## BREAKING ADVANCES

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## REVIEWS

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## CLINICAL STUDIES

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Cancer Research
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Avirulent *Toxoplasma gondii* Generates Therapeutic Antitumor Immunity by Reversing Immunosuppression in the Ovarian Cancer Microenvironment
Jason R. Baird, Barbara A. Fox, Kiah L. Sanders, Patrick H. Lizotte, Juan R. Cubillos-Ruiz, Uciane K. Scarlett, Melanie R. Rutkowski, Jose R. Conejo-Garcia, Steven Fiering, and David J. Bzik

**Précis:** Beginning with Coley’s investigations a century ago, the immunotherapeutic properties of bacterial infections in cancer have been widely studied, but there has been virtually no study yet of the same potential in protist (parasite) infections, a first glimpse of which are illustrated in this seminal report.

Critical Role of STAT3 in IL-6–Mediated Drug Resistance in Human Neuroblastoma
Tasnim Ara, Rie Nakata, Michael A. Sheard, Hiroyuki Shimada, Ralf Buettner, Susan G. Groschen, Liqugyu Ji, Hua Yu, Richard Jove, Robert C. Seeger, and Yves A. DeClerck

**Précis:** Drug resistance pathways in cancer are not necessarily confined to the cancer cell itself but may often also involve critical contributions of the pro-inflammatory tumor microenvironment, as shown in this study.

Synergistic Induction of Adaptive Antitumor Immunity by Codelivery of Antigen with α-Galactosylceramide on Exosomes
Ulf Gehrmann, Stefanie Hiltbrunner, Anna-Maria Georgoudaki, Mikael C. Karlsson, Tanja I. Näsland, and Susanne Gabrielson

**Précis:** Loading exosomes with tumor antigens and immune stimulatory glycolipids can create a highly efficacious vaccine preparation for cancer therapy.

Melanoma-Educated CD14⁺ Cells Acquire a Myeloid-Derived Suppressor Cell Phenotype through COX-2–Dependent Mechanisms
Yumeng Mao, Isabel Poschke, Erik Wennerberg, Yago Pico de Coaña, Suzanne Egyhazi Brage, Inkeri Schultz, Johan Hansson, Giuseppe Masucci, Andreas Lundqvist, and Rolf Kiessling

**Précis:** These results reveal how immune suppression by myeloid-derived suppressor cells can be initiated in the tumor microenvironment of human melanoma.
Identification of Two Distinct Carcinoma-Associated Fibroblast Subtypes with Differential Tumor-Promoting Abilities in Oral Squamous Cell Carcinoma
Daniela Elena Costea, Allison Hills, Amani H. Osman, Johanna Thurlow, Gabriela Kalma, Xiaohong Huang, Claudia Penca Murillo, Himalaya Parajati, Salwa Suliman, Keerthi K. Kukasekara, Anne Chr. Johannessen, and Max Partridge

Precis: Cancer-associated fibroblasts sustain the tumor microenvironment, and unraveling their heterogeneity may point to targetable weaknesses.

MOLECULAR AND CELLULAR PATHOBIOLOGY

SENP1 deSUMOylates and Regulates Pin1 Protein Activity and Cellular Function
Chun-Hau Chen, Che-Chang Chang, Tae Ho Lee, ManLi Luo, Pengyu Huang, Pei-Hsin Liao, Shao Wei, Fu-An Li, Ruey-Hwa Chen, Xiao Zhen Zhou, Hsu-Ming Shih, and Kun Ping Lu

Precis: Unraveling Pin1 regulation may improve strategies to attack cancer, given that Pin1 controls the function of numerous oncogenes and tumor suppressor genes.

Endothelial Cell Protein C Receptor Opposes Mesothelioma Growth Driven by Tissue Factor
Shiva Keshava, Sanghamitra Sahoo, Torry A. Tucker, Steven Idell, L. Vijaya Mohan Rao, and Usha R. Pendurthi

Precis: This study enhances our understanding of how the procoagulant protein tissue factor drives the growth of many human cancers.

