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CONTENTS

ONCOLOGY INSIGHTS INFO	I
SDIR6 CONGRESS INFO	III
LEGACY INSIGHTS	1
The foundation of the Serbian Association for Cancer Research	2
SDIR evolution: important steps from 2016 to 2022.	5
FUTURE HORIZONS IN CANCER	7
The importance of sex as a biological variable in cancer research.	8
The Role of Microbiota in Cancer Patients	16
PROCEEDINGS BOOK	23
PLENARY LECTURES	25
Unconventional approaches to the treatment of cancer	25
Targeting KRAS: achievements and drawbacks	25
INVITED LECTURES	26
Discovery of novel HDAC inhibitors for therapy of triple-negative breast cancer – preclinical study	26
Estrogen Receptor Beta promoter methylation as a possible biomarker in breast cancer	26
A new approach to the design of metal-based antineoplastic drugs.	27
Approaches to targeting cancer cell resistances in preclinical research	28
Small hydrophobic molecules in multi-targeted cancer therapy: disruption of plasma membrane and mitochondrial functions	30
Good cop-bad cop: different roles of hsa-miR-93-5p in colorectal cancer	31
Network based approaches in cancer research- chances and challenges	34
Tackling omics research in pathology in a low-budget setting	34
Sex as a biological variable in preclinical melanoma research	35
The importance of adequate molecular diagnostics in the era of precision oncology – focus on lung cancer	36
High-throughput screening of multidrug-resistance markers in non-small cell lung carcinoma patient-derived cells – contribution to personalized treatment.	37
Circulating cytokines as potential biomarkers of disease progression in BRAFwt metastatic melanoma patients receiving anti-PD-1 therapy	40
Targeting chitinase 3-like 1 for the treatment of pancreatic cancer	42
Establishment of a first cancer Biobank at the Institute for Oncology and Radiology of Serbia – advantages, challenges and future perspectives	44
Advancing reversible immunocapture toward scalable purification of extracellular vesicles	45
Dying of cancer cells feeds the others to create more aggressive tumor	46
The role of Hedgehog signaling pathway in plasticity, stemness and resistance of melanoma.	47

What is new in care of Adolescents and Young Adults, AYA with cancer.	49
Control of IFN- γ Responsiveness and Metastatic Potential in Melanoma by GSTA4	50
MicroRNAs – biomarker properties in prostate cancer.	52
Significance of molecular diagnostics in therapy of chronic lymphocytic leukemia.	54
ORAL PRESENTATIONS.	57
The PDK-1 inhibitor GSK2334470 induces cell death and G1 cell cycle arrest in human pancreatic cancer cells	57
Suppressor Effects of The Mixed Ligand Platinum (II) Saccharinate Complexes (<i>trans</i> -[Pt(sac) ₂ (PPh ₃) ₂] and <i>trans</i> -[Pt(sac) ₂ (PPh ₂ Cy) ₂]) on <i>In Vitro</i> And <i>In Vivo</i> Angiogenesis	57
All-trans retinoic acid activities in Merkel cell carcinoma: implication of the retinoic gene signature	58
Predicting response to chemoradiotherapy in locally advanced rectal cancer using MRI-based radiomics features	59
Transcriptomic profiling of the early stage squamous cell lung cancer	59
The role of p53 family in melanoma development and therapy resistance	60
The anticancer effects of triterpene saponin deglucocyclamine isolated from <i>Cyclamen hederifolium</i>	61
The effect of diiron thiocarbonyl complex on tumor cells of different grade.	61
The effects of cisplatin-ibuprofen conjugate free and immobilized in mesoporous nanostructured silica on the change of morphology of mouse melanoma cells, and antitumor potential <i>in vivo</i>	62
Role of Claudins 3, 4 and 7 in Triple Negative Breast Cancer progression.	63
Impairment of cystatin F activation can increase the cytotoxicity of NK cells.	63
Cisplatin-Killed Cells as a Preferable Method for Generating Tumor Cell-Based Vaccines.	64
Modes of Activity and Prognostic Significance of the Hedgehog-Gli Signaling Pathway in Prostate Cancer.	64
Platelet-released factors boost proliferation of multiple myeloma cells and changes in bone marrow stroma with implications of NF κ B pathway involvement	65
<i>In vitro</i> anticancer activity of kaempferol-derived flavonoids against pancreatic adenocarcinoma.	66
Amassing a treasure trove for drug repurposing using chemoproteomics.	66
Characterization of heterogeneity of cancer-associated fibroblasts isolated from PDAC patients	67
Exploring the anticancer activity of essential oil of <i>Satureja montana L.</i> from Montenegro	67
POSTER PRESENTATIONS.	69
A pilot study of the association between variants rs25487 of <i>XRCC1</i> gene, rs1801320 of <i>RAD51</i> gene, and rs13181 of <i>ERCC2</i> gene and acute toxicity of radiation therapy after radical prostatectomy in patients with prostate cancer	69
Overview and data management of gastropancreatic oncology biobank sample and data collection.	69
Detection of resistant <i>EGFR</i> T790M mutation from liquid biopsy samples of patients with advanced non-small cell lung cancer: comparison of qPCR and dPCR detection methods.	71
Histomics: Bridging Radiomics and Histopathology Towards Advancing Prognostication of Breast Cancer Metastasis	71
Effects of promoter methylation and mutation on <i>BRCA1/2</i> expression in ovarian cancer.	74
Ultra-short cfDNA fragment detection during systemic therapy of advanced-stage colorectal cancer	75

