

of action of the lead bioreductive indoloquinone EO9 and its analogues.

#### *PAMM group*

This group develops novel anticancer agents on the basis of sound pharmacological principles. It was initially formed to fill an important gap in the area of analytical methodology, formulation, pharmacokinetics and metabolism. These important activities are continuing. At the same time, there is an increasing commitment to new developments in molecular pharmacology, including the application of new techniques and the exploitation of exciting discoveries in cell biology. The group is evaluating pharmacokinetically-guided dose escalation to reach maximum tolerated dose rapidly but safely in phase I trials. There is considerable interest in new drug design. Collaborative work with the SPG is very active in the area of bioreductive agents such as EO9, particularly with respect to molecular enzymology. The PAMM group has a particular interest in cell membrane and signal transduction as targets for anticancer agents. In this, it is working closely with the Receptor Study Group, in addition to the regular collaboration with the NDDO and ECTG.

#### *Receptor Study Group*

The Receptor Study Group began life as a Quality Assessment Group to ensure that steroid receptor assays were as equivalent as possible in all laboratories doing assays for patients entering EORTC trials. This involved development not only of quality control schemes but also of collaborative projects to determine the clinical value of particular receptor concentrations and the equivalence, or otherwise, of new technologies compared with the established method—both for clinical and biological value. Other receptors (EGF receptor, *cerbB* 2, etc) have now acquired some clinical significance but, again, their value is dubious until proper quality control is accepted by all the laboratories involved. We have just completed a workshop (to be published) to ensure common methodologies for several receptor and related gene/gene product assays. Studies on blocking of ligand binding and tyrosine kinase activities will be carried out in collaboration with the SPG and PAMM groups. At all stages, standardisation of assays will be critical. The clinical potential of *cerbB* 2 will be explored in collaboration with the Gynecological and Breast groups. The potential of TGF $\alpha$ /TGF $\beta$  interaction will be studied with the GI group. A separate collaboration with the Epidemiology Branch is allowing particular risk factors for different cancers to be assessed, for the first time, in relation to different biological sub-groups within particular cancers.

Robin Leake (Receptor Study Group)  
on behalf of John Double (SPG Group),  
Maurizio D'Incalci (PAMM Group)  
and Matti Aapro (Cell Biology Group).

### **EACR-II—The European Association for Cancer Research Meet in Italy**

The European Association for Cancer Research held its 11th biennial meeting in Genoa on 3–6 November, 1991, following the European Conference on Clinical Oncology (ECCO-6) in Florence (27–31 October, 1991), and preceding the Joint Conference between the American Association for Cancer Research

and the EACR on "Concepts and Molecular Mechanisms of Multistage Carcinogenesis" in Santa Margherita (6–9 November, 1991). Our hosts in Genoa were Professor Leonardo Santi (Chairman of the National Scientific Committee) and Dr Claudio Lombardo (Chairman of the Local Organising Committee) and their respective committees, and around 600 cancer researchers from Europe and beyond responded to their invitation to attend the scientific meeting.

The high standards of scientific presentations which we have come to expect at EACR meetings were maintained, and the abstracts of delegates' contributions have already been published in a recent issue of this journal (*Eur J Cancer*, 27, Supplement 3, 1991). In addition, review lectures and the Muhlbock Memorial Lecture on "Cell Proliferation in Carcinogenesis and in Malignant Tumours" by Professor Olav Hilmar Iverson will be featured in the regular issues of the journal.

The future activities of the Association were the subject of considerable debate at our various committee meetings, and the tragic events in Yugoslavia necessitated a reappraisal of the programme of our meetings. It has been planned that EACR-12 would be held in Dubrovnik in October, 1992, and it was with deep regret that the decision to postpone a meeting in Dubrovnik had to be taken. The formal elections of our Members of Council and Officers and Members of the Executive Committee were to be held in Dubrovnik so that it was clearly essential to make arrangements for the next meeting of the EACR as soon as possible. The Belgian Association Against Cancer proposed a solution to our constitutional difficulties with the invitation to join with them in celebrating the 10th Anniversary of their Association at a meeting in Brussels in early 1993. This generous offer was welcomed, and formally accepted by the General Assembly of the EACR.

1993 is projected to be an important year for the Association—in November, the ECCO-7 meeting will be held in Jerusalem organised by the Federation of European Cancer Societies and the EACR proposes to join fully in representing basic science in cancer research at this meeting. It is hoped that this will provide further opportunities for developing joint initiatives with societies involved in all clinical aspects of research and treatment of cancer. Members of the Association will be circulated with information concerning these meeting as and when it becomes available.

Already in 1992, it is proposed that the Association will contribute a joint programme of workshops with the European Society for Medical Oncology starting at the XVIIth ESMO Congress in November in Lyon. Our association is joining with the Task Force of the Research Branch of the European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer at a meeting on "Cytokines and Growth Factors in Cancer" (Innsbruck—11–14 March, 1992). Also in 1992, the Association will continue in its sponsorship of meetings relating to cancer research including a meeting on "Adjuvant Therapy in Primary Breast Cancer" (St Gallen—26–29 February, 1992) and an International Workshop on Carcinoma-Associated Mucins in Cambridge (August 1992).

