

Background to the Discussion Sessions 2 & 3

While the major part of the symposium discusses what we know, these discussion sessions are to define what is still unknown but need to know in order to reduce the disease burden and improve patient care. Two sessions will be held. The first is to identify knowledge gaps relevant for public health interventions while the second is to identify knowledge gaps relevant for clinical interventions. The sessions would help identify important areas requiring further research.

Members of the panel will be given 5 min to give their comments. The discussion will then be open to the audience for discussion. **It is hoped that health care providers and researchers actively participate in the discussion. Everyone is strongly encouraged to contribute to the discussion.**

Discussion session 2 : Reducing the Disease Burden of Nasopharyngeal Carcinoma

Date: 23 June 2011

Time: 1545-1645

Venue: Pelangi II Ballroom, Rasa Sayang Hotel

Objective: To identify the major gaps of knowledge which need to be answered in order to improve prevention and screening for nasopharyngeal carcinoma

Panel (tentative):

1. Allan Hildesheim: Chair
2. Jaap Middeldorp (Co-chair)
3. Rajiv Khanna

Topics:

1. A vaccine for prevention of NPC - is it possible? What is the status and what need to be known to move to the next step
2. Environmental risk factors –do we know enough about environmental risk factors for public health intervention? What do we need to know and yet do not know?
3. Genetic predisposition to NPC – population variation and NPC, GWAS studies
4. Primary screening for NPC – are we ready for population screening for NPC. What are the limitations which need to be addressed?

Discussion will be open to the audience.

Discussion Session 3: Bench to Bedside and Back

Date: 24 June 2011

Time: 1105-1305

Venue: Pelangi II Ballroom, Rasa Sayang Hotel

Panel (tentative):

Lawrence Young (Chairperson)

Pua Kin Choo (ENT)

Anne Lee (Chemotherapy/Radiotherapy/Targeted therapy)

Stephen Gottschalk (Immunotherapy)

Bing Tan (PDT)

Objective: To identify major gaps in knowledge which need to be answered in order to improve clinical outcome of patients with nasopharyngeal carcinoma

Topics:

1. Diagnosis of NPC
2. Chemotherapy / Radiotherapy / Targeted therapy
3. Surgery
4. Novel and experimental therapies - Immunotherapy / PDT

For discussion:

What are the most significant problems and limitations faced in the diagnosis and management of NPC? How can diagnosis and management of NPC be improved further?

What is still unknown and yet need to be known to make improvement ?

What is the stage of knowledge generated from laboratory and clinical research which can help address the gaps in knowledge and what are the major gaps which still exist which need to be addressed through laboratory and clinical research?

Of all that is unknown, what should be the main priorities to be addressed in research in order to make the most significant improvements in the care of NPC patients?

Discussion will be open to the audience.