



An international perspective on the management of glioblastoma

Rimas V. Lukas^{1,2}, Evangelia D. Razis³, Jason T. Huse⁴

¹Department of Neurology, Northwestern University, Chicago, IL, USA; ²Lou & Jean Malnati Brain Tumor Institute, Northwestern University, Chicago, IL, USA; ³3rd Department of Oncology, Hygeia Hospital, Marousi, Greece; ⁴Departments of Pathology and Translational Molecular Pathology, University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX, USA

Correspondence to: Rimas V. Lukas, MD. Department of Neurology, Northwestern University, 710 N. Lake Shore Drive, Abbott Hall 1114, Chicago, IL 60611, USA. Email: rimas.lukas@nm.org.

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The world is progressively more interconnected. Events in one location exhibit impacts across the globe. Knowledge gleaned and developed in one place can spread diffusely. Collaboration across geographic locations has become increasingly important for the advancement of science. These points hold true for the field of neuro-oncology. This special series on glioblastoma (GBM), in addition to overviews of scientific advances and future directions for therapeutic investigations, will also provide a broad international perspective on clinical management. We hope that these insights will clarify ongoing successes as well as obstacles that will need to be overcome on a country-specific level. In assembling this series, a diverse range of perspectives was actively sought, although we acknowledge that it is impossible to be completely comprehensive in such an undertaking.

As neuro-oncology is a relatively narrow field, it is obvious that international collaboration is necessary in order to achieve the breadth of knowledge, disciplines and expertise demanded by the difficult diseases in question. Multiple ongoing efforts to facilitate international collaboration and knowledge dissemination in neuro-oncology extend beyond organically developed research collaborations and are oftentimes framed within organizations and societies dedicated to the field. One such long-standing example is the International Brain Tumor Alliance (IBTA) (1) based in the United Kingdom, which has been successful in raising awareness and advocating for neuro-oncology research funding. These achievements have stemmed, at least in part, from effective collaboration with other advocacy groups, philanthropic and governmental

organizations, pharmaceutical companies, clinicians, researchers, patients, and families. This type of multilateral effort serves as a model for how positive effects can be amplified. Another example of international collaboration can be seen within the context of professional societies. The American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) (2) has facilitated knowledge exchange through a range of venues including its annual meeting and its virtual mentor program. The Society for Neuro-Oncology (SNO) (3,4), via its International Outreach Committee (5), has a similar mentorship program in development, has provided seed funding for neuro-oncology meetings in the developing world, and has been supporting international travel scholarships to its annual meeting. As with the IBTA, SNO has been collaborating with other regional neuro-oncology societies including the European Association for Neuro-oncology (EANO), the Asian Society for Neuro-Oncology (ASNO), Society for Neuro-Oncology Latin America (SNOLA), and the Society for Neuro-Oncology in Sub-Saharan Africa (SNOSSA), among others. The World Federation of Neuro-Oncology Societies (WFNOS) was founded to provide a unified partnership across these various societies (6). It is anticipated that these relationships will develop further and strengthen over time.

In this special series we provide perspectives on the management of GBM from Nigeria (7), Australia (8), Lithuania (9), and Mexico (10). Epidemiologic knowledge, clinical management within the context of the health care system, and key research endeavors are covered. Again, while this does not provide a comprehensive international overview our hope is that these articles serve as distinct

windows that each inform a global perspective.

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