

Chapter 1 : Anticancer Drug Development: The Way Forward

Here in a single source is a complete spectrum of ideas on the development of new anticancer drugs. Containing concise reviews of multidisciplinary fields of research, this book offers a wealth of ideas on current and future molecular targets for drug design, including signal transduction, the cell division cycle, and programmed cell death.

Published online May 3. Due to the tremendous increase in our understanding of the cancer process and cause, development of drugs to selectively interfere with and inhibit tumour growth has now entered a new and exciting era of the target orientated approach. Drugs are now being developed against specific proteins involved in cancer cell growth that have been uncovered over the last 10 years or so. These differences cover all areas of cancer biology, from cell signalling pathways to tumour hypoxia and from angiogenesis to cell death pathways. This book gives a very comprehensive overview of the whole of the anticancer drug development process today, from chemical synthesis to the clinic. Individual sections on specific areas follow, where the emphasis is on uncovering new targets for therapeutic interference. These include the cell cycle, signal transduction pathways and apoptosis. Not only are these detailed and up-to-date reviews of the topic, but highlight areas of possible therapeutic intervention throughout the text, including compounds that are already known to act on these areas, very useful for those not familiar with the field. Each chapter concludes with strategies for future drug development. Attempts at inhibiting the cancer metastatic process have been high profile recently with the MMP inhibitors, Batimastat and Marimastat, entering the clinic. Cancer metastasis is a complex process, and this chapter not only gives an overview of the subject but also describes in some detail the thinking behind the design of existing and future MMP inhibitors. Anti-angiogenic drugs and antivascular agents are not quite the same but have been grouped to cover all aspects of tumour vasculature as a target. Here we see slight overlap with other chapters, and indeed the editors do comment on the overlap between chapters as each chapter is written by independent authors. This overlap is inevitable but minimal, as tumour vasculature and angiogenesis is bound to overlap with MMP expression and inhibition which is bound to overlap with cell signalling, and so on. Several useful enzyme-prodrugs systems are covered here as well as the latest antigenic targets available for ADEPT. These are two concepts that have shown promise preclinically but are still under development in the clinic. The drug discovery process is still a mixture of random screening and rational drug design. There follows three chemistry based chapters on drug design. Rational drug design and organic synthesis including combinatorial chemistry with concluding remarks which give pointers as to the future direction of the field. Natural products of course have had a major role to play in cancer chemotherapy over the years. This chapter is written by chemists who have the enviable job of travelling the world looking for natural products with novel mechanisms of action. Here bryostatin is used as an example to include details of structural modification and in vitro evaluation. Other natural products are certain to have their influence on cancer drug development for some time to come. Some of the technological advances over recent years would have been unimaginable not too long ago. We are now in the era described as post genomic drug discovery. Not only has the technology advanced at an impressive rate but so has the information gained from these technologies. Microarray analysis, genomics and proteomics provide gigantic amounts of data for the cancer researcher. These technologies have now been matched in the drug discovery process by high throughput screening techniques. This chapter brings together the previous 13 by describing the drug screening processes itself, including the roles and values of target identification, target validation and combinatorial chemistry in the drug discovery and development process. The majority of reviews on drug development were dominated by the NCI screening technologies. It is not really possible to publish a review on anticancer drug development without including the NCI screen, but the chapter on tumour cell cultures in drug development takes a slightly different angle. The NCI screen is covered in some detail but so are useful sections on three-dimensional cultures and drug diffusion assays. Three-dimensional cultures of characterised cell lines take in vitro drug screening a step closer to the clinical situation. It is appropriate then to follow this chapter with one on animal screening systems. Based primarily on the experiences of those in Freiburg, who probably have one of the largest animals screening facilities in Europe. With over tumours all characterised for

