

Contact information

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Current clinical position

Consultant
Helsinki University Hospital, Comprehensive Cancer Center Helsinki, Finland

Education

Licentiate in Medicine (M.D.), 1995-2001, University of Turku, Finland
Doctor of Medical Sciences (Ph.D.), 2011-2017, University of Helsinki, Finland
Specialist in Internal Medicine, 2002-2009, University of Helsinki, Finland
Specialist in Clinical Hematology, 2009-2012, University of Helsinki, Finland

Professional employment

General medical practitioner 2003

Resident, Internal Medicine
2001-2002 Riihimäki Hospital
2004-2007 Päijät-Häme Central Hospital
2009-2009 Department of Internal Medicine, Helsinki University Hospital

Resident, Clinical Hematology
2009-2012 Division of Hematology, Helsinki University Central Hospital

Specialist in Clinical Hematology
2012- Division of Hematology, Helsinki University Hospital, Comprehensive
Cancer Center Helsinki

Researcher
2011- Hematology Research Unit (HRU), Biomedicum Helsinki

Research interest

Novel drug screening and sequencing technologies for individualizing therapy in distinct entities of acute leukemia.

Awards

2011 American society of hematology, Abstract achievement award
2014 Presentations by the rising stars –presentation, Biomedicum Helsinki Day
2015 American society of hematology, Abstract achievement award

Good clinical practice qualification

2012- Onsite and offsite training in relation to several clinical drug studies and investigator meetings (Astex, Boehringer-Ingelheim, Celgene, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche). Date of last GCP training (TransCelerate) 15-March-2016, ISH E6 amendment 14_Jun_2017

2013- Sub-Investigator in 6 AML trials (phase II-III), in 3 CML trials (phase II-III), in 4 myeloma trials (phase I-III), and in 1 ALL and 2 CLL trials (phase III).

Other offices

2011- Operative group, member
The Finnish Hematology Register and Clinical Biopank

2013-2015 Secretary
The Finnish Leukemia group

2014-2016 Board member
2015-2016 Secretary
The Finnish Association for Hematology

Selected publications

Tea Pemovska*, Mika Kontro*, Bhagwan Yadav, Henrik Edgren, Samuli Eldfors, Agnieszka Sz wajda, Henrikki Almusa, Maxim M. Bespalov, Pekka Ellonen, Erkki Elonen, Bjorn T. Gjertsen, Riikka Karjalainen, Evgeny Kuleskiy, Sonja Lagström, Anna Lehto, Maija Lepistö, Tuija Lundán, Muntasir Mamun Majumder, Jesus M.Lopez Marti, Pirkko Mattila, Astrid Murumägi, Satu Mustjoki, Aino Palva, Alun Parsons, Tero Pirttinen, MariaE. Rämets, Minna Suvela, Laura Turunen, Imre Västrik, Maija Wolf, Jonathan Knowles, Tero Aittokallio, Caroline A. Heckman, Kimmo Porkka, Olli Kallioniemi, Krister Wennerberg

Individualized Systems Medicine (ISM) strategy to tailor treatments for patients with chemorefractory acute myeloid leukemia.

Cancer Discovery, 2013 Dec; 3(12):1416-29.

IF: 19.453

Mika Kontro, Ashwini Kumar, Muntasir Mamun Majumder, Samuli Eldfors, Alun Parsons, Tea Pemovska, Jani Saarela, Bhagwan Yadav, Disha Malani, Yngvar Fløisand, Martin Höglund, Kari Remes, Bjørn T. Gjertsen, Olli Kallioniemi, Krister Wennerberg, Caroline A. Heckman and Kimmo Porkka

HOX gene expression predicts response to BCL-2 inhibition in acute myeloid leukemia

Leukemia, 2017

IF: 12.101

Mika Kontro*, Heikki Kuusanmäki*, Samuli Eldfors, Thomas Burmeister, Emma I. Andersson, Øystein Bruserud, Henrik Edgren, Bjørn T. Gjertsen, Olli Lohi, Tuija Lundán, Jesus Maria Lopez Marti, Muntasir Mamun Majumder, Alun Parsons, Tea Pemovska, Hanna Rajala, Kim Vettenranta, Olli Kallioniemi, Satu Mustjoki, Kimmo Porkka and Caroline A. Heckman.

Novel activating *STAT5B* mutations as putative drivers of T-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia.

Leukemia, 2014

IF: 10.431

Tea Pemovska, Eric Johnson, Mika Kontro, Gretchen A. Repasky, Jeffrey Chen, Peter Wells, Ciarán N. Cronin, Michele McTigue, Olli Kallioniemi, Kimmo Porkka, Brion W. Murray and Krister Wennerberg

Establishment of axitinib as a gatekeeper selective therapy for BCR-ABL1-driven leukaemia.

