

TRANSBIG Workshop

E11. TRANSBIG Workshop

Fatima Cardoso^{a,*}, Laura van 't Veer^b, Michael Untch^c,
Martine Piccart^a, on behalf of the TRANSBIG Consortium

^a Medical Oncology & Translational Research, Jules Bordet Institute, Brussels, Belgium

^b Department of Pathology, The Netherlands Cancer Institute, The Netherlands

^c Helios Klinikum Berlin-Buch, Academic Hospital of the University Charité Berlin, Berlin, Germany

The TRANSBIG Workshop at EBCC-6 in Berlin will bring together experts and patients in an effort to address some of the difficulties experienced in integrating translational and overall research into the routine of patient care. The session will be divided into two parts, the first aimed at participants attending EBCC (in English), the second designed for the public (in German).

The EBCC-oriented part of the programme brings together representatives from the multidisciplinary research team – oncologist, pathologist, surgeon, nurse, and patient advocate – to present their ideas on the subject of research and patient care and how to overcome existing barriers so that advances in breast cancer treatment can be successfully and quickly incorporated into clinical practise.

The EBCC-oriented session will start with a talk by Dr. Fatima Cardoso on ‘The challenges of the multidisciplinary approach of translational research’. Breast cancer management and research today must be multidisciplinary in approach to ensure high quality patient care. However, implementing multidisciplinary is often quite difficult due to the very demanding clinical schedules of those involved. The same applies to the inclusion of research activities into daily clinical practice. Some of these challenges, as well as potential solutions, will be briefly discussed.

The role of the pathologist will be presented by Dr. Giuseppe Viale in ‘The Pathologist: the strongest link!’ Often seen as ‘too removed from the patient’, the pathologist has become a crucial partner in both clinical management and cancer research, particularly in the era of translational medicine. This talk will look at the interaction between the pathologists, clinicians, lab researchers, research nurses and patients, as well as the difficulties of incorporating translational and overall research into the pathologist’s routine practice.

The role of the surgeon will be presented by Dr. Emiel Rutgers in ‘How the surgeon brings science into practice’. Issues such as coordinating clinical and research activities in the context of a busy and demanding

clinic will be discussed, together with the important role of the surgeon in both decision-making and biological materials’ collection for both research and routine clinical management.

Yvonne Wengström will describe the role of the research nurse in her talk on ‘Clinical trial nursing – a separate discipline?’ She will address the difficult and sometimes tense relationships between routine practice nurses and research nurses, and the particular challenges faced by the latter in their everyday work, serving as a crucial link between the patient and several hospital departments.

Finally, in this EBCC-oriented session, Stella Kyriakides will discuss the fundamental role of the patient in ‘For the patient, with the patient’. Of particular interest is the way changes in research activities are seen by breast cancer patients. These include the difficulties associated with being asked to participate in clinical trials and patients’ views about donating biological material for research. An important and frequently neglected aspect is the patient’s perspective on the way their treatments are managed inside and outside of clinical trials, including the distress caused by the frequent ‘back-and-forth’ between these two situations. Both pros and cons will be considered.

The second, public part of the TRANSBIG Workshop (held in German), involving patient representatives and scientists, will examine progress in understanding breast cancer biology and the development of new drugs, as well as more general topics such as breast cancer screening and patient follow-up. The main aim of this session is to provide an open forum for the general public to ask questions to a panel of experts regarding breast cancer related issues. Short presentations will set the stage for interactive discussions with the audience.

Conflict of interest statement

None declared.