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VHL Gene Mutations and Their Effects on Hypoxia Inducible Factor HIFα: Identification of Potential Driver and Passenger Mutations
Markus P. Rechsteiner, Adriana von Teichman, Anna Nowicka, Tullio Sulser, Peter Schraml, and Holger Moch

Précis: Understanding the functional impact of specific mutations in the VHL tumor suppressor pathway in deadly kidney cancers may be critical for selecting appropriate individualized therapies in patients.

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Précis: Results show an association between VEGFR-2 copy number gains and reduced overall survival in patients with non–small cell lung cancer.

Identification of the MEK1(F129L) Activating Mutation as a Potential Mechanism of Acquired Resistance to MEK Inhibition in Human Cancers Carrying the B-Raf/V600E Mutation
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Précis: Combined inhibition of Raf and MEK may offer a clinical strategy to bypass or overcome acquired resistance to MEK inhibitors that can arise as the result of a powerful activating mutation in MEK1.

CXCL12/CXCR4 Blockade Induces Multimodal Antitumor Effects That Prolong Survival in an Immunocompetent Mouse Model of Ovarian Cancer
Elda Righi, Satoshi Kashiwagi, Jianping Yuan, Michael Santosuosso, Pierre Leblanc, Rachel Ingraham, Benjamin Forbes, Beth Edelblute, Brian Collette, Deyin Xing, Magdalena Kowalski, Maria Cristina Mingari, Fabrizio Vianello, Michael Birrer, Sandra Orsulic, Glenn Dranoff, and Mark C. Poznansky

Précis: A druggable target implicated in promoting metastasis is found to coordinately promote immune escape, illustrating the important linkage between these two processes in ovarian cancer progression.

GPR56 Regulates VEGF Production and Angiogenesis during Melanoma Progression
Liquan Yang, Guangchun Chen, Sonali Mohanty, Glynis Scott, Fabeha Fazal, Arshad Rahman, Shahinoo Begum, Richard O. Hynes, and Lei Xu

Précis: Findings identify a novel G protein-coupled receptor that regulates VEGF production, offering a new therapeutic target for angiogenesis inhibition.

YB-1 Bridges Neural Stem Cells and Brain Tumor–Initiating Cells via Its Roles in Differentiation and Cell Growth

Précis: A transcription factor required for embryonic brain development also contributes in later life to brain tumor development, due to its roles in normal and malignant neural stem cells.
Protein Arginine Methyltransferase 5 Accelerates Tumor Growth by Arginine Methylation of the Tumor Suppressor Programmed Cell Death 4
Matthew A. Powers, Marta M. Fay, Rachel E. Factor, Alana L. Welm, and Katharine S. Ullman

Précis: This article reports a new regulatory node in cancer in which a protein methyltransferase works in conjunction with the tumor suppressor PDCD4 to cause accelerated tumor growth.

p53-Dependent Regulation of Mitochondrial Energy Production by the RelA Subunit of NF-κB
Renée F. Johnson, Ini-Isabelle Witzel, and Neil D. Perkins

Précis: This study defines an important new link in the control of mitochondrial function by oncogenes that influence cellular metabolism.

ABOUT THE COVER

The Y-box binding protein (YB-1) is an oncogenic transcription factor known for its ability to cause drug resistance and cancer recurrence. Fotovati and colleagues report that YB-1 supports brain tumor–initiating cells by inhibiting differentiation through the maintenance of proteins associated with stem cells. In cancer-derived neurospheres grown from pediatric glioblastoma multiforme cells, YB-1 was highly expressed along with the stem cell markers nestin and Bmi-1. For details, see the article by Fotovati and colleagues on page 5569 of this issue.