Taxane-Induced Blockade to Nuclear Accumulation of the Androgen Receptor Predicts Clinical Responses in Metastatic Prostate Cancer

Précis: This study suggests a histochemical test in circulating cancer cells that could predict therapeutic responses to taxanes used to treat advanced prostate cancer.

Biological Roles of the Delta Family Notch Ligand Dll4 in Tumor and Endothelial Cells in Ovarian Cancer

Précis: Findings define a functionally important role for a Notch receptor ligand of the Delta family in both the tumor and endothelial compartments of ovarian cancer, with potential implications to leverage outcomes of anti-VEGF treatment.

Vitamin D3 Enhances the Apoptotic Response of Epithelial Tumors to Aminolevulinate-Based Photodynamic Therapy
Sanjay Anand, Clara Wilson, Tayyaba Hasan, and Edward V. Maytin

Précis: This important study shows how vitamin D3 can be used as a simple, nontoxic, and highly effective preconditioning regimen to enhance the response of epithelial tumors to a combination drug phototherapy, perhaps broadening its clinical applications.

A Novel ALK Secondary Mutation and EGFR Signaling Cause Resistance to ALK Kinase Inhibitors

Précis: Identifying mechanisms of resistance to targeted inhibitors represents a first step in developing second generation drugs and/or rationale combination therapies as potential clinical therapies for cancer patients.

Endothelial Cells Create a Stem Cell Niche in Glioblastoma by Providing NOTCH Ligands That Nurture Self-Renewal of Cancer Stem-Like Cells
Thant S. Zhu, Mark A. Costello, Caroline E. Talsma, Callie G. Flack, Jessica G. Crowley, Lisa L. Hamm, Xiaobing He, Shawn L. Hervey-Jumper, Jason A. Heth, Karin M. Muraszko, Francesco DiMeco, Angelo L. Vescovi, and Xing Fan

Précis: This important human study expands concepts of how the tumor endothelium supports cancer growth, in providing not only a blood supply but also a niche to feed self-renewal of cancer stem-like cells.

DLL4-Notch Signaling Mediates Tumor Resistance to Anti-VEGF Therapy In Vivo
Ji-Liang Li, Richard C.A. Sainson, Chern Eun Oon, Helen Turley, Russell Leek, Helen Sheldon, Esther Bridges, Wen Shi, Cameron Snell, Emma T. Bowden, Herren Wu, Partha S. Chowdhury, Angela J. Russell, Craig P. Montgomery, Richard Poulson, and Adrian L. Harris

Précis: Findings implicate the DLL4-Notch signaling pathway in mediating resistance to the widely administered antiangiogenic drug bevacizumab, suggesting that a combined blockade could enhance its efficacy.
ABOUT THE COVER

Mast cells are best known for their primary involvement in allergic reactions, but have recently been reappraised as important players in either cancer promotion or inhibition. Pittoni and colleagues report that mast cells are enriched and degranulated in areas of adenocarcinoma in prostate tumor-bearing mice and patients, and foster tumor growth through MMP-9 provision. However, mast cell–targeted therapy in this setting has a dark side, originating from the previously unrecognized capacity of mast cells to control neuroendocrine prostate tumor variants. For details, see the article by Pittoni and colleagues on page 5987 of this issue.
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