



DIGESTIVE CANCERS EUROPE



Newsletter January 2018



SAVE THE DATE

European Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month (ECCAM) 2019

Join Us for the Launch Event

"10 Seconds That Could Save Your Life"



#MyBest10Seconds
#ECCAM2019

Hosted by MEP Lieve Wierinck (ALDE)



Thursday 28th February 2019

10am - 12pm

Room ASP 5G1 - Altiero Spinelli
European Parliament - Brussels

Presentation of:

- The European Social Media Screening Campaign
- White Paper with Policy Recommendations for Colorectal Cancer Screening
- Colorectal Cancer Screening Roadmap - Highlighting how to set up a successful formal population screening program

Today hundreds of thousands of European citizens are dying and billions of Euros are being wasted because of a lack of Formal Population Colorectal Cancer Screening Programmes.

Join us in this highly important discussion!
By taking part find out how you can help save lives from a cancer that is highly treatable if diagnosed early.

We look forward to meeting you!



Digestive Cancers Europe is Proud to be Part of an Exciting New Research Project

When diagnosed with cancer two of the most common fears that patients may face are:

- a) Whether their treatment will be successful
- b) What will happen if their cancer returns

A single malignant tumour consists of millions upon millions of cells, some or all of which may be cancerous. Also, a single tumour contains tumor cells with different (genetic and epigenetic) features. These cells and their features continuously change as the tumour grows.

Currently a patient's treatment is typically based on certain biomarker characteristics as well as some other tumour characteristics (primary tumour in the left colon versus in the right colon etc.) however clinicians cannot be certain whether a specific treatment will work for that tumour and patient.

In 2018 scientists and clinicians from The Institute of Cancer Research and Royal Marsden Hospital (London - UK) published the results of experiments they conducted which proved that they were able to grow tumours 'in a dish' from small samples taken from patients with metastatic digestive cancers. It has been proven that the results obtained from such tumours grown in the laboratory are consistent with the characteristics of the tumours growing in the patient's body. Most importantly, the tumours grown 'in the dish' react in a similar way to anti-cancer drugs used in the same patients.

On the 23rd January 2019 a group of researchers from Italy and UK gathered at Institute of Cancer Research (Sutton - UK) for the launch of a research project that hopes to develop technology that would enable testing of how the laboratory grown tumour reacts to different drug treatments. The idea is that, using this approach, clinicians would be able decide which treatment is likely to be most successful for the patient before they receive treatment. It is also hoped that this technology would be able to deliver these more accurate results in a similar time to that taken now to decide current treatments.

By continuing to grow other small samples from the same tumour they hope in future to be able to predict how that tumour will evolve and therefore how to successfully treat the patient if the cancer were to return in the future.

This is a 5 year project sponsored by Cancer Research UK and involves a highly multidisciplinary collaboration between clinicians (Valeri), biologists (Tonon, Greaves), experts in biotechnology (Macaulay, Amit), data scientists (Antoniotti), computational biologists (Sottoriva, Markowitz) and engineers (Dubini), as well as companies leader in their fields (Menarini Biomarkers and STMicroelectronics). The overarching theme that connects these different

disciplines is the fundamental paradigm upon which the researchers aim to develop the next generation of novel personalised treatments: cancer evolution!

Our Director of Group and Project Development Zorana Maravic and Pete Wheatstone, the Colorectal Cancer Patient Advocate from the Royal Marsden Biomedical Research Centre UK participated in the meeting to represent patient viewpoints.

This is a most exciting piece of research and we hope to be able to report on the progress that will be made during the next 5 years.



www.digestivecancers.eu