Comparison of variant calling tools for mutation analysis of <i>BRCA1</i> and <i>BRCA2</i> genes in patients with epithelial ovarian cancer	76
Expression and heteromerization of adenosine A2A and dopamine D2 G protein-coupled receptors in neuroendocrine tumors of the lung	76
Detection of viral proteins in locally advanced rectal cancer patient samples by mass spectrometry – predictive potential for response to neoadjuvant chemoradiotherapy.	77
Prognostic Value of Combined Hematological/Biochemical Indexes and Tumor Clinicopathologic Features in Colorectal Cancer Patients—A Pilot Single Center Study	78
The Polymorphisms of Genes Encoding Antioxidant Enzymes Modulate the Risk for Testicular Germ Cell Tumor.	79
Complementarity of miR-203a-3p and ETS-1 sequences may influence aggressiveness of papillary thyroid carcinoma.	79
Characterization of nischarin expression in pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma	80
Expression profile of CD81 gene transcripts in colorectal cancer	81
Genetic polymorphisms of enzymes involved in redox homeostasis can influence survival in smokers and overweight patients with prostate cancer	81
Expression of long non-coding RNA HOTAIR in rectal cancer as a potential predictor of response to chemoradiotherapy	82
Prognostic potential of redox status, SLFN11, and PD-L1 in colorectal cancer patients	82
Interleukin-6, a potential plasma biomarker for diagnosis and prognosis of thyroid neoplasms	83
The effect of tyrosine kinase inhibitors in high-grade glioma patient-derived cells	84
The significance of interleukin-8 in hormonally dependent early breast cancer – association with the established parameters ER/PR and HER2	84
Variant rs745430558 in the <i>SMAD4</i> gene promoter as a biomarker for adenocarcinoma of the pancreas	85
Effect of BET inhibitors on cancer stem cells sorted from primary oral cancer cell culture.	85
Precision medicine in gastrointestinal oncology – gemcitabine-based systemic chemotherapy in patients with advanced/metastatic pancreatic carcinoma	86
Precision medicine in gastrointestinal oncology – therapeutic approach in patients with braf mutant metastatic colorectal cancer: a retrospective analysis.	86
Iron metabolism in the prognosis of epithelial ovarian cancer	87
Can serum HER2 testing add prognostic value to routine tissue HER2 analysis for primary breast cancer patients?	87
Prognostic significance of the localization of the primary tumor and HER2-receptor expression in KRAS wild-type metastatic colorectal cancer treated with anti-EGFR therapy	88
Expression Profile of Sex Hormone Receptors in Head and Neck Cancer: Unraveling Gender Disparities.	88
Circulating cytokine changes in BRAFwt MM patients during anti-PD-1 therapy.	89
Prognostic significance of pathologically detected extramural venous invasion (EMVI) in rectal carcinoma	90
Genomic instability as a prognostic marker in malignant brain cancer	90
Head and neck cancer: single- and two-stage reconstruction	91
Simultaneous <i>EGFR</i> L858R and T790M mutations in treatment-naïve metastatic lung adenocarcinoma: a case study and therapeutic implications	91

