Highlights from Recent Cancer Literature

Cooperation and Antagonism among Cancer Genes: The Renal Cancer Paradigm
Samuel Peña-Llopis, Alana Christie, Xian-Jin Xie, and James Brugarolas

Lessons from Functional Analysis of Genome-Wide Association Studies
Inderpreet Sur, Sarı Tuupanen, Thomas Whittington, Lauri A. Aaltonen, and Jussi Taipale

Exploiting Tumor Vulnerabilities: Epigenetics, Cancer Metabolism and the mTOR Pathway in the Era of Personalized Medicine
Cristina Muñoz-Pinedo, Eva González-Suárez, Anna Portela, Antonio Gentilella, and Manel Esteller

Evaluation of LDH-A and Glutaminase Inhibition In Vivo by Hyperpolarized 13C-Pyruvate Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy of Tumors
Prasanta Dutta, Anne Le, David L. Vander Jagt, Takashi Tsukamoto, Gary V. Martínez, Chi V. Dang, and Robert J. Gillies

Tumor MMP-1 Activates Endothelial PAR1 to Facilitate Vascular Intravasation and Metastatic Dissemination
Anna Juncker-Jensen, Elena I. Deryugina, Ivo Rimann, Ewa Zajac, Tatjana A. Kupriyanova, Lars H. Engelholm, and James P. Quigley

Précis: Therapeutic targeting of a newly unraveled tumor pathway with connections to a thrombin receptor on endothelial cells is effective in preventing carcinoma cell intravasation, the earliest step of tumor metastasis.

VEGF-C and VEGF-D Blockade Inhibits Inflammatory Skin Carcinogenesis
Annamari K. Alitalo, Steven T. Proulx, Sinem Karaman, David Aebischer, Stefania Martino, Manuela Jost, Nicole Schneider, Maija Bry, and Michael Betmar

Précis: These findings show that less-studied isoforms of VEGF shape the inflammatory tumor microenvironment and support the use of VEGF-C/D antagonists to inhibit both early and late stages of tumor growth.

Intestinal Bacteria Modify Lymphoma Incidence and Latency by Affecting Systemic Inflammatory State, Oxidative Stress, and Leukocyte Genotoxicity

Précis: This potentially seminal study reveals the powerful effects that intestinal microbiota can exert on lymphoma penetrance in genetically susceptible mice, with possible implications for preventing this cancer in individuals who are at risk of disease.

Bone Marrow–Derived CD11b+ Jagged2+ Cells Promote Epithelial-to-Mesenchymal Transition and Metastasization in Colorectal Cancer
Francisco Caiado, Tânia Carvalho, Isadora Rosa, Leonor Remédio, Ana Costa, João Matos, Beate Heissig, Hideo Yagita, Koichi Hattori, João Pereira da Silva, Paulo Fidalgo, António Dias Pereira, and Sérgio Dias

Précis: These findings suggest that quantifying the number of circulating bone marrow cells expressing JAG2 might define metastatic development in colorectal cancer patients.
MOLECULAR AND CELLULAR PATHOBIOLOGY

4247 Rb1 Haploinsufficiency Promotes Telomere Attrition and Radiation-Induced Genomic Instability
Iria Gonzalez-Vasconcellos, Natasa Anastasov, Bahar Sanli-Bonazzi, Olena Klymenko, Michael J. Atkinson, and Michael Rosemann

Precis: These findings suggest that telomere maintenance is a noncanonical caretaker function of the retinoblastoma protein, such that its deficiency in cancer may act beyond simply deregulating cell-cycle control.

4256 Extracellular DNA in Pancreatic Cancer Promotes Cell Invasion and Metastasis
Fushi Wen, Alex Shen, Andrew Choi, Eugene W. Gerner, and Jiaqi Shi

Precis: This study offers a provocative set of observations, suggesting that the accumulation of extracellular DNA in the microenvironment of pancreatic tumors triggers a feed-forward inflammatory signal that strongly promotes invasive and metastatic behavior.

