf include Brian Druker, Tim Hughes, Michele Baccarani, Jerry Radich, Andreas Hochhaus and John Goldman

Publications by persons named above:
Too numerous to list here

John Goldman
18 February 2012