Cholangiocarcinoma UK Annual Meeting Nottingham, November 2019



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# The role of Mesenchymal Cells in Cholangiocarcinoma

Mireia Sueca-Comes, 2<sup>nd</sup> Year PhD Student

Department of Cancer Biology Division of Cancer and Stem Cells School of Medicine University of Nottingham Biodiscovery Institute

Supervised by Professor Anna M Grabowska and Professor David O Bates





## Cholangiocarcinoma

















### **Mesenchymal Stem Cells**





Antoine E. Karnoub<sup>1</sup>, Ajeeta B. Dash<sup>2</sup>, Annie P. Vo<sup>1</sup>, Andrew Sullivan<sup>2</sup>, Mary W. Brooks<sup>1</sup>, George W. Bell<sup>1</sup>, Andrea L. Richardson<sup>3</sup>, Kornelia Polyak<sup>4</sup>, Ross Tubo<sup>2</sup> & Robert A. Weinberg<sup>1</sup>

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Introduction

## Paracrine Signalling between MSCs and Cancer Cells





(Chiang et al., 2016)



Rationale





Stroma may play a key role in CCA initiation, progression and invasion



MSCs/CAFs appear to be one of the most prominent components of the CCA

What is the influence of MSCs/CAFs on proliferation, invasion and drug sensitivity in CCA? Which are the paracrine signalling pathways driving these changes in CCA biology?

Can we apply this knowledge to investigate the potential clinical utility of targeted agents and drug combinations in CCA?







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## **Results** CCA cells showed compact spheroid formation







## Results

## CCA cells showed sustained viability





#### Study the viability of the cells in the 3D model

Hoechst - Nuclei Calcein-AM - Live PI - Dead







(Acland et al., 2018)



Metabolic waste, CO<sub>2</sub>



Oxygen, nutrients, metabolites



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Results







### Results

## **Response to Ceritinib and Crizotinib treatment**







## **Results** Spheroids did not invade the surrounded matrix







## **Results** Cell proliferation was promoted by the presence of MSCs







## **Results** MSCs support the formation of PDX-spheroid derived















Determine the response to drug treatment when MSCs are present

Identify the signaling pathways driving proliferation

Investigate the effect of MSCs on PDXs-derived spheroids



### **Cholangiocarcinoma UK Annual Meeting** Nottingham, November 2019

## Thank you!

#### **EVPC Group**

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Pam Collier Catherine Probert Philip Clarke Sal Jones Mengxuan Lu Eduardo Pernaut-Leza Waraporn Sakaew Amarnath Pal

#### David O Bates

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*In vivo* Team: Ali Ritchie Marian Meakin Alison Mackie

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