

Press Briefing Day 1 - FRIDAY, JUNE 15, 2018**EHA 2018 Press Briefing: Introductory remarks from Prof. Pieter Sonneveld****The Scientific Program of the 23rd Congress of EHA**

Dr Martina Muckenthaler, Chair of the Scientific Program Committee of the 23rd Congress of EHA

HARMONY: Europe's largest public-private partnership for Big Data in Hematology. Big Data (analytics) to enable better and faster treatment for patients with hematologic malignancies.

Jesús María Hernández Rivas, HARMONY Alliance Project Coordinator, IBSAL, Spain

[Update on bb2121, a promising therapy for patients with heavily pre-treated relapsed/refractory multiple myeloma](#)

Dr Jesus G. Berdeja, Sarah Cannon Research Institute and Tennessee Oncology, Nashville, TN, USA
([Abstract S138](#))

Conclusion: The anti-BCMA CAR T cell therapy bb2121 has demonstrated substantial activity in heavily pre-treated patients with multiple myeloma (MM). Updated results from 43 patients after five more months of follow-up show that bb2121 remains generally well-tolerated while inducing deep and durable responses in patients with advanced MM. The median PFS among 18 patients treated with active doses in the dose escalation cohort was 11.8 months and a 96% ORR was reported in 22 patients treated with $>150 \times 10^6$ CAR T cells. Additionally, an unprecedented rate of MRD negativity was observed, with 100% of 16 evaluable responders achieving MRD negativity. Comparable activity was observed in patients with low (85% and 5y-OS $>95\%$) than ABVD. [MAIN SLIDES](#)

First-in-Human CLL1-CD33 Compound CAR T Cells as a Two-pronged Approach for the treatment of refractory acute myeloid leukemia

Dr Fang Liu, Department of Hematology, Chengdu Military General Hospital, Chengdu, Sichuan, P.R. China ([Abstract S149](#))

Conclusion: Our preclinical study has shown that our CLL-1-CD33 cCAR possesses consistent, specific, and potent anti-tumor activity against CLL-1+ and/or CD33+ leukemia cells in vitro and in vivo. cCAR may have advantages over single-CAR therapy in terms of reduction of disease relapse by targeting LSC and bulky AML population. Phase 1 trial for CLL-1-CD33 cCAR are underway.

Overall survival benefit of obinutuzumab over rituximab when combined with chlorambucil in patients with chronic lymphocytic leukemia and comorbidities

Dr Valentin Goede, German CLL Study Group, Cologne-Germany ([Abstract S151](#))

Study findings:

- - Support the use of obinutuzumab plus chlorambucil (G-Clb) as frontline therapy in patients with CLL and co-existing diseases.
- - Suggest obinutuzumab as the preferred anti-CD20 antibody to be used for chlorambucil-based chemoimmunotherapy, but also for future combination regimens for CLL.

[MAIN SLIDES](#)

[Is RELEVANCE Relevant? Results of the phase III study of R2 vs R-chemo in first-line follicular lymphoma](#)

Dr Frank Morschhauser, Department d' Hematologie, Centre Hospitalier Universitaire Régional de Lille, Unité GRITA, Lille, France ([Abstract S154](#))

In summary, RELEVANCE is the first randomized phase III trial comparing R2 vs standard R-chemo, followed by rituximab maintenance, in previously untreated patients with FL. R2 and R-chemo showed similar efficacy with a different safety profile. These results show that R2, a novel immunomodulatory approach, is a potential first-line option for FL patients requiring treatment. [MAIN SLIDES](#)

Iron: a double-edged sword in inflammation

Dr Francesca Vinchi, Iron Research Program, New York Blood Center, New York, USA ([Abstract S152](#))

We conclude that different forms of iron accumulation in macrophages (RBCs versus free heme and iron) in different diseases, show opposite effects on inflammation. Our data suggest that molecules able to bind iron have a therapeutic benefit on these diseases, through the modulation of these processes. [MAIN](#)



[SLIDES](#)