



ESMO Clinical Unit Visit report

16th September to 28th October 2013

Fellow: Prabhat Singh Malik
Host Institute: Hôpital de la Timone, Marseille, France
Home Institute: All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, India

First of all I want to thank ESMO for granting me the fellowship for “Clinical Unit Visit” 2012. Due to certain administrative reasons the visit was delayed, but finally I could complete my fellowship and attend the Hôpital de la Timone, Marseille for the fellowship under the mentorship of Dr. Nicolas Andre. I particularly selected this centre due to my interest in the field of metronomic therapy. My objectives for this visit was to get a deeper understanding of this field and to learn how the preclinical and clinical research is being done in this area. I



also intended to write a metronomic therapy protocol to use at my centre.

I stayed at Marseille for 6 weeks and it was a wonderful experience. My mentor Dr Nicolas Andre organized a structured programme for my visit so that I could get maximum benefit out of it.

The details of my schedule are as below:

Duration: 6 weeks (16th September 2013 to 28th October 2013)

Week 1 & 2: Stay in the UMR-6032 research unit (Supervised by Dr Manon Carre`)

Participate to Lab meeting

Weekly meeting and work session with the host

Week 3 & 4: Stay in the paediatric oncology unit (Supervised by Dr. Nicolas Andre)

Participation to daily rounds

Weekly clinical staff meeting

Participation to consultations

Weekly meeting and working session in the host

Week 5: visit of the adult thoracic oncology unit (Supervised by Pr. Fabrice Barlesi)

Participation to daily rounds

Weekly clinical staff meeting

Participation to consultations

Weekly meeting and working session in the host

Week 6: Visit the adult early trial unit (Supervised by Pr. Fabrice Barlesi)

Participation to daily rounds

Weekly clinical staff meeting

Participation to consultations

Weekly meeting and working session in the host

During my stay at Marseille I could interact with basic scientists and clinicians working on metronomics and understand the intricacies and challenges of this area. These discussions actually changed my vision and made me think on a global perspective. New developments in the field of oncology have been, no doubt, remarkable but their global applicability is still a big challenge. Discrepancies in access to health care facilities, variations of disease and patient profile, and affordability are several factors which are of concern when we look at global perspective. We clinicians and basic researchers need to think out of the box and develop some innovative methods for cancer care which should be universally practicable particularly in resource limited settings where most of cancer related deaths are occurring.

Metronomic therapies in this context set a perfect example for such innovations. I thank Dr Andre for making me think in a broader perspective. Under his guidance I could write a brief review on role of metronomics as maintenance treatment. I have also prepared a protocol for metronomic chemotherapy in various adult solid tumours which we would be soon implementing in a phase 2 trial setting at my centre in India.

I also had the opportunity to visit an adult thoracic oncology unit and early phase trial unit with Prof Fabrice Barlesi. This was a great experience to be with a stalwart of the field and to learn from him. I could also see the molecular testing facility for lung cancer at his unit.

I was invited to share my views on “Challenges in the field of oncology in developing countries like India” at department of paediatric haematology and oncology at Children Hôpital de la Timone. The talk was well appreciated by the audience.

Overall it was a great opportunity for me to develop mentorship with the experts of the field and an international collaboration for future research endeavours. I would like to thank Dr Nicolas Andre for being a wonderful mentor and making g this visit a life time memorable event for me. I again thank ESMO for providing me this opportunity which would help me not only for my academic development but also for becoming a more mature person.



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