

**ESMO TRU Visit
European Institute of Oncology
Milan, Italy
12-14 October, 2011**



Dr. Francesco Bertolini and Dr. Patrizia Mancuso welcomed medical oncologists to the ESMO Translational Research Unit (TRU) Visit on the 12-14 October 2011, at the Laboratory of Hemato–Oncology, Department of Pathology at the European Institute of Oncology. They had the pleasure in hosting eight young medical oncologists on the visit entitled **“Circulating endothelial cells and progenitors as biomarkers in anti-angiogenic therapy of cancer”**. The young medical oncologists came from Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Poland, Russia and Spain. The program focused laboratory techniques, flow cytometry detection of Circulating Endothelial Cells and Progenitors and Cell Sorting.

The program started with a general introduction with the aim to provide young oncologist an insight into main fields of Translational Research in Oncology: the basics, the facilities and tumour type-oriented examples. The TRU Visit was also a unique occasion for young scientists from all over Europe to visit one of the best European centres for translational oncology and to exchange experience, ideas, and opinions on oncological and non-oncological topics.

During the 3-day program, the group visited the laboratory of Hemato-Oncology, which consisted also of interactive lectures in metronomic chemotherapy for breast cancer, biomarkers in the anti-angiogenic therapy of cancer and flow cytometry and cell sorting.

Below are the testimonials from the fellows,

Louise Connell – Ireland: “First-hand experience of the day-to-day running of a research laboratory and understanding of the various different personnel required, an introduction to what role I would play as a physician should I undertake lab-based research in the coming years”

Paolo Carli – Italy: “Experienced team involved in a really interesting setting”

Nikolaos Pistamaltzian – Greece: “I will inform my colleagues about the research in the field of metronomic chemotherapy and anti-angiogenic therapeutic strategies and discussing a possible implementation of these in our department”.

Ibolya Czegle – Hungary: “Before the TRU Visit I could not visualize the impact that translational research could have on our daily clinical routine, now I can imagine how it really works in practice”

Mirolslawa Püsküllüoglu – Poland: “There are numerous benefits you can gain from attending TRU visit: starting from the possibility of visiting the best European centres for translational oncology and finishing with meeting young scientists from all over the Europe, exchanging the experience, ideas, opinions on oncological and non-oncological topics. During just 3 or 4 days you are able to familiarize yourself with the idea of how the translational unit functions. What is more, the TRU visit is an exceptional opportunity of

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meeting successful physicians and scientists who publish in top journals and are keen on sharing their knowledge and experience“.

Joanna Stanislawiak - Poland: “I work in the department of oncology so I do not have much contact with laboratory research. It was very useful for me to see how the laboratory work looks like, what kind of experiments are going on there“.

Viacheslav Chubenko – Russian Federation: “The TRU visit has given me a possibility to learn about new laboratory methods in detection of endothelial cells. It will allow me to select the right patient for antiangiogenesis therapy.”

Miguel Angel Berciano Guerrero – Spain: “This experience allows contact with an important research group working from the bench to bedside, knowing colleagues who work in the same field but in other countries, sharing experiences and knowledge“

All fellows wish to thank the European Institute of Oncology team and ESMO for making this TRU visit such an outstanding experience. The ESMO Translational Unit Visit was an excellent chance for fellows to benchmark their positions in translational research, and an opportunity for the host institute to meet gifted, young doctors with an interest in translational research.

Dr. Francesco Bertolini and Dr. Patrizia Mancuso
and
The ESMO Fellowship & Awards Committee

