

ESMO TRU Visit
Norwegian Radium Hospital
Oslo, Norway
16-19 April, 2007



Education Director Moya Berli (far left), Steiner Aamdal (second from left) and fellows during the TRU visit Norway.

Cancer Clinic at the Rikshospitalet-Radiumhospitalet, University of Oslo, hosted several young medical oncologists during a Translational Research Unit visit entitled 'New avenues in molecular diagnostics, immunotherapy, micrometastases and tumor stem cells.'

The visit was chaired by Steinar Aamdal, MD, PhD, head of the Department for Cancer Clinical Research at the Cancer Clinic. A total of ten young oncologists from Brazil, Romania, Italy, Armenia, Greece, Slovenia, Cyprus, Sweden and China participated in the TRU visit. The group was introduced to new aspects in molecular diagnostics in lymphoma, the laboratory methods practiced and their usefulness in day-to-day lymphoma diagnostics and treatment. The group also learned about the different techniques of detecting micro-metastases from solid tumors in bone marrow and in sentinel node biopsies. The use of micro-metastases detection as a decision-making tool in selecting cancer therapy in a breast cancer trial was discussed. Also discussed was cancer immunology, the development and results from clinical trials with peptide-based cancer vaccines in melanoma and lung cancer.

Laboratory techniques for producing GMP dendritic cells (DC) for clinical use and clinical trial results from DC vaccine trials in melanoma and pancreatic cancer patients were discussed. The last topic in the immunotherapy section was on the influence of regulatory T-cells in cancer immunotherapy. The final lecture addressed the question 'tumor stem cells – are they real?' In addition to the lecture the young oncologists also visited the Department for Tumor Biology laboratories where micro-metastases were analyzed and the Department for Cellular Therapy laboratories where dendritic cells are grown.

Steiner Aamdal, Norway

Head of the Department of Cancer Clinical Research

Cancer Care Clinic at the Rikshospitalet-Radium-hospitalet, University of Oslo