such as proliferation or cell death (apoptosis). IHC is also widely used in basic research to understand the distribution and localization of biomarkers and differentially expressed proteins in different parts of a biological tissue. Visualising an antibody-antigen interaction can be accomplished in a number of ways. In the most common instance, an antibody is conjugated to an enzyme, such as peroxidase, that can catalyse a colour-producing reaction. Alternatively, the antibody can also be tagged to a fluorophore, (immunofluorescence).

Materials and Methods: In Cameroon, the above techniques are not available. We established a collaboration with a few laboratories in developed countries; mainly in Switzerland and France. Paraffin blocks of diagnosed cancers have been sent abroad since January 2000. Immunohistochemistry has been performed free of charge.

Results: A series of 103 cancer patients was included in this study. There were 40 malignant lymphomas, 20 cases of early stage Kaposi's sarcoma, 20 soft tissue tumours, 15 breast cancers, 5 brain tumours, 3 urethral cancers. There were no HER-2 cases and and no sentinel node biopsies were performed in this series. The delay of sending specimens and receiving results via internet was one month. Sending specimens and receiving results via the Internet was one month. Apart from classifying and clarifying their diagnosis, none of these patients received specifc treatment after their immunohistochemistry result.

Conclusion: Even performed free of charge, immunohistochemistry does not permit specifc treatment for Cameroonian cancer patients because they can't pay for drugs such as monoclonal antibodies. We hope the situation may change in the future.

PP72

Demonstration of dose-dependent target inhibition using a quantitative biomarker assay for SB939, a potent, orally active HDAC inhibitor, in a Phase I clinical study in solid tumors

V. Novotny-Diermayr[1], A.-L. Liang[1], Y.K. Loh[1], H. Hentze[1], R. Jayaraman[1], K. Ethirajulu[1], J. Zhu[2], J.M. Wood[1]. *[1]S*Bio, Singapore; [2]S*Bio, USA*

Background: SB939 is an orally active, hydroxamic acid based HDAC inhibitor with very favorable pharmaceutical, pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic properties that is currently in Phase I clinical trials. A sensitive Western blot assay to quantitate histone H3 acetylation (acH3) on lysine 9 and 14 was developed to measure target efficacy of SB939.

Materials and Methods: The assay was validated in normal or HCT-116 tumor bearing mice treated with 125 mg/kg t.i.w. SB939. Samples were collected on day 1 and day 15 pre-dose, 3 h and 24 h after dosing, corresponding to the time points of sample collection in the Phase I clinical study. To test the linearity of the acH3 signal mice were treated with doses from 25 mg/kg to 200 mg/kg for 3h. Biomarker analysis of Phase I studies were performed on patients PBMCs, isolated with CPT-tubes. Samples were snap-frozen and lysed in the presence of a HAT inhibitor.

Results: The Western blot assay was sensitive enough to detect as little as 22 ng/ml of SB939 in cultured cancer cells, or 44 ng/ml in PBMCs of healthy volunteers. Signals could be detected in liver, spleen, PBMCs as well as tumor tissue sampled from normal or HCT-116 tumor bearing mice treated with 125 mg/kg SB939 orally t.i.w. The highest signals were detected 3 h post-dose, with no background for vehicle treated mice. AcH3 signals were lower on day 15 than on day 1 in all normal tissues, but increased in tumor tissue, where also the highest absolute acH3 levels were detected. The increase in signal was linear in all tissues tested, except in tumor tissue, which showed maximal saturation already at doses of 100 mg/kg. In PBMC samples from SB939-treated patients with advanced solid malignancies, a dose-dependent increase in relative acetylation values was observed: from 0.8 to 1 to 1.5 for patients treated with 20 mg, 40 mg and 60 mg respectively, correlating well with the proportional increase of SB939 in the plasma. Interestingly, patients which stayed on treatment for the longest time without disease progression showed a sustained enhanced signal on day 15.

Conclusion: Using a sensitive and quantitative Western blot assay, we demonstrate that SB939 induces a dose-dependent increase in acH3 levels in normal and tumor tissues in animal models, as well as in PBMCs from patients with solid tumors in a Phase I trial. Furthermore, a prolonged effect on the acH3 signal on d15 could be indicative for response to SB939 treatment and warrants further investigation.

