EA Research at #ASCO20: How Twitter Helped Fill the Virtual Void

This year’s ASCO Annual Meeting was a significant one for ECOG-ACRIN. EA investigators shared a wide range of research results, presenting findings from eight different clinical trials, including late-breaking data in two plenary presentations. The meeting was also significant in another key way – not just for EA, but for all attendees. It took place entirely online.

This new virtual format, developed out of necessity, yielded some interesting effects. One, in particular, was an increase in social media activity, likely resulting from the loss of face-to-face interactions. According to an article in Medscape, this year’s meeting generated almost 18K tweets compared to approximately 15K tweets last year, and this despite 300 or so fewer users contributing to the conversation.

What did some of these conversations look like? Consider those sparked by the two ECOG-ACRIN plenary presentations. In LBA2, lead investigator Seema A Khan, MD (Northwestern University) shared the results of E2108, which found that surgery and radiation after initial systemic therapy do not improve overall survival for women who first present with metastatic breast cancer. In LBA3, lead investigator Shaji K. Kumar, MD (Mayo Clinic) presented data from the ENDURANCE/E1A11 trial, showing that the drug carfilzomib does not improve outcomes in newly diagnosed myeloma compared to bortezomib.

### E2108

Tatiana Prowell, MD @tmpowell - May 31
#ASCO20 #bcmc

Agree. #E2108 reminds us that 1) OS is an important endpt 2) it’s not the only important endpt 3) neg RCs can be just as practice-changing as positive ones, & that’s why you’re seeing it in the Plenary (same for ANNOUNCE trial in #sarcorm in #ASCO19 Plenary).

Vinay Prasad @VPrasadMDMPPH - May 31
One of the great virtues of ECOG ACRIN is to measure quality of life alongside surrogates like local regional control

This should be the norm #ASCO20 #asco20

Saroj Niraula MD MSc @sarojiniraula - May 31
Replying to @tmpowell
And, unlike drug trials, this trial is of equal importance, if not more, for the larger chunk of breast cancer population: those in countries with lower resources. #LMIC #GlobalOncology

Neelima Denduluri @ndenduluri - May 31
 Appreciated the discussion by Dr. White mentioning the low utilization of HER2 targeted therapy in pts treated in India - we need to improve #access for all, another place @ascos is leading with resource stratified #guidelines @jrgralow @mdmanishshah @aakonc

Saroj Niraula MD MSc @sarojiniraula - May 31
Agree. We have looked at this specific issue (HER2) in a meta-analysis. Selective shorter duration of herceptin might be a consideration as a trade-off with resource constraints.

### ENDURANCE/E1A11

Rafael Fonseca MD @Rfonsi - May 31
Congratulation to @myelomaMD, @VincentRK as well as @eacnc group for a crisp plenary presentation. This very important study builds on our fund of knowledge to better treat MM.

TBH I wish Shaji could have done in person but instead join me in virtual applause.

Mayo Clinic Cancer Center @MayoCancerCare - May 31
Check out the #ASCO20 Plenary Session today, May 31 at 1pm ET for Dr. Shaji Kumar’s abstract on results of the ENDURANCE (E1A11) phase III trial: bit.ly/2tfP2WA #mmsm #MultipleMyeloma @MayoClinic

sergio giralt @sgiralbtmdoc - May 31
And please let’s not call this a flawed study design No study is perfect and all of them require an enormous time and effort to complete. Let’s respect patients and investigators who dedicated themselves to this study With the data we can make our own conclusions

Vincent Rajkumar @VincentRK - May 31
Thanks Rafael. Thanks Sergio.

Navneet Majhail, MD @BldCancerDoc - May 31
Replying to @VincentRK @sgiralbtmdoc and 3 others
Second that @Rfonsi and @sgiralbtmdoc - Important triplet vs triplet study that shows no clear benefit of KRd over VTd - congrats to @myelomaMD @VincentRK and all study investigators/patients for this important practice defining #myeloma trial #ASCO20

One could argue that, this year, social media played a more critical role than usual, fostering discussions and debates that simply could not happen in person. However, most seemed to feel that social media was an imperfect substitute. The sentiment behind Dr. Fonseca’s statement above, “TBH I wish Shaji could have done in person...” was echoed by many others (continued on next page).
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At least, as Dr. Hamilton notes above, “there was no sacrifice of science,” and the oncology community found a way forward through challenging circumstances. That in itself was no small feat, and all those affected by cancer will be better for it. In addition to the two plenary presentations, EA also shared findings from two TAILORx sub-studies, head and neck cancer trial E3311, lung cancer trial EA5161, arm Z1F of the NCI-MATCH trial, and the cancer care delivery study COMET. Learn more about the results of these trials.

Also of note, PrECOG, LLC reported positive results from mesothelioma trial PrE0505. Led by Patrick Forde, MD (Johns Hopkins), the study found that adding durvalumab to standard chemotherapy improved overall survival in mesothelioma. PrECOG is a cancer research group formed in 2006 by the ECOG Research and Education Foundation, Inc. Learn more about PrE0505.