BREAKING ADVANCES

3889 Highlights from Recent Cancer Literature

REVIEWS

3891 Translation Regulation as a Therapeutic Target in Cancer
Michał Grzmil and Brian A. Hemmings

3901 The Microculture-Kinetic (MiCK) Assay: The Role of a Drug-Induced Apoptosis Assay in Drug Development and Clinical Care

PRIORITY REPORTS

3906 Primary Tumor Hypoxia Recruits CD11b+/Ly6Cmed/Ly6G+ Immune Suppressor Cells and Compromises NK Cell Cytotoxicity in the Premetastatic Niche
Précis: This striking study shows how hypoxia in primary tumors, which is known to be associated with poor prognosis, leads to changes that can promote immune escape in the premetastatic niche of distal organs, creating a prometastatic environment.

3912 VEGF Exerts an Angiogenesis-Independent Function in Cancer Cells to Promote Their Malignant Progression
Ying Cao, Guangqi E, Enfeng Wang, Krishnendu Pal, Shamit K. Dutta, Dafna Bar-Sagi, and Debabrata Mukhopadhyay
Précis: VEGF expressed by cancer cells not only attracts blood vasculature but also acts directly on cancer cells by binding neuropilin-1 receptors there to cause cancer cell de-differentiation, contributing to malignant progression in a totally new way that has not been appreciated previously.

MICROENVIRONMENT AND IMMUNOLOGY

3919 Neutrophils Promote Liver Metastasis via Mac-1–Mediated Interactions with Circulating Tumor Cells
Jonathan D. Spicer, Braedon McDonald, Jonathan J. Cools-Lartigue, Simon C. Chow, Betty Giannias, Paul Kubes, and Lorenzo E. Ferri
Précis: This study describes a novel immune-modulatory mechanism involving neutrophils, which interact with circulating tumor cells in the blood to facilitate metastasis.

3928 BRAF Inhibitor Vemurafenib Improves the Antitumor Activity of Adoptive Cell Immunotherapy
Richard C. Koya, Stephen Mok, Nicholas Otte, Kevin J. Blacketor, Begonya Comin-Anduix, Paul C. Tumeh, Aspram Minasyan, Nicholas A. Graham, Thomas G. Graeber, Thindle Chodon, and Antoni Ribas
Précis: Targeted therapeutics that produce robust clinical responses are likely benefitting from inherent adjuvant effects that degrade immune escape, a feature that could be leveraged most effectively by combinatorial uses in settings such as that described here.

3938 Chronic Autophagy Is a Cellular Adaptation to Tumor Acidic pH Microenvironments
Jonathan W. Wojtjowiak, Jennifer M. Rothberg, Virendra Kumar, Karla J. Schramm, Edward Hailer, Joshua B. Proemsey, Mark C. Lloyd, Bonnie F. Sloane, and Robert J. Gillies
Précis: An acidic tumor microenvironment induces a prolonged autophagic response necessary for tumor cell survival under acidic conditions commonly observed in solid tumors.

3948 The Human TLR Innate Immune Gene Family Is Differentially Influenced by DNA Stress and p53 Status in Cancer Cells
Maria Shatz, Daniel Menendez, and Michael A. Resnick
Précis: Toll-like receptors, which detect both infection and sterile tissue damage, are targets for adjuvant immune therapies, including on cancer cells, where p53 and chromosome status may affect their signaling outputs.
Neogenesis of Lymphoid Structures Opposing Roles for IL-23 and IL-12

The Proinflammatory Myeloid Cell Receptor TREM-1 Controls Kupffer Cell Activation and Development of Hepatocellular Carcinoma

Opposing Roles for IL-23 and IL-12 in Maintaining Occult Cancer in an Equilibrium State

Neogenesis of Lymphoid Structures and Antibody Responses Occur in Human Melanoma Metastases

Cervical Cancers Require the Continuous Expression of the Human Papillomavirus Type 16 E7 Oncoprotein Even in the Presence of the Viral E6 Oncoprotein

A Zebrafish Model to Study and Therapeutically Manipulate Hypoxia Signaling in Tumorigenesis

The Retinoblastoma Gene Undergoes Rearrangements in BRCA1-Deficient Basal-like Breast Cancer

MIR-96 Downregulates REV1 and RAD51 to Promote Cellular Sensitivity to Cisplatin and PARP Inhibition
Neuropilin-1 Stimulates Tumor Growth by Increasing Fibronectin Fibril Assembly in the Tumor Microenvironment
Usman Yaqoob, Sheng Cao, Uday Shergill, Kumaravelu Jagave, Zhimin Geng, Meng Yin, Thiago M. da Assuncao, Ying Cao, Anna Szabolcs, Snorri Thorgeirsson, Martin Schwartz, Ju Dong Yang, Richard Ehman, Lewis Roberts, Debabrata Mukhopadhyay, and Vijay H. Shah

Précis: A protein that functions as a VEGF receptor may also alter extracellular matrix assembly, with implications for how to target myofibroblasts that express it as a strategy to therapeutically reprogram the tumor microenvironment.

