







# METHODS IN CLINICAL CANCER RESEARCH

The 14th intensive Workshop for junior clinical oncologists in any clinical research specialty area, to learn the essentials of clinical trial design



The most stimulating, interactive and multidisciplinary educational activity on clinical trial methodology in oncology. Outstanding, top-ranking international faculty. Highly motivated selected workshop participants with very heterogeneous clinical, scientific and cultural backgrounds. A unique, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for young clinical cancer researchers.

I have worked over the years with fellows and junior faculty members who have attended the Flims course and have found them to be exceptionally well-prepared to perform high quality clinical research.

# **ECCO**

# **AACR**

# **Message from the Workshop Directors**

# Representing ECCO

Patrick Schöffski University Hospital Gasthuisberg, Leuven, Belgium

### **Representing AACR**

Stephen M. Hahn University Hospital of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, USA

### **Representing EORTC**

Jan Bogaerts EORTC Headquarters, Brussels, Belgium

### **Representing ESMO**

Johann de Bono Royal Marsden Hospital, Sutton, United Kingdom

# **ESMO**

I attended
Flims in 1999
and it changed
my career and my
understanding of
cancer research.

# **EORTC**

A unique and stimulating environment optimising interactions between leading international faculty and young oncologists. An exceptional place for the next generation of cancer clinical researchers to build from their peers the foundations of the 21st century cancer treatment therapeutic strategies.

### **WORKSHOP OVERVIEW**

The ECCO-AACR-EORTC-ESMO Workshop on Methods in Clinical Cancer Research, better known as the 'Flims' Workshop, is an educational programme that introduces junior clinical oncologists in any oncology subspecialty to the principles of good clinical trial design. Since 1999, this extremely successful joint Workshop has taken place in the small town of Flims, nestled in the Swiss Mountains.

### WHY DO WE NEED A WORKSHOP?

The presence of a strong research base is essential to the future of good quality cancer care. Clinical scientists who are able to set up and run high-quality clinical trials are vital to the advancement of new therapies. This Workshop was established to reverse the decline in numbers of clinical scientists. The ultimate goal: to develop a robust, expanding base of well-trained clinical researchers by providing them with the training they need to conduct better clinical/translational trial designs.



# **KEY BENEFITS OF ATTENDING THE WORKSHOP**

- Exclusive access to and mentoring by up to 40 highly experienced clinical experts in the field of oncology from Europe and the U.S.A;
- Exceptional opportunity to meet and network with an elite group of 80 junior clinical oncologists from all over the world;
- Outstanding educational experience in a unique setting conducive to professional relationship building, learning and development;
- Access to a variety of educational tools designed to enable participants to develop their initial protocol proposal into a complete protocol;
- Active promotion of productive dialogues between young cancer specialists and the European and non-European Cancer Societies;
- Establishment of a network for educational exchanges between young cancer clinicians worldwide.

# The Programme has been specially formulated to cater for all learning needs and will incorporate the following formats:

### **Meet Your Expert Sessions**

One-to-one sessions where students will have access to experts providing individual counselling and advice on protocol and career development.

### **Small Group Discussion Sessions**

These sessions focus on topics that are essential to the success of clinical trials as well facilitating discussion on and around the difficulties and challenges of a particular type of trial. They are limited in size to maximise exchange of information.



These sessions form the core activity of this Workshop and allow students to complete the writing of their protocol by applying the knowledge acquired during the Workshop. Students will receive detailed critiques of their proposals from the experts in the field in small groups comprising a maximum of 10 people.



Presentations by experts in the field on specific topics will provide participants with an overview of the design and conduct of high-quality clinical trials. This will be followed by a panel discussion or round table session during which Faculty and students can explore issues raised during the talks in greater depth.



# **Promotion of the Workshop**

- Wide distribution of the Workshop programme and application forms by European cancer centres, Workshop graduates and their mentors.
- Regular announcements via the Flims Alumni LinkedIn Group.
- Advertisements in the European Journal of Cancer, Radiotherapy and Oncology, Annals of Oncology, Cancer Research and the European Journal of Surgical Oncology.
- Electronic mailing of Workshop brochures and key dates to ECCO's 24 member societies comprising over 50,000 oncology professionals.

