



STUDIES COORDINATION

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## NEWSLETTER 18

Dear friends,

here's some overdue information on the most recent events concerning the IELSG.

### IELSG BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING in June 2004

The IELSG Board of Directors has been established following the assembly vote in Barcelona.

**Prof. Franco Cavalli, Bellinzona, Switzerland** *chair person*

**Prof. André Bosly, Yvoir, Belgium** *representative of the GELA "Groupe d'Etudes des Lymphomes de l'Adulte"*

**Maura Brugiattelli, MD, Messina, Umberto Vitolo, MD, Torino, Italy** *representatives of the IIL "Italian Lymphomas Intergroup"*

**Mary Gospodarowicz, MD, Toronto, Canada** *radiotherapists' representative*

**Prof. Peter Johnson, Southampton, United Kingdom** *representative of the "National Cancer Research UK/BNLI"*

**Armando Lopez-Guillermo, MD, Barcelona, Spain** *representative of the Spanish Group*

**Stefano Pileri, MD, Bologna, Italy** *pathologists' representative*

**John Seymour, MD, Melbourne, Australia** *representative of Australia*

**Prof. Thomas Cerny, St. Gallen, Switzerland** *representative of SAKK, Switzerland*

The first meeting of the IELSG Board of Directors has been held in Geneva, June 10, 2004. Present: A.Bosly, M.Brugiattelli, T.Cerny, A.Lopez, J.Seymour, U.Vitolo, F.Cavalli. Excused: P.Johnson, S.Pileri, M.Gospodarowicz

The following main items were discussed:

- The procedure for legal registration of IELSG as a simple society according to Swiss law has been initiated: the registration should take a few weeks, afterwards we will ask for tax-exemption. No major problems are expected. Franco Cavalli explained that being a member of the Board of Directors will not entail that someone has a liability if something happens with the IELSG.
- Emanuele Zucca is confirmed as Director of the Operation Office. There are no time limits for this choice. The Board of Directors is free to set possible limits. For the time being E. Zucca does not receive any salary from IELSG.
- Situation of ongoing protocols and future studies.
- The next meeting of the Board of Directors is planned for December 2004 during the ASH meeting.

## THE ONGOING STUDIES

All the ongoing clinical studies open for patient's registration are listed in our website [www.ielsg.org](http://www.ielsg.org). You will find below some additional information on the present state of some studies.

### **IELSG 3** *Randomized trial of observation vs chlorambucil after anti-helicobacter therapy in low-grade gastric lymphoma*

A long term analysis of antibiotic therapy in the MALT lymphoma is ongoing and an abstract will be sent for the next Lugano Conference.

### **IELSG 10** *A phase II study of CHOP, with intrathecal methotrexate followed by radiotherapy, in patients with primary testicular non-Hodgkin's lymphoma*

So far 37 patients have been entered. The planned accrual is 50! With a little help from our friends the study may be completed soon.

### **IELSG 14** *Retrospective evaluation of primary bone lymphoma*

The retrospective study is closed, a final analysis will be performed in the next few months.