target expression, the emphasis is placed on the characterisation of the tumours and clinical relevance of the tumour models in mice. There is also an overview of these facilities in Freiburg. Extensive preclinical pharmacological and toxicological studies prior to clinical trial are essential, not only to gain a thorough understanding of the compounds pharmacology but also to aid in the difficult decision of which starting dose to use in the patient. Extrapolation of animal data to humans is discussed in some detail, comparing the relevance of preclinical information from mouse, rat, dog and monkey. Preclinical data from six compounds that have entered the clinic is used as an example, and the authors conclude that the preclinical animal models used are impressive in their prediction of human MTD maximum tolerated dose and DLT dose limiting toxicities. This detailed preclinical data can then be used to optimize the design of the clinical trials. This account explains in some detail how a clear understanding of a drugs pharmacology can lead to improved clinical use. A greater understanding of these pharmacokinetic-pharmacodynamic relationships has led to optimization of the administration and delivery of new agents in Phase I trials. A major new development in clinical trial design is the ability to measure the distribution and, to a certain extent, the pharmacodynamic effect of these new agents in a non-invasive manner. PET positron emission tomography has a whole chapter dedicated to the technique and it is clear the power of the technique will influence the design of future clinical trials. PET can now be used for pharmacokinetic analysis with examples, for 5-FU and temozolomide given. It can be used for pharmacodynamic studies, for example drug receptor interactions and cellular proliferation, even detecting apoptotic cells in situ. The concluding chapter discusses trials of the newly emerging mechanistic drugs. In summary, this is a really extensive and comprehensive book on the drug development process. It has detailed chapters on potential targets, the drug design process, the drug screening process and the design of future clinical trials to cope with these new mechanistic based drugs. There is very little overlap between chapters and all are written by experts in the field. Hundreds of useful references are included for those wanting to go further. My one and only problem was finding the colour prints tucked away at the back. Maybe they were too expensive to include in the text, but I found them eventually. Congratulations to the editors as this must have been quite a task. Definitely one for the library to stock.

At the international symposium "Anticancer Drug Discovery and Development Throughout the World," held during the 38th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Clinical Oncology, [1] leaders from around the globe led thought-provoking discussions on issues of drug development. The session opened.

The use, distribution or reproduction in other forums is permitted, provided the original author s or licensor are credited and that the original publication in this journal is cited, in accordance with accepted academic practice. No use, distribution or reproduction is permitted which does not comply with these terms. This article has been cited by other articles in PMC. Abstract Cancer is a serious concern at present. A large number of patients die each year due to cancer illnesses in spite of several interventions available. Development of an effective and side effects lacking anticancer therapy is the trending research direction in healthcare pharmacy. Chemical entities present in plants proved to be very potential in this regard. Bioactive phytochemicals are preferential as they pretend differentially on cancer cells only, without altering normal cells. Carcinogenesis is a complex process and includes multiple signaling events. Phytochemicals are pleiotropic in their function and target these events in multiple manners; hence they are most suitable candidate for anticancer drug development. Efforts are in progress to develop lead candidates from phytochemicals those can block or retard the growth of cancer without any side effect. Several phytochemicals manifest anticancer function in vitro and in vivo. This article deals with these lead phytomolecules with their action mechanisms on nuclear and cellular factors involved in carcinogenesis. Additionally, druggability parameters and clinical development of anticancer phytomolecules have also been discussed. This disease ranks second in death cases after cardiovascular disorders in the developed nations Mbaveng et al. The cancer phenomenon is described by uncontrolled proliferation and dedifferentiation of a normal cell. Cancer cells have some marked features i. Sequential genetic alterations which produce genetic instabilities accumulate in the cell and a normal cell transforms into a malignant cell. These modifications are not just abrupt transitions but may take several years. Among these the lung cancer is reported the most in men and the breast cancer in women Horn et al. In the cancer, one or group of these genes get altered and express aberrantly Biswas et al. These genes can be targeted for the development of anticancer therapeutics. Modifications of epigenetic processes involved in cell growth and differentiation also lead to the development of a cancer. Therapeutic interventions which can reverse these epigenetic alterations may also be a promising option in anticancer drug discovery Schnekenburger et al. Azacitidine, decitbine, vorinostat, and romidespin are exemplary epigenetic anticancer drugs in this regard. Table 1 Some epidemiological forms of cancer.

For Early-Career Drug Development Investigators and Fellows. Anticancer Drug Development Workshop; Duke and the Harvard-MIT Center for Regulatory Science.

