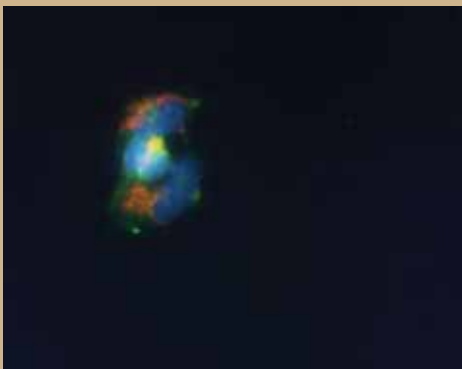
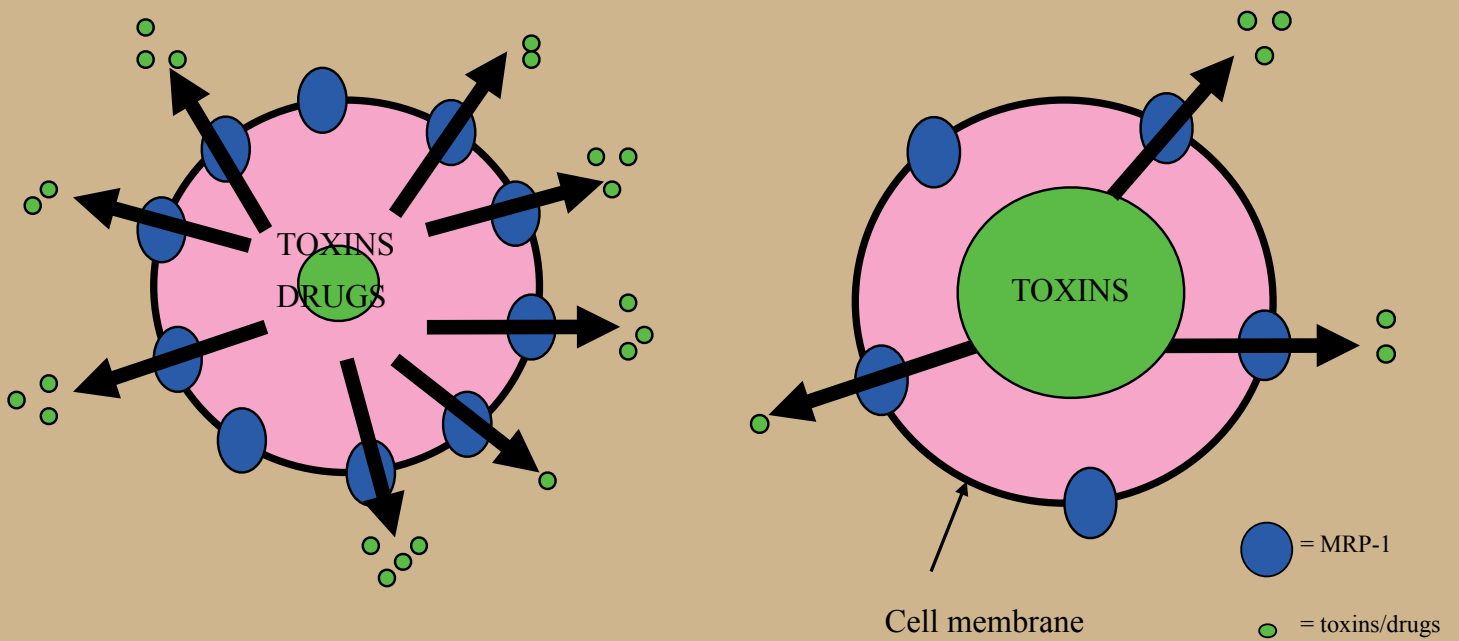
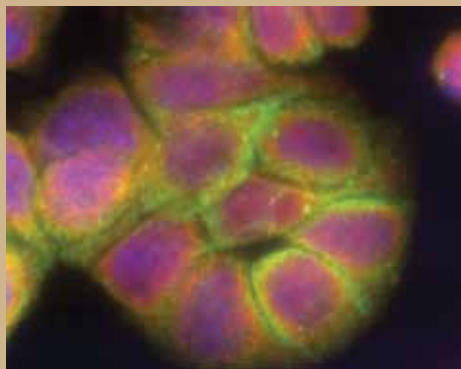


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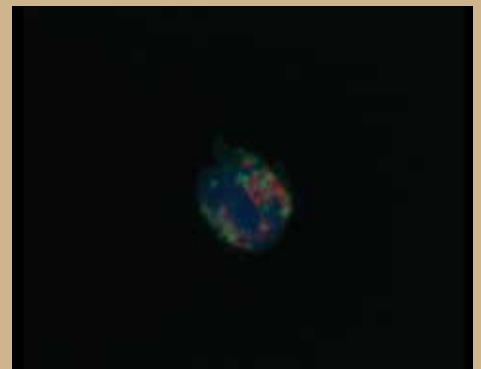
• British • Association • for • Cancer • Research •



A



B



C



BACR Secretariat
c/o Leeds Institute of Molecular Medicine
Clinical Sciences Building
St James's University Hospital
Leeds LS9 7TF

E-mail: bacr@leeds.ac.uk
Phone: 0113 2065611
Fax: 0113 2429886

Front Cover

ABC transporter proteins are expressed in the plasma membrane of normal cells, where they have a role in maintaining cellular redox. Typically expression of these ATP-dependent transporters is reported to be up regulated in the plasma membrane of drug resistant cancer cells, leading to an increase in the removal of agents, a decrease in cell death following treatment with chemotherapeutics and the development of drug resistant disease. Roundhill et al have recently described MRP-1 expressed in the mitochondria of both cancer and normal cells (shown here by immunofluorescent light (a,b) and confocal (c) microscopy. MRP-1 (green) co-localised with a mitochondrial marker (red) to produce yellow fluorescence in cancer cells. Magnification = 630x.

See Dr Elizabeth Roundhill's report on page 8



BACR Executive Committee

2010/2011

Chairman

Professor Andy Gescher
University of Leicester
Dept of Cancer Studies
ag15@le.ac.uk

Honorary Secretary

Professor Sue Burchill
University of Leeds
Leeds Institute of Molecular Medicine
s.a.burchill@leeds.ac.uk

Honorary Treasurer

Dr Andrew Westwell
University of Cardiff
Welsh School of Pharmacy
WestwellA@cardiff.ac.uk

Chairperson Elect

Christie Hospital
Paterson Institute for Cancer Research
cdive@picr.man.ac.uk

Committee

Dr Elizabeth Anderson
AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals
elizabeth.anderson@astrazeneca.com

Dr Sally Burtles
Cancer Research UK
sally.burtles@cancer.org.uk

Dr Christopher Ireson
Cancer Research Technologies
cireson@cancertechnology.com

Dr Chryso Kanthou
Sheffield University
Academic Dept of Surgical Oncology
c.kanthou@sheffield.ac.uk

Dr Klaus Pors
University of Bradford
Institute of Cancer Therapeutics
k.pors1@bradford.ac.uk

Dr Ricky Sharma
CRUK-MRC Gray Institute for Radiation
Oncology & Biology
University of Oxford
ricky.sharma@rob.ox.ac.uk

Dr Valerie Speirs
University of Leeds
Leeds Institute of Molecular Medicine
v.speirs@leeds.ac.uk

Dr Ann Thomas
University of Leicester
Dept of Cancer Studies
at107@le.ac.uk

Dr Elaine Willmore
Newcastle University
Northern Institute for Cancer Research
laine.willmore@ncl.ac.uk

Co-opted student member

Victoria Forster
Newcastle University
Northern Institute for Cancer Research
victoria.forster@newcastle.ac.uk



The ROYAL
SOCIETY of
MEDICINE

BACR/RSM Oncology Section Meeting

Development of Cancer Medicines: Modelling of disease and preclinical testing

25th November 2010

Royal Society of Medicine, London

The third meeting on preclinical models and their role in informing the clinical development of anti-cancer agents focuses in the morning on the importance of the tumour-tissue microenvironment and its impact on modelling the initiation and progression of cancer, including metastasis. In the afternoon specific examples, strategies and challenges for preclinical testing will be described and discussed. The programme has been designed to maximise opportunities for dialogue and interaction, with a chaired poster discussion session and open question forum. We do hope you will come along and participate in what promises to be an excellent and informative one day meeting on preclinical models and their application in the development of cancer medicines.

