Exciting developments, in-depth discussions, and focused short courses from academia and industry.

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Featured Presenters:

Sergio A. Quezada, Ph.D.
Professorial Research Fellow, Research Haematology, University College London Cancer Institute

Dario Neri, Ph.D.
Professor, Chemistry and Applied Biosciences, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH), Zurich

John McCafferty, Ph.D.
CEO, IONTAS

Martin Pule, Ph.D.
Senior Lecturer, Haematology, UCL Cancer Institute

Stefan Dübel, Ph.D.
Managing Director and Professor, Biotechnology, Technische Universität Braunschweig

Conference Tracks:

**14-15 March**

> **Immuno-Oncology**

Harnessing the Immune Response and Overcoming Inhibitory Factors

**15-16 March**

> **Novel Approaches for Cancer**

Target Selection, Engineering, Optimisation and Development of Bispecifics, Fusion Proteins and ADCs

This Event Features:

- An equal balance of academic and industry presentations
- In-depth coverage of immunotherapy in both tracks
- Targets and lead selection
- ADCs, fusion proteins and models for translation studies
- Located beside the river in a modern, vibrant part of London

14-16 March 2016  
DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel - Docklands Riverside, London UK
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265 Rotherhithe Street, London,
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Please visit the travel page of www.cancerbiotherapeutics.com for additional information and to book your hotel.
Dear Colleague,

Research in Cancer Biotherapeutics is progressing in leaps and bounds with rapid and exciting developments taking place with many different approaches. Cambridge Healthtech Institute, who bring you PepTalk and PEGS Protein & Antibody Engineering Summits, Imvacs and more, are responding by introducing a European event concentrating solely on this topic.

Both tracks focus strongly on immunotherapy, with case studies on immune checkpoint inhibitors, agonistic and immunomodulatory approaches, immunocytokines, chimeric antigen receptors, retargeting T cells, immunomodulatory bispecifics, oncolytic immunotherapy, and the role of dendritic cells. We also broaden the scope with presentations on targets and lead selection, fusion proteins, ADCs, and on recreating the tumour microenvironment for translational studies.

For this inaugural event we have chosen central London, knowing that this will appeal to academics and industry experts. Our venue is right beside the river in Docklands, now a very modern and vibrant location.

Sincerely,

Nicole Lysom, Ph.D.
Senior Conference Director
Cambridge Healthtech Institute

"I very much like the broad scope of the program, with some very innovative approaches. Moreover, it is good to see the “Immunomodulatory Bispecifics” topic emerging so quickly."

Stefan Dübel, Ph.D., Managing Director and Professor, Biotechnology, Technische Universität Braunschweig

"You have put together an amazing meeting."

Sergio A. Quezada, Ph.D., Professorial Research Fellow, UCL Cancer Institute
SC1: Cancer Immunotherapy

Sergio A. Quezada, Ph.D., Professorial Research Fellow, Research Haematology, University College London Cancer Institute
Andrea van Elsas, Ph.D., CSO, BioNovion B.V.

Distinct from other paradigms in medical oncology, cancer immunotherapy aims to treat the patient's immune system. During the past few years, antibodies targeting T-cell checkpoint proteins demonstrated unprecedented clinical responses and long-term benefit in patients diagnosed with melanoma and other advanced cancers. Beyond anti-PD-1 and anti-CTLA-4, other pathways and therapeutic agents are rapidly being translated to clinical practice alone or in combination approaches.

Attend this short course to obtain an overview of:
• Clinically validated and novel targets and modalities
• What we can learn from clinical success and failure
• Current understanding why some patients are responding to checkpoint inhibitors and others are not
• Personalised cancer vaccines
• Rational combinations and why these are necessary
• Outlook for immunotherapy as a treatment for cancer

SC2: Engineering and Optimisation of Antibody Products

Nicolas Fischer, Ph.D., Head, Research, Novimmune SA
Stefan Dübel, Ph.D., Managing Director and Professor, Biotechnology, Technische Universität Braunschweig

Methods for the generation of therapeutic antibodies have substantially changed over the past 20 years, and so have the methods for their post-selection improvement and characterisation. With the now dominating role of various approaches to provide “human” antibodies from the start, propelled by capable, mature, and broadly available technologies to do so, the focus of interest shifts to criteria for selecting the best strategy for a given target.

