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Participant 2: U.GENEVA-Professor L E French, MD Department of Dermatology, Geneva University Hospital, Switzerland

Professor French is an experienced clinician scientist in dermatology and cutaneous oncology. He presently holds the Louis-Jeantet Professorship of Medicine, and directs the cutaneous oncology unit of the Geneva University Hospital. He is also responsible for dermatology consultations in hemato-oncology and at the bone marrow transplantation unit. He directs a research lab of 9 collaborators at the Geneva University Medical Centre that is devoted to translational research on cell death and the role of TNF family members in disease. His group's research has led to the development of novel treatment approaches, patents and significant clinical and scientific publications. Dr French's research is funded by several grants especially from the Swiss National Science Foundation, the Swiss league for Cancer Research, and the EU (Fifth Framework Programme: TRANSEUROPE). Prof. French is also secretary-treasurer of the European Society for Dermatological Research. He will employ one experienced researcher for performing gene microarray analysis of gene expression profiles of patient skin samples and skin explant samples in the aim of discovering new early molecular diagnostic signatures for cutaneous graft versus host disease and identifying novel therapeutic targets for GVHD. He will also provide centralised access to the gene microarray technology for mRNA analysis.

Network Team:

Dr. Bertrand Huard, PhD: leader of the research group on immunotherapy and apoptosis. Dr. Huard has extensive experience in the field of human and murine immunology including T cell biology, NK cell biology, dendritic cell biology, antitumour immunology and biology of the TNF family. He is experienced in most in vitro and in vivo assays relevant to the study of the above, and masters most biochemical and molecular biological techniques too.

Dr. Emmanuel Contassot , PhD. Leader of bone marrow transplantation and GVHD research. Dr. Contassot trained in the INSERM group of Dr. P. Tiberghien at Besancon on experimental therapeutic approaches for the treatment of GVHD, notably the use of apoptotic leucocytes to enhance bone marrow engraftment, and the use of herpes simplex virus-thymidine kinase-expressing donor T cells to control murine GVHD. Dr. Contassot has extensive experience in mouse models of BMT and GVHD, in immunology, and in the study of apoptosis.

Prof. Jacques Schrenzel, MD-PhD. Head of the Genomic Research Lab, Division of Infectious Diseases, Geneva Univ. Hospital. Prof. Schrenzel has clinical experience in the field of infectious disease and extensive scientific experience in the fields of molecular biology, gene profiling technologies and bioinformatics.

All the above key scientific staff have experience in teaching, mentoring and transferring knowledge.

Relevant references

- 1 Viard I, Wehrli P, Bullani R, Schneider P, Holler N, Salomon D, Hunziker T, Saurat JH, Tschopp J, French LE. Inhibition of Toxic Epidermal Necrolysis by Blockade of CD95 with Human Intravenous Immunoglobulin. **Science** (1998) 282:490-493.
- 2 Huard B, Schneider P, Mauri D, Tschopp J, French LE. T cell costimulation by the tumor necrosis factor ligand BAFF **J Immunol** (2001) 167:6225-6231.

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