



# The European School of Oncology

## 1993 FORTHCOMING EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

### Seminar

## GROWTH FACTORS (CYTOKINES): FROM BASIC SCIENCE TO THE CLINIC

19th - 21st October, 1993, Venice, Italy

**Chairperson: M.B. Sporn (Bethesda)**

Faculty: M. Brandi (IT), M. Dexter (GB), C. Heldin (SE), A. Lefer (US), K. Unsicker (DE), S. Wahl (US)

The seminar will consider accomplishments and possibilities regarding the use of growth factors (cytokines), as well as their antagonists, for treatment of human disease. In 6 major areas, the relevant scientific basis (tissue, cell, and molecular biology) will be presented in detail, followed by consideration of practical clinical applications.

### OTHER EVENTS

**8th - 10th September**

*Seminar: Site: Venice, Italy*

**Tumour Imaging**

D. Bragg (US)

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**14th - 17th September**

*Training Course: Site: Moscow, CIS*

**Lung Cancer**

M. Davydov (CIS), N. van Zandwijk (NL)

\*\*\*

**16th - 19th September**

*Training Course: Site: Athens, Greece*

**New Drugs in Cancer Therapy**

N. Pavlidis (GR)

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**30th September - 2nd October**

*Training Course: Site: Vienna, Austria*

**Head and Neck Tumours**

G.B. Snow (NL), B. Maciejewski (PL)

**2nd - 4th October**

*Training Course: Site: New York, USA*

**Psychosocial Factors in Cancer Risk  
and Survival**

J. Holland (US)

\*\*\*

**4th - 7th October**

*Advanced Residential Course: Site: Orta San Giulio, Italy*

**Breast Cancer**

U. Veronesi (IT), M. Osborne (US)

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**17th - 21st October**

*Training Course: Site: Copenhagen, Denmark*

**Palliative Care of Cancer Patients**

O.S. Nielsen (DK), V. Ventafridda (IT)

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**18th - 22nd October**

*Training Course: Site: Athens, Greece*

**Lymphomas**

G. Pangalis (GR), A. Polliack (IL)

For Advanced Residential Courses held in Italy, the registration fee is 650 ECU.

For Seminars held in Italy, the registration fee is 400 ECU.

For further information contact:

The Secretariat, European School of Oncology,

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## News

### Germ Cell Tumour Conference III

The Yorkshire Regional Cancer Organisation will be holding the germ cell tumour conference III at the University of Leeds, U.K. on 8-10 September 1993. For further information contact P. Hodgins, Yorkshire Regional Cancer Organisation, Cookridge Hospital, Leeds LS16 6QB, U.K. Tel: 532 673411, exn. 402.

### Cell Growth and Growth Hormone Forum

The Cell Growth and Growth Hormone Forum is holding a workshop on the superfamily of receptors for growth hormone, prolactin, erythropoietin and cytokines in Haifa, Israel on 7-11 November 1993. For further information contact Margalit Zur, Management and Organization of Congresses, P.O. Box 9095, Ramat Efal 52190, Israel. Tel: 972-3-6355038, Fax: 972-3-5351103, TLX: 371679 GIZU IL.

### Anticancer Drug Development

A postgraduate course on anticancer drug development will be held on 8-12 September 1993 in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. The course is organised by the European Cancer Centre Amsterdam (ECC) and the European Society of Medical Oncology (ESMO) in cooperation with the EORTC New Drug Development Office Amsterdam. For further details, contact IKA c/o Robbert F.M. van Bokhoven, Plesmanlaan 125, 1066 CX Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Tel: 31-20-617 2903, Fax: 31-20-615 5904.

### Monoclonal Antibody Immunoconjugates

The ninth international conference on monoclonal antibody immunoconjugates for cancer will be held on 3-5 March 1994 in San Diego, California, U.S.A. For further details contact Cass Jones, Professional Conference Management Inc., 7916 Convo Court, San Diego, CA 92111, U.S.A. Tel: (619) 565-9921, Fax: (619) 565-9954.

### Gene Therapy of Cancer

The second international conference on gene therapy of cancer will be held on 18-20 November 1993 in San Diego, California, U.S.A. For further details contact Cass Jones, Professional Conference Management Inc., 7916 Convo Court, San Diego, CA 92111, U.S.A. Tel: (619) 565-9921, Fax: (619) 565-9954.

## Letters

### Hormone Priming in Breast Cancer: Oestrogen Priming Has a Detrimental Effect on Response in Oestrogen Receptor-negative Patients

Lesley Seymour, Karin Meyer and  
Werner R. Bezwoda

POTENTIAL THERAPEUTIC benefits from hormonal recruitment of neoplastic cells into the cell cycle has been suggested in a number of preclinical observations and has also been reported in clinical studies [1-4]. Results have, however, not been uniformly favourable [5, 6]. We undertook a randomised controlled trial comparing treatment with combination chemotherapy with or without diethylstilbestrol (DES) priming. Eligibility criteria included pre- and postmenopausal patients with histologically documented recurrent or progressive breast cancer with at least one measurable site of disease. Oestrogen receptor-positive (ER+) and oestrogen receptor-negative (ER-) patients were included in the study. Receptor status was determined at the start of the study by biopsy of accessible metastatic lesions (usually cutaneous), the determinations being carried out immunochemically using a commercially available kit (ER-ICA, Abbot Laboratories) according to the manufacturer's instructions. Additional histological material was utilised for determination of progesterone receptor, proliferative index (PI), assessed by fluorescence-activated cell sorter, and the expression of the proliferation-associated antigen Ki67 [7-9]. Patients with accessible tumour were rebiopsied at the end of oestrogen priming and again at the end of the first cycle of chemotherapy.

The chemotherapy regimen used in both arms of the study was identical and consisted of a combination of cyclophosphamide 600 mg/m<sup>2</sup>, mitoxantrone 12 mg/m<sup>2</sup> and vincristine 1.4 mg/m<sup>2</sup> given intravenously (iv) once every 28 days (CNV). Patients randomised to the hormone priming arm (DES-CNV) received DES 5 mg orally daily for 5 days starting on day 1 of each chemotherapy cycle. Postmenopausal patients on the hormone priming arm received, in addition, aminoglutethimide 250 mg twice daily orally throughout the entire treatment period. Randomisation was by the random number closed envelope technique and all patients gave informed consent. The study was

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