Confirmed Speakers

Janine Erler (The Institute of Cancer Research, London)

Richard Marais (The Institute of Cancer Research, London)

Owen Sansom (Beatson Institute for Cancer Research, Glasgow)

Jos Jonkers (Netherlands Cancer Institute, Amsterdam)

Marie-France Poupon (Institut Curie, Paris, France)

Steve Wedge (AstraZeneca, Macclesfield)

Further details available from <http://www.bacr.org.uk>

or

e-mail: bacr@leeds.ac.uk



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Letter from the Chairman



Dear colleagues

Welcome to the autumn Newsletter of the BACR.

In June 2010 the BACR commemorated its 50th year, and for me the 50th Anniversary Meeting in Edinburgh was a scientific highlight of the year. It was delightful to meet up with so many old and new members, and the conference was most enjoyable and successful – see a report and comments from student recipients of meeting bursaries elsewhere in this Newsletter.

Earlier in the year, in March, the BACR organised a one-day meeting jointly with the RSM on “Predictive biomarkers of response to cancer therapeutics” in London. It was well attended, topical, benefitted from the input from superb speakers, and engendered spirited discussions. The feedback I received from attendants was very positive.

What about forthcoming events organised by BACR? As is customary, we shall have a valuable input into the programme of the NCRI meeting in Liverpool in November. There will be two early bird workshops on ‘Opening the vaults of industry’ and ‘Drug development – metabolism as a generic target’ coordinated by Steve Wedge and Klaus Pors, respectively. Prof Stan Kaye will deliver the BACR lecture on ‘Ovarian cancer in 2010 – are we making progress at last?’

Two further one-day BACR meetings are to be held at the RSM in London, one on Thursday 25th November 2010 on ‘Development of cancer medicines: modelling of disease and pre-clinical testing’, and the other on Thursday 19th May, 2011 on ‘Cancer Epigenetics’. Further workshops/meetings are in the planning stage – so watch this space.

In the spring of 2010 Stephen Hiscox and Steve Wedge retired from the BACR Executive Committee. On behalf of the Association I want to thank them warmly for their untiring, inspiring and friendly help with keeping the ‘BACR machine’ ticking over so well. The Executive Committee welcomes Elizabeth Anderson and Christopher Ireson as its new members.

May I remind you again that we are always on the lookout for good ideas and viable plans for putative special conferences, which the BACR can help organise. So don’t be shy and let the secretariat know if you have an idea for such a conference; if you are not sure how to approach this, guidance is available on the BACR website (www.bacr.org.uk).

With my best regards

Andy Gescher
Chairman

The BACR Secretariat has moved

The British Association of Cancer Research (BACR) Administrative Secretariat is to be located in the Leeds Institute of Molecular Medicine from 2010. Professor Sue Burchill (BACR Hon Secretary) said this was “an excellent opportunity for the BACR and LIMM to work together to support and champion the cancer research community in the UK”.

Professor Peter Selby and Professor Terry Rabiitts also welcomed the opportunity for LIMM to accommodate the BACR.

Professors Rabiitts said “we are very pleased to be able to accommodate the BACR Administrative Secretariat in LIMM. We will help to further the aims of supporting and integrating activities of cancer research in the UK. We hope to be able to host meetings and workshops under the auspices of BACR in the Institute in the future.

The BACR Secretariat new contact details are:

BACR Secretariat

Leeds Institute for Molecular Medicine
Clinical Sciences Building
St James’s University Hospital
Beckett Street
Leeds LS9 7TF

Tel: 0113 2065611

Fax: 0113 242 9886

E-mail: bacr@leeds.ac.uk



We are also pleased to welcome Janet Alexander who is the new Administrative Secretary. Janet joined us in January and worked alongside Barbara Cavilla until Barbara’s retirement at the end of June.

Janet has worked as an events coordinator for the last 10 years for the University of Leeds and has vast knowledge in this field. She successfully managed the BACR 50th Anniversary meeting in the absence of Barbara due to illness and we feel confident that Janet has the skills to continue this success in the future.

As the BACR has a history of facilitating the interchange of ideas among workers in all branches of cancer research and a membership of over 1000 people the BACR is an attractive way of ensuring the right audience for events. Not only do you get the support and promotion from the BACR membership you also have the assistance of Janet in the administration of your event

If you would wish to organise an event under the auspices of the BACR please submit a provisional/outline programme and draft budget to the Meeting and Training Sub-Committee for their approval at bacr@leeds.ac.uk.

Want to organise a meeting or event with BACR?

Why it is attractive to work with BACR?

BACR has a history of facilitating the interchange of ideas among workers in all branches of cancer research and a membership of over 1000 people can see why the BACR is an attractive way of ensuring the right audience for an event.

The BACR is a platform in which original clinical and experimental data can be presented not only to members but to anyone who registers for an event. Also having links with other prestigious organisations such as EACR, NCRI and RSM increases the opportunities for networking and establish collaborations with leaders in cancer research from both academia and industry.

Not only does the BACR have great opportunities for networking and targeting colleagues in the cancer field it has a well established Secretariat who can help with organisation and administration of your event from start to finish, providing you with excellent support and organisational infrastructure.

Things to consider when proposing an event

- What are the aims of the meeting
- Will it be a one day or two day event
- What is the anticipated target audience and how big is that audience
- Who will be on the organising committee
- Who do you recommend as Speakers
- What opportunities are there for raising sponsorship

Should poster presentations or oral presentations from selected abstracts be incorporated

When and where do you want to hold the meeting? It is worth allowing a minimum of 12 months for organising a one day event / 24 months for residential events, Also try to avoid clashes with other BACR and major meetings.

How to proceed when making your suggestion.

- Complete the BACR Meeting/event proposal form (this can be downloaded from the BACR website at www.bacr.org.uk), taking into consideration points listed above, and send it to the BACR Meeting & Training sub-committee care of Mrs Janet Alexander at the BACR office in LIMM, Leeds. If you are uncertain about some of the points Janet will be happy to advise. Don't forget to include your contact details.
- Your proposal will be reviewed by the BACR Meeting & Training sub-committee. If the committee view the proposal as potentially viable and in keeping with the aims and objectives of the BACR one of the Meeting and Training sub-committee members will contact you to discuss this further and support you and the organising committee in establishing a programme and budget.
- If the proposal is supported by the BACR Executive Officers then the BACR Administrative Secretary will support you and your organising committee throughout helping to promote your event, the search for a suitable venue and any other administration which you require in putting on a successful event.



BACR Special Conference

Predictive Biomarkers of Response to Cancer Therapeutics

Royal Society of Medicine – 25th March 2010

In the age of many novel anticancer mechanisms and treatment approaches, biomarkers which may help predict patients' response to treatment are considered a panacea to improve drug development. The BACR jointly with the RSM Oncology Section organised a meeting on Predictive Biomarkers of Response to Cancer Therapeutics on Thursday 25th March 2010 at the RSM in Wimpole Street. The objective of this meeting, which was put together by Dr A Thomas and Profs A Gescher and A Hall, was to review topical issues pertinent to response biomarkers and their role in anticancer drug development. The meeting commenced with a timely exposition of the biochemical rationale for candidate biomarkers for targeted cancer therapeutics (Prof P Parker, King's College London). Prof Parker defined mechanistic perspectives of the suitability of biochemical processes potentially exploitable as biomarkers and highlighted the importance of for example assessing the activation state of a biomarker, rather than relying solely on an assessment of the amount of protein present. Prof C Dive (University of Manchester) presented examples of her group's work on biomarker

Development exemplified by new apoptosis inducers, which are currently in clinical development in Manchester. She gave an enthusiastic account of how to explore biomarker utility, and illustrated her approach by describing molecular characteristics of circulating tumour cells in lung cancer patients.

