Cancer Research

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Précis: A novel noninvasive optical technology can be used to accurately distinguish smokers with or without neoplasia, with potential for lung cancer screening.
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<td>Fibroblast Growth Factor Receptor 4 Regulates Tumor Invasion by Coupling Fibroblast Growth Factor Signaling to Extracellular Matrix Degradation&lt;br&gt;Nami Sugiyama, Markku Varjosalo, Pipsa Meller, Jouko Lohi, Marko Hyytiäinen, Sami Kilpinen, Olli Kallioniemi, Signe Ingvarsen, Lars H. Engelholm, Jussi Taipale, Kari Allitalo, Jorma Keski-Oja, and Kaisa Lehti&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;<strong>Précis:</strong> Findings define a key new regulatory mechanism of epithelial-to-mesenchymal transition that involves an FGF receptor isoform previously linked to tumor progression.</td>
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<td>HER-2 Signaling, Acquisition of Growth Factor Independence, and Regulation of Biological Networks Associated with Cell Transformation&lt;br&gt;Aliccia Bollig-Fischer, Michele Dziubinski, Alaina Boyer, Ramsi Haddad, Craig N. Giroux, and Stephen P. Ethier&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;<strong>Précis:</strong> Findings suggest that mutationally-activated and ligand-activated forms of growth factor receptors regulate distinct transcription programs that differentially affect motility, stress response, and stem cell properties.</td>
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MicroRNA Mediates DNA Demethylation Events Triggered by Retinoic Acid during Neuroblastoma Cell Differentiation
Sudipto Das, Niamh Foley, Kenneth Bryan, Karen M. Watters, Isabella Bray, Derek M. Murphy, Patrick G. Buckley, and Raymond L. Stallings

Précis: Findings establish a significant role for microRNA function in the mechanism by which tumor growth is blocked by retinoic acid, widely used to treat certain pediatric and adult tumors.

The RB-E2F1 Pathway Regulates Autophagy
Hong Jiang, Vanesa Martin, Candelaria Gomez-Manzano, David G. Johnson, Marta Alonso, Erin White, Jing Xu, Timothy J. McDonnell, Naoki Shinojima, and Juan Fueyo

Précis: Findings provide a mechanistic explanation for the relevance of RB status in cancer development and its resistance to therapies.

Ratio of miR-196s to HOXC8 Messenger RNA Correlates with Breast Cancer Cell Migration and Metastasis
Yong Li, Maoxiang Zhang, Huijun Chen, Zheng Dong, Vadivel Ganapathy, Muthusamy Thangaraju, and Shuang Huang

Précis: Findings define an miRNA family in metastasis suppression and suggest its use in predicting breast cancer metastatic capability.

RasGRP3 Contributes to Formation and Maintenance of the Prostate Cancer Phenotype
Dazhi Yang, Noemi Kedei, Luowei Li, Juan Tao, Julia F. Velasquez, Aleksandra M. Michalowski, Balázs I. Tóth, Rita Marincsák, Attila Varga, Tamás Biró, Stuart H. Yuspa, and Peter M. Blumberg

Précis: Findings define an important signaling element upstream of Ras in metastatic prostate cancer, which may constitute a novel therapeutic target for treatment of androgen-independent disease.

Nucleotide Excision Repair Gene Expression after Cisplatin Treatment in Melanoma
Nikola A. Bowden, Katie A. Ashton, Kelly A. Avery-Kiejda, Xu Dong Zhang, Peter Hersey, and Rodney J. Scott

Précis: Defects in the ability of melanoma cells to recognize certain types of DNA damage may underlie the clinical resistance of melanoma to cisplatin treatment.

Survivin Enhances Motility of Melanoma Cells by Supporting Akt Activation and α5 Integrin Uregulation
Jodi A. McKenzie, Tong Liu, Agnessa G. Goodson, and Douglas Grossman

Précis: Findings elucidate the components of a promigratory pathway that may support metastatic progression in melanoma.

Keratinocyte-Specific Stat3 Heterozygosity Impairs Development of Skin Tumors in Human Papillomavirus 8 Transgenic Mice
Marco De Andrea, Massimo Rittà, Manuela M. Landini, Cinzia Borgogna, Michele Mondini, Florian Kern, Karin Ehrenreiter, Manuela Baccarini, Gian Paolo Marcuzzi, Sigrun Smola, Herbert Pfister, Santo Landolfo, and Marisa Gariglio

Précis: Findings offer the first direct evidence of a critical role for STAT3 in epithelial cancers induced by human papillomaviruses of the genus β.