Attend this short course to obtain an overview and some case studies on the following:
• Overview on technologies for therapeutic antibody developments
• Early stage screening and molecular assessment
• Enhancement of affinity by means of tailored selection and screening strategies
• Optimal engineering techniques. Methods for antibody discovery, humanisation and optimisation
• Strategies to ensure optimal antibody developability
• Current challenges for development of therapeutic antibody products. Next generation antibody therapeutics “beyond IgG.”
14-15 March 2016

Immuno-Oncology
Harnessing the Immune Response and Overcoming Inhibitory Factors

**MONDAY, 14 MARCH**

07:30 Registration and Morning Coffee

08:30 Chairperson’s Opening Remarks
Robert Williams, Ph.D., Chief Drug Development Scientist, Cancer Research UK Centre for Drug Development

**AGONISTIC APPROACHES**

08:40 Improving Efficacy of Tumour-Targeting Antibodies through Innate Immune Stimulation
Holbrook E. Kohrt, M.D., Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Oncology, Stanford University

09:00 Preclinical Development of the Human CD40 Agonistic Antibody ADC-1013
Peter Ellmark, Ph.D., Principal Scientist, Alligator Bioscience

Increasing the response rate while minimising toxicity can be achieved by directing the immune activation to the tumour. Alligator Bioscience currently evaluates intratumoral administration of a CD40 agonistic antibody (ADC-1013) in the clinic. The mode of action of ADC-1013, as well as the anti-tumour effects of combinations with other immune-modulating antibodies have been evaluated in hCD40 transgenic mice in multiple syngeneic tumour models.

09:40 Preclinical Evaluation of an Anti-ICOS Agonist Antibody
Jennifer Michaelson, Ph.D., Director, Research, Tumour Biology, Jounce Therapeutics

Jounce is developing an agonistic antibody to the co-stimulatory molecule ICOS (Inducible CO-Stimulator molecule). Preclinical studies demonstrate that anti-ICOS antibodies are efficacious in syngeneic tumour models, with enhanced efficacy observed in combination with PD-1 inhibition. Mechanistic studies demonstrate agonistic effects of the antibody on T effector cells as well as preferential reduction of T regulatory cells. Together these data provide the rationale for development of a candidate antibody to be evaluated in the clinic in monotherapy and combination therapy settings. The lead anti-ICOS antibody is currently in IND-enabling studies.

10:10 Sponsored Presentation (Opportunity Available)

10:40 Coffee Break with Exhibit and Poster Viewing

**ADDITIONAL IMMUNOSTIMULATORY APPROACHES**

11:20 Role of Isotype in Immunomodulatory Antibody Function
Ann White, Ph.D., Senior Research Fellow, Faculty of Medicine, Cancer Sciences Unit, University of Southampton

Monoclonal antibodies (mAb) that stimulate the immune system are revolutionising cancer treatment, delivering durable responses in previously untreatable disease. However, not all patients and tumours respond and toxicity can be problematic. In this talk I will review recent data examining the role of mAb isotype and Fc GAMMA receptor interaction in dictating mAb activity and discuss ways to optimise immunostimulatory agents through mAb engineering.

11:50 Hexavalent TNFR-Superfamily Agonists for Cancer Treatment and Immune Modulation: TRAIL, CD27L, CD40L and Beyond
Oliver Hill, Ph.D., Vice President, Molecular Biology, Apogenix GmbH

Apogenix has developed a fusion protein technology to create hexavalent agonists targeting individual members of the TNFR-superfamily. Compared to conventional approaches using agonistic antibodies, Apogenix compounds mimic the three-dimensional organisation of the natural ligands (the TNFSF proteins). Consequently, their activity does not rely on secondary crosslinking events in vitro nor in vivo. We will present the molecular engineering concept and the current results obtained for the TRAILR-, CD40L- and CD27-agonists.

