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Kamran Muhammad Mirza

Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine, USA

Harnessing the power of molecular diagnostics in pathology practice: Lessons from the world of leukemia

Molecular diagnostics and personalized medicine is revolutionizing the way we approach medicine and treatment of disease. Hematopathology was one of the first of the pathology subspecialties to welcome molecular classification into its classification scheme when it introduced the WHO classification in 2001. Since then, the validity and importance of molecular data has increased million folds and continues to increase every day. As pathologists, we need to harness and embrace the power of molecular pathology in our daily practice and hematopathology has led the way. This lecture serves as a historical overview from the discovery of the t(9;22) in CML and the inclusion of the "AMLs with recurrent cytogenetic abnormalities" and how the classification scheme has evolved from WHO 2001, to 2008 and now to 2016. This lecture serve to update the audience on the changes in the WHO 2016 update to leukemia diagnosis in the WHO classification, discuss next generation sequencing and where its utility stands in the diagnosis of leukemia and the future of the field.

Biography

Kamran Muhammad Mirza has completed his MBBS from the Aga Khan University in Karachi, Pakistan and PhD from University of Illinois in Chicago, IL. He was trained in Combined Anatomic and Clinical Pathology with Fellowships in Hematopathology, Thoracic Pathology and Medical Education at the University of Chicago. He is an Assistant Professor of Pathology and Medical Director of Molecular Pathology at Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine in Maywood, IL. He is the recipient of numerous pathologist-in-training awards, teacher-of-the year awards and honors such as induction into the Alpha Omega Alpha honor society and selection into American Society for Clinical Pathology's 40 Under Forty 2017.

kamran.mirza@lumc.edu

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