An industrial perspective of oncological biomarkers was provided by Dr M Venturi (Hoffmann-la Roche Oncology, Penzberg, Germany). He outlined ramifications of biomarkers in the context of HER-targeted antibodies such as trastuzumab for optimisation of therapy. A very different angle, germane to cancer chemoprevention drug development, was discussed by Dr K Brown (University of Leicester). Using the naturally occurring red grape constituent resveratrol as an example, she showed the complexity associated with biomarker-guided prediction of potential success of preventive intervention using diet-derived agents.

After lunch the discussion honed in deeper on pharmacological and surrogate response biomarkers. Prof H Newell (Newcastle University) provided a valuable insight into generic and specific issues pertinent to the use of biomarkers in the development of new anticancer drugs. His examples emanated from a rich experience in anticancer drug development illustrated by the use of nucleoside levels in the assessment of success of treatment with antifolate thymidylate synthase inhibitors and polyADPribose levels in the assessment of PARP inhibition. Dr J Irving (Newcastle University) turned her attention towards biomarkers in the evaluation of treatment of leukaemia. She outlined in a most animated fashion how the assessment of residual disease is currently being used to optimise leukaemia therapy.

Finally, Prof M Ranson (University of Manchester) pulled several strands raised during the day together from a clinical point of view. His talk made it very clear how pivotal the integration of biomarkers is for the optimisation of trial design. He also reminded the audience that biomarker development remains challenging. Throughout the day the talks engendered animated and intriguing discussion, underlining the interest which exists in this topic.

BACR 50th Anniversary Meeting

– Hallmarks of Cancer: From Mechanisms to Therapies

Edinburgh Conference Centre -13th to 15th June 2010

Fifty years ago a group of enlightened UK cancer researchers, prominent among them Sir Alexander Haddow, the director of the Chester Beatty Institute in London, founded the BACR. The rest is history. The BACR meeting in June 2010 at the Edinburgh Conference Centre at Heriot Watt University marked the 50th anniversary, to give members the opportunity to reflect on the past achievements of the association and to crystal gaze into the future of cancer research. In the build-up to this meeting, the organising committee headed by Professor Bob Brown had the brilliant idea to construct the programme around the seminal paper in Cell on ‘hallmarks of cancer’ of 10 years ago, and to discuss implications and developments with respect to each individual hallmark.



BACR Executive Committee

Each of five plenary sessions consisted of 3 or four lectures given by the most authoritative researchers in the respective fields. Topics encompassed i. self sufficiency and growth signals, ii. replicative potential and invasion of apoptosis, iii. angiogenesis, invasion and metastasis, iv. oncological guardians and caretakers and in the final session v. translational implications of the hallmarks – where do we go from here. One of the highlights of the meeting was the ‘BACR anniversary lecture’ given by Prof Doug Hanahan from Lausanne, one of the authors of the hallmarks paper. He took stock and explained the refinement of the scheme which will furnish a follow-up paper to be published later this year.

The meeting got off to an excellent start with the annual ‘BACR Tom Connors lecture’. This year’s lecturer was Professor Herbie Newell from Newcastle. He surveyed – in his indomitably spirited fashion – the history of the last 50 years of cancer drug discovery in the UK, subtitled ‘chemical warfare to patient welfare’. Prof Newell stressed the pivotal role which Tom Connors played in supporting and advancing the area of cancer drug discovery in the 1970s and 1980s.

Initial apprehensions by the organising committee with regards to attracting a viable number of delegates in the light of the fact that the cancer meeting calendar these days is so crowded, were dispelled when it was realised that there would be about 300 delegates. The post-meeting feedback by many delegates, especially the young ones, stressed its unique features, prominently that it provided the possibility of interacting with eminent speakers in an informal way, which would be nearly impossible at large meetings such as the annual gatherings of the AACR or NCRI. The conference dinner at Murrayfield Stadium allowed delegates to raise their glasses to the BACR and engage in a vigorous ceilidh work-out. On arrival at Murrayfield, when delegates descended from the bus onto the rugby pitch, the pipe band and an azure evening sky with golden sunshine not only warmed the hearts of the Scottish contingency but impressed also the ‘foreigners’.



In the course of the evening Prof Newell led an ad hoc choir of eminent cancer researchers to intone a rousing tune from the BACR songbook as a message of farewell and thanks to Barbara Cavilla, who retired from the BACR secretariat at the end of June but unfortunately had to miss the meeting because of indisposition.

A trade exhibition accompanied the most informative poster session. For those delegates who wanted to indulge in erudition very early in the morning, there were a most informative educational workshop on the Monday on cancer drug design and cancer models, and a careers workshop on the Tuesday, tailor-made for cancer researchers who consider staying in research beyond their PhD/MD.

Six parallel proffered paper sessions gave young scientists the opportunity to present and discuss their findings, and they were all very well attended.

The meeting reflected the energy and vigour which seem to be 'hallmarks' of the BACR. The delegates felt that in the light of this vigour the BACR is likely to survive and prosper for at least another 50 years.



Travel Bursaries

BACR 50th Anniversary Meeting

Hallmarks of Cancer: From mechanisms to therapy

Edinburgh, UK June 2010



Joana Senra

*School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences
University of Manchester
Manchester, UK*

First of all I would like to thank BACR for funding me to attend and present my work at this incredible conference in Edinburgh in June 2010. This meeting focused on the progress of cancer drug discovery, particularly in the UK. I was able to witness and understand the concept of translational research from drug-design to clinical trials also known as ‘from the bench, to the bedside’. New anti-cancer therapies were presented, and new and unexplored cancer research fields gave us hope for a future with new targets to beat cancer.

I am currently a 3rd year PhD student at The University of Manchester working under the supervision of Professor Ian Stratford within his Experimental Oncology group.

Briefly, throughout my project I’ve been looking at whether poly (ADP-ribose) polymerase (PARP) inhibitors may potentiate the cytotoxicity of radiotherapy both in vitro and in vivo and investigating the role of DNA repair deficiencies in the sensitivity to radiotherapy.

Attending this conference allowed me to meet and listen to some of the most knowledgeable scientists in my area of research, such as Prof Alan Ashworth in synthetically lethal relationships, Prof Roger Griffin in anticancer drug design and familiarise myself with breakthrough discoveries in cancer research. The opportunity to meet face to face with the researchers behind these great publications was inspiring. In my opinion, some of the highlights of this conference were the performance of ‘Swing low sweet chariot’ at the conference dinner in Murrayfield stadium and the lectures of three speakers – Doug Hanahan, Alan Ashworth and Paul Workman.



Dr. Elizabeth Roundhill

*Children's Cancer Research Group
Leeds Institute of Molecular Medicine
St James's University Hospital*

Thanks to the British Association for Cancer Research for a travel bursary to attend the 50th Anniversary Meeting of the British Association for Cancer Research (13-15th June 2010).

This conference is widely attended by both scientists and clinicians from both the UK around the world who present their latest findings in all fields of cancer research. The meeting was over 3 days, based on the hallmarks of cancer and consisted of both plenary sessions and more specific sub-sessions, detailing recent findings. I particularly enjoyed the sub-session on the subjects of chemo and radio therapeutic response and drug-resistant side populations. Such smaller sessions allowed an in depth interaction between the presenter and the audience. However, I also found the plenary sessions very informative and were ideal to widen my knowledge of the mechanisms and characteristics of cancer cells and how these might be exploited as new treatment strategies. In addition, these sessions also expanded my knowledge of both novel and existing scientific techniques and how they can be employed to investigate certain hypotheses. In particular, as I currently use immunofluorescence in laboratory I found Margaret Frame's presentation describing 'Targeting invasion and metastasis' very informative. The work of Caroline Dive focussing on circulating tumour cells was also beneficial as studies in our laboratory also involve markers and characteristics of these cells, with a view to monitoring disease.