12:20 Humanized Mice for Evaluation of Immuno-Oncology Therapeutics
Brian Soper, Ph.D., Technical Information Scientist, The Jackson Laboratory

JAX In Vivo Pharmacology Services has combined the human CD34+ hematopoietic stem cell engrafted NSGTM (005557) and NSGTM-SGM3 (013062) mice with human patient derived xenograft (PDX) to create two new platforms for humanized preclinical studies in immuno-oncology. Non-HLA matched PDX tumors grow well, despite concerns over transplant rejection. When treated with Keytruda® (pembrolizumab), an antibody that blocks PD1/PD-L1 binding, tumor growth was significantly diminished. This showed human T cells could be induced to respond to PDX following treatment with a check-point inhibitor. The humanized mouse platform enables further research into both the basic biology and development of therapeutics in human immuno-oncology.

12:50 Luncheon Presentation (Sponsorship Opportunity Available) or Lunch on Your Own

13:20 Session Break
IMMUNE CHECKPOINT INHIBITORS

14:15 Chairperson’s Opening Remarks
Björn Friedeus, Ph.D., CSO, BioInvent International AB

KEYNOTE PRESENTATION
14:20 Immune Regulation at the Tumour Site Defining the Interplay between Therapy and the Tumour Microenvironment
Sergio A. Quezada, Ph.D., Professorial Research Fellow, UCL Cancer Institute

In recent years, a number of publications have demonstrated the essential role that the tumour microenvironment and Fc Receptors play in the in vivo activity of checkpoint targeting antibodies. In this talk we will discuss novel developments in this area relating to the mechanism of action and the development of immune modulatory antibodies, and combinations that promote intra-tumoural Treg with maximal modulatory activity.

14:50 Identification of Checkpoint Inhibitors to Antibody Therapy Regulatory T Cells and Myeloid-Derived Precursors
Björn Friedeus, Ph.D., CSO, BioInvent International AB

A patient-centric phenotypic discovery platform for identification of antibody:target pairs with superior immune cell modulatory activity is described. F.I.R.S.T.™ utilizes the high-affinity human antibody library n-CoDeR®, primary cancer-patient’s cells, differential biopanning, and state-of-the-art in vitro and in vivo oncoimmunology models, to identify novel receptors and receptor functions. Preclinical PoC has been obtained through identification of the antibody checkpoint inhibitor (FcγRIIB) as a prime target to overcome antibody drug resistance in lymphoma. Current focus is on identifying targets and mAb capable of specifically deleting cancer Treg cells, or re-educating tumor-associated myeloid cells, to help improve anti-cancer immunity.

15:20 Refreshment Break with Exhibit and Poster Viewing

16:00 Monoclonal Antibodies Targeting Innate Immunity Checkpoint Receptors
Nicolai Wagtmann, Ph.D., CSO, Innate Pharma

NK cells can recognise and kill tumour cells, while sparing healthy tissues. In patients with Acute Myeloid Leukemia, NK cells can prevent tumour relapse and significantly prolong survival, providing a rationale for developing targeted therapies that boost NK cell-mediated anti-tumour activity. The talk will describe the rationale and mode-of-action of some of the first-in-class therapeutic antibodies targeting NK cell checkpoint receptors that Innate Pharma is developing for treatment of cancer.

16:30 Anti-Regulatory T Cells: An Alternative Approach to Target Immunosuppressive Mechanisms
Mads Hald Andersen, Ph.D., D.Sc. Tech., Professor, Director, Centre for Cancer Immune Therapy, Copenhagen University Hospital

We have recently described how these naturally-occurring specific T cells recognise both regulatory immune cells as well as malignant cells. The ability of self-reactive T cells to react to and eliminate regulatory immune cells can influence general immune reactions. Thus, utilisation of e.g. IDO- or PD-L1-derived T-cell epitopes may represent an attractive vaccination strategy for targeting cancer cells and for boosting the clinical effects of additional anti-cancer immunotherapy.

