

12th World Congress on Cancers of the Skin

Skin Cancer Foundation and Israeli Society of Dermatology and Venereology organized 12th World Congress on Cancers of the Skin, held in Tel Aviv, Israel, May 3-6, 2009.

The new highlights in tumor research were presented by Prof. W. Schubert from Max-Planck-CAS Partner Institute, reporting on the Human Toponome Project, the way of deciphering protein networks (the toponome) in morphologically intact tumor cells. The technology resolved the key problem in biology and therapy research; it has uncovered a target protein in tumor cells that controls cell polarization/metastasis and furthermore outlined a strategy of approaching the selective therapeutic agents that can target tumor cell specific protein networks and can effectively block tumor cell migration/metastasis.

New achievements in the field of epidermal malignant tumors covered genetic factors, mainly p53 chromosome mutation, that influences actinic keratosis appearance as well as development of squamous cell carcinoma. In addition, a novel form of cryotherapy for actinic keratoses with cryoac tracker surface temperature measurement was discussed as well as some well established therapy options such as 5-FU, imiquimod and ALA-PDT alone or ALA-PDT combined with 5-FU.

The latest news in melanoma research covered the new insights and investigations of high- and low-risk genes for melanoma development. There were some interesting lectures on CDKN2A gene on chromosome 9, the best understood high-risk melanoma susceptibility gene. The best known common low-risk melanoma susceptibility gene is the gene coding for the melanocortin 1 receptor (MC1R). There has also been some very important progress in melanoma diagnosis,



Fig. 1. Assist. Prof. Larisa Prpić-Massari and Prof. Marija Kaštelan with Geri Henry-McLeod, MSc BSc, from Cancer Society Social and Behavioural Research Unit, New Zealand.

thanks to sequential digital dermoscopy imaging of melanocytic lesions that allows for detection of dermoscopically “featureless” melanoma. Confocal microscopy is used for secondary evaluation of melanocytic lesions *in vivo* and has been shown to have superior specificity to dermoscopy in the diagnosis of melanoma.

The Congress gathered many experts from the fields of dermatology, oncology and basic science. There were around 500 participants from 45 countries. The scientific program was both stimulating and enriching, offering an opportunity for exchange of the knowledge and experience in the field of skin cancer.

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