

CENTRAL NEW JERSEY MULTIPLE MYELOMA SUPPORT GROUP

NOVEMBER 6, 2019 MEETING RECAP

Guest Speakers

Dennis Cooper, MD, Chief of the Blood and Marrow Transplantation Program at the Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey and Jacqueline “Jackie” Manago, Bone Marrow Transplant Coordinator at the Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey.

Dr. Cooper presented a very interesting program on CAR T-Cell therapy as well as some information on BiTEs therapy (Bi-specific T-Cell Engager). There was also time for a question and answer session. Below are some of Dr. Cooper’s thoughts...

CAR T-Cell Therapy

- CAR T-Cell Therapy is “currently FDA approved as standard of care for some forms of aggressive, refractory non-Hodgkin lymphoma and for patients with relapsed or refractory acute lymphoblastic leukemia up to age 25”
- Dr. Cooper feels that CAR T-Cell therapy will be approved for MM patients mid 2020
- CRS (Cytokine release syndrome), which is a possible side effect, is an inflammation, not an infection
 - Two doses of Tocilizumab on hand prior to CAR T-Cell procedure to treat CRS, should it occur
- Neurotoxicity, another possible side effect, (hard time speaking, difficulty communicating), almost always corrects itself. If not, steroids are given
- CAR T-Cell therapy has gotten safer...there are now ways to control toxicities
- Collection of T-Cells takes about 3 hours, hospitalization for 2 weeks after T-Cell therapy
- Before T-Cells are returned to a patient, patient receives low-dose chemotherapy a few days prior to CAR T-cell infusion. The chemotherapy

suppresses the immune system slightly so that it does not react to the CAR T-cells and gives the CAR T-cells the chance to grow and fight

- Multiple Myeloma patients (in trial) tend to relapse after 12-15 months after CAR T-Cell therapy, but had had no maintenance therapy afterwards
- If approved, CAR T-Cell therapy may be used earlier in the Multiple Myeloma treatment regime
- If approved, CAR T-Cell therapy may be used after transplant in Multiple Myeloma

BiTEs Therapy

- Bi-specific T-Cell Engagers
- Still in trials...not approved yet
- “Bi-specific T-cell engagers (BiTEs) are a class of artificial bi-specific monoclonal antibodies that are investigated for the use as anti-cancer drugs. They direct a host's immune system, more specifically the T cells' cytotoxic activity, against cancer cells”).
- Gentler version of CAR T
- Causes CRS and Neurotoxicity, but not as severe

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST...

ASH (American Society of Hematology) 2019

Monday, December 9, 2019

“The world's most comprehensive hematology event of the year, the 61st ASH Annual Meeting and Exposition. The meeting will provide an invaluable educational experience and the opportunity to review thousands of scientific abstracts highlighting updates in the hottest topics in hematology...top minds in the field and a global community of more than 25,000 hematology professionals from every subspecialty” will be in attendance.

The International Myeloma Working Group

<https://www.myeloma.org/videos/imwg-conference-series-ash-2019-orlando-fl>

- Patients, caregivers, and doctors around the world can view the IMF's popular livestream IMWG Conference Series, "Making Sense of Treatment" from Orlando, FL. IMF Chairman Dr. Brian G.M. Durie, Dr. Maria V. Mateos, and IMF Chief Medical Officer Dr. Joseph Mikhael distill, debate, and discuss the latest news and trends in the treatment of multiple myeloma from the 61st Annual ASH Meeting.

Watch the LIVESTREAM: Monday December 9, 2019 8:30 PM ET

ASH 2019

<https://www.myeloma.org/cure-blog/ash-top-10-2019-immune-therapies-again-dominate-news>

ASH Top 10 for 2019: Immune therapies again dominate the news

MYELOMA CANVAS TOTE BAG!!



We are offering this canvas bag to our members. The size of the bag measures 16½ inches top/bottom and 15 ½ inches in width. It is made of heavy canvas and the saying is on both sides. The saying is... “Multiple Myeloma is a Journey I Never Planned or Asked For But I Choose to Love Life, Hate the Disease, and Fight”. This is a popular design on t-shirts and bags for various cancers, and thanks to Diane Kranz and her grandson, they were able to design this bag for Multiple Myeloma. The original cost is \$20, but we are hoping to get a break on the shipping charge which would bring down the cost. Please reply to this email if you are interested in ordering one!!

THE HOLIDAYS ARE COMING, THE HOLIDAYS, ARE COMING!!!

Whether we are ready or not it is that time of year already. When ordering gifts from Amazon, why not use **Amazon Smile** instead, and choose the International Myeloma Foundation as your charity! A percentage of your purchase cost will be donated to the IMF!!

<https://smile.amazon.com/>

ALSO!!

Why not give the gift of a donation to the IMF!! The Miracles for Myeloma website is still open for donations until December 18, 2019 12:00 pm.

http://give.myeloma.org/site/TR?fr_id=1770&pg=entry

Below are informational links if you are interested.

Central New Jersey Multiple Myeloma Support Group

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Informational Links

International Myeloma Foundation

<https://www.myeloma.org/>

Multiple Myeloma Patients Best Treated at Recognized Care Centers with High Volume, US Study Reports

<https://www.myeloma.org/imf-receives-4star-rating-charity-navigator>

International Myeloma Foundation Leads Event Promoting Collaboration

<https://www.myeloma.org/news/imf-leads-event-promoting-collaboration>

Current FDA-Approved Medications for Multiple Myeloma

<https://www.myeloma.org/multiple-myeloma-drugs>

Hawaii Vacation Winner!

All-summer long, the IMF has been running a raffle for a 10-day vacation to stay at the Vila Ono Oasis in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii. Last Thursday, they held the raffle drawing at IMF Headquarters to select the winner. Congratulations Beth Harman!!!

Amazon Shopping

