

RDI e-News

1st May 2003

Issue #1

RDI receives major funding and data from leading HIV centre

BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS becomes first Founding Academic Member

The RDI is to receive annual funding plus substantial quantities of data from the BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS. The Centre, situated in Vancouver, Canada and recognised worldwide as a leading site for HIV research and management, has signed-up as a Founding Academic Member of the RDI.

"The centre made this substantial commitment to the RDI because we believe that the initiative has the potential to deliver substantial clinical benefits and insight into

the implications of HIV drug resistance", commented Professor Julio Montaner, Professor of Medicine and Chair in AIDS Research, at the BC Centre, University of British Columbia.



Prof Julio Montaner

Press release attached and available at http://www.hivr.org/press_rel_3.htm

Some current activities

Clinical Trial vs Cohort

A question that we had at the outset is how would mathematical modelling using data from tightly controlled clinical trials compare to those collected in open clinical practice. We are running NN modelling on data from around 400 patients in a clinical cohort. The preliminary results are quite exciting in terms of the ability of the model to predict response to therapy, particularly in terms of the potential of our systems to help find effective combination therapy for salvage patients.

Once the analyses are complete we hope to present the data at a major meeting, send a summary to you and make it available on the web site.

No such thing as 'too much information'

...at least, not when it comes to artificial intelligence

Relationships between hundreds of possible changes in the HIV genome and how the virus responds to hundreds of different combination treatment options are enormously complex. Our main work priority right now is to populate our database with as much useful data as possible to help our intelligent neural network modelling to work it out. So, we were naturally delighted when the following people rallied our call and came to us

with a commitment to get involved and share their data with us.

A big thank you to:

Prof Julio Montaner and Dr Richard Harrigan
BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS,
Vancouver, BC, Canada

Prof Joep Lange
Director of the National AIDS Treatment
Evaluation Centre, Academic Medical Centre,
Amsterdam

Prof Brian Gazzard
Professor of Medicine and Clinical Director,
Department of HIV/GUM, Chelsea and
Westminster Hospital, London, UK

Prof Jose Gatell
Head of Infectious Diseases at the University of
Barcelona, Spain

Dr Bonaventura Clotet
Director of the Retrovirology Laboratory "irsiCaixa"
Foundation, Barcelona, Spain

Dr Antonella D'Arminio Monforte
Associate Professor of Infectious Diseases,
University of Milan, Italy

Prof Robert Murphy
Professor of Medicine and Director of Clinical
Research in Infectious Diseases, Northwestern
University, Chicago, USA

Funding update

As a not-for-profit initiative we are, of course, dependent of funding. We are working hard to secure long-term support so that we can accelerate the progress of the initiative. Any help you can provide in this direction: contacts, leads, advice or even a contribution would, of course be very welcome! In the meantime, we are extremely grateful to the following for their continuing support:

BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS:
Sponsorship as a Founding Academic Member

SAIC-Frederick:
Funding for the research programme analysing data from NIAID.

If you have any suggestions for how this newsletter could be improved or if you have any questions about the RDI please contact us at info@hivrdi.org.

And don't forgot: the latest information on the RDI can always be found at:

www.hivrdi.org