The presentation by Douglas Hanahan was particularly notable as it was interesting to hear his thoughts on the hallmarks and new characteristics of cancer cells ten years after the publication of his prominent paper with Weinberg (Hallmarks of cancer; Hanahan and Weinberg 2000).

I presented my work detailing the expression of multi-drug resistance protein 1 (MRP-1) in the mitochondria and the resulting effects on the efficacy of some chemotherapeutics as a poster, which was shortlisted for a BACR sponsored prize. I had interesting discussions with other delegates both in the fields of paediatric oncology and multi-drug resistance whilst presenting my poster. As a new post-doctoral scientist I found it extremely beneficial to discuss my work with other, often more senior, scientists and clinicians. Once again I would like to thank the BACR for funding my attendance at this conference.



Samantha Brownhill

*Leeds Institute of Molecular Medicine
Children's Cancer Research Group
Cancer Research UK Clinical Centre*

Thanks to being awarded a travel bursary from the British Association for Cancer Research I attended the BACR 50th Anniversary Celebration meeting 'Hallmarks of Cancer: from Mechanisms to Therapies'. The meeting was held at the Edinburgh Conference Centre in June 2010.

I presented my work on the prognostic impact of proliferation index and expression of caspases in patients with ESFT in the form of a poster; which was short listed for a BACR sponsored prize. I had some interesting discussions with other delegates regarding my work and possible future directions for my research.

The focus of this anniversary meeting was the hallmarks of cancer; plenary sessions consisted of presentations from many people who lead the field of research in their particular speciality. Prof. Hanahan presented refinements to the hallmarks of cancer published by Prof. Weinberg and himself in 2000; discussing several new hallmarks that have emerged due to more recent research.

Of particular interest to me was Prof. Jerry Shay's presentation on the role of telomerase in normal and cancer stem cells. The role and biology of cancer stem cells/cancer initiating cells was discussed in many of the presentation as well as the challenge of developing therapies to target these cells in the hope of preventing

metastatic and secondary disease. Metastatic disease is recognised as an important challenge for the treatment of patients with cancer and the characterisation of metastatic cells was the focus of several presentations. Prof. Caroline Dive presented some interesting research using a new system for the detection and characterisation of circulating tumour cells. Circulating tumour cells can be detected using various methods however the system described by Prof. Dive allowed the determination of circulating cell number as well as subsequent characterisation by FISH or immunohistochemistry. Characterisation of these cells may lead to the identification of a metastatic disease profile and the identification of therapeutic targets for metastatic disease. Prof. John Condeelis also described research into the determination of the gene expression profile of metastatic cells, collectively called the Invasion signature.

In addition to the plenary sessions there were a number of proffered paper sessions. These consisted of short presentations of recent and ongoing research; these smaller sessions were useful as they offered the opportunity for less formal discussions and technical advice.

The reception and conference dinner was held at the Murrayfield Rugby Stadium with a Scottish theme; we enjoyed bagpipes, a cèilidh and a Scottish menu. This was a great success and enjoyed by all.

Once again I would like to thank the BACR for funding my attendance at this conference.



Rachel Daniel

*Department of Oncology
University of Sheffield*

I was fortunate enough to receive a Student Award to attend the 50th anniversary meeting of the BACR, ‘Hallmarks of Cancer: From Mechanisms to Therapies’ in June this year. It seemed fitting to receive funding from the BACR to be able to attend such a landmark occasion for this society.

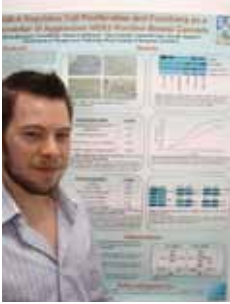
My research is in the field of angiogenesis in cancer. Attending this conference enabled me to present a poster on the work of my PhD, involving characterising the different roles of vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) isoforms in blood vessel maturation, which I have been investigating using the in vivo ‘dorsal skin-fold window chamber’ model. VEGF isoforms possess different characteristics that require further investigation as certain cancers have been found to be associated with particular VEGF isoforms. This provided me with the opportunity to have several interesting discussions on my work, meeting previous contacts as well as being able to make new ones.

With it being such a significant annual meeting, it was an especially good opportunity to hear many excellent and distinguished speakers. A particular highlight was hearing Professor Doug Hanahan speak on the second day about ‘The Hallmarks of Cancer, Refined’. The Hallmarks of Cancer are now so familiar that it is amazing to think that it is only ten years since they were written. It was really interesting to hear him talk on how the idea was conceptualised in co-ordination with Professor Robert Weinberg and how inspired it was to think of summarising so many areas in such a seemingly simplified manner. Ten years on, he talked about current work on refinements to the hallmarks. He talked about emerging hallmarks such as deregulation of cellular energetics and avoidance of immune destruction, as well as ‘enabling characteristics’ of cancer such as genomic instability and inflammation that needed to be taken into consideration.

It was inspirational to gain perspective and think about where individual research fits into the bigger picture. I felt a sense of pride in the progress that is constantly being made over the entire field. It can feel very slow on an individual day-to-day basis in the lab, but looking over a period of time at our group effort is really amazing. I would like to thank the BACR for making my attendance at this conference possible.

Gordon Research Conference

Italy June 2010



Mr Kieran Brennan

Royal College of Surgery

I had the pleasure of attending the Gordon Research Conference (GRC) on Mammary gland development in Il Ciocco Hotel and resort in Lucca (Barga) Italy in June. Support from the BACR was crucial in facilitating my travel and participation in this landmark conference. The conference's aim is to promote an environment that welcomes young investigators from diverse backgrounds, while encouraging established scientists to embark on novel questions. Indeed, many leaders in the field were attending or presenting their work and there was a friendly informal atmosphere. The conference format consisted of morning and evening lecture sessions, whilst also providing ample time for discussion and interaction between junior and senior scientists. I had the opportunity to speak with several leaders in my field (breast cancer cell adhesion) at communal meals and afternoon poster sessions, with a view to future collaborations and career opportunities. I also had the opportunity to strengthen existing collaborative links at evening social events and also during an eventful wine tasting trip to a nearby winery. At poster sessions (spread over the four days to enable thorough discussion), I presented my PhD study entitled 'JAM-A Regulates Cell Proliferation and Functions as a Biomarker of Aggressive HER2-Positive Breast Cancers'. The results from this study suggest that over-expression of the tight junction protein JAM-A occurs in aggressive breast cancers and mediates increased cell proliferation in breast cancer cells. These results could have important implications for the diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer in the future. In summary, I would like to thank the BACR for providing the support needed to attend this GRC conference. I would highly recommend this conference to others and would also hope to attend it again in the near future. Overall the conference provided a very encouraging, collaborative, and informative environment which further strengthened my enthusiasm for my current research studies.

AACR 2010,

Florida – June 2010



Mieke Van Hemelrijck

*Department of Cancer Epidemiology
King's College London, School of Medicine*

On June 5th I left a sunny UK for an even more sunny place... Miami. The next day was the start of a very rewarding and interesting conference of the American Association of Cancer Research (AACR) on the Future of Molecular Epidemiology.

Biomarkers are increasingly being included into studies of cancer biology and prognosis. They can be used to improve exposure assessment, discover key events along the pathway from exposure to disease, establish sources of genetic susceptibility, and classify tumours into more homogeneous entities at the molecular level. Furthermore, new technologies allow investigators to explore the biological responses to exposures, evaluate potential modification of those responses, and define tumours at the chromosomal, DNA, mRNA, and protein levels. Evidently, biomarkers also have direct clinical applications for screening and early detection, improving treatment responses, and helping predict prognosis.

