Highlights from Recent Cancer Literature

The p90 RSK Family Members: Common Functions and Isoform Specificity
Romain Lara, Michael J. Seckl, and Olivier E. Pardo

mRNA Splicing Variants: Exploiting Modularity to Outwit Cancer Therapy
Scott M. Dehm

Patient-Derived Tumor Xenografts: Transforming Clinical Samples into Mouse Models
Despina Siolas and Gregory J. Hannon

Mammary Tumor Formation and Metastasis Evoked by a HER2 Splice Variant
Abdullah Alajati, Nina Sausgruber, Nicola Aceto, Stephan Duss, Sophie Sarret, Hans Voshol, Debora Bonenfant, and Mohamed Bentires-Alj

EPR Oxygen Images Predict Tumor Control by a 50% Tumor Control Radiation Dose
Martyna Elas, Jessica M. Magwood, Brandi Butler, Chanel Li, Rona Wardak, Rebekah DeVries, Eugene D. Barth, Boris Epel, Samuel Rubinstein, Charles A. Pelizzari, Ralph R. Weichselbaum, and Howard J. Halpern

Stromally Derived Lysyl Oxidase Promotes Metastasis of Transforming Growth Factor-β−Deficient Mouse Mammary Carcinomas
Michael W. Pickup, Hanane Laklai, Irene Acerbi, Philip Owens, Agnieszka E. Gorska, Anna Chytíl, Mary Aakre, Valerie M. Weaver, and Harold L. Moses

Précis: These findings suggest that microenvironmental changes triggered by oncogenically transformed epithelial cells can offer important therapeutic targets to inhibit metastasis.

Mesenchymal CD44 Expression Contributes to the Acquisition of an Activated Fibroblast Phenotype via TWIST Activation in the Tumor Microenvironment
Erika L. Spaeth, Adam M. Labaff, Bryan P. Toole, Ann Klopp, Michael Andreeff, and Frank C. Marini

Précis: The cancer stem-like cell marker CD44 has a functional role not only in cancer cells but also in mesenchymal stem cells, which are a significant source of cancer-associated fibroblasts and other core components of the supportive tumor stroma.

Fusion-Derived Epithelial Cancer Cells Express Hematopoietic Markers and Contribute to Stem Cell and Migratory Phenotype in Ovarian Carcinoma
Mallika Ramakrishnan, Sandeep R. Mathur, and Asok Mukhopadhyay

Précis: Fusion of hematopoietic cells with cancer cells provides a novel mechanism for targeting metastasis of solid tumors.

Candidate Tumor Suppressor and pVHL Partner Jade-1 Binds and Inhibits AKT in Renal Cell Carcinoma
Liling Zeng, Ming Bai, Amit K. Mittal, Wassim El-Jouni, Jing Zhou, David M. Cohen, Mina I. Zhou, and Herbert T. Cohen

Précis: These findings identify an important new candidate biomarker in renal cell carcinoma that functions in tumor suppression as a key negative modifier of AKT signaling, with potentially broader implications in human cancer.
**Notch1-Induced Brain Tumor Models**

**the Sonic Hedgehog Subgroup of Human Medulloblastoma**

Sivaraman Natarajan, Yaochen Li, Emily E. Miller, David J. Shih, Michael D. Taylor, Timothy M. Stearns, Roderick T. Bronson, Susan L. Ackerman, Jeong K. Yoon, and Kyuson Yun

**Précis:** This study is the first to clearly demonstrate the oncogenic potential of activated Notch1 and in doing so establishes a novel mouse model of medulloblastoma.

**Survivin-3B Potentiates Immune Escape in Cancer but Also Inhibits the Toxicity of Cancer Chemotherapy**

Frédérique Végran, Romain Mary, Anne Gibeaud, Céline Mirjolet, Bertrand Collin, Alexandra Oudot, Céline Charon-Barra, Laurent Arnold, Sarah Lizard-Nacl, and Romain Boidot

**Précis:** Cancer-specific alternate splicing that occurs in the cell death inhibitor survivin generates a potent mediator of resistance against immune-mediated or chemotherapeutic killing.

