

New Horizons of Tumor Immunotherapy

NEW HORIZONS OF TUMOR IMMUNOTHERAPY

Proceedings of the International Symposium on
New Horizons of Tumor Immunotherapy,
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PREFACE

In 1983, the First Fukuoka Symposium on Tumor Immunobiology was held to discuss The Basic Mechanisms and Clinical Treatments of Cancer Metastasis. Five years later, now we have a clearer picture of understanding the basic mechanisms of antitumor immunity from our increasing knowledge on various effector cells and their soluble mediators such as lymphokines and cytokines. Using this information, we believe we have reached a point to develop the most effective method for stimulating various antitumor effector mechanisms when we use immunotherapeutic measures to treat our cancer patients. This consideration has prompted us to organize the Second Symposium entitled 'New Horizons of Tumor Immunotherapy', in order to facilitate detailed information exchange among experts in the field and to bring forth the best strategy for tumor immunotherapy.

In the field of Tumor Immunotherapy, Japan has been rather unique in the sense that many biological response modifiers (BRM) have been used clinically to treat cancer patients for more than 10 years. Long before the recent rush in clinical trials of the adoptive immunotherapy with LAK cells or CTLs and the cytokine therapy with IL2, IFNs, or TNF, several natural products such as streptococcal and fungal preparations were approved as immunostimulators or in a modern term as BRMs by the Japanese Government and have been used widely and successfully to treat many cancer patients. Hence, a large body of literature is available both on the basic mechanisms of action and on clinical experiences of these BRMs. In addition, several groups of investigators in this meeting have discussed the usefulness of monoclonal antibodies against tumor specific antigens or its use as immunotoxins. We believe, therefore, the Symposium gave us a good opportunity to exchange our views on these natural products as well as the well-defined preparations of various cytokines, antibodies, and the cells activated with the mediators. A variety of practical problems in treating patients with recombinant or purified materials have been disclosed and discussed, while the problems in natural products were identified as their complicated mode of action due to the complexity of active principles. In a sense this Symposium may have made it possible for us to see new horizons of immunotherapy as a fusion of Western and Eastern cultures in the science.

Almost all the conceivable approaches in tumor immunotherapy have been brought up one after another by the Symposium participants. These combined efforts will certainly help basic investigators and clinical practitioners alike to evaluate accurately the immunotherapy in cancer treatment, therefore eventually benefitting cancer patients by the best use of immunotherapeutic measures. To convey the actual atmosphere of the Symposium to the readers, we have attempted to recover most of the discussion as readable as possible in this Proceedings. We believe readers of this proceedings will be provided with the most recent approaches in tumor immunotherapy, and more important, may see the bright future and new horizons of this important endeavor.

July 1989

Motomichi Torisu, M.D. at Fukuoka
Takeshi Yoshida, M.D. at Tokyo

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