



ESMO Fellowship Program Committed to cancer research

ESMO TRU Visit
Jules Bordet Institute,
Brussels, Belgium
23-25 March, 2009



Topic: Integrating tumor profiling, tumor microenvironment and minimal residual disease to predict clinical outcome and response to various therapeutics in breast cancer patients.

In March 2009 the Translational Research and Functional Genomics Unit of the Jules Bordet Institute hosted ten young clinical oncologists from European and non-European countries in accordance with the ESMO initiatives for high-quality training in clinical and translational research worldwide. During the 3-day program, which consisted mainly in interactive lectures and workshops, we insisted on the importance of the interaction between the different departments and specializations of the persons involved in cancer research to conduct efficient translational research.

The program started with a general introduction of the Breast International Group and the translational research conducted in the context of large clinical trials. Further, the young oncologists interacted with our pathologists to understand the importance of quality assurance in diagnostic testing and the potential of evaluating the sentinel node positivity in breast cancer. Different techniques were also explained to them going from gene expression profiling to the analysis of circulating tumor cells, so that they could fully understand the main achievements reached by these latest technologies in terms of moving towards the individualization of breast cancer treatment. They were also introduced to the basics and dangers of bioinformatics in the context of all these high-throughput technologies.

Finally, the fellows visited the different labs and had interesting discussions with various members of the team.

For both sides, the visit was a great success!

Christine Desmedt, Christos Sotiriou and Martine Piccart