Mitogenic Insulin Receptor-A Is Overexpressed in Human Hepatocellular Carcinoma due to EGFR-Mediated Dysregulation of RNA Splicing Factors
Hamza Chettouh, Laetitia Fartoux, Lynda Aoudjehane, Dominique Wendum, Audrey Clapéron, Yves Chrétien, Colette Rey, Olivier Scatton, Olivier Soubranche, Filomena Conti, Françoise Praz, Chantal Housset, Olivier Rosmorduc, and Christèle Desbois-Mouthon

Precis: Increased expression of a specific insulin receptor isoform may mediate adverse effects of hyperinsulinemia on liver cancer development.

Dysregulated Expression of FOXM1 Isoforms Drives Progression of Pancreatic Cancer
Xiangyu Kong, Lei Li, Zhaoshen Li, Xiangdong Le, Chen Huang, Zhiliang Jia, Jiujie Cui, Suyun Huang, Liwei Wang, and Keping Xie

Precis: This study identifies a class of FOXO family transcription factors as key effectors in a program of pancreatic cancer development driven by the transcription factors Sp1 and KLH4, with potential implications for understanding the pathophysiology of other cancers in which these FOXO isoforms have been implicated.
The Steroid Receptor Coactivator-3 Is Required for the Development of Castration-Resistant Prostate Cancer
Jean C-Y. Tien, Zhaoliang Liu, Lan Liao, Fen Wang, Yixiang Xu, Ye-Lin Wu, Niya Zhou, Michael Ittmann, and Jianming Xu

**Précis:** These findings offer a preclinical proof of concept to therapeutically target a transcriptional coactivator in castration-resistant prostate cancer, the development of which is responsible for nearly all prostate cancer deaths.

Tid1-L Inhibits EGFR Signaling in Lung Adenocarcinoma by Enhancing EGFR Ubiquitinylation and Degradation
Chi-Yuan Chen, Chia-Ing Jan, Jeng-Fan Lo, Shuenn-Chen Yang, Yih-Leong Chang, Szu-Hua Pan, Wen-Lung Wang, Tse-Ming Hong, and Pan-Chyr Yang

**Précis:** The clinical validation of EGFR targeting approaches in lung non–small cell lung carcinoma, also known as lung adenocarcinoma, has increased the significance of studies to understand EGFR downregulation in this setting.

Impact of Body Mass Index on the Risk of Colorectal Adenoma in a Metabolically Healthy Population
Kyung Eun Yun, Yoosoo Chang, Hyun-Suk Jung, Chan-Won Kim, Min-Jung Kwon, Sung Keun Park, Eunju Sung, Hocheol Shin, and Seungho Ryu

**Précis:** Excess weight confers an increased risk of developing colorectal adenomas, independent of whether an individual is metabolically healthy or not, suggesting a potential causal link between excess adipose tissue and colorectal cancer risk.

Genome-Wide Association Study of Genetic Predictors of Overall Survival for Non–Small Cell Lung Cancer in Never Smokers
Xifeng Wu, Liang Wang, Yuanqing Ye, Jeremiah A. Aakre, Xia Pu, Gee-Chen Chang, Pan-Chyr Yang, Jack A. Roth, Randolph S. Marks, Scott M. Lippman, Joe Y. Chang, Charles Lu, Claude Deschamps, Wu-Chou Su, Wen-Chang Wang, Ming-Shyan Huang, David W. Chang, Yan Li, V. Shane Pankratz, John D. Minna, Wuen Ki Hong, Michelle A. Hildebrandt, Chao Agnes Hsiung, and Ping Yang

**Précis:** Although most patients with lung cancer were smokers, the much smaller numbers of never-smokers with lung cancer are less understood with regard to the biologic underpinnings of their clinical outcomes.

MEK1/2 Inhibition Decreases Lactate in BRAF-Driven Human Cancer Cells
Maria Falck Miniotis, Vaitha Arunan, Thomas R. Eykyn, Richard Marais, Paul Workman, Martin O. Leach, and Mounia Belouche-Bahari

**Précis:** The use of magnetic resonance spectroscopy to measure lactate depletion could provide a simple, noninvasive metabolic biomarker for evaluating pharmacodynamic responses to the many BRAF/MEK inhibitors currently in clinical trials.

