Highlights from Recent Cancer Literature

Endoplasmic Reticulum Stress, the Unfolded Protein Response, Autophagy, and the Integrated Regulation of Breast Cancer Cell Fate
Robert Clarke, Katherine L. Cook, Rong Hu, Caroline O.B. Facey, Iman Tavassoly, Jessica L. Tyson, Jianhua Xuan, Yue Wang, Anni Warr, and Ayesha N. Shajahan

Acetylation: A Novel Link between Double-Strand Break Repair and Autophagy
Ghadeer Shubassi, Thomas Robert, Fabio Vanoli, Saverio Minucci, and Marco Foiani

Direct Therapeutic Applications of Calcium Electroporation to Effectively Induce Tumor Necrosis
Stine Krog Frandsen, Hamne Gissel, Pernille Hojman, Trine Tramm, Jens Eriksen, and Julie Gehl

Proinflammatory Characteristics of SMAC/DIABLO-Induced Cell Death in Antitumor Therapy
Perpetua U. Emeghi, Sandra Van Lint, Cleo Goyvaerts, Sarah Marenhout, Anje Cauwels, Iain A. McNeish, Tomas Bos, Carlo Heirman, Kris Thielenmans, Joeri L. Aerts, and Karine Breckpot

Extracellular Matrix Protein CCN1 Limits Oncolytic Efficacy in Glioma
Amy Haseley, Sean Boone, Jeffrey Wijten, Lianbo Yu, Ji Young Yoo, Jianhua Yu, Kazuhiro Kurozumi, Joseph C. Glorioso, Michael A. Caligiuri, and Balveen Kaur

Macrophage-Induced Tumor Angiogenesis Is Regulated by the TSC2–mTOR Pathway
Wei Chen, Tao Ma, Xu-ning Shen, Xue-feng Xia, Guo-dong Xu, Xue-li Bui, and Ting-Bo Liang

Aptamer-Mediated Blockade of IL4Ra Triggers Apoptosis of MDCs and Limits Tumor Progression
Felix Roth, Adriana C. De La Fuente, Jennifer L. Vella, Alessia Zoso, Luca Inverardi, and Paolo Serafini
Myeloid Progenitor Cells in the Premetastatic Lung Promote Metastases by Inducing Mesenchymal to Epithelial Transition

Dingcheng Gao, Natasha Joshi, Hyejin Choi, Seoungho Ryu, Mary Hahn, Raul Catena, Helen Sadik, Pedram Argani, Patrick Wagner, Linda T. Vahdat, Jeffrey L. Port, Brendon Stiles, Saraswati Sukumar, Nasser K. Altorki, Shaheen Rafii, and Vivek Mittal

Précis: Bone marrow cells attracted to the lungs of breast cancer patients interact with metastatic tumor cells to stimulate mesenchymal to epithelial transition, thereby promoting tumor progression.

Bioactivity and Prognostic Significance of Growth Differentiation Factor GDF15 Secreted by Bone Marrow Mesenchymal Stem Cells in Multiple Myeloma

Jill Corre, Elodie Labat, Nicolas Espagnolle, Benjamin Helbraud, Hervé Avet-Loiseau, Murielle Roussel, Anne Huynh, Mélanie Gadelorge, Pierre Cordelier, Bernard Klein, Philippe Moreau, Thierry Facon, Jean-Jacques Fournié, Michel Attal, and Philippe Bourin

Précis: A cytokine commonly oversecreted by the bone marrow microenvironment in multiple myeloma acts as a critical cell survival and chemoprotective factor in this deadly cancer, providing insight into how the microenvironment sustains the disease and how its support might be curtailed.

Melanoma Cells Inhibit Natural Killer Cell Function by Modulating the Expression of Activating Receptors and Cytolytic Activity

Gabriella Pietra, Claudia Manzini, Silvia Rivara, Massimo Vitale, Claudia Cantoni, Andrea Petretto, Mirna Balsamo, Romana Conte, Roberto Benelli, Simona Minghelli, Nicola Solari, Marina Gualco, Paola Queirolo, Lorenzo Moretta, and Maria Cristina Mingari

Précis: This study reveals that tumors erect immunosuppressive barriers against natural killer cells that are mechanically related to the barriers used to thwart antitumor T cells, unifying the strategies used by tumors to achieve immune escape.

Leptin Mediates Tumor–Stromal Interactions That Promote the Invasive Growth of Breast Cancer Cells

Ines Barone, Stefania Catalano, Luca Gelsomino, Stefania Marsico, Cinzia Giordano, Salvatore Panza, Daniela Bonfiglio, Gianluca Bossi, Kyle R. Covingston, Suzanne A.W. Fuqua, and Sebastiano Andò

Précis: A cytokine that drives obesity is found to promote breast cancer progression by supporting cross-talk between estrogen receptor–positive breast cancer cells and cancer-supporting stromal cells in the tumor microenvironment.

