Highlights from Recent Cancer Literature

Androgen Receptor on the Move: Boarding the Microtubule Expressway to the Nucleus
Maria Thadani-Mulero, David M. Nanus, and Paraskevi Giannakakou

Role of the Human High-Affinity Copper Transporter in Copper Homeostasis Regulation and Cisplatin Sensitivity in Cancer Chemotherapy
Macus Tien Kuo, Siqing Fu, Niramol Savaraj, and Helen H.W. Chen

Real-time Monitoring of In Vivo Acute Necrotic Cancer Cell Death Induced by Near Infrared Photoimmunotherapy Using Fluorescence Lifetime Imaging
Takahito Nakajima, Kohei Sano, Makoto Mitsunaga, Peter L. Choyke, and Hisataka Kobayashi

Hypoxia-Inducible miR-210 Regulates the Susceptibility of Tumor Cells to Lysis by Cytotoxic T Cells
Muhammad Zaeem Noman, Stéphanie Buart, Pedro Romero, Sami Ketari, Bassam Janji, Bernard Mari, Fathia Mami-Chouaib, and Salem Chouaib

NFAT1 Supports Tumor-induced Anergy of CD4+ T Cells
Brian T. Abe, Daniel S. Shin, Enric Mocholi, and Fernando Macian

Activation of Robo1 Signaling of Breast Cancer Cells by Slit2 from Stromal Fibroblast Restraints Tumorigenesis via Blocking PI3K/Akt/β-Catenin Pathway

Platelets and P-Selectin Control Tumor Cell Metastasis in an Organ-Specific Manner and Independently of NK Cells
Lucy A. Coupland, Beng H. Chong, and Christopher R. Parish

Collaboration of Kras and Androgen Receptor Signaling Stimulates EZH2 Expression and Tumor-Propagating Cells in Prostate Cancer
Houjian Cai, Sanaz Memarzadeh, Tanya Stoyanova, Zanna Beharry, Andrew S. Kraft, and Owen N. Witte
Ink4a/Arf Inactivation with Activation of the NF-κB/IL-6 Pathway Is Sufficient to Drive the Development and Growth of Angiosarcoma
Jinming Yang, Sara Kantrow, Jiqing Sai, Oriana E. Hawkins, Mark Boothby, Gregory D. Ayers, Eric D. Young, Elizabeth G. Demicco, Alexander J. Lazar, Dina Lev, and Ann Richmond

Précis: Results offer clinical implications for targeting the NF-κB/IL-6/STAT3 pathway to treat angiosarcoma, a rare but aggressive cancer of endothelial or lymph vessel cells that is poorly understood.

Ectopic ATP Synthase Blockade Suppresses Lung Adenocarcinoma Growth by Activating the Unfolded Protein Response
Hsin-Yi Chang, Hsuan-Cheng Huang, Tsui-Chin Huang, Pan-Chyr Yang, Yi-Ching Wang, and Hsueh-Fen Juan

Précis: Findings elucidate a feature of mitochondrial ATP synthase expressed at the plasma membrane in lung cancer cells that might be exploited therapeutically.

MicroRNA-21 Modulates the Levels of Reactive Oxygen Species by Targeting SOD3 and TNFα
Xiangming Zhang, Wooi-Loon Ng, Ping Wang, Lin Lin Tian, Erica Werner, Huichen Wang, Paul Doetsch, and Ya Wang

Précis: An oncogenic microRNA thought to promote cancer mainly by affecting expression of growth regulatory genes may actually do so by regulating genes that promote reactive oxygen species formation, a root driver of carcinogenesis.

Truncated DNMT3B Isoform DNMT3B7 Suppresses Growth, Induces Differentiation, and Alters DNA Methylation in Human Neuroblastoma
Kelly R. Ostler, Qiwei Yang, Timothy J. Looney, Li Zhang, Aparna Vasanthakumar, Yufeng Tian, Mashu Kocherginsky, Stacey L. Raimondi, Jessica G. DeMaio, Helen R. Salwen, Song Gu, Alexandre Chlenski, Arlene Naranjo, Amy Gill, Radhika Peddinti, Bruce T. Lahn, Susan L. Cohn, and Lucy A. Godley

Précis: This study provides insights into the mechanistic basis for epigenetic changes in neuroblastoma, acting at the level of DNA methylation, with the potential to leverage treatments that use all-trans retinoic acid in this disease.

