

News

Third Pezcoller Award, 1993

Winner: Professor Vogelstein, Baltimore, U.S.A.

Selection Committee: European School of Oncology, Milan, Italy.

ONCOLOGY is in the midst of profound change. Unusually clear, new insights into the mechanisms which promote the transformation of normal cells into the building blocks of the most common human tumours are ever more rapidly arising. No one has been more responsible for fueling this improvement in understanding than Professor Bert Vogelstein of the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine in Baltimore, Maryland, U.S.A., the 1993 recipient of the Pezcoller Prize in Oncology. Professor Vogelstein was the first to demonstrate the single importance of a series of specific losses in function of key tumour suppressor genes, and the activation of a known oncogene in the progressive transformation of normal colonic epithelial cells into a fully invasive colon carcinoma. One of these genes is the tumour suppressor gene, p53, which his work has placed at the centre of one of the fastest growing fields of biological science—molecular oncology. Professor Vogelstein has also identified, mapped, in two cases cloned, and made major progress in understanding the functions of three other loci which fuel the process of colon carcinoma development. Two of these genes, when abnormal at birth, can predispose otherwise healthy individuals to the development of colon carcinoma. By a combination of brilliant vision and especially imaginative experimentation, Professor Vogelstein has made tractable for all scientists a problem which was, heretofore, laden with mystery. Better still, he has shown that his newly diagnosed knowledge can be the source of simple diagnostic tests which have the potential to greatly improve early diagnosis and therapy of some of the most common human cancers. Taken together, Professor Vogelstein's discoveries lie at the heart of an increasingly powerful movement towards molecular diagnosis and rational treatment based on knowledge of disease mechanisms. For his seminal contributions to this rapidly moving field, the Pezcoller Foundation is delighted to honour him this year.

Long Term Complications of Cancer Treatment in Children

The Third International Conference on the Long Term Complications of Treatment of Children and Adolescents for Cancer will be held in Niagara Falls, New York on 10–11 June 1994. Wide ranging topics will be addressed including site specific and germ cell mutation, radiation carcinogenesis, genetics of colorectal cancer, and genetic predisposition to second malignancies. For further information please contact Dr Daniel M. Green, Department of Pediatrics, Roswell Park Cancer Institute, Elm and Carlton Streets, Buffalo, New York 14263, U.S.A. Tel: 716 845 2334, Fax: 716 845 8003.

International Cancer Congress

The XVI International Cancer Congress will be held in New Dehli, India on 30 October – 5 November 1994. For further

information please contact the Congress Secretariat, XVI International Cancer Congress, Tata Memorial Centre, Parel, Bombay 400 012, India. Tel: 91 22 412 9399 or 91 22 414 6685 ext 4265/4270, Fax: 91 22 413 9318 or 91 22 414 6937.

Chemoresistance: From Bench to Clinical Trials

The XI Cancer Research Workshop (Journées Grenobloises de Cancérologie) will be held on 24–25 March 1994, and will focus on Chemoresistance: From Bench to Clinical Trials. A variety of topics, including mechanisms, modulation, prevention and examples of chemoresistance, will be discussed. For further information please contact Dr Mireille Mousseau, Unité de Concertation et de Recherche pour le Traitement des Affections Cancéreuses, C.H.U. Michallon, BP 217, 38043 Grenoble, Cedex 9, France. Tel: 33 76 76 54 36, Fax: 33 76 54 17 82.

EORTC Gastrointestinal Tract Cancer Cooperative Group

The EORTC Gastrointestinal Tract Cancer Cooperative Group is calling for investigators to join ongoing trials on adjuvant treatment of oesophageal and gastric cancer, and on intraarterial chemoembolization of colon cancer and liver metastases. If you are interested, please contact Dr Harry Bleiberg. Fax: 32 2 538 08 58.

Fifth International Congress on Anti-Cancer Chemotherapy

The 5th International Congress on Anti-Cancer Chemotherapy is to be held in Paris, Palais des Congrès, between 31 January and 3 February 1995. For further information, please contact the 5th CICAC Secretariat, Salpêtrière Hospital, 5th ICACC, 47 Boulevard de l'hôpital, 75013 Paris, France. Tel: 45 70 22 37; Fax: 45 70 28 36.

Multidrug Resistance

The First International Conference on Reversal of Multidrug Resistance in Cancer will be held on 1–3 September 1994 in St. Gallen, Switzerland. The conference is designed to assess the current status of clinical reversal of multidrug resistance and to discuss promising future approaches. The focus will be on reversal of P-glycoprotein-associated multidrug resistance, yet data on circumvention of other mechanisms will also be presented. Experts in the field will review clinical and basic aspects of reversal of multidrug resistance, and new original data will be discussed by invited speakers and investigators who submit competitive papers. Additionally, satellite workshops will be held that focus on novel chemosensitising agents.

Abstract deadline: 31 March 1994. For further information contact Beatrice Nair, Conference Coordinator, MDR-94, Dept. C of Internal Medicine, Kantonsspital, Bldg. 09, CH-9007 St. Gallen, Switzerland. Tel: (41) 71 26 10 97, Fax: (41) 71 25 68 05.

European Association for Neuro-Oncology

The First Congress of the European Association for Neuro-Oncology will be held in Maastricht, The Netherlands on 16–19 October 1994. For further information contact Imedex, Congress Secretariat, Bruistensingel 360, P.O. Box 3283, 5203 DG's-Hertogenbosch, The Netherlands.