

Lund
October 19, 2016

Cancer Crosslinks Sweden – Precision Medicine and Immuno-Oncology

Around 200 leading scientists, healthcare providers, pharmaceutical companies and government representatives gathered at the fourth edition of the Cancer Crosslinks Sweden conference. CREATE Health, a strategic centre for translational cancer research at Lund University, hosted the conference and the theme of the day was “Precision Medicine and Immuno-Oncology”.

Renowned speakers such as Prof. Gordon J. Freeman, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute at Harvard Medical School, Dr. Robert Miller, Vice President at ASCO and Prof. Peter Lichter, German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ) in Heidelberg, Germany, were eager to give their view on the topics.

The purpose by bringing together researchers from healthcare providers, academia, and industry with representatives from regulatory units in a one-day meeting, is to start interdisciplinary discussions that could lead to new partnerships in Precision Medicine and Immuno-Oncology. The conference took place at Medicon Village’s auditorium in Lund, Sweden, with a record number of visitors.

- We are very pleased with the turnout of this year’s edition of Cancer Crosslinks Sweden. The bare fact that it again was oversubscribed proves that our conference delivers cutting-edge science in the world of cancer research and pharmaceutical development. I am especially pleased with the blend of novel topics in this year’s conference and the record attendance of clinicians, says Carl Borrebaeck, director at CREATE Health, Lund University.

Prof. Gordon J. Freeman, who has identified the major pathways that control the immune response by inhibiting (PD1/PD-L1) or stimulating T cell activation. Prof. Freeman discovered PD-L1 and PD-L2 as ligands for PD-1 and showed that the function of PD-1 is to inhibit and block enhanced immune responses. He also showed that PD-L1 is highly expressed on many solid tumors allowing them to inhibit an attack. Prof. Freeman’s work has led to the development of very successful immunotherapeutic pharmaceuticals for cancer. He shared this findings and recent advances in an excellent way.

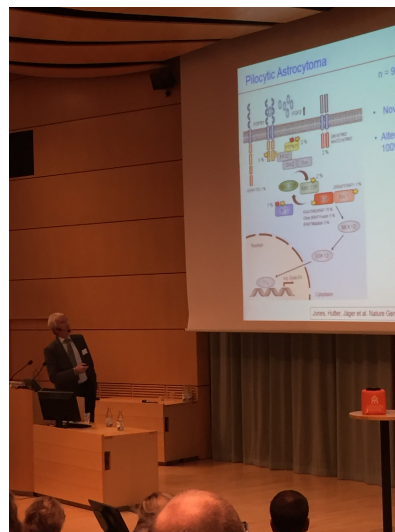


- I believe that immunotherapy can work in about 20 % of cancer patients. It is already approved for melanoma, lung, bladder, head and neck cancer as well as Hodgkin’s lymphoma, which represent about 35 % of all cancer deaths. It doesn’t work in everybody, but the door is open and we know how to go forward. Basically, immunotherapy works. Also, the effects can be long term, and with a return to a good

quality of life, which is really different from for example chemotherapy, says Professor Gordon J. Freeman.

Another speaker at the conference was Prof. Peter Lichter who has made significant contributions in the areas of molecular cytogenetics, pioneering protocols for FISH and array-CGH, tumor pathomechanisms and architecture of the cell nucleus. In his speech, Prof. Lichter spoke about how to translate research into benefit for the patients.

- Immunotherapy and Precision Oncology have recently added exciting novel treatment options for cancer patients and it was fantastic to get exposed to the cutting edge developments in both approaches at the Cancer Crosslinks in Lund. It was truly mind-blowing to hear world-leading experts presenting and discussing the current status as well as the challenges ahead of us in Translational Oncology, says Peter Lichter.



Cancer Crosslinks Sweden is made possible by its main sponsors, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Merck and Roche, who all played a vital part in creating a successful conference.

- Bristol-Myers Squibb have sponsored Cancer Crosslinks Sweden since the start in 2012, and are very happy to see how the conference has developed over the years and to see that the number of clinicians visiting the conference has increased. A broad mix of participants is crucial for the interdisciplinary discussions, which we strive for, says Ulrika Brunell Abrahamsson, Disease area specialist at Bristol-Myers Squibb.

To conclude, the fourth edition of the Cancer Crosslinks Sweden continued previous year's success and has established itself as cornerstone for cutting-edge oncology information.



Cancer Crosslinks meetings:

The concept of Cancer Crosslinks was established in Oslo, Norway, in 2009 when Oslo Cancer Cluster www.oslocancercluster.no in collaboration with Bristol-Myers Squibb arranged the first Cancer Crosslinks meeting. The first initiatives outside Norway to Crosslinks meetings was taken 2012 in Sweden. The event on October 19th, 2016, was the fourth edition of the Cancer Crosslinks conference in Sweden.

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