4267 Radioresistant Cancer Cells Can Be Conditioned to Enter Senescence by mTOR Inhibition
Hae Yun Nam, Myung Wooul Han, Hyo Won Chang, Yoon Sun Lee, Myungjin Lee, Hyang Ju Lee, Byoung Wook Lee, Hee Jin Lee, Kyung Eun Lee, Min Kyo Jung, Hyesung Jeon, Seung-Ho Choi, Neung Hwa Park, Sang Yoon Kim, and Hyang Ju Lee

Precis: By revealing that mTOR inhibition can promote cellular senescence in radio-resistant cancer cells through activation of the RB pathway, this study provides a novel mechanistic perspective on how mTOR inhibitors can be used combinatorially to improve cancer therapy.

4278 PML-RARα and Its Phosphorylation Regulate PML Oligomerization and HIPK2 Stability
Yutaka Shima, Yuki Honma, and Issay Kitabayashi

Precis: These findings offer mechanistic insights into the basis for the most common prodifferentiation therapies used to treat acute promyelocytic leukemia in the clinic.

4289 HMGA2 Is a Driver of Tumor Metastasis
Asahiro Morishita, M. Raza Zaidi, Akira Mitoro, Devipriya Sankarasharma, Matthias Szabolcs, Yasunori Okada, Jeanine D’Armitio, and Kiran Chada

Precis: These results define a key function in cancer invasion and metastasis for a nonhistone chromatin-binding protein that activates EMT by upregulating the TGFβ signaling pathway.

4300 ATR-Dependent Phosphorylation of FANCM at Serine 1045 Is Essential for FANCM Functions
Thiyam Ramsing Singh, Abdullah Mahmood Ali, Manikanand Paramasivam, Arun Pradhan, Kebola Wahengbam, Michael M. Seidman, and Anmol Ruhikanta Meetei

Precis: These findings help unravel the intricacies of a central pathway of DNA damage response and repair.

4311 Autophagy Plays a Critical Role in the Degradation of Active RHOA, the Control of Cell Cytokinesis, and Genomic Stability
Amine Belaid, Michael Cerezo, Abderrahman Chargui, Elisabeth Corcelle–Termeau, Florence Pedeutour, Sandy Giuliano, Marius Ilie, Isabelle Rubera, Michel Tauc, Sophie Barale, Corinne Bertolotto, Patrick Brest, Valérie Vouret-Craviati, Daniel J. Klionsky, Georges F. Carle, Paul Hofman, and Baharia Mograbi

Precis: Autophagy may act in part as a safeguard mechanism in cancer cells by maintaining RHOA levels at the midbody needed for faithful completion of cytokinesis and genome inheritance.

4323 Integration of High-Resolution Methylome and Transcriptome Analyses to Dissect Epigenomic Changes in Childhood Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia
Stephan Busche, Bing Ge, Ramon Vidal, Jean-François Spinella, Virginie Saillour, Chantal Richer, Jasmine Healy, Shu-Huang Chen, Arnaud Droit, Daniel Sinnett, and Tomi Pastinen

Precis: A multilevel genome-wide profiling approach defines key biomarkers and driver elements in major subtypes of childhood pre-B acute lymphoblastic leukemia.

4337 Loss of ARF Sensitizes Transgenic BRAFV600E Mice to UV-Induced Melanoma via Suppression of XPC
Chi Luo, Jinghao Sheng, Miaofen G. Hu, Frank G. Haluska, Rutao Cui, Zhengping Xu, Philip N. Tsichlis, Guo-Fu Hu, and Philip W. Hinds

Precis: Mutations in p19ARF and BRAFV600E cooperate to suppress DNA repair during melanoma formation, promoting disease beyond effects on p53 function and senescence, which are minimally affected.
Therapeutic Destruction of Insulin Receptor Substrates for Cancer Treatment

Hadass Reuveni, Efrat Flashner-Abramson, Lilach Steiner, Kirill Makedonski, Renduo Song, Alexei Shir, Meenhard Herlyn, Menashe Bar-Eli, and Alexander Levitzki

Precise: This important study offers preclinical proof of concept for a family of small-molecule inhibitors that cause destruction of insulin receptor substrates as broad-acting drugs for cancer treatment, including deadly melanomas that become resistant to BRAF inhibitors.

4-Hydroxytamoxifen Induces Autophagic Death through K-Ras Degradation

Latika Kohli, Niroop Kaza, Tatjana Coric, Stephanie J. Byer, Nicole M. Brossier, Barbara J. Klocke, Mary-Ann Bjornsti, Steven L. Carroll, and Kevin A. Roth

Precise: A novel mechanism of autophagic death triggered by tamoxifen in tumor cells may make this common breast cancer drug more broadly useful in cancer therapy.