Before the official start of the conference, all attendees were invited to participate in the educational sessions that covered both discovery and assessment of biomarkers as well as their use in the field of epidemiology (study design, collection, storage, analysis). The presenters provided us with a lot of information and I made myself a long check-list for conducting studies involving blood sample collections and analysis. For instance, the following properties need to be considered when choosing biomarkers: sensitivity and specificity, validity and standardization, ease of performance, non-invasive versus invasive properties, surrogate versus target tissue, throughput, and cost.

The keynote speakers, Dr Jack Cuzick from Cancer Research UK and Dr David Hunter from the Harvard School of Public Health, opened the conference with two very interesting talks about the current status of molecular epidemiology. Dr Cuzick focused on the role of mRNA expression profiles and methylation profiles as the key elements of this developing field. He used the 21-gene recurrence score and related expression profile systems used in breast cancer as an example of the role that molecular markers play in determining prognosis and response to chemotherapy. Dr Hunter highlighted the importance of the genome-wide association studies (GWAS) that have transformed the science of genetic epidemiology in the last three years. I would recommend reading the article by Varghese and Easton (*Curr Opin Genet Dev* 2010; 20(3):201-9) as this gives a nice overview of where we currently are with GWAS.

The next three days covered the whole span of molecular epidemiology and provided the participants with a background as well as ideas for (future) research in molecular epidemiology. For instance, Dr Meredith Hullar from the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center (Seattle, WA) explained the use of the gut microbial community as a biomarker of dietary exposure and cancer risk. In essence, there is a pathway between diet and cancer through the gut microbial community assemblage. Our diet (carbohydrates, fat, meat, iron, and phytochemicals) is metabolized by the gut microbiota which has an influence on the colonic epithelium leading to inflammation and eventually cancer. Thus, humans are superorganisms with two integrated genomes, the genetically inherited human genome genes and the environmentally acquired human microbiome. The high variety of the latter is a hallmark of a table system that maintains human health. Application of the molecular methodologies to characterize the human gastrointestinal microbiota will help to establish the modifying of effect of the gut microbial community on the relation between diet and cancer risk.

During the first poster session of the conference, I also had the opportunity to present my work with biomarkers. In the Swedish Apolipoprotein-related MOrtality RISk (AMORIS) study, I investigated the association between C-reactive protein (CRP) and non-fatal and fatal cancer risk, as well as the association between lipoproteins and risk of prostate cancer. The interaction with the conference participants was of great help to further develop the manuscripts of both studies.

Apart from the interesting topics, the conference also gave me the opportunity to interact with all participants and speakers during the poster sessions. The receptions were the ideal occasion to network and discuss research findings and opportunities. Even though the heat and humidity of the summer in Miami were not my preferred climate, this AACR conference was definitely the perfect climate for expanding my research knowledge and ideas in the field of molecular epidemiology. I would therefore like to thank the BACR for giving me the opportunity to be part of this extremely remarkable conference.

21st Meeting of the European Association for Cancer Research

Oslo, Norway June 2010



Dr Valerie Meniel

Cardiff University, Biosciences

Thanks to the support of the British Association for Cancer Research, I was able to attend the EACR 21 meeting Discovery based translational Cancer Research in Oslo.

The aim of the conference was to review the latest breakthroughs in Cancer Research from animal models to translational research. I have been able to attend presentations from very prestigious scientists like D.Lane and D.M Livingston. Many of the symposiums were very relevant to my work and included Animal models, tumour microenvironment, Signaling and Cancer, etc.. I have even been able to attend the after sunrise (7.15am) talk on Cancer stem cells with R. Bjerkvig. Very importantly, I have been able to present my work on a methyl binding domain protein MeCP2 involved in Rett syndrome and that has a small role in intestinal tumorigenesis but is required for normal homeostasis in the murine intestine.

The conference was very stimulating and I certainly improved my knowledge on a lot of the different fields in Cancer research.

I also would like to congratulate the organizers of the conference for a very well organized meeting and the set up in the beautiful city of Oslo. The experience in the Opera where Science and Art with Opera singers were mixed was amazing!

In these difficult financial times, I have been able to attend the conference thanks to the help of the BACR Travel bursary award and I am very grateful for this.



Charlotte Bevan

Imperial College London

I was very grateful to receive a travel award enabling me to attend and present my work at this exciting meeting. It was a great opportunity to put my work in a wider context – it's all too easy to become too narrowed in on one's own particular niche – in my case androgen signalling and hormone-dependent cancer. At this meeting, needless to say, all signalling pathways and tumour sites were represented while the organisms ranged from human (clinical trials) to zebrafish.

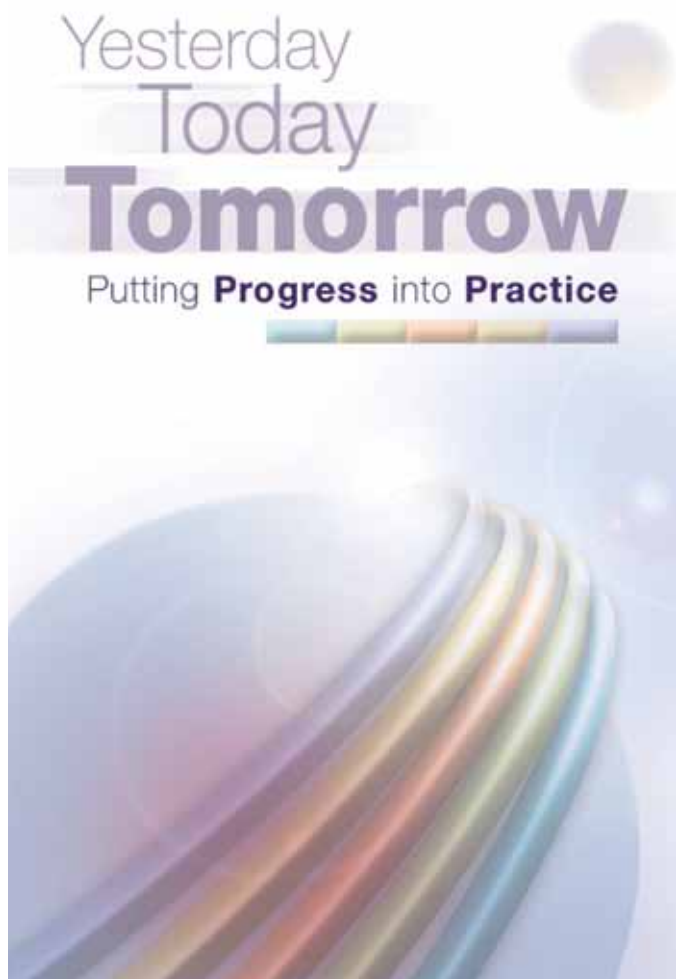
I had been attracted by the stellar line-up of speakers and there were so many of these that it seems unfair to extol particular ones. I enjoyed Arnold Levine's overarching view of p53 signalling very much – his discussion of divergence of the p53 family during evolution really emphasised their 'guardian of the genome' role, and their relevance to fertility and metabolism. It's all too easy to forget that 'tumour suppressors' are not exclusively concerned with cancer. And in an award lecture, David Livingstone gave a clear and informative discussion of that other major tumour suppressor, BRCA1. This really brought home exactly why tumour suppression and homologous recombination are linked via BRCA1 (and other genes). Homologous recombination and DNA repair was also extensively discussed by Thomas Helleday – counter-intuitively, as a target for cancer therapies. This was a stimulating talk describing thought-provoking work, and the Young Investigator award was well-deserved. Afterwards, I felt I really grasped the concept of 'synthetic lethality'!