**miR-205 Targets PTEN and PHLPP2 to Augment AKT Signaling and Drive Malignant Phenotypes in Non–Small Cell Lung Cancer**

Junchao Cai, Lishan Fang, Yongbo Huang, Rong Li, Jie Yuan, Yi Yang, Xun Zhu, Baixue Chen, Jueheng Wu, and Mengfeng Li

**Précis:** These results reveal how AKT becomes activated in lung adenocarcinoma, identifying a pivotal role for an oncomir of emerging importance in the development and progression of this widespread disease.

**FOXL1, a Novel Candidate Tumor Suppressor, Inhibits Tumor Aggressiveness and Predicts Outcome in Human Pancreatic Cancer**

Geng Zhang, Peijun He, Jochen Gaedcke, B. Michael Ghadimi, Thomas Ried, Harris G. Yfantis, Dong H. Lee, Nader Hanna, H. Richard Alexander, and S. Perwez Hussain

**Précis:** FOX transcription factors continue to emerge as central determinants of cancer pathophysiology and patient outcomes in many deadly human solid tumors, illustrated in this study of FOXL1 in pancreatic cancer.
PREVENTION AND EPIDEMIOLOGY

5473 | Chemopreventive Activity of Plant Flavonoid Isorhamnetin in Colorectal Cancer Is Mediated by Oncogenic Src and β-Catenin
Shakir M. Saud, Matthew R. Young, Yava L. Jones-Hall, Lilia Ileva, Moses O. Evbuomwan, Jennifer Wise, Nancy H. Colburn, Young S. Kim, and Gerd Bobe

Précis: This study advances mechanistic understanding for the anticancer properties of a natural flavonol that can prevent tumorigenesis, reverse EMT, and block metastasis with limited toxicity in various types of cancer.

5519 | AC1MMYR2, an Inhibitor of Dicer-Mediated Biogenesis of Oncomir miR-21, Reverses Epithelial–Mesenchymal Transition and Suppresses Tumor Growth and Progression
Zhendong Shi, Junxia Zhang, Xiaomin Qian, Lei Han, Kailiang Zhang, Luyue Chen, Jilong Liu, Yu Ren, Ming Yang, Anling Zhang, Peiyu Pu, and Chunsong Kang

Précis: This study offers a novel, high-throughput method to screen for small-molecule inhibitors of microRNA maturation and presents an inhibitor of oncomir miR-21 maturation as a candidate antitumor drug.

5532 | KEAP1-Dependent Synthetic Lethality Induced by AKT and TXNRD1 Inhibitors in Lung Cancer
Bingbing Dai, Suk-Young Yoo, Geoffrey Bartholomeusz, Ryan A. Graham, Mourad Majidi, Shaoyu Yan, Jieru Meng, Lin Ji, Kevin Coombes, John D. Minna, Bingliang Fang, and Jack A. Roth

Précis: This study shows how the Nrf2 cellular antioxidant system of great current interest can be harnessed with Akt inhibitors to attack lung cancer more effectively.

THERAPEUTICS, TARGETS, AND CHEMICAL BIOLOGY

5485 | Novel Small-Molecule Inhibitors of Bcl-XL to Treat Lung Cancer
Dongkyoo Park, Andrew T. Magis, Rui Li, Taofeek K. Owonikoko, Gabriel L. Sica, Shi-Yong Sun, Suresh S. Ramalingam, Fadlo R. Khuri, Walter J. Curran, and Xingming Deng

Précis: The new class of Bcl-XL inhibitors identified in this report exhibits distinct specificities and strong potency against lung cancer and acquired radioresistance in this setting.

5497 | Werner Syndrome Helicase Has a Critical Role in DNA Damage Responses in the Absence of a Functional Fanconi Anemia Pathway

Précis: These findings advance our understanding of cellular resistance to a DNA crosslinking agent used to combat cancer, implicating the WRN helicase as a target for inhibition in cells defective in the Fanconi anemia pathway of DNA repair targeted by certain chemotherapy strategies.

5508 | A Synthetic Lethality–Based Strategy to Treat Cancers Harboring a Genetic Deficiency in the Chromatin Remodeling Factor BRG1
Takahiro Oike, Hideaki Ogihara, Yuichi Tominaga, Kentaro Ito, Osamu Ando, Koji Tsuta, Tatsuji Mizukami, Yoko Shimada, Hisanori Isomura, Mayumi Komachi, Koh Furuta, Shun-Ichi Watanabe, Takashi Nakano, Jun Yokota, and Takashi Kohno

Précis: These results offer a rationale for an epigenetic-based treatment of many lung cancers and other common cancers lacking known therapeutic gene mutations, providing a broad catchment strategy for treatment.

