JOINT TRANSNATIONAL CALL 2015:

"Immunology and Immunotherapy of Cancer: Strengthening the Translational Aspects"

PARTNER REQUEST/COLLABORATION OFFER

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☑ YES

SEARCH FOR A COLLABORATOR

IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR A PARTNER IN YOUR SUGGESTED PROPOSAL, PLEASE SPECIFICY ALSO THE NEEDED EXPERTISE

Project proposal	
Project title **Identification of intratumoral or peripheral blood biomarkers predictive of the efficacy of anti-PD1 blocking antibodies in metastatic melanoma patients**	
Provide a short project description about the project and the consortium (Max. 450 words)	

Immune checkpoints such as CTL antigen 4 (CTLA-4) and programmed cell death protein 1 (PD-1) are expressed on activated T cells and shut down the anti-tumor response upon binding to their ligands. Antibodies that block these immune checkpoints have shown potent anti-tumor activities in cancer patients and opened a new era of cancer immunotherapy. Ipilimumab has shown durable long-term responses in about 20% of metastatic melanoma patients but it may produce remarkable immune-related adverse events (irAE). Antibodies targeting PD-1, such as pembrolizumab or nivolumab, have produced higher response rates than anti-CTLA-4 mAbs in patients with metastatic melanoma and renal cancer, with less irAE. Finally a phase III study showed that the combination of ipilimumab and nivolumab has higher clinical activity, relative to each monotherapy, but higher incidence of grade II/IV toxicities. This combination was recently approved by FDA as first-line therapy in metastatic melanoma and an expanded access program was recently started in Europe.

An emerging problem the high costs of these new therapies, which are effective only on a fraction of patients. Therefore, there is an urgent need to identify biomarkers predictive of response. A high tumor mutational load, expression of PD-L1 in the tumor and the presence of a T cell infiltrate in the tumor area have been associated to an increased clinical benefit from immune check-point blockers.

In this project we will study a cohort of metastatic melanoma patients undergoing first-line therapy with anti-PD1 mAb either alone or in combination with ipilimumab. We will assess the predictive role of the following biomarkers: i) the mutational load and of recurrent somatic mutations in the generation of immunogenic neo-antigens; ii) the density and composition of the immune infiltrate in the tumor area (immunoscore); iii) the alterations of HLA-class I (HLA-I-APM); iv) serological or peripheral blood biomarkers.

Participating Units

1) Dr. Paola Queirolo Medical Oncology Unit. IRCCS-AOU San Martino-IST Genoa, Italy
2) Carlos López Larrea Inmunología, HUCA, Oviedo, Spain; Instituto Salud Carlo III, Madrid, Spain; Fundación Renal I. Alvarez de Toledo, Madrid, Spain
3) ……

OFFER FOR COLLABORATION

IF YOU PROPOSE YOURSELF AS A PARTNER IN A CONSORTIUM, PLEASE DETAIL YOUR EXPERTISE

Type of partner (Research institution, university, etc.)	University Hospital and Research Institution
Provide a short description about the expertise (Max. 200 words)	