Expression of the Transcriptional Repressor Gfi-1 Is Regulated by C/EBPa and Is Involved in Its Proliferation and Colony Formation–Inhibitory Effects in p210BCR/ABL-Expressing Cells
Maria Rosa Lidonnici, Alessandra Audia, Angela Rachele Soliera, Marco Prisco, Giovanna Ferrari-Amorotti, Todd Waldron, Nick Donato, Ying ZHang, Robert V. Martinez, Tessa L. Holyoake, and Bruno Calabretta

Précis: Identification of the mechanisms responsible for the growth suppressive effects of C/EBPa is essential for development of therapeutic strategies based on transcription factor activation.

Dietary Fish Oil Alters T Lymphocyte Cell Populations and Exacerbates Disease in a Mouse Model of Inflammatory Colitis

Précis: Findings that fish oil enriched with DHA can promote colitis and colon adenocarcinoma in mice indicate that supplements for clinical benefit should be approached with caution, particularly in individuals with chronic inflammatory conditions such as inflammatory bowel diseases.
Syrngistic Chemosensitivity of Triple-Negative Breast Cancer Cell Lines to Poly(ADP-Ribose) Polymerase Inhibition, Gemcitabine, and Cisplatin

Kedar Hastak, Elizabeth Alii, and James M. Ford

Précis: Findings address the clinical challenge faced by women with “triple-negative” breast cancers which lack hormone receptors or HER2 amplification, an aggressive disease presently without effective treatment options.

Apatinib (YN968D1) Reverses Multidrug Resistance by Inhibiting the Efflux Function of Multiple ATP-Binding Cassette Transporters

Yan-jun Mi, Yong-ju Liang, Hong-bing Huang, Hong-yun Zhao, Chun-Pu Wu, Fang Wang, Li-yang Tao, Chuan-zhao Zhang, Chun-Ling Dai, Amit K. Tiwari, Xiao-xu Ma, Kenneth Kin Wah To, Suresh V. Ambudkar, Zhe-Sheng Chen, and Li-wu Fu

Précis: A tyrosine kinase inhibitor in clinical trials is found to also inhibit multidrug resistance, perhaps expanding its clinical applications in combination with conventional chemotherapeutic drugs.

Tubulin-Targeting Chemotherapy Impairs Androgen Receptor Activity in Prostate Cancer

Meng-Lei Zhu, Craig M. Horbinski, Mark Garzotto, David Z. Qian, Tomasz M. Beer, and Natasha Kyriianou

Précis: The therapeutic effects of taxanes in castration-resistant prostate cancers are linked to their effects on androgen signaling.

Role of LIM and SH3 Protein 1 (LASP1) in the Metastatic Dissemination of Medulloblastoma

Christopher Traenka, Marc Remke, Andrey Korshunov, Sebastian Bender, Thomas Hielsercher, Paul A. Northcott, Hendrik Witt, Marina Ryzhova, Jörg Felsberg, Axel Benner, Stephanie Riester, Wolfram Scheurlen, Thomas G.P. Grunewald, Andreas von Deimling, Andreas E. Kulozik, Guido Reifenberger, Michael D. Taylor, Peter Lichter, Elke Butt, and Stefan M. Pfister

Précis: Findings define and functionally characterize an independent prognostic biomarker involved in the most common malignant brain tumor of childhood.

Contextual Synthetic Lethality of Cancer Cell Kill Based on the Tumor Microenvironment

Norman Chan, Isabel M. Pires, Zuzana Bencokova, Carla Coackley, Kaisa R. Luoto, Nirmal Bhogal, Minalini Lakshman, Ponnari Gottipati, F. Javier Oliver, Thomas Hellday, Ester M. Hammond, and Robert G. Bristow

Précis: Findings broaden the potential application of small molecule inhibitors of the DNA repair polymerase PARP-1, which are currently in clinical trials.

Aberrant Silencing of Cancer-Related Genes by CpG Hypermethylation Occurs Independently of Their Spatial Organization in the Nucleus


Précis: Extensive chromatin changes at promoters in cancer cells appear to occur locally without preference for nuclear position or repositioning.

