# Bridging communities Breaking barriers Building progress

Highlights from the 5<sup>th</sup> Biennial World Summit of Brain Tumour Patient Advocates 2023





NZ Aotearoa Neuro-Oncology Society Annual Conference Crowne Plaza Hotel, Queenstown, New Zealand, 26<sup>th</sup> August 2023

Chris Tse, Chair, Brain Tumour Support NZ



#### Disclosures

Personal disclosures: None

Brain Tumour Support NZ's participation in the 5th Biennial World Summit of Brain Tumour Patient Advocates was made possible by a travel grant from the International Brain Tumour Alliance



# Bridging communities, breaking barriers, building hope

- The International Brain Tumour Alliance and the World Summit of Brain Tumour Patient Advocates
- Presentation Highlights
- Masterclass: Clinical trials are we doing it right?
- Brain Tumour Support NZ Presentation
- Personal Highlights







#### International Brain Tumour Alliance

- Founded in 2005 at the WFNO conference in Edinburgh, Denis Strangman (Australia) and Kathy Oliver (UK)
- Worldwide network of brain tumour patient organisations and others involved in the field of neuro-oncology
- Monthly e-news, annual Brain Tumour magazine, podcast series, virtual art exhibition
- IBTA Biennial World Summit of Brain Tumour Patient Advocates since 2013







## The IBTA and Global Advocacy



- International Brain Tumour Awareness Week and Walk Around The World For Brain Tumours
- Brain Tumour Patients' Charter of Rights
- Encourage the formation of patient organisations in countries where there are none
- Work in less developed countries, eg. SNOSSA
- Special projects, eg. Ukraine

Greater Collaboration – Greater Knowledge – Greater HOPE



## Strong connections

- Regional neuro-oncology societies, eg. SNO, EANO, BNOS, ASNO, WFNOS, SNOLA, SNOSSA
- Research, eg. NIH, NCI, CBTRUS, EORTC
- Advocacy, eg. ECO, ESMO, ASCO, EURORDIS, RCE
- Industry
- Around 200 patient organisations worldwide

"NOTHING ABOUT US WITHOUT US"



## IBTA World Summit of Brain Tumour Patient Advocates Vienna, Austria, 26-28 June 2023

104

**Participants** 

33

**Countries** 

5

**Continents** 

## Countries represented at the 2023 IBTA World Summit of Brain Tumour Patient Advocates



Australia

Austria

Belgium

Cameroon

Canada

China

Croatia

Cyprus

Czech Republic

Finland

France

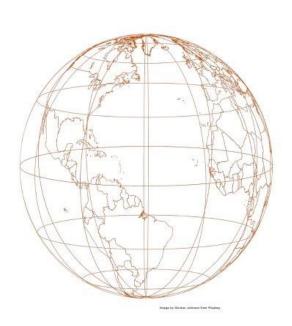
Germany

India

Ireland

Israel

Italy



Japan

Lithuania

Mexico

Mongolia

Netherlands

**New Zealand** 

Nigeria

Pakistan

Poland

Portugal

Singapore

**United Kingdom** 

**United States** 

Ukraine

Zimbabwe



## Past IBTA Summits



2013 California



2017 London



2015 Barcelona



2019 Bethesda, Maryland (NIH)



## "I have found my people"





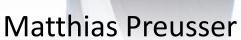




## International Speakers









Tracy Batchelor



Manmeet Ahluwalia

Also: Ather Enam, Georg Widhalm, Chas Haynes, Richard Price, Adelheid Woehrer, Ahmed Idbaih, Carola Lutgendorf-Causig, Christine Marosi, Friedrich Erhart, Gaetano Finocchiaro, Guy Buyens, Martin Glas, Minda Okemwa, Ulrike Leiss, Jack Letteur, Alexandra Diaz Alba, Andreia Capela Marques