Many applicants apply for the Workshop after hearing the extremely positive testimonials from previous participants and their mentors. This is supported by the results of the Workshop evaluation where 100% of students indicated that they would recommend the Workshop to someone who was following the same study path as them.

# **Application**

### All industry applicants must submit the following:

- The on-line application (only available on the ECCO website);
- A one-page study concept for a clinical therapeutic protocol to be designed and written during the Workshop;
- A letter of motivation;
- A statement from their Supervisor/Head of Department in support of the application.

## Selection

# Review & Selection Criteria for non-industry participants

Participation to the Workshop is limited to 80 non-industry participants. Applications are scored numerically based on the following criteria:

- Background of the applicant;
- Support of the applicant from the mentor/institution to conduct a clinical trial;
- Originality of the proposal;
- Quality and feasibility of the concept.



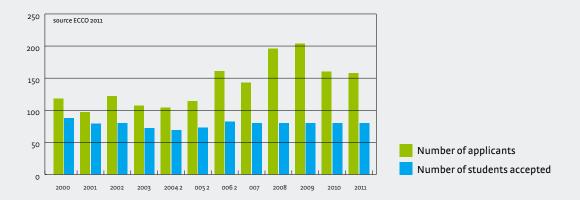
### **Review & Selection Criteria**

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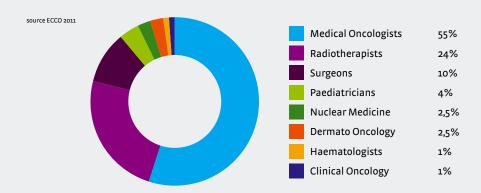
### Overview of the Number of Applicants versus the Number of Students Accepted 2000-2011



### Geographical Breakdown of Applicants versus Selected Participants by Region 2000-2011



### Selected Participants by Oncology Specialty 2011



Although the vast majority of workshop participants specialised in medical oncology there has been a significant rise in other specialties such as surgery, radiation and paediatric oncology in recent years.

# **Testimonials from 2011 Workshop Participants**

The Workshop is a unique experience and has proven to be an inspiration to me in pursuing a career in academic clinical oncology.

By participating I was able to develop a clinical trial idea into a full clinical trial protocol; a task which would otherwise have been impossible for me to achieve even over several months at my home institution. The lectures were invaluable, and gave a solid grounding in the key methodological elements of clinical trial design. The protocol development group sessions provided an opportunity for discussion with fellow students and a team of mentors, and again were vital in developing my protocol. Evening "meet your expert" sessions afforded students valuable time to discuss particular elements of trial design with a variety of clinician/statistician/scientist experts, which was extremely useful. Gaining experience from expert clinicians in this manner was really very inspiring. The course had excellent IT and conference facilities, and the surroundings were very comfortable. It was really

great to attend a course with so many different nationalities present and to learn about the approach to oncology in their countries. The course has been one of the most worthwhile educational opportunities of my medical career so far.

Ross Carruthers

The Flims Workshop is an intensive and high-quality workshop for young researchers in the field of oncology. I can truly say that participating in this Workshop has amplified my motivation for participating in further

high-quality oncology research. I feel honoured to have been given the opportunity to participate in this Workshop, as it a unique platform for young, talented researchers to develop not only a strong, workable study protocol, but to improve the skills required to conduct high-quality oncology research, to build lasting relationships with fellow researchers, and to meet prominent leaders in the diverse fields of oncology from all over the world. Especially motivating during this course was the enthusiasm and dedication with which all young researchers worked day and night to develop a complete protocol, refined with individual help from experts during the Protocol Development Groups and 'Meet the Expert' sessions. The expertise gained at this workshop will enable young leaders in oncology research to return to their institution with new know-how and expertise to build on the continuum of outstanding research. It has been a privilege to be part of the FLIMS experience!





