American Society of Clinical Oncology annual meeting 2015

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The annual meeting of the American Society of Clinical Oncology represents the yearly highlight for the worldwide oncologic community. This year saw around 30,000 participants convening in Chicago where they were presented with a wealth of new data.

This year's motto was "Illumination and Innovation, transforming data into learning". The hot topics 2015 were the immune-checkpoint-inhibitor therapies especially in malignant melanoma and non-small-cell-lung cancer (NSCLC) as will be high-lighted by Georg Pall. In a subgroup of patients with NSCLC, this new treatment was so effective that it replaced docetaxel as second-line therapy after a first-line regimen including a platinum [1].

Rupert Bartsch will outline the enormous efforts in clinical research in the field of breast cancer including Austrian Breast and Colorectal Study Group trial 18 on bone health in post-menopausal women [2] and studies in the setting of Her2-positivity; here T-DM1 alone was as effective as trastuzumab plus docetaxel in the first-line treatment therapy, while dual Her2-inhibition with T-DM1 plus pertuzumab yielded no further benefit [3].

Ewald Wöll demonstrates that immune check point inhibitors also show activity active in esophageal and gastric cancers [4]. C-Met inhibitors were not successful in Phase III trials in gastric cancer [5]. On the other side, first phase II results with regorafenib emphasize a potential role for tyrosine kinase inhibitors in gastric cancer [6].

Sophie Schur and Thomas Brodowicz report on recent results in gastrointestinal stroma tumor and soft tissue sarcomas showing a constant progress in the treatment of both entities as well as paving the way from conventional

chemotherapy to histology-driven therapy approaches [7–15].

Ultimately, I have the honour to outlay this year's development in colorectal cancer. A phase II trial suggested that tumors with mismatch repair deficiency in the metastatic setting may benefit from treatment with pembrolizumab, another immune check-point inhibitor [16]. Her2-positive Colorectal Cancer (CRC) derive benefit from dual inhibition with trastuzumab and lapatinib after failure of prior lines [17]. In all, two studies show effects of local ablative therapy of liver metastases with radiofrequency ablation and selective targeted radiation [18, 19].

Conflict of interest

The author declares that there are no actual or potential conflicts of interest in relation to this article.

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