**Highlights from Recent Cancer Literature**

Constance Baer, Rainer Claus, and Christoph Plass

**Genesis-Wide Epigenetic Regulation of miRNAs in Cancer**

Alexei Vazquez, Philip M. Tedeschi, and Joseph R. Bertino

**Overexpression of the Mitochondrial Folate and Glycine–Serine Pathway: A New Determinant of Methotrexate Selectivity in Tumors**

Kyle David Profitt, Babita Madan, Zhiyuan Ke, Vishal Pendharkar, Lijun Ding, Mary Ann Lee, Rami N. Hannoush, and David M. Virshup

**Androgen Receptor Splice Variants Mediate Enzalutamide Resistance in Castration-Resistant Prostate Cancer Cell Lines**

Yiming Li, Siu Chiu Chan, Lucas J. Brand, Tae Hyun Hwang, Kevin A.T. Silverstein, and Scott M. Dehm

**Disruption of Wild-Type IDH1 Suppresses D-2-Hydroxyglutarate Production in IDH1-Mutated Gliomas**

Genglin Jin, Zachary J. Reitman, Christopher G. Duncan, Ivan Spasojevic, David M. Gooden, B. Ahmed Rasheed, Rui Yang, Giselle Y. Lopez, Yiping He, Roger E. McLendon, Darel D. Bigner, and Hai Yan

**Proinflammatory Homeobox Gene, ISX, Regulates Tumor Growth and Survival in Hepatocellular Carcinoma**

Shih-Hsien Hsu, Li-Ting Wang, King-Teh Lee, Yao-Li Chen, Kwei-Yan Liu, Jau-Ling Suen, Chee-Yin Chai, and Shen-Nien Wang

**Systems Analysis of BCL2 Protein Family Interactions Establishes a Model to Predict Responses to Chemotherapy**

Andreas U. Lindner, Caoimhín G. Concannon, Gerhardt J. Boukes, Mary D. Cannon, Fabien Llambi, Deborah Ryan, Karen Boland, Frank Murray, Elaine W. Kay, Suzanne Hector, Douglas R. Green, Heinrich J. Huber, and Jochen H.M. Prehn

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Hyperpolarized 13C-Pyruvate Magnetic Resonance Reveals Rapid Lactate Export in Metastatic Renal Cell Carcinomas
Kayvan R. Keshari, Renuka Sriman, Bertram L. Koelsch, Mark Van Creviks, David M. Wilson, John Kurhanewicz, and Zhen J. Wang

Precis: This preclinical study offers proof of concept for a noninvasive characterization of dynamic cellular metabolism and transporter expression in cancer, with the potential to determine tumor aggressiveness and treatment responses.

MICROENVIRONMENT AND IMMUNOLOGY

VEGFA-VEGFR Pathway Blockade Inhibits Tumor-Induced Regulatory T-cell Proliferation in Colorectal Cancer
Magali Terme, Simon Pernot, Elie Marcheteau, Federico Sanzalov, Nadine Benhamouda, Orianne Colussi, Olivier Dubreuil, Antoine F. Carpentier, Eric Tartour, and Julien Taieb

Precis: A central pathway of tumor angiogenesis also has a pivotal role in driving immune escape, illustrating a tight integration of pathways driving malignant progression.

Cell Surface Receptor FPR2 Promotes Antitumor Host Defense by Limiting M2 Polarization of Macrophages
Ying Liu, Keqiang Chen, Chunyan Wang, Wanghua Gong, Teizo Yoshimura, Mingyong Liu, and Ji Ming Wang

Precis: A G protein-coupled receptor implicated in airway inflammation responses supports immune surveillance by restraining macrophages to the tumor cell-killing M1 phenotype.

CD40-Mediated Activation of Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia Cells Promotes Their CD44-Dependent Adhesion to Hyaluronan and Restricts CCL21-Induced Motility
Tamara Girb, Elisabeth Hintenseer, Eva Melanie Grossinger, Daniela Asdlaber, Karin Oberacher, Lukas Weiss, Cornelia Hauser-Kronberger, Daniel Neureiter, Hubert Kerschbaum, David Naor, Ronen Alon, Richard Greil, and Tanja Nicole Hartmann

Precis: The evolution of a specific adhesion event in the lymph node microenvironment where a particular leukemia arises is found to be a critical event in determining the outgrowth of these cancers.

