* ---------- ILTE STUDY NEWSLETTER – June 2009 ----------*

Dear ILTE investigators,

the meeting in Berlin produced important results and decisions. I want to summarize them here for you.
With a median follow up fo 4 years (i.e. 6 years of treatment with Imatinib) and almost 4000 person years available, the data on side effects, loss of cytogenetic responses and mortality have been considered mature for a publication to be prepared. I think we could also send abstracts to ASH and Bordeaux, if we feel confident to submit the manuscript within the next 3-4 months.

Data on second cancers were instead considered still preliminary and in need of further follow up (ideally up to 10 years of treatment).

The data on the additional cytogenetic abnormalities in patients on treatment since more than 5 years produced unexpected and interesting results and will produce, as expected, an independent publication. I therefore ask your cooperation in quickly answering specific questions that could arise on some of your patients. This will help substantially in the preparation of the above mentioned manuscripts. The authorship for these manuscript will follow the policy present on the ILTE web site.

Finally, the presence of over 200 patients that are PCR negative since > 1 year prompted a throrough discussion on how to proceed further.
Samples from 30 of them obtained in 2008 are now being assessed with a new test in the Seul and Orbassano labs and results are expected within a month. In case the results will be positive, we could develop a clinical protocol to validate this new PCR technique in its ability to predict disease relapse following Imatinib interruption. In such a case I will ask you to express your interest to participate in a clinical protocol aimed at this goal.

With best regards.

Carlo Gambacorti
ILTE study Chairman