



Bits and Pieces from the CLL Global Community

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September 2015

Greetings Friends!

September has been a busy and exciting time for the CLL clinical and research communities. We started the month with our semi-annual CLL Global Alliance meeting held in the beautiful Blue Mountains of Australia. The theme of this year's meeting was "Underdeveloped Opportunities in CLL". CLL experts from all over the globe converged to discuss their latest findings. The Alliance meeting was immediately followed by the 16th bi-annual International Workshop on CLL (iwCLL) in Sydney, Australia. iwCLL President Prof Stephen Mulligan (The University of Sydney) noted what an exciting time it is to be involved in the field. Results from both meetings will be reviewed from the patient's perspective in our upcoming CLL town meeting. Details are provided below. We hope you can join us!

NEWLY DIAGNOSED

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

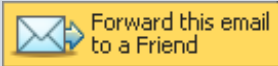
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CLL GLOBAL ALLIANCE MEETING

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Highlights

The CLL research community converged upon Australia the first week of September. The 16th biannual international Workshop on CLL (iwCLL) was held in Sydney, Sept 7-10. During that meeting, scientists presented the latest on clinical trials and CLL biology. Just prior to iwCLL, CLL Global hosted an Alliance meeting in the Blue Mountains outside of Sydney.

FEATURED VIDEOS



iwCLL 2015 Research Highlights

iwCLL 2015

Dr. Philip Thompson, a CLL expert from MD Anderson Cancer Center, discusses key research findings from the International Workshop on Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia meeting held in Sydney, Australia.

FEATURED VIDEOS



Should Genetic Testing Be Routine in CLL Patients?

Understanding CLL

Dr. Nitin Jain from MD Anderson Cancer Center discusses comprehensive genomic testing resources for patients, and shares his opinion on genetic testing schedules and timing.

AMAZON SMILE



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For two-days, CLL Global Alliance members presented research findings and discussed opportunities for collaboration. The exponential complexity of CLL was a common



theme of talks addressing the genetics, biology, and the microenvironment-stromal interaction. Alliance member Dr. Kanti Rai (Long Island Jewish Medical Center) described it best. The meeting offered a "number of presentations that were helpful in understanding CLL. Presentations on the [microenvironment] gave us insights into various aspects of other [non-leukemic] cells we do not generally take into consideration as to how important, and often neglected, they are in CLL." He continued by highlighting that "molecular biology and trafficking of CLL cells will have a profound impact on treatments over the next years."

Dr. Rai's talk was well-received as he presented the progress on CLL over the last few decades and the opportunities that are ripe for exploration. Dr. Rai highlighted ongoing progress in the treatment of CLL including clinical trials using tyrosine kinase inhibitors alone and in combination with immune therapies.

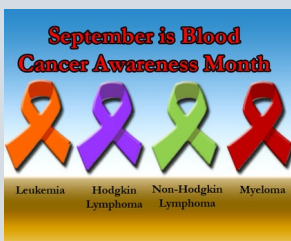
Attendees explored the power of stromal cells. Dr. Federico Caligaris-Cappio (Istituto Scientifico San Raffaele) presented his work on stromal cell dominance. His presentation initiated a group discussion of how stromal cells park themselves in the tissue and bone marrow, and how certain drugs may be necessary to target certain stromal cells in different locations.

CLL Global President and CEO Dr. Michael Keating (MD Anderson Cancer Center) stressed the "massive" importance in understanding the role of the stroma. "We are likely putting an undue burden on geneticists, assuming that if we find one thing then we can fix everything. There are probably lots of on/off switches occurring. It is likely many complex pathways need to be addressed."

Also addressed at the meeting were the role of viral microRNAs in CLL, and the potential for resident viral triggers in driving second cancers in CLL patients. An emphasis toward establishing a true cure for patients with CLL, and not just the maintenance of stable disease, was stressed by all the attendees. This cure will come through multiple avenues including FCR, transplant therapy, and advances in targeted molecular therapies, and will be patient-specific, taking into consideration each person's physiology and genetics.

and for eligible purchases the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to CLL Global.

BLOOD CANCER AWARENESS MONTH



September is National Blood Cancer Awareness Month

DONATE NOW!!



This Alliance meeting provided a historical perspective on the paths that have led to our current understanding of CLL biology and the tools presently available to treat patients, and pointed towards a bright and exciting future for curing the disease.

SAVE THE DATE

Town Meeting to be Held on October 25, 2015

Advances in research are leading to new treatment options and an improved quality of life for people with CLL. Now, more than ever, it is important for patients to stay informed and take an active role in their care.



Join us on Sunday, October 25, 2015, from 10 AM - 3 PM CST at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas, for a free, in-person CLL town meeting. Hear from leading experts about emerging therapies, understanding current treatment options, and learn about support resources. Cannot attend in person? Join the event through our online webinar. Participation is free but registration is required. [Register here.](#)

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING US!

Cooler weather is in the air, but the CLL community is heating up. With new drug combinations in clinical trials, advances in CAR T-cell therapies, a renewed focus on improving CLL patient quality of life, and world-class researchers and clinicians driving these efforts, we have never been closer to a cure for CLL. With the continued support of patrons and partners like you our potential is limitless. Thank you for being a part of our family.

Sincerely,

CLL Global Research Foundation
