

Immunotherapy in Pediatric Oncology: Progress and Challenges
September 9 -10, 2008
The Cloisters
NIH Campus
Bethesda, MD

Co-Sponsored by the Office of Rare Diseases and the Center of Excellence in Immunology,
Center for Cancer Research, National Cancer Institute

Conference Summary:

Children with cancer have experienced significant improvements in survival in the last 40 years; however, many children worldwide continue to die of cancer every year. The cost of cure using current therapies is very high.

Immunotherapy represents a largely untapped treatment approach in childhood cancer, yet it remains a potentially effective modality with limited toxicity. Dramatic advances have been made in the field of tumor immunology, which could ultimately serve as a basis for developing clinically effective immunotherapies for childhood cancer and for integrating immunotherapy into the existing therapeutic armamentarium.

This meeting will bring together members of the pediatric oncology immunotherapy community to discuss issues uniquely pertinent to targeting pediatric cancer with immune based therapies. Topics will span antibody-based therapies, tumor vaccines, graft-versus-leukemia and adoptive cell therapies, all with a focus on clinical translation toward pediatric cancer.