The Flims Workshop was one of the most rewarding courses that I have attended. The proficiency of the faculty was outstanding, and included several world renowned experts. Even though I had some previous experience in protocol development, the combination of a pre-test on arrival and post-test prior to departure made me realise that despite having experience in clinical trials, I had still learnt a significant amount. The most rewarding aspect of this Workshop was the opportunity to interact with the faculty in developing a protocol and discussing other aspects of research. Thankfully, my protocol was relatively straight forward, a phase Ib trial combining two established molecularly targeted agents with a novel targeted agent. Having a molecular pathologist on the faculty was a tremendous plus and assisted me greatly in developing correlative studies for my phase I study. The evening Meet

the Expert sessions were a great opportunity to "pick the brains" of some of the world's foremost experts. Not only did the Workshop allow me to write a complete protocol within a week and improve my knowledge of clinical trials but it also allowed me to progress in my other projects. It was truly a most rewarding experience and one that I would strongly recommend to any fellow.

Tran Ber

Despite having heard from many alumni that Flims was an exceptional and unique educational experience, the Workshop greatly exceeded my expectations. The daily discussions in our protocol development group, consisting of nine students and three faculty members, were extremely productive. The importance of thoughtful study design, especially regarding choice of end-points and statistical power, was the most important message in the early meetings. In later, thought-provoking group meetings we were challenged to think critically about each and every aspect of our own research proposal. These sessions not only gave us the possibility to solve our study's specific problems, but also to learn from the difficulties experienced by other group members. Never before have I managed to achieve so much in such a short period of time.

The final group session discussing the implementation of the protocols was a real eye-opener, highlighting the importance of proper financing and generating support from colleagues. The atmosphere was highly motivating, with both students and faculty working hard on protocols until very late at night. The Flims Workshop was a remarkable experience, which I would strongly recommend to all my colleagues interested in cancer research. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the organisers and ECCO staff members onsite for their outstanding professionalism and kindness.

Karin Tamas









The Flims Workshop was an extraordinary experience. Designing a research protocol in the time frame of one week is a difficult but achievable task. Having top scientists in the medical, surgical and statistical fields on hand for help and advice was instrumental to my success in completing my protocol. The final result was extremely rewarding. I highly recommend this Workshop to all oncologists who wish to devote themselves to scientific research. The Flims experience brings enthusiasm for research and equips participants with all the necessary skills to succeed in the field. I am grateful for this opportunity, and I want to thank all the experts, my tutors, and fellow students at the Workshop for their help.

Alessio Amatu

Being selected to attend the Methods in Clinical Cancer Research Workshop was a great honour for me.

Since the beginning of my training in Oncology I always hoped to have the opportunity to attend this course because I knew that it would benefit me greatly in both my training and ultimately my career. The entire workshop was extremely well-organised. In addition to exchanging experiences with other students from across the globe, I had the opportunity to be in direct contact with the great names in clinical research and develop my project with their invaluable guidance.

At the end of the Workshop, I completed my research protocol and I could see the evolution of my knowledge in clinical research. This was without a doubt a hugely enriching experience. I thank and congratulate the Organising Committee, the ECCO staff, the sponsors, and everyone involved in making this Workshop an outstanding success.

Cláudia Schöffel Schavinsk

# 2012 Corporate Sponsorship Opportunities

Industry support has been crucial to the success of the Flims workshops.

Over the years a number of pharmaceutical companies have repeatedly selected this workshop to form part of their staff professional development programme.

### **Industry Supporters**

Number of Years	Pharmaceutical Company
11	Astra Zeneca
9	BMS
8	Amgen
8	Novartis
7	Sanofi
5	Roche
3	Neopharm
3	OSI Pharma
3	Pfizer
2	Eli Lilly
1	Boehringer Ingelheim
1	Merck
1	Pharmamar

### Benefits to your company

Our corporate sponsorship opportunities will strategically support your marketing and corporate social responsibility goals. They offer a great opportunity for your company to show its involvement in an educational programme that will ultimately contribute to better research and improved public health worldwide.

