

Emerging Therapeutic Targets in Ovarian Cancer

Stan Kaye · Robert Brown · Hani Gabra ·
Martin Gore
Editors

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 Springer

Editors

Stan Kaye
Drug Development Unit
Institute of Cancer Research/
Royal Marsden Hospital
Sutton, SM2 5PT, UK

Robert Brown
Department of Surgery and Cancer
Imperial College
London, W12 0NN, UK

Hani Gabra
Department of Surgery and Cancer
Imperial College
London, W12 0NN, UK

Martin Gore
Department of Medicine
Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust
and Institute of Cancer Research
London, SW3 6JJ, UK

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Ovarian Cancer Action

Ovarian Cancer Action is dedicated to advancing and supporting ovarian cancer research as part of its mission to save women's lives.

It is an independent charity and funds a broad range of research to achieve:

- accurate and early detection
- more effective treatments
- better survival rates

The Ovarian Cancer Action Research Centre

The Ovarian Cancer Action Research Centre, based at Imperial College London and the Royal Marsden Hospital, is the only UK research facility entirely dedicated to ovarian cancer. This Centre is an international hub for ovarian cancer research, fast-tracking new treatments from bench to bedside.

Other research funding

In addition, funding is granted to other UK research institutions, hospitals and universities. Ovarian Cancer Action also organises the influential Helene Harris Memorial Trust International Forum on Ovarian Cancer and Ovarian Cancer Action International Conferences.

Find out more about the pioneering work underway at the Ovarian Cancer Action Research Centre at www.ovarian.org.uk

Preface

Clinicians caring for advanced ovarian cancer patients are well aware of the challenges in dealing with the disease. Although it is frequently responsive to a range of conventional cytotoxic agents, it generally recurs and proves to be fatal. In facing the major obstacles to improvements in outlook – non-selectivity and drug resistance – the expectation today is that a better appreciation of the underlying biology and molecular pathology of the disease will translate into genuine progress in therapy. While there is still much to be understood about the different histological types of ovarian cancer, we are already seeing progress in linking the biology of ovarian cancer with novel targets and innovative therapies entering clinical trials.

The purpose of this book is to provide an up-to-date perspective, in essence a progress report to date on efforts to meet these challenges. The basis of successful therapeutic developments is a partnership between laboratory-based and clinical-based research scientists, and this is exemplified in the co-authorship of the 13 articles.

We have identified those areas of translational research which we believe have shown the most promise, or are likely to do so, in the treatment of ovarian cancer. Each author has provided a background review of the biology behind his/her emerging target for therapy, followed by a comprehensive and up-to-date summary of treatment results. A theme which runs throughout the book is the importance of predictive biomarkers and the message of patient selection for novel-targeted therapy is now a familiar one in modern cancer therapy.

The 13 chapters are prefaced by two introductory general contributions, describing existing treatments and the discovery of novel targets. A point sometimes made is that no sooner is a book such as this published than it is ‘out of date’. Clearly new information continues to emerge on a monthly basis, and this of course is to be applauded. But we believe that there is a role for a concise overall picture, especially

in 2010, which is a particularly eventful year for treatment developments in ovarian cancer. As final touches to the book are made, we are learning of the positive results in GOG 218 and ICON-7, which incorporated bevacizumab into first line treatment, and of the first clinical evidence of response in sporadic ovarian cancer to single agent PARP inhibitor treatment (see [Chapters 3 and 6](#)). These, and other positive trial data, provide real hope for improvements in treatment outcome in the near future. We hope that the book will prove useful to both clinicians and non-clinicians with interests in the field of new drug development in ovarian cancer and welcome any constructive comments and criticisms.

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October 2010

Stan Kaye
Robert Brown
Hani Gabra
Martin Gore

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Contributors

Alan Ashworth Breakthrough Breast Cancer Research Centre, The Institute of Cancer Research, London SW3 6JB, UK, alan.ashworth@icr.ac.uk

Frances Balkwill Barts and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry, Institute of Cancer, Centre for Cancer and Inflammation, Queen Mary University of London, London EC1M 6BQ, UK, f.balkwill@qmul.ac.uk

Susana Banerjee Medical Oncology, The Royal Marsden Hospital, London, UK, susanabanerjee@doctors.org.uk

Andrew Berchuck Division of Gynecologic Oncology, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Duke University Medical Center, Durham, NC 27708, USA, berch001@mc.duke.edu

Michael J. Birrer Department of Medicine, Harvard Medical School, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, MA 02114, USA; Gynecologic Cancer Research Program, Dana Farber/Harvard Cancer Center, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, MA 02114, USA; Gynecologic Medical Oncology, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, MA 02114, USA, mbirrer@partners.org

Michael A. Bookman Hematology-Oncology, Arizona Cancer Center, Tucson, AZ 85724-5024, USA, mbookman@azcc.arizona.edu