PP32

A unified approach to define incidence of acute kidney injury (AKI) with serum creatinine as biomarker

G. Nowshad[1,3], S. Alam[1,2], M.H. Rahbar[2], A.K. Salahudeen[1]. *[1]M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, UT School of Public Health, Houston, USA; [2]Biostatistics and Epidemiology Research Design (BERD), Center for Clinical and Translational Sciences (CCTS), M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, UT, Health Science Center, Houston, USA; [3]Biostatistics and Epidemiology Research Design (BERD), Center for Clinical and Translational Sciences (CCTS), UT, Health Science Center, Houston, USA; [4]Department of Endocrinology, The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, USA*

Background: Acute kidney injury (AKI) is a life threatening complex disease associated with mortality, morbidity and length of stay in hospital [Gottlieb SS, 2002]. SCr which is currently a main biomarker for AKI, rise normally in 24−72 hours after the inflammation occurred. Constant and slow rate of production of SCr, among cancer inpatients makes it less reliable for AKI classification. This complexity guides our research in the area of classification and modeling to overcome these challenges. We hypothesize that the rate (gradient change) in the SCr as biomarker will better predict the acute renal disease than simple difference

Materials and Methods: To delineate the extent of AKI using unified criteria, we examined the medical records of 5013 patients admitted to MD Anderson Cancer Center for three months. We run random intercept regression model to estimate the AKI for different baseline SCr. We estimated equation for critical SCr values as: $SCr(crit) = SCr(baseline)^{0.95} * \{[3 - \exp(-t/2SCr^{1.2})]/2\}$, where SCr(crit) is critical SCr level (above which AKI is predicted) in that point in time with reference to the baseline SCr at the first observation time t = 0 days. We internally validated the definition and results are in conformity with the AKIN criteria.

Results: Proposed AKI criteria based on gradient change in SCr performs batter in validation and regression analysis. Sensitivity and specificity remained 93% and 83% respectively. We observed minimal false rejection and improved detection of AKI, with even smaller changes in SCr. AKI is highly associated with length of stay (OR: 2.25; 95% CI: 1.85−2.74), ICU admission (OR: 2.7; 95% CI: 2.0−3.7), PACU admission (OR: 5.0; 95% CI: 3.7−7.0), BMT LLM (OR: 2.59; 95% CI: 2.0−2.74), Med Oncology (OR: 2.8;; 95% CI 2.2−3.6), Surgical Oncology (OR: 2.1; 95% CI 1.4−3.2), Pain Symptom (OR: 2.5; 95% CI 1.6−3.8). An odd of having AKI was fivefold increased for the patients who eventually died in hospital with cancer, in contrast to those remained alive after controlling for other covariates. Similarly, cancer patients who were diabetes mellitus (DM) had about 40% increased risk of odds of AKI compared with those without DM with 95% CI being from 15% to 70% with all P-values <0.0001.

Conclusion: We conclude that by estimating the unified equation for AKI based on the gradient change in SCr, it improves the specificity and early prediction of AKI. Even small serum creatinine SCr increase is independently associated with increased risk of mortality [Smith GL, 2003].

PP120

Intratumoral balance of regulatory and cytotoxic T cells is associated with prognosis in resected non-small cell lung cancer

D. O'Callaghan[1], E. Rexhepaj[2], K. Gately[1], D. Delany[1], F. O'Connell[1], E. Kay[3], W. Gallagher[4], K. O'Byrne[1]. *[1]St. James Hospital, Ireland; [2]Conway Institute, Ireland; [3]Beaumont Hospital, Ireland; [4]Conway Institute/UCD, Ireland*

Background: The impact of host immunity on outcome in lung cancer is controversial. We studied the clinical significance of lymphoid infiltration in resected non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) specimens.

Materials and Methods: We analysed 196 NSCLC cases for tumour- and stroma-infiltrating CD3+, CD8+ and FOXP3+ cells by immunohistochemistry to assess the relative proportions of total, cytotoxic and regulatory T-lymphocytes (Tregs), respectively. Enumeration of immune subsets was performed using a novel automated image analysis algorithm. To test the influence of lymphocyte distribution pattern on survival, the data were divided into two groups, based on whether the ratio of intratumoral to intrastromal lymphocyte count was greater or less than the median value.

Results: A high CD8+ tumour/stroma infiltration ratio was associated with an increased overall survival (OS) compared to a low tumour/stroma infiltration ratio (P < 0.001). Conversely, there was an inverse association between survival and tumour islet FOXP3+ Treg density (P < 0.001). Multivariate analysis revealed that CD8+ tumour/stroma ratio emerged as an independent predictor of survival (HR 0.38; 95% CI 0.24−0.61, P < 0.001). The combination of a high tumour islet/stroma CD8+ ratio and low tumour islet/stroma FOXP3+ ratio showed the strongest prognostic effect, being associated with a 3 yr OS rate of 91% (HR 1.58; 95% CI 1.25−2.00, P < 0.001).

Conclusion: Microlocalization of infiltrating T-lymphocytes is a powerful predictor of outcome in surgically resected NSCLC. Immune-based