



Optimizing Public Health-Oriented Research in Oncology

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Cancer and Public Health

- With growing incidence and mortality cancer is becoming a huge public health issue (UN High-level Meeting, September 2011)
- Major advances in cancer care/control have been achieved through cancer research, aimed to benefit a whole population

Public health: “The approach to medicine that is concerned with the health of the community as a whole”.

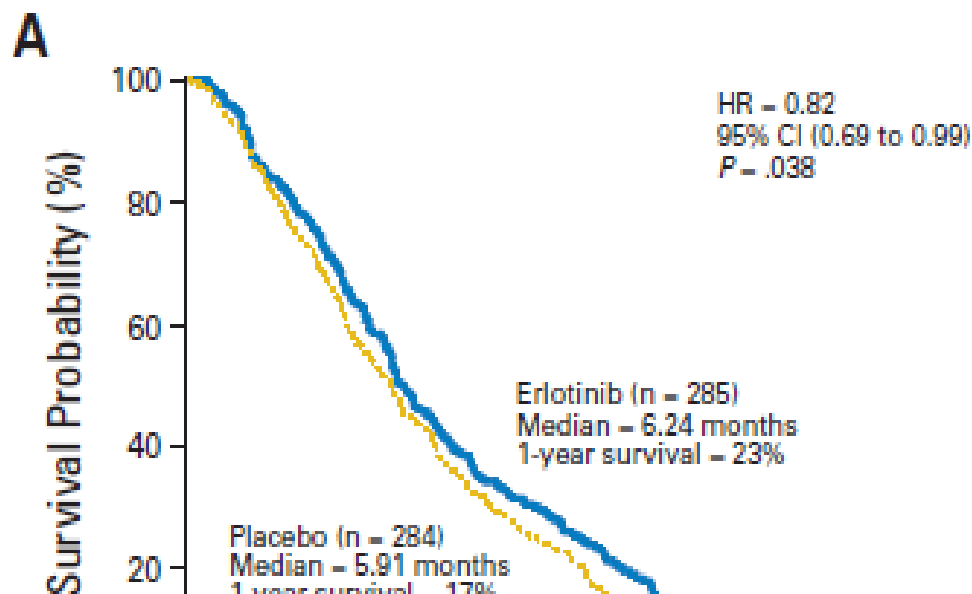
Public Health-Oriented Cancer Research: Wishful Thinking or Reality?

- ✓ Epidemiological trials
 - ✓ Prevention trials
 - ✓ Cancer health care disparities
 - ✓ Cancer health care services
- Mainly population based !
- Interventional trials – selected collectives of patients, oriented to drug development, diversity of end-points, lack of emphasis on socio-economic and long term outcomes

Erlotinib Plus Gemcitabine Compared With Gemcitabine Alone in Patients With Advanced Pancreatic Cancer: A Phase III Trial of the National Cancer Institute of Canada Clinical Trials Group

J Clin Oncol 25:1960-1966. © 2007

Malcolm J. Moore, David Goldstein, John Hamm, Arie Figer, Joel R. Hecht, Steven Gallinger, Heather J. Au, Pawel Murawa, David Walde, Robert A. Wolff, Daniel Campos, Robert Lim, Keyue Ding, Gary Clark, Theodora Voskoglou-Nomikos, Mieke Ptasynski, and Wendy Parulekar



- Erlotinib plus gemcitabine approved for treatment of pancreatic cancer by FDA
- One of the standard therapies according to

The trivial benefit of adding erlotinib to gemcitabine can be lost in oncologic practice !

Reporting of Serious Adverse Drug Reactions of Targeted Anticancer Agents in Pivotal Phase III Clinical Trials

Bostjan Seruga, Lynn Sterling, Lisa Wang, and Ian F. Tannock

Updated FDA labels of 12 targeted drugs and 36 corresponding RCTs:

- 38% of all SAEs not described in any published report of RCTs

40% of all SAEs not described in any published report of RCTs

Serious and late toxicities not reported in RCTs can cause toxic deaths in oncologic practice !



How to Optimize Public Health-Oriented Cancer Research ?

