

## **IMS 2024 Annual Meeting Conference Report**

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I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the UK Myeloma Society (UKMS) and The Binding Site for providing the travel bursary that facilitated my attendance at the IMS 2024 Annual Conference in Brazil. I was honored to have my abstract, titled “Barriers to the Implementation of Bispecific Antibodies for Patients with Relapsed/Refractory Myeloma: Results of a UK National Survey,” accepted for poster presentation. This opportunity allowed me to engage with leading experts in the field, which has significantly informed my plans for future experiments and research directions.

In addition to the main conference, I attended the concurrent Nursing and Allied Healthcare Professional Symposium. One of the standout sessions for me was delivered by Donna Catamero, who shared valuable insights from Mount Sinai regarding the real-world incidence, assessment, and management of oral adverse events and weight loss associated with GPRC5D bispecific. Her presentation highlighted the development of the Sinai Dysgeusia Evaluation score (SiDET), a tool aimed at improving the management of these side effects. This focus on patient-centred care is vital, as it not only addresses clinical outcomes but also enhances the quality of life for patients undergoing treatment.

The main conference featured compelling follow-up analyses on the tolerability and efficacy of bispecific antibodies, showcasing real-world data for both BCMA-CD3 bispecific (Teclistamab and Elranatamab) and GPRC5D-CD3 bispecific (Talquetamab). I also found Dr.Cesar Rodriguez’s talk particularly engaging, as he discussed personalizing treatment approaches in T-cell directed therapies. He presented data from the MajesTEC-1 trial, which explored the use of prophylactic tocilizumab in reducing cytokine release syndrome (CRS) events in patients receiving Teclistamab. This strategy not only maintained the response rates but also minimized infection risk, ultimately leading to shorter inpatient stays, and facilitating outpatient step-up dosing.

An intriguing debate followed between Dr.Rodriguez and Dr.Rahul Banerjee from Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center, focusing on the selection of bispecific targets (GPRC5D vs. BCMA) in treatment decision-making. While most centres have more experience with BCMA bispecific, it was noted that GPRC5D agents generally present a better side effect profile in terms of infection risk. Additionally, the use of BCMA agents in prior treatment lines may dampen the effectiveness of subsequent CAR-T therapies, emphasizing the need for careful consideration in treatment planning. Additionally, they also discussed the potential future role of combining both targets within a single line of treatment, particularly for patients with extramedullary disease or other high-risk factors such as elevated tumour burden, adverse cytogenetics, and plasma cell leukaemia. This conversation highlighted the dynamic nature of treatment strategies and the importance of tailoring approaches based on individual patient profiles.

Overall, my experience at the IMS conference was an invaluable learning opportunity. I was inspired by the innovative research and emerging trial results in the myeloma field, which promise to enhance patient care and outcomes. Once again, I want to express my sincere appreciation to the UKMS and The Binding Site for awarding me the travel grant that made this enriching experience possible.