The subject-themed symposia were also of a high standard and covered topics ranging from the well-established (e.g. gene expression regulation, cell migration), to the more recent concepts (e.g. epigenetics, microRNAs). Inflammations seems all too often to be dismissed as a side-effect of cancer and I found Michael Karin's account

of the contribution of the inflammatory response to cancer particularly interesting. He asked the question of why tumours frequently have high levels of inflammatory infiltrates – is this protective, or do tumours hijack such systems for their own purposes? His studies in prostate tumours certainly seem to prove that B cells are contributing to tumour progression rather than attacking the tumour. The distinction appears to be between the acute and chronic inflammatory responses.

The best word to describe the poster sessions was – enormous! There were literally hundreds of posters, changing each day, but unfortunately the poster discussions sessions suffered somewhat from clashing with World Cup matches being screened elsewhere. This did however mean that those attending were really dedicated so what the discussions lacked in quantity they made up in quality.

Finally, a major treat for me was the plenary lecture given by Mina Bissell, on microenvironment and the effect of tissue architecture in breast cancer. I have never heard Prof Bissell speak before, and I would certainly urge anyone who has the opportunity to do so. She took us through the rise and rise of tissue architecture, from the rationale behind it's importance, through her early controversial experiments; finally concluding that phenotype is dominant over genotype in cell culture tumour models. The story – and the many asides – was entertaining and informative and the speaker herself inspirational. Needless to say she finished to a standing ovation!



AstraZeneca is a long-standing supporter of the British Association for Cancer Research.

We are committed to driving pioneering research in oncology and believe that collaboration and partnerships are key to our future success.

AstraZeneca Bioscience in Drug Discovery Workshop

Alderley Park, South Manchester, Cheshire
Monday 17th to Wednesday 19th January 2011

An AstraZeneca workshop, intended for bioscientists in the final-year of their PhD or their first post-doctoral position, will be held in January 2011 at our Alderley Park site. The workshop will include case studies, presentations, and group exercises designed to give participants a flavour of how scientists at AstraZeneca contribute to the process of discovering new medicines.

The workshop exercises will also be used to help you understand your own personal strengths and develop your leadership skills.

Places on the workshop are limited.
If you would like to apply, please visit:

www.astrazenecacareers.com
and enter **"Future Leaders"**
within the UK section's
Job Reference Search.

Closing date:
30th November 2010.

AstraZeneca 

Further information is available from:
AstraZeneca
Alderley House, Alderley Park
Macclesfield, Cheshire, UK
www.astrazeneca.com

DOP October 2010

Neuroblastoma Research Conference

Stockholm, Sweden June 2010



Laura Dawn Gamble

*University of Newcastle
Norther Institute for Cancer Research*

In June 2010 this year, a travel fellowship from the BACR enabled me to attend the bi-annual Advances in Neuroblastoma Research conference in Stockholm, Sweden. This conference is the most relevant meeting in my field of work and is rapidly growing in popularity with a bout 600 participants this year. With only a ~100 cases of neuroblastoma diagnosed in the UK each year, and 600 in the USA, but making up a total of 15% of childhood cancer related deaths, it was amazing to see that so many people work on this cancer, and how passionate people are about it. This meeting focused on....

I presented 2 posters on the use of MDM2-p53 antagonists in neuroblastoma. These drugs may be particularly useful in neuroblastoma as these patients generally have an intact, but inactive p53 pathway. This work generated much interest, and I was able to discuss my work with other research scientists and more senior scientists from around the work, putting me in a good position for potential collaborations or even job opportunities in the future. This was particularly important as I am approaching the final year of my PhD.

Attendance at this meeting allowed me to network and discuss my work with key international researchers, which proved especially informative as I prepare my research for publication, as well as providing the opportunity to establish productive international collaborations. This meeting was hugely beneficial at this point in my PhD. I will soon be looking for jobs. The encouraging support and positive responses to my presented research has additionally given me further confidence. Work was well received with many other attendees interested in similar work.





Dr Virginie F. Vliprey

*Children's Cancer
Research group,
Leeds Institute of Molecular Medicine, UK.*

I am extremely grateful to the BACR for awarding me a meeting bursary to attend the Advances in Neuroblastoma meeting that took place in Stockholm. This international meeting held every two years invites researchers, clinicians and nurses across the world to exchange all aspects of neuroblastoma (NB) research from bench to bedside.

The meeting received more than 400 abstracts as the basis of the scientific programme and consisted of numerous plenary, parallel and poster sessions, including invited lectures from four Nobel laureates. Dr Elizabeth Blackburn, recipient of the 2009 Nobel Prize in Physiology or medicine for her discoveries in telomere biology presented new concept for telomerase as upper level manager of cell's programs with implications for human health and disease, including NB.

NB is the most common extra cranial solid cancer of childhood, accounting for approximately 40% of malignancy diagnosed in the first 4 years of life and 15% of cancer deaths in children. The disease has a very heterogeneous clinical course ranging from spontaneous regression to incurable high-risk disease. Attendance to meeting of this international scale is crucial to learn and exchange information on the latest development in the treatment of this disease and to improve our understanding of the biology of NB progression to ultimately improve survival and care of children with NB.

I am a post-doctoral scientist in the Children's Cancer Research Group, Leeds Institute of Molecular Medicine, and a member of the SIOPEN (International Society of Paediatric Oncology Europe Neuroblastoma) Molecular Monitoring Group (MMG). Since outcome for many children with NB is dependent on the presence of disseminating disease, accurate and sensitive assessment of disease status is essential. My current research on RNA biomarker studies aims to improve monitoring of disease status and stratification for therapy. I am first author on two out of three abstracts presented to this meeting. One of these first author abstracts reports on the predictive power of detecting mRNA species in bone marrow and peripheral blood from children with NB and reports on the eagerly awaited results of several years study within the current SIOPEN European high risk clinical trial. These data were presented in plenary session by the chair of the MMG and director of the Children's Cancer Research group in Leeds, Professor Sue Burchill. My attendance was crucial to support this work as member of the MMG. My second first-author abstract presented as a poster reports on novel findings exploring microRNA as a putative biomarker in children with NB (a UK only study).

I was also particularly interested by research presented by the group of David Kaplan, Canada, on drug-refractory NB populations with cancer-initiating stem-like cell properties in bone marrow which are thought to contribute to the high rates of relapse and recurrence.

Many interesting presentations also focused on NB genetics, using various genomic platforms to discover NB-predisposing genes and those contributing to NB progression (John Maris, Javed Khan, USA; Jo Vandesompele, Belgium; Johannes Schulte, Germany). Recent research advances on the role of p53 and its molecular targets in NB biology were also widely represented.

In summary, the program of the meeting covered all aspects of current basic and translational NB research. Presentation of our work was crucial to raise awareness within the international scientific and clinical NB community and strengthened my enthusiasm for my current and future research studies.

Gordon Research Conference

USA, August 2010



Katarzyna Leszczynska

*University of Birmingham
CRUK Molecular Angiogenesis Group,
Institute for Biomedical Research*

From 8 to 13 August 2010 I have attended the Gordon Research Conference on 'Endothelial Cell Phenotypes in Health and Disease'. The conference took place in the University of New England, situated on a beautiful, remote site in Biddeford, Maine, where the Saco River flows into the Atlantic Ocean.

This conference gathered scientists from many biological and medical fields, with a common interest in understanding the role of the vascular endothelium in health and disease. The conference offered extremely interesting program that covered various topics such as:

- historical aspects of endothelium related research
- role of endothelium in placenta, pregnancy and eclampsia
- inducible pluripotent stem cells and endothelial cell progenitor cells
- infectious diseases in the endothelium
- tissue engineering
- diabetes and the metabolic syndrome centred around the endothelial cell
- the eye and the vascular endothelium
- endothelial cell-specific signalling pathways
- cross-talk pathways

On each day we had two big talk sessions, first one from 9.00am to midday and second after the dinner from 7.30pm till 9.00pm. In the late afternoon from 4.00pm till 6.00pm there was a poster session, when participants had a chance to discuss current endothelial research issues. In the middle of the day there was a break when we had an opportunity to participate in various activities such as canoeing, bike rides, sightseeing surroundings or just walking to the seashore. That part was extremely important since that was the time to get together with scientists from other labs in more unofficial way. In addition, each evening talk session was finished by the endless discussions on the hot topics of the day in the nice atmosphere of drinks and nibbles.

