

## **Cancer Vaccine Workshop – Round Table Discussion**

Ray Iles<sup>1</sup>, Torben Lund<sup>2</sup>, and Pierre Triozzi<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Middlesex University, London, UK

<sup>2</sup>Department of Immunology and Molecular Pathology, University College London, UK

<sup>3</sup>Department of Medicine, University of Alabama at Birmingham, Alabama, USA

It is well established that immunoreactive hCG $\beta$  is expressed ectopically by a number of germ-cell and non-germ-cell carcinomas. It is, however, not clear whether the tumor-derived hCG $\beta$  functions as a marker for cancer progression and disease stage or has a function distinct from holo-hCG and plays a direct role in the survival of the cancer. The present workshop will complement the contributions made in the scientific sessions and will include discussion of the following topics:

- Differences between the biological properties of holo-hCG and hCG $\beta$  and their relationship to malignancy.
- Experience to date with hCG $\beta$ -specific cancer vaccines. Attempts will be made to reach a consensus regarding strategies to be followed in subsequent vaccine trials.
- Improved hCG $\beta$ -specific vaccines. Should an effective hCG $\beta$ -specific cancer vaccine consist of only the CTP or the entire hCG $\beta$  chain? What would be a suitable carrier and should the vaccine include adjuvants preferentially resulting in cell-mediated or antibody-mediated immunity?

The aim of the workshop is to reach an improved understanding of the role hCG $\beta$  has during oncogenesis, to determine whether hCG $\beta$  can be considered as a legitimate target for cancer immunotherapy, and to reach a consensus for future directions.