Cancer Chemother Pharmacol (1998) 42 (Suppl): S1

Hidehiko Saito · Makoto Ogawa · Kaoru Shimokata

Preface

The late Dr Kiyoji Kimura, a pioneer and teacher in the field of cancer chemotherapy in Japan, was the inspiration for the annual Bristol-Myers Squibb Nagoya International Cancer Treatment Symposium, which was initiated in 1984 under his leadership. Over the 12 years since then, the theme for each meeting has been a topic relevant to current progress in cancer chemotherapy, including minimal residual disease, "Challenges for today and new targets for tomorrow," and mechanisms of multidrug resistance. The wide scope of the symposia has proved interesting to an international audience of clinicians and basic researchers in the field of oncology from the USA, Europe, and Asia. In addition, the meeting has enabled new and important information to be exchanged between these geographical areas, facilitating contacts and progress in research and clinical practice.

Great improvements in the diagnosis and management of cancer have recently been made. This has resulted in $>50\%$ of cancer patients surviving for >5 years, and many of these patients appear to be cured. Despite this progress, many types of cancer continue to defeat our best attempts at treatment, whether pharmacological, surgical, or radiological. Thus innovative developments in cancer chemotherapy are needed as much now as they were in the past. Exciting new technologies have improved drug development and surgical techniques, meaning that progress toward a cure for all forms of cancer is still possible. The Organizing Committee of the 13th Annual Bristol-Myers Squibb Nagoya International Cancer Treatment Symposium recognized that it would be beneficial to provide an update in this area and therefore chose "Clinical pharmacology in cancer chemotherapy" and "Strategic exchanges between major oncology groups" as themes for the meeting.

In his Keynote Address, Dr Bruce Chabner, Massachussetts General Hospital Cancer Center, Boston, MA, USA, described the rapid evolution in our understanding of the mechanisms of carcinogenesis and disease progression. Based on this progress, cancer drug discovery is no longer based on random screening of large numbers of compounds for activity; instead, libraries of peptides, oligonucleotides, and other bioengineered products are available for screening. Combined with new assays for activity, compounds that target specific steps in carcinogenesis can be developed; these include antisense compounds, signal transduction inhibitors, etc. Dr Chabner outlined many of the new techniques in drug development, emphasizing how these improve upon previous techniques and their impact on factors such as cytotoxicity and tumor specificity.

This supplement comprises Dr Chabner's paper as well as the papers presented at subsequent sessions of the symposium. Clinical pharmacology in cancer chemotherapy, the pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics of anticancer agents, ongoing intergroup trials in breast, lung, and colon cancer, and international cooperative oncology trials and their effects on national-level activities were the major topics covered in depth.

We hope that the symposium will continue to serve as a platform for the presentation of the results of researchers and clinicians worldwide. The papers contained herein reflect the diversity of focus in cancer chemotherapy today, and we hope that readers in various related fields will find them informative.

H. Saito
Nagoya University School of Medicine, Nagoya, Japan

M. Ogawa
Aichi Cancer Center, Nagoya, Japan

K. Shimokata
Nagoya University School of Medicine, Nagoya, Japan