

**ESMO TRU Visit
Vall d'Hebron Institute
of Oncology (VHIO)
Barcelona, Spain
27-29 April, 2011**



In April 2011, the department of Medical Oncology at the Vall d'Hebron Institute of Oncology (VHIO) had the pleasure in hosting 10 Young Medical Oncologists during the ESMO TRU Visit entitled **“An Introduction to Translational Research in Oncology”**. The young medical oncologists came from Australia, China, France, India, Italy, Portugal, The Netherlands and the program focused on laboratory techniques in Genomics, Proteomics and Molecular Pathology.

The visit was chaired by Josep Tabernero, MD and Joaquin Arribas, PhD. During the 3-day program, the group visited the VHIO Lab facilities: genomics, proteomics, basic science labs and phase I unit.

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 to bring translational research methodology closer and to provide an overview of targeting therapies. Interactive lectures were held daily with discussions and the participants enjoyed and benefitted from the opportunity to become acquainted with the translational research efforts.

Kathryn Field – Australia: *“This was absolutely fantastic, I was really struck by the amount of time the faculty members happily gave to us, not just in their presentations and the delivery of the presentations, but also by staying and talking to us in the breaks, spending time with us at dinner and also showing us around the facilities. I was so appreciative that they gave up their time for us – it was really impressive! Plus it made the work they do even more inspiring to actually meet and get to know the people behind the research and to understand from their perspective why translational research and multidisciplinary involvement is so crucial”*

Xinmei Kang - China: *“Firstly, provided me a unique opportunity to get in touch with a cancer institute which is conducting high-quality researches. I am so impressed by the rapid development and fruitful achievement of translational research in Vall d' Hebron Institute of Oncology. Secondly, it is a short visit, but it showed us a comprehensive knowledge of all aspects of up- to-date progresses in cancer research including genomics, proteomics, targeting, signalling pathways in cancer stem cells, phase I clinical trial and pharmacodynamic biomarkers. Thirdly, the process of how new ideas are generated and put into practice”*

Tiwana, Manpreet Singh - India: *“Although the organizers showed their utmost commitment to showcase their TR facilities on a practical visit to each lab, I feel the need to increase the tour time in future lab visits would enhance the efficacy of lectures”.*

Daniela Adua – Italy: *“I found the moments of interactive discussion very productive, in fact through the exchange of experience and knowledge you can standardize research quality standards. Spanish colleagues and in particular Prof. J. Taberneo, were all completely available in deepening the reasons discussed, creating a lively atmosphere. Young oncologists if we really believe in the quality of our profession we must have the strength to face every day with different realities scientifically advanced. Vall d’Hebron Institute of Oncology and Prof. j. Tabernero’s professionalism were truly a unique experience for me”*”.

Lorenzo Fornaro – Italy: *“Excellent. Each section of the TRU was easily accessible and involved in the most advanced fields of research in basic, translational and clinical oncology”*.

Valentina Sini – Italy: *“Yes, I had an excellent example of Translational Research Unit at Vall d’Hebron University and the faculty gave me useful suggestions how to translate them into my reality”*.

Alfonso De Stefano – Italy: *“It was excellent, very friendly and the young age of the speakers improved it”*.

Ramon Andrade de Mello – Portugal: *“ I think the TRU visit is a good opportunity for young medical oncologists in training and researches to share experience and understand the functionality of reference institution as it is at the Hospital Vall d’Hebron. It was also good to see different ways of research model organization that could be useful to inspire future approaches in translational research”*.

Lieke Simkens – The Netherlands: *“Facilities on translational research in oncology are extensive and diverse, what made this TRU visit very useful. Furthermore, it was also interesting to have a look at the different laboratories”*.

All fellows wish to thank the Vall d’Hebron team and ESMO for making this TRU visit such a superb 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 for translational research.

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