17:00 Problem Solving Roundtable Discussions

Table 1: Novel Diagnostics to Determine the Mechanism of Anti-PD1/PDL1 Failure
Moderator: Holbrook E. Kohrt, M.D., Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Oncology, Stanford University
- Multiplex Ion Beam Imaging (MIBI)
- T-cell receptor (TCR) analysis
- Single cell gene expression profiling
- Nanostring technology

Table 2: Fcγ Receptors and Therapeutic Antibody Function
Moderator: Dario Neri, Ph.D., Professor, Chemistry and Applied Biosciences, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH), Zurich
- Antibody isotype and therapeutic function
- Activatory versus inhibitory FcγR binding
- Target deletion, blocking and agonistic receptor engagement
- Combination therapies: Can multiple mechanisms be exploited?

Table 3: Pros and Cons of Immunocytokine-Based Immunotherapeutics
Moderator: Ann White, Ph.D., Senior Research Fellow, Faculty of Medicine, Cancer Sciences Unit, University of Southampton
- Benefits of using immunocytokines as opposed to ADCs
- Means of overcoming the challenges of dose limitation and side effects

Table 4: Challenges with Targeting Immune Checkpoint Inhibitors
Moderator to be Announced
- Different ways in which the immune response is “checked” in cancer
- Screening antibodies to the desired target
- Finding appropriate mouse models for proof-of-concept
- Finding good antibody-screening assays

Table 5: Challenges of CART-Cell Immunotherapies
Moderator: Martin Pule, Ph.D., Senior Lecturer, Haematology, UCL Cancer Institute
- Different CAR T-cell approaches and their limitations
- Target selection, screening and validation for targeted delivery
- Means of overcoming the need for a customized approach
- Platform development, and product optimization
- Biomarkers for safety and efficacy
- Risk of cytokine release syndrome
**08:35 Engineered T Cells Focusing on Advanced CAR Engineering**

Martin Pule, Ph.D., Senior Lecturer, Haematology, UCL Cancer Institute

**09:05 Generation and Preclinical Evaluation of Gene Edited Allogeneic CAR T Cells**

Bruce McCreedy, Ph.D., Senior Vice President, Cell Therapy, Precision Biosciences

CAR T cells were generated from healthy donor PBMCs. To limit the potential for GvHD a highly specific meganuclease was used to knock out the TCR-α gene followed by insertion of an anti-CD19 CAR. Additional targeted gene KO’s were introduced to diminish expression of class I HLA molecules and PD-1 receptors. Gene edited cells were characterized for efficiency of gene KO’s, CAR expression, in vitro and in vivo anti-tumor activity.

**09:35 Controlling CAR-T Cell Function in vivo Using Molecular Switches**

Aaron Foster, Ph.D., Senior Director, Product Discovery, R&D, Bellicum Pharmaceuticals

Regulating CAR-T survival, persistence and expansion in vivo following adoptive transfer is critical for maximising therapeutic efficacy while also managing CAR-T-related toxicity. We present two molecular switches, inducible Caspase-9 (iCasp9) and inducible MyD88/CD40 (iMC), which can be used as “Off” and “On” signals, respectively, to control T-cell behaviour in vivo using systemic administration of the small molecule dimerising ligand, rimiducid.

