Highlights from Recent Cancer Literature

CONCOMITANT TUMOR RESISTANCE: THE ROLE OF TYROSINE ISOMERS IN THE MECHANISMS OF METASTASES CONTROL
Raúl A. Ruggiero, Juan Bruzzo, Paula Chiarella, Oscar D. Bustuobad, Roberto P. Meiss, and Christiane D. Pasqualini

CONSISTENCY TEST OF THE CELL CYCLE: ROLES FOR p53 AND EGR1
Yaara Zwang, Moshe Oren, and Yosef Yarden

REVIEW

RODENT AS A MODEL OF THE IMMUNE RESPONSE TO CANCER
Steven D. Rosenberg

PERSPECTIVE

REPURPOSING APPROVED AND ABANDONED DRUGS FOR THE TREATMENT AND PREVENTION OF CANCER THROUGH PUBLIC–PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP
Scott J. Weir, Louis J. DeGennaro, and Christopher P. Austin

HUMAN TH17 IMMUNE CELLS SPECIFIC FOR THE TUMOR ANTIGEN MAGE-A3 CONVERT TO IFN-γ-SECRETING CELLS AS THEY DIFFERENTIATE INTO EFFECTOR T CELLS IN VIVO
Ahmed Hamai, Pascale Pignon, Isabelle Raimbaud, Karine Dupeyrer-Amouriaux, Hélène Senellart, Sandrine Hiret, Jean-Yves Douillard, Jaafar Bennouna, Maha Ayyoub, and Danila Valmori

OVARIAN CANCER RISK ASSOCIATED WITH INHERITED INFLAMMATION-RELATED VARIANTS

MICROENVIRONMENT AND IMMUNOLOGY

IMMUNOTYPE AND IMMUNOHISTOLOGIC CHARACTERISTICS OF TUMOR-INFILTRATING IMMUNE CELLS ARE ASSOCIATED WITH CLINICAL OUTCOME IN METASTATIC MELANOMA
Gulsun Erdag, Jochen T. Schafer, Mark E. Smolkin, Donna H. Deacon, Sofia M. Shea, Lynn T. Dengel, James W. Patterson, and Craig L. Slingluff Jr

EXPLOITING THE MUTANOME FOR TUMOR VACCINATION
John C. Castle, Sebastian Kreiter, Jan Diekmann, Martin Löwer, Niels van de Roemer, Jos de Graaf, Abderraouf Selmi, Mustafa Diken, Sebastian Boegel, Claudia Paret, Michael Koslowski, Andreas N. Kuhn, Cedrik M. Britten, Christoph Huber, Özlem Türeci, and Ugur Sahin
Tumor-Derived Chemokine CCL5 Enhances TGF-β–Mediated Killing of CD8⁺ T Cells in Colon Cancer by T-Regulatory Cells


Precise: This intriguing study tightens the emerging connections in cancer between inflammation, immune escape, and metastasis by showing how a chemokine implicated in inflammation and metastasis also drives immune escape by recruiting Treg cells that promote progression into tumors.

VEGF Receptor Inhibitors Block the Ability of Metronomically Dosed Cyclophosphamide to Activate Innate Immunity–Induced Tumor Regression

Joshua C. Doloff and David J. Waxman

Precise: Anti-VEGFR drugs can block beneficial antitumor immune responses that are triggered by periodic administration of cytotoxic chemotherapy, with implications for clinical trials that combine these drug classes.

Effective Treatment of Metastatic Forms of Epstein-Barr Virus–Associated Nasopharyngeal Carcinoma with a Novel Adenovirus-Based Adoptive Immunotherapy

Corey Smith, Janice Tsang, Leone Beagley, Daniel Chua, Victor Lee, Vivian Li, Denis J. Moss, William Coman, Kwok H. Chan, John Nicholls, Dora Kwong, and Rajiv Khanna

Precise: Early clinical findings reported in this study support the ongoing development of an immunotherapy for progressed forms of the most common throat cancer in the Far East, an endemic disease associated with EBV infections in a manner analogous to the association of HPV infections in cervical cancer.

Upregulation of miR-196a and HOTAIR Drive Malignant Character in Gastrointestinal Stromal Tumors

Takeshi Niihuma, Hiromu Suzuki, Masanori Nojima, Katsuhiko Nosho, Hiroyuki Yamamoto, Hiroyuki Takamatu, Eiichiro Yamamoto, Reo Maruyama, Takayuki Nohuoda, Yasuaki Miyazaki, Toshitrou Nishida, Takeo Bamba, Tatsuo Kanda, Yoichi Ajioka, Takahiro Taguchi, Satoshi Okahara, Hiroaki Takahashi, Yasunori Nishida, Masao Hosokawa, Tadashi Hasegawa, Takashi Tokino, Koichi Hirata, Kohzoh Imai, Minoru Toyota, and Yasuhisa Shinomura

Precise: This study is among the first to reveal an important role in human cancer for HOTAIR, a member of an as yet little studied new category of long noncoding RNAs that may have broad applications as biomarkers or therapeutic targets in oncology.