## IBTA Summit Programme



Plenary Presentations



Masterclasses



Workshops





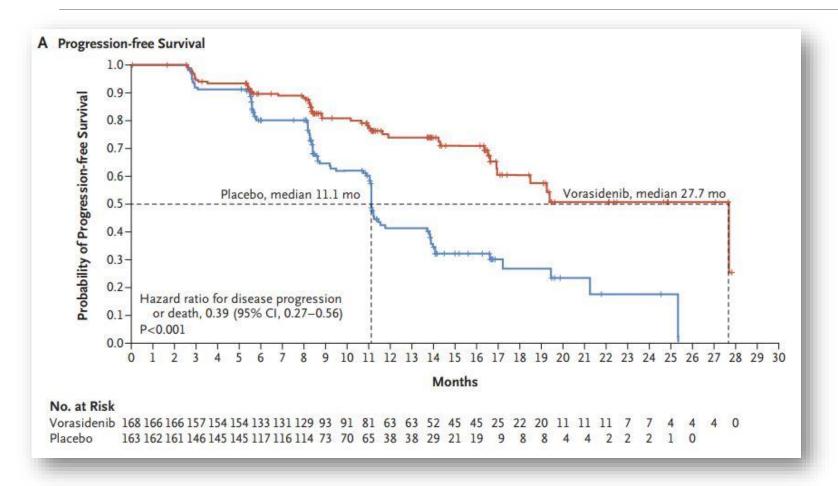
Town Halls



Brain Mets Symposium



#### Vorasidenib – Phase 3 INDIGO Trial



Interim analysis at 135 events

Residual/recurrent grade 2 IDH-mutant glioma, surgery only. N = 331.

Median PFS 27.7 vs 11.1 mo HR=0.39 (95% CI, 0.27-0.56)

TTNI at 18 mo 85.6% vs 47.4% HR=0.26 (95% CI, 0.15-0.43) TTNI at 24 mo 83.4% vs 27.0%

Mellinghoff et al, N Engl J Med 2023; 389:589-601

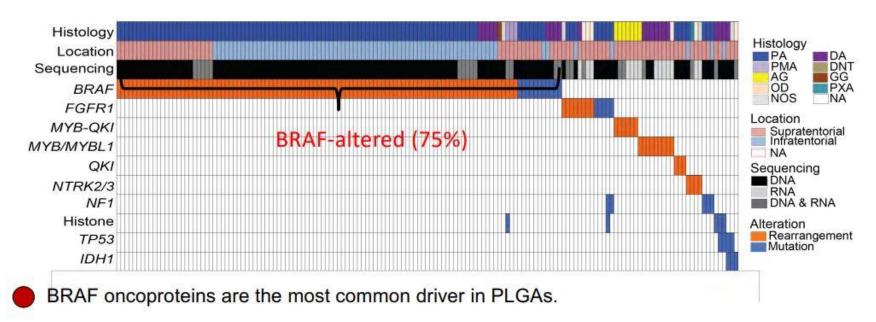
#### Vorasidenib – Questions and comments

- Does it work in patients who have previously been treated with radiotherapy and chemotherapy?
- Will it work in patients with grade 3 or 4 IDH-mutant gliomas?
- Is single-agent Vorasidenib the optimum treatment or will it work better in combination with other agents?
- We need more trials like this targeted agent, double blinded, placebo controlled, etc.
- When will it be FDA approved?





## Pediatric Glioma Targeting RAF/MEK

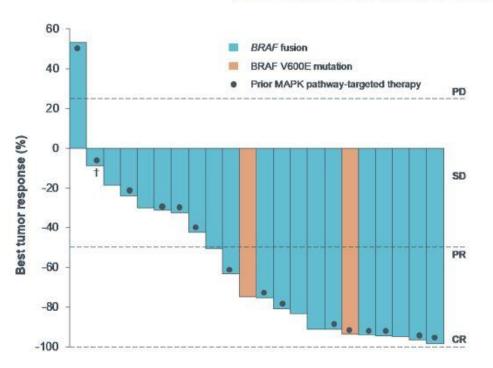


- The majority of these oncoproteins are a truncation/fusion variant (orange bars). A minority are the V600E point mutation (purple bars) found in adult solid tumors
- Type 1 RAF inhibitors approved for V600E tumors are ineffective on truncation/fusion BRAF.
- During the current funding period, we have found a brain-penetrant type 2 RAF inhibitor that suppresses all forms of BRAF oncoprotein.



