



EUROPEAN
HEMATOLOGY
ASSOCIATION

EHA Scientific Working group **European MCL Network**

Annual Report 2016

Munich, February 2017

The *European MCL Network* (<http://www.european-mcl.net>) is represented in 19 countries and involves clinical study groups, experts in histopathology and molecular genetics. Selection of individual partners was exclusively based on scientific excellence, profound clinical experience of MCL treatment, broad knowledge of the underlying molecular pathogenesis and outstanding methodological expertise.

Participating clinical study groups and national representative:

Australasian lymphoma study group	(J. Seymour, Melbourne/Australia)
CLSG	(M. Trneny, Prag/Czech Republic)
Croatian Study group	(I. Aurer, Zagreb/Croatia)
FIL (Italian Intergroup)	(U. Vitolo, Torino/Italy)
GELTAMO	(F. Lopez, Barcelona/Spain)
GLSG	(W. Hiddemann/Germany)
HOVON	(H. Kluin-Nelemans, Groningen/Netherlands)
Irish lymphoma group	(E. Vandenberghe, Dbulin)
Israelian Study group	(O. Shpilberg, Petah-Tiqva/Israel)
LYSARC	(O. Hermine, V. Ribrag, St. Le Gouill, France)
NCRI	(S. Rule, Plymouth)
Nordic Lymphoma Group	(C. Geissler, Copenhagen; M. Jerkeman, Lund)
PLRG	(J. Walewski, Warszawa/Poland)
Portugese LSG	(M. da Silva, Lisboa/Portugal)
SAKK	(U. Mey, Chur)

During the last few years, the consortium has established the two standards treatment in younger and elderly MCL patients:

- MCL younger/ LyMa: Ara-C containing induction followed by Ara-C containing myeloablative consolidation with autologous stem cell rescue and rituximab maintenance
- MCL elderly: R-CHOP induction followed by Rituximab maintenance.

Publications and presentations of various clinical studies were received well at various international and national conferences.

Hoster E, Geisler CH, Doorduijn J, et al. Total body irradiation after high-dose cytarabine in mantle cell lymphoma: A comparison of Nordic MCL2, HOVON-45, and European MCL Younger trials. *Leukemia*. 2016;30(6):1428-30

Hermine O, Hoster E, Walewski J et al. Alternating courses of 3x CHOP and 3x DHAP plus rituximab followed by a high-dose cytarabine containing myeloablative regimen and autologous stem cell transplantation versus 6 courses of CHOP plus rituximab followed by myeloablative radiochemotherapy and autologous stem cell transplantation in patients <65years (MCL Younger): a randomised, open-label, phase 3 trial of the European MCL Network. *Lancet* 2016;388(10044):565-75.

Le Goull S, Thieblemont C, Oberic L et al., Rituximab Maintenance after Autologous Stem Cell Transplantation Prolongs Survival in Younger Patients with Mantle Cell Lymphoma. *ASH 58th Annual Meeting, San Diego, 2016 Blood, 128(22), #145*

Accordingly, the *European MCL Network* plays a crucial role in the first distinct ESMO guidelines for MCL as well as other consensus and educational manuscripts published in 2016.

Dreyling M, Ferrero S for the European Mantle Cell Lymphoma Network. The role of targeted treatment in mantle cell lymphoma: is transplant dead or alive? *Haematologica*. 2016 Feb;101(2):104-14.

Spurgeon SE, Till BG, Martin P, Goy AH, Dreyling MH, Gopal AK, LeBlanc M, Leonard JP, Friedberg JW, Baizer L, Little RF, Kahl BS, Smith MR. Recommendations for Clinical Trial Development in Mantle Cell Lymphoma. *J Natl Cancer Inst*. 2016 Dec 31;109(1)

Simultaneously, the corresponding biological risk factors and underlying molecular pathogenesis have been thoroughly explored with results being presented at international meetings (e.g. MRD, cell proliferation, various molecular markers).