Tracing the connection between trace metals and oxidative stress in malignant brain tumors and hydrocephalus . . .	92
Anti-cancer activity of newly synthesized derivatives of nicotinic acid on several monolayer and three-dimensional solid tumor models	92
The effect of <i>Lactobacillus salivarius</i> on AKT-mTOR signaling pathway in normal, dysplastic, and oral cancer cell co-cultures	93
Violacein enhances the cytotoxic effect of commonly used chemotherapeutics on rhabdomyosarcoma cells	94
Anticancer effects of non-toxic repurposed drugs on hamster fibrosarcoma – fast applicable in oncology	94
Potential of Tamoxifen-based Copper(II) Dichloride in Breast Cancer Therapy	95
The mechanism of action of ruthenium compounds on ovarian tumor cells OVCAR-3.	95
Multidrug resistant non-small cell lung cancer cells present collateral sensitivity to platinum-based drugs.	98
Anoikis as a novel mode of shikonin derivatives anticancer action on C6 glioma cells	98
Different mitochondrial response in A549 KRASG12S cells and MCF7 KRAS wild type cells to the treatment with mitochondrial superoxide radicals triggering agent 2-(1-Benzyl-4-piperidinylamino)-4-(4-chlorophenyl)-4-oxo-N-phenylbutyramide (BPCPh)	99
Anticancer activity of diphenyltin(IV) compounds bearing carboxylato N-functionalized 2-quinolones	100
Bismuth ferrite nanoparticles increase ROS production and p62 expression in A375 melanoma and HeLa cells.	100
Stimulation and inhibition of NF- κ B by repurposed drugs – effects on hamster fibrosarcoma.	101
Targeting Tumor pH: The Role of Sodium Bicarbonate in Cancer Treatment	101
Antitumor potential and impact on redox homeostasis of the essential oil of Black pepper (<i>Piper nigrum L.</i>)	102
Antiparasitic drug Ivermectin, a potential anticancer drug.	103
Role of the SALL2 Transcription Factor in Epithelial-Mesenchymal Transition and its Implication in Tumor Malignancy in Colorectal Cancer	103
Cytotoxic activity of extract of <i>Helichrysum plicatum</i> DC. on human cancer cells <i>in vitro</i>	104
The role of ROS in MAPK-dependent autophagy involved in phorbol myristate acetate-induced macrophage differentiation of HL-60 leukemia cells	104
Monitoring of the presence of EGFR-mutated DNA during EGFR-targeted therapy may assist in the prediction of treatment outcome	105
Benefit of immunotherapy administration on overall survival of patients with NSCLC according to real world data analysis	106
INDEX	107

spectrophotometrically measured in the serum superoxide dismutase (SOD), sulfhydryl (SH) groups, advanced oxidation protein products (AOPP), malondialdehyde (MDA), pro-oxidant–antioxidant balance (PAB), and superoxide anion (O₂⁻) and calculated Prooxidative Score, Antioxidative Score, and Oxy Score as a comprehensive index of oxidative stress status. Serum protein levels of SLFN11 and PD-L1 were determined using the ELISA method. **Results:** The SLFN11 protein levels were significantly higher in the serum of patients who died during the first year of follow-up ($p=0.041$). On the other hand, measured redox status parameters, calculated scores, and PD-L1 protein levels did not differ significantly among living patients and those who died during the first year of follow-up. **Conclusion:** The SLFN11 protein levels may harbor prognostic potential in patients with CRC. Since this is, to our best knowledge, the first study to evaluate SLFN11 concentrations in the serum of CRC patients by the ELISA method, further studies need to validate this result in an independent patient cohort.

Keywords: colorectal cancer, oxidative stress, SLFN11, PD-L1

P18

Interleukin-6, a potential plasma biomarker for diagnosis and prognosis of thyroid neoplasms

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Background: Thyroid neoplasms include benign tumors – thyroid adenoma (TA), and malignant tumors of various histological types: papillary thyroid carcinoma (PTC) – the most common and usually indolent, anaplastic thyroid carcinoma (ATC) – the most aggressive, and several other types such as follicular, medullary and poorly differentiated. Despite the progress in understanding the epidemiology and genetic landscape of thyroid tumors, the diagnosis, prognosis and treatment approach require further improvement. Interleukin-6 (IL-6) is a pro-inflammatory cytokine with a central role in the regulation of immune and inflammatory responses including autoimmune thyroid diseases. Studies have revealed a potential impact of IL-6 in the development, progression and control of thyroid cancer. The aim of this study was to provide novel aspects for the preoperative differential diagnosis and/or prognosis of thyroid cancer. To achieve this, we assessed the circulating levels of IL-6 in patients with benign and malignant thyroid tumors of various histotypes, compared them with healthy volunteers, and correlated the results with clinicopathological parameters. **Patients and Methods:** The study included 43 patients with benign or malignant thyroid tumors, surgically treated at the Center for Endocrine Surgery, Clinical Center of Serbia. IL-6 protein levels were determined in plasma samples by quantitative ELISA. Parametric and nonparametric statistical tests were used for data analysis. **Results:** IL-6 concentrations in patients with either TA or carcinoma (PTC, ATC) were significantly higher compared to the healthy volunteers (Mann Whitney test). The highest concentrations were detected in ATC patients (Median±SD 15.97±0.71 pg/mL), being significantly higher compared to TA and PTC (2.14±1.34 pg/mL and 1.96±2.12 pg/mL, respectively). In PTC microcarcinoma, IL-6 was higher compared to controls, but there was no significant difference compared to other PTC or TA (Mann Whitney test). The correlation analysis with clinicopathological parameters in PTC patients revealed a trend towards the association of increased IL-6 plasma levels with the presence of nodal and distant metastases. No other significant associations were found. **Conclusion:** Patients with thyroid adenoma or carcinoma have increased plasma IL-6 levels that are in proportion with the aggressiveness of the thyroid tumor, suggesting that IL-6 might be a candidate biomarker for diagnosis and prognosis of thyroid neoplasms. Keywords: biomarker, blood plasma, interleukin-6, thyroid neoplasms