



Leukaemia Symposium

Friday 28 August, 2015

New Law School Lecture Theatre 026, University of Sydney



PROGRAM

9:00 am	<p>Symposium opening by Professor David Currow, CEO Cancer Institute NSW</p> <p>Session 1: Focus on ALL</p> <p>Chaired by Dr David Ziegler <i>Head, Clinical Trials Program, Kids Cancer Centre, Sydney Children's Hospital</i></p>
9:10 - 9:40	<p>Professor Richard Lock – <i>Head, Leukaemia Biology Program, Children's Cancer Institute</i></p> <p>Mouse models & pre-clinical development of leukaemia therapies</p> <p>Prof Lock is recognised internationally as a leader in preclinical evaluation of novel treatments for acute leukaemia. Here, he will discuss the use of patient-derived xenograft models to accelerate new drugs into clinical trials in children with relapsed or refractory leukaemia.</p>
9:40 - 10:40	<p>Associate Professor C Michel Zwaan – <i>Head, Paediatric Oncology, Erasmus Medical Centre, Sophia Children's Hospital (The Netherlands)</i></p> <p>Early phase trials in acute lymphoblastic leukaemia</p> <p>A/Prof Zwaan is an internationally acclaimed expert in childhood leukaemia. A widely-cited author of over 150 peer-reviewed publications, he will cover the latest in leukaemia clinical trials, focusing on early phase trials for acute lymphoblastic leukaemia.</p>
10.40 - 11.00	MORNING TEA
	<p>Session 2: Advances in AML</p> <p>Chaired by A/Prof Jennifer Byrne <i>Head, Children's Cancer Research Unit, Kids Research Institute, The Children's Hospital at Westmead</i></p>
11:00 - 11:30	<p>Dr Mark A Guthridge – <i>Senior Research Fellow, Leukaemia Research Laboratory, Australian Centre for Blood Diseases, Monash University</i></p> <p>Acute myeloid leukaemia – a translational focus</p> <p>Dr Guthridge is widely recognised for his research into the mechanisms by which intracellular signalling pathways become deregulated in cancer. In this session, he will focus on current efforts to identify new therapeutic targets for the treatment of AML.</p>
11.30 - 12:00	<p>Associate Professor Steven Lane – <i>Team Head, Translational Leukaemia Research Laboratory, QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute</i></p> <p>New approaches to target AML stem cells and delay relapse after chemotherapy</p> <p>A clinical haematologist and physician scientist, A/Prof Lane will present his laboratory's research into several novel pathways that regulate self-renewal in leukaemia stem cells, aimed at understanding the mechanism of relapse after chemotherapy.</p>
12:00 - 12:20	<p>Dr Jenny Wang – <i>Head, Cancer & Stem Cell Biology, Children's Cancer Institute</i></p> <p>Investigating the delicate interplay between oncogenic pathways in leukaemia stem cells</p> <p>Dr Wang's research is focused on the development of stem cell-targeted therapies for childhood cancers. In this session, she will explore current knowledge about pathways involved in the transition of normal stem cells into leukaemic cells, and how these pathways interact.</p>
12.20 - 1.20	LUNCH

Session 3: Personalised Medicine

Chaired by Prof Glenn Marshall

Director, Kids Cancer Centre, Sydney Children's Hospital

1:20 - 1:50

Professor Deb White – Deputy Cancer Theme Leader and Director Cancer Research, South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute

Using genomic approaches to define new leukaemia subtypes, re-purpose therapies and improve patient outcomes

An expert in leukaemia biomarkers, Prof White will present research into the use of genomic analysis in ALL, and will discuss the development of in vitro assays to broaden our understanding of biological disease drivers, provide disease biomarkers, and develop new therapeutic approaches in both ALL and CML.

1:50 - 2:20

Dr Jayesh Desai – Medical oncologist, Royal Melbourne Hospital and Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre; Chair of Cancer Trials Australia Phase I Group

Bringing personalised medicine into clinical care: early experiences of the Molecular Tumour Board

Dr Desai has a particular interest in the development of molecularly targeted therapies in solid tumours, and has been involved in the development of the VCCC Molecular Tumour Board. Here he will discuss early experiences and challenges in bringing this into routine cancer care.

2:20 - 2:40

Dr Toby Trahair – Senior Staff Specialist, Kids Cancer Centre, Sydney Children's Hospital

Personalised Medicine for childhood leukaemia – an update

Paediatric oncologist Dr Trahair will update us on the development of a national clinical trial integrating personalised medicine into the treatment of children with relapsed leukaemia.

2:40 - 3:05

Dr Joanna Fardell – Post-doctoral Research Fellow, Behavioural Sciences Unit, Kids Cancer Centre, Sydney Children's Hospital

From the psychology laboratory to clinical trials: translating discovery research to improve quality of life and informed consent

Dr Fardell is a psychologist with a research focus on cancer and cognition. She will discuss translational research in psychology, focusing on current trials in quality of life and clinical trial participation.

3:05 - 3:30

AFTERNOON TEA

Session 4: Immunotherapy

Chaired by A/Prof Geoff McCowage

Head, Cancer Gene Therapy Project, The Children's Hospital at Westmead

3:30 - 4:00

Professor David Ritchie – Co-Head, Haematology Immunology Translational Research Laboratory, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, and Director, ACRF Translational Research Laboratory, Royal Melbourne Hospital.

The interface between cancer and immunity

Prof Ritchie is head of the Bone Marrow Transplant Service of the RMH and lab head of two translational research laboratories. He will present current research into immune-altering pathways and possible targets for novel immunotherapies for AML, CLL, and other blood cancers.

4:00 - 5:00

Professor Stephan A Grupp - Director Translational Research, Center for Childhood Cancer Research, and Medical Director, Stem Cell Laboratory, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (USA)

The next generation of CAR T-cell trials

Paediatric oncologist Prof Grupp will share the latest data from clinical trials of chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T-cells in children with B cell leukaemias, with preliminary results showing some of the most powerful anti-cancer effects of any engineered cell therapy trialled to date.

5:00 - 6:15

REFRESHMENTS & NETWORKING