The Interface of Academia and Clinical Practice

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For Session 5: Research Agendas
Transatlantic Workshop: Drug-related PML
Interface of Practicing Clinician with Academic Center

• Risk/benefit ratio for treatment
  – Should my patient be treated with natalizumab?

• Predictors for PML
  – Are there patients I should not put on the drug?
  – Are there lab parameters I should be following in my natalizumab treated patients?

• Value of drug holiday
  – Should I stop natalizumab after 12 months, 18 months or 2 years?
Interface of Practicing Clinician with Academic Center

• Value of drug holiday
  – Should MRIs or CSF JCV PCR be performed periodically?

• PML diagnosis
  – My MS patient has experienced a new neurological problem. Is this MS or PML?

• PML treatment
  – My patient has PML – how should I treat them?
Research Questions from the Clinical Arena

- Risk mitigation
  - Patient selection
  - Identifying predictors for PML
- Diagnosing PML
  - Early identifiable features
  - Algorithms for diagnosis
- Treatment of PML
The Evolving Model of Medicine

- Two examples from Neurology
  - Neuro-oncology
    - Diagnosis established in generalist office
    - Therapy received in center specializing in brain tumors
  - Multiple Sclerosis
    - Until 2005: Dx and Rx in generalist office
    - 2005-Present: Increasing reliance on MS clinics
    - Future: Likely to parallel Neuro-oncology experience
There is nothing wrong with change, if it is in the right direction

Winston Churchill
1874-1965