Kr-Pok Interacts with p53 and Represses Its Ability to Activate Transcription of p21WAF1/CDKN1A

Bu-Nam Jeon, Min-Kyong Kim, Won-Il Choi, Dong-In Koh, Sung-Yi Hong, Kyung-Sup Kim, Minjung Kim, Chae-Ok Yun, Juyeong Youn, Kang-Yell Choi, Kyung-Ryul Lee, Kenneth P. Nephew, and Man-Wook Hur

Precise: Findings provide important novel insights into how the transcriptional activation function of p53 is repressed in cells, with implications for understanding a new oncogenic pathway in kidney cancers.

ATR–ATRIP Kinase Complex Triggers Activation of the Fanconi Anemia DNA Repair Pathway

Tomoko Shigechi, Junya Tomida, Koichi Sato, Masahiko Kobayashi, John K. Eykelenboom, Fabio Pessina, Yanbin Zhang, Emi Uchida, Masamichi Ishiiai, Noel F. Lowndes, Kenichi Yamamoto, Hitoshi Kurumizaka, Yoshikiko Maehara, and Minoru Takata

Precise: Findings advance pathophysiologic understanding of a cancer-disposing disorder, Fanconi anemia, and reveal key insights into fundamental control pathways for S-phase DNA repair and cell-cycle checkpoint defective in cancer.
Kaposi Sarcoma Herpesvirus Promotes Endothelial-to-Mesenchymal Transition through Notch-Dependent Signaling
Paola Gasperini, Georgina Espigol-Frigole, Peter J. McCormick, Ombretta Salvucci, Dragan Maric, Thomas S. Uldrick, Mark N. Polizzotto, Robert Yarchan, and Giovanna Tosato

Précis: This study identifies a basis to understand the aggressiveness of a mesenchymal cancer that occurs commonly in AIDS patients, with implications for its better treatment with Notch pathway inhibitors currently being explored in clinical trials.

DNA Methylation Does Not Stably Lock Gene Expression but Instead Serves as a Molecular Mark for Gene Silencing Memory

Précis: Chromatin is a target for epigenetic cancer therapies that reactivate gene expression, but removal of DNA methylation signals is required first to achieve durable long-term effects.

Novel Genetic Markers of Breast Cancer Survival Identified by a Genome-Wide Association Study

Précis: Genetic variants in the RAD51L1 gene implicated in DNA repair along with a second locus on chromosome 16 appear to predict the survival of breast cancer patients.

Impact of Circulating Vitamin D Binding Protein Levels on the Association between 25-Hydroxyvitamin D and Pancreatic Cancer Risk: A Nested Case-Control Study
Stephanie J. Weinstein, Rachael Z. Stolzenberg-Solomon, William Kopp, Helen Rager, Jarmo Virtamo, and Demetrius Albanes

Précis: Findings suggest an explanation for the adverse influence of vitamin D on risk of pancreatic cancer, which contrasts with some other solid tumors, with implications for how future risk association studies of vitamin D may be designed.

Cathepsin B Inhibition Limits Bone Metastasis in Breast Cancer
Nimai P. Withana, Gahla Blum, Mansourehe Sameni, Clare Slaney, Arulselvi Anbalagan, Mary B. Olive, Bradley N. Bidwell, Laura Edgington, Ling Wang, Kamiar Moin, Bonnie F. Sloane, Robin L. Anderson, Matthew S. Bogyo, and Belinda S. Parker

Précis: Important findings suggest a new strategy to block metastasis of breast cancer cells to bone, a common feature of malignant progression in breast cancer patients with few effective treatment options at present.

B Effector Cells Activated by a Chimeric Protein Consisting of IL-2 and the Ectodomain of TGF-β Receptor II Induce Potent Antitumor Immunity
Claudia Penafuerte, Spencer Ng, Norma Bautista-Lopez, Elena Birman, Kathy Forner, and Jacques Galipeau

Précis: A chimeric protein composed of IL-2 and the extracellular part of the TGF-β type II receptor can stimulate B cells to induce complete protection against tumor challenge, with implications for cellular immunotherapy of cancer.

RNAi-Mediated Targeting of Noncoding and Coding Sequences in DNA Repair Gene Messages Efficiently Radiosensitizes Human Tumor Cells
Zhiming Zheng, Wooi Loon Ng, Xiangming Zhang, Jeffrey J. Olson, Chunhai Hao, Walter J. Curran, and Ya Wang

Précis: This study defines a generalized approach for highly efficient RNAi-based gene silencing, using a combinatorial targeting strategy to illustrate how knockdown of DNA repair genes can effectively radiosensitize tumor cells.