Cheminant M, Derrioux C, Touzart A, et al. Minimal Residual Disease monitoring by 8-color flow cytometry in Mantle Cell Lymphoma: an EU-MCL and LYSA study. *Haematologica*. 2016 Mar;101(3):336-45

Hoster E, Rosenwald A, Berger F, et al. Prognostic Value of Ki-67 Index, Cytology, and Growth Pattern in Mantle-Cell Lymphoma: Results From Randomized Trials of the European Mantle Cell Lymphoma Network. *J Clin Oncol*. 2016; 34(12):1386-94

Fichtner M, Spies E, Seismann H, et al. Complementarity determining region-independent recognition of a superantigen by B-cell antigen receptors of mantle cell lymphoma. *Haematologica*. 2016 Sep;101(9):e378-81

Dai B, Grau M, Juilland M, et al. B-cell receptor driven MALT1 activity regulates MYC signaling in mantle cell lymphoma. *Blood*. 2016 Nov 18. [Epub ahead of print]

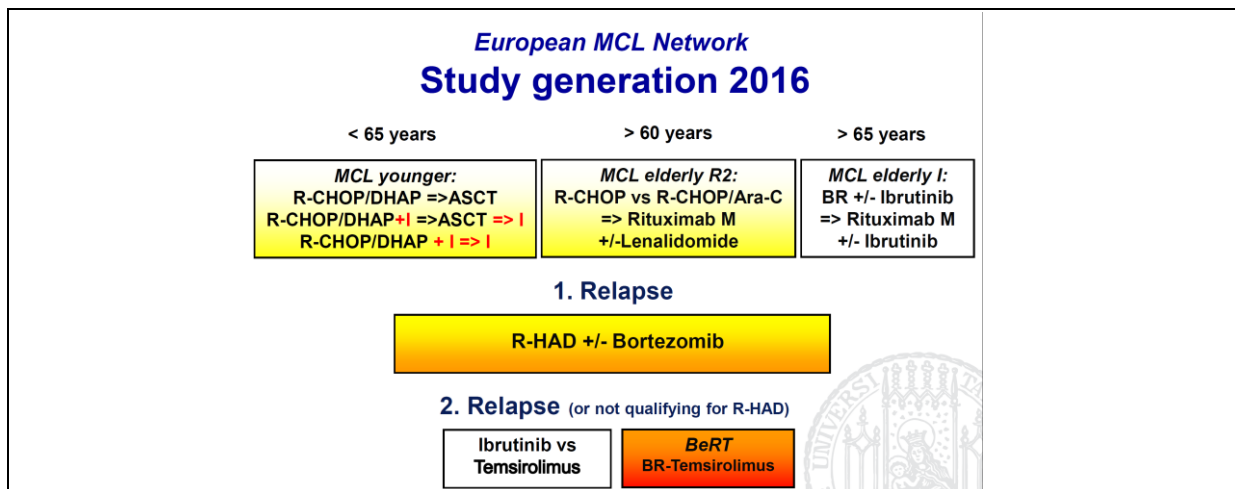
In vitro and clinical results of molecularly targeted approaches have been also presented at different international conferences.

Ferrero S, Pastore A, Scholz CW, et al. Radioimmunotherapy in relapsed/refractory mantle cell lymphoma patients: final results of a European MCL network phase II trial. *Leukemia*. 2016 Apr;30(4):984-7

Dreyling M, Jurczak W, Jerkeman M, et al. Ibrutinib versus temsirolimus in patients with relapsed or refractory mantle-cell lymphoma: an international, randomised, open-label, phase 3 study. *Lancet*. 2016;387:770-8

Hess, G., Karola, W., LaRosee, P., et al. Temsirolimus in Combination with Bendamustine and Rituximab (BeRT) for the Treatment of Relapsed Mantle Cell and Follicular Lymphoma: Final Phase I/II Results. *ASH 58th Annual Meeting, San Diego, 2016 Blood, 128(22), #2977*

Accordingly, innovative combinations with biologicals are being investigated in the new study generation (figure 1).



The consortium has also performed various meetings in 2016:

5/2016 Principal investigator/ phase I/II platform meeting in Munich

10/2016 annual conference in Barcelona

Based on all of these achievements, we are looking forward to the ongoing collaboration within our scientific working group in 2017 ! To foster our future activities the EHA SWG *European MCL network* will join the EHQA LyG SWG in 2017.



Martin Dreyling
Coordinator

Conflict of interest:

The *European MCL Network* thanks for the unrestricted grants of Celgene (2012-2017) and Janssen (2016) (see www.european-mcl.net)