

ELN WP7 / CLL at the 7th Annual Symposium of the European LeukemiaNet

22nd General Meeting of ERIC Members

Date: 2 February 2010
Time: 11.30 - 13.30
Venue: m:con Congress Center Rosengarten
Mannheim, Germany

Meeting minutes

- Presentation 1. Executive Committee Report – E. Montserrat (EM)
 - EM informed on the progress of ERIC in terms of membership and new features at the ERIC website, including the display of the outline of current trials in Europe an initiative that has gained wide acceptance. It is agreed that this info will continue in the future, with regular updates, and more comprehensive info if deemed necessary
 - EM also informed of the efforts which are being made to raise funds from the EU and pharma in order to guarantee the future of ERIC, its activities, and working groups. Paolo Ghia and EM emphasized the need for coordination of the different ERIC activities and initiatives; individual initiatives not having been previously discussed are strongly discouraged.
 - EM also informs that after the open process to complete the ERIC Board of Directors, Sarka Pospisilova has received unanimous support to become a Board Member.
 - The ERIC Board is therefore composed of E Montserrat (President), E Kimby (Vice-President), P Ghia, C Moreno, and S Pospisilova (members).

- Presentation 2. Potential collaboration to evaluate prognostic role and potential role as therapeutic target of Cdc7 in CLL – M. O'Dwyer (MO)
 - MO presented data on Cdc7 as a potentially better marker of cell proliferation than Ki-67 in CLL. It is agreed that those interested in this marker should seek additional info from MO. A project under the umbrella of ERIC could be envisaged in the future.

- Presentation 3. - Medhat Shehata (MS), University of Vienna.

- MS presented a number of studies on microenvironment in CLL. Considering the large experience of MS and his group on this topic and the emerging importance of microenvironment in CLL, the development of a Microenvironment WG lead by SM is supported by all the attendees. MS should prepare a project to be formally presented at the next ERIC meeting.
- Presentation 4. CLL x SLL - Lukas Smolej (LS), University Hospital Hradec Kralove.
 - LS presented a comparative study (SLL vs. CLL) in order to open the door to future studies aimed at investigating conditions other than CLL within ERIC. This is an issue to be followed up in future ERIC meetings.
- Other issues discussed include:
 - Necessity of organizing ERIC retreat as soon as possible with approx. 20 attendees by invitation only (ERIC committed members). The purpose of the retreat is to decide upon ERIC goals for the next three years.
 - Info on ELN funding to ERIC is given. The contribution is small and, importantly, will be terminated at the end of 2010, still covering the 2011 ELN meeting, because of the end of the ELN contract with the EU (FP7). Thereafter, the ELN annual meeting in 2012 – 2013 will be supported by the German Cancer Group Network. ELN Foundation will then come into being from 2012/13. This is causing friction with EHA as both will compete directly for funds. ERIC, though, is open to discuss any possibility not jeopardizing its own projects and personality.
 - Necessity to reinforce ERIC clinical program. Pharma is interested. Conflicts between individual interests, Pharma and ERIC concerns must be carefully weighted in the negotiations.
 - Next ERIC General Meeting – on the occasion of the EHA Congress in June 2010 in Barcelona, Spain.
 - Next ERIC/EHA Symposium - on the occasion of the EHA Congress in June 2010 in Barcelona. The organizer is Peter Dreger and the topic will revolve around cell therapy in CLL.