James D. Brenton CRUK Cambridge Research Institute, Li Ka Shing Centre, Cambridge CB2 0R, UK, james.brenton@cancer.org.uk

Robert Brown Epigenetics Unit, Department of Surgery and Cancer, Imperial College London, Hammersmith Hospital, London W12 0NN, UK, b.brown@imperial.ac.uk

Nadine Chapman-Rothe Epigenetics Unit, Department of Surgery and Cancer, Imperial College London, Hammersmith Hospital, London W12 0NN, UK, nadine.rothe04@imperial.ac.uk

Michelle Chen Department of Surgery and Cancer, Section of Molecular Therapeutics, Ovarian Cancer Action Research Centre, Imperial College London, Hammersmith Hospital, London W12 0NN, UK, m.chen@imperial.ac.uk

Azadeh Cheraghchi-Bashi Department of Surgery and Cancer, Section of Molecular Therapeutics, Ovarian Cancer Action Research Centre, Imperial College London, Hammersmith Hospital, London W12 0NN, UK, azadeh.cheraghchi-bashi06@imperial.ac.uk

Jermaine Coward Barts and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry, Institute of Cancer, Centre for Cancer and Inflammation, Queen Mary University of London, London EC1M 6BQ, UK, jim.coward@gmail.com

Carles Escriu CRUK Cambridge Research Institute, Li Ka Shing Centre, CB2 0R, Cambridge, UK, carlos.escriu@cancer.org.uk

John Farley Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, Bethesda, MD 20814, USA, john.farley@us.army.mil

Hani Gabra Department of Surgery and Cancer, Section of Molecular Therapeutics, Ovarian Cancer Action Research Centre, Imperial College London, Hammersmith Hospital, London W12 0NN, UK, h.gabra@imperial.ac.uk

Sadaf Ghaem-Maghani Department of Gynaecological Oncology, Hammersmith Hospitals Trust, London W12 0HS, UK, s.ghaem-maghani@imperial.ac.uk

Ros Glasspool Beatson Oncology Centre, The Beatson West of Scotland Cancer Centre, Glasgow G12 0YN, UK, ros.glasspool@ggc.scot.nhs.uk

Martin Gore The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust and The Institute of Cancer Research, Fulham Rd, London SW3 6JJ, UK, martin.gore@rmh.nhs.uk

Liz Y. Han Drug Development Unit, The Royal Marsden Hospital, London, UK, liz.han@rmh.nhs.uk

Jurjees Hasan Department of Medical Oncology, Christie Hospital, Manchester, UK, jurjees.hasan@christie.nhs.uk

Ann L. Jackman Section of Medicine, The Institute of Cancer Research, Sutton, Surrey SM2 5NG, UK, ann.jackman@icr.ac.uk

Gordon Jayson Department of Medical Oncology, Christie Hospital, Manchester, UK, gordon.jayson@christie.nhs.uk

Stan Kaye Section of Medicine The Institute of Cancer Research and the Drug Development Unit, The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust, Sutton, Surrey SM2 5PT, UK, stan.kaye@rmh.nhs.uk

Lainie P. Martin Department of Medical Oncology, Fox Chase Cancer Center, Philadelphia, PA 1911, USA, lainie.martin@fcc.edu

Susan K. Murphy Division of Gynecologic Oncology, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Duke University Medical Center, Durham, NC 27708, USA, murph035@mc.duke.edu

Chau H. M. Ng Section of Medicine, The Institute of Cancer Research, Sutton, Surrey SM2 5NG, UK, matthew.ng@icr.ac.uk

Julia J. Perkins Department of Medical Oncology, Fox Chase Cancer Center, Philadelphia, PA 1911, USA, julia.perkins@fccc.edu

Russell J. Schilder Department of Medical Oncology, Fox Chase Cancer Center, Philadelphia, PA 1911, USA, russell.schilder@fccc.edu

Anil K. Sood Departments of Gynecologic Oncology and Cancer Biology, Center for RNA Interference and Non-coding RNA, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX 77230-1439, USA, asood@mdanderson.org

Euan A. Stronach Department of Surgery and Cancer, Section of Molecular Therapeutics, Ovarian Cancer Action Research Centre, Imperial College London, Hammersmith Hospital, London, W12 0NN, UK, e.stronach@imperial.ac.uk

Andrew Tutt Breakthrough Breast Cancer Research Unit, King's College London, School of Medicine, London SE1 9RT, UK, andrew.tutt@kcl.ac.uk

Timothy A. Yap Drug Development Unit, The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust, Sutton, Surrey SM2 5PT, UK; Section of Medicine, The Institute of Cancer Research, Sutton, Surrey SM2 5NG, UK, timothy.yap@icr.ac.uk