SUMMARY

Cancer development and progression is a multi – stage process involving dynamic changes within the genome . Common features of cancer, cells include uncontrolled proliferation, self- sufficiency in growth, escape from cell death and the acquisition of immortality. Understanding the different molecular routes that lead to a malignant phenotype is the key to identifying specific molecular targets to selectively kill cancer cells .

The contribution of transciription modulators, oncogene activation and genomic instability to the cancer phenotype . this led onto the impact of microarray technology on genetic profiling of the disease and how this combined knowledge is being exploited to improve diagnosis and develop novel anti-cancer drugs.

It is clear that the introduction of microarray-based technology into the field of cancer research has greatly accelerated our understanding of the processes involved in the development of tumour by allowing the simultaneous monitoring of the gene expression of thousands of genses .This will inevitably result in better diagnosis and novel therapies to target aberrantly expressed genes in complex biological processes.

Whilst we are still a long way from appreciating all of the complex changes in gene expression that contribute to the cancer cell phenotype, the enthusiasm generated during this meeting provided enlightening prospects for unique strategies to fully comprehend and more importantly combat cancer**.**