

Consensus statements from the Second International Lung Cancer Molecular Biomarkers Workshop: A European strategy for developing lung cancer molecular diagnostics in high risk populations

J.K. FIELD¹, C. BRAMBILLA², N. CAPORASO³, A. FLAHAULT⁴, C. HENSCHKE⁵, J. HERMAN⁶, F. HIRSCH⁷, P. LACHMANN⁸, S. LAM⁹, S. MAIER¹⁰, L.M. MONTUENGA¹¹, J. MULSHINE¹², M. MURPHY¹³, J. PULLEN¹⁴, M. SPITZ¹⁵, M. TOCKMAN¹⁶, R. TYNDALE¹⁷, I. WISTUBA¹⁸ and J. YOUNGSON¹

¹Roy Castle International Centre for Lung Cancer Research, The University of Liverpool, 200 London Road, Liverpool L3 9TA, UK; ²Service de Pneumologie, Centre Hospitalier, Universitaire de Grenoble, France; ³Genetic Epidemiology Branch, Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics, National Cancer Institute, 6120 Executive Boulevard, Room 7116, Rockville, MD 20852, USA; ⁴WHO Collaborating Centre for Electronic Disease Surveillance, INSERM U444, 27 rue Chaligny, F-75571 Paris cedex 12, France; ⁵New York Presbyterian Hospital, Department of Radiology, 525 East 68th Street, Room STA25, New York, NY 10021; ⁶The John Hopkins Oncology Center, School of Medicine, 600 North Wolfe Street, Baltimore, MD 21287-8943; ⁷Department of Pathology, University of Colorado, Health Science Center, 4200 East 9th Avenue B216, Denver, CO, USA; ⁸University of Cambridge, Microbial Immunology Group, Centre for Veterinary Science, Madingley Road, Cambridge CB3 0ES, UK; ⁹BC Cancer Agency, 600 West 10th Avenue, Vancouver V5Z 4E6, BC, Canada; ¹⁰Epigenomics AG, Kastanienallee 24, 10435 Berlin, Germany; ¹¹Department of Histology and Pathology, School of Medicine, University of Navarra, 31080 Pamplona, Spain; ¹²National Cancer Institute, Building 10, Room 12 N226, 9000 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20892, USA; ¹³Department of Primary Health Care, ICRF General Practice Research Group, Institute of Health Sciences, Old Road, Oxford OX3 7LF; ¹⁴Oxagen Limited, 91 Milton Park, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 4RY, UK; ¹⁵Department of Epidemiology, UT M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Texas Medical Center, 1515 Holcombe Boulevard, Houston, TX 77030; ¹⁶Molecular Screening Program, H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center at USF, 12902 Manolia Drive (OSWFBB), Tampa, FL 33612, USA; ¹⁷University of Toronto, 1 King's College Circle, Toronto M5S 1A8, Canada; ¹⁸Department of Pathology, Catholic University of Chile, Marcoleta 367, Santiago, Chile

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Abstract. The Second Molecular Biomarkers Workshop was held at the Roy Castle International Centre for Lung Cancer Research in Liverpool, in June 2001 and it brought together experts in the clinical, epidemiological and molecular-pathology of lung cancer from Europe and the USA, to address issues surrounding the development of a European strategy for early lung cancer detection. The 2001 Workshop Breakout Groups concentrated on the current challenges in the early detection of lung cancer which need to be addressed in the light

of the recent surge in interest in many countries for mounting new clinical trials to evaluate the utility of Spiral CT in early lung cancer detection. If population-based trials of CT screening are mounted it will also be a favorable clinical environment in which to evaluate efficiently recent advances in molecular screening and genotyping. The Workshop focused specifically on: a) clinical and molecular biomarkers, b) sputum as an early detection and diagnostic tool, c) validation of molecular markers prior to their use in early detection trials and d) ethical issues that have to be considered in early lung cancer detection trials. A distillation of the Workshop discussions is given in this article.

Correspondence to: Professor John K. Field, Roy Castle International Centre for Lung Cancer Research, The University of Liverpool, 200 London Road, Liverpool L3 9TA, UK
E-mail: J.K.Field@liv.ac.uk

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