

REPORT WORKSHOP “RESPIRATORY ONCOLOGY: A CLINICAL UPDATE”
LEUVEN LUNG CANCER GROUP 2001
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In the last decade there have been important innovations in the diagnostic workup and treatment of lung tumours. There has been a revised histological classification of lung tumours by the WHO. Early detection and prevention remain the key stones for successful management. New biologic and genetic markers and risk factors for lung cancer have been investigated and hopefully these will contribute to a more adequate management in the future. The non-invasive staging procedure underwent major changes by the introduction of the PET-scan. Up to now, however, all these efforts have not led to a better prognosis. Yet, new combined modality therapies are being applied and new therapeutic agents are under investigation that hopefully will improve the outcome of this dreadful disease.

The purpose of this international symposium on “Respiratory oncology : a clinical update” organised by the Pulmonary Diseases Department of the University Hospital Gasthuisberg at the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium, on March 29-31 2001, was to provide a balanced update of these issues with particular focus on areas that are still investigational. Some 40 clinical and basic researchers and recognised experts in respiratory oncology from all over Europe were gathered for three days to prepare the present publication. These experts participated to one of two working groups and each group was assigned the task of producing working group reports on early detection, prevention, staging system and techniques, and on prognostic factors.

In addition, selected reviews were commissioned on several issues, especially related to the management of lung tumours.

This symposium was accredited as an “European School of Respiratory Medicine” seminar, and was generously sponsored by GlaxoSmithKline, Belgium, in the framework of the “GSK Chair of Respiratory Pharmacology” attributed to G.M. Verleden.

It is hoped that this *European Respiratory Review* will provide an interesting synthesis and update of prevention, early detection, staging and management strategies of lung cancer. We are very grateful to Prof. M. Decramer, chief-editor of the *European Respiratory Journal*, and to Prof. Bousquet, editor of the *European Respiratory Review*, for granting us the privilege of publishing this symposium as a *European Respiratory Review*.