



May, 30, 2016, Lund, Sweden

Double pancreatic cancer survival by 2020

World Pancreatic Cancer Coalition (WPCC) and American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) Pancreatic Cancer Special Conference brought together patient advocacy groups and outstanding professionals 10-15 May, 2016 in Orlando, Florida to discuss pancreatic cancer, a disease with the lowest survival rates of any major cancer

Prof Borrebaeck presented in his AACR talk how serum biomarker signatures can detect early stages of pancreatic cancer

LUND, Sweden - The days between 10 to 15 of May, 2016 were dedicated to the deadliest form of cancer, pancreatic cancer, by two major events that took place in Orlando, USA: the first World Pancreatic Cancer Coalition (WPCC) followed by the third AACR Pancreatic Cancer Special Conference. Both events represented major breakthroughs for Immunovia and IMMray™ PanCan-d as the following main areas in pancreatic cancer were emphasized:

Firstly, the largest global patient advocacy pancreatic cancer coalition was formed to provide a united front against this lethal disease. Immunovia sponsors the patient advocacy world coalition and will work closely with the members on both national and global levels.

Secondly, the main focus of pancreatic cancer care is now clearly early detection of stages I & II for improved chances of patient survival. Prof Borrebaeck's talk presented clinical studies results covering over 2500 pancreatic cancer blood samples that show that IMMray™ PanCan-d can detect stages I, II, III and IV patients with an accuracy of 98%. The Scandinavian study that was finalized last year, was presented for the first time at this event and the data (that were initially press released in Nov 2015: [link](#)) showed that Immunovia's test is able to detect the early stages of pancreatic cancer in blood with unprecedented accuracy of 96%. The talk received fantastic response from the conference participants and particularly from Key Opinion Leaders.

Thirdly, the high risk group of late onset diabetes after 50 years of age was strongly brought forward as an area that needs immediate and increased priority. Immunovia has commenced discussions to participate in the late onset diabetes programs underway.

WPCC, World Pancreatic Cancer Coalition, overview

During the first three days, WPCC brought together for the first time 60 people representing pancreatic cancer patient advocacy groups from 24 countries. The coalition has 54 member organizations from across the world, all with the same goal to drive transformational change for all those affected by pancreatic cancer.

The initiative of organizing WPCC has been driven by Pancreatic Cancer Action Network USA in collaboration with patient support groups from USA, such as Kenner Family Research Fund and from UK, Pancreatic Cancer Action and Pancreatic Cancer UK. These organizations formed the Steering Committee.

The coalition days provided an excellent platform for all the patient support organizations to share experiences, learn from each other, provide universal tools and resources which creates stronger organizations and lift the individual efforts to a higher level. The most important outcome of the meeting is the united front formed by the members of the coalition to support the patients and their families around the globe. Immunovia is sponsoring WPCC and will work closely with the steering committee and the members.

To raise public awareness for pancreatic cancer in a worldwide event, the coalition decided to dedicate one day this year to this deadly disease. 17th of November 2016 is now World Pancreatic Cancer Day 2016. During this day, the members will organize activities to raise awareness for pancreatic cancer and make a difference in their countries. All the activities, news and pancreatic cancer research updates generated by the coalition are available on the newly launched website: <http://www.worldpancreaticcancercoalition.org/>

During the last day of the patient advocacy coalition meeting, Prof Anirban Maitra and Prof Margaret Tempero, two outstanding pancreatic cancer Key Opinion Leaders presented the latest updates from the diagnostic and the therapy perspective.

Prof Anirban Maitra from MD Andersson Cancer Center in Texas, USA spoke in the first part of his talk about the enormous impact that early diagnosis would make in pancreatic cancer (Fig. 1) and the need for blood based tests. The second part of the talk focused on late onset diabetes after 50 years of age and the recent data that show significant increased risk for pancreatic cancer in this patient group (Fig. 3).

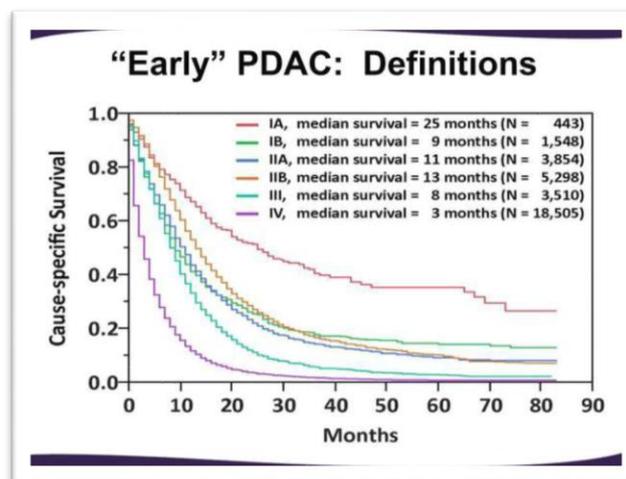


Fig 1. Pancreatic Ductal Adenocarcinoma (PDAC) has IV stages, the early stages are stage IA, IB, IIA, IIB. The median survival when the pancreatic cancer is detected in stages III and IV is less than 9 months. (Reference: Prof Anirban Maitra presentation at World Pancreatic Cancer Coalition meeting in Orlando Florida, May 2016)

