Highlights from Recent Cancer Literature

1p36 Tumor Suppression—A Matter of Dosage?

Engineering Approaches for Investigating Tumor Angiogenesis: Exploiting the Role of the Extracellular Matrix

Why Your New Cancer Biomarker May Never Work: Recurrent Patterns and Remarkable Diversity in Biomarker Failures

Skin-Test Infiltrating Lymphocytes Early Predict Clinical Outcome of Dendritic Cell–Based Vaccination in Metastatic Melanoma

Unexpected Dissemination Patterns in Lymphoma Progression Revealed by Serial Imaging within a Murine Lymph Node

Distinctive Features of the Differentiated Phenotype and Infiltration of Tumor-Reactive Lymphocytes in Clear Cell Renal Cell Carcinoma

ICOS-Ligand Expression on Plasmacytoid Dendritic Cells Supports Breast Cancer Progression by Promoting the Accumulation of Immunosuppressive CD4+ T Cells

Précis: This study offers a simple and robust cellular bioassay to predict survival in metastatic melanoma patients receiving immunotherapy at early times in their treatment by integrating multiple functions that mediate effective immune response.

Précis: Use of a novel in vivo multimodal imaging system reveals that seeding of lymphoma cells into peripheral lymph nodes occurs by a rapid release of large numbers of tumor cells from the spleen or bone marrow, in contrast to the accepted paradigm of metastatic seeding.

Précis: Renal cancer is thought to be a highly immunogenic cancer, but it has been difficult to identify and understand the nature of the tumor-infiltrating lymphocytes before this study, which has implications for understanding the role of T-cell memory in effective immune responses in cancer.

Précis: Within breast tumors, interaction between the ICOS receptor on infiltrating T cells with the ICOS ligand on infiltrating plasmacytoid dendritic cells is a pivotal determinant of immune escape and is strongly rationalized as a therapeutic target to combine with other treatments.
Distinct Patterns of Dysregulated Expression of Enzymes Involved in Androgen Synthesis and Metabolism in Metastatic Prostate Cancer Tumors

Nicholas Mitsiades, Clifford C. Sung, Nikolaus Schultz, Daniel C. Danila, Bin He, Vijay Kumar Eedunuri, Martin Fleisher, Chris Sander, Charles L. Sawyers, and Howard I. Scher

Précis: Metastatic prostate carcinomas exhibit heterogeneous and distinct patterns of dysregulated expression of enzymes involved in androgen metabolism, which can contribute to the maintenance of intratumoral androgens and AR transcriptional activity despite castrate serum levels of testosterone.

Geminin Functions Downstream of p53 in K-ras–Induced Gene Amplification of Dihydrofolate Reductase

Ling Shen, Takashi Nishioka, Jinjin Guo, and Changyan Chen

Précis: Findings provide insight into the mechanistic relationship between ras mutations and gene amplification, which occur in more than 30% of all human malignancies.

An Insertion/Deletion Polymorphism within RERT-lncRNA Modulates Hepatocellular Carcinoma Risk

Zhansheng Zhu, Xueren Gao, Yan He, Hua Zhao, Qiang Yu, Deke Jiang, Pinghao Zhang, Xiaopin Ma, Huixing Huang, Dong Dong, Jiao Wan, Zhenyong Gu, Xinghong Jiang, Long Yu, and Yuzhen Gao

Précis: An insertion/deletion polymorphism in a novel long non-coding RNA influences liver cancer risk and affects expression of a prolyl hydroxylase for the hypoxia regulatory factor HIF-1α.

Genetic Variants in miRNAs Predict Bladder Cancer Risk and Recurrence

Melin Wang, Haiyan Chu, Pu Li, Lin Yuan, Guangbo Fu, Lan Ma, Danni Shi, Dongyan Zhong, Na Tong, Chao Qin, Changjun Yin, and Zhengdong Zhang

Précis: MicroRNA variations in human populations may represent important sources of cancer risk and recurrence, but they are only beginning to be probed as potential theranostic markers.