There were more than 100 delegates to the conference. It was a great pleasure to listen to recent developments in the field of endothelial cell biology, especially that during my PhD I have investigated the role of the signalling pathways of the Rho GTPase, RhoJ/TCL, in endothelial cells. This signalling molecule plays a critical role in endothelial cells motility and tube formation, processes critical to blood vessels formation, which in turn is important in tumour growth and metastasis. This conference gave me a wonderful opportunity to present my PhD work to the international angiogenesis research field. I have presented my novel findings in the form of poster. I have met scientists interested in my work. We had a lot of stimulating discussions by the poster, which gave me the constructive feedback on my work, but also great ideas for the future of this project.

I am very glad that I was exposed to the work of many of the leading researchers in the field of angiogenesis. Undoubtedly I have learnt a lot and made new contacts that I am sure will benefit my future career.

The BACR helped me tremendously participate in this conference since it covered my travel expenses.

CSHL 'Mechanisms and Models of Cancer

Newark August 2010



Imran Ahmad

The Beatson Institute for Cancer Research

The Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory (CSHL) Mechanisms & Models meeting took place in August of this year. The specific goal of the meeting was to bring together a diverse group of scientists studying various molecular, genetic, biochemical and animal model approaches to the analysis of cancer.

The meeting was over 5 days, and split into clear themes.

Topics included:

- Cancer Genetics & Epigenetics
- Mouse Models of Cancer
- Stem Cells and Organismal Development
- Signaling Mechanisms
- Microenvironment & Inflammation
- Experimental Therapeutics
- DNA Damage and Cell Cycle Checkpoints
- Senescence & Apoptosis

From this meeting the breath of models utilised in cancer related projects was clear, with many at the interface between basic and translational research. This meeting served to demonstrate how these tools provide researchers with invaluable systems to evaluate not only the mechanisms underlying cancer, but provide preclinical platforms for testing of novel therapeutic agents/combination therapies

This meeting was invaluable for myself, a clinical research fellow in the final year of their PhD. I was able to present my work on bladder models systems I have developed to an expert audience. I was able to critically discuss my research with many fellow scientists, ranging from PhD students, to post-docs and senior group leaders. I gained much constructive criticism and feedback about my work (which was good preparation for my upcoming viva voce). Similarly it was beneficial to attend talks/poster sessions that revealed the cutting edge research, as well as providing an insight to the direction in which the field is moving. It provided intellectually stimulating, giving me many ideas for future projects beyond my PhD. I was also able to network and forge some useful collaboration to help take my bladder cancer work forward.

In summary attending this meeting has re-inspired me at this crucial stage of my career and has encouraged me to apply for clinical lecturer positions so I can continue my research when I return to full time to my clinical training.

BACR Travel Fellowship – Visit to USA



Dr Penelope Ottewell

*University of Sheffield
Dept of Cellular & Molecular Gastroenter*

I am currently working as a Post Doctoral Research Associate investigating advanced breast cancer with particular emphasis on bone metastasis. The BACR travel fellowship has enabled me to visit Prof. Rosenblatt's laboratory at TUFTS Medical School in Boston USA to establish collaboration. Whilst in Boston I learnt how to prepare and engraft human bone chips and how to orthotopically implant SUM1315 human breast tumour cells into NOD SCID mice.

This collaboration has resulted in me gaining the skills required to set up and utilise a unique mouse model of human breast cancer metastasis to human bone. I am now establishing this model at the University of Sheffield where this will be the primary model used for my future research plans.

Breast cancer is a highly metastatic disease that becomes incurable once metastases are established. Identification of specific genetic determinants involved in initiation of metastatic mammary carcinoma and subsequent development of relevant therapeutic regimes are therefore fundamentally important. During metastatic conversion breast cancer cells acquire genetic abnormalities enabling invasion of surrounding tissue, vascular spread to distant sites, and proliferation and survival with subsequent modifications of tissue structure. Genetic screening of patient material collected from primary and metastatic breast cancers have highlighted the probability that different genetic alterations are required for different stages in the metastatic process and indeed that genes involved in onset of metastases are different from those involved in tissue homing and colonization. Obtaining circulating tumour cells from cancer patients to study early stages of metastasis is problematic. A mouse model of spontaneous human breast cancer metastases will enable us to repeatedly acquire tumour cells from the peripheral blood and compare them to cells isolated from the primary and metastatic tumours.

Prof. Rosenblatt's laboratory has developed the SUM 1315 mouse model of human tissue specific spontaneous breast cancer metastases to bone. This model uses fragments of human bone (from hip replacements) implanted subcutaneously into NOD-SCID mice, where subsequent orthotopic implantation of human breast cancer, SUM1315, cells results in spontaneous metastases specifically to the human bone. This model will be used as the basis for future fellowship applications, in which I will investigate the genes responsible for the initiation of breast cancer and those responsible for colonization of bone. I hypothesize that alterations required for escape from the primary tumour are distinct from those required for re-colonization of a secondary site.

BACR Travel Fellowship – Visit to India



Gareth Veal

*Northern Institute for Cancer Research
Newcastle University*

In October, 2010, I spent a week visiting two clinical centres in India, Tata Memorial Hospital in Mumbai and the Christian Medical Centre in Vellore, to discuss potential collaborative studies involving the treatment of children with cancer. As my main area of research involves the coordination of clinical pharmacology studies in a paediatric oncology setting, such collaborations offer several potential benefits. Incorporating patient populations in both India and the UK in clinical studies will allow us to investigate the effects of potentially important parameters such as pharmacogenetic variation and nutritional status on drug disposition and therefore clinical response and toxicity. In addition, the large number of childhood cancer cases observed in India, due to the considerable population of the country, means that complex and involved studies can be carried out, with results generated in a meaningful time-frame. For example, over 40,000 new cases of childhood cancer are seen per year in India, with over 1,000 of these patients being seen at Tata Hospital in Mumbai, as compared to a total of approximately 2,000 new patients per year in the whole of the UK.

My visit to India in October, strategically planned to coincide with the end of the monsoon period, incorporated 4 days in Mumbai, where I was able to meet paediatric oncologists treating childhood cancer patients as well as scientists involved in clinical and translational research studies. A productive day discussing mutual areas of interest and identifying areas where results from clinical trials could result in a real impact on patient treatment, was followed by a grand round presentation in the impressive Tata Hospital Auditorium, to provide an overview of ongoing studies of interest being carried out in the UK. Following a short flight across India to Chennai, I then spent two days at the Christian Medical Centre in Vellore, a hospital seeing approximately 350 new cases of childhood cancer per annum. Productive discussions were held with paediatric oncologists, haematologists and clinical pharmacologists and experiences in running clinical pharmacology and pharmacogenetic studies in our respective countries were shared.

The trip was made possible through a successful application to the BACR for a Mid-Career Fellowship to cover the costs involved. I am very grateful to the association for this award, which provided me the opportunity to visit a fascinating country and to progress collaborative studies. It is hoped that results obtained from these studies will provide an increased understanding of factors which influence the pharmacology of anticancer drugs in paediatric patient populations in the UK and India.

The BACR Hamilton-Fairley Poster Prize

Presented at the BACR 50th Anniversary Meeting 2010


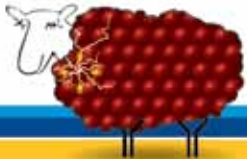


Genetic models to investigate the role of ATF2 and ATF7 during liver tumorigenesis

*Malgorzata Gozdecka, Steve Lyons, Wolfgang Breitwieser, Nic Jones
Paterson Institute for Cancer Research, Manchester, United Kingdom*

ATF2 and ATF7 are members of the AP-1 transcription factor family which regulate expression of genes involved in stress and DNA damage response. In cancer, ATF2 has been reported to be involved in tumour suppressing but also in tumour promoting activities. Here we present an analysis of potential roles for ATF2/7 in response to oncogenic Ras transformation in a model of hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC).

