

Summary: The LAM Foundation / NHLBI 2007 International Research Conference

The 2007 LAM Foundation/NHLBI Lymphangiomyomatosis International Research Conference focused on the molecular mechanisms of genetic mutation, metastasis and cystic lung destruction that occur in the fatal lung disease of women, Lymphangiomyomatosis (LAM). This was the ninth annual Cincinnati LAM conference. These meetings combine a family/patient component with a state of the art meeting for LAM and tuberous sclerosis.

This year the basic science sessions focused primarily on the cellular and genetic basis of smooth muscle proliferation in LAM and the role of exogenous growth factors, sex hormones, genetic mutations, intracellular signaling mechanisms and changes in transcriptional regulation. Other topics discussed were the link between smooth muscle infiltration of the lungs and the cystic remodeling of pulmonary parenchyma, elaboration of metalloproteinases and connective tissue remodeling enzymes by LAM cells that facilitate cell migration and invasion

Concurrent clinical sessions addressed difficult management issues in LAM, including hormonal therapy, air travel, pregnancy, lung transplantation and pleural complications. Potential therapeutic agents, rapamycin, rapamycin analogs, statins, and doxycycline were discussed in a session entitled opportunities and obstacles for treating LAM patients.

The Basic and Clinical Science tracks were coordinated to allow all participants to attend keynote sessions.

A patient-oriented seminar covered key clinical issues for approximately one hundred LAM families who attended. This session concluded with a summary of scientific sessions by the Basic and Clinical Track Chairs, Cheryl Walker, PhD and Geraldine Fanlay, MD, and a roundtable discussion. The LAM Foundation has made the slides, PDF files, audio recordings and videos of the presentations prepared for the patient sessions available on their website at:

http://www.thelamfoundation.org/LAM_PatientPresentations.htm

These presentations cover a variety of topics including but not limited to coping with pneumothorax, LAM Basics, the MILES trial, Supporting someone with LAM, Lung transplantation, and the Overview of the Scientific Sessions.