Adaptation of classic research

- Academia-driven research
- Independent funding
- Global research consortia

New approaches

- Clinical datasets
- Research datasets
 - Central knowledge systems



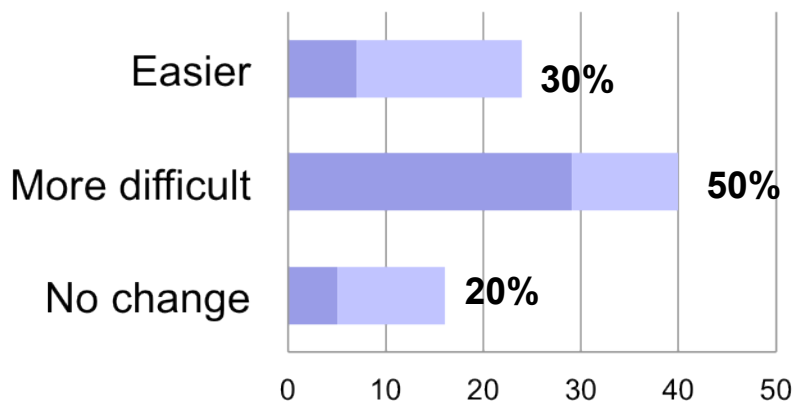
Academic Cancer Research

- Performing all types of clinical trials: screening, prevention, diagnostic, quality of life, not only treatment trials
- Exploring multidisciplinary treatment strategies in oncology
- Exploring survivorship, late side effects and socio-economic issues
- Enabling the best possible control over the patients

Academic cancer research is capable to test and develop new multidisciplinary prevention, treatment and follow-up strategies for better control cancer.

ASCO IAC Survey: How would you consider your ability to conduct ADCT/IDCT during the last five years?

