

EDITOR'S NEWS

To those of you who are avid readers of UKI NETS News first an apology on the delay in getting this edition to press. Having had the support of eminent colleagues in producing copy the fault is all that of the editor. However, at least the hiatus allows me to include a review of the 8th annual ENETS meeting as well as our own UKI NETS meeting (Belfast 2010). As these reports show it is clear that the interest in neuroendocrine cancer medicine (in all its manifestations) continues to grow and become ever more organised. Progress in clinical trials research in neuroendocrine cancers represents another reason for optimism. Not only have two major randomised clinical trials in pancreatic NETs been published but our own NET-01 study has completed accrual and is in the process of analysis. Collaborative studies in areas such as adrenocortical cancer, radionuclide treatments and somatostatin analogues in mid-gut carcinoid (to name but a few) are ongoing or in development. UKI NETS aims to have the clinical and academic community in the UK and Ireland as a major player in such efforts and welcomes your suggestions with open arms. There is a plenary lecture somewhere with your name on it!

ALAN ANTHONY

UKI NETS 8th National Conference

MONDAY 6 SEPTEMBER 2010, BELFAST

The UKI NETS annual meeting broke with tradition last year, forgoing central London in December in favour of Belfast at the beginning of September, in order to be one of three meetings that were symbiotic in theme: the 18th International Symposium on Regulatory Peptides (REGPEP2010), the 1st NET Patient Foundation National Conference and our own UKI NETS 8th National Conference.

Many of the delegates arrived in time to pay tribute to the 30 years of research and clinical work in Belfast of the late Professor Keith Buchanan, a founder member of UKI NETS and a father in the field of NET research and clinical care for NET patients. Professor Jens Rehfeld (Copenhagen, Denmark) gave a tribute and memorial lecture to Keith on the Sunday evening

at Belfast City Hall, with Belfast city council providing the reception afterwards. We were delighted that Maureen Buchanan, Keith's widow, and three of their four children were able to attend.

Monday 6 September saw the 8th UKI NETS National Conference take place in the Europa Hotel. The programme included two Joydeep Chatterjee International Lectures very generously sponsored by the Chatterjee family: the European lecture, delivered by Martin Fassnacht (Würzburg, Germany) on recent advances in the diagnosis and treatment of adrenocortical cancer, and the Transatlantic lecture on the molecular biology of NETs, given by Daniel Chung (Boston, USA). The remaining

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UKI NETS 9th National Conference

TUESDAY 1 NOVEMBER 2011,
ROYAL SOCIETY OF MEDICINE, LONDON

The event aims to bring together professionals in the field of neuroendocrine tumours to discuss the latest developments and best practice.

For further information and to register, please visit the UKI NETS website www.UKINETS.org.

2010 Prizewinners

ORAL PRESENTATION

Awarded to

Was Mansoor

Phase-3 randomized trial of everolimus (RAD001) vs. placebo in advanced pancreatic NET (RADIANT-3)

Jonathan Chambers, Nick Reed, Was Mansoor, Paul Ross and Ashley Grossman

Regulatory Peptides (2010) 164 6-7
doi: 10.1016/j.regpep.2010.07.018

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

CLINICAL

Awarded to

Clare Morkane

Prophylactic thyroidectomy in children with Multiple Endocrine Neoplasia type 2

C Morkane, D Raptis, C Brain, H Spoudeas, M Dattani, P Hindmarsch, A Piero, P DeCoppi and TR Kurzwinski

Regulatory Peptides (2010) 164 9
doi: 10.1016/j.regpep.2010.07.024

LABORATORY

Awarded to

Radha Ramachandran

Chromogranin A assays: Comparison of diagnostic accuracy

R Ramachandran, P Bech, KG Murphy, WS Dhillon, KM Meeran, RC Chapman, M Caplin, MA Ghatei, SR Bloom and NM Martin

Regulatory Peptides (2010) 164 164
doi: 10.1016/j.regpep.2010.07.035

UKI NETS 8th National Conference

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programme was full and varied, including a session on MENII and medullary thyroid cancers, a talk on biological models of MENI and four excellent oral presentations selected from the submitted abstracts. There were updates on the management of liver metastases in NETs followed by several reports of challenging cases, as well as an interesting session on patient issues and, as in previous meetings, a nurses' forum. For the first time the proceedings of the meeting have been published. (*Regulatory Peptides* 164 (1) September 2010).