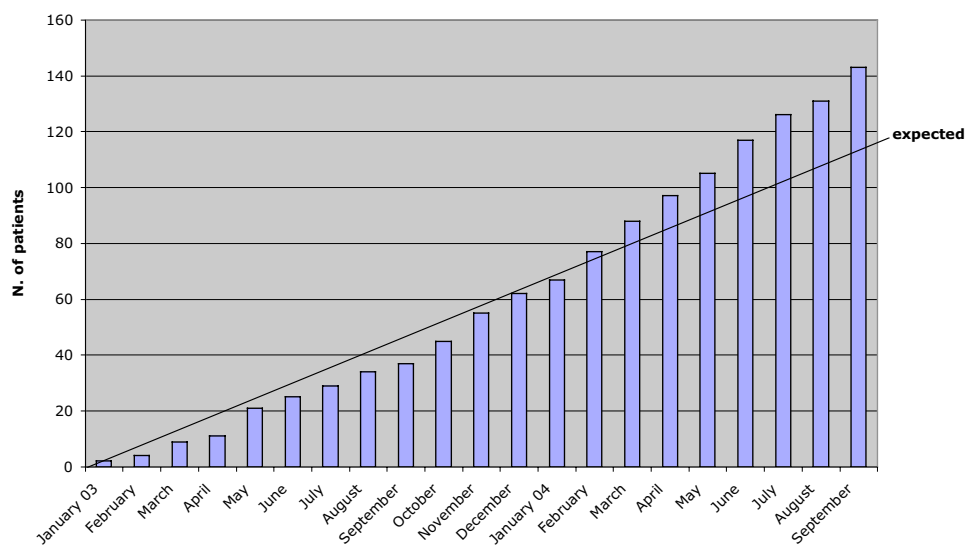
### **IELSG 15** *Retrospective evaluation of primary breast lymphoma*

Giovanni Martinelli and Ryan Gail are analysing the data. An abstract should be prepared for the next Lugano Conference and final analysis will be discussed at the next Ascona Meeting.

### **IELSG 19** *Multicenter randomized trial of chlorambucil versus chlorambucil plus rituximab in extranodal marginal zone B-cell lymphoma of mucosa associated lymphoid tissue (MALT lymphoma)*

So far 150 patients have been enrolled. The accrual is summarised in the figure.

**Accrual at September 30, 2004**



Randomization: 75 chlorambucil alone, 75 chlorambucil+rituximab.

Accrual by country: 7 Belgium, 25 England, 38 France, 68 Italy, 8 Spain, 4 Switzerland.

Median age: 58 years. Sex: 80 M, 70 F.

Primary sites: 62 gastric, 88 extra-gastric.

Disease: 134 de novo, 16 relapsed. Nodal involvement: 63.

IPI score: 87 low risk, 26 low-intermediate, 30 intermediate-high 7 high risk.

SAEs: 1 death due to progression and histologic transformation in Burkitt-like lymphoma possibly related to the study treatment, 1 severe pain infusion-related requiring hospitalization, 5 hospitalizations deemed non-related to the study treatment (epigastric pain, bone fracture, multiple trauma, pulmonary embolism)

Withdrawals: 4 PD, 3 patient's decision, 1 revised histology (mantle cell)

In a few weeks the planned interim analysis will be done.

**IELSG 20** *Randomized phase II trial on primary chemotherapy with high-dose methotrexate, alone or associated with high-dose cytarabine, followed by response- and age-tailored radiotherapy for immunocompetent patients with newly diagnosed primary central nervous system lymphoma.*

So far 10 patients have been enrolled.

**IELSG 22** *Gastric irradiation for MALT lymphoma: a retrospective study*

So far 21 patients have been registered.

**IELSG 23** *Retrospective evaluation of primary head and neck lymphoma*

So far 330 patients have been enrolled.

## STUDIES IN PREPARATION

- At ASCO as well as at EHA there were meetings between E. Zucca and A. Ferreri with the representatives of the primary CNS Lymphoma Group to continue the preparation of a master protocol, and to further discuss future activities. A meeting between John Radford and Andrés Ferreri concerning the planned protocol for ocular lymphomas will take place. Information will be circulated as soon as possible.
- A IELSG protocol for the VELCADE in Marginal Zone Lymphomas is in preparation with some support from Johnson & Johnson. It will however be limited to only a few institutions.

## TISSUE MICROARRAYS AND GENE EXPRESSION FROM PARAFFIN-EMBEDDED TISSUES: NEW FACILITIES FOR IELSG STUDIES"

FISH and immunohistochemistry are commonly used to assess RNA, DNA, or protein expression in individual tumour samples. On the other side, tissue microarrays make now possible to analyse hundreds of individual patient specimens in a single experiment by using only very small sections from each paraffin blocks and DNA microarrays allow the study of gene expression of thousands of genes in only one experiment. Advances in probe design allow now to use paraffin-embedded tissues for whole genome gene expression studies. The use of laser capture microdissection combined to DNA microarrays further improves the extent of biologic question that can be addressed.