Sponsoring the 'Methods in Clinical Cancer Research' Workshop will also provide your company with an exclusive opportunity through your designated student/s\* to:

- Meet and network with a select group of 80 junior clinicians with a special interest in cancer from all over the world in a unique educational setting conducive to relationship building, learning and development;
- Learn the essentials of good clinical trial design, including how to improve patient recruitment in cancer trials from up to 40 highly experienced clinical investigators from Europe and the U.S.;
- Receive all Workshop material including the participant list with full contact details (only available to Workshop participants);
- Be aligned with 4 major European and international oncology organisations, (ECCO, AACR, EORTC & ESMO) each holding highly reputable positions within the oncology community;

<sup>\*</sup>Number of students is dependent upon the Corporate Sponsorship Opportunity selected.



# **Overview**

### 2012 Corporate Sponsorship opportunities

		Diamond	Platinum	Gold	Silver	Bronze
	sales price	€ 95,000.00	€75,000.00	€ 55,000.00	€ 37,500.00	€ 25,000.00
Due annually		1	1	1	1	1
Feature	EXCLUSIVE	1				
Period of validity		3 years	1 year	1 year	1 year	1 year
Feature	Support level guarantee	1				
Feature	First right of refusal to re-apply following expiry date	1				
Branding	Company name/logo on Workshop delegate bag	1				
Feature	Yearly corporate delegate participation *	4	3	2	1	n/a
Feature	Direct link to company homepage	1				
Recognition	Individual recognition as long-term partner on all Workshop promotional & course material	1				
Recognition	Company name and logo on all Work- shop promotional & course material	1	1	1	1	1
Recognition	Company name and logo on all on-site signage	1	1	1	1	1
Acknowledgement	On partner websites - ECCO-AACR-EORTC-ESMO	1	1	1	1	<b>√</b>
Acknowledgement	In publications of ECCO, AACR, EORTC & ESMO meetings	1	1	1	1	<b>√</b>
Recognition	At Opening Session of the Workshop	1	1	1	1	<b>✓</b>
Recognition	On all rotating message screens on-site	1	1	1	1	<b>√</b>

<sup>\*</sup> Corporate delegate(s) appointed by the sponsoring company are obliged to take part in all Workshop sessions.

A protocol concept form, available from the Flims 14 Secretariat, must be completed and returned.



# **Corporate Sponsorship Opportunity ORDER FORM**

Organisation:				
Contact Person:				
Address:				
Zip/Postal Code:	City:			
Country:				
Telephone:	_ Fax:			
E-mail:				
We would like to support the 14th Methods in Cliwith a:	inical Research Workshop, Flims, Switzerland, 23-29 June 2012			
☐ Diamond Sponsorship*	€95,000 <sup>2</sup> (RESERVED)			
□ Platinum Sponsorship	€75,000 <sup>2</sup>			
☐ Gold Sponsorship	€ 55,000 <sup>2</sup>			
☐ Silver Sponsorship	€ 37,500 <sup>2</sup>			
□ Bronze Sponsorship	€25,000 <sup>2</sup>			
* 3 year commitment reserved by Sanofi from 20 € 2 - opportunities quoted are only valid and acc	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			
	orporate Sponsorship 30 days from the date on the invoice. ed in the Corporate Sponsorship Opportunities 2012 brochure			
Date:	Signature:			

Please complete and return to the Flims 14 Secretariat, c/o European CanCer Organisation Avenue E. Mounier 83, B-1200 Brussels, Fax: +32 2 775 02 00 or E-mail to: bruno.deman@ecco-org.eu

### Terms of Payment:

Invoices will be sent within 2 weeks following the confirmation. Payment is due within 30 days following the date of the invoice. Direct transfer payments should be made to the Flims 14 bank account: IBAN: BE76 7330 4182 3295, BIC/SWIFT: KREDBEBB, KBC Bank, Chaussée de Wavre 1662, 1160 Brussels, Belgium, stating the number of the invoice. Sender's bank charges are at the expense of the sponsor. The application is legally binding on the sponsor pending its acceptance in writing by the organiser.

All sponsorship packages will be subject to local VAT (7.6%).









# **Contact Us**

Flims 14 Secretariat ECCO – the European CanCer Organisation Avenue E. Mounier 83 B-1200 Brussels Belgium



22-28 21-27 20-26 JUNE JUNE JUNE 2013 2014 2015

www.ecco-org.eu