METHODS IN CLINICAL CANCER RESEARCH

The 15th intensive Workshop for junior clinical oncologists in any clinical research specialty area, to learn the essentials of clinical trial design

Waldhaus Flims, Switzerland

Applications Open: 14 December 2012
Applications Close: 11 February 2013

www.ecco-org.eu
WORKSHOP DIRECTORS

Representing ECCO
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Emiliano Calvo
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Lara Lusa
Marcelo Marotti
Xaver Poletti
Lesley K. Seymour
Sumitra Mantriwar
Piotr Rutkowski
Chris H. Takimoto
Roger Wilson

Additional Faculty members will be announced on the Flims intranet.

The most stimulating, interactive and multidisciplinary educational activity on clinical trial methodology in oncology. Outstanding, top-ranking international faculty. Highly motivated, selected workshop participants with very heterogeneous clinical, scientific and cultural background. A unique, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for young clinical cancer researchers.

I have worked over the years with fellows and junior faculty members who have attended this course and have found them to be exceptionally well-prepared to perform high quality clinical research.

I attended Flims in 1999 and it changed my career and my understanding of cancer research.

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KEY BENEFITS OF ATTENDING THE WORKSHOP

- Exclusive access to and mentoring by up to 40 highly experienced clinical experts in the field of oncology from Europe, US and Canada;
- Exceptional opportunity to meet and network with an elite group of 80 junior clinical oncologists from all over the world;
- Outstanding educational experience in a unique setting conducive to professional relationship building, learning and development;
- Access to a variety of educational tools designed to enable participants to develop their initial protocol proposal into a complete protocol;
- Active promotion of productive dialogues between young cancer specialists and the European and non-European Cancer Societies;
- Establishment of a network for educational exchanges between young cancer clinicians worldwide.

WORKSHOP OVERVIEW

The ECCO-AACR-EORTC-ESMO Workshop on Methods in Clinical Cancer Research, better known as the ‘Flims’ Workshop, is an educational programme that introduces junior clinical oncologists in any oncology subspecialty to the principles of good clinical trial design. Since 1999, this extremely successful joint Workshop has taken place in the small town of Flims, nestled in the Swiss Mountains.

WHY DO WE NEED A WORKSHOP?

The presence of a strong research base is essential to the future of good quality cancer care. Clinical scientists who are able to set up and run high-quality clinical trials are vital to the advancement of new therapies. This Workshop was established to reverse the decline in numbers of clinical scientists. The ultimate goal: to develop a robust, expanding base of well-trained clinical researchers by providing them with the training they need to conduct better clinical/translational trial designs.

The workshop was excellent from all aspects and was beautifully organised! We all enjoyed the warm and welcoming hospitality.

David Hausner

The Flims workshop provided an extraordinary start. I was able to interact with international colleagues in radiology, pathology, and basic science, as well as in medical, radiation, and surgical oncology.

Michael Corradetti
Saturday 22 June 2013
12:00 – 16:00  Registration
16:30 – 17:00  Welcome and Workshop overview
Lecture 1  Introductory lecture: Questions to ask yourself in designing a CT
18:00 – 20:30  Protocol Development Group Session 1 Faculty & students discuss their draft protocol concept sheets identifying the single key question in each concept proposal.

Sunday 23 June 2013
08:00 – 09:45  Lecture Session 1
Lecture 1: Phase I trials of chemotherapy and targeted drugs
Lecture 3: Phase II trials (+ trials spanning phase I & II)
Lecture 4: Biomarkers & adaptive Clinical trial design
10:00 – 12:00  Lecture Session 2
Lecture 5: Basic biostatistics for the clinical trialist (part I)
Lecture 6: Basic biostatistics for the clinical trialist (part II)
Lecture 7: Phase III trials
13:00 – 15:45  Protocol Development Session 2 Faculty will continue to guide students in the preparation of the protocol concept sheets
16:15 – 17:15  Small Discussion Groups - Session 1
17:30 – 18:30  Small Discussion Groups - Session 2
18:30 – 19:30  Individual work on protocols
20:45 – 22:45  Meet-your-Expert session

The Scientific Sessions have been specially formulated to cater for all learning needs and will use one of the following four formats:

A perfect combination of theory and practice!

Susanne Gatz
Monday 24 June 2013
08:00 – 09:00 Individual work on protocols
09:00 Lecture Session 1
  Lecture 8: Integrating surgery in multi-modality trials – implications for design, endpoints and quality control
10:00 Lecture 9: Special considerations in trials of radiation therapy – implications for design, endpoints and quality control
10:45 – 12:30 Lecture Session 4
  Lecture 11: Prognostic and predictive markers for patient selection
11:30 Lecture 12: How to implement biomarker questions into statistical design
12:00 Lecture 13: How to implement imaging surrogates around Clinical Trials
13:30 – 16:15 Protocol Development Session 3
  Faculty and students will continue to discuss protocol details.
16:30 – 19:00 Individual work on protocols
20:30 – 21:30 Meet-your-expert session
  (Advance sign-up is required – Jugendstilsaal)

Tuesday 25 June 2013
08:00 – 10:20 Lecture Session 5
  Lecture 14: Role of pharmacokinetics in clinical trials
10:05 Lecture 15: CRM and model-guided methods for dose-finding trials: practical aspects of implementation
10:45 – 12:30 Lecture Session 6
  Lecture 16: Haematology as a role model for drug development
  Lecture 17: Ethical principles in the conduct of clinical trials (incl. specimen ownership)
11:20 Lecture 18: Patient-oriented endpoints / QoL Round Table: Ethical issues and informed consent – a case-based discussion
13:30 – 15:30 Lecture 19: Reading the literature with a critical eye
16:00 – 18:00 Lecture 20 & 21: Data and safety monitoring and independent study review - Regulatory and other practical issues
16:30 – 18:15 Small Discussion Groups - Session 3
  Faculty and students will continue in parallel with the SDG sessions and Individual work on protocols
18:15 – 21:15 Group Activity
  Individual work on protocols.