Unphosphorylated STAT1 Promotes Sarcoma Development through Repressing Expression of Fas and Bad and Conferring Apoptotic Resistance

Précis: Findings provide a molecular mechanism to explain the opposing functions between phosphorylated and unphosphorylated STAT1 in the control of the development of aggressive soft-tissue tumors.

PREVENTION AND EPIDEMIOLOGY

Markers of B-Cell Activation in Relation to Risk of Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma
Annemaire J. De Roos, Dana K. Mirick, Kerstin L. Edlefsen, Andrea Z. LaCroix, Kenneth J. Kopecky, Margaret M. Madeleine, Larry Magquist, and Otoniel Martínez-Maza

Précis: Evidence from a study of postmenopausal women suggests that B-cell activation plays a prominent role in the pathogenesis of non-Hodgkin lymphomas, pointing toward avenues for development of early diagnostic tests for this disease.

Therapeutics, Targets, and Chemical Biology

Hematologic β-Tubulin VI Isoform Exhibits Genetic Variability That Influences Paclitaxel Toxicity
Luis J. Leandro-Garcia, Susanna Leskelä, Lucía Inglada-Pérez, Itígo Landa, Aguirre A. de Cubas, Agnieszka Maliszewska, Inaki Comino-Méndez, Rocío Letón, Álvaro Gómez-Graña, Raúl Torres, Juan Carlos Ramírez, Sara Álvarez, José Rivera, Constantino Martínez, María Luisa Lozano, Alberto Cascón, Mercedes Robledo, and Cristina Rodríguez-Antona

Précis: A genetic variation found in a tubulin isoform expressed only in hematopoietic cells may explain the patient variation in myelosuppression that occurs after treatment with microtubule binding drugs.

Systemic Combination Virotherapy for Melanoma with Tumor Antigen-Expressing Vesicular Stomatitis Virus and Adoptive T-Cell Transfer
Diana M. Rommelfanger, Phonphimon Wongthida, Rosa M. Diaz, Karen M. Kaluzza, Jill M. Thompson, Timothy J. Kotite, and Richard G. Vile

Précis: Combining adoptive T-cell therapy with the immune stimulating benefits of oncolytic virotherapy might generate a truly systemic protocol for treatment of metastatic cancers without the need of direct access to the tumor.
B-Raf Activation Cooperates with PTEN Loss to Drive c-Myc Expression in Advanced Prostate Cancer
Jingqiang Wang, Takashi Kobayashi, Nicolas Floch, Carolyn Waugh Kinkade, Alvaro Aytes, David Dankort, Celine Lefebvre, Antonina Mitrofanova, Robert D. Cardiff, Martin McMahon, Andrea Califano, Michael M. Shen, and Cory Abate-Shen

Precis: This study describing a novel model of advanced castration-resistant prostate cancers suggests a generalized approach to target Myc activation, a long-standing goal in cancer research, by combining inhibitors of the PI3K/Akt/mTOR and MAPK signaling pathways.

Effective Photothermal Chemotherapy Using Doxorubicin-Loaded Gold Nanospheres that Target EphB4 Receptors in Tumors
Jian You, Rui Zhang, Chiyi Xiong, Meng Zhong, Maritess Melancon, Sanjay Gupta, Alpa M. Nick, Anil K. Sood, and Chun Li

Precis: A single nanodevice that targets tumor cells with both chemotherapy and phototherapy attacks is shown to exert a synergistic antitumor effect without increased toxicity in a preclinical mouse model.

Oxidation-Mediated DNA Cross-Linking Contributes to the Toxicity of 6-Thioguanine in Human Cells
Reto Brem and Peter Karran

Precis: Two key contributors to the cytotoxicity of anticancer and immunosuppressant thiopurine drugs are their incorporation into DNA and their ability to increase levels of reactive oxygen species.

HER2 Overexpression Renders Human Breast Cancers Sensitive to PARP Inhibition Independently of Any Defect in Homologous Recombination DNA Repair
Somaira Nosheen, Tiffiny Cooper, James A. Bonner, Albert F. LoBuglio, and Eddy S. Yang

Precis: Findings may broaden clinical applications for PARP inhibitors in treating HER2+ breast cancers, many of which ultimately become resistant to HER2 antibody therapies used widely in the clinic.