**10:05 Sponsored Presentation (Opportunity Available)**

**10:35 Coffee Break with Exhibit and Poster Viewing**

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**11:10 Advances with IL-2-Based Cancer Immunotherapies**

Onur Boyman, M.D., Professor, Chairman and Director, Immunology University Hospital Zurich

Interleukin-2 (IL-2) immunotherapy has resulted in some remarkable long-term responses with advanced cancer, but at the high doses used for cancer immunotherapy, it can cause adverse effects mediated via its binding to IL2 receptor α (also termed CD25), leading to endothelial cell damage and expansion of CD4+ regulatory T cells. I will report on studies on avoiding contact of IL2 with CD25, while preserving IL2’s immune stimulatory anti-tumour effects. The current state of the art of IL2-based cancer immunotherapies, implications, and future research directions will be discussed.

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**11:40 ADAM17: A Gatekeeper in Immuno-Oncology?**

Peter Love, Ph.D., Project Leader, Molecular and Cellular Biology, Institut de Recherche, Pierre Fabre

ADAM17 a cell surface sheddase, releases a wide range of membrane bound growth factors, receptors, adhesion molecules, cytokines and chemokines. Deregulated ADAM17 shedding of EGFR ligands including amphiregulin, epiregulin, TGfα and HB-EGF has been implicated in a range of cancers. Recent discoveries demonstrate that ADAM17 also sheds at least fifteen immunoregulatory proteins, enhancing immune suppression and permitting tumour escape from immune surveillance. These will be reviewed in this presentation.

**12:10 Immune Responses Following Intrapleural Administration of the Oncolytic Immunotherapeutic HSV, Seprehvir, in Patients with Malignant Mesothelioma.**

Joe Conner, Ph.D., CSO, Virtu Biologics Ltd.

Seprehvir is a clinically active oncolytic immunotherapeutic HSV administered to 93 patients via intratumoural, locoregional and intravenous delivery routes. Preclinical data supports Seprehvir’s oncolytic and immunotherapeutic MoA and its potent combinatorial activities with other cancer therapies including Immune Checkpoint Inhibitors and ACT. Our current phase 1/2a trial of Seprehvir given intrapleurally in MPM is providing fascinating insights into patient immune responses to oncolytic immunotherapy with increased Th1 cytokines and localised immune cell recruitment.

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**12:40 End of Immuno-Oncology**
15-16 March 2016

Novel Approaches for Cancer

Target Selection, Engineering, Optimisation and Development of Bispecifics, Fusion Proteins and ADCs

TUESDAY, 15 MARCH

RETARGETING T CELLS WITH BISPECIFICS

13:00 Conference Registration

14:00 Chairperson’s Opening Remarks
Stefan Dübel, Ph.D., Managing Director and Professor, Biotechnology, Technische Universität Braunschweig

14:05 Preclinical Evaluation of a CD3/CD33-Bispecific T-Cell-Engaging Antibody with Potential for Treatment of Acute Myelogenous Leukemia
Matthias Friedrich, Ph.D., Director, Nonclinical Development, Amgen Research (Munich) GmbH
CD33 has been frequently selected as target antigen for acute myeloid leukemia therapy. AMG 330 is a Bispecific T-cell engager (BiTE®) antibody construct mediating redirected lysis of CD33-positive cells by cytotoxic T cells. In vitro and in vivo studies support clinical development of AMG 330 for the treatment of acute myeloid leukemia.

14:35 Bispecific TCR-Anti-CD3 Fusions for Potent Re-Directed Killing of Cancer Cells: Safety and Efficacy Evaluation Using Assessment in a Predictive in vitro Preclinical Package
Luise Weigand, Ph.D., Team Leader, Cell Biology/Research Management, Immunocore Ltd.
ImmTACs are bispecific pico-molar affinity T-cell receptors fused to an anti-CD3 specific scFv that re-direct a potent T-cell response towards its target. Here we present how we approach our in vitro preclinical package, used to evaluate safety and efficacy, and the predictability of this process for our most advanced molecule IMCgp100 currently in a Phase I/II study.