More than a hundred delegates attended the meeting and some stayed on to attend REGPEP2010, which focused on clinical applied research on peptides with several of the

sponsors contributing mini symposia, followed by an evening at the Ulster Folk and Transport Museum.

The NET Patient Foundation took place on Tuesday 7 September and the venue was packed to capacity with 150 patients and family members or carers attending. This attracted media coverage and our chairman, Ashley Grossman, and some of the volunteering patients were interviewed for local radio and television news programmes.

The committee of UKI NETS and the organizing committee in Belfast wish to thank the sponsors of the meeting and all those who helped make this meeting a huge success.

PROFESSOR JOY ARDILL, LOCAL ORGANISER

ENETS report

Navigating Through Recent Developments in Neuroendocrine Cancers

Report from the 8th Annual ENETS Conference, 9-11 March 2011, Lisbon, Portugal

••• This year's ENETS meeting was held in Lisbon, one of the world's oldest cities with a reputation for discovery, based on the exploits of her famous sons such as Vasco de Gama and Ferdinand Magellan: a suitably apt location for delegates to discover all that was current and relevant in the world of NETs in 2011. Notable developments were: the first ever ENETS Postgraduate course; an extended number of Meet-the-Professor sessions; the noticeably large number of delegates in attendance and a record number of abstracts submitted, all of which are testament to the growing clinical interest and research activity in NETs.

The first of the main sessions on day one took us through the uncharted waters of the new WHO classification system (2010) for NETs. Replacing the 2000 classification system, it has as its central tenet the assumption that all NETs have malignant potential. The system appears useful in terms of its simplicity and will hopefully be given time to bed in in view of the many changes seen in classification systems for NETs over recent years. The afternoon sessions comprised the ever popular case discussion sessions, which this year took us through examples of metastatic pancreatic and midgut NETs and liver metastases with an unknown primary. Given the excitement surrounding the recently published phase III studies of everolimus and sunitinib not surprisingly there was widespread discussion on the role of these newer agents in such settings. The last session extended these discussions to difficult management issues in NETs, including carcinoid heart disease, ectopic ACTH syndrome, refractory carcinoid syndrome and hypoglycaemia.

Day two commenced with two sessions outlining cutting edge research in the basic science of NETs, including fascinating insights into the role of biomarkers in other malignancies. These presentations left a clear impression that in the future the treatment of all cancers, including NETs, will be personalised based on individual tumour profiles. There followed a session which sought to provide a critical overview of medical, locoablative and radionuclide therapies in NETs. For the first time this included an estimate on cost as well as clinical effectiveness. The data showed a striking variation in costs across the EU: if you need a somatostatin analogue, whatever you do don't buy it from Germany! The penultimate session provided a much needed update on the histology, presentation, medical and surgical management of bronchial NETs. These presentations made it clear that there is much for the NET community to do here in improving the evidence base for treatment. The meeting closed with a summary of the top news in relation to NETs over the last year before it was time for the delegates to set sail in preparation for Copenhagen 2012.

DR ALED REES, CONSULTANT ENDOCRINOLOGIST, CARDIFF

UKI NETS

UK and Ireland
Neuroendocrine
Tumour Society

UKI NETS Secretariat

Euro House, 22 Apex Court
Woodlands, Bradley Stoke
Bristol BS32 4JT, UK
Tel: +44 (0)1454 642277
Fax: +44 (0)1454 642222
Email: enquiries@ukinets.org