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SNO News: Recap of the 4th

Quadrennial Meeting of the World

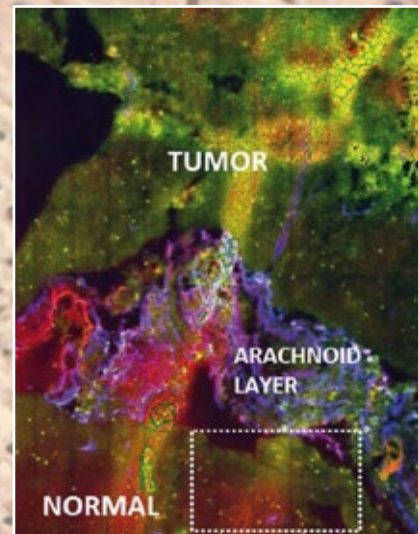
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SNO News: Recap of the 4th Quadrennial Meeting of the World Federation of Neuro-Oncology

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The 4th Quadrennial Meeting of the World Federation of Neuro-Oncology was held in conjunction with the 18th Annual Scientific Meeting and Education Day of the Society for Neuro-Oncology from November 21–24, 2013, in San Francisco, CA. The meeting enjoyed record attendance of close to 2100 registrants from 46 different countries.

We congratulate meeting chair Dr Mitchel Berger for composing a comprehensive programme which highlighted cutting-edge laboratory and clinical research. Special thanks are also extended to the scientific planning committee which was comprised of members from each of the 3 leading neuro-oncology societies, including Koichi Ichimura and Ryo Nishikawa (ASNO), Riccardo Soffietti and Michael Weller (EANO) as well as Susan Chang and Russell Pieper (SNO). The meeting provided an enthusiastic environment for the exchange of ideas among clinical and laboratory scientists involved in the research, diagnosis, care, and treatment of patients with central nervous system tumours.

■ Education Day

The education day on Thursday, November 21, was entitled “From Drug Discovery to Clinic” and reviewed the various aspects of clinical development of agents that comprise preclinical testing, pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic considerations, first-in-man studies, and the challenges of phase-0–III clinical trials. Alternate concurrent sessions appraised the specific challenges of clinical design and specific pathways that are being evaluated in the preclinical arena. Also featured was a quality-of-life session with modules focused on palliative care, symptom management, and paediatric quality of life.

■ WFNO Quadrennial and SNO Annual Meeting

The meeting built on the traditional SNO format and presented top-scoring abstracts and meet-the-expert sessions. The scientific meeting began Friday, November 22, with sunrise sessions followed by the start of the first general session. The 4 sunrise sessions were on the following topics: (1) maximal safe resection of glioma – current techniques, (2) paediatric genomics update, (3) innovative QOL programmes in the clinical setting, and (4) metabolic imaging. After the sunrise sessions, the first plenary session started with an official meeting welcome by Dr Mitchel Berger, followed by the Victor Levin Lecture by Monika Hegi and Roger Stupp. Dr Kenneth Aldape then delivered his presidential address followed by the EANO keynote address by Stefan Pfister, MD, PhD, entitled “Translating next-generation diagnostics into next-generation treatment”.

A young investigators luncheon roundtable was held at noon on Friday at which trainees and early-phase independent in-

vestigators participated in informal discussions with senior investigators at roundtables organized into a variety of different areas. Lunch was followed by afternoon concurrent sessions including (1) pathology and genomic and (2) adult clinical sciences. The next set of concurrent sessions included (1) angiogenesis and invasion and (2) paediatric clinical sciences. Friday evening, a special “Townhall Meeting” reviewed the results of the recent international randomised phase-III trials evaluating the use of antiangiogenic strategies for newly diagnosed and recurrent glioblastoma session.

Saturday sunrise sessions featured the following topics: WHO classification of tumours – update (Session 1), overview of GWAS and potential for international collaboration (Session 2), immunological strategies in neuro-oncology (Session 3), asymmetric cell division – avenues for research and clinical applications (Session 4), and joint AAN session: controversies in neuro-oncology (Session 5). After the sessions, a mini-symposium on low-grade gliomas was held and trailed by the ASNO keynote address by Do-Hyun Nam, MD, PhD, entitled “Personalized targeted therapeutics based on the genomic-characterized patient-derived model (Avatar) system”. Up next, award-winning abstracts were presented and they were followed by the SNO keynote address by Frank McCormick, PhD, entitled “New ways of targeting RAS”.

The first-of-its-kind mid-level faculty networking luncheon was held at noon on Saturday with the intent of forming a horizontal mentoring group. After lunch, we witnessed the first set of Saturday afternoon concurrent sessions: (1) cell biology and signalling, (2) molecular epidemiology and biomarkers. The second set of concurrent sessions included (1) paediatric basic and translational research and (2) neurocognitive outcomes and quality of life. A poster session was organised after the oral sessions concluded for the day. That evening, the SNO gala dinner at San Francisco City Hall was the social highlight of the meeting that allowed us to recognise the important service of those who make the meeting possible.

The Sunday, November 24, sunrise sessions included (1) brain metastases, (2) minimising side effects from radiation, (3) tumour-associated epilepsy, and (4) microglia. The sunrise sessions were followed by concurrent meetings on metabolic pathways/stem cells and imaging and RANO update. The last concurrent sessions were (1) preclinical therapeutics and (2) biologic/immunologic therapies followed by the meeting’s adjournment.

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