

ESMO 2014 Congress Scientific Meeting Report – Precision Medicine in Cancer Care

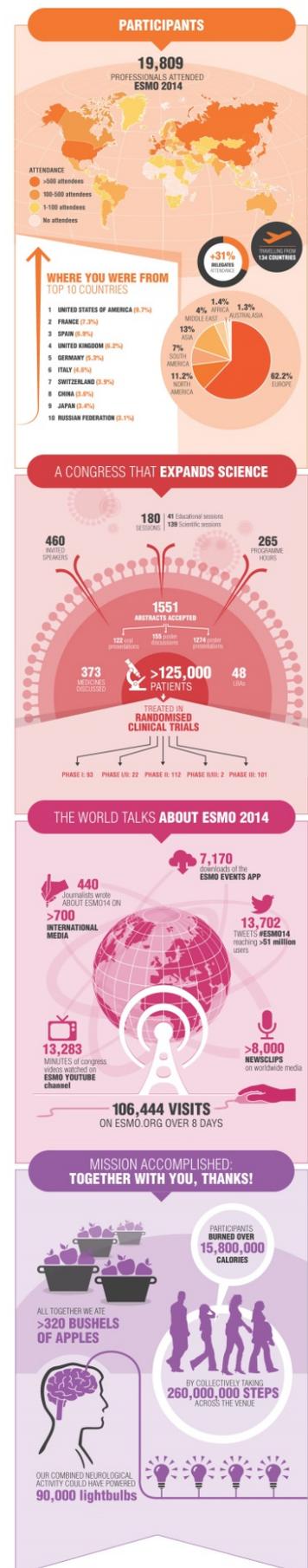
26-30 September 2014

Madrid, Spain

Summary

The European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO) Congress, held September 26 to 30 in Madrid, Spain, was a record-breaker on nearly all levels. It was resounding success and in a dedicated infographic you can find the congress statistics. A primary emphasis in the scientific programme was placed on precision medicine and how it will change the future treatment landscape in oncology. In addition, a number of scientific presentations were dedicated to cancer immunology and immunotherapy across multiple tumour types. This report is an overview of key scientific presentations made during the congress by leading international investigators. It attempts to represent the diversity and depth of the ESMO 2014 scientific programme, as well as advances in oncology.

Infographic (right): ESMO 2014 record breaking Congress



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Precision Medicine in Cancer Care

The theme for ESMO 2014: 'Precision Medicine in Cancer Care' was chosen to drive improvements in research, and patient treatment and outcomes through dynamic discussions and knowledge exchange. Each Congress track hosted a special session that highlighted the subject in more detail.

The special symposium in CNS tumours: current concepts and future avenues in meningioma, was designed to enhance understanding of the challenges and morbidity of this non-malignant disease providing biological insight into novel and targeted treatments, and indications, and the limitations of the current standards of care for meningioma subtypes.

The special symposium in developmental therapeutics: challenges and perspectives of molecular profiling, highlighted the missing link between the basic science/translational research sessions and the organ-oriented sessions. It also emphasised the extent to which molecular profiling has impacted current clinical reality and the potential problems faced when integrating precision medicine into oncology management.

The special symposium on advances in precision medicine of metastatic colorectal cancer (mCRC) provided insight into the future molecular understanding of mCRC, leading to a potential new classification and the consecutive development of therapeutics. In particular the lectures focused on biomarkers and methodologies employed to identify tumour subtypes and how do they might correlate with treatment sensitivity. However, large scale retrospective and prospective studies are needed for data validation. In addition, tumour heterogeneity/plasticity should be addressed and followed upon disease progression. Gene signatures might be replaced by proteomics in the future. The Symposium also provided an excellent update on new classes of anticancer treatments in this disease.

The special symposium entitled 'Towards personalised medicine in gastric, pancreatic and liver cancer – from "omics" research to treatment', offered attendees the possibility to get a clear picture of how new developments in "omics" may potentially translate into clinical actions for patients with gastric, pancreatic and liver cancers.

The special symposium on precision medicine in prostate cancer provided insight into prostate cancer biology and heterogeneity, the rationale and link current therapy/drug development to the impetus for disease biology, and informed on biomarker development and on current precision medicine perspectives specific to prostate cancer.

The special symposium entitled 'Beyond tumour heterogeneity – new pathways in kidney cancer' presented the latest molecular classification of kidney cancer and discussed its relevance for practising clinicians. It also highlighted major clinical problems such as drug resistance and lack of predictive biomarkers for drug therapies. There was a focus on new targets and drugs, particularly immunotherapies such as anti-PD1 agents.

The special symposium on personalised medicine in head and neck cancer discussed therapeutic perspectives for squamous cell carcinoma, including immunotherapy, according to novel targets and better individual patient selection, identification of therapeutic targets for salivary gland cancers, and integration of innovative technology for next generation trials based on biological tumour characteristics.

The special symposium on the impact on health services from personalised targeted therapies discussed the budgetary impact of the cost of new diagnostic procedures and therapies and the changes in health services associated with them, and integration of all aspects of cancer care – ranging from health promotion to rehabilitation, reintegration and palliation.

The special symposium on targeting precision medicine toxicity provided an excellent tool to learn about the completely different side effects from all the new therapies available over the past years. More precisely it covered next spectrum of toxicities from novel agents: cardiac, pulmonary, skin, endocrine, osteoarticular, and gastrointestinal (GI).

RELATED INFORMATION

[Click here to access the Conference abstracts.](#)

[Click here to access the meeting webcast page.](#)

Save the date

European Cancer Congress 2015 (ECC 2015), Vienna, Austria, 25-29 September 2015.

Affiliations and Disclosure

Affiliation

Dr Svetlana Jezdic, ESMO Head Office

Disclosure

No conflicts of interest to disclose.

Acknowledgment

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