



Report

Advancing careers

Translational Research Unit (TRU) visits



TRU group visit, Oxford

TRU Oxford

From 23–25 February 2005, the Department of Clinical Pharmacology of the University of Oxford, hosted a Young Medical Oncologists Translational Research Unit (TRU) visit entitled 'Gene Therapy for Cancer' at the Radcliffe Infirmary in Oxford. The visit was chaired by Len Seymour, MD, President of the British Society for Gene Therapy, and incorporated expert speakers from a broad spectrum of the British gene therapy community. With young medical oncologists from France, Italy, the Czech Republic and China, the visit introduced

them to a number of significant aspects of gene therapy, including basic molecular and cellular biology underlying the techniques, setting up clinical trials, working with regulatory authorities and collaborating with industrial partners.

Lubos Holubec of the Czech Republic commented, "Due to the possibility to participate in the training at Oxford University, I have gained a basic overview about gene therapy possibilities and formed valuable international contacts for potential future cooperation."

Rosa Conforti from Italy said "We could see that this therapeutic approach is a multi-step process that needs an attentive protocol design, knowledge of risks, good laboratory support and control by regulatory authorities, never forgetting the high cost of this technology."

Giuseppe Colloca from Italy concluded that, "Gene-therapy is the next thing to study in some medical diseases, especially genetic, and I believe gene therapy will be more prevalent in medical oncology in the near future."

ESMO and CSCO



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Dear colleagues,

The TRU visit 'Introduction to Gene Therapy' was hosted in the Radcliffe Infirmary in Oxford 23–25 February 2005. I was very glad and very lucky to participate in the event as a young medical oncologist from China. I appreciate the great effort and help from the European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO) and the Chinese Society of Clinical Oncology (CSCO).

By visiting the translational research units, I learned more about the translational research in the UK, and gained knowledge about new techniques and how to conduct clinical trials on gene therapy. After the TRU visit, I also visited the Oxford Cancer Center and talked with medical oncologists about clinical practice.

I would like to share what I learned with researchers and doctors in my country and suggest to all patients who have received gene therapy to seek long-term follow-up. Gene therapy is approved in China and I would suggest conducting more promising, randomized clinical trials.

The incidence of cancer is very high in China and I would like to design and perform more and better trials in our country and share our experience with other doctors so we can better help our patients. I plan to be more involved in ESMO and CSCO and I hope that both societies will intensify collaboration.

Best wishes, Jing Huang