AACR SPECIAL CONFERENCE IN CANCER RESEARCH

Novel Strategies Against Resistant Cancers

November 17-21, 1995
Sanibel Harbour Resort and Spa
Ft. Myers, Florida

CONFERENCE CHAIRPERSONS
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SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

Keynote Address
Donald S. Coffey / Baltimore, MD

Recently Described Targets
Telomeres and Telomerase
Bradford E. Windle / San Antonio, TX
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Farnesyl Transferase
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Blood Vessels and Microenvironment
Angiogenesis
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Strategies with Previously Described Targets
Topoisomerase I Inhibitor
Yves G. Pommier / Bethesda, MD
Mace L. Rothenberg / San Antonio, TX

Thymidylate Synthase
Yousef M. Rustum / Buffalo, NY
Neil J. Clendeninn / San Diego, CA
James L. Abbruzzese / Houston, TX

It's A Matter of Timing
William J.M. Hrushesky / Albany, NY

Biology and Clinical Trials in Resistance

Multidrug Resistance Proteins
Piet Borst / Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Susan P.C. Cole / Kingston, Ontario, Canada
Kenneth D. Tew / Philadelphia, PA

Reversing Drug Resistance
William S. Dalton / Tucson, AZ
Branimir I. Sikic / Stanford, CA

Gene Manipulating Strategies
Glenn Dranoff / Cambridge, MA
Eva Y. Lee / San Antonio, TX

Summary
Victor Ling / Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada
Daniel D. Von Hoff / San Antonio, TX

Additional Speakers to be Announced

Applicants are encouraged to submit abstracts for poster presentation.
Selected proffered papers will also be scheduled for oral presentations.

Application deadline: September 29, 1995

Information and Application Forms
American Association for Cancer Research
Public Ledger Building, Suite 816
150 South Independence Mall West
Philadelphia, PA 19106-3483
215-440-9300 215-440-9313 (FAX)
The Molecular Basis of Gene Transcription

December 2-6, 1995
Hotel Del Coronado
San Diego, CA

CONFERENCE CHAIRPERSON
Tom Curran / Nutley, NJ

PROGRAM COMMITTEE
Anjana Rao / Boston, MA
Danny F. Reinberg / Piscataway, NJ

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Keynote Address
James E. Darnell / New York, NY

Signaling
Ronald M. Evans / La Jolla, CA
Anjana Rao / Boston, MA
Tom Curran / Nutley, NJ

Basic Mechanisms
Danny F. Reinberg / Piscataway, NJ
Robert Tjian / Berkeley, CA
Robert G. Roeder / New York, NY
Richard A. Young / Cambridge, MA

Structure
Alanna Schepartz / New Haven, CT
Stephen K. Burley / New York, NY
Nikola P. Pavletich / New York, NY

Higher Order Organization
James T. Kadonaga / La Jolla, CA
Nouria Hernandez / Cold Spring Harbor, NY

Repression
Jasper D. Rine / Berkeley, CA
Frank J. Rauscher, III / Philadelphia, PA
Michael S. Levine / La Jolla, CA

Activation
Bernard F. Mach / Geneva, Switzerland
Robert N. Eisenman / Seattle, WA
Michael R. Green / Worcester, MA

Cell Cycle
Joseph R. Nevins / Durham, NC
Brian Dynlacht / Charlestown, MA

Additional Speakers to be Announced

Application Deadline: September 18, 1995

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This issue’s cover features Bayard D. Clarkson, a physician scientist who has made significant contributions during the last 35 years toward advancing our understanding of the biology of human cancer and toward developing improved treatment programs. His interest in medicine stemmed from his experience as an ambulance driver with the American Field Service during World War II, in which he served with the British 8th Army in Italy and later in northern Germany; his last assignment was in rescuing surviving inmates of the Belsen concentration camp. After the War, he took his undergraduate education at Yale and received his medical degree at Columbia’s College of Physicians and Surgeons, where he developed his life-long interest in cancer.