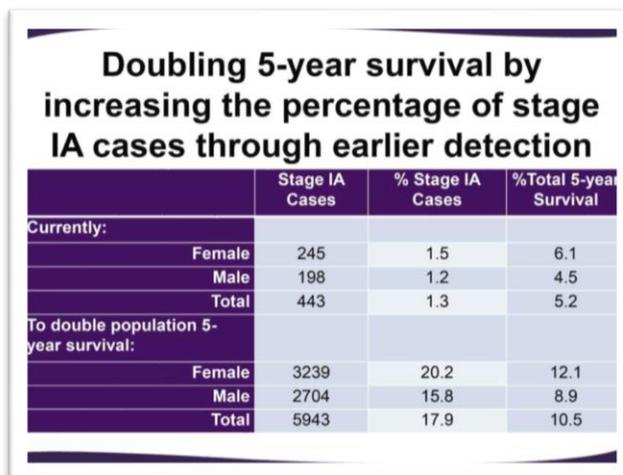


Fig 2. Stage IA detection doubles 5 year survival rates. Early detection is the key to increase the 5 year survival rates. (Reference: Prof Anirban Maitra presentation at World Pancreatic Cancer Coalition meeting in Orlando Florida, May 2016)

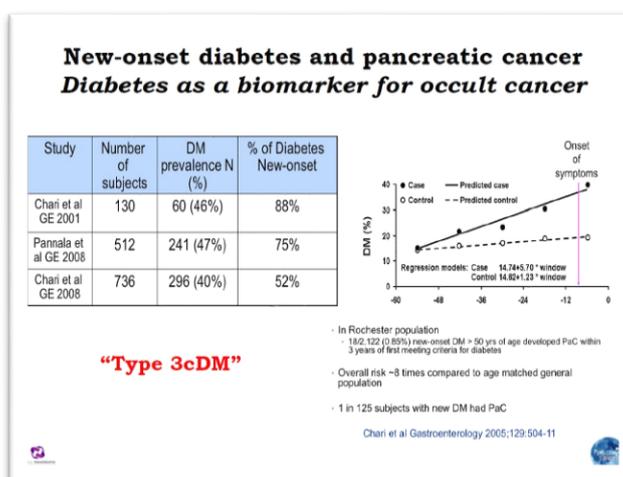


Fig 3. New onset diabetes after 50 years of age show increased risk for pancreatic cancer (Reference: Prof Anirban Maitra presentation at World Pancreatic Cancer Coalition meeting in Orlando Florida, May 2016)

Prof Margaret Tempero from UCSF Pancreas Center presented the current treatment options and the latest results from the clinical studies with combined therapies. She also discussed about pancreatic cancer and late onset diabetes.

The WPCC meeting was a great success because it brought together all the pancreatic cancer patient advocacy groups and unified all of us in one voice.

AACR Special Conference on Pancreatic Cancer overview

Immediately after the coalition ended, on Thursday evening, May 12, Julie Fleishman, President and CEO of Pancreatic Cancer Action Network held a speech that opened the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) Pancreatic Cancer Special Conference.

This meeting presents recent scientific and clinical advances in pancreatic cancer every other year, and this was its third occurrence. Over 450 pancreatic cancer professionals, researchers and clinicians gathered for the event in Orlando, Florida.

The first day of the conference was dedicated to presentations about pancreatic cancer epidemiology, understanding patterns about disease occurrence and identifying risk factors for the disease. Among the prestigious lineup of speakers was Gloria Petersen, Mayo Clinic College of Medicine, Rochester, USA who spoke about genetic and non-genetic risk factors that could influence an individual risk of developing pancreatic cancer.

During the talks presenting the risks for pancreatic cancer, in addition to the well-defined familial group, the late onset diabetes individuals after 50 years of age were brought to attention as an increasingly important risk group. Several national pancreatic cancer initiatives are planned to address late onset diabetes high risk individuals.

The second highlighted session focused on early detection and its crucial role in increasing survival rates. The talks emphasized that the vast majority of pancreatic cancer cases are not diagnosed until the disease has already spread to other organs, and that patients have a significantly higher likelihood of a positive outcome when the disease is detected earlier and the cancer is resectable by surgical methods. There are more than 40,000 deaths and over 50,000 new cases diagnosed each year in the U.S. alone, and the five-year survival rate for pancreatic cancer is currently 7%. It is predicted to become the second leading cause of cancer death by 2020.