CXCR2 Expression in Tumor Cells is a Poor Prognostic Factor and Promotes Invasion and Metastasis in Lung Adenocarcinoma

Precis: A logical strategy to treat smoking-associated lung cancers is suggested by the definition of a proinflammatory signaling axis that cooperates with Bax mutations commonly found in this disease.

Lysyl Oxidase Plays a Critical Role in Endothelial Cell Stimulation to Drive Tumor Angiogenesis
Ann-Marie Raker, Demelza Bird, Jonathan C. Welti, Morgane Gourlaouen, Georgina Lang, Graeme I. Murray, Andrew R. Reynolds, Thomas R. Cox, and Janine T. Erler

Precis: Findings point to a new general mechanism for restricting VEGF-driven tumor angiogenesis, with important clinical and therapeutic implications in a wide variety of solid tumor types.

High-Avidity T Cells Are Preferentially Tolerized in the Tumor Microenvironment

Precis: T cells that are designed to be more potent for antitumor activity appear to lose their ability to control tumor growth when they persist in the tumor, offering new insights into why T-cell immunotherapies may fail.

Durable Adoptive Immunotherapy for Leukemia Produced by Manipulation of Multiple Regulatory Pathways of CD8+ T-Cell Tolerance

Precis: Simultaneous inhibition of the CTLA4, PD1, and LAG3 pathways of T-cell tolerance can relieve immune escape in leukemia and empower durable responses to adoptively transferred tumor-reactive T cells.
CD103 or LFA-1 Engagement at the Immune Synapse between Cytotoxic T Cells and Tumor Cells Promotes Maturation and Regulates T-cell Effector Functions

Precis: This study shows how integrins that regulate the strength of the interaction between tumor cells and tumor-reactive T cells can alter their killing efficiency.

Tissue Damage–Associated "Danger Signals" Influence T-cell Responses That Promote the Progression of Preneoplasia to Cancer

Precis: Release of the tissue damage-associated molecule HMGB1 by budding prostate tumors exerts an early impact on immune escape and malignant progression.

Homing of Human B Cells to Lymphoid Organs and B-Cell Lymphoma Engraftment Are Controlled by Cell Adhesion Molecule JAM-C

Precis: Findings suggest an important new therapeutic target that may have general applications in the treatment of a variety of types of human lymphoma.

Expression of CD137 on Hodgkin and Reed–Sternberg Cells Inhibits T-cell Activation by Eliminating CD137 Ligand Expression

Precis: Findings show how Hodgkin lymphomas escape immune control, with implications for leveraging more effective immunotherapy to treat this disease.

Twist1 Induces CCL2 and Recruits Macrophages to Promote Angiogenesis

Precis: Findings show how a gene implicated in EMT and metastasis also promotes angiogenesis by recruiting macrophages into the tumor microenvironment.

Myeloid-Derived Suppressor Cells Function as Novel Osteoclast Progenitors Enhancing Bone Loss in Breast Cancer

Precis: Seminal findings define a novel crucial role for myeloid-derived suppressor cells in driving bone metastasis, with implications for how to block this deadly aspect of many cancers including breast cancer.

RANKL Expression, Function, and Therapeutic Targeting in Multiple Myeloma and Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia

Precis: Findings establish an immunotherapeutic means to neutralize the detrimental function of RANKL while potently stimulating the antitumor properties of NK cells against malignant hematopoietic cells.

MYC Acts via the PTEN Tumor Suppressor to Elicit Autoregulation and Genome-Wide Gene Repression by Activation of the Ezh2 Methyltransferase

Precis: Results reveal a new model for MYC-mediated gene repression, which is linked to the PTEN tumor suppressor, possibly explaining the long-standing question of why MYC autoregulation is lost in cancers.

Nitric Oxide–Dependent Downregulation of BRCA1 Expression Promotes Genetic Instability

Precis: This study offers an incisive new perspective on the complex role of reactive nitrogen species in cancer, revealing that they promote genetic instability not directly but indirectly by shifting DNA repair from high-fidelity to error-prone mechanisms.
Identification of an Aurora Kinase Inhibitor Specific for the Aurora B Isoform

Hua Xie, Mee-Hyun Lee, Feng Zhu, Kanamata Reddy, Cong Peng, Yan Li, Do Young Lim, Dong Joon Kim, Xiang Li, Soouk Kang, Haitao Li, Weiya Ma, Ronald A. Lubet, Jian Ding, Ann M. Bode, and Zigang Dong

Precise: Although a variety of Aurora kinase inhibitors have been described, with some now in clinical trials, this is the first study to identify an inhibitor specific for the Aurora B isoform that appears to exert special features in cancer.