Endothelial Expression of TNF Receptor-1 Generates a Proapoptotic Signal Inhibited by Integrin α5β1 in Glioblastoma


Précis: Findings provide new insights into the dual nature of TNFα in cancer by showing how it acts in tumor-associated endothelial cells to force the tumor to evolve mechanisms of survival that rely upon a laminin-binding integrin that can attenuate the death signals induced by TNF.

Modulation of Glucose Metabolism by CD44 Contributes to Antioxidant Status and Drug Resistance in Cancer Cells

Mayumi Tamada, Osamu Nagano, Seiji Tateyama, Mitsuyo Ohmura, Toshifumi Yae, Takatsugu Ishimoto, Eiji Sugihara, Nobuyuki Onishi, Takehiro Yamamoto, Hiroshi Yanagawa, Makoto Suenatsu, and Hideyuki Saya

Précis: CD44, a marker of cancer stem-like cells, is found to promote glycolytic energy production and drug resistance by regulating pyruvate kinase M2, an enzyme emerging as a key nodal point in cancer cell metabolism.

CD44 Proteolysis Increases CREB Phosphorylation and Sustains Proliferation of Thyroid Cancer Cells

Valentina De Falco, Anna Tamburrino, Simona Ventre, Maria Domenica Castellone, Mouhannad Malek, Serge N. Mani, and Massimo Santoro

Précis: Important connections are found for a suspected regulator of cancer stem-like properties and epithelial–mesenchymal transition with a master transcription factor that globally controls cell growth, division, survival, and invasion processes in cancer.
Dietary Cadmium Exposure and Risk of Postmenopausal Breast Cancer: A Population-Based Prospective Cohort Study

Bettina Julin, Alicja Wolk, Leif Bergkvist, Matteo Bottai, and Agneta Åkesson

Précis: Dietary intake of the food contaminant cadmium, recently shown to exert an estrogen-like activity in vivo, is reported in this study to be associated with increased breast cancer incidence.

3’-UTR and Functional Secretor Haplotypes in Mannose-Binding Lectin 2 Are Associated with Increased Colon Cancer Risk in African Americans

Krista A. Zanetti, Majda Haznadar, Judith A. Welsh, Ana I. Robles, Brid M. Ryan, Andrew C. McClary, Elise D. Bowman, Julie E. Goodman, Torall Bernig, Stephen J. Chanock, and Curtis C. Harris

Précis: Genetic variants in a lectin molecule that regulates the innate immune system appear to affect the risk of colon cancer in U.S. individuals of African but not Caucasian descent.

Mammographic Breast Density and Breast Cancer: Evidence of a Shared Genetic Basis


Précis: Genome-wide analysis confirms that breast density is in fact significantly associated with breast cancer risk, suggesting that the two traits have a shared polygenic basis.

Ultrasound Increases Nanoparticle Delivery by Reducing Intratumoral Pressure and Increasing Transport in Epithelial and Epithelial–Mesenchymal Transition Tumors

Katherine D. Watson, Chun-Yen Lai, Shengping Qin, Dustin E. Kruse, Yueh-Chen Lin, Jai Woong Seo, Robert D. Carduff, Lisa M. Mahakian, Julie Beegle, Elizabeth S. Ingham, Fitz-Roy Curry, Rolf K. Reed, and Katherine W. Ferrara

Précis: This seminal study offers a preclinical demonstration of how therapeutic ultrasound-based methods currently available in the clinic can be used to enhance in vivo nanoparticle delivery to epithelial and epithelial-mesenchymal transition tumors, and how these methods can be combined with positron emission tomography for pharmacokinetic analysis of vascular permeability and nanoparticle accumulation in tumors.

ARN-509: A Novel Antiandrogen for Prostate Cancer Treatment

Nicola J. Clegg, John Wongvipat, James D. Joseph, Chris Tran, Samedy Ouk, Anna Dihlas, Yu Chen, Kate Grillot, Eric D. Bischoff, Ling Cai, Anna Aparicio, Steven Dorow, Vivek Azora, Gang Shao, Jing Qian, Hong Zhao, Guangbin Yang, Chunyan Cao, John Sensinatiaf, Teresa Wasielewska, Mark R. Herbert, Celine Bonnefous, Beatrice Darimont, Howard L Scher, Peter Smith-Jones, Mark Klang, Nicholas D. Smith, Elisa De Stanchina, Nian Wu, Ouathék Ouerfelli, Peter J. Rix, Richard A. Heyman, Michael E. Jung, Charles L. Sawyers, and Jeffrey H. Hager

Précis: This study offers preclinical proof-of-concept for a second-generation antiandrogen, now in phase I/II clinical trials, which offers superior characteristics predicting more robust and durable clinical responses and fewer side effects compared with related competing agents.

