

Lupus Nephritis Trials Network

Meeting Madrid June 14, 2013

Annual EULAR Scientific Meeting

Co-chairs

The meeting was co-chaired by Frédéric Houssiau (Chair of the EU Executive Committee) and Michelle Petri (member of the NA/Asia Executive Committee)

Attendees

Between 30 and 35 people were present, mainly from Europe, but also from NA and Japan. The following members of the Executive Committees sent their apologies : Ricard Cervera, Betty Diamond, Meenakkshi Jolly, Liz Lightstone, Alberto Martini, Elena Massarotti, Brad Rovin and David Wofsy. The others attended the meeting. Frédéric Houssiau was pleased to welcome two representatives of Lupus Europe (EU patients' organization) : Kirsten Lerstrom and Bernadette Van Leeuw.

Brief summary

Frédéric Houssiau started by reminding the audience the goals, philosophy, guiding principles and operational strategy of the LNTN, as well as the names of the current members of the Executive and Review Committees. Again, the audience was very positive about the principles.

The contributors of the LNTN were presented and their input was greatly appreciated: the Lupus Research Institute, the Lupus Foundation of America, the Alliance for Lupus Research, the American College of Rheumatology and the EULAR.

Frédéric Houssiau was pleased to announce that Patti Tosta, the Associate Director for Clinical Operations of the Immune Tolerance Network, was recently appointed as part-time Executive Director of the LNTN. She is responsible for the daily running of the network but also for the newly launched website (www.lupusnephritis.org) and the quarterly newsletters (first issue dated April 1st, 2013).

The 6 LNTN projects resulting from the 1st Call were then presented, either by the Principal Investigator (if present) or by Michelle Petri.

Outcome measures in lupus nephritis trials – PI : Meggan Mackay, NY, USA
Development of evidence-based recommendations
Presented by Michelle Petri

Thrombotic microangiopathy (TMA) in lupus nephritis – PI : Kyriakos Kirou, NY, USA
Retrospective analysis of the prognostic significance and therapeutic implications
Presented by Michelle Petri

MANAGED – PI : Eloisa Bonfa, Sao Paulo, Brazil
Analysis of the utility of azathioprine metabolite levels in guiding treatment of lupus nephritis

RITUXILUP – PI : Liz Lighstone, London, UK (not yet formally endorsed)
Mycophenolate mofetil plus steroids or rituximab
Presented by Matthew Pickering

RING – PI : Frédéric Houssiau, Brussels, Belgium
Rituximab for refractory lupus nephritis

CALIBRATE – PI : Betty Diamond, NY, USA
Rituximab followed by belimumab to promote return of a non-autoimmune B cell repertoire
Presented by Michelle Petri

Each project was discussed and some specific comments were made which were forwarded to the PIs. Two more general issues were raised, namely the importance of having renal pathologists on board and the difficulties of trans-Atlantic collaboration. Regarding the former, the audience suggested to specifically invite renal pathology colleagues to join our network. Trans-Atlantic collaboration will be easier for projects that do not involve patient care. Thus, it is anticipated that the projects on outcome measures and thrombotic microangiopathy will be really collaborative. Trials will be much more difficult to run across the Atlantic mainly because of funding and regulatory issues but also drug supply. Yet, efforts will be pursued to try to involve some US centers in *RITUXILUP*.

Frédéric Houssiau closed the meeting by announcing that the next Call for Projects (web application) will be open on July 1st and by inviting the members to the next LNTN meeting in San Diego, scheduled on October 28, 2013 (08:00-10:00 AM), during the next ACR Annual Scientific Meeting.