SMAD2, SMAD3 and SMAD4 Mutations in Colorectal Cancer


Precise: Through a combined analysis of SMAD gene mutations in colorectal cancer, this article shows a common pathogenic mechanism and a new way to understand how SMAD mutations compromise the TGF-β pathway.

Epigenetic Regulation by Z-DNA Silencer Function Controls Cancer-Associated ADAM-12 Expression in Breast Cancer: Cross-talk between MeCP2 and NFI Transcription Factor Family


Precise: Findings highlight a novel epigenetic regulatory process involving Z-DNA and several epigenetic factors that contribute to overexpression of breast cancer-associated genes.

Bcl3 Selectively Promotes Metastasis of ERBB2-Driven Mammary Tumors

Alison Wakefield, Jitka Soukupova, Amelie Montagne, Jill Ranger, Rhiannon French, William J. Muller, and Richard W. E. Clarkson

Precise: The study reveals that the oncogene Bcl3 is critical for breast cancer metastasis by controlling tumor cell motility.

miR-186 Downregulation Correlates with Poor Survival in Lung Adenocarcinoma Where It Interferes with Cell-Cycle Regulation

Junchao Cai, Jueheng Wu, Huizhong Zhang, Lishan Fang, Yongbo Huang, Yi Yang, Xun Zhu, Rong Li, and Mengfeng Li

Precise: Results define a tumor suppressor function for a microRNA that blocks cell-cycle progression by directly targeting the pivotal cell-cycle regulators cyclin D1, CDK2, and CDK6.

PREVENTION AND EPIDEMIOLOGY

Common Single-Nucleotide Polymorphisms in the Estrogen Receptor β Promoter Are Associated with Colorectal Cancer Survival in Postmenopausal Women


Precise: Estrogen receptor β is suspected to play a role in colorectal cancer progression by modifying pathways that influence malignant invasion and metastasis.

THERAPEUTICS, TARGETS, AND CHEMICAL BIOLOGY

Combination Therapy Targeting the Chk1 and Weel Kinases Shows Therapeutic Efficacy in Neuroblastoma


Precise: Findings offer preclinical proof of concept that inhibitors of a key mitotic regulator can be highly efficacious for treating neuroblastoma, one of the most aggressive pediatric tumors.

DNA Damage–Specific Control of Cell Death by Cryptochrome in p53-Mutant Ras–Transformed Cells

Jin Hyup Lee, Shohban Gaddameedhi, Nuri Ozturk, Rui Ye, and Aziz Sancar

Precise: Findings show how different regulators of the circadian clock affect distinct pathways of intrinsic apoptosis in malignant cells.
Histone Deacetylase Inhibitor AR-42 Differentially Affects Cell-cycle Transit in Meningeal and Meningioma Cells, Potently Inhibiting NF2-Deficient Meningioma Growth
Sarah S. Burns, Elena M. Akhmametyeva, Janet L. Oblinger, Matthew L. Bush, Jie Huang, Volker Senner, Ching-Shih Chen, Abraham Jacob, D. Bradley Welling, and Long-Sheng Chang

De Novo Design of a Tumor-Penetrating Peptide
Luca Alberici, Lise Roth, Kazuki N. Sugahara, Lilach Agemy, Venkata R. Kotamraju, Tambet Teesalu, Claudio Bordignon, Catia Traversari, Gian-Paolo Rizzardi, and Eriki Ruoslahi

Polo-like Kinase 1: A Potential Therapeutic Option in Combination with Conventional Chemotherapy for the Management of Patients with Triple-Negative Breast Cancer
Virginie Maire, Fariba Nemati, Marion Richardson, Anne Vincent-Salomon, Bruno Tessor, Guillaume Rigaila, Eléonore Gravier, Bérgère Marty-Prouvost, Leanne De Koning, Guillaume Lang, David Gentien, Aurélie Dumont, Emmanuel Barillot, Elisabetta Marangoni, Didier Decaudin, Wu Li, and Thierry Dubois