The Antioxidant Tempol Reduces Carcinogenesis and Enhances Survival in Mice When Administered after Nonlethal Total Body Radiation
James B. Mitchell, Miriam R. Anver, Anastasia L. Sowers, Philip S. Rosenberg, Maria Figueroa, Angela Thetford, Murali C. Krishna, Paul S. Albert, and John A. Cook

Precis: Findings prompt human studies of an antioxidant compound that can limit radiation-induced secondary malignancies after radiation therapy, and that may reduce the risks of cancer in individuals exposed to nonlethal radiation as a result of nuclear accidents or attacks.

CCN6 Modulates BMP Signaling via the Smad-Independent TAK1/p38 Pathway, Acting to Suppress Metastasis of Breast Cancer
Anupama Pal, Wei Huang, Xin Li, Kathy A. Toy, Zaneta Nikolovska-Coleska, and Celina G. Kleer

Precis: Findings identify a novel modifier pathway through which the extracellular matrix protein CCN6 limits the effects of the TGF-β signaling axis on breast cancer invasion and metastasis.

PCA-1/ALKBH3 Contributes to Pancreatic Cancer by Supporting Apoptotic Resistance and Angiogenesis
Ichiro Yamato, Masayuki Sho, Keiji Shimada, Kiyohiko Hotta, Yuko Ueda, Satoshi Yasuda, Naoko Shigi, Noboru Konishi, Kazutake Tsujikawa, and Yoshiyuki Nakajima

Precis: Findings suggest functional insights for a little-studies DNA repair gene in the pathophysiology of pancreatic cancer, with possible impacts on progression and therapeutic management.

TGF-β and αvβ6 Integrin Act in a Common Pathway to Suppress Pancreatic Cancer Progression
Aram F. Hezel, Vikram Deshpande, Stephanie M. Zimmerman, Gianmarco Contino, Brinda Alagesan, Michael R. O'Dell, Lee B. Rivera, Jay Harper, Scott Lonning, Rolf A. Brekken, and Nabeel Bardeesy

Precis: Findings from this preclinical study provide support for the argument that blocking the TGF-β pathway may actually accelerate disease progression, challenging concepts about the potential benefit of such an approach in cancer patients.

The Antioxidant Tempol Reduces Carcinogenesis and Enhances Survival in Mice When Administered after Nonlethal Total Body Radiation
James B. Mitchell, Miriam R. Anver, Anastasia L. Sowers, Philip S. Rosenberg, Maria Figueroa, Angela Thetford, Murali C. Krishna, Paul S. Albert, and John A. Cook

Precis: Findings prompt human studies of an antioxidant compound that can limit radiation-induced secondary malignancies after radiation therapy, and that may reduce the risks of cancer in individuals exposed to nonlethal radiation as a result of nuclear accidents or attacks.
Candidate Pathways for Promoting Differentiation or Quiescence of Oligodendrocyte Progenitor-like Cells in Glioma

Joseph D. Dougherty, Elena I. Fomchenko, Afua A. Akuffo, Eric Schmidt, Karim Y. Helmy, Elena Bazzoli, Cameron W. Brennan, Eric C. Holland, and Ana Milosevic

Précis: Translational profiling of mouse and human glioblastomas identified several candidate pathways that promote quiescence or differentiation rather than proliferation in these tumors, suggesting new therapeutic targets for combination treatment.

ABOUT THE COVER

Complete tumor eradication by thermal ablation therapy alone is often difficult because of sub-lethal thermal dose in some areas of the tumor. For photothermal ablation therapy, it is highly desirable to selectively deliver combined thermal ablation therapy and other treatment modalities such as chemotherapy through a single nanodevice. Using doxorubicin-loaded hollow gold nanospheres conjugated with a high-affinity cyclic peptide recognizing EphB4 receptors, it was found that targeted nanoparticles displayed significantly higher tumor uptakes than nanoparticles without peptidyl homing ligands. Moreover, treatment with near-infrared laser led to synergistic antitumor effect without increased toxicities in a preclinical mouse model. For details, see article by You and colleagues on page 4777.