

ASH2021 virtual attendance by Dr Faouzi Djebbari

UKMF Bursary Winner

It was very exciting to attend the annual 2021 American Society of Hematology meeting, virtually this year. I would like to thank the UK Myeloma Forum for awarding me a bursary, and Janssen-Cilag for sponsoring my attendance.

ASH is the largest annual haematology event in the world and has so much to offer, particularly in my area of clinical practice and my research interest, which is malignant haematology (bone marrow transplantation, myeloma, lymphoma and myeloid).

My learning objectives for this meeting were to focus on myeloma clinical trials and real-world myeloma studies, in addition to educational sessions on the management of MM. Attending this meeting has further supported my knowledge about the continuously changing myeloma treatment landscape, and kept me up-to-date.

I learnt so much from the session titled “Adapting Clinical Practice to a Rapidly Changing Therapeutic Landscape in Multiple Myeloma”. It covered important topics such as treating high-risk smoldering MM, current therapeutic strategies for newly diagnosed MM, guidance for treating MM after multiple relapses, and the role of BCMA-targeted therapies.

On Saturday’s myeloma outcome research session, I learnt about: the accuracy of the IMWG frailty score in capturing health-related quality of life in relapsed/refractory MM patients, as well as the efficacy and long-term outcomes from the CIBMTR database, of autologous stem cell transplant in patients with POEMs syndrome.

I found the Q&A session “Challenges in Multiple Myeloma Treatment” very useful. I learnt more about: 1) the identification and management of high-risk MM patients, 2) how to incorporate frailty assessments in the evaluation of older adults with MM, and 3) data supporting minimal residual disease (MRD) testing to assess outcomes of MM therapies.

I have also spent time reading myeloma research abstracts reporting real-world data, such as: 1) the Mayo Clinic real-world experience of the efficacy and safety of belantamab in relapsed MM, and 2) A retrospective evaluation of response rates to anti-CD38 monoclonal antibody-containing myeloma regimen in patients with a prior exposure to daratumumab or isatuximab.

Once more, I would like to thank the UKMF and Janssen-Cilag for this wonderful opportunity to attend ASH2021.

Dr Faouzi Djebbari