Inhibition of Fatty Acid Synthase Attenuates CD44-Associated Signaling and Reduces Metastasis in Colorectal Cancer


Précis: Long implicated in cancer, fatty acid synthase is reported here to contribute strongly to metastatic progression of colorectal cancer, increasing its potential attractiveness as a therapeutic target for advanced stages of this disease where effective treatments remain badly needed.
Tumor and Stem Cell Biology

1518 Tpx2 Controls Spindle Integrity, Genome Stability, and Tumor Development
Cristina Aguirre-Portoles, Alexander W. Bird, Anthony Hyman, Marta Cañamero, Ignacio Pérez de Castro, and Marcos Malumbres

Précis: Findings establish a key functional role in human cancer for an activator of the mitotic kinase Aurora A, a target of small-molecule drugs currently being tested in clinical trials.

1529 PTP1B Is an Androgen Receptor–Regulated Phosphatase That Promotes the Progression of Prostate Cancer
Laurent Lessard, David P. Labbé, Geneviève Deblois, Louis R. Bégin, Serge Hardy, Anne-Marie Mes-Masson, Fred Saad, Lloyd C. Trotman, Vincent Giguère, and Michel L. Tremblay

Précis: Findings offer preclinical support for a protein tyrosine phosphatase as a candidate therapeutic target in both early androgen-dependent or more advanced castration-resistant prostate cancers.

1538 PGC-1α Promotes the Growth of ErbB2/Neu–Induced Mammary Tumors by Regulating Nutrient Supply
Eva Klimcakova, Valérie Chénard, Shawn McGuirk, David Germain, Daina Avizonis, William J. Muller, and Julie St-Pierre

Précis: Findings suggest that breast cancer patients with HER2-positive tumors might benefit the most from treatment with antiangiogenic drugs, addressing an important question of great current interest.

1547 Differential WNT Activity in Colorectal Cancer Confronts Limited Tumorigenic Potential and Is Regulated by MAPK Signaling
David Horst, Justina Chen, Tepppei Morikawa, Shuji Ogino, Thomas Kirchner, and Ramesh A. Shivdasani

Précis: Findings that MAPK pathway status is a critical modifier of WNT signaling in colorectal cancers challenge the idea that WNT pathway activation on its own is sufficient for tumor-initiating potential, with potential implications for understanding how tumor heterogeneity affects molecular targeted therapeutic approaches.

1557 KrasG12D and p53 Mutation Cause Primary Intrahepatic Cholangiocarcinoma
Michael R. O’Dell, Jing Li Huang, Christa L. Whitney-Miller, Vikram Deshpande, Paul Rothberg, Valerie Grose, Randall M. Rossi, Andrew X. Zhu, Hartmut Land, Nabeel Bardeesy, and Aram F. Hezel

Précis: This study addresses the persistent need for a histologically accurate model of cholangiocarcinoma, a relatively rare but deadly cancer of the bile duct that is rising worldwide in incidence in recent decades without a useful animal model for preclinical drug development.

1568 Mammary Tumor Regression Elicited by Wnt Signaling Inhibitor Requires IGFBP5
Bob Y. Liu, Irina Soloviev, Xiaodong Huang, Peter Chang, James A. Ernst, Paul Polakis, and Chie Sakanaka

Précis: This study of Wnt-driven mammary tumors in mice suggests that Wnt-driven tumor growth is based on the same proliferation pathways used during normal mammary gland development, which converge on the control of IGF signaling.

1579 BMK1 Kinase Suppresses Epithelial–Mesenchymal Transition through the Akt/GSK3β Signaling Pathway
Runqiang Chen, Qingkai Yang, and Jiing-Dwan Lee

Précis: In contrast to other MAP kinase pathways that promote epithelial-mesenchymal transition (EMT) in cancer cells, activation of the MAP kinase BMK1 inhibits EMT and suppresses tumor metastasis.

Correction: Expression of the Neurotrophin Receptor TrkA Down-Regulates Expression and Function of Angiogenic Stimulators in SH-SY5Y Neuroblastoma Cells
ABOUT THE COVER

ARN-509 is a clinical stage, nonsteroidal antiandrogen discovered in an effort to identify full androgen receptor (AR) antagonists in the setting of AR overexpression, a key determinant of acquired resistance to first generation antiandrogens. ARN-509 exhibits robust antitumor activity in the clinically validated LNCaP/AR model of castration-resistant prostate cancer (CRPC), resulting in tumor regression via a decrease in proliferation and increase in apoptosis. The cover shows a hematoxylin and eosin stained tissue section from a LNCaP/AR xenograft tumor following ARN-509 treatment. There is significantly reduced cellularity with increased deposition of extracellular matrix compared to vehicle treatment. Based on preclinical efficacy coupled with its excellent pharmacokinetic properties and high therapeutic index, ARN-509 has entered clinical development in men with CRPC. For details, see the article by Clegg and colleagues on page 1494 of this issue.
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