



# 1994

## FORTHCOMING EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

26th - 30th September

Advanced Course: Venue: Milan

**Medical Oncology**

Chairpersons: M. Aapro (Geneva), M.H. Bronchud (Barcelona)

\*\*\*

3rd - 5th October

Advanced Course: Venue: Milan

**Breast Cancer**

Chairperson: U. Veronesi (Milan)

\*\*\*

4th - 6th October

Advanced Course: Venue: Paris

**Retinoids and Cancer**

Chairpersons: L. Degos (Paris), D. Parkinson (Bethesda)

\*\*\*

13th - 15th October

Advanced Course: Venue: San Servolo Island, Venice

**Plastic Reconstructive Surgery in Oncology**

Chairperson: A. Grisotti (Milan)

\*\*\*

24th - 26th October

Advanced Course: Venue: San Servolo Island, Venice

**Medical Decision-Making in Oncology**

Chairpersons: R. Zittoun (Paris), H. de Haes (Amsterdam)

\*\*\*

24th - 28th October

Advanced Course: Venue: Origlio Country Club, Lugano

**Head and Neck Tumours**

Chairpersons: C. Scully (London), F. Chiesa (Milan)

\*\*\*

14th - 17th November

Advanced Course: Venue: Orta San Giulio

**Practical Aspects of Breast Cancer Screening**

Chairpersons: E. Roebuck (Nottingham), A. Gad (Falun), M. Rosselli del Turco (Florence)

\*\*\*

7th - 9th December

Advanced Course: Venue: Stockholm

**Gynaecological & Breast Tumours: Tumour Cytological Diagnostic & Prognostic Factors**

Chairpersons: J. Lindholm (Stockholm), P. van Diest (Amsterdam), A.R. Weger (Stockholm)

For further information, please contact:

European School of Oncology, Via Ripamonti 66

20141 Milan, Italy

Tel: (39-2)57305416 Fax: 57307143

## Forthcoming Events

---

### **Pharmacological Approaches to the Therapy of Solid Tumours — is the Strategy all Wrong?**

The above conference is being convened by Professor I. Hart and will take place at Churchill House, London, U.K. on 21–22 November 1994. For further information contact Mrs J. Ford or Dr. J. Jennings, MAIC Ltd, Croxted Mews, 288 Croxted Road, London SE24 9BY, U.K. Tel. 44 81 671 7521; Fax 44 81 671 7327.

### **ESMO/ESO Official Satellite to the 19th ESMO Conference: Gene Therapy for the Medical Oncologist**

This will be held at the Centro de Congressos FIL, Lisbon on 22 November 1994. It is to be chaired by Professor M. Brenner and Dr M. Aapro. Main topics will include gene marking (M. Brenner, Memphis), vectors and plasmid vaccination (S. Russell, Cambridge), biological response modifiers (B. Gansbacher, New York), resistance gene transfer (B. Sorrentino, Memphis), suicide genes (M. Blase, Bethesda) and regulation: issues, national responses (O. Cohen-Haguenauer, Paris). A panel discussion will follow on practical issues and trial design for cancer therapy. For further information, please contact Pat Russell at Projects Oncology, Forum House, Caledonian Road, Chichester, West Sussex PO19 2EN, U.K. Tel. 44 243 530097; Fax 44 243 530098.

### **Consensus Conference on Follow-up of Breast Cancer Patients**

A consensus conference on the follow-up of breast cancer patients, organised by the Oncology Institute of Bari and the Mario Negri Institute of Milan will be held in Bari, Italy on 6–8 October, 1994 with the contribution of the Ministry of Health and the National Research Council and under the patronage of the UICC. It will aim to resolve the following questions: the definition of a state-of-the-art follow-up for patients free of disease after surgery, the standardisation of clinical procedures for follow-up, the organisational factors necessary for clinical follow-up, and the scientific, economic and psychological aspects. The scientific evidence and the considerations presented by three panels of experts studying the economic, organisational and psychological factors will be evaluated by a jury, presided by Prof. F. Cavalli of Bellinzona, and composed of authorities in their field. After a conference, open to the public, the jury will form its conclusions in a closed session and will present its guidelines in a press conference.

