

Presenter: Girish Shah

Animal Models of Carcinoid NETs: Opportunities to Examine Therapeutic Options*

Girish M. Shah, Véronique Richard, Rashmi G. Shah and Alicia Montoni

CHUL (CHUQ) Hospital Research Centre of Laval University, Faculty of Medicine and Laboratory for Skin Cancer Research, Quebec City, Quebec, Canada G1V 4G2

The cellular and animal models permit rapid advances in the understanding and treatment of a disease; however, for the carcinoid neuroendocrine tumors, this has been a challenge because of the paucity of models that faithfully represent the human disease. We will review the current cellular and animal models of carcinoid NETS and highlight some key findings from these models. We will also describe our recently developed animal models of the carcinoid NET which closely reflect the human disease in terms of the organs affected and some biochemical parameters of the disease. The usefulness of our models for pre-clinical testing of various therapeutic options ranging from gene therapy to chemotherapy will be discussed.

*This work is supported by an operating grant # MOP-89964 to GMS from the CIHR: Canadian Institutes of Health Research

Invited presentation by GM Shah at the “NeuroEndocrine Cancers: The Case for Research, Education and the Expert Team”, Crowne Plaza Toronto Don Valley, Toronto, ON, Canada, October 24-25, 2009