BREAKING ADVANCES

Highlights from Recent Cancer Literature

REVIEWS

Tumor–Stroma Interaction: Revealing Fibroblast-Secreted Exosomes as Potent Regulators of Wnt-Planar Cell Polarity Signaling in Cancer Metastasis
Valbona Luga and Jeffrey L. Wrana

The Role of Polo-like Kinase 1 in Carcinogenesis: Cause or Consequence?
Brian D. Chołewa, Xiaosiqi Liu, and Nihal Ahmad

PRIORITY REPORT

D538G Mutation in Estrogen Receptor-α: A Novel Mechanism for Acquired Endocrine Resistance in Breast Cancer
Keren Merenbakh-Lamin, Noa Ben-Baruch, Adva Yeheskel, Addie Dvir, Lior Soussan-Gutman, Rinath Jeselsohn, Roman Yelesny, Myles Brown, Vincent A. Miller, David Sarid, Shulamith Rizel, Baruch Klein, Tami Rubinek, and Ido Wolf

Précis: The identification of a novel mechanism of acquired endocrine resistance in metastatic breast cancer suggests a novel druggable target in this setting.

INTEGRATED SYSTEMS AND TECHNOLOGIES

Free Somatostatin Receptor Fraction Predicts the Antiproliferative Effect of Octreotide in a Neuroendocrine Tumor Model: Implications for Dose Optimization
Pedram Heidari, Eric Wehrenberg-Klee, Peiman Habibollahi, Daniel Yokell, Matthew Kulke, and Umar Mahmood

Précis: A novel noninvasive imaging method may be clinically useful to optimize the individualized dose of a drug used to treat neuroendocrine tumors, providing a basis for personalized, risk-tailored therapy.

MICROENVIRONMENT AND IMMUNOLOGY

A Novel Model of Dormancy for Bone Metastatic Breast Cancer Cells
Rebecca Marlow, Gabriella Honeth, Sara Lombardi, Massimiliano Cariati, Sonya Hessey, Alkaterini Pipili, Veronica Mariotti, Bharath Buchupalli, Katie Foster, Dominique Bonnet, Agamemnon Grigoriadis, Pranela Rameshwari, Anand Purushotham, Andrew Tutt, and Gabriela Donu

Précis: This study presents novel experimental systems for investigating cancer cell dormancy, a phenomenon of high clinical relevance that is largely under-investigated due to lack of appropriate models.

Therapeutic PD-1 Pathway Blockade Augments with Other Modalities of Immunotherapy T-Cell Function to Prevent Immune Decline in Ovarian Cancer
Jaikumar Duraiswamy, Gordon J. Freeman, and George Coukos

Précis: Immune escape, a core hallmark of advanced cancer, can be reversed by strategies that block a central pathway of T-cell exhaustion activated in the microenvironment of many solid tumors.
Low PIP4K2B Expression in Human Breast Tumors Correlates with Reduced Patient Survival: A Role for PIP4K2B in the Regulation of E-Cadherin Expression

Willem-Jan Keune, Andrew H. Sims, David R. Jones, Yvette Bulitsma, James T. Lynch, Karin Jirström, Goran Landberg, and Nullin Divecha

Precis: An enzyme that regulates second messengers in lipid signaling impacts the survival of breast cancer patients by modifying a pivotal tumor suppressor function.

Skin Tumorigenesis Stimulated by Raf Inhibitors Relies Upon Raf Functions That Are Dependent and Independent of ERK

Eszter Doma, Christian Rupp, Andrea Varga, Florian Kern, Bettina Riegler, and Manuela Baccarini

Precis: Provocative preclinical results suggest that B-Raf inhibitors being used currently in the clinic to treat melanoma may not only trigger development of cutaneous skin tumors, a known side effect, but also gastric tumors, which are far less manageable.

TRAF4 Is a Critical Molecule for Akt Activation in Lung Cancer

Wei Li, Cong Peng, Mee-Hyun Lee, DoYoung Lim, Feng Zhu, Yang Fu, Ge Yang, Yuqiao Sheng, Lanbo Xiao, Xin Dong, WeiYa Ma, Ann M. Bode, Ya Cao, and Zigang Dong

Precis: These findings reveal a pivotal role for a ubiquitination enzyme in Akt control and lung cancer pathophysiology, suggesting its role as a candidate molecular target for lung cancer prevention and therapy.