Cell Surface Tetraspanin CD9 Mediates Chemoresistance in Small Cell Lung Cancer

Satoshi Kohno, Takashi Kijima, Yasushi Otani, Masahide Mori, Yoshiko Minami, Ryo Takahashi, Izuimu NagATOMO, Yoshito Takeda, Hiroshi Kida, Sho Goya, Mitsuhiro Yoshida, Toru Kumagai, Isao Tachibana, Soichiro Yokota, and Ichiro Kawase

Précis: Findings rationalize antibody attack of a cell surface tetraspanin to reverse drug resistance in highly aggressive small cell lung cancers, which tend to relapse rapidly in resistant forms after initial therapy.

A Novel, Selective, and Efficacious Nanomolar Pyridopyrazinone Inhibitor of V600EBRAF

Steven Whittaker, Delphine Ménard, Ruth Kirk, Lesley Ogilvie, Douglas Hedley, Alfonso Zambon, Filipa Lopes, Natasha Preece, Helen Manne, Sareena Rana, Maryou Lambros, Jorge S. Reis-Filho, Richard Marais, and Caroline J. Springer

Précis: A novel orally bioavailable drug selectively inhibits oncogenic mutants of the BRAF kinase thus eliciting major therapeutic responses in melanomas where BRAF mutations are common.
Genome-wide Analysis of Novel Splice Variants Induced by Topoisomerase I Poisoning Shows Preferential Occurrence in Genes Encoding Splicing Factors
Stéphanie Solier, Jennifer Barb, Barry R. Zeeberg, Sudhir Varma, Mike C. Ryan, Kurt W. Kohn, John N. Weinstein, Peter J. Munson, and Yves Pommier

Précis: Findings explain the abnormal splicing of a large number of genes in response to the generation of topoisomerase I cleavage complexes trapped by certain DNA damaging drugs.

Aerobic Glycolysis Suppresses p53 Activity to Provide Selective Protection from Apoptosis upon Loss of Growth Signals or Inhibition of BCR-Abl
Emily F. Mason, Yuxing Zhao, Pankuri Goraksha-Hicks, Jonathan L. Coloff, Hugh Gannon, Stephen N. Jones, and Jeffrey C. Rathmell

Précis: This study demonstrates the role of cell metabolism in sensitivity to targeted therapy and suggests that metabolic manipulations may enhance the efficacy of the tyrosine kinase inhibitor Gleevec.

hsa-miR-191 Is a Candidate Oncogene Target for Hepatocellular Carcinoma Therapy
Eran Elyakim, Einat Sitbon, Alexander Faerman, Sarit Tabak, Eve Montia, Liron Belanis, Avital Dov, Eric G. Marcusson, C. Frank Bennett, Ayelet Chajut, Dalia Cohen, and Noga Yerushalmi

Précis: Findings offer preclinical proof of concept for a rational strategy to improve treatment of liver cancer, a deadly disease that is particularly common in the Far East.

Prostate Cancer Radiosensitization through Poly(ADP-Ribose) Polymerase-1 Hyperactivation
Ying Dong, Erik A. Bey, Long-Shan Li, Wareef Kabbani, Jingsheng Yan, Xian-Jin Xie, Jer-Tsong Hsieh, Jimming Gao, and David A. Boothman

Précis: Findings prompt clinical evaluation of β-lapachone (Arq501) as a radiosensitizer in prostate cancer, based on definition of a targeting strategy that exploits overexpression of oxido-reductase NQO1 and hyperactivation of PARP-1.

Activity of the Novel Dual Phosphatidylinositol 3-Kinase/Mammalian Target of Rapamycin Inhibitor NVP-BEZ235 against T-Cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia
Francesca Chiariini, Cecilia Grimaldi, Francesca Ricci, Pier Luigi Tazzari, Camilla Evangelisti, Andrea Ognibene, Michela Battistelli, Elisabetta Falcieri, Fraia Melchiona, Andrea Pession, Pasquale paolo Pagliaro, James A. McCubrey, and Alberto M. Martelli

Précis: Preclinical proof of concept study indicates that a novel orally available dual inhibitor of PI3K and mTOR may be a highly effective therapeutic to treat T-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia.

IFN Induces miR-21 through a Signal Transducer and Activator of Transcription 3–Dependent Pathway as a Suppressive Negative Feedback on IFN-Induced Apoptosis
Chuan He Yang, Junming Yue, Meiyun Fan, and Lawrence M. Pfeffer

Précis: An oncogenic microRNA overexpressed in many human cancers is shown for the first time in this study to regulate interferon-induced apoptosis.