15:05 CEA TCB, a Novel T-Cell Bispecific Antibody for the Treatment of Solid Tumors
Marina Bacac, Ph.D., Head, Cancer Immunotherapy, Roche Innovation Center Zurich
CEA TCB is a new generation T-cell bispecific antibody for the treatment of CEA-expressing solid tumors. Its activity correlates with CEA expression level resulting in efficient elimination of high CEA-expressing tumour cells and sparing of primary epithelia. CEA TCB is efficacious in vivo in poorly-T-cell infiltrated solid tumors. It converts non-inflamed into highly-inflamed tumors accompanied by T-cell re-localisation from the periphery into tumor bed. The combination with PD-L1 enhances CEA TCB activity.

15:35 Sponsored Presentation (Opportunity Available)

15:50 Refreshment Break with Exhibit and Poster Viewing

IMMUNOMODULATORY BISPECIFICS

16:30 Discovery and Characterisation of Immunomodulatory Bispecific Antibodies
Mark Throsby, Ph.D., CSO, Merus BV
The Biclonics® platform is a robust and validated technology suite for the development of human full length IgG bispecific antibodies. In this presentation we will outline how the technology has been applied to generate bispecific antibody candidates against checkpoint inhibitory and costimulatory molecules.

17:00 Development of a Bispecific Targeting EGFR and CTLA-4
John Haurum, M.D., D.Phil., CEO, F-star Biotechnology Ltd.
F-star creates unique Fcab™ antibodies by engineering the constant region against a single target, which can be combined with the variable regions of differing antibodies to create a bispecific. This technology was used to generate a constant region against EGFR and combining with the variable domain of CTLA-4. The ensuing EGFR/CTLA-4 bispecific showed efficacy in an in vivo model compared to either EGFR or CTLA-4 alone.

17:30 A κλBody Bispecific Platform Approach that Tethers Blockade of the ‘Don’t Eat Me’ Signal to Cancer Cells
Marie Kosco-Vilbois, Ph.D., CSO, Novimmune SA

Some of the most promising emergent biopharmaceuticals for cancer therapy include agents capable of selective homing to the tumor environment, as well as drugs capable of selective activation of the immune system against malignant cells.

Dario Neri, Ph.D., Professor, Chemistry and Applied Biosciences, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH), Zurich
To overcome potential pharmacological and clinical liabilities of universally targeting CD47, we have developed bispecific κλ bodies, which selectively target CD47 on cancer cells. These κλ bodies are full-length bispecific IgGs that bind with high affinity and neutralise CD47 on cancer cells expressing a tumor-associated antigen (TAA), thus, focusing cell killing to cancer cells. Currently, various κλ bodies are in development, e.g., for B cell malignancies (CD47/CD19) and mesothelin-positive tumors (CD47/Mesothelin).

To overcome potential pharmacological and clinical liabilities of universally targeting CD47, we have developed bispecific κλ bodies, which selectively target CD47 on cancer cells. These κλ bodies are full-length bispecific IgGs that bind with high affinity and neutralise CD47 on cancer cells expressing a tumor-associated antigen (TAA), thus, focusing cell killing to cancer cells. Currently, various κλ bodies are in development, e.g., for B cell malignancies (CD47/CD19) and mesothelin-positive tumors (CD47/Mesothelin).

09:35 Problem Solving Roundtable Discussions

**Table 1: Antibodies that Harness the Immune System**

**Moderator:** Kerry Chester, Ph.D., Professor, UCL Cancer Institute

- Target selection criteria
- Engineering challenges
- Relevant animal models
- How to overcome the challenges of scale, safety and efficacy

**Table 2: Pros and Cons of Armed Antibody Products**

**Moderator:** Dario Neri, Ph.D., Professor, Chemistry and Applied Biosciences, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH), Zurich

- Benefits of different types of product in terms of potency, stability and versatility regarding targets and use in combination therapies
- Pros and cons of intact antibodies versus scaffolds
- Choice of target: membrane proteins versus extracellular matrix proteins
- Delivery considerations

**Table 3: Screening of Antibody Libraries**

**Moderators:** John McCafferty, Ph.D., CEO, IONTAS

- Display technologies for the creation of antibody libraries
- Tailored selection and screening strategies
- Antibody library designs for affinity optimisation

