



Special Issue

Papers from The Institute for Cancer Vaccines and Immunotherapy's 4th International Symposium on Immunotherapy

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Special Issue Introduction

The introduction of the first checkpoint inhibitor, Ipilimumab, rapidly followed by Pembrolizumab and Nivolumab, have revolutionised the treatment of not only melanoma, but also lung cancer. In addition, it is rapidly becoming apparent that many other cancer types can also benefit from this therapy. At present it is only the minority who do in the majority of these cancers. It is now become very important to identify which patients will not benefit from this treatment, and to see whether the patients can benefit from priming to achieve the characteristics which we already know are good prognostic markers for a response such as having a hot "tumour" infiltrated with many T cells, both innate (such as NK and gamma delta T cells) and CD8 CTLs. A paradoxical observation is that non responders have systemic inflammatory markers and that anti-inflammatory agents can enhance the response to vaccines. Other anti-inflammatory agents such as Naltrexone and the cannabinoids etc are being explored as possible enhancer treatments in addition to the IMiDs which have enhanced murine vaccine models.

A major problem is that many patients who do respond to these agents go on to relapse and progress. It is therefore a major focus now to look at the optimal combination between these agents and other treatments which may prevent this relapse/resistance from occurring. These are the main questions which will be addressed and discussed at this meeting.

Benefits

Rigorous mechanism in peer review: one manuscript must be reviewed by at least two relevant experts. We will endeavour to ensure high standards for the review process and subsequent publication by a team of efficient and professional reviewers and scientific editors.

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