For further information, contact Dr Mario De Lena or Dr Angelo Paradiso, Oncology Institute, Via Amendola 209, Bari, Italy 70126. Tel. 80-5555560; Fax 5555559.

### **12th International Symposium of the Journal of Steroid Biochemistry and Molecular Biology—Recent Advances in Steroid Biochemistry and Molecular Biology**

This symposium will be held in Berlin, Germany on 21–24 May 1995. The following topics will be considered: steroids and gene expression (including steroid receptor variant and steroid

receptor protein interaction); new developments of anti-steroids in cancer; steroid hormones, growth factors and oncogenes; control of steroidogenic enzyme gene expression in hormone-dependent tumours; effect of hormonal steroids in the central and peripheral nervous system. Lectures (approximately 25–30) will be by invitation of the scientific organising committee and there will also be a poster section. Abstracts (maximum 200 words) must be addressed to Dr J. R. Pasqualini by 6th January 1995 (original and 12 copies). The total number of participants will be limited to 200. For further details please contact either Dr J. R. Pasqualini (general scientific secretariat), C.N.R.S. Steroid Hormone Research Unit, Foundation for Hormone Research, 26 Boulevard Brune, 75014 Paris, France, Tel. 33 1 45 39 91 09, Fax 33 1 45 42 61 21 or Dr H. Michna (local committee), Schering AG, Exp. Oncology, Mullexstr. 170–178, D-1000 Berlin 65, Germany. Tel. 49 30 468 15 23; Fax 49 30 469 18069.

### **International Symposium on DHEA Transformation into Androgens and Oestrogens in Target Tissues: Intracrinology**

This symposium will be held at the Quebec Hilton on 13–15 September 1995. The program will include symposia and poster presentations. Main topics will include steroid antagonists, inhibitors of steroidogenic enzymes, markers of cell proliferation, cell cycle regulation, glucocorticoids, mammary gland, prostate, skin, central nervous system, obesity, diet, acne, seborrhea, hirsutism and androgenic alopecia. For further information, please contact the Congress Secretariat, International Symposium on DHEA, Laval University Medical Center, 2705 boulevard Laurier, Saint-Foy (Québec), G1V 4G2 Canada. Tel. (418) 654 2129; Fax (418) 654 2714.

### **Fifth International Congress on Hormones and Cancer**

The fifth international congress on hormones and cancer will be held at the Quebec Congress Center in Quebec City on 17–20 September 1995. The program will include plenary lectures, symposia and poster presentations. Main topics will include breast cancer: new advances, prostate cancer: new advances, uterine and ovarian cancer, enzyme inhibitors, anti-hormones, gene therapy—immunomodulation, regulation of the cell cycle—p53 and other genes, cell:cell interactions. For further information, please contact the Congress Secretariat, Fifth International Congress on Hormones and Cancer, Laval University Medical Center, 2705 boulevard Laurier, Asinte-Foy (Québec), G1V 4G2 Canada. Tel. (418) 654 2129; Fax (418) 654 2714.

### **International Symposium on Recent Advances in Diagnosis and Treatment of Prostate Cancer**

This symposium is a satellite of the fifth international congress on hormones and cancer (see above). It will be held at the Quebec Hilton on 21–23 September 1995. The program will include symposia and poster presentations. Main topics will include PSA, radiotherapy, cryotherapy, neoadjuvant therapy, *in vitro* and *in vivo* models, prognostic factors, early detection, benign prostatic hyperplasia, metastatic prostate cancer, cell

cycle control, genetic markers, oncogenes and tumour suppressor genes, gene therapy, 5-reductase inhibitors, anti-andro-

gens and LHRH agonists. For further information, please contact the Congress Secretariat at the above address.

