



“Providing an opportunity for multiple myeloma patients and their loved ones to come together to exchange information for mutual support, comfort, and friendship”

Meeting: Tuesday March 20, 2018 3:30pm – 5:30pm
451 Junction Road
UW West Clinic Room 1287
Enter the clinic... proceed left past the vending area... turn left again and conf. room 1287 is the last one on the left.

Information: Jayne Schwartz 608- 244-2120 Madison Multiple Myeloma Support Group website
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More Information:
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Email: TheIMF@myeloma.org info@themmrf.org
Website: www.myeloma.org www.multiplemyeloma.org

Upcoming Meeting Speakers... Mark your calendars now!

Dr Aric Hall, MD will join us in April at 4:30pm.

Dr Shannon O'Mahar, MD is able to join us soon. Date to be determined. Dr O'Mahar was at the ASH conference just recently and will likely speak about that event.

Dr Sara Christensen Holz, Associate Professor Dept of Orthopedics and Rehabilitation will speak at our July 17th meeting. She will join us at 4:30pm and talk about balance issues and neuropathy.

Jill Helgeson, Lead Medigap Helpline Coordinator She is one of our favorite speakers and will join us August 21st. She will present "Fitting The Pieces Around Medicare".

Dr Natalie Callander will likely join us for our October meeting. More information to follow.

Dr Peggy Kim, MD from the UW Health Pain Management Clinic will be our featured speaker at our March meeting. She will join us at 4:30pm. Don't miss this one! **Mark your calendar now.**

Our condolences...

Sadly, we lost another beloved group member. Barb McGill passed away on February 15, 2018. Barb and Don joined our group August 2003. They attended many meetings and provided honest and caring support to everyone. I knew Barb professionally before her diagnosis. Our work paths crossed many times over the 35+ years at American Family Insurance. I will always cherish our deeper relationship as group members. We all will miss her. Our sympathies to Don and family members.



Get this date on your calendars now! The 2nd annual golf outing will be August 13, 2018. Much more info to follow. Last year's event was a huge success. Come and enjoy again this year. Music by our own Joe Ripp.

This was one of the subjects discussed at our last meeting. Here is more info from the Myeloma Crowd.

Venetoclax is Active for Relapsed/Refractory 11;14 Translocation Multiple Myeloma Patients

By [Jenny A](#) on November 10, 2017 [Multiple Myeloma News](#)

The personalized medicine dream in multiple myeloma is to be able to find specific treatments for each patient's kind of myeloma. For a small group of myeloma patients with the 11;14 translocation, this dream could become a reality. A translocation is when parts of the DNA unlink and join back together in the wrong position. For example, part of the 11 gene goes to the 14 gene and visa versa.

The BCL-2 inhibitor venetoclax is the first such inhibitor to target a particular translocation. In early studies, it was tested in myeloma patients with a variety of myeloma genetics and was found to have the greatest impact for those patients with the 11;14 translocation.

An early Phase I clinical trial has now shown the safety of a 1200 mg/day dose of venetoclax for relapsed/refractory patients, according to a recent article in *Blood*. Responses occurred predominantly in t(11;14) patients and those with a favorable genetic profile.

“The oral BCL-2 inhibitor venetoclax at a daily dose up to 1,200 mg demonstrated single-agent anti-myeloma activity in patients with relapsed/refractory multiple myeloma positive for t(11;14), for whom multiple prior lines of therapy have failed,” wrote Shaji Kumar, MD, of the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, and colleagues. “Venetoclax has a unique mechanism of action and may offer a novel biologic-driven approach in multiple myeloma.”

The study involved 30 patients who received venetoclax monotherapy at 300-, 600-, 900-, or 1,200-mg doses. All patients had a 2-week lead-in with weekly dose escalation. Thirty patients participated in the dose-escalation cohorts, and 36 participated in the 1,200-mg safety expansion cohort. The median age of patients was 63 years.

Patients had received approximately five prior lines of therapy. The overall response rate for all patients was 21% while the t(11;14) was an overall response rate of 40%.

Time to progression was also evaluated. Those with no t(11;14) had a median time to progression of 1.9 months while the t(11;14) patients had a median time to progression of 6.6 months. Both groups had a median duration of response of 9.7 months.

Prior number of therapies didn't seem to affect the response to venetoclax for t(11;14) patients. The overall response rate was 22% in patients with one to three prior therapies compared with 48% in patients who had four or more.

Researchers noted that overall; the venetoclax treatment was well tolerated. The power of venetoclax for t(11;14) patients is expected to increase as it is added to other standard myeloma therapies in future clinical trials

IMF Info Line – If you or someone you care for has myeloma, you have questions. Probably, lots of them. You can search the Internet all you want, but other than asking your doctor, there is no better way to get your questions answered than to call the IMF Info Line. Missy, Judy and Paul know their stuff and they want to share what they know with you. Just ask anyone who has called the IMF Info Line. Patients or caregivers are welcome to contact the Info Line staffed by trained specialists at 800-452-CURE (800-452-2873). The Info Line is staffed between 9am and 4pm Pacific Time, 11am to 6pm Central time or infoline@myeloma.org.

The Trillium Fund was established by our founding support group members to facilitate Multiple Myeloma research here in Madison at the Wisconsin Institute of Medical Research. If you or your family wish to donate or send a memorial to this program, checks can be made payable to the “UW Foundation – Trillium Fund”.

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