Nature, 2015

IF: 41.456

Poojitha Ojames, Mika Kontro, Henrik Edgren, Pekka Ellonen, Sonja Lagström, Henrikki Almusa, Timo Miettinen, Samuli Eldfors, David Tamborero, Krister Wennerberg, Caroline Heckman, Kimmo Porkka, Maija Wolf

Monitoring therapy responses at the leukemic subclone level by ultra-deep amplicon resequencing in acute myeloid leukemia

Leukemia, 2016

IF: 12.101

Riikka Karjalainen, Tea Pemovska, Muntasir M. Majumder, Bhagwan Yadav, David Tamborero, Jing Tang, Dmitrii Bychkov, Mika Kontro, Bjørn T. Gjertsen, Alun Parsons, Minna Suvela, Kimmo Porkka, Tero Aittokallio, Olli P. Kallioniemi, Krister Wennerberg, Jonathan Knowles, Caroline A. Heckman

JAK1/2 and BCL2 inhibitors synergize to counter-act bone marrow stromal cell-induced protection of AML

Blood, 2017

IF: 11.841

S Eldfors, H Kuusanmäki, M Kontro, M M Majumder, A Parsons, H Edgren, T Pemovska, O Kallioniemi, K Wennerberg, N Gökbuget, T Burmeister, K Porkka and C A Heckman

Idelalisib sensitivity and mechanisms of disease progression in relapsed TCF3-PBX1 acute lymphoblastic leukemia

Leukemia, 2016

IF 12.101

Disha Malani, Astrid Murumägi, Bhagwan Yadav, Mika Kontro, Samuli Eldfors, Ashwini Kumar, Riikka Karjalainen, Muntasir Mamun Majumder, Poojitha Ojamies, Tea Pemovska, Krister Wennerberg, Caroline Heckman, Kimmo Porkka, Maija Wolf, Tero Aittokallio

Enhanced sensitivity to glucocorticoids in cytarabine resistant AML

Leukemia, 2017

IF: 12.101

Laukkanen S, Grönroos T, Pölönen P, Kuusanmäki H, Mehtonen J, Cloos J, Ossenkoppele G, Gjertsen B, Øystein B, Heckman C, Heinäniemi M, Kontro M, Lohi O.

In silico and preclinical drug screening identifies dasatinib as a targeted therapy for T-ALL

Blood Cancer Journal, 2017

IF: 6.126

Yadav Bhagwan, Pemovska Tea, Szwajda Agnieszka, Kuleskiy Evgeny, Kontro Mika, Karjalainen Riikka, Muntasir Mamun Majumder, Malani Disha, Murumägi Astrid, Knowles Jonathan, Porkka Kimmo, Heckman Caroline, Kallioniemi Olli, Wennerberg Krister, Aittokallio Tero.

Quantitative scoring of differential drug sensitivity for individually optimized anticancer therapies.

Scientific Reports, 2014

IF : 5.578

Pietarinen PO, Pemovska T, Kontro M, Yadav B, Mpindi JP, Andersson EI, Majumder MM, Kuusanmäki H, Koskenvesa P, Kallioniemi O, Wennerberg K, Heckman CA, Mustjoki S, Porkka K.

Novel drug candidates for blast phase chronic myeloid leukemia from high-throughput drug sensitivity and resistance testing.

Blood Cancer J. 2015

IF: 4.411

Jarno Kivioja, Martí Kopez, Ashwini Kumar, Mika Kontro, Henrik Edgren, Alun Parsons, Tuija Lundán, Maija Wolf, Kimmo Porkka, Caroline Heckman.

Chimeric NUP98-NSD1 transcripts from the cryptic t(5;11)(q35.2;p15.4) in adult de novo acute myeloid leukemia.

Leukemia Lymphoma, 2017

IF: 3.093

Kämpjärvi K, Järvinen TM, Heikkinen T, Ruppert AS, Senter L, Hoag KW, Dufva O, Kontro M, Rassenti L, Hertlein E, Kipps TJ, Porkka K, Byrd JC, de la Chapelle A, Vahteristo P.

Somatic MED12 mutations are associated with poor prognosis markers in chronic lymphocytic leukemia.

Oncotarget, 2015

IF: 6.359

Meeting presentations

American Society of Hematology, Annual meeting, San Diego, 12/2011.

Development of a Cancer Pharmacopeia-Wide Ex Vivo Drug Sensitivity and Resistance Testing (DSRT) Platform: Identification of MEK and mTOR As Patient-Specific Molecular Drivers of Adult AML and Potent Therapeutic Combinations with Dasatinib.

Acute Leukemias XIV 2013, Munich 2/2013.

High-throughput Drug Screening and Molecular Profiling for Therapeutic Targeting of NUP98-NSD1-positive AML.

European Hematology Association, Annual meeting, Stockholm, 6/2013.

Outcome of personalized therapy based on high-throughput ex vivo drug screening in patients with relapsed, chemorefractory acute myeloid leukemia.

High-Throughput Drug Sensitivity and Resistance Testing Combined with Molecular Profiling for Targeted Therapy and Response in NUP98-NSD1 Positive AML.

Oral presentation.

American Society of Hematology, Annual meeting, New Orleans, 12/2013.

Novel STAT5b mutations as drivers of T-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia.

European Hematology Association, Annual meeting, Milan, 6/2014.

Novel STAT5b mutations as putative drivers of T-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia.

Acute Leukemias XV 2015, Munich 2/2015.

BCL2 Inhibitors Target Diagnosed And Relapsed/Refractory Acute Myeloid Leukemia.

American Society of Hematology, Annual meeting, Orlando, 12/2015.

BCL2-Inhibitors Target a Major Group of Newly-Diagnosed and Relapsed/Refractory Acute Myeloid Leukemia Ex Vivo.