

Introductory text to a book, the preface can be short and hold warning – not an advertising, or widely developed, such as prolegomena. So, what about the *Key Leaders' Opinion on Lung Cancer*?

As a warning, this is not a new textbook on Lung Cancer. Rather, it is a non-exhaustive compilation giving a special focus on some major advances made in the field of lung cancer during the past two years. It is a book of over 200 pages, involving a large number of authors from around the world and rich in figures and tables that many of us will use tomorrow in our talks.

The approach is original. This is a collection of editorials or commentaries published in the Translational Cancer Research journal about articles leading from prestigious generalist journals, i.e. Nature, The New England Journal of Medicine, Lancet or JAMA, or oncology journals, i.e. Journal of Clinical Oncology, The Lancet — Oncology, Annals of Oncology, Clinical Cancer Research or Cancer Discovery. Faceiously, the authors of the book find themselves in turn, here, in the position of actor, there, in that of commentator of the research on lung cancer. Also creating the impression of a dialogue between the experts, the same articles have been commented by different groups of authors. This approach allows to qualify what for some could hold of the exploit, where for the others it is about the expected result of the scientific approach.

The book is also characterized by the diversity of topics covered and the desire to move from biology to imaging, targeted therapies to chemotherapy, or from cancer screening to palliative radiotherapy. The great challenges of today and tomorrow are put into perspective. In the first chapter, for example, the importance of basic science is posited as a prerequisite for improving the treatment of neuroendocrine cancers. New signaling pathways — NOTCH pathway, or new pathophysiological mechanisms – epithelial-mesenchymal transition or nutrient microenvironment availability, are explored. In the next two chapters, the importance of precision medicine tools such as, circulating tumor cells and tumor DNA, or the ability of a national health care system to make available to all patients the search for actionable mutations (Biomarqueurs France initiative), are put forward. The longest part of the book is devoted to targeted therapies for EGFR and ALK alterations, but also for BRAF V600 and MET exon 14 skipping mutations in adenocarcinoma, and finally for DLL3 protein target as a hope in the treatment of small cell carcinoma. Several articles are devoted in particular to the heterogeneity of ALK rearrangements and its theoretically therapeutic impact, to the difficulty of the management of brain metastases in ALK disease and to the therapeutic hope provided by some second and third generation ALK-inhibitors (ceritinib, brigatinib). The remaining articles focus on the targeting of the EGFR T790M resistance mutation by osimertinib and the double blocking of BRAF/MEK pathway in the treatment of BRAF mutated non-small cell carcinoma. The articles dealing with chemotherapy are exclusively dedicated to the treatment of small cell carcinoma, as if the chemotherapy had disappeared from the non-small cell carcinoma's therapeutic armamentarium. Two articles question the place of radiotherapy in the treatment of patients with brain metastases, following the rather negative results of the Quartz trial, but which, in our opinion, included a patient population with a particularly poor prognosis.

Finally, one regret, but which could be formulated as a wish to see a second season to this first series of *Key Leaders' Opinion on Lung Cancer*, is the very small place made for the immunotherapy in lung cancer treatment. Using immune checkpoint inhibitors has revolutionized the treatment of advanced non-small cell carcinoma, but also seems to be a hope for small cell carcinoma and mesothelioma and could also have a major role in the therapeutic strategy of localized non-small cell lung carcinoma, in association with surgery or radiotherapy.

Long life to *Key Leaders' Opinion on Lung Cancer*!

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