Dual Targeting of EGFR and HER3 with MEHD7945A Overcomes Acquired Resistance to EGFR Inhibitors and Radiation
Shyhmim Huang, Chunrong Li, Eric A. Armstrong, Chihara R. Peet, Job Saker, Lukas C. Amler, Mark X. Slawkowski, and Paul M. Harari

Resistance to Irreversible EGF Receptor Tyrosine Kinase Inhibitors through a Multistep Mechanism Involving the IGF1R Pathway
Alexis B. Cortot, Claire E. Repelin, Takeshi Shimamura, Marzia Capelletti, Kreshnik Zejnullahu, Dalia Erkan, James G. Christensen, Kwok-Kin Wong, Nathanael S. Gray, and Pasz A. Jaine

MDA-9/Syntenin and IGFBP-2 Promote Angiogenesis in Human Melanoma

Real-time In Vivo Molecular Detection of Primary Tumors and Metastases with Ratiometric Activatable Cell-Penetrating Peptides
Elamprakash N. Savariar, Csilla N. Felsen, Nadia Nashi, Tao Jiang, Lesley G. Ellies, Paul Steinbach, Roger Y. Tsien, and Quyen T. Nguyen

Specific Elimination of CD133+ Tumor Cells with Targeted Oncolytic Measles Virus
Targeting Folate Receptors to Treat Invasive Urinary Bladder Cancer

Deepika Dhawan, Josef A. Ramos-Vara, James F. Naughton, Liang Cheng, Philip S. Low, Ryan Rothenhuber, Christopher P. Leamon, Nikki Parker, Patrick J. Klein, Ioncho R. Vlahov, Joseph A. Reddy, Michael Koch, Linda Murphy, Lindsey M. Fourez, Jane C. Stewart, and Deborah W. Knapp

Précis: This preclinical pharmacologic study shows how folate receptors on bladder cancer cells can be exploited to specifically target therapies and elicit regressions in a highly relevant canine model of invasive disease.

Hypomethylating Therapy in an Aggressive Stroma-Rich Model of Pancreatic Carcinoma

Reena Shaky, Tamas Gonda, Michael Quante, Martha Salas, Samuel Kim, Jenna Brooks, Steffen Hirsch, Justine Davies, Angelica Cullo, Kenneth Olive, Timothy C. Wang, Matthias Szabolcs, Benjamin Tycko, and Thomas Ludwig

Précis: The prototypical demethylating drug 5-aza-dC exhibits strong single-agent activity in an aggressive mouse model of pancreatic cancer characterized by an abundant stroma that resembles human tumors, with the drug efficacy reflecting effects on both the stromal and the malignant epithelial compartments of the tumor.

Therapeutic Effects of Deleting Cancer-Associated Fibroblasts in Cholangiocarcinoma

Joachim C. Mertens, Christian D. Fingas, John D. Christensen, Rory L. Smoot, Steven F. Bronk, Nathan W. Werneburg, Michael P. Gustafson, Allison B. Sirica, and Michael P. Gustafson

Précis: This study offers the first comprehensive mechanism of how metastatic cancer cells traverse the vascular endothelium.

RNA Trafficking by Acute Myelogenous Leukemia Exosomes

Jiayia Huan, Noah J. Hornick, Matthew J. Shurtleff, Amy M. Skinner, Nalaya A. Goloviznina, Charles T. Roberts Jr., and Peter Kurre

Précis: Cancer cells appear to subvert their microenvironment in part by secreting exosomes that transfer cancer-promoting proteins and RNAs into stromal cells.

Convergence of the ZMIZ1 and NOTCH1 Pathways at C-MYC in Acute T Lymphoblastic Leukemias

Lesley A. Rakowski, Derek D. Garagolza, Choi M. Li, Margaret Decker, Sarah Caruso, Morgan Jones, Rork Kukich, Tomasz Cierplick, Ivan Maillard, and Mark Y. Chiang

Précis: A novel oncogene that cooperates with NOTCH1 to drive C-MYC expression is critical to license the emergence of diverse solid and liquid tumors by NOTCH1.

