A Workshop for junior oncologists in any clinical research specialty area, to learn the essentials of clinical trial design
Haven't attended Flims Workshops several times as a faculty member. I noticed that everyone experiences this course as I did as a student in 2004. This is a once in a lifetime experience where you will learn how to perform clinical research in an unique environment with highly motivated students and top clinical researchers.

Stefan Sleijfer

Being a mentor in both Workshops has been the highlight of my career. There is nothing more gratifying than helping young, smart trainees put forth their best efforts to improve the lives of patients with cancer. Being a mentor at this Workshop is a true privilege.

Lee M. Ellis

This workshop provides a rewarding experience and insight in developing clinical trial protocols. Nowhere else in Europe is there a high density of distinguished faculty members and biostatisticians working with highly motivated young oncologists.

Christian Dittrich

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Additional Faculty

It is always gratifying to see a former student return as faculty member. It means we are succeeding in training the next generation of cancer clinical researchers and provide them the necessary network.

Corneel Coens

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Corneel Coens
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 and North America;
- Exceptional opportunity to meet and network with an elite group of up to 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, formerly held in Flims, 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 a remote setting, proving to be a conducive environment for an educational focus.

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. The ultimate goal is to develop a robust, expanding base of well-trained clinical researchers by providing them with the essential training to conduct better clinical and translational trial designs.
Preliminary Workshop Programme
Saturday 18 June 2016
12:00 – 16:00 Registration
16:45 – 17:15 Welcome and Workshop overview
17:15 – 18:00 Introductory Lecture Session
Questions to ask yourself in designing a clinical trial
How to write the basics of your protocol
18:15 – 20:45 Protocol Development Group Session 1
Students present their study concepts.
Faculty and students discuss the protocol concept sheet and the single key question in each concept proposal.

Meet your Expert Sessions
One-to-one sessions where students will have access to experts providing individual counselling and advice on protocol and career development.

Small Group Discussion Sessions
These sessions focus on topics that are essential to the success of clinical trials as well facilitating discussion on and around the difficulties and challenges of a particular type of trial. They are limited in size to maximise exchange of information.

Lectures and Panel Discussions
Presentations by key experts on specific topics will provide participants with an overview of the design and conduct of high-quality clinical trials. This will be followed by a panel discussion during which Faculty and students can explore issues raised during the talks in greater depth.

Sunday 19 June 2016
08:00 – 09:30 Lecture Session 1
Phase I trials of chemotherapy and targeted drugs
Phase II trials (+ trials spanning phase I & II)
Phase III trials (+ trials spanning phase II & III)

10:00 – 12:00 Lecture Session 2
Basic biostatistics for the clinical trialist (part I)
Basic biostatistics for the clinical trialist (part II)
Choosing and measuring endpoints in clinical trials
Immunotherapy trials

13:00 – 15:45 Protocol Development Group Session 2
Faculty continue to guide students to complete their protocol concept sheets.

16:15 – 17:15 Small Group Discussion Sessions 1-3

17:30 – 18:30 Small Group Discussion Sessions 4-6

18:30 – 19:30 Independent Protocol Work

20:45 – 22:45 Meet your Expert Sessions

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

Protocol Development Group Sessions
These sessions form the core activity of this Workshop and allow students to complete the writing of their protocol by applying the knowledge acquired during the Workshop. Students will receive extensive feedback on their proposals from designated faculty within assigned groups comprising a maximum of 10 students.

Meet your Expert Sessions
One-to-one sessions where students will have access to experts providing individual counselling and advice on protocol and career development.

Small Group Discussion Sessions
These sessions focus on topics that are essential to the success of clinical trials as well facilitating discussion on and around the difficulties and challenges of a particular type of trial. They are limited in size to maximise exchange of information.

Lectures and Panel Discussions
Presentations by key experts on specific topics will provide participants with an overview of the design and conduct of high-quality clinical trials. This will be followed by a panel discussion during which Faculty and students can explore issues raised during the talks in greater depth.

Session topics and schedule are subject to change; please visit ecco-org.eu/workshop for updates.
Monday 20 June 2016
08:00 – 09:00  Independent Protocol Work
09:00 – 10:30  Lecture Session 1
Integrating surgery in multi-modality trials – implications for design, endpoints and quality control
Special considerations in trials of radiation therapy – implications for design, endpoints and quality control
Special considerations in combined treatment trials (Chemoradiation) – implications for design, endpoints and quality control
10:45 – 12:15  Lecture Session 2
Prognostic and predictive markers for patient selection
How to implement biomarker questions into statistical design
Biomarkers & adaptive clinical trial design
13:30 – 16:30  Protocol Development Group Session 2
Faculty and students discuss protocol details.
16:30 – 19:00  Independent Protocol Work
20:30 – 21:30  Meet your Expert Sessions