**Table 4: Overcoming the Challenges of ADCs and Technologies for the Construction of Next Generation ADCs**

**Moderator:** Amir R. Aref, Ph.D., Scientist, Medical Oncology, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Harvard Medical School

- How to select the right linker and toxin for your product
- Challenges with linkers
- Novel drugs and payloads
- Challenges with site-specific conjugation
- Safety concerns and challenges with toxicity
- Optimization of stability, potency, specificity and homogeneity

**Table 5: Translational Considerations for Development of Biotherapeutics**

**Moderator:** Amir R. Aref, Ph.D., Scientist, Medical Oncology, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Harvard Medical School

- PDXs and challenges
- Personalized medicine in cancer research
- Organoid models
- Circulating tumor cell/models
- Microfluids and future of 3D models

**18:30 – 21:30 Dinner Short Courses**

**SC1: Cancer Immunotherapy**

**Sergio A. Quezada,** Ph.D., Professorial Research Fellow, Research Haematology, University College London Cancer Institute

Andrea van Elsas, Ph.D., CSO, BioNovion B.V.

**SC2: Engineering and Optimisation of Antibody Products**

Nicolas Fischer, Ph.D., Head, Research, Novimmune SA

Stefan Dübel, Ph.D., Managing Director and Professor, Biotechnology, Technische Universität Braunschweig

*Separate Registration Required.*

**WEDNESDAY, 16 MARCH**

**DEVELOPMENTS WITH FUSION PROTEINS**

**08:30 Chairperson’s Remarks**

**KEYNOTE PRESENTATION**

8:35 **Antibody-Cytokine Fusion Proteins (Immunocytokines) for Targeted Delivery: From Bench to Phase III**

**Dario Neri,** Ph.D., Professor, Chemistry and Applied Biosciences, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH), Zurich

Antibody-cytokine fusion proteins (“immunocytokines”) are a promising class of immunomodulatory agents, which are currently being considered for the treatment of cancer and of chronic inflammation. In this lecture, I will present aspects of our preclinical and clinical experience with immunocytokines specific to splice isoforms of fibronectin and of tenascin-C.

**09:05 Multivalent Antibody-TRAIL Fusion Proteins for Cancer Therapy**

**Roland Kontermann,** Ph.D., Professor, Biomedical Engineering, Cell Biology and Immunology, University of Stuttgart

Fusion of TRAIL to antibody fragments has been shown to allow for a targeted delivery and the selective induction of tumour cell death. We have engineered optimised single-chain derivatives of TRAIL and different homodimerisation models to develop novel multivalent antibody-scTRAIL fusion proteins with improved properties. Targeting and controlled dimerisation of scTRAIL fusion proteins provides a strategy to enforce apoptosis induction, together with retained tumor selectivity and good in vivo tolerance.

**10:35 Coffee Break with Exhibit and Poster Viewing**
TECHNOLOGIES FOR TARGETS AND LEAD SELECTION

11:15 Chairperson’s Remarks
Kerry Chester, Ph.D., Professor, UCL Cancer Institute

»FEATURED PRESENTATIONS

11:20 Engineering Antibodies and T-Cell Receptors by Mammalian Display
John McCafferty, Ph.D., CEO, IONTAS
Generation of immune-modifying binders is facilitated by the availability of large libraries of antibodies or T-cell receptors expressed on the surface of mammalian cells. We demonstrate the construction and use of mammalian display libraries, facilitated by the use of site-specific nucleases. Such libraries allow the screening of millions of clones by flow sorting while providing information on both the level of expression and the extent of binding within individual clones.

11:50 Comprehensive Human Antibody Libraries and Human Effector Fusions: Impact on Next Generation Cancer Therapeutics
Stefan Dübel, Ph.D., Managing Director and Professor, Biotechnology, Technische Universität Braunschweig
Two decades of antibody engineering have brought substantial gains in knowledge on how to make good human antibodies for therapy, but also on obstacles to their clinical use. It has also become evident that IgG alone cannot cure cancer in most cases, which has sparked the search for additional and novel effector mechanisms. We present our newest advances in both human antibody generation and effectors.