Enhanced Inhibition of ERK Signaling by a Novel Allosteric MEK Inhibitor, CH5126766, That Suppresses Feedback Reactivation of RAF Activity
Nobuya Ishii, Naoki Harada, Eric W. Joseph, Kazuhiro Ohara, Takaaki Miuura, Hiroshi Sakamoto, Yutaka Matsuda, Yasushi Tomii, Yukako Tachibana-Kondo, Hitoshi Ikura, Toshiihiro Aoki, Nobuo Shimma, Mikio Arisawa, Yoshihiro Sowa, Poulikos I. Poulikakos, Neal Rosen, Yuko Aoki, and Toshiyuki Sakai

**Précis:** A novel class of MEK inhibitor described in this preclinical study causes MEK to function as a dominant negative inhibitor of RAF, enhancing its therapeutic action in tumors driven by mutant RAS or RAF.

Conditional Loss of ErbB3 Delays Mammary Gland Hyperplasia Induced by Mutant PIK3CA without Affecting Mammary Tumor Latency, Gene Expression, or Signaling
Christian D. Young, Adam D. Pfefferle, Philip Owens, Maria G. Kubia, Brent N. Rexer, Justin M. Balko, Violeta Sánchez, Hailing Cheng, Charles M. Perou, Jean J. Zhao, Rebecca S. Cook, and Carlos L. Arteaga

**Précis:** These findings suggest a rationale to combine inhibitors against PI3K and ErbB receptors in treating breast cancers that harbor PIK3CA activating mutations.
Th-MYCN Mice with Caspase-8 Deficiency Develop Advanced Neuroblastoma with Bone Marrow Metastasis

Precis: An in vivo model of neuroblastoma that undergoes bone marrow metastasis will be useful to enable better studies of dissemination processes and therapeutic candidates.

miR-214 Coordinates Melanoma Progression by Upregulating ALCAM through TFAP2 and miR-148b Downmodulation

Precis: By establishing a critical pathway to coordinate metastatic dissemination in melanoma, this study offers an initial preclinical proof of concept for targeting its elements as a rational approach to block or reverse this deadly process.

Cancer Stem–like Cell Marker CD44 Promotes Bone Metastases by Enhancing Tumorigenicity, Cell Motility, and Hyaluronan Production

Precis: This important study provides an initial glimpse of the functional meaning of a cell surface protein widely associated with stem-like cell properties in human cancer.

Stress-Response Protein RBM3 Attenuates the Stem-like Properties of Prostate Cancer Cells by Interfering with CD44 Variant Splicing

Precis: This study focuses on a little-studied family of stress regulators in cancer, the cold shock proteins, offering new perspectives on how stress alters RNA splicing for a modulator of stem cell-like character in malignant disease.

G-CSF Receptor Positive Neuroblastoma Subpopulations Are Enriched in Chemotherapy-Resistant or Relapsed Tumors and Are Highly Tumorigenic

Precis: Stem-like cells in an aggressive pediatric tumor uniformly express the receptor for G-CSF, which, as a means to elevate white blood cell counts, is commonly given to patients where it might unsuspectingly contribute to progression.

Connective Tissue Growth Factor Activates Pluripotency Genes and Mesenchymal–Epithelial Transition in Head and Neck Cancer Cells

Precis: These findings provide insights into epithelial plasticity during progression of head and neck cancers that are rapidly rising in incidence, perhaps also providing a basis for improvement in their classification.

Nrf2 Prevents Initiation but Accelerates Progression through the Kras Signaling Pathway during Lung Carcinogenesis

Precis: The Nrf2 cellular antioxidant system has different roles during cancer initiation and progression, much like TNF, such that Nrf2 inhibitors offer more rational tools than Nrf2 activators to attack established malignancy.

Correction: Cell Surface Expression of Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor and Her-2 with Nuclear Expression of Her-4 in Primary Osteosarcoma

Correction: Helicobacter pylori Cytotoxin-Associated Gene A Activates the Signal Transducer and Activator of Transcription 3 Pathway In Vitro and In Vivo

AC icon indicates Author Choice

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CD44, a cancer stem-like cell marker, has been implicated in cancer cell migration, invasion, and metastasis. This study shows that CD44 expression in cancer cells promotes bone metastases by enhancing tumorigenicity, cell migration and invasion, and production of hyaluronan, the primary ligand for CD44. Using a mouse model of bone metastasis, it was found that 4-methylumbelliferone, an inhibitor of hyaluronan synthesis, inhibited bone metastases of MDA-MB-231 human breast cancer cells with reduced number of osteoclasts. For details, see article by Hiraga and colleagues on page 4112.