Wednesday 26 June 2013
08:00 – 09:30 Individual work on protocols
09:30 – 10:45 Lecture Session 7
  Lecture 19: Reading the literature with a critical eye
  Lecture 20 & 21: Data and safety monitoring and independent study review - Regulatory and other practical issues
11:15 – 12:30 Lecture Session 8
  Lecture 22: Common errors in statistics
  Lecture 23: Improving patient participation in cancer clinical trials
13:45 – 16:15 Protocol Development Session 5
  Funding and implementation aspects
  Individual work on protocols

Thursday 27 June 2013
08:00 – 09:15 Individual work on protocols
09:15 – 09:50 Lecture Session 9
  Translating cancer research into targeted therapeutics
10:05 – 13:00 Protocol Development Session 6
  Final protocol discussion
13:30 – 17:30 Individual work on protocols.

Friday 28 June 2013
Departure
ONLINE APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Applications to participate in the ECCO-AACR-EORTC-ESMO Workshop on Methods in Clinical Cancer Research can only be submitted electronically. Paper submissions will NOT be accepted.

For the online application please go to Workshop website at: www.ecco-org.eu (select ‘Education>Flims>Flims 15’) and follow the instructions on the screen.

Deadline for receipt of applications: Monday 11 February 2013.

MINIMUM SELECTION CRITERIA

1. Candidates must be in at least the 2nd year of training and within 5 years of completion of Residency/Fellowship training in one of the following disciplines:
   - Junior physician specialising in oncology;
   - Junior clinical professional managing cancer patients (i.e. urologist, gynaecologist, neuro-oncologist, haematologist);
   - Junior radiologist or pathologist with a strong involvement in cancer care.

2. Have a major interest in clinical research and intend to develop a career in that field.

3. Aim to write and conduct a clinical protocol for a study not previously performed, nor written, which is also considered feasible within the institutional setting and the time of completion of the candidate’s clinical training.

4. Be fluent in written and spoken English and have good computer skills.

5. Have support from the Supervisor/Head of Department and sustained commitment in the years following the Workshop.

GENERAL INFORMATION & CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION

Selection of Participants

Participation to the Workshop is limited to 80 participants. The Workshop Review Committee will evaluate the applications and base its decision on a number of factors including:

- Quality and feasibility of the proposed protocol concept and the letters of commitment submitted;
- Individual career path in medical training and competence in clinical cancer research;
- Support of relevant departments and/or institutions to help conduct the clinical trial.

The Workshop Review Committee’s decision is final and whilst we welcome your feedback about the application process, the Workshop Review Committee will not enter into any discussions regarding the final decision.

For further details on application requirements, the selection criteria and process, please visit www.ecco-org.eu

Workshop Materials

As of May 2013, selected participants will have access to the Flims Intranet, an online resource platform for all educational Workshop material. The Flims Intranet will also be used as a message centre and as a platform for all organisational aspects of the Workshop.

Please note: This Workshop is supported by generous grants from national, European and international cancer organisations and educational grants from corporate sponsors.

Participation Fee

In order to attend the Workshop, all selected participants will be required to pay the Workshop Participation Fee of 2,500 EUR (local VAT incl.).

Applicants from countries with limited resources may apply for an exemption of the Workshop Participation Fee. Each application will be assessed on a case-by-case basis in accordance with the evaluation criteria.

The Workshop Participation Fee offsets only part of the actual Workshop costs per student, which includes the following:

- Round-trip travel arrangements from closest home airport to Zurich or travel reimbursement as specified in the Workshop Reimbursement Policy for trips arranged by the participant;
- Shuttle bus service from Zurich airport to the Workshop Venue on Saturday 22 June 2013;
- Shuttle bus service from the Workshop Venue to Zurich airport on Friday 28 June 2013;
- Accommodation in the Workshop Venue from 22-28 June 2013 (for single room accommodation a supplement applies);
- Food and beverages throughout the duration;
- Access to Flims Intranet, the online resource platform for all Workshop material.

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The Films Alumni Club (FAC) is a non-profit organisation and an Advisory Member of ECCO, the European CanCer Organisation. It was established in 2001 and is open solely to young professionals and Faculty who have participated in the ECCO-AACR-EORTC-ESMO Workshops on ‘Methods in Clinical Cancer Research’ in Flims, Switzerland.

The FAC responds to the interests and needs of highly driven junior clinical oncologists by offering an expanding range of benefits exclusive to its Members. These include access to the FAC Members Directory and a direct networking opportunity via the Films Alumni Club LinkedIn Group. Through these channels the FAC aims to develop a sense of community by fostering interactions amongst its members and also promote a productive dialogue between young cancer specialists and the European and non-European Cancer Societies.
Workshop Venue

Waldhaus Flims Hotel
Via dil Parc
7018 Flims
Switzerland
www.waldhaus-flims.ch

Workshop Secretariat

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