

**13th Meeting of the  
EUROPEAN RESEARCH INITIATIVE ON CLL  
(ERIC/WP7)**

**Heidelberg, Tuesday Jan 30 2007**

(in context of the ELN Annual Symposium)  
11.30 a.m. to 01.30 p.m.

**DKFZ Convention Center, Heidelberg, Germany**

Chairs: Michael Hallek (Cologne), Eva Kimby (Stockholm)

**TOP 1: M. Hallek, E. Kimby**

Michael Hallek and Eva Kimby welcomed all participants. It was noted, that due to limited presence of current board and general members in Heidelberg, the subcommittee on basic research should give a introduction into background and goals of ERIC with presentation of the new board at the EHA meeting.

**TOP 2: Subcommittee on basic research – ongoing projects**

**Paolo Ghia (Milano): Consensus & Review Board on IgHV mutational analysis**

Paolo Ghia presented the current draft of the homepage designed for the consensus & review board on IGVH mutational analysis. It has been created with support of the ERIC-webpage webmaster Gabriele Strache. Paolo explained what matters are followed by this webpage: to offer a discussion forum for scientist dealing with difficult IGVH sequences, to offer the possibility to upload difficult IGVH sequences for central review and feedback by experts, to offer the opportunity to collect difficult IGVH cases and make them available for other CLL scientists. A tutorial workshop with education on IGVH mutational analysis is planned to be held on June 14-15 2008 in Uppsala (Sweden). Coorganzier of the workshop is Richard Rosenquist.

**Stephan Stilgenbauer (Ulm): 17p-Deletion and p53 mutational analysis**

Stephan Stilgenbauer noted, that due to the high interest in p53 mutational analysis by different groups there will be a separate workshop on the same day afternoon with detailed discussion. Nevertheless several members with interest in the role of p53 presented an overview over their current work and suggestions for future collaboration. The presented data in the morning and topics discussed later in the afternoon are summarized together as follows:

Andrew Pettitt (Liverpool) gave an overview over his work on p53 functional testing by FACS and brought up a number of issues regarding the comparability of functional assays (e.g. freezing and thawing, mode of DNA damage (cytotoxic drugs vs. IR) and readout). He suggested that based on the imperfect correlation between 17p deletion status / p53 mutation and functional testing the role of p53/p21 upregulation should be assessed independently of 17p/11q deletion. Tanja Stankovic (Birmingham) gave an overview on the characterization of ATM defects in CLL with particular emphasis on the functional characterization of the ATM pathway. Based on a thorough evaluation of ATM function (phophorylation of targets) from careful step wise experiments building a comprehensive picture of complex interactions, she concluded that phophorylation analysis of target proteins may be the most meaningful analysis. Eric Eldering (Amsterdam) presented the MLPA assay to assess p53 dependent gene expression after genotoxic stress. The assay may be standardized and the group expressed their interest in the exchange of samples that could be characterized at different centres in order to standardize p53 testing.

Oliver Best (Bournemouth) presented work on functional testing of the ATM/p53 pathway and the characterization of defects (e.g. p53 mutations) by the use of nutlins after exposure to genotoxic stress. Martin Trbusek (Brno) presented data on the use of the FASAY assay to assess p53 mutations and transcriptional activity. He suggested collaboration on specific points based on the expertise of specific partners. Thorsten Zenz (Ulm) presented data on DHPLC based mutational screening and suggested to combine efforts to assess cases with 17p deletion without p53 mutation and cases with p53 mutation without deletion. The following discussion focussed on the different expectations and interest of the different groups. As summed up by F. Cymbalista there appeared to be two main fields of interest with one group focussing on the clinical application of potential tests to address p53 defects and on the other hand a group interested in the biological background of p53 defects. An exchange of samples to test the different methods and integrate the results was suggested. The availability of sufficient material for these tests was discussed. F. Cymbalista suggested to meet in France again this year. The offer was well received and the EHA and IWCLL meetings were suggested as additional alternative dates. At the end the discussion focussed on how to advance with specific issues. It was decided that groups should email suggestions for collaboration within ERIC. S. Stilgenbauer suggested to wait for feedback from all interested partners after the minutes have been distributed and to focus on the exchange of ideas for specific project collaborations after that.

#### **Sono Pekova (Prague): Results on MRD analysis**

Sono Pekova (Prague/CZ) presented results of their institution on MRD analysis using locked nucleic acid-modified, fluorescently labeled hybridization probes and real-time PCR technology. It was decided by all members that a comparison of the results with other PCR or flow results of the MRD group should be undertaken.

### **TOP 3: Subcommittee on clinical research – ongoing projects**

#### **M. Herold (Erfurt): Future treatment of PLL**

M. Herold presented the current status of prolymphocytic leukemia (PLL) study treatment in Germany. Due to its low incidence it is very difficult to fill trials, the latest amended PLL protocol under the umbrella of the German CLL study group did not recruit any patient to date. It was discussed and decided, that a data base within the ERIC framework should be established for better characterization of PLL patients. In Germany 52 patients/year may be calculable. Each country should assign one representative or interested clinician responsible for PLL. The ELN should be incorporated into the project with planning of a registry and PLL data base.

#### **P. Dreger (Heidelberg): Allogeneic transplant in T-PLL**

Peter Dreger reported about the current planning of allogeneic transplant protocols for patients with T prolymphocytic leukemia (T-PLL). First a transplant study arm will be included into the T-PLL2 trial (G. Hopfinger, Vienna). Furthermore a separate transplant protocol for T-PLL is currently under construction and may be a joint effort of ERIC and the EBMT. More details will be presented at the next meetings.

Cologne, February 05 2007

Carmen Schweighofer