Chemotherapy During World War II, naval personnel who were exposed to mustard gas during military action were found to have toxic changes in the bone marrow cells that develop into blood cells. During that same period, the US Army was studying a number of chemicals related to mustard gas to develop more effective agents for war and also develop protective measures. In the course of that work, a compound called nitrogen mustard was studied and found to work against a cancer of the lymph nodes called lymphoma. This agent served as the model for a long series of similar but more effective agents called alkylating agents that killed rapidly growing cancer cells by damaging their DNA. Not long after the discovery of nitrogen mustard, Sidney Farber of Boston demonstrated that aminopterin, a compound related to the vitamin folic acid, produced remissions in children with acute leukemia. Aminopterin blocked a critical chemical reaction needed for DNA replication. That drug was the predecessor of methotrexate, a cancer treatment drug used commonly today. Since then, other researchers discovered drugs that block different functions in cell growth and replication. The era of chemotherapy had begun. Metastatic cancer was first cured in when methotrexate was used to treat a rare tumor called choriocarcinoma. Over the years, chemotherapy drugs chemo have successfully treated many people with cancer. Long-term remissions and even cures of many patients with Hodgkin disease and childhood ALL acute lymphoblastic leukemia treated with chemo were first reported during the s. Cures of testicular cancer were seen during the next decade. Many other cancers can be controlled with chemo for long periods of time, even if they are not cured. Today, several approaches are available to improve the activity and reduce the side effects of chemo. Later, radiation was used after surgery to control small tumor growths that were not surgically removed. Finally, chemotherapy was added to destroy small tumor growths that had spread beyond the reach of the surgeon and radiotherapist. Chemo used after surgery to destroy any remaining cancer cells in the body is called adjuvant therapy. Adjuvant therapy was tested first in breast cancer and found to be effective. It was later used in colon cancer , testicular cancer, and others. A major discovery was the advantage of using multiple chemotherapy drugs known as combination chemotherapy over single agents. Some types of very fast-growing leukemia and lymphoma tumors involving the cells of the bone marrow and lymph nodes, respectively responded very well to combination chemo, and clinical trials led to gradual improvement of the drug combinations used. Many of these tumors can be cured today by appropriate combination chemotherapy. The approach to patient treatment has become more scientific with the introduction of clinical trials on a wide basis throughout the world. Clinical trials compare new treatments to standard treatments and contribute to a better understanding of treatment benefits and risks. They are used to test theories about cancer learned in the basic science laboratory and also test ideas drawn from the clinical observations on cancer patients. They are necessary for continued progress.

Chapter 4 : Anticancer Drug Development | Cancer Forum

3rd CNS Anticancer Drug Discovery and Development Conference. November , , Marriott Hotel, New Orleans Held in conjunction with the 23rd Annual Meeting and Education Day of.

UK Cancer chemotherapy celebrated its fiftieth anniversary last year. It was in that wartime research on the nitrogen mustards, which uncovered their potential use in the treatment of leukaemias and other cancers, was first made public. Fifty years later, more than sixty drugs have been registered in the USA for the treatment of cancer, but there are still lessons to be learnt. One problem, paradoxically, is that many anticancer agents produce a response in several different classes of the disease. This means that once a new agent has been shown to be effective in one cancer, much effort is devoted to further investigations of the same drug in various combinations for different disorders. While this approach has led to advances in the treatment of many childhood cancers and some rare diseases, a plethora of studies on metastatic colon cancer, for example, has yielded little benefit. The lesson to be learnt is that many common cancers are not adequately treated by present-day chemotherapy, and most trials of this sort are a waste of time. Significant increases in survival will only occur if the selectivity of present-day anticancer agents can be increased or new classes of more selective agents can be discovered. There are two fundamental problems in drug development: Firstly, no existing laboratory method can accurately predict which chemical will be effective against a particular class of human cancer. This is well exemplified by the discovery of cisplatin. The fact that cisplatin caused regression in a number of transplanted rodent tumours created no great excitement amongst chemotherapists. It was only later when it was tested clinically against ovarian cancer that results were sufficiently positive to encourage others to investigate. Only then was it discovered that metastatic teratoma was extraordinarily sensitive to the drug. This finding was made as a result of phase II trials and no laboratory model could have predicted it. The lesson to be learnt is that new drugs should be tested extensively in phase II trials before they are discarded. The second problem concerns early clinical trials. Because new drugs can only be tested against advanced and usually heavily pretreated disease, it is unlikely that dramatic responses will occur. The methods used to detect responses in solid tumours and metastases are crude, and it is likely that many useful drugs are missed. New techniques are needed to detect small but important responses. In addition to these technical problems, clinical trials are expensive and the time required for preclinical pharmacology and toxicology is lengthy. In the early days, drugs could enter clinical trials after fairly simple toxicological studies. The thalidomide disaster in the s, however, led to the setting up of regulatory bodies to scrutinize drugs before clinical trials. This proved detrimental for cancer drug development because a series of fairly long-term tests is now required. These must be carried out in both rodents and one other species, usually the dog. This approach was probably a good thing for most medicines where a large margin of safety is required between the therapeutic dose and the dose which causes side effects, but was inappropriate for anticancer agents which are tested at the maximum possible dose which gives manageable side effects. These new regulations meant that the cost of one clinical trial after the s was equivalent to the cost of ten before that time. Firstly, it is important to switch from clinical trials of analogues and combinations of standard drugs to trials of new classes of anticancer agents. Further, an international effort should be launched whereby these new agents can be rapidly tested in phase II trials against common solid cancers using new techniques to detect small but significant tumour responses. Lead chemicals discovered in this way could then be taken back to the laboratory for further development. There is no shortage of new drugs which act by mechanisms quite different from present-day agents, and new approaches can greatly increase the amount of cytotoxic agents delivered to solid tumours. As long ago as , the CRC introduced protocols which enabled early clinical trials to be carried out rapidly and with minimal cost. These procedures used short-term tests only in rodents to determine a safe starting dose. The test can be completed within six months and around fifty clinical trials using this protocol have been successfully carried out in collaboration with the EORTC. Despite this, the American Food and Drug Administration FDA , regulatory authorities in many other countries and many drug companies still insist on using a second animal species before a phase I clinical trial is permitted instead of using the money spent to develop several agents

