Continuing Conversations are informal discussions designed for meeting attendees to discuss key issues relevant to the lymphoma community. The discussions during these sessions are meant to be interactive so attendees should come prepared to actively participate. One of the Continuing Conversations at the 2016 ASH Meeting on Lymphoma Biology will be on the tumor immune interactions in lymphoid malignancies.

The area of immunotherapy and immunological approaches in lymphoid malignancies has exploded in recent years. While scientists and researchers in the field are often aware of the recent developments, the broader hematology community with an interest in lymphoid malignancies are often quite unaware of developments in research that are likely to translate to clinically relevant therapies that would be incorporated into practice within a short period of time.

Drs. Stephen Ansell and Ronald Levy would like to address this issue by organizing a Friday Scientific Workshop (FSW) at the 2016 ASH Annual Meeting. FSWs are designed to address the latest scientific developments in a particular field of hematology. The format is such that speakers provide brief presentations of primary data followed by interactive discussions with the audience.

The workshop organized by Drs. Ansell and Levy would focus on the following key areas:

- Lymphoid malignancies
- Immune system and tumor microenvironment
- Current basic science to predict “what’s next” in the world of immunotherapy

The main goal of this workshop would be to highlight novel basic science and translational research in lymphoid malignancies that are likely to translate in the near future to clinically relevant therapies, biomarkers, or treatment approaches. A proposal for this workshop is attached below for your reference.

**Discussion Questions:**

1. Would you be interested in attending this workshop if were to take place at 2016 ASH annual meeting?
2. Do the topics highlighted in the draft proposal reflect the state of the science in the field?
3. Are there additional topics you would like to see highlighted during this workshop?
4. Can you identify potential speakers that can give a talk on any of the topics in the draft proposal?
DRAFT Proposal for ASH Friday Scientific Workshop on Tumor Immune Interactions in Lymphoid Malignancies

Background
The area of immunotherapy and immunological approaches in lymphoid malignancies has exploded in recent years. Treatments such as anti-PD1 antibodies, anti-CTLA4 antibodies, bispecific molecules, and chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T-cells are now being incorporated into standard clinical practice. Multiple new immune therapies are in development in lymphoproliferative diseases, and this progress has been due to an increased understanding of the tumor microenvironment and tumor-immune interactions in these diseases. This proliferation of scientific knowledge has led to multiple potential new treatments including new immune checkpoint blockade therapies, novel T-cell approaches, agents targeting monocytes and macrophages, as well as new approaches inhibiting immune receptor (such as Toll-like receptors) and cytokine signaling.

While scientists and researchers in the field are often aware of these developments, the broader hematology community with an interest in lymphoid malignancies are often quite unaware of developments in research that are likely to translate to clinically relevant therapies that would be incorporated into practice within a short period of time. A greater awareness of promising avenues of immune research will engage other scientists, translational researchers and clinicians in correlative studies and clinical trials. This will result in more rational immune combinations and thoughtful correlative studies that will further improve our understanding of the immune response in lymphoid diseases and allow the field to more successfully optimize tumor directed immune responses.

Aim of the Workshop
The goal of this workshop is therefore to specifically highlight novel basic science and translational research in lymphoid malignancies that are likely to translate in the near future to clinically relevant therapies, biomarkers, or treatment approaches. The overarching goal is to highlight potential future therapies or therapeutic targets that are likely to be important in lymphoid malignancies. Our goal is to have scientists, translational researchers, and clinicians “hear it here first” when it comes to the next big thing in the management of lymphoid diseases. This workshop will be different from sessions in the annual ASH meeting or the ASH Lymphoma biology meeting in that it will be strictly immune focused, highly interactive and somewhat speculative (though based on science), with a strong focus on future translation to the clinic.

The topics that would be considered would include:
- New immune checkpoints that could be inhibited
- Immunosuppressive ligands that are targetable
- Intratumoral immune cells including T-cells, monocytes, and macrophages that could be therapeutically manipulated
- Novel approaches to modulate tumor microenvironmental signaling

The meeting would have three key features:
1. A focus on lymphoid malignancies (to differentiate this from the myeloid meeting);
2. A focus on the immune system and tumor microenvironment; and
3. A focus on current basic science to predict “what’s next” in the world of immunotherapy.

The specific material that will be discussed will be largely basic science results and translational results rather than clinical results of clinical trials. We anticipate that clinical trial results will be presented in
other fora including the ASH annual meeting. **The primary goal of this workshop will be to have dynamic interactions between scientists and researchers as we speculate as to the next new thing in immunotherapy and immunology of lymphoid malignancies.**

**Format and Audience**
This Friday Scientific Workshop will be interactive and the goal will be to promote discussion. It will be an open meeting but we will specifically encourage the participation of basic and translational researchers with an interest in lymphoid malignancies. We will also encourage participation of industry partners to facilitate a dynamic interaction between new scientific knowledge and identified therapeutic targets and groups that can potentially develop treatment approaches and bring them to the clinic. The overarching goal would be to stimulate interest and interactions pertaining to the tumor microenvironment and specifically tumor immune interactions in lymphoid diseases, with a view to developing new therapeutic approaches for patients.

We anticipate selecting 6-8 presenters who would present around 2-3 themes. Two or three of the presenters would present information organized around a particular theme. The presentations would be limited to 15 minutes and would specifically highlight the relevance of the topic to lymphoid malignancies and further highlight this may be translated in the future into clinical practice. There will be an opportunity for discussion and comment from all attendees after each presentation with a longer period of discussion led by the chairs of the meeting which will then follows. The specific goal of the interactions would be to highlight how these novel targets or novel molecules would become relevant in practice in the future.

**Selection of Workshop Content**
The workshop would be chaired by Drs. Ron Levy (Stanford University) and Stephen Ansell (Mayo Clinic). The workshop would be open to any interested attendee. Our plans are to solicit presentations by advertising the meeting and requesting that interested researchers email Dr. Levy or Ansell with suggested topics. The topic would need to be research that investigator is specifically doing. The data would not be identical to data presented at the ASH annual meeting but could include the basic concepts which would be similar to what is presented at the ASH meeting.

We anticipate having an informational meeting regarding this Workshop at the ASH Lymphoma Biology meeting to be held in Colorado Springs in June. This will allow the research community in lymphoid malignancies to be aware of the meeting. We anticipate the group emailing Dr. Levy or Ansell by September 1 and the 6-8 presenters would then be selected to present on Friday afternoon prior to the ASH meeting.

The selection criteria for abstracts would be their relevance to topics felt to be of interest and the availability of the senior author to present the data and to help facilitate the discussion. The selection of the abstracts would predominantly be thematic to allow for vigorous discussion around important new topics. Material presented at this Friday workshop, provided it is not identical to an abstract submitted to the ASH meeting, would not be disqualified from presentation at the regular meeting.

**Audience and Participants**

**Presenters:** 6-8 presenters selected from submitted titles around novel, emerging immune themes

**Attendees:** 60-100 scientists, researchers, industry partners and clinicians interested in immune approaches to managing lymphoid malignancies.