KEAP1 Is a Redox Sensitive Target That Arbitrates the Opposing Radiosensitive Effects of Parthenolide in Normal and Cancer Cells

Yong Xu, Fang Fang, Sumitra Miriyala, Peter A. Crooks, Terry D. Oberley, Lukasana Chaiswng, Teresa Noel, Aaron K. Holley, Yanning Zhao, Kelley K. Kinningham, Daret K. St. Clair, and William H. St. Clair

Precise: These findings establish a principle through which it is possible to develop agents that can radiosensitize tumor cells but radioprotect normal cells, with important implications for the development of cancer-specific drugs.

A Survivin-Associated Adaptive Response in Radiation Therapy


Precise: Very low-dose radiation used increasingly in imaging tumors subjected to irradiation is reported in this study to trigger adaptive responses that could adversely affect treatment outcomes, a possibility requiring attention by radiation oncologists.

Metformin Decreases Glucose Oxidation and Increases the Dependency of Prostate Cancer Cells on Reductive Glutamine Metabolism


Precise: These results suggest a strategy to improve upon the powerful anticancer effects of metformin, a widely used diabetes drug, through a coordinate inhibition of glutamine metabolism.
Antitumor Activity of a Humanized, Bivalent Immunotoxin Targeting Fn14-Positive Solid Tumors

Hong Zhou, Walter N. Hittelman, Hideo Yagita, Lawrence H. Cheung, Stuart S. Martin, Jeffrey A. Winkles, and Michael G. Rosenblum

Précis: These findings offer a preclinical proof of concept for the use of an immune targeting principle that may be both highly specific to cancer and broadly applicable to many different disease types.

Visualizing Inhibition of Nucleosome Mobility and Transcription by Cisplatin–DNA Interstrand Crosslinks in Live Mammalian Cells

Guangyu Zhu, Lina Song, and Stephen J. Lippard

Précis: A minor DNA adduct formed by cisplatin may confer the most significant effects of this drug on tumor cells, as revealed by this study of nucleosome structure and DNA transcription in live cells.

CX3CL1 Promotes Breast Cancer via Transactivation of the EGF Pathway

Manuel Tardaguila, Emilia Mira, Miguel A. Garcia-Cabezaz, Anna M. Feijoo, Miguel Quintela-Fandino, Inigo Azcoitia, Sergio A. Lira, and Santos Mañes

Précis: A chemokine that is induced by IL-1, a central proinflammatory cytokine in the tumor microenvironment, promotes HER2+ breast cancers by supporting expression of the EGF receptor.

β-Catenin Signaling Is a Critical Event in ErbB2-Mediated Mammary Tumor Progression

Babette Schade, Robert Lesurf, Virginie Sanguin-Gendreau, Tung Bui, Geneviève Debois, Sandra A. O’Toole, Ewan K.A. Millar, Sara J. Zardawi, Elena Lopez-Knowles, Robert L. Sutherland, Vincent Gigueré, Michael Kahn, Michael Hallett, and William J. Muller

Précis: A mouse model that faithfully recapitulates many genetic features of the basal subset of ErbB2-positive breast cancers identifies the Wnt pathway as an essential driver and candidate therapeutic target for this aggressive disease.

EYA1 Phosphatase Function Is Essential to Drive Breast Cancer Cell Proliferation through Cyclin D1

Kongming Wu, Zhaoming Li, Shaoxin Cai, Lifeng Tian, Ke Chen, Jing Wang, Junbo Hu, Ye Sun, Xue Li, Adam Ertel, and Richard G. Pestell

Précis: The homolog of a fruitfly regulator of retinal development that is overexpressed in the luminal B subtype of breast cancers appears to be an essential pathogenic driver in this setting, with implications in other cancers where this regulator is also overexpressed.

Microtubule-Associated Histone Deacetylase 6 Supports the Calcium Store Sensor STIM1 in Mediating Malignant Cell Behaviors


Précis: Targeting calcium-based cellular physiology offers an appealing general strategy to disrupt cancer cell function, if a disease-specific approach can be identified.

c-Src Modulates Estrogen-Induced Stress and Apoptosis in Estrogen-Deprived Breast Cancer Cells

Ping Fan, Obi L. Griffith, Fadeke A. Agboke, Pavana Anur, Xiaojun Zou, Russell E. McDaniel, Karen Creswell, Sung Hoon Kim, John A. Katzenellenbogen, Joe W. Gray, and V. Craig Jordan

Précis: In revealing a role for c-Src tyrosine kinase in estrogen-induced apoptosis, this study offers a mechanistic rationale for a new approach in the treatment of endocrine-resistant breast cancer.