LRIG1 Modulates Cancer Cell Sensitivity to Smac Mimetics by Regulating TNFα Expression and Receptor Tyrosine Kinase Signaling
Longchuan Bai, Donna McEachern, Chao-Yie Yang, Jianfeng Lu, Haiying Sun, and Shaomeng Wang

Précis: This study provides key insights into the basis for resistance to IAP inhibitors, possibly critical to the successful clinical development of this new class of cancer drugs.
Adoptive Cell Therapy for Lymphoma with CD4 T Cells Depleted of CD137-Expressing Regulatory T Cells
Matthew J. Goldstein, Holbrook E. Kohrt, Roch Houot, Bindu Varghese, Jack T. Lin, Erica Swanson, and Ronald Levy

Precis: This important study provides knowledge that can immediately be translated into the clinical setting to optimize cell-based cancer immunotherapies based on adoptive transfer of CD4⁺ T lymphocytes.

Pocket Proteins Suppress Head and Neck Cancer
Myeong-Kyun Shin, Henry C. Pitot, and Paul F. Lambert

Precis: Genetic inactivation of the tumor suppressor protein Rb, and its relative p107, is sufficient to phenocopy the oncogenic activity of the human papillomavirus E7 oncoprotein in stimulating formation of head and neck cancer in mice, thereby establishing the importance of Rb/p107 functions in virally associated forms of this cancer which are rising rapidly in incidence.

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TUMOR AND STEM CELL BIOLOGY

Targeting Pioneering Factor and Hormone Receptor Cooperative Pathways to Suppress Tumor Progression
Supriya Shah, Shikha Prasad, and Karen E. Knudsen

Precis: Findings reveal that the turmeric spice component curcumin can act in a combinatorial manner to disrupt histone modification and androgen receptor signaling to control prostate cancer growth.

PRAS40 Is a Functionally Critical Target for EWS Repression in Ewing Sarcoma
Lin Huang, Yuji Nakai, Iku Kuwahara, and Ken Matsumoto

Precis: An Akt substrate is identified as a critical oncogenic mediator in an aggressive type of pediatric cancer that has had an elusive molecular pathobiology.

p53 Inhibits Angiogenesis by Inducing the Production of Arresten
Sarah Assadian, Wissal El-Assaad, Xue Q.D. Wang, Phillip O. Lennon, Véronique Barrès, Mathieu Latour, Anne-Marie Mes-Masson, Fred Saad, Yoshikazu Sado, Josée Dostie, and Jose G. Teodoro

Precis: In addition to its well studied effects on tumor cell growth, senescence, and survival, p53 also acts in many ways to modify the cellular microenvironment, including through regulation of antiangiogenic factors.

Oncogenicity of the Developmental Transcription Factor Sox9
Ander Matheu, Manuel Collado, Clare Wise, Lorea Manterola, Lina Cekaite, Angela J. Tye, Marta Canameron, Luis Bujanda, Andreas Schell, Kathryn S.E. Cheah, Rolf I. Skotheim, Ragnhild A. Lothe, Adolfo López de Munain, James Briscoe, Manuel Serrano, and Robin Lovell-Badge

Precis: Sox9, a gene active during embryogenesis and in adult stem cells, is found to be widely upregulated in various cancers where its expression is associated with unstrained cell proliferation, immortalization, and tumorigenesis.

CORRECTIONS

Correction: Increased Survival of Glioblastoma Patients Who Respond to Antiangiogenic Therapy with Elevated Blood Perfusion

Correction: Regulation of Matrix Metalloproteinase Genes by E2F Transcription Factors: Rb–Raf-1 Interaction as a Novel Target for Metastatic Disease
A number of cathepsin proteases have been documented to promote tumor invasion and metastasis. However, the role of specific proteases in breast cancer metastasis and the therapeutic potential of their selective inhibition in clinically relevant models are not clear. Using 3D and in vivo models, Withana and colleagues have shown that the cysteine protease cathepsin B has important roles in breast cancer metastasis and that therapeutic inhibition of this protease using small-molecule inhibitors dramatically decreases metastasis to lung and bone. The cover image was produced with fluorescent whole-body imaging using a cysteine cathepsin activity–based fluorescent probe (GB123) and the fluorescent diphosphonate probe Osteosense 750, which detects bone remodeling. The image shows cysteine cathepsin activity along the spine of mice bearing bone metastatic tumors. This activity is reduced in mice treated with the cathepsin B selective small-molecule inhibitor CA-074. For details, see the article by Withana and colleagues on page 1199 of this issue.