



## Bits and Pieces from the CLL Global Community

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December 2015

### Season's Greetings!

Wow what a year 2015 has been for the CLL family. We started with the announcement that, for the first time ever, the American Society of Clinical Oncology named transformation in the treatment of patients with CLL as the cancer "Advance of the Year". And the advances have continued throughout 2015 with exciting results from several ongoing clinical trials presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Society of Hematology (ASH) held December 5-8 in Orlando, FL. Keep reading for an update on some of the most exciting findings from ASH, and check out our videos to get the scoop from the investigators themselves.

### NEWLY DIAGNOSED

**If you have recently been diagnosed with CLL, you probably have questions.**

[Information about CLL](#)

[What we are doing to defeat CLL](#)

[List of CLL specialists around the world \(Provided by ACOR\)](#)

### ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF HEMATOLOGY

#### News from ASH

The 57th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Hematology (ASH) was held December 5 - 8, 2015, in Orlando, Florida. The Annual Meeting is the world's premiere event in malignant and non-malignant hematology, bringing together thousands of professionals from around the globe to discuss the hottest topics in hematology research and treatment. Clinical trial results from several studies on CLL presented at this year's meeting indicate a coming revolution in how patients with CLL will be managed going forward. In the words of Dr. John Gribben from the Barts Cancer Institute in London, we now have the ability to "tailor the right treatment to the right patient". It is no longer one size fits all.



### FEATURED VIDEO



**ASH 2015 CLL Expert Roundtable**  
Drs. John Gribben, Constantine Tam and William Wierda review developing treatment approaches revealed at this year's ASH meeting in Orlando, FL.

### FEATURED VIDEO



**Ibrutinib Showing Positive Results in the Frontline Setting**

Dr. Jan Burger discusses results from the RESONATE-2 trial examining ibrutinib versus chlorambucil in the frontline setting.

One ground-breaking study presented by Dr. John Byrd from The Ohio State University described results from a Phase 1/2 clinical trial using ACP-196, a novel Btk inhibitor, to treat patients with relapsed/refractory (R/R) CLL. Btk is a critical target in CLL. ACP-196, a second generation Btk inhibitor, is more selective than the first generation Btk inhibitor ibrutinib.

Preliminary results from the first 61 R/R patients enrolled in the trial show that ACP-196 has a favorable safety profile, and that no disease progression has occurred to date, even in heavily pretreated patients.

Another ground breaking study presented by Dr. Jan Burger from MD Anderson Cancer Center, and recently published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, described a Phase 3 study of older, untreated patients with CLL. Results from the trial demonstrated that treatment of patients with ibrutinib is significantly more effective than treatment with traditional chemotherapy (chlorambucil). The study followed 269 patients for 24 months and revealed an overall survival rate of 97.8%.

Results of a Phase 2 study of venetoclax (ABT-199) in R/R CLL patients harboring 17p deletion were presented by Dr. Stephen Stilgenbauer from the University of Ulm in Ulm, Germany. Venetoclax is a BCL-2 inhibitor that induces CLL cell death. Results of the study showed venetoclax achieved a high overall response rate (79.4%) and sustained remissions. Ten percent of patients achieved complete remission, a response not previously reported for this high-risk population. The results of these studies, as well as others presented at ASH, indicate 2016 will once again be a year of monumental progress in advancing treatment options for patients with CLL.

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**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

**THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING US!**

As we reflect on the past year and the incredible advances that have been made in the treatment and management of CLL, we would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all of the patients who have participated in the clinical trials that make these advances possible. Your contribution provides a brighter future for all CLL patients.

We would like to wish our friends and family a festive, memorable holiday season and a happy new year. Let's raise a toast to 2016 being the best year yet for CLL research.

Sincerely,

**CLL Global Research Foundation**

