Scripps Clinic resumes clinical trial
of experimental lung cancer treatment

LA JOLLA, Aug. 23 -- Scripps Clinic and Research Foundation is resuming its clinical trial of an experimental treatment for lung cancer.

Like the initial phase of the trial, this stage is confined to patients with non-small cell lung cancer - the most common type, accounting for three-quarters of the 150,000 cases diagnosed each year in this country. Patients interested in the study should call (619)455-8860.

The trial will continue to evaluate the safety and effect of a monoclonal antibody-drug conjugate in humans.

Monoclonal antibodies are antibodies made in the laboratory that seek out and bind to specific cells - in this case, lung cancer cells. The antibody used in this study is chemically combined with the chemotherapeutic drug, methotrexate. Once injected, the monoclonal antibody-drug conjugate should deliver the drug directly to the tumor, thus killing malignant cells without damaging normal tissue.

(More)
The antibody used in the trial, KSI/4, was discovered by Research Institute of Scripps Clinic investigators. The antibody and antibody-drug conjugates were produced by Brunswick Technetics, San Diego, in sufficient quantities for human trials. Preliminary investigations in the laboratory and the initial human safety studies have been promising.

The team of investigators carrying out the study include Dr. Robert Dillman, director of experimental clinical oncology, hematology and oncology division; Dr. Lawrence Kline, director of the chest and critical care medicine division; and Dr. Leslie Walker, immunology division, Research Institute of Scripps Clinic. Dr. Darlene Elias, formerly of the University of California, San Francisco, Cardiovascular Research Institute, has joined the Scripps Clinic chest and critical care medicine division as a co-investigator on this project.

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