De novo Lipogenesis Protects Cancer Cells from Free Radicals and Chemotherapeutics by Promoting Membrane Lipid Saturation
Evelien Rysman, Koen Brusselmans, Katryn Scheys, Leen Timmermans, Rita Derua, Sebastian Munck, Paul P. Van Veldhoven, David Waltrregny, Veerle W. Daniëls, Jelle Machiels, Frank Vanderhoydonc, Karine Smans, Etienne Waelkens, Guido Verhoeven, and Johannes V. Swinnen

Précis: De novo fatty acid synthesis promotes membrane lipid saturation and helps cancer cells to survive both carcinogenic and therapeutic insults.

Epithelial-to-Mesenchymal Transition Promotes Tubulin Detyrosination and Microtentacles that Enhance Endothelial Engagement
Rebecca A. Whipple, Michael A. Matrone, Edward H. Cho, Eric M. Balzer, Michele I. Vitolo, Jennifer R. Yoon, Olga B. Ioffe, Kimberly C. Tuttle, Jing Yang, and Stuart S. Martin

Précis: Findings elucidate microtubule alterations that prime invasive tumor cells for metastatic reattachment after they have entered the bloodstream.
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<td>Chemotrap-1: An Engineered Soluble Receptor That Blocks Chemokine-Induced Migration of Metastatic Cancer Cells In vivo</td>
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<td>Précis: Study describes a tractable strategy to treat systemic cancers by sequestering a chemokine known to drive metastasis.</td>
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<td>Ying Li, Hong Cao, Zhongxian Jiao, Suresh B. Pakala, Divijendra Natha Reddy Sirigiri, Wenpin Li, Rakesh Kumar, and Lopa Mishra</td>
<td>Précis: A common clinical marker of cancer progression may also represent a potential therapeutic target, thereby serving as a theranostic molecule.</td>
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<td>Impact of Stromal Sensitivity on Radiation Response of Tumors Implanted in SCID Hosts Revisited</td>
<td>Mónica García-Barros, Tin Hwe Thin, Jerry Maj, Carlos Gordon-Cardo, Adriana Haimovitz-Friedman, Zvi Fuks, and Richard Kolesnick</td>
<td>Précis: DNA damage-mediated endothelial clonogenic lethality plays a mandatory role in the complex pathophysiology of tumour cure by SDRT, and provides an explanation for the wild-type SDRT responses reported in tumors implanted in SCID mice.</td>
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<td>Secreted and Membrane-Bound Isoforms of Protease ADAM9 Have Opposing Effects on Breast Cancer Cell Migration</td>
<td>Jessica L. Fry and Alex Toker</td>
<td>Précis: Ignored for many years, changes in alternate splicing patterns in cancer cells are now increasingly recognized as critical determinants of modifier functions that affect malignant progression.</td>
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<td>Limei Zhou, Daniel Picard, Young-Shin Ra, Meihua Li, Paul A. Northcott, Yaqi Hu, Duncan Stearns, Cynthia Hawkins, Michael D. Taylor, James Rutka, Sandy D. Der, and Annie Huang</td>
<td>Précis: Study offers proof of concept for an effective therapeutic strategy to treat medulloblastoma, a common pediatric brain cancer where more effective treatments are greatly needed.</td>
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<td>Précis: VEGF signaling in bone marrow–derived macrophages recruited to tumors constitutes a significant part of the contribution of VEGF to tumor progression, beyond the direct effects on tumor angiogenesis.</td>
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<td>Modulation of Gene Expression and Tumor Cell Growth by Redox Modification of STAT3</td>
<td>Li Li, Shing-hu Cheung, Emma L. Evans, and Peter E. Shaw</td>
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ABOUT THE COVER

Tubulin-based microtentacles facilitate epithelial-endothelial attachment. Confocal imaging of human mammary epithelial cells (HMLE) transfected with GFP-Membrane (green) engaging a confluent monolayer of mCherry-labeled (red) human bone endothelial cells. Top, angle, and side views show that HMLE cells remain rounded without observable microtentacles (left vertical panel set). HMLE cells that have undergone an epithelial-to-mesenchymal transition via stable Twist expression display microtentacles, which increase endothelial cell attachment (right vertical panel set). For details, see the article by Whipple et al. on page 8127 of this issue.