

Chinese American Hematologist Oncologist Network (CAHON)

CAHON at CSCO Annual Meeting

第十三届全国临床肿瘤学大会

暨2010年CSCO学术年会

中国北京 2010.9.15-19

Biweekly News
and Information
Updates for
Members

Volume 1, Issue 3

October 4, 2010

By Weijing Sun

The 13th CSCO Annual Meeting was held in Beijing from Sep. 16-19. The meeting was very successful with near 15,000 attendants including about 200 international participants. Several CAHON members attended and presented at the meeting. One of the key symposiums, anticancer drug clinical study, led by CAHON members turned out to be one of main highlights of the meeting. We also presented the new developments in breast cancer, GI cancer, and application of anti-cancer vaccine at the meeting. The relationship of CAHON and CSCO has been consolidated, potential further collaboration between two organization was discussed during the meeting as well. CAHON members will help and facilitate the establishment of *Clinical Cancer Terbiium*, a new comprehensive journal led by CSCO. We are committed to support physicians' oncology education in China continuously. We will continue to help our members to get a good opportunity to interact with our Chinese colleagues in meetings or at their workplaces.

Highlights:

- *CAHON at CSCO Annual Meeting in Beijing*
- *Lectures given by CAHON members at CSCO*
- *Chinese Medical Tribune Oncology Overseas Column*
- *Issues with PFS in oncology trials*

Lectures delivered by CAHON members at CSCO

By Janice Lu and Ke Liu

Our CAHON members gave outstanding presentations at the 2010 CSCO meeting. Dr. Ke Liu gave the opening talk for two symposium related to issues in oncology single-arm trials and progression-free (PFS) as primary endpoint, respectively. Dr. Weijing Sun, introduced the New NCI Disease Specific Steering Committees (DSSC) and Task Force in regulating US cooperative oncology studies. He also gave a lecture regarding the advances and challenges in biological oriented therapy in colorectal cancer therapy. Dr. Yang-Min (Max) Ning, delivered a lecture on US FDA accelerated approval analysis for anti-cancer therapies. Dr. Ruirong Yuan, delivered a topic on lessons learn from recent approval/disapproval cases debated in US FDA oncologic drug advisory committee (FDA ODAC). Dr. Janice Lu discussed targeted therapy in breast cancer and new clinical trials by NSABP, and data on TDM-1 anti-Her-2 treatment. Dr. Wenru Song updated cancer vaccine /immunotherapy, with a focus on the first FDA approved therapeutic cancer vaccine, Sipuleucel T (Provenge), in prostate cancer and the exciting Ipilimumab (CTLA-4 mAb) Phase 3 trial data in melanoma. Dr. Andrew Zhu's presentation focused on innovated therapy in hepatocellular and other GI cancers. These talks were all well-received and elicited many stimulating questions and discussions. Great Jobs! CAHON members.

Chinese Medical Tribune Oncology Overseas Column (中国医学论坛报·海外专栏)

By Ruirong Yuan

The China Medical Tribune (CMT; 中国医论坛报, <http://www.cmt.com.cn>) was founded in 1983 by the Chinese Ministry of Health and the United States Arthur. M. Sackler Foundation. It played an important role over the last 3 decades by providing current medical information to two million medical professionals in China. The “Chinese Medical Tribune Oncology Overseas Column” (中国医学论坛报·肿瘤周刊. 海外专栏) was launched in January, 2010 (hereinafter referred to as “column”). The main objective of the “Oncology Overseas Column” is to provide a platform for hematologists and oncologists in China and abroad to enhance mutual understanding and promote collaborations. Currently the “Column” is published monthly and it has covered many topics in over the past 9 months, including diagnosis, treatment, meeting reports, case discussions, CAHON-CSCO collaboration, and FDA regulations. I have been informed that the “column” was well-received by our Chinese colleagues and more frequent publication has been recommended. As the editor-in-Chief of the “Column”, I thank many of our CAHON members for their significant contribution to success of the “Oncology Overseas Column”. I hope that more CAHON members will be involved in the “Column” by writing meeting reports, discussing advances in cancer diagnosis/therapy, sharing your practice experience, and publishing your cancer research findings (early, translational, and clinical). Please contact me at yuanru@umdnj.edu if you are interested in contributing articles or serving as editor of a special issue (please see two examples from prior issues).

Another Phase III Study , AVANT, Failed to Show the Benefit of Avastin in Colon Cancer Therapy as Adjuvant Setting: the Three-Arm Study with 3,451 patients, preliminary efficacy data from AVANT numerically favor chemotherapy alone (the control arm).

Issues With Progression-Free Survival (PFS) in Oncology Trials

By Ke Liu

PFS is defined as the time from randomization until objective tumor progression or death. The precise definition of tumor progression is important and should be carefully detailed in the protocol.

Advantages of using PFS as primary endpoint include:

- Smaller sample size and shorter follow-up necessary compared with survival studies
- Measurement of stable disease included
- Not affected by crossover or subsequent therapies
- Generally based on objective and quantitative assessment

Disadvantages of using PFS as primary endpoint include

- Not statistically validated as surrogate for survival in all settings
- Not precisely measured; subject to assessment bias particularly in open-label studies
- Definitions vary among studies
- Frequent radiological or other assessments
- Involves balanced timing of assessments among treatment arms
- Schedule-dependent: progression usually seen on the imaging scan. True progression date unknown

Predictability of PFS on OS is unpredictable, subject to different setting. In some instances, oncology drugs were approved based on the primary endpoint of PFS. Larger magnitude of treatment effect on PFS is favorable. Assessment bias and discordance will need to be addressed in trials using PFS as primary endpoints, using double-blinded trial design and/or inclusion of an independent imaging review committee to assess the date of progression-free survival. If PFS is used as primary endpoint, the trial should be powered to detect OS difference as well.

Biweekly News and Information Updates

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Our Logo?
(Please Submit Your

Volunteers Highly Needed

We'd like to have more volunteers to help fulfill our mission and develop in the future. We are specially interested in any motivated member or their kid (at college or high school) who has strong knowledge and skills on managing websites to maintain and update our website(www.cahon.org). Periodic complimentary pay for the service provided will be negotiable and available. Please contact our website improvement team members.

CAHON's MISSION

CAHON, founded by Chinese American Hematologists and Oncologists in 2005, is dedicated to fostering communication amongst Chinese-American medical professionals for delivering high-quality health care to patients with neoplastic and hematological diseases, and to promoting medical information exchange between the United States and China in the field of hematology and oncology. CAHON strives to serve as a vital bridge between American and Chinese Hematology-Oncology communities in the levels of academia, industry, government regulation, and private practice.

CAHON management team :

President: Weijing Sun, MD
VP: Yang-Min Ning, MD, PhD
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Director, Education and Communication: Janice Lu, MD PhD
Director, Clinic Practice Coordination: Zili He, MD
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