Contributions of Recent and Past Sexual Partnerships on Incident Human Papillomavirus Detection: Acquisition and Reactivation in Older Women

Anne F. Rositch, Anne E. Burke, Raphael P. Viscidi, Michelle L. Silver, Kathryn Chang, and Patti E. Gravitt

Précis: Most incident HPV infection appears to be attributable to past sexual behavior at older ages, supporting a natural history model of viral latency and reactivation, which must be considered in developing recommendations for cervical cancer screening, as more highly exposed women transition through menopause in coming decades.

Ultrasound-Targeted Microbubble Destruction to Deliver siRNA Cancer Therapy

Andrew R. Carson, Charles F. McTiernan, Linda Lavery, Michelle Grata, Xiaoping Leng, Jianjun Wang, Xucai Chen, and Flordeliza S. Villanueva

Précis: This study addresses the need for pharmacological strategies to effectively target therapeutic siRNA to tumors for cancer therapy.

Targeting the Transposase Domain of the DNA Repair Component Metnase to Enhance Chemotherapy

Elizabeth A. Williamson, Leah Damiani, Andrei Leitao, Chelin Hu, Helen Hathaway, Tudor Oprea, Larry Sklar, Montaser Shaheen, Julie Bauman, Wei Wang, Jac A. Nickoloff, Suk-Hee Lee, and Robert Hromas

Précis: Findings suggest that an approved antibiotic drug might be immediately repositioned to enhance the effectiveness of DNA-damaging chemotherapies used widely as first-line treatment of metastatic cancer.

Augmentation of Therapeutic Responses in Melanoma by Inhibition of IRAK-1, -4

Ratika Srivastava, Degui Geng, Yingjia Liu, Ligen Zheng, Zhaoyang Li, Mary Ann Joseph, Colleen McKenna, Navneeta Bansal, Augusto Ochoa, and Eduardo Davila

Précis: Toll-like receptors are thought to operate as proinflammatory receptors in immune cells, but this study lends credence to the idea that their frequent overexpression on cancer cells also has functional import, with potential prognostic and therapeutic implications.
Raf Kinase Inhibitor RKIP Inhibits MDA-9/Syntenin-Mediated Metastasis in Melanoma


Précis: This study provides mechanistic insights into an important pathway of metastasis in melanoma, one of the most aggressive cancers, possibly stimulating new therapeutic strategies to block or reverse this process in patients.

Oxidative Stress-Regulated Lentiviral TK/GCV Gene Therapy for Lung Cancer Treatment


Précis: This study provides proof-of-concept for use of a modified lentiviral-mediated gene therapy to destroy lung tumors, where expression of the therapeutic gene is controlled by a powerful antioxidant response element that is strongly upregulated in the cancer cells.

A Novel Evolutionarily Conserved Element Is a General Transcriptional Repressor of p21WAF1/CIP1

Weiguo Xu, Qi Zhu, Zhenghua Wu, Hao Guo, Fengqian Wu, Dhaibri S. Mashauxi, Chengjie Zheng, and Dawei Li

Précis: The study revealed that a low level expression of the tumor suppressor p21 is maintained by an evolutionary-conserved repression element that can be turned "on" by selected chemotherapeutic drugs to slow cancer growth.

Halofuginone Inhibits the Establishment and Progression of Melanoma Bone Metastases

Patricia Juárez, Khalid S. Mohammad, Juan Juan Yin, Pierrick G. J. Fournier, Ryan C. McKenna, Holly W. Davis, Xiang H. Peng, Maria Niewolna, Delphine Javelaud, John M. Chirgwin, Alain Mauviel, and Theresa A. Guise

Précis: A natural product that activates the integrated stress response and modulates T317 immunity is shown here to block TGF-β induced signals that drive bone and brain metastasis in melanoma, suggesting therapeutic applications of this compound for therapy of advanced forms of this disease.
ABOUT THE COVER

A mutator phenotype revealed in colon adenomas. Point mutations identified by exome sequencing are indicated as green dots in vertical columns. Loss of heterozygosity targeting chromosome 5 in one of these adenomas is shown by the blue circles forming horizontal lines. This matrix of data formed the basis for determining mutation rates in normal colon tissue and in precancerous adenoma lesions, revealing the presence of a mutator phenotype in the latter. For details, please see the article by Nikolaev and colleagues on page 6279.

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