The ShcA PTB Domain Functions as a Biological Sensor of Phosphotyrosine Signaling during Breast Cancer Progression

Ryuhjin Ahn, Valerie Sabourin, Jacqueline R. Ha, Sean Cory, Gordana Maric, Young Kyuen Im, W. Rod Hardy, Hong Zhao, Morag Park, Michael Hallett, Peter M. Siegel, Tony Pawson, and Josie Ursini-Siegel

Précis: In the receptor tyrosine kinase adapter protein Shc, the phosphotyrosine-binding PTB domain rather than the SH2 domain appears to be the critical intersection for transmitting effector signals that control breast cancer development.
ETS Transcription Factor ESE1/ELF3 Orchestrates a Positive Feedback Loop That Constitutively Activates NF-κB and Drives Prostate Cancer Progression
Nicole Longoni, Manuela Sarti, Domenico Albino, Gianluca Civenni, Anastasia Malek, Erica Ortelii, Sandra Pinton, Maurizia Mello-Grand, Paola Ostano, Giacomo D’Ambrosio, Fausto Sessa, Ramon Garcia-Escudero, George N. Thalmann, Giovanna Chiorino, Carlo V. Catapano, and Giuseppina M. Carbone

Precise: In extending the importance of ETS transcription functions in prostate cancer, this study defines an important new mechanism connecting inflammatory signaling, NF-κB activation, and prostate cancer progression.

Gankyrin Activates IL-8 to Promote Hepatic Metastasis of Colorectal Cancer
Zhaofang Bai, Yanhong Tai, Weihua Li, Cheng Zhen, Weiting Gu, Zhao Jian, Qianyi Wang, Jieru E. Lin, Qing Zhao, Weili Gong, Bing Liang, Chenguang Wang, and Tao Zhou

Precise: This potentially seminal study suggests readily tractable targets to prevent or treat hepatic metastasis of colorectal cancer, the chief form of the advanced state in this disease.

Chromatin Regulator PRC2 Is a Key Regulator of Epigenetic Plasticity in Glioblastoma
Atsushi Natsume, Motokazu Ito, Keisuke Katsushima, Fumiharu Ohka, Akira Hatanaka, Keiko Shinjo, Shinya Sato, Satoru Takahashi, Yuta Ishikawa, Ichiro Takeuchi, Hiroki Shimogawa, Motonari Uesugi, Hideyuki Okano, Seung U. Kim, Toshihiko Wakabayashi, Jean-Pierre J. Issa, Yoshitaka Sekido, and Yutaka Kondo

Precise: A modifier complex that controls tumor cell plasticity may provide a target to restrict the functional heterogeneity in tumors, a core challenge to all cancer cell-centric drugs, given the huge reservoir of resistance mechanisms that such heterogeneity confers.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Tumor Growth Control with IDO-Silencing Salmonella—Letter
Robert M. Hoffman

Tumor Growth Control with IDO-Silencing Salmonella—Reply
Edwin R. Manuel, Bruce R. Blazar, and Don J. Diamond

CORRECTION

Correction: Critical Role for the Receptor Tyrosine Kinase EPHB4 in Esophageal Cancers

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ABOUT THE COVER

\(\beta\)-catenin is a multifunctional protein that plays a vital structural role in cadherin-based cell adhesion and is an important transcriptional activator of canonical Wnt-mediated gene expression. Dysregulation or mutational activation of the \(\beta\)-catenin signaling is a critical event in the development of human cancer, including breast cancer. Immunofluorescence staining was used to visualize localization of \(\beta\)-catenin and activated \(\beta\)-catenin in human ERBB2-overexpressing ER-negative breast cancer cells (HCC202). The presence of nuclear-activated \(\beta\)-catenin in these breast cancer cells was correlated with a decrease in cell proliferation upon inhibition of \(\beta\)-catenin signaling. For details, see article by Schade and colleagues on page 4474.