Title: Pharmacology, Feedback, and Novel Agents in the MAP Kinase Pathway

Keith T. Flaherty, MD
Director, Termeer Center for Targeted Therapy, Massachusetts General Hospital

Speaker

Chikashi Ishioka, MD
Professor, Institute of Development, Aging, and Cancer, Tohoku University, Japan

Chairman

Keith T. Flaherty, MD

Profile
The goal of Dr. Flaherty's group is to understand the molecular and clinical consequences of inhibiting oncogenes and oncogenic pathways in melanoma with the aim of establishing individual approaches as therapies and constructing rational combination therapies. BRAF mutant melanoma represents a large subpopulation for which single-agent oncogene targeting has been established and the focus is now to understand the consequences and limits of BRAF inhibition as a way of developing rational combination targeted therapy regimens. Given that 50% of advanced melanoma patients are BRAF wild-type establishing foundation of single-agent or combination targeted therapies in this large and heterogeneous subgroup is a current unmet need. For BRAF mutant patients, the goals are to circumvent mechanisms of de novo and acquired resistance.

References
Flaherty KT et al. Inhibition of Mutated, Activated BRAF in Metastatic Melanoma. NEJM 2010; 363(9): 809-819 PMID: 20818844