

Il futuro della ricerca biomedica. Sfide ed opportunita'

Cives Piacenza, October 30, 2015 Stefano Bertuzzi, Ph.D., M.P.H. Executive Director American Society for Cell Biology



an international forum for cell biology

Mortality from Medical Causes



A BIG Project: Precision Medicine



A Rapidly Evolving Landscape

Industry	Today	Tomorrow
Products	Few	Many
Focus	Phenotypes	Genotypes
Sales	Blockbusters	Many Smaller Sales
Patient Target	Diseased	Prevention/Early Diagnosed
Partnerships	Acquisitions of Biotech	Wide Networks



Friday, January 30, at the White House, the President Announces the Precision Medicine Initiative

Precision medicine announcement in the press



Precision Medicine—What is it?

- An emerging approach for disease prevention and treatment that takes into account people's individual variations in genes, environment, and lifestyle
- It will generate the scientific evidence needed to move the concept of precision medicine into clinical practice.





Targeting Lung Cancer Treatments In Patient Subsets To Improve Outcomes

Crizotinib: A potent and selective oral inhibitor of MET and ALK

... initially being developed for MET mechanism

Academic discovery of new patient segment redefined lung cancer

10-15% of non small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) patients with fusion oncogene ELM4-ALK are unresponsive to conventional EGFR inhibitor treatment New Phase I trial targeting advanced NSCLC patients harboring ALK rearrangement

Approved by FDA on August 26, 2011 for non-small cell lung cancers that express the abnormal anaplastic lymphoma kinase (ALK) gene

Highly effective therapy

Overall response rate = 65%Disease control rate = 84% at a median of ~24 weeks

Accelerated clinical activities

Phase 3 trial based on Phase 1 results, bypassing Phase 2 and accelerating development timeline



Why now? Why not before? Why not tomorrow?

- Sequenced human genome
- New technology in biomedical research
- High computational power and analysis
 - Electronic Medical records







Goals

- Focus on cancer, at least initially
- Create a research cohort of > 1 million American volunteers who will share genetic data, biological samples, and diet/lifestyle information, all linked to their electronic health records if they choose.
- Pioneer a new model for doing science that emphasizes engaged participants, responsible data sharing, and privacy protection.





Goals (continued)

- Advance pharmacogenomics, the right drug for the right patient at the right dose
- Identify new targets for treatment and prevention
- Test whether mobile devices can encourage healthy behaviors
 - Lay scientific foundation for precision medicine for many diseases





- International effort
- Take advantage of large scale, high through multi 'omics analyses
- Study the microbiome in human health
- Community resource program
- Generation of rich, comprehensive, and publicly available datasets of the microbiome
- Integrated microbiome

Bottom line

- Integration
- Multi-discipline
- Specialization is not enough anymore
- Hyper-technological
- High-cost
- Cost-saving? Perhaps. But more likely costeffective
- New job skills
- Fewer jobs? Certainly different jobs

Thank you!

