

## **Meeting Abstracts**

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# **Advances in the Applications of Monoclonal Antibodies in Clinical Oncology**

**7th International Meeting  
14–16 May, 1990**

**at the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists,  
27 Sussex Place, Regent's Park, London NW1, UK**

Monoclonal antibodies have been used clinically for almost a decade, but in terms of perfecting techniques for their application there is still a long way to go.

The meeting covered the following topics in depth: protein engineering, chemistry, characterization of tumour antigens, epitope mapping of antibody specifications, advances in *in vivo* imaging using suitable radioisotopes such as technetium-99m, and progress in therapeutic application of antibodies as activators of the immune system, or as carriers of radioisotopes, toxins and chemotherapy drugs. New two-step strategies, such as the use of hybrid antibodies or incorporation of avidin–biotin *in vivo* or the activation of prodrugs by non-mammalian enzymes, were presented and discussed.

It was clear that advances in protein engineering and, particularly the polymerase chain reaction, have proved extremely useful in the production of “mini” antibodies, i.e. single chain (Fv), single domain antibodies (Dabs), or isolated peptides from the complimentary determining regions of antibodies. Chimeric and humanised antibodies are already in clinical trials, and their arrival may help to solve some of the problems encountered by the use of murine monoclonal antibodies.

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A.A. Epenetos  
Course Organiser  
ICRF Oncology Group  
Hammersmith Hospital  
Du Cane Road  
London W12 0HS, UK

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