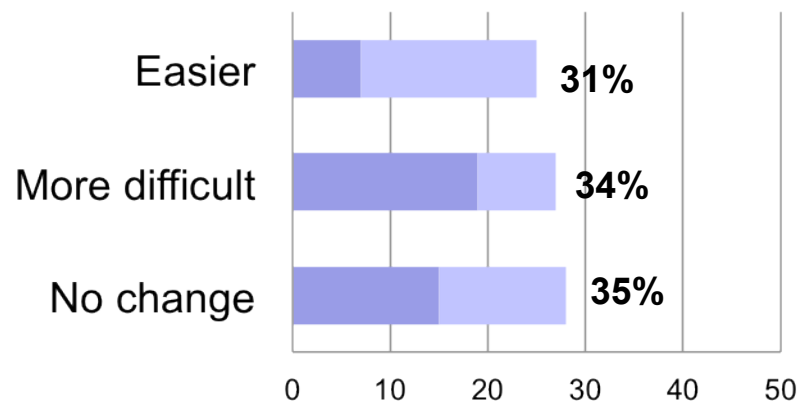
Academia-driven CT



	No change	More difficult	Easier
HIC	5	29	7
LMIC	11	11	17

p=0.001

Industry-driven CT



	No change	More difficult	Easier
HIC	15	19	7
LMIC	13	8	18

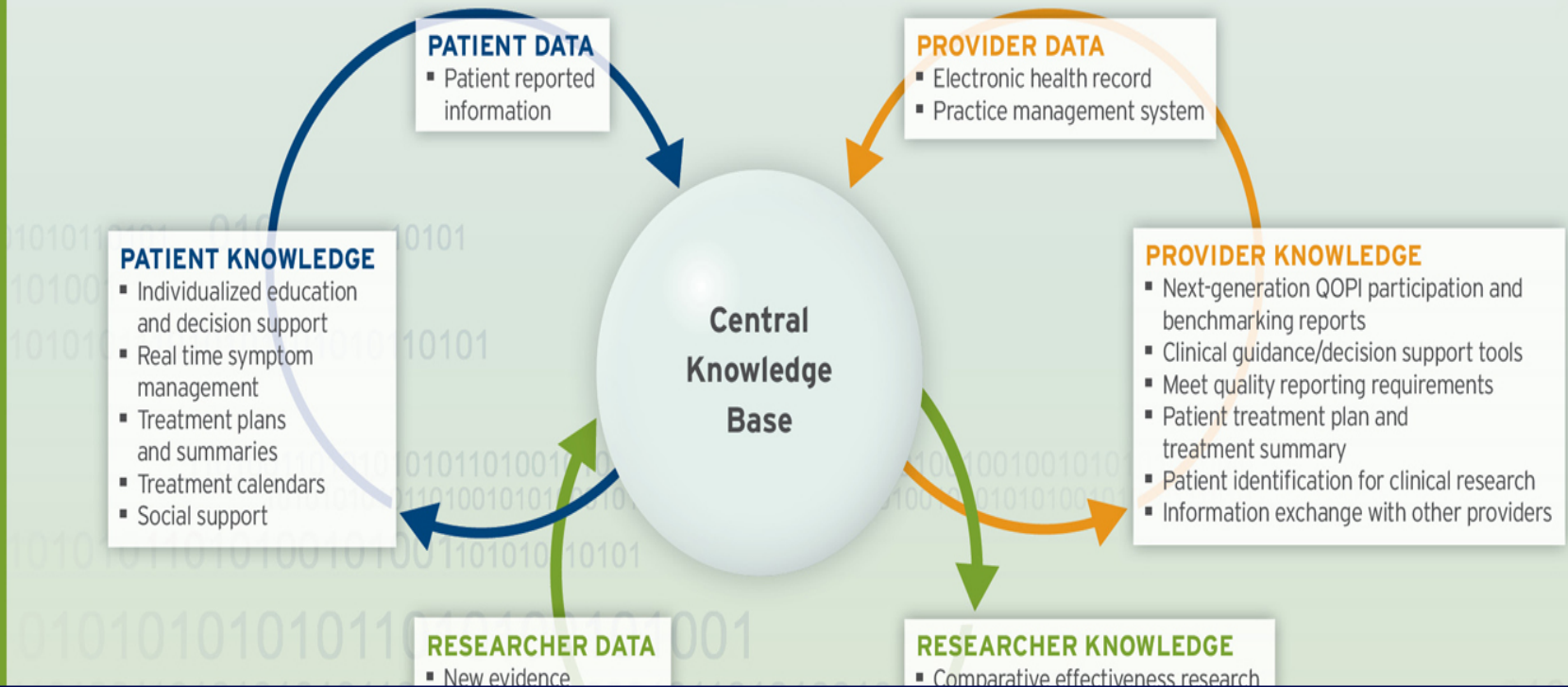
p=0.009

ASCO IAC Survey: Major obstacles for Academia-driven cancer research

Ranked from 1 (most) to 8 (least) important

	Average rank	HIC (n=41)	LMIC (n=39)
Competent authorities procedures	4.25	4.61	3.87
Ethics committee procedures	4.55	4.80	4.28
Insurance/indemnification coverage	4.55	4.54	4.56
Lack of patients/patient accrual	5.43	5.27	5.59
Lack of funding	3.16	3.15	3.18
Lack of research materials, e.g. drugs	4.49	4.49	4.49
Lack of trained personnel	5.00	4.90	5.10
Lack of time or competing priorities	4.58	4.24	4.92

funding vs. rest significant; patients vs. rest (except personnel) significant
marks change in obstacle distribution when stratified by country income



- **Lakeman CE, Am J Pub Health, 1915 :” There is and will be a continuing need of a central clearing house of information and statistics in regard to cancer”.**

European Conference

THE BURDEN OF CANCER – HOW IT CAN BE REDUCED



Slovensko predsedstvo EU 2008
Slovenian Presidency of the EU 2008
La Présidence slovène de l'UE 2008

Workshop IV

CANCER RESEARCH – FINDING NEW SOLUTIONS

FOCUSING ON PUBLIC HEALTH-RELATED RESEARCH

- With continuous ageing of the population cancer remains one of the major public health related issues and challenges in Europe. New developments in cancer research need to be rapidly put into use in a way that benefits not only individual patients but the whole society.
- To achieve this, public health-related cancer research in all areas from prevention, screening, treatment and palliative, is to be promoted. FP7 with its new public health-related research focus is a very good start. On the national basis each of the member states should encourage public health-related cancer research and support this with new funding.



To conclude,

To reach the goal of 25% cancer mortality reduction by 2025, public health-oriented cancer research is mandatory!

- The outcome will depend on our ability and willingness to:
 - Raise awareness of the importance of public health-oriented research
 - Increase academia driven research and its funding
 - Enhance international collaboration in clinical trials
 - Develop clinical and research datasets and boost applied research
 - Train the next generation of oncologists on public health-oriented cancer research

1^{er} Curso Internacional de Investigación Clínica



Sede: **Asociación Médica Argentina** – Av. Santa Fe 11
Buenos Aires, Argentina. 20-21 de Abril de 2009.

ECCO - the European CanCer Organisation
American Association for Cancer Research (AACR)
American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO)

Jointly organise the ECCO-AACR-ASCO Workshop

METHODS IN CLINICAL CANCER RESEARCH

The 11th intensive workshop for European junior clinical oncologists
in any clinical research specialty area, to learn the essentials of
clinical trial

**20-26
JUNE
2009**

Park Hotel Waldhaus, Flims, Switzerland



International Clinical Trials Workshop

Cluj-Napoca
1st - 2nd of July 2011

OPERA PLAZA Hotel
Traian Mosoiu Street, no. 10-12
400132, Cluj-Napoca, RO

Faculty

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Fatima Cardoso, Head, Breast Cancer Unit, Champalimaud Cancer Center, Lisbon, Portugal

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Tanja Cufer University Clinic Golnik, Slovenia, chairperson EORTC Breast Cancer Group, ASCO International Affairs Committee, Course Co-Chair

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*Thank you, and cordially invited to the next ICTW
in Opatija-Croatia, June 19-20 2013!*