Manuscript no. HAEMATOL/2011/052829 entitled "CD69 is independently prognostic in chronic lymphocytic leukemia: a comprehensive clinical and biological profiling study"

Authors: Giovanni Del Poeta, Maria Ilaria Del Principe, Antonella Zucchetto, Fabrizio Luciano, Francesco Buccisano, Francesca Maria Rossi, Antonio Bruno, Annalisa Biagi, Pietro Bulian, Luca Maurillo, Benedetta Neri, Riccardo Bomben, Cristina Simotti, Angela Maria Coletta, Michele Dal Bo, Paolo de Fabritiis, Adriano Venditti, Valter Gattei and Sergio Amadori

Information about the contributions of each person named as having participated in the study

Guarantor(s), i.e., person(s) who is (are) responsible for the integrity of the work as a whole:
 Giovanni Del Poeta, Dept of Hematology, University Tor Vergata, Roma, g.delpoeta@tin.it

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The guarantors of this manuscript confirm that all persons designated as authors qualify for authorship, and that each author has participated sufficiently in the work to take public responsibility for appropriate portions of the content.

2) Authors who participated in the **conception of the study**: Giovanni Del Poeta, Valter Gattei, Maria Ilaria Del Principe and Sergio Amadori

3) Design & Methods. The following authors were responsible for specific investigations :

• Giovanni Del Poeta and Valter Gattei coordinated the study and data analyses.

• Francesco Buccisano, Fabrizio Luciano, Maria Ilaria Del Principe and Cristina Simotti were responsible for immunophenotypical studies.

• Valter Gattei, Antonella Zucchetto, Riccardo Bomben and Michele Dal Bo were responsible for IGHV gene mutational status investigation, for generating part of the CD69 flow cytometric data and for contribution to data analysis.

• Angela Maria Coletta and Francesca Maria Rossi were responsible for interphase FISH cytogenetics data and analysis.

• Annalisa Biagi and Cristina Simotti were responsible for the soluble CD23 data and contributed to data analysis

4) **Results**. The following authors were responsible for specific portions of the results, including figures and tables :

• Giovanni Del Poeta, Maria Ilaria Del Principe, Francesco Buccisano and Pietro Bulian were responsible for expression of CD69 and association with other prognostic factors.

• Giovanni Del Poeta, Antonella Zucchetto, Adriano Venditti, Luca Maurillo and Benedetta Neri were responsible for relevance of CD69 as biological prognostic marker.

• Giovanni Del Poeta, Paolo de Fabritiis and Adriano Venditti for CD69 and tumor burden markers.

• Giovanni Del Poeta, Valter Gattei and Pietro Bulian for multivariate analyses.

• Giovanni Del Poeta, Maria Ilaria Del Principe and Antonella Zucchetto were responsible for all figures and tables.

• Adriano Venditti, Luca Maurillo, Benedetta Neri and Paolo de Fabritiis provided clinical care and recorded the clinical data

5) Writing the manuscript. The following authors were responsible for writing the manuscript:
Giovanni Del Poeta, Valter Gattei and Maria Ilaria Del Principe were responsible for writing all the manuscript.

• Pietro Bulian and Antonio Bruno were responsible for contributing to write the paragraph "Cellular immunophenotypic analysis in the Design and Methods section.

6) Contributors Listed in Acknowledgments: (Examples of those who might be acknowledged include a person who provided purely technical help, writing assistance, or a department chair who provided only general support. Corresponding authors must declare whether they had assistance with the study design, data collection, data analysis, or manuscript preparation. If such assistance was available, the authors must disclose the identity of the individuals who provided this assistance and the entity that supported it. Financial and material support should also be acknowledged.)

Financial support

- MURST, Programmi di Ricerca di Interesse Nazionale, 2007;
- Ministero della Salute (Ricerca Finalizzata I.R.C.C.S., "Alleanza contro il Cancro" and Rete Nazionale Bio-Informatica Oncologica/RN-BIO;
- "Giovani Ricercatori" project, grant GR-2008-1138053), Rome
- Fondazione Internazionale di Ricerca in Medicina Sperimentale, Turin, Italy
- Associazione Italiana contro le leucemie, linfomi e mielomi (AIL), Venezia Section, Pramaggiore (VE) Group
- Associazione Italiana Ricerca Cancro (AIRC, Investigator Grant IG-8701 to VG; MFAG-10327 to RB)
- "5x1000 program" of the Centro di Riferimento Oncologico, Aviano, Italy
- Ricerca Scientifica Applicata, Regione Friuli Venezia Giulia, Trieste, ("Linfonet" Project)