Dr. Clarkson took his internship and residency training at New York Hospital from 1952–1958, except for 2 years in the Army Medical Corps during the Korean War. In 1958, he moved across the street to Memorial Hospital & Sloan-Kettering Institute, where he has remained until the present time. His first appointment at Memorial was as a Special Lasker Fellow in the Cancer Chemotherapy Program, then headed jointly by Joseph H. Burchenal and David A. Karnofsky. The following year, he was appointed to the junior attending staff in Medicine at Memorial and as a research associate in Dr. Karnofsky’s laboratory at Sloan-Kettering. Ever since, his career has combined clinical and laboratory research, teaching, and administrative responsibilities. Dr. Clarkson’s first assignment was to team up with Walter Lawrence, then a young attending surgeon, to examine the feasibility of curing localized but inoperable cancers with high doses of cytotoxic drugs delivered by arterial infusion or in isolated perfusion circuits.

After developing the necessary pharmacological and cytotoxic assay systems and animal models to measure drug levels and monitor toxicity (with the considerable help of many Sloan-Kettering scientist, including Fred Phillips, Dorris Hutchison, Charlotte Friend, Aaron Bendich, and Jack Fox), numerous laboratory experiments were performed to determine the most effective drugs and how best to use them. Peyton Rous personally gave Dr. Clarkson a rabbit carrying the transplantable VX-2 carcinoma, which enabled him and Dr. Lawrence to develop a rabbit hind-limb perfusion model system to determine how the local tumor could be eradicated and lung metastases prevented. The laboratory results were quickly translated into the treatment of patients with various types of advanced solid tumors that were unresectable but still largely localized. Although the extremely high drug doses often caused striking tumor regressions, they were almost invariably transitory and incomplete.

Despite these disappointing results, other more encouraging developments occurred, and by the end of the 1970s it was possible to cure about a dozen types of human cancers with chemotherapy in significant numbers of patients. During this period, Dr. Clarkson’s research was largely focused on cytokinetic studies and clinical treatment protocols in patients with leukemia and other hematological neoplasms, and on trying to define differences in the biological behavior of the neoplastic cells and their normal counterparts and determining their response to different chemotherapeutic regimens. He was appointed Chief of the Hematology Service at Memorial Hospital in 1970, Director of the Hematology and Medical Oncology Fellowship Training Program in 1976, Associate Chairman for Research in the Department of Medicine in 1977, and awarded the Enid A. Haupt Chair of Therapeutic Research in 1980.

Dr. Clarkson has authored over 400 publications describing the results of his laboratory and clinical studies and reviews describing advances in different areas of cancer research. He and his colleagues were among the first to develop curative treatment programs for adults with some types of acute leukemias and lymphomas, and they first showed that it was possible to induce temporary, complete cytogenetic remissions in chronic myelogenous leukemia with intensive therapy. His research is presently focused on laboratory studies in chronic myelogenous leukemia, attempting to develop more selective and effective therapy for the disease.

Dr. Clarkson has served on a number of National Institutes of Health and American Cancer Society Study Sections and Advisory Committees and on the Editorial Boards of numerous scientific journals, including Cancer Research, Blood, and the American Journal of Medicine, and he is a member of many scientific and medical societies including the American Society of Hematology, the American Society for Clinical Investigation, and the Association of American Physicians. He has also served on numerous committees of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) and the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) and was elected President of both organizations (ASCO 1973–1974 and AACR 1980–1981).

His loyalty and dedication to the AACR and its mission continue to the present day. Currently he serves as a member of the Board of Directors and of several AACR committees including the Executive Committee, Finance Committee, Publications Committee, and Development Committee. He was elected to the important post of Treasurer of the AACR (1994–1997) and, in this leadership role, has guided the AACR’s financial planning and policies with creativity and vigor.

He has been a Trustee at Clarkson University since 1967, serving as Chairman for 10 years (1978–1988), and currently as Vice Chairman. He was a Trustee at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory for 24 years (1968–1992), recently serving as Vice Chairman (1980–1986) and Chairman (1986–1992).

Dr. Clarkson’s extraordinary and continuing accomplishments as a scientist and leader in the cancer field, combined with his special personal qualities of warmth and sensitivity, have made him deeply loved and respected by all those who have had the privilege of knowing him. We are indebted to Dr. Clarkson for the photograph and the information he provided, which assisted us greatly in coordinating this cover feature.

Sidney Weinhouse