

National Cancer Institute (NCI)
Immunotherapy for Cutaneous T-Cell Lymphoma (CTCL)
May 6, 2006 - May 7, 2006
Holiday Inn Express, Philadelphia, PA

Summary

The last NCI workshop on CTCL (Protein Transduction in CTCL) was held more than four years ago. On May 6th and 7th, 2006, the Office of Rare Diseases (NIH) and the Center for Cancer Research (NCI) were pleased to sponsor a workshop focusing on the “Immunobiology and Immunotherapy of CTCL”. National Academy of Sciences member Dr. Thomas A. Waldmann (NCI) will delivered the keynote lecture on “Effective therapy for human T cell malignancy by immunomodulation” on May 6th. The first half of the workshop on May 7th emphasized state-of-the-art progress lectures regarding the immunopathology of CTCL, including aberrations in T cell repertoire, T regulatory cell function, and T cell trafficking (e.g., chemokine receptors). The second half of the conference focused on novel strategies for immunotherapy in CTCL, ranging from custom T cell receptor peptide vaccination to immunomodulation (e.g., via cytokines and toll-like receptor agonists). The use of vaccination approaches was perceived to be relatively low in side effects, but questions of efficacy in the light of the action of regulatory cells (e.g., T regulatory cells) were raised. Approaches coming from other diseases (e.g., B cell lymphoma) that have shown potential for immunotherapy were included in order to stimulate discussion. The organizing committee selected several young fellows/investigators who received travel compensation to present their work. Some of the ideas emanating from this conference will be discussed in a Seminar for the journal, *Lancet*, entitled: *Mycosis Fungoides and Sezary Syndrome*, which will be published sometime in the fall or winter of 2006.