Preface

Waldenström Macroglobulinemia: Lessons Learned from Basic and Clinical Research

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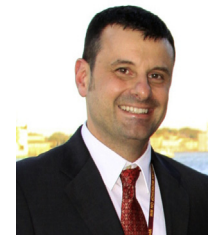

Steven P. Treon, MD, PhD

Editors

Waldenström macroglobulinemia (WM) was first described by Dr Jan G. Waldenström over 70 years ago. WM was initially reported as a syndrome characterized by anemia and symptoms of hyperviscosity due to a large protein or "macroglobulin" in patients with an incipient myelomatosis in the bone marrow. Over the last 7 decades, our understanding on the genomics, biology, diagnostic criteria, and treatment approaches has deepened thanks to the tireless efforts of men and women dedicated to investigating WM. As such, WM is now recognized as an immunoglobulin M–secreting lymphoplasmacytic lymphoma that involves the bone marrow, and other organs, and is characterized by recurrent somatic mutations in MYD88 and CXCR4 in 90% and 40% of patients, respectively. For this issue of the *Hematology/Oncology Clinics of North America*, the editors have put together an all-star team of basic and clinical researchers to provide the readers with an issue focused on the most recent developments in WM. Among other topics, of great interest are in-depth discussions of the genomic basis of WM. Specifically, Dr Steven Treon and Dr Stéphanie Poulain review not only the identification of the MYD88 L265P and CXCR4 mutations, respectively, but also the translational importance and clinical applicability of these mutations. Dr Bruno Paiva delves into the current understanding of the role of flow cytometry on the progression of WM and as a potential tool for identifying the true WM stem cell. Dr Stephen Ansell discusses the role of the microenvironment on the development and sustainment of WM. Dr Mary McMaster provides additional insights into familial WM. Dr Jorge Castillo discusses the appropriate initial evaluation of patients with WM. With regards to treatment options, Dr Christian Buske focuses on the experience accumulated with alkylating agents, and Dr Efstathios Kastritis reviews the available data on proteasome inhibitors. Dr Jorge Castillo discusses the role of monoclonal antibodies; Dr M. Lia

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Palomba provides an update on the use of Bruton tyrosine kinase inhibitors, and Dr Charalampia Kyriakou looks into the current experience with hematopoietic stem cell transplantation in patients with WM. Finally, Dr Ranjana Advani takes us into uncharted waters with a review on novel treatment approaches for patients with WM. We hope the current issue of *Hematology/Oncology Clinics of North America* focusing on WM will serve as a point of reference for researchers and clinicians alike.

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