SHON Is a Novel Estrogen-Regulated Oncogene in Mammary Carcinoma That Predicts Patient Response to Endocrine Therapy

Yewon Jung, Tarek M.A. Abdel-Fatah, Stephen Y.T. Chan, Christopher C. Nolan, Andrew R. Green, Ian O. Ellis, Lili Li, Baiqu Huang, Jun Lu, Bing Xu, Longxin Chen, Runlin Z. Ma, Min Zhang, Jingru Wang, ZhengSheng Wu, Tao Zhu, Jo K. Perry, Peter E. Lobe, and Dong-Xu Liu

Precis: These findings identify a human oncogene that may serve as a simple biomarker to predict the therapeutic efficacy of antiestrogen therapy in ER+ breast tumors.

Androgen Glucuronidation: An Unexpected Target for Androgen Deprivation Therapy, with Prognosis and Diagnostic Implications

Laurent Grosse, Sophie Pâquet, Patrick Caron, Ladan Fazli, Paul S. Rennie, Alain Bélanger, and Olivier Barbier

Precis: These findings reveal a local pathway of androgen metabolism in prostate cells that can antagonize the effects of androgen deprivation therapy in prostate cancer.

miRNA-95 Mediates Radioresistance in Tumors by Targeting the Sphingolipid Phosphatase SGPP1

Xiaoyong Huang, Samira Taeb, Sahar Jahangiri, Urban Emmeneger, Elisa Tran, Jeff Bruce, Aruz Mesci, Elina Korpela, Danny Vesprini, C. Shun Wong, Robert G. Bristow, Fei-Fei Liu, and Stanley K. Liu

Precis: This seminal report identifies a little-studied microRNA as a major mediator of radiation resistance in tumors, also showing how resistance can be reversed with a clinically approved inhibitor of sphingosine-1-phosphate signaling.

Supramolecular Nanoparticles That Target Phosphoinositide-3-Kinase Overcome Insulin Resistance and Exert Pronounced Antitumor Efficacy


Precis: This study provides a preclinical foundation for the use of supramolecular nanochemistry to overcome current challenges associated with PI3K inhibitors and also offers a more general paradigm for the development of molecular targeted therapeutics for cancer treatment.

Contribution of Bcl-2 Phosphorylation to Bak Binding and Drug Resistance

Haiming Dai, Husheng Ding, X. Wei Meng, Sun-Hee Lee, Paula A. Schneider, and Scott H. Kaufmann

Precis: These findings offer a mechanistic basis to understand the enhanced antiapoptotic activity of phosphorylated Bcl-2, along with the ability of BH3 mimetics to enhance cancer cell sensitivity to taxanes.
7009 Carbon Monoxide Expedites Metabolic Exhausation to Inhibit Tumor Growth

Precise: Clinical trials of carbon monoxide that are being conducted as a strategy for chemosensitization may benefit from mechanistic insights into CO-induced cancer cell death provided in this study.

7022 The HSP90 Inhibitor Ganetespib Synergizes with the MET Kinase Inhibitor Crizotinib in both Crizotinib-Sensitive and -Resistant MET-Driven Tumor Models
Naoto Miyajima, Shinji Tsutsumi, Carole Sourbier, Kristin Beebe, Mehdi Mollapour, Candy Rivas, Soichiro Yoshida, Jane B. Trepel, Ying Huang, Manabu Tatokoro, Nobuo Shinohara, Katsuya Nonomura, and Len Neckers

Precise: Hsp90 inhibition synergizes with MET tyrosine kinase inhibition and restores sensitivity to drug-resistant MET mutants.

7034 PTEN Loss Mitigates the Response of Medulloblastoma to Hedgehog Pathway Inhibition

Precise: This study offers new insights into the potential efficacy of Hedgehog pathway inhibitors being tested clinically against a common pediatric cancer.

7043 Antitumor Activity of the Selective Pan-RAF Inhibitor TAK-632 in BRAF Inhibitor-Resistant Melanoma
Akito Nakamura, Takeo Arita, Shuntarou Tsuchoiya, Jill Donelan, Joushara Chouitart, Elizabeth Carideo, Katherine Galvin, Masanori Okaniwa, Tomoyasu Ishikawa, and Sei Yoshida

Precise: This pan-RAF inhibitor may offer needed therapeutic options for patients with NRAS- or BRAF-driven melanomas that are refractory to BRAF inhibitor treatment.

A Novel EGFR Isoform Confers Increased Invasiveness to Cancer Cells
Min Zhou, Hai Wang, Keke Zhou, Xiaoying Luo, Xiaorong Pan, Bizi Shi, Hua Jiang, Jiqin Zhang, Kesang Li, Hua-Mao Wang, Huiping Gao, Shun Lu, Ming Yao, Ying Mao, Hong-Yang Wang, Shengli