Definition of Molecular Determinants of Prostate Cancer Cell Bone Extravasation


Précis: This study offers a mechanistic link between cancer progression and chromosomal instability, and it provides a rationale for clinical evaluation of Aurora kinase inhibitors to treat a type of cancer with a rapidly rising incidence.

Chromosomal Instability Modulated by BMI1–AURKA Signaling Drives Progression in Head and Neck Cancer

Chun-Hung Chou, Neng-Kai Yang, Ting-Yun Liu, Shyh-Kuan Tai, Dennis Shin-Shian Hsu, Ya-Wei Chen, Yann-Jang Chen, Cheng-Chi Chang, Cheng-Hwai Tzeng, and Muh-Hwa Yang

Précis: This study reveals a mechanism underlying cancer progression and chromosomal instability, and it provides a rationale for clinical evaluation of Aurora kinase inhibitors to treat a type of cancer with a rapidly rising incidence.

DKK2 Mediates Osteolysis, Invasiveness, and Metastatic Spread in Ewing Sarcoma


Précis: A family of antagonists of the Wnt pathway drives bone invasion and osteolysis in Ewing sarcoma, an aggressive pediatric malignancy, with implications for understanding bone invasion more generally.
Novel Oncogene-Induced Metastatic Prostate Cancer Cell Lines Define Human Prostate Cancer Progression Signatures
Xiaoming Ju, Adam Ertel, Mathew C. Casimiro, Zuoren Yu, Hui Meng, Peter A. McCue, Rhonda Walters, Paolo Fortina, Michael P. Lisanti, and Richard G. Pestell

Précis: Murine prostate cancer cell lines that can metastasize in immunocompetent hosts accurately reflect the genomic and transcriptomic changes that occur in human prostate cancer and provide an improved set of tools for the field to test new therapies.

Loss of miR-204 Expression Enhances Glioma Migration and Stem Cell-like Phenotype
Zhe Ying, Yun Li, Jueheng Wu, Xin Zhu, Yi Yang, Han Tian, Wei Li, Bo Hu, Shi-Yuan Cheng, and Mengfeng Li

Précis: Findings define a microRNA that controls the development of stem cell-like phenotypes and cell motility in malignant brain cancer cells, with possible implications in cancer stem cell-like functions generally.

Dual Functions of the Homeoprotein DLX4 in Modulating Responsiveness of Tumor Cells to Topoisomerase II-Targeting Drugs
Bon Q. Trinh, Song Yi Ko, Nicolas Barengo, Shiaw-Yih Lin, and Honami Naora

Précis: This provocative study may explain why some tumors respond poorly to drugs that target topoisomerase II despite expressing high levels of this chromatin maintenance factor.

Novel Mechanism of Apoptosis Resistance in Cancer Mediated by Extracellular PAR-4
Ravshan Burikhanov, Tripti Shrestha-Bhattarai, Shirley Qiu, Nihili Shukla, Nikhil Hebbar, Subodh M. Lele, Craig Horbinski, and Vivek M. Rangnekar

Précis: Provocative findings offer new insights into how NF-κB regulates ER stress and extrinsic apoptosis signaling in cancer cells, with implications for cross-talk with pro-inflammatory signaling in cancer cells.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Fibroblast-Derived CCL2 Induces Cancer Stem Cells—Letter
Gurcan Gunaydin, Yusuf Dolen, and S. Altug Kesikli

Fibroblast-Derived CCL2 Induces Cancer Stem Cells—Response
Akihiro Tsuyada and Shizhen Emily Wang

RETRACTION

Retraction: Initial Analyses of Colon Cancer-Specific Antigen (CCSA)-3 and CCSA-4 as Colorectal Cancer-Associated Serum Markers
ABOUT THE COVER

Twist1 is a key inducer of epithelial-mesenchymal transition during tumor metastasis and is upregulated in aggressive human cancers. A new role for Twist1 in tumor progression was uncovered, showing that Twist1 is capable of stimulating angiogenesis via CCL2 production and subsequent recruitment of macrophages from the tumor stroma. Using a Matrigel plug assay, the images show that mouse mammary tumor cells endogenously expressing high levels of Twist1 stimulated a strong angiogenic response, seen as red blood vessels in the isolated plugs. When Twist1 expression was suppressed in these cells, the angiogenic response was diminished. For details, see the article by Low-Marchelli and colleagues on page 662.