LRP1B Deletion in High-Grade Serous Ovarian Cancers Is Associated with Acquired Chemotherapy Resistance to Liposomal Doxorubicin

Précis: This extensive genomics study of patients with the most common form of ovarian cancer, which reveals the daunting extent of intratumoral heterogeneity present in different lesions from the same patient, identifies a lipid transport molecule that acts as a positive modifier of a form of acquired drug resistance that occurs commonly in patients with relapsed disease.

Alternate Splicing of the p53 Inhibitor HDMX Offers a Superior Prognostic Biomarker than p53 Mutation in Human Cancer
Kristiaan Lenos, Anna M. Grawenda, Kirsten Lodder, Marieke L. Kuijjer, Amina F.A.S. Teunisse, Emmanouela Repapi, Lukasz F. Grochola, Frank Bartel, Pancras C.W. Hogendoorn, Peter Wuerl, Helge Taubert, Anne-Marie Cleton-Jansen, Gareth L. Bond, and Aart G. Jochensen

Précis: The study evaluates the potential of HDMX splicing variants as biomarkers for human cancer.

Critical Function for Nuclear Envelope Protein TMEM209 in Human Pulmonary Carcinogenesis
Takashi Fujimoto, Yataro Daigo, Koichi Matsuda, Koji Ueda, and Yusuke Nakamura

Précis: Findings identify a critical role for a tissue-selective nuclear envelope protein in lung cancer, which by promoting c-Myc expression may offer a novel disease-selective therapeutic target in this setting.

Resistance of Glioblastoma-Initiating Cells to Radiation Mediated by the Tumor Microenvironment Can Be Abolished by Inhibiting Transforming Growth Factor-β
Matthew E. Hardee, Ariel E. Marciscano, Christina M. Medina-Ramirez, David Zagzag, Scott M. Lonning, and Mary Helen Barcellos-Hoff

Précis: This study offers immediate translational impact by suggesting that TGF-β inhibitors should be further evaluated in combination with other treatments to increase the effectiveness of radiation therapy in glioblastoma.

MLK3 Regulates Paxillin Phosphorylation in Chemokine-Mediated Breast Cancer Cell Migration and Invasion to Drive Metastasis
Jian Chen and Kathleen A. Gallo

Précis: Important mechanistic findings suggest a potential new therapeutic target in metastatic breast cancer.
Perturbation of Rb, p53, and Brca1 or Brca2 Cooperate in Inducing Metastatic Serous Epithelial Ovarian Cancer

Ludmila Szabova, Chaoying Yin, Sujata Bupp, Theresa M. Guerin, Jerome J. Schlemmer, Deborah B. Householder, Maureen L. Baran, Ming Yi, Yurong Song, Wenping Sun, Jonathan E. McDunn, Philip L. Martin, Terry Van Dyke, and Simone Difilippantonio

Precis: This study describes novel murine models of metastatic ovarian cancer that histologically resemble their human counterparts, offering useful tools for pathobiologic and preclinical therapeutic studies.

THERAPEUTICS, TARGETS, AND CHEMICAL BIOLOGY

Tankyrase and the Canonical Wnt Pathway Protect Lung Cancer Cells from EGFR Inhibition

Matias Casás-Selles, Ji hye Kim, Zhixiong Zhang, Barbara A. Helfrich, Dexiang Gao, Christopher C. Porter, Hannah A. Scarborough, Paul A. Bunn Jr, Daniel C. Chan, Aik Choon Tan, and James DeGregori

Precis: A genome-wide short hairpin RNA screen identifies a role for the canonical Wnt signaling pathway in the maintenance of NSCLC cells during EGFR inhibition and suggests that simultaneous targeting may improve clinical outcome in lung cancer patients.

Nanobody-Based Targeting of the Macrophage Mannose Receptor for Effective In Vivo Imaging of Tumor-Associated Macrophages

Kiavash Movahedi, Steve Schoonooqhe, Damya Laoui, Isabelle Houbracken, Wim Waelplet, Karine Breekpot, Luc Bouwens, Tony Lahoutte, Patrick De Baetselier, Geert Raes, Nick Devooqdt, and Jo A. Van Ginderachter

Precis: This study offers a broadly applicable tool to visualize tumor-associated macrophages, which are of great importance in the tumor microenvironment to malignant progression and therapeutic response.

Mithramycin Represses Basal and Cigarette Smoke–Induced Expression of ABCG2 and Inhibits Stem Cell Signaling in Lung and Esophageal Cancer Cells

Mary Zhang, Aarti Mathur, Yuwei Zhang, Sichuan Xi, Scotl Atay, Julie A. Hong, Nicole Datrice, Trevor Uplam, Clinton D. Kemp, R. Taylor Ripley, Gordon Wiegand, Itzak Avital, Patricia Fetsch, Harresh Mani, Daniel Zlott, Robert Robey, Susan E. Bates, Xinmin Li, Mahadev Rao, and David S. Schrump

Precis: Targeting growth factor receptors in cancer may be ill advised in some patients, because alternative splice isoforms in the tumor can confer different functions depending on whether the receptor is expressed in tumor cells versus tumor stromal cells.

