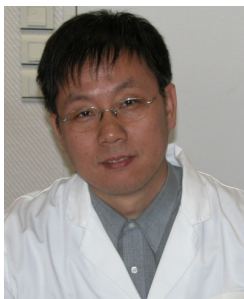


TRU visit Institut Gustave
Roussy
23–26 March 2006
Institut Gustave Roussy
Villejuif, France



Topic: How to succeed in translational research

Eight Fellows representing six countries (Italy, Russia, Switzerland, China, Brazil and Greece) and seven different institutes participated in the Translational Research Unit (TRU) visit to the Institut Gustave Roussy, (IGR) France. In accordance with a special exchange program between ESMO and the Chinese Society of Clinical Oncology (CSCO) and the Latin American and Caribbean Society of Medical Oncology (SLACOM), ESMO offered a TRU fellowship grant to each society, in order to support the career development of young oncologists from these regions.



Liu Ji-Wei
China

Liu Ji-Wei from China commented “I learned many new ideas about translational research during the TRU visit training course at IGR. The visit broadened my vision and enlarged my experimental knowledge. For my future translational cancer research, I will pay more attention to areas such as the development of molecular pathology for diagnostic and prognostic purposes, discovery of new targets for medical treatment, individualized medical therapy, quality control and statistics. I have a preliminary protocol of Gleevec + As2O3 combination in the treatment for advanced stages of chronic myelocytic leukemia, to evaluate the synergy effect of Gleevec + As2O3 , the safety of long-term administration, patient improvement and quality of life.”



Roberta Wolp Diniz
Brazil

Roberta Wolp Diniz from Brazil recognized that “In my country, the area of research is still very deficient; therefore, this visit provided deeper contact and knowledge on translational studies. I go back home with bright new ideas and intend to mobilize my colleagues for future projects. I truly believe that this experience will have a positive and major impact on my career.” Martin Zweifel of Switzerland added “The benefits of the TRU visit were clearly the possibility to see how another institution, although much bigger and with a much higher case load, organizes and pushes forward translational research, acknowledging that only this will help achieve the breakthrough in fighting cancer in the long run. A debate which is sometimes held in Switzerland, about whether or not it is feasible to pursue a clinical and a research career at the same time, is an odd question. Clinical work and research are complementary, and performing both – at least at an academic institution – is *conditio sine qua non*. Clinical institute directors must have a strong research background in order to better understand the difficulties faced by young clinical oncologists performing clinical work and translational research together.”

Evgeny Imyanitov from Russia shared “Based on the information obtained during the IGR visit, I’ll discuss the practicability of introducing some modifications in the genetic testing for breast cancer predisposition with my colleagues. We will also try to improve the quality of diagnostics of EGFR status in lung cancer by supplementing the mutation test with the analysis of extra gene copies. I am very interested in the data on predictive markers for the anthracyclin-based therapy and, in that regard, it is possible that we will initiate a small research project aimed at the validation of some tests.”