The San Raffaele Institute in Milan and the Oncology Institute of Southern Switzerland in Bellinzona have set up a collaboration which could now provide whole facilities to be used for IELSG studies. The Milan group can provide the opportunity to build tissue-microarrays for individual IELSG retrospective and prospective studies to effectively screen markers to evaluate their predictive and prognostic impact. The combination of laser capture microdissection, available in Milan, and gene expression profiling performed in Bellinzona using the new specially designed human Affymetrix chips containing probes targeting more than 47,000 transcripts are currently being setting up in order to study very well defined neoplastic populations.

For anyone interested to build up tissue microarrays or to take advantage of the above-mentioned techniques, please feel free to contact the following persons:

Francesco Bertoni ([frbertoni@mac.com](mailto:frbertoni@mac.com)) Claudio Doglioni ([doglioni.claudio@hsr.it](mailto:doglioni.claudio@hsr.it))  
Maurilio Ponzoni ([ponzoni.maurilio@hsr.it](mailto:ponzoni.maurilio@hsr.it))

## TROG 99.04: SURVEY ON A PRIMARY BONE LYMPHOMA STUDY

*A Prospective, non-randomised study of chemotherapy and radiotherapy for osteolymphoma (OL)*

During the last IELSG meeting held in Barcelona, we discussed the participation to a multicenter prospective study of chemo-radiotherapy in primary bone lymphoma now active in the Australia and New Zealand. We would like to check again the interest in this matter and to estimate the number of patients that can be enrolled in this study from IELSG investigators and institutions.

Please click on <http://www.ielsg.org/newsfr.html> to see a short summary of the trial and to participate to our survey (it will take only a couple of minutes).

## NEW IELSG PUBLICATIONS

**British Journal of Haematology October 2004;127(2): 173-83**

INTRAVASCULAR LYMPHOMA: CLINICAL PRESENTATION, NATURAL HISTORY, MANAGEMENT AND PROGNOSTIC FACTORS IN A SERIES OF 38 CASES, WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON THE CUTANEOUS VARIANT (IELSG 17)

**Annals of Oncology, 2004; 15(8): 1215-1221**

ANTRACYCLINE-BASED CHEMOTHERAPY AS PRIMARY TREATMENT FOR INTRAVASCULAR LYMPHOMA (IELSG 17)

**Leukemia and Lymphoma 2003;44 Suppl 3:S21-6**

PATHOBIOLOGY OF PRIMARY MEDIASTINAL B-CELL LYMPHOMA (IELSG 9)

## THE NEXT IELSG MEETING

It will be held in **Ascona** (Switzerland), from **Friday February 25** (approx. 2:00 to 8:00 PM) to **Saturday February 26, 2005** (approx. 9:30 to 12:30 PM), in the beautiful resort of the Centro Stefano Franscini, Monte Verità.

<http://www.csf.ethz.ch/>

**On line registration** is available at our website:

<http://www.ielsg.org/meetingsfr.html>.

**Registration closing date: January 31, 2005**

**Each participant must directly book his/her own room** for the meeting contacting the

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Phone +41 91 791 47 48, Fax +41 791 56 55, E-mail [info-mv@csf-mv.ethz.ch](mailto:info-mv@csf-mv.ethz.ch)

As usual, IELSG will cover the cost of the hotel accommodation (1 night) for 1 person from each participating institute, with reimbursement at time of on-site registration.

The cost of additional nights/persons, as well as the travel costs, must be covered by the participants.

A provisional program of the meeting is in preparation.

We are looking forward to meeting all of you there.

*F. Cavalli, E. Zucca, A. Conconi, C. Morinini, M. Trovesi*