Prof Carl Borrebaeck, co-founder of Immunovia and Director of CREATE Health Translational Cancer Center, at Lund University, Sweden presented a blood test for early detection of pancreatic cancer (Photo 1). The test called IMMray™ PanCan-d has been developed by CREATE Health Translational Cancer Center and is now under validation and commercialization by Immunovia AB, a molecular diagnostics company from Lund, Sweden. Prof Borrebaeck showed the results from the clinical studies that were performed since 2008 to 2016, in which over 2500 patient samples were analyzed to derive and validate IMMray™ PanCan-d. The biomarker signature can detect, with an unprecedented accuracy of 98%, pancreatic cancer patients with stage I, II, III and IV. For the first time ever, Prof Borrebaeck presented the largest retrospective pancreatic cancer clinical study that covered about 1400 blood samples including 148 blood samples of stages I & II. The study called “the Scandinavian study”, demonstrated that IMMray™ PanCan-d can detect 96% of the early stages patients, stages I and II when the cancer is operable, thus improving significantly the chances of survival. The talk received fantastic response from the conference participants including Key Opinion Leaders who openly credited the technology and the results, and proposed collaborations.



Photo 1. Prof Carl Borrebaeck holding the presentation called: Serum contains enough information for early diagnosis of pancreatic cancer at AACR Special Conference on Pancreatic Cancer.

The rest of the conference outlined the recent advances in pancreatic cancer therapy, the heterogeneity of pancreatic cancer genomes, the pre-clinical drug development and immune drug development and the molecular drivers of pancreatic cancer biology and metastasis.

An interesting presentation about pancreatic tumor initiation and metastatic spread was given by Channing Der, PhD, UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center, Chapel Hill, NC, USA. He spoke about KRAS, a protein mutated in 95 percent of pancreatic cancer cases, and ways to directly or indirectly block its cancer-driving activity.

Dafna Bar-Sagi, PhD, New York University Langone Medical Center, NY, USA described the work that analyzes differences between tumors that arise in the head or tail of the pancreas. Interestingly, her and others' findings have demonstrated that tumors in the head of the pancreas are much more common, have a significantly higher rate of metastasis and show a worse prognosis. Dr. Bar-Sagi presented evidence that the difference between outcomes of tumors arising in the head vs. tail of the pancreas depended on the microenvironment surrounding the tumor and the presence of inflammatory and immune-based cells.

One innovative presentation was given by Eileen O'Reilly, MD, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, NY, USA. Dr. O'Reilly spoke about biomarkers present in a patient's tumor specimen, blood or other samples, to direct personalized treatment approaches for that patient.

David DeNardo, PhD, gave a particularly compelling talk about a strategy to block the activity of a protein called focal adhesion kinase (FAK). His data suggest that FAK plays a role in the recruitment of immunosuppressive cells to the tumor – cells that protect the tumor from an immune response. Blocking FAK led to marked decreases in the presence of immunosuppressive cells surrounding the tumor, leaving the cancer cells vulnerable to immune attack. Encouragingly, clinical trials are being launched to test inhibition of FAK in combination with chemotherapy and other immunotherapies in pancreatic cancer patients.

The final session on Sunday featured short talks by oncologist Allyson Ocean, MD, Well Cornell Medical Center NY, USA, Jonathan Brody, PhD, Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia, USA, and Lynn Matrisian, PhD, Chief Research Officer, Pancreatic Cancer Action Network, CA, USA (Photo 2) discussing the big picture of the disease. At the closure of the conference, it became evident that attendees felt a sense of optimism that scientific findings presented at the conference carry the potential to improve outcomes for pancreatic cancer patients. As Lynn Matrisian pointed out in her remarks, "Our goal to double pancreatic cancer survival by 2020 brings a sense of purpose to all of us – and a sense of urgency."

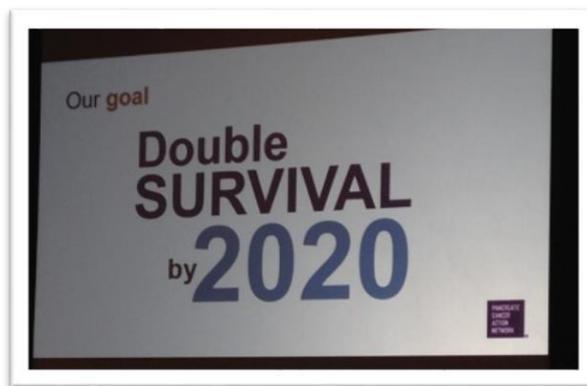


Photo 2. Lynn's presentation emphasized the importance and urgency of our goal to double survival by 2020.

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