12:20 Sponsored Presentation (Opportunity Available)
12:50 Luncheon Presentation (Sponsorship Opportunity Available) Or Lunch on Your Own
13:20 Session Break
14:00 Chairperson’s Remarks
Kerry Chester, Ph.D., Professor, UCL Cancer Institute

DEVELOPMENTS WITH ADCs

14:05 Chemical Platform for the Construction of Highly Defined Therapeutic Antibody Conjugates
James Baker, Ph.D., Senior Lecturer, Chemistry, UCL
A powerful and general chemical platform technology is described for the construction of highly defined antibody conjugates by site-selectively targeting and bridging the interchain disulfide bonds. This approach allows access to antibody-drug conjugates, designed to release potent cytotoxins specifically at targeted cancer cells, with a controlled drug to antibody ratio ( DAR) and high serum stability. Insights will also be given into the scope for further applications e.g. in bispecifics, imaging, radioimmunoconjugates etc.

14:35 Development of Natural Product Derived Splicing Inhibitors as Antibody Drug Conjugate Payloads
Sujiet Puthenveetil, Ph.D., Principal Scientist, Medicinal Chemistry, Pfizer, Inc.
Analogs of the natural product spliceostatin are highly potent spliceosome inhibitors with a novel mechanism of action that are currently being explored as payloads for antibody drug conjugates (ADCs) for the treatment of cancer. A medicinal chemistry initiative was greatly facilitated by an optimized fermentation process that produced gram quantities of these payloads allowing for subsequent linker attachment, conjugation and screening to yield highly efficacious ADCs. We will describe the early challenges with efficacy and safety of this class of molecule and how these were overcome by synthesis and conjugation efforts.

15:05 Endogenous Vaccination: Kadcyla Renders HER2+ Breast Cancer Highly Susceptible to Immune-Checkpoint Blockade
Philipp Müller, Ph.D., Lab Head, Biomedicine University & University Hospital of Basel
ADCs such as Kadcyla harbour the potential to act as an endogenous anti-tumour vaccine. In this presentation I will demonstrate that Kadcyla is particularly effective in eliciting anti-tumour immunity in a HER2-expressing, orthotopic tumour model and breast cancer patients. Our data reveal a novel immunological mechanism of action for this class of ADC and provide a strong rationale for clinical combinations with immune-checkpoint blockade.

15:35 Refreshment Break with Exhibit and Poster Viewing

ROLE OF DENDRITIC CELLS IN IMMUNOTHERAPY / ROBUST MODELS FOR TRANSLATIONAL STUDIES

16:00 Clinical Trials with mRNA Electroporated Dendritic Cells for Stage III/IV Melanoma Patients
Kris Thielemans, Ph.D., Professor, Immunology & Oncology, Vrije Universiteit Brussel
We present convincing data of the clinical responses induced by a “next generation” dendritic cell based immunotherapy, in combination with checkpoint blockade and in an adjuvant setting.

16:30 Engineering the Tumour Microenvironment ex vivo for Translational Studies Using Patient-Derived Explants
Amir R. Aref, Ph.D., Scientist, Medical Oncology, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Harvard Medical School
Personalised cancer medicine is based on an emerging knowledge of the cancer mutation repertoire and the tailored application of drugs that target altered genes or pathways in individual patients. The lack of robust models that enable culture of primary human cancers and the reconstruction of the tumour microenvironment has hampered progress in understanding responses to targeted therapeutics in real time. Our approach in this work has a number of advantages compared with similar efforts, namely the ability to recreate the tumour microenvironment, to culture primary tumors without the need for developmental priming factors, and the capacity to deliver targeted therapeutics in a manner that recapitulates pharmacokinetics in vivo.

17:00 Close of Conference