Meeting Report

The first International Conference on Cancer Research & Targeted Therapy (CRT-2016) concluded successfully on October 23, 2016. The three-day conference was organized by United Scientific Group (USG) during October 21-23, 2016 at Holiday Inn Inner Harbor, Baltimore, MD, USA.

CRT-2016 featured many informative and interactive sessions to encourage the exchange of ideas across a broad range of disciplines spanning basic, translational and clinical cancer research. The conference gathered researchers, oncologists, academicians, clinicians, other professionals in cancer research to exchange and discuss their original research results, practical development experiences, challenges, research achievements and new ideas in cancer treatment, such as surgery, chemotherapy, radiation, hormone therapy and many others.

CRT-2016 Conference Report:

The first day of the conference in the historic Baltimore city has been started with the keynote speeches from Dr. Simon C. Robson, Harvard Medical School, MA, USA on “Novel Strategies for Checkpoint Blockade Inhibition: Targeting CD39 Ectonucleotidase and Correcting Aberrant Purinergic Signaling in Cancer” followed by talks from Dr. Panos Z. Anastasiadis, Mayo Clinic, FL, USA, on “miRNAs at Cell-Cell Junctions: Role in Cancer and Implications for Therapy” and by Dr. Mark Woodward, University of Oxford, UK on “The ACTION Study: an Initiative to Address the Socio-Economic Burden of Cancer in South–East Asia”.

Apart from these keynote speeches on day one, CRT-2016 also featured a great talk by Dr. Thomas Waldmann from NIH/NCI, on “JAK/STAT Abnormalities in T-Cell Malignancy: Implications for Therapy”. And it continued by few special talks of renowned people in cancer research.

A keynote lecture by Dr. Polly Matzinger, NIH/NIAID, MD, USA using the overhead projector on “The Danger Model on Immunotherapy” attracted audience’s attention to the speaker as well as the speech topic. Post lunch session was continued by two special talks by Dr. Leslie Costello and Dr. Bill Cham. The day one concluded with featured presentations on “Novel Therapies in Cancer Treatment” chaired by Drs. Myron Szewczuk and Srikumar P. Chellappan. Day two of the conference started with two parallel sessions. The session on “Tumor Suppressors; Cancer Immunotherapy and Vaccines” was chaired by Drs. Myron Szewczuk and Srikumar P. Chellappan. Day two also featured a special session on “Anti-Cancer Drug Discovery from Mother Nature” chaired by Dr. Anupam Bishayee. During this session
Journal of Natural Products in Cancer Prevention Treatment (JNPCPT) – a journal that is aims to establish and promote a collegial, research-based culture that welcomes the expertise of many topics pertained to natural products for the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of cancer, was launched by Editor-in-Chief Dr. Bishayee; he was accompanied by editorial board members Drs. Steven J. Melnick, Hasan Mukhtar, Dona Sinha and Kensee S. Mossanda. The session concluded after some lively discussions by Haruki Okamura, Hyogo College of Medicine, Hirakata-City, Japan; Mariusz Wasik, University of Pennsylvania, USA; Jeff Bulte, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, USA. The penultimate day of the conference continued with poster presentations by attendees from all around the world.

Day three of the summit mainly focused on the topics Cancer Stem Cell Therapy, Treatment and Innovative Methods in Oncology, Cancer Metabolic Reprogramming, chaired by Drs. Philip Savage and Thomas Dirschka. Nearly 15 attendees shared their research work during this session.

Overall, the meeting was well received and attended, promoting a lively interaction among the attendees and fostering several potential interactions. USG is obliged to the committee members specially to Dr. Wlodek for his wonderful support.