with minimal toxicology testing. The EORTC and CRC also plan to introduce positron emission tomographic scanning into early clinical trials as a highly sensitive method of measuring tumour response. Cancer mortality has changed little over the past forty years, mainly because of our failure to develop curative chemotherapy for the common solid cancers. The way forward is to carry out extensive phase I and II clinical trials of the many new types of anticancer agent that have become available as a result of increased knowledge about cancer cells and how they differ from normal tissues. In order to do this, the regulatory authorities must recognize that minimal toxicology protocols are adequate, and drug companies must be persuaded to give more emphasis to the search for new chemotherapeutic agents. A coordinated effort to achieve these aims would be a wonderful way to mark the fiftieth anniversary of modern chemotherapy. Unfortunately the regulatory authorities find it less risky to stick with extensive safety testing rather than to use shortcuts, however well-validated clinically. Many but not all drug companies, mindful of profits, prefer the easy way out and concentrate on analogues, while most clinicians opt for trials of combinations of known agents, being aware that they are worth a publication or two. Reprinted with permission from Helix, Volume V, Issue 1, , pp.

Chapter 5 : CNS Anticancer Drug Discovery and Development Conference

Cancer chemotherapy celebrated its fiftieth anniversary last year. It was in that wartime research on the nitrogen mustards, which uncovered their potential use in the treatment of leukaemias and other cancers, was first made public.

Chapter 6 : Anticancer Drug Development

Anticancer drug development involves in vitro cytotoxicity on cancer cells, in vivo confirmation, and clinical trial evaluation. Assessment of cytotoxicity toward cancer cell lines is a trending strategy for the discovery of anticancer agents.

Chapter 7 : Duke-Harvard-MIT Anticancer Drug Development Workshops | Overview

This book gives a very comprehensive overview of the whole of the anticancer drug development process today, from chemical synthesis to the clinic. The book begins with a brief chapter on the history of chemotherapy describing the problems of today's anticancer drugs, the lack of specificity or low therapeutic index.

Chapter 8 : Evolution of Cancer Treatments: Chemotherapy | American Cancer Society

Anticancer Drug Development Unique Aspects of Pharmaceutical Development Ajit S. Narang and Divyakant S. Desai 1 Introduction Around the world, tremendous resources are being invested in prevention.

Chapter 9 : Lead Phytochemicals for Anticancer Drug Development

This ambitious text consists of 20 chapters with contributions from a total of 59 eminent scientists from seven countries and provides a well-structured and impressively broad overview of all aspects of anticancer drug development.