

## Proceedings of the 1985 Annual Meeting of the Swiss Society of Oncology\*

---

The following papers and abstracts reflect the presentations given during a 2-day meeting which took place in Lausanne, Switzerland, 28–29 March 1985. One of the purposes of this meeting was to promote exchanges between basic scientists and clinicians working in the field of oncology. In this context, we chose to devote one day to one particular type of tumor (colorectal) attempting to illustrate this approach by selecting recent results from multidisciplinary studies. The second day was devoted to summarizing progress in our understanding of tumor invasion and metastasis again by bringing together laboratory and clinical research activities.

The day devoted to progress in colorectal cancer research began with a brief review of the pathology of this disease. New techniques and reagents developed in the laboratory can be applied to characterize tumor tissues providing insight into the pathogenesis of colon carcinoma. Can lesions with an identical morphology be distinguished on the basis of their antigenic profile, or on the basis of an altered product, or on the basis of gene expression? Some of the papers presented illustrate the impact of laboratory methods in answering these questions. Epidemiology as discussed by Dr. D. Trichopoulos is crucial in identifying etiological factors which may one day lead to the development of successful prevention therapy. Until the incidence of this tumor type decreases, diagnosis and therapy need to be improved; Dr. C. Van de Velde provided a state of the art review of the management of colorectal cancer. Abstracts clustered around this paper communicated up-to-date results obtained by cooperative studies such as the Swiss Group for Clinical Cancer Research (SAKK) and the European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer (EORTC).

The majority of clinical oncologists would like to understand the mechanisms of tumor invasion and metastasis in order perhaps to be able to interfere therapeutically with these processes. The second day was then devoted to advances in this field with the most recent experimental work, including a review on the molecular biology of metastasis by Dr. L. Liotta and on the cell biology of the metastatic phenotype by Dr. D. Tarin. Short communications and position papers which followed illustrated the many problems that the clinical oncologists have to face in their practice of managing an advanced malignant disease.

This meeting was successful in focusing questions brought up by basic and clinical cancer research. We look to future results for their elucidation.

Jose Costa,  
Institute of Pathology,  
C H U V,  
1011 Lausanne,  
Switzerland.

Bernard Sordat,  
Swiss Institute for  
Experimental Cancer Research,  
1066 Epalinges,  
Switzerland.

---

\* Supported by the Swiss Society of Oncology and the Swiss Cancer League on the occasion of its 75th anniversary.