*European Journal of Cancer* Vol. 30A, No. 9 pp. 1397-1398, 1994.  
Copyright © 1994 Elsevier Science Ltd  
Printed in Great Britain. All rights reserved  
0959-8049/94 \$7.00 + 0.00

## Letters

0959-8049(94)E0153-U

### The Prognostic Value of Cell Proliferation in Non-small Cell Lung Cancer Assessed with Tritiated Thymidine and Anti-PCNA Antibodies

L. Maturri, A.M. Lavezzi, F. Grignani,  
G. Salomoni and G.C. Roviario

THE PROGNOSTIC significance of thymidine and PCNA labelling index (T-LI and PCNA-LI) was studied in 38 patients with operable non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) and with a follow-up period from 3 to 6 years after surgery.

In all cases, several tissue fragments were removed from the central and peripheral zones of the tumour. For each sample, proliferative activity was assessed both by autoradiography with tritiated thymidine, and by immunohistochemistry with anti-PCNA antibodies.

The T-LI values ranged from 0.18 to 20.1% (median value 5.65%); the PCNA indices ranged from 0 to 14.7% (median value 2.45%).

The proliferation values obtained by the two methods were unrelated, as shown by a negative result of the linear correlation test.

No statistically significant difference emerged from the comparative analysis of LI values with histotype, differentiation grade and TNS parameters.

For determination of the prognostic significance of T-LI and PCNA-LI, the patients were divided into two groups.

For T-LI a discriminant value of 7.5% (above the median) was found. Thus, the difference in the two curves was statistically significant with  $\chi^2 = 8.96$  ( $P < 0.01$ ) (Figure 1). In fact, there is no biological rationale that justifies the arbitrary use of the median value as a discriminator. Various authors have shown that cell kinetics is useful only with high values, and have therefore used cut-off values above the median to analyse their data [1-4].

For PCNA in our study, neither the median value nor any other value showed any discrimination as regards survival. We, therefore, analysed survival curves only with the median value. The differences was not statistically significant ( $\chi^2 = 0.38$ ;  $P = \text{n.s.}$ ).

On the basis of the data reported in this study, as in our previous studies on other neoplastic pathologies (5,6,7), we conclude that T-LI analysis, whose application has already achieved the gold standard, is the most effective method for evaluation of the S phase and therefore for the prognosis for NSCLC. However, its significance in this tumour group depends on the choice of a suitable cut-off, above the median value.

Correspondence to L. Maturri.

L. Maturri and A.M. Lavezzi are at the Istituto di Anatomia Patologica, Università di Milano, Via Della Commenda 19, 20122 Milan; F. Grignani and G.C. Roviario are at the Cattedra di Chirurgia Generale; and G. Salomoni is at Divisione di Anatomia Patologica, Ospedale S. Giuseppe, Milan, Italy.

Revised 2 Mar. 1994; accepted 28 Mar. 1994.

1. Chauvel P, Courdi A, Gioanni J, Demard F. The labeling index: a prognostic factor in head and neck carcinoma. *Radiother Oncol* 1988, **36**, 814-820.
2. Bauer KD, Merkel D, Marder R, William T. Prognostic implications of ploidy and proliferative activity in diffuse large cell lymphomas. *Cancer Res* 1986, **46**, 3173-3178.
3. Lenner P, Roos G, Lindh J, Dige U. Non-Hodgkin lymphoma. Multivariate analysis of prognostic factors including fraction of S-phase cells. *Acta Oncol* 1987, **26**, 179-183.
4. Volm M, Mattern J, Wayss K. DNA distribution in non-small cell lung carcinomas and its relationship to clinical behavior. *Cytometry* 1985, **6**, 348-356.
5. Maturri L, Montorsi M, Roviario G, Pezzuoli G, Lavezzi AM. Valore prognostico della ploidia e dell' indice di proliferazione nell'adenocarcinoma gastrico resecato. *Chirurgia* 1990, **3**, 657-662.
6. Maturri L, Biondo B, Masini B, Lavezzi AM. Implicazioni prognostiche dell' indice di proliferazione e della ploidia nei tumori neuro-ectodermici (astrocitomi e glioblastomi) *Minerva Med* 1992, **83**, 115-119.
7. Maturri L, Biondo B, Lavezzi AM. The prognostic value of cell kinetics, static cytometry and cytogenetic in transitional cell carcinoma of the bladder. *Friuli Med* 1992, **47**, 243-251.