Using mouse knockouts we have previously established that the two factors are essential for the embryonic liver development by engaging in antiapoptotic mechanisms to ensure the survival of hepatoblasts. Cultured hepatoblasts can be used to study the onset of hepatocellular carcinoma via transformation with oncogenes and reintroduction into recipient livers through orthotopic transplantation. We found that ATF2/7 double knockout hepatoblasts transformed with the H-Ras oncogene (H-RasG12D) produced significantly more and larger colonies in vitro. After orthotopic transplantation transformed knockout cells developed tumour nodules in recipient livers at significantly faster rates and in greater numbers compared to cells that were normal for ATF2. In addition, deletion of ATF2 and ATF7 in cells isolated from established liver tumours also result in accelerated growth in graft models. Therefore, in contrast to their antiapoptotic activities in primary hepatoblasts, our data support a growth suppressing role for ATF2/7 in response to oncogenic transformation.





Immunochemotherapy: Correcting Immune Escape in Cancer

Date: March 10-11, 2011
Venue: Philadelphia, USA
Organizers: George Prendergast, Guido Kroemer, Laurence Zitvogel and Abcam
Invited speakers: Vincent Brichard, George Coukos, Lisa Coussens, Francesco Di Virgilio, Chen Dong, Charles Drake, Dmitry Gabrilovich, Elizabeth Jaffee, Charles Link, Drew Pardoll, François Romagné, Jeff Schlom, Mark Smyth, Giorgio Trinchieri, Jedd Wolchok
Topics:

- Immunological effects of chemotherapy
- Inflammatory tumor microenvironment and immune suppression
- Intrinsic and extrinsic barriers to cancers
- Therapeutic strategies

Abstracts for oral and poster presentation which fit the theme of the meeting are invited.
www.abcam.com/philadelphia



News of Members



Hilary Calvert



Ruth Plummer



Herbie Newel



Barbara Durkacz



Roger Griffin



Bernard Golding



Nicola Curtin

A research team at the Northern Institute of Cancer Research (NICR Newcastle on Tyne, **Profs Barbara Durkacz, Roger Griffin, Bernard Golding, Nicola Curtin, Herbie Newell, Hilary Calvert and Ruth Plummer**) are the first winners of the CRUK Translational Cancer Research Prize. The team combines unique expertise in chemical synthesis, preclinical biology and first-in-human clinical evaluation. It received this award on the basis of its 'significant achievements in advancing a preclinical concept through to a potential promising potential clinical agent'.



Prof Peter Selby has been offered and accepted the post of Director at the Leeds Institute of Molecular Medicine (LIMM). Peter is taking on this role with immediate effect. We wish him and our colleagues in LIMM all the very best.



Prof Paul Workman (Inst of Cancer Research, Sutton) is the recipient of the 2010/11 Royal Society of Chemistry George and Christine Sosnovsky Award in Cancer Therapy, which recognises 'outstanding accomplishments in the prevention, control and cure of cancers using chemotherapy'. Paul receives this honour for his team's 'seminal research on the role of chaperone proteins in cellular processes and the application of this knowledge at the forefront of anti-cancer drug discovery'. Paul, the seventh winner of the award, is in excellent company, as the first two awardees, Profs Tom A Connors (1999/2000) and Malcolm FG Stevens (2001/2), were also BACR members!



British Association for Cancer Research Meeting 'Cancer Epigenetics'

Thursday 19th May 2011
Royal Society of Medicine, 1 Wimpole St, W1, London

Topics Include:

Cancer Initiation, Environmental Exposures and Risk, Novel Epigenetic Technologies,
Epigenetic Therapeutic Targets and Epigenome Profiling

Confirmed Speakers Include:

Zdenko Herceg, IARC, France.
Stephan Beck, UCL Cancer Institute
Bryan Turner, University of Birmingham
Steve Clifford, NICR, Newcastle University
Nick La Thangue, University of Oxford
Eamonn Maher, University of Birmingham

Registration Opening: January 2011

Abstract deadline: Friday 4th April 2011

Early bird Registration deadline: 4th April 2011

Further details available from: <http://www.bacr.org.uk>
Email: bacr@leeds.ac.uk

Scientific Organisers:

James M. Flanagan, Imperial College London
Adele Murrell, Cambridge Research Institute

Advances in Radiobiology

8 December 2010

The British Institute of Radiology, 36 Portland Place, London, W1B 1AT



This scientific meeting has been organised by Dr Stewart Martin and Prof Stephanie McKeown and the BIR's Radiation Cancer Biology Committee on behalf of The British Institute of Radiology.

Radiobiological research has, over recent years, produced a number of interesting and exciting results, some of which are causing central dogma to be revisited and revised. Such research has direct relevance to current radiotherapy treatment practice.

This meeting, comprising a series of invited talks and proffered papers, will cover recent advances and how they may influence radiotherapy outcome and future practice.

This meeting would be of interest to: clinicians, allied health care professionals, scientist and students with an interest in recent radiation biology research findings and how these may impact radiotherapy outcome and practice.

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME (Please note: all details within the preliminary programme are subject to change)

- 09:30 REGISTRATION AND COFFEE
09:50 Welcome from the Session Chair
Dr Stewart Martin, University of Nottingham, Nottingham
10:00 Signal Transduction - Biological Rationale of Using Inhibitors with Radiation and Clinical Update
Prof Thomas Brunner, Gray Institute for Radiation Oncology and Biology, University of Oxford
10:40 Targeting DNA Repair to Improve Radiotherapeutic Response
Prof Adrian Begg, Netherlands Cancer Institute, Amsterdam
11:20 Proffered Paper 1
Speaker TBC
11:40 COFFEE
12:00 Proffered Paper 2
Speaker TBC
12:20 Proffered Paper 3
Speaker TBC
12:40 Drug/Radiation Interactions - Sensitisers and Bioreductive Agents
Prof Ian Stratford, School of Pharmacy, University of Manchester
13:20 LUNCH
14:15 Welcome from Session Chair
Prof Stephanie McKeown, University of Ulster, Ulster
14:20 Bystander Effect: Radiation Mediated Intercellular Signaling - Therapeutic Implications
Prof Kevin Prise, Centre for Cancer Research and Cell Biology, Queen's University Belfast
15:00 Beyond BEIR VII: Factors Affecting Radiation-Induced Cancer and the Impact on Radiotherapy
Prof. Eric Hall, Centre for Radiological Research, Columbia University, New York
15:40 Using Genetics to Predict Hyper-Radiosensitivity Reactions
Prof Catharine West, Translational Radiobiology, University of Manchester
16:20 Closing Remarks
16:25 CLOSE

REGISTRATION FEES:

Non BIR members:	£62
BIR Members:	£46
BIR Associate Members:	£57
BIR Trainee member:	£36
Retired:	£36

This meeting is kindly sponsored by the British Association of Cancer Research and Cancer Research UK.



CALL FOR PAPERS

We are also looking for proffered papers from anyone within the radiobiological community.

The table below describes the preferred format for the abstracts. The abstracts should not exceed 250 words.

EDUCATIONS

Title.....
Learning Objectives.....
Background.....
Findings.....
Conclusion / Summary.....

SCIENTIFIC

Title.....
Purpose.....
Materials & Methods.....
Results.....
Conclusion.....

Abstracts should be submitted on a Word Document via e-mail to stewart.martin@nottingham.ac.uk by Friday 24th September 2010. Notification of those abstracts accepted will be given in October.

Register today at www.bir.org.uk