## Tovorafenib (DAY101) – Phase 2 FIREFLY Trial

## Response to tovorafenib for all patients with RANO-evaluable lesions (n = 22)



| Response (IRC)        | RANO Evaluable<br>N=22* |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| ORR (95% CI)          | (64% (41-83)            |
| BRAF fusion (n=20)    | 60%                     |
| BRAF V600E (n=2)      | 100%                    |
| CBR#                  | ( 91% )                 |
| Best overall response |                         |
| PR (13/22)            | 59%                     |
| uPR (1/22)            | 5%                      |
| SD (6/22)             | 27%                     |

2023 ASCO Meeting

ORR (RANO) = 64%

Responses achieved in both BRAF fusions and V600E mutations

Hopeful for FDA approval!



#### What else is on the horizon?



- Glutamate biosynthesis inhibitor troriluzole [for high-grade glioma]
- Dendritic cell vaccine DCVax-L [for glioblastoma]
- CAR T Cell tisagenlecleucel [for PCNSL]
- DRD2 and ClpP inhibitor ONC201 [for H3K27 mutant diffuse midline glioma]
- Guided Focused Ultrasound (FUS) [drug delivery, liquid biopsy, sonodynamic therapy]
- FDA-approved immunotherapies [for CNS tumours]

| Agent (Target)             | Indication   |
|----------------------------|--|
| Dostarlimab (PD-1/PD-L1)   | Tumors with DNA mismatch repair deficiency (dMMR)                                  |
| Pembrolizumab (PD-1/PD-L1) | Tumors with High Microsatellite Instability, High Tumor Mutational Burden, or dMMR |



#### Masterclass: Clinical trials – are we doing it right?

How can we improve participation in clinical trials?

Only 10% of glioblastoma patients enrol in clinical trials – why?

- Their doctor did not recommend any clinical trials
- They were ineligible for any clinical trials
- They did not know where to find information about clinical trials

Why do so many phase 3 brain tumour clinical trials fail?

There is not one drug approved for recurrent GBM that has shown one day of survival benefit!

- Is the drug reaching the tumour?
- Did we do a good enough job in Phase 1 and 2?
- Selection bias, wrong targets





#### Masterclass: Clinical trials – are we doing it right?

- Trial design
  - basket trials, external controls
  - eligibility criteria, age
- Convenience
  - telehealth
- Availability
  - international access
  - clinical trial networks
- Cost
  - money, technology (eg NGS)
  - infrastructure





## Back to school with a brain tumour

The Brain Tumour Support New Zealand experience



5th Biennial World Summit of Brain Tumour Patient Advocates
The Intercontinental Hotel, Vienna, Austria, 26<sup>th</sup> June 2023

Chris Tse, Chair, Brain Tumour Support NZ Senior Advisor, International Brain Tumour Alliance



## Identifying the unmet need

Mid-2021 Held parent focus group

- Feeling dumbfounded, overwhelmed
- Gaps in support following clinical treatment, eg. back to school
- Existing information not specific to brain tumours or not made for New Zealand

Aug 2021 Appointed project lead

Sep 2021 Met with paediatric neuro-psychology team at Starship Children's Hospital



Moira Coatsworth



## Producing the guide

Oct 2021 Scope the document

- Who is it for?
- What age children should it cover?
- New Zealand relevant

Oct-Dec 2021 Put advisory in place

- Ministry of Education
- Regional Health School
- Starship paediatric neuro-psychologists
- Paediatric neurosurgeon
- Parents advisory group

Aug 2022 Launch!





## The finished product

- Family friendly
- Two copies in each Brain Box
- Distinctly New Zealand flavour
- Collaborative input
- Positive tone strengths focused





#### Lessons learned

- Do your research
- Don't try and do everything at once
- Be targeted and focused
- Be realistic, play to your strengths
- Seek expert advice, collaborate



## Personal Highlights















## Thank you!



BTSNZ's participation in the IBTA Summit was made possible by a travel grant from the International Brain Tumour Alliance www.theibta.org

Photos taken by Martin Hörmandinger www.mh-photography.at

