European Union Network of Excellence on Gastric Cancer
March 2-3, 2007 - Athens, Greece

Sponsored by:
Elpen
Janssen-Cilag
Pfizer
Proton SA
Sanofi-Aventis
Tyco Healthcare

Congress Secretariat:
MTS Tourism Solutions S.A.
• 22 Voulis Str., 105 63 Athens, Greece, Tel. +30 210 3379000 Fax +30 210 3379079
• 3 I. Dragoumi Str., 546 25 Thessaloniki, Greece, Tel. +30 2310 548849 Fax +30 2310 531946

Under the auspices of:
• The President of the Foundation of Biomedical Research of Academy of Athens, G. D. Skalkeas, Professor - Academician
• The Rector of the University of Ioannina, Prof. I. Gerothanassis

Hosted by:
The Dept. of Surgery, University Hospital of Ioannina
The 3rd Dept. of Surgery, Attiko University Hospital of Athens
The Foundation of Biomedical Research of Academy of Athens
Dear Colleagues,

I am very happy to welcome you to a meeting of leading experts in research and clinical practice of gastric cancer to be hosted in Athens, the city of 'old spirits' and the Olympic Games.

In Europe, prognosis of gastric cancer remains poor with over 83,000 deaths each year. This Network of Excellence aims at translating basic science discoveries into standardized surgical and adjuvant treatment, prevention and screening intended to save the lives of patients.

Rapid advances and successes in microarray-based data and proteomics are reflected by the current FDA approval of a prognostic molecular test for breast cancer. The focus of this meeting is to turn novel ideas into effective proposals for funding by the European Union’s FP7. The ultimate goal of EUNE is in coupling individual patients with the most appropriate therapeutic strategy. We believe that this can be achieved through developing gene expression signatures and other innovative biomarkers. Integrating these novel biomarkers into new clinical trials that address adjuvant and neo-adjuvant chemotherapy with or without inclusion of novel targeted therapies aims at dramatically improving clinical outcomes.

In welcoming you, I wish you a pleasant stay in Athens and a scientifically efficient meeting.

Dimitrios Roukos, MD
Chairman of the Meeting
Team leader - Translational Research

Structure of the European Union Network of Excellence

Coordinators: William Allum (UK) Hans-Joachim Meyer (D)

Team Leaders:
- Translational Research: R. Seruca (P) D. Roukos (Gr)
- Standards and Audit: G. de Manzoni (I) C. Wittekind (D)
- Early Diagnosis: H. Barr (UK) J. Haringsma (NL)
- Development of Surgical Treatment: M. Degiuli (I) A. Sendler (D)
- Adequate Surgery for EGJ Tumors: T. Lerut (B) I. Kulig (PI)
- Adjuvant Treatment: H. Hartgrink (NL) C. Schuhmacher (D)
- Prevention of Peritoneal Recurrence: F. Gilly (F) A. Garofalo (I)
- Education and Training: K. Park (UK) W. Nowak (PI)

Organized by the Hellenic Study Group on Oesophageal and Gastric Cancer
Coordinator: T. Liakakos

Members:

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME

Friday March 2, 2007
20.30 Welcome cocktail
Galaxy Room, Athens Hilton Hotel

Saturday March 3, 2007
08.15 Registration
08.45 Opening
G. Skalkeas, President of FBRAA
I. Gerothanasssis, Rector of the Ioannina University
D. Roukos, Chairman
T. Liakakos, Coordinator of the Hellenic Study Group

09.00 Introduction
European Union Network of Excellence on Gastric Cancer - Hopes and Aspirations
W.H. Allum (UK)

09.15 - 10.45 PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF TOPICS BY TEAM LEADERS
- Standards and Databases
  Report by WHA on proposals by G. de Manzoni & C. Wittekind
- Early Gastric Cancer
  Report by WHA on proposals by H. Barr
  Surgery - M. Degiuli & A. Sendler
  Standards of resection - Splenectomy - Quality of life after reconstruction - Sentinel node mapping
  Minimally invasive surgery - P. McCulloch

10.45 - 11.15 Coffee Break

11.15 - 13.00 EG Junction Cancers - Classification and staging surgery
  J. Kulig
  Adjuvant and neoadjuvant - Ch. Schuhmacher
  Dutch trials - M. Verhey
  UK trials - W.H. Allum
  Hyperthermic intraperitoneal therapy - A. Garofalo
  Other trials
  Education and training - Report by WHA on proposals by K. Park

13.00 - 13.45 Light lunch

13.45 - 16.00 TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH - D. Roukos
  Gene signature as biomarker for stomach cancer: Turning an idea into an integrated proposal for a novel prognostic test (WP1) - D. Roukos
  Integrating biomics into an effective proposal for FP7 - D. Thanos
  Network banking - E. Briassoulis
  Sample collection, validation and processing (WP2) - N. van Grieken
  Global gene expression signatures for clinical biomarker identification (WP3) - D. Sanoudou
  Comprehensive proteomic characterization of oncogenic pathways (WP4) - S. Garbis
  Oncogenic pathway signatures-based development of innovative targeted therapies for gastric cancer (WP5) - D. Thanos
  Statistics and preparation of an FP7 proposal - C. Schuhmacher

16.00 - 16.20 Coffee break
16.20 - 17.30 Conclusions and Planned Collaborative Work