At the Meeting of the General Assembly, our members were informed of the appointment of several special committees with responsibilities for developing specific initiatives. These included a Committee for East European Affairs charged with responding to the changing situations in the east and with exploring the opportunities for developing collaborative research. Committees were also appointed to oversee the forthcoming elections in the EACR, and to re-examine our Consti-

tution and By-Laws, some of which are no longer appropriate in the light of recent political developments within Europe.

With the establishment of the Cell and Molecular Oncology Initiative in the *European Journal of Cancer*, the Association appointed a panel of members to assist the journal's editors by identifying specific areas of cancer research for inclusion in the journal and to promote submission of high quality manuscripts on these topics.

Finally, at our General Assembly Meeting, it was the pleasure of the President, Professor Peter Bannasch to announce the election of Professor G. Abelev as an Honorary Fellow of the Association. Such awards are made by the Executive Committee to distinguished members of the EACR in recognition of their contribution to cancer research.

#### *New committees appointed in Genoa*

*Committee for East European Affairs.* M. Chorazy, C. Lombardo, B. Nagy, E. Olah, M.R. Price, A. Vaheri.

*Nominations Committee.* P. Bannasch, M. Colnaghi, M.R. Price, M. Grofova, J. Taylor-Papadimitriou, H. Van Der Berghe.

*Committee for the Consideration of the Constitution and By-Laws.* M. Chorazy, G. Della Porta, G. Pasternak, M.R. Price, M. Roberfroid, H. Tulinius.

*Commissioning Panel for the European Journal of Cancer.* A. Balmain, S. Meuer, E. Olah, F. Rilke, H. Van Der Berghe.

Michael R. Price  
Pauline E. Saunders  
EACR Secretariat  
Cancer Research Campaign Laboratories  
University of Nottingham  
Nottingham NG7 2RD  
U.K.

### **17th Gray Conference**

The 17th L.H. Gray Conference on tumour assessment and response to therapy studied by magnetic resonance spectroscopy will be held at the University of Kent at Canterbury on 13–16 April 1992. Further details can be obtained from Dr Marion Stubbs, CRC Biomedical Magnetic Resonance Research Group, Division of Biochemistry, St George's Hospital Medical School, Cranmer Terrace, London, SW17 0RE, UK. Tel: (081) 672 9944 ext 55809, Fax: (081) 672 4864.

### **Melatonin and the Pineal Gland**

During the IXth International Congress of Endocrinology, a scientific and clinical symposium on melatonin and the pineal gland will be held on 6–9 September 1992 in Paris. For further information, contact Professor Y. Touitou, Department of

Biochemistry, Faculty of Medicine Pitié-Salpêtrière, 91 boulevard de l'Hôpital, 75013 Paris, France. Tel: (1) 40 77 96 63, Fax: (1) 40 77 96 65.

### **Clinical Hyperthermia**

The XVth international symposium on clinical hyperthermia will be held in Lyon, France, on 19–22 May 1992. For further details, contact Dr F. Gilly, Department of Surgery, Centre Hospitalier, Lyon Sud, 69310 Pierre Benite, Lyon, France. Tel: 78 50 95 15, Fax: 78 50 45 37.

### **American Radium Society**

The 74th annual meeting of the American Radium Society will take place on 11–15 April 1992 in Orlando, Florida. More information can be obtained from the Chairman's Office at 1101 Market Street, 14th Floor, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107, USA. Tel: (215) 574 3179.

### **AACR/Japanese Cancer Association**

The second joint meeting of the American Association for Cancer Research and the Japanese Cancer Association will be held on 10–14 February 1992 in Honolulu. For further details, contact the AACR, Public Ledger Building, 620 Chestnut Street, Suite 816, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106-3483, USA. Tel: (215) 440 9300, Fax: (215) 440 9313.

### **Symposium on New Drugs**

The 7th NCI-EORTC symposium on new drugs in cancer therapy will be held in Amsterdam on 17–20 March 1992. Further information from EORTC New Drug Development Office, Free University Hospital, De Boelelaan 1117, NL-1081 HV Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Tel: (20) 5487881, Fax: (20) 5486101.

### **Tumour Immunology Course**

The first John Humphrey course, on tumour immunology, will be held on 30 Aug–3 Sept 1992, in Iasi, Romania. The course will follow the 8th International Congress of Immunology, and is organised by the European Federation of Immunological Societies with the sponsorship of the Gesellschaft für Immunologie, FRG. Further details can be obtained from Dr Eugen Carasevici, Clinica de Oncologie, Laboratorul de Immunologie Tumorală, Spitalul Universitar "Sf Spiridon", bdul Independenței nr 1, 6600 Iasi, Romania.

### **Flow Cytometry**

A conference on clinical flow cytometry will be held in Baltimore on 25–28 April, 1992. For further details, contact the Conference Department, New York Academy of Sciences, 2 East 63rd Street, New York, New York 10021, USA. Tel: (212) 838 0230, Fax: (212) 838 0230.