

EDITOR'S NEWS

Welcome to the third *UKI NETS News*. Just like buses no NET conferences for ages and then two come along at once. In this edition we have a report on the 6th UKI NETS conference with Dr Aled Rees picking the highlights from yet another highly successful meeting. The 7th annual ENETS conference is also reviewed showcasing our members' significant contributions to the event.

UKI NETS membership continues to swell and the Society's presence is gaining further recognition. An updated version of the UKI NETS guidelines on the management of NETs is in preparation with a number of new areas to be covered. As always we need your comments, articles and suggestions for future issues so please keep them coming.

ALAN ANTHONY

UKI NETS 6th National Conference

1ST DECEMBER 2008

ROYAL SOCIETY OF MEDICINE, LONDON

With Christmas approaching, the 6th Annual UKI NETS conference took place at the Royal Society of Medicine, London on 1st December. Over 150 delegates attended the meeting to hear a varied programme of interactive case discussions, oral and poster presentations, symposia and a plenary lecture. Fuelled by coffee and a stirring introduction by our new chairman, the meeting kicked off with an impressive overview of the molecular pathways involved in NETs (Dr Salvador Diaz-Cano) and how some of these are being exploited to develop new drug targets (Professor Will Steward). The multidisciplinary theme continued with an important session on carcinoid heart disease (Dr Joseph Davar) and bronchial NETs (Mr Eric Lim), both disease areas where expert guidance is especially valuable. The interactive case-based presentations that followed were a first for this meeting but the stimulating discussions that ensued suggested that this format should be a fixture for years to come. Lunch no doubt gave an opportunity for the debates to continue but there was also plenty of food for thought from the 31 posters, which highlighted the breadth and quality of the clinical and research activity being undertaken in NETs in the UK and Ireland.

The afternoon programme began with parallel sessions for NET nurses and 5 oral communications, delivered by presenters from as far afield as Florida and Wales! A valuable opportunity to review targeted therapy (radiofrequency ablation, SIR therapy and radionuclide therapy) followed, delivered by Bill



Poster prize winner Dr R Srirajaskanthan with UKI NETS chairman Ashley Grossman

Lees, Dermot O'Toole and Muriel Buxton-Thomas. Professor Sir Mike Richards then provided the highlight of this year's programme with his superb presentation in relation to the Cancer Reform Strategy and how rare tumours such as NETs fit into this. The day finished with the traditional prize giving ceremony accompanied by cheese and wine.

Congratulations go to Dr Atul Kalhan (Cardiff) for winning the best oral presentation prize for his work on adenosine receptors in NETs, and to the poster prize winners Drs Gerard V Walls (Oxford) and R Srirajaskanthan (Royal Free Hospital, London) for their work on a mouse model of MEN1 and angiogenic factors in NETs respectively. Finally, the UKI NETS committee was pleased to receive feedback from the delegates; the majority of responses were very favourable in relation to the relevance, educational content, venue and organisation of the meeting. The case studies were commented upon as being particularly useful, but criticism in relation to the acoustics and greater opportunity for interaction were noted and will be especially informative in the planning process for next year's meeting. Roll on UKI NETS 2009!

ALIED REES, CARDIFF

6th Annual ENETS Conference for the Diagnosis and Treatment of Neuroendocrine Tumor Disease

5-7 MARCH 2009, GRANADA, SPAIN

It was to an unusually cold and wet Granada that the glitterati of neuroendocrine cancer trekked for the 6th Annual ENETS Conference at the beginning of March this year. Delegates from Europe and beyond arrived searching for enlightenment, education and discussion, with perhaps a little socialising thrown in as well (Ed: don't mention the cracking hangovers). The programme interspersed plenary lectures with the presentation of selected abstracts. In addition 119 posters were displayed with themes covering the spectrum of neuroendocrine interests from A (adenosine A2 receptor signalling) to Y (Y90 DOTATATE). There was a good representation of interests from the UK and UKI NETS members in particular were prominent in presenting a number of well-received papers.

Professor Ardill (Belfast) presented results from her team on the role of neurokinin A (NKA) in predicting outcomes in serotonin-producing endocrine tumours

of the ileum and colon. This supported their previous data and showed that NKA levels at diagnosis strongly correlate with 2- and 5-year survival and to the likelihood of response in patients initiated on interferon.

Dr Meyer reviewed the experience of the Royal Free Hospital in treating patients with advanced NET (of various primary locations) with the FCiSt (fluorouracil, cisplatin, streptozocin) regimen. Response rates in the order of 20 - 38% were observed and median time to progression was 14.5 months. Responses often took time to develop, 5 patients achieving a response several months

after completion of therapy. FCiSt currently forms one arm of the UKI NETS NET-01 trial.

A study of the expression of receptors for adenosine (a major regulator of angiogenesis) in NET cell lines and tumours was presented by Dr Kalhan (Cardiff). The data revealed that NETs predominantly expressed 2 of the 4 subtypes of adenosine receptor (A2a, A2b) and that activation of these receptors in cells in vitro increased proliferation and CgA secretion.

One of the most anticipated papers was given by Dr Rinke (Marburg) on the results of the PROMID study. This was a placebo-controlled, double-blind study looking at the anti-tumour effects of the long-acting somatostatin analogue Octreotide LAR™ in asymptomatic (or minimally symptomatic) patients with mid-gut NET. Trial data showing significant delays in tumour progression on treatment as opposed to placebo were given and the full results are awaited with significant interest.

At the end of the conference (and typically the sun was now shining) delegates departed with an invitation to ENETS in Berlin, March 2010. Hope to see you there.

ALAN ANTHONY

Wanted... your news for future newsletters

Your news, views, meeting reports, and reviews of papers are all welcome. Please send your contributions to the Editor (Alan.Anthony@leedsth.nhs.uk)

UKI NETS

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The 6th Annual ENETS conference

PHOTO: NANCY COSTE

ENETS

As a member of UKI NETS, you are entitled to free membership of the European Neuroendocrine Tumor Society (ENETS). Registration is very simple and will only take a few minutes of your time. To start the registration process, please visit the Membership page of the ENETS website.

Fill in your personal details making sure that you tick the box "I am already a member of UKI NETS" at the end of the form. This will enable you to register without submitting payment. If you require any assistance with this process then please contact the secretariat.