5544 | SOX2 Expression Associates with Stem Cell State in Human Ovarian Carcinoma
Petra M. Bareiss, Anna Paczulla, Hui Wang, Rebekka Schairer, Stefan Wiehr, Ursula Kohlhofer, Oliver C. Rothfuss, Anna Fischer, Sven Perner, Annette Staehler, Diethelm Wallwiener, Falko Fend, Tanja Fehm, Bernd Pichler, Lothar Kan, Leticia Quintanilla-Martinez, Klaus Schulze-Osthoff, Frank Essmann, and Claudia Lengerke

Précis: The embryonic protein SOX2, which serves as a cancer stem cell marker in a variety of cancers, is shown here to induce the tumour-initiating capacity of serous ovarian carcinoma cells.

5556 | Hbo1 Is a Cyclin E/CDK2 Substrate That Enriches Breast Cancer Stem-like Cells
MyLinH T. Duong, Saïd Akli, Sira Macalou, Anna Biernacka, Bizard G. Debeeb, Min Yi, Kelly H. Hunt, and Khandan Keyomarsi

Précis: The increased oncogenic potency of cyclin E proteolytic cleavage products, which accumulate in some breast cancers, relates to their ability to promote EMT and cancer stem-like properties, the mechanistic aspects of which have immediate therapeutic implications.
MUC1 Is a Potential Target for the Treatment of Acute Myeloid Leukemia Stem Cells
Dina Stroopinsky, Jacalyn Rosenblatt, Keisuke Ito, Heidi Mills, Li Yin, Hasan Rajabi, Baldev Vasir, Turner Kufe, Katarina Luptakova, Jon Arnason, Caterina Nardella, James D. Levine, Robin M. Joyce, Ilene Galinsky, Yoram Reiter, Richard M. Stone, Pier Paolo Pandolfi, Donald Kufe, and David Avigan

Précis: A mucin gene widely upregulated in solid cancers and studied as an immunotherapeutic target is reported here to serve as a leukemia stem cell marker, broadening interest in its potential uses to better define or eradicate malignancy.

C1GALT1 Enhances Proliferation of Hepatocellular Carcinoma Cells via Modulating MET Glycosylation and Dimerization
Yao-Ming Wu, Chiung-Hui Liu, Miao-Juei Huang, Hong-Shiee Lai, Po-Huang Lee, Rey-Heng Hu, and Min-Chuan Huang

Précis: These findings offer evidence in support of an O-glycosyl transferase as an appealing therapeutic target to develop for treatment of liver cancer.

Distinct FAK Activities Determine Progenitor and Mammary Stem Cell Characteristics
Ming Liu, Xiaofeng Zhao, Song Chen, Suling Liu, Max S. Wicha, and Jun-Lin Guan

Précis: These findings define distinct kinase-dependent and kinase-independent activities of the FAK kinase that permit therapeutic strategies to address cancer heterogeneity more effectively, a major challenge for molecular targeted therapeutics generally.

Correction: Cancer Angiogenesis Induced by Kaposi’s Sarcoma-Associated Herpesvirus Is Mediated by EZH2

Correction: Emil Frei III, MD: In Memoriam (1924–2013)

ABOUT THE COVER
The tumor microenvironment contains numerous cellular elements, such as cancer-associated fibroblasts (CAF) and activated myofibroblasts that participate in fibrovascular, vascular, and chem/o/cytokine support of tumors. Using bone marrow transplant recipient mice harboring CD44 knockout (KO) mesenchymal stem cells (MSC), the precursor population for CAFs and myofibroblasts, Spaeth and colleagues observed the inability of engrafted CD44-KO stromal cells to provide tumor support, to generate vascular support, and importantly, to transition from the benign MSC phenotype to the tumor-supportive aggressive myofibroblast phenotype. The spectrally unmixed image displays smooth muscle actin + CAFs and myofibroblasts (red) from bone marrow derived CD44-KO (green) MSC in the tumor microenvironment. For details, see article by Spaeth and colleagues on page 5347.


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