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Cervo Preclinical Working Conference Introduction

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The CPWC (Cervo Preclinical Working Conference) has come to its second edition, after the success of the first meeting held in 2004.

The idea behind the Conference is to put together basic scientists and clinicians and drive them, through a very informal and interactive setup, to share their very early findings on the use of new drugs or the unconventional use of well established drugs, with special regard to cancer.

The Conference is held in Cervo Ligure, A beautiful medieval village straight on the Mar Ligure. The first two editions have been dedicated to the pharmaceutical class of aminobisphosphonates. By now, this event has become a major forum in the field, with scientists coming from all over the world to present their latest findings in preclinical research, covering a wide range of topics related to aminobisphosphonates. From antitumor activity to immunomodulation and antiangiogenic effects, the newest experimental studies are presented, with special emphasis being placed on the state of the art of preclinical research in haematology (multiple myeloma, lymphoma), but also in other malignancies such as breast and prostate cancer. In this regard, the 2005 edition of the CPWC is of special significance due to the level of the data presented, covering the very latest developments in aminobisphosphonates preclinical research and related fields.

The whole setup of the CPWC focuses on interactive and very informal sessions, enabling participants to enter into a continuous dialogue with the presenters. The presence of the same scientists who met in 2004 made the CPWC an yearly high-profile appointment and an unique occasion for sharing best practices, ideas, experiences and scientific knowledge, creating the spirit of cooperation which is indispensable for the maintenance and further development of preclinical research as a vivid medical sector. Indeed, a number of international and very productive collaborations have stemmed from the first and second edition.

Only new, unpublished data are discussed at the CPWC, making scientists sharing their valuable up-to-date findings *with the ink still wet*. To fulfill the expectations, CPWC has to be a small meeting with a limited number of specialists actively working in the field. However, thanks to the continuous advancements, this field is indeed no longer a marginal sector appealing to a small number of specialists. We feel important to make available to the scientific community all the new perspectives and advancements discussed at the CPWC and this is the aim of the current issue of Haematologica Reports.

Thanks to these unique features, we aim at a solid affirmation of the CPWC as a reference event in the vast landscape of medical congresses.