Tuesday 21 June 2016
08:30 – 09:30  Lecture Session 5
Role of pharmacokinetics & pharmacodynamics in clinical trials
CRM and model-guided methods for dose finding trials: Practical aspects of implementation
10:00 – 11:30  Lecture Session 6
Ethics and patient participation in cancer clinical trials
Patient-oriented endpoints/QoL
Pragmatic vs non-pragmatic trials: Addressing economic aspects of clinical trials
13:00 – 15:30  Protocol Development Group Session 6
Protocols are presented and further discussed. Meet your Expert Sessions
16:00 – 18:00  Small Group Discussion Session 8-10
17:00 – 18:00  Small Group Discussion Session 11-12
18:15 – 21:15  Group Activity
21:15  Independent Protocol Work

Wednesday 22 June 2016
08:00 – 09:30  Independent Protocol Work
09:30 – 10:30  Lecture Session 7
Reading the literature with a critical eye
Data and safety monitoring and independent study review – regulatory and other practical issues
11:00 – 11:30  Lecture Session 8
Common errors in statistics
13:30 – 16:00  Protocol Development Group Session 5
Funding and implementation aspects.
16:30  Independent Protocol Work

Thursday 23 June 2016
08:00 – 09:15  Independent Protocol Work
09:15 – 09:45  Closing Lecture Session
Translating cancer research into targeted therapeutics
10:00 – 13:00  Protocol Development Group Session 6
Final protocol discussion
14:00 – 17:30  Independent Protocol Work
18:15 – 21:15  Group Activity
21:15  Independent Protocol Work

Friday 24 June 2016
Departure
APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Applications to participate in the ECCO-AACR-EORTC-ESMO Workshop on Methods in Clinical Cancer Research can only be submitted electronically.

For the online application please go to the Workshop website at: ecco-org.eu/workshop and follow the instructions on the screen.

Deadline for receipt of applications: Monday 8 February 2016.

MINIMUM SELECTION CRITERIA
Candidates must have completed 1 year of clinical training at the time of application and be 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.

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

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.

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

Have support of the Direct Supervisor/Mentor and sustained commitment in the years following the Workshop.

Participation Fee

In order to attend the Workshop, all selected participants will be required to pay the Workshop Participation Fee of 2,800 EUR (including local VAT).

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 Amsterdam or travel reimbursement as specified in the Workshop Reimbursement Policy for trips arranged by the participant;
- Shuttle bus service from Amsterdam airport to the Workshop venue on Saturday 18 June 2016;
- Shuttle bus service from the Workshop venue to Amsterdam airport on Friday 24 June 2016;
- Accommodation at the Workshop venue from 18-24 June 2016 (for single room accommodation a supplement applies);
- Food and beverages throughout the duration;
- Access to Workshop Intranet, the online resource platform for all Workshop material.

Please note:

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

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 feedback about the application process is welcome, 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: ecco-org.eu/workshop

Workshop Materials

As of May 2016, selected participants will have access to the Workshop Intranet, an online resource platform for all educational Workshop material. The Intranet will also be used as a message centre and as a platform for all organisational aspects of the Workshop.

Testimonials

Besides learning a comprehensive understanding of basics in conducting and planning clinical trials, I have met so many inspiring people!

Veronika Seebacher, Austria - Edition 17

You realise that your initial proposal has evolved into a complete clinical trial protocol ready to be presented in the ethics committee.

Margarita Romeo Marín, Spain - Edition 16

An extraordinary, exhausting but extremely rewarding, once-in-a-lifetime experience to meet top-ranking international clinical experts and learn clinical trial design “by doing” in a stimulating environment I strongly recommend to any fellow oncologist.

Pablo Berlanga, Spain - Edition 15

In a stimulating and inspiring atmosphere, the discussions run from friendly to fierce, but always with the intent to improve the scientific quality of your protocol concept.

Dirk Grünhagen, Netherlands - Edition 14

To work with internationally well-known experts, to being able to interact with them whenever a question occurred and to discuss with other young scientists made this course extremely valuable!

Maria Schubert, Germany - Edition 13

To meet the challenge of being one of the top clinical trials planners is to meet the challenge of being a top clinical trial scientist.

Dirk Grünhagen, Netherlands - Edition 14

To participate in a programme that started with a basic understanding of clinical trials and ended with a protocol that could be presented in a committee is a real achievement.

Margarita Romeo Marín, Spain - Edition 16

An excellent workshop! I would definitely recommend this workshop for all young oncologists who want to improve their skills in clinical trials.

Dirk Grünhagen, Netherlands - Edition 14

To work with internationally well-known experts, to being able to interact with them whenever a question occurred and to discuss with other young scientists made this course extremely valuable!

Maria Schubert, Germany - Edition 13
Workshop Venue

Woudschoten Hotel & Conferentiecentrum
Woudenbergseweg 54
3707 HX Zeist
Netherlands

Application Open: 7 December 2015
Application Close: 8 February 2016

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