BCL2 Suppresses PARP1 Function and Nonapoptotic Cell Death


Precis: BCL2-expressing cancer cells resistant to apoptosis can be killed by BHS mimetics that target the interaction between BCL2 and a DNA repair protein.

HG-829 Is a Potent Noncompetitive Inhibitor of the ATP-Binding Cassette Multidrug Resistance Transporter ABCB1

Gisela Caceres, Robert W. Robey, Lubomir Sokol, Kathy L. McGraw, Justine Clark, Nicholas J. Lawrence, Said M. Sebit, Michael Wiese, and Alan F. List

Precis: Results offer preclinical validation of a highly effective new inhibitor of the P-glycoprotein that is widely responsible for acquired clinical resistance to cytotoxic chemotherapy, with significant therapeutic promise for treating many types of multidrug-resistant malignancies.

Carbonyl Reductase 1 Offers a Novel Therapeutic Target to Enhance Leukemia Treatment by Arsenic Trioxide

Miran Jang, Yeonghwan Kim, Hyeran Won, Sangbin Lim, Jyothi K.R, Amarjargal Dashdorj, Yoo Hong Min, Si-Young Kim, Kevan M. Shokat, Joohun Ha, and Sung Soo Kim

Precis: This study shows how to extend the applications of arsenic trioxide for improving treatment of many types of leukemia.
CDK Inhibitors Upregulate BH3-Only Proteins to Sensitize Human Myeloma Cells to BH3 Mimetic Therapies
Shuang Chen, Yun Dai, Xin-Yan Pei, Jennifer Myers, Li Wang, Lora B. Kramer, Mandy Garnett, Daniella M. Schwartz, Florence Su, Gary L. Simmons, Justin D. Richey, Dustin G. Larsen, Paul Dent, Robert Z. Orlowski, and Steven Grant

Precis: This study offers preclinical proof-of-concept for a therapeutic combination of pan-CDK inhibitors with pan-BH3 mimetics in patients with refractory hematologic malignancies.

TUMLR AND STEM CELL BIOLOGY

Bone-Derived IGF Mediates Crosstalk between Bone and Breast Cancer Cells in Bony Metastases
Toru Hiraga, Akira Myoui, Nobuyuki Hashimoto, Akira Sasaki, Kenji Hata, Yoshihiro Morita, Hideki Yoshikawa, Clifford J. Rosen, Gregory R. Mundy, and Toshiyuki Yoneda

Precis: This study offers new insights into the little understood process of bone metastasis by breast cancers, with implications for the application of IGF antagonists to arrest this debilitating and deadly pathway of cancer progression.

TRPM7 Is Required for Breast Tumor Cell Metastasis

Precis: Findings implicate a calcium channel that is overexpressed in breast cancer cells as a critical mediator of metastasis, with implications for developing more effective antimetastatic drugs.

Dysfunction of Nucleus Accumbens-1 Activates Cellular Senescence and Inhibits Tumor Cell Proliferation and Oncogenesis
Yi Zhang, Yan Cheng, Xingcong Ren, Tsukasa Hori, Kathryn J. Huber-Keener, Li Zhang, Kai Lee Yap, David Liu, Lisa Shantz, Zheng-Hong Qin, Suping Zhang, Jianrong Wang, Hong-Gang Wang, Ie-Ming Shih, and Jin-Ming Yang

Precis: This study offers new insights into mechanisms of senescence and how its bypass is important for tumor development and progression.

BMP4 Administration Induces Differentiation of CD133+ Hepatic Cancer Stem Cells, Blocking Their Contributions to Hepatocellular Carcinoma
Lixing Zhang, Hefen Sun, Fangyu Zhao, Ping Lu, Chao Ge, Hong Li, Helei Hou, Mingxia Yan, Taoyang Chen, Guoping Jiang, Haiyang Xie, Ying Cui, Xiaowu Huang, Jia Fan, Ming Yao, and Jinjun Li

Precis: High-dose treatment with a TGF-β-related growth factor can block the contribution of liver cancer stem cells to malignant development and chemoresistance, perhaps offering a broad-spectrum therapeutic strategy in this disease.

Correction: Scaling Laws for Plasma Concentrations and Tolerable Doses of Anticancer Drugs
ABOUT THE COVER

Because of the torturous vasculature of solid tumors and the diffusion limitations of oxygen, cancer cells routinely encounter hypoxic conditions. Immunohistochemistry of pimonidazole hydrochloride, a nitroimidazole with hypoxic selectivity, identifies a ring of cells (brown) that define the hypoxic border between well-oxygenated and necrotic tissue. Cancer cells depend on glycolysis to meet energetic demands when deprived of oxygen; as a result, these hypoxic regions are expected to be acidic. In response to acidic environments, cells exhibit chronic elevated autophagic activity, a phenotype that is partially reversible in vivo following buffer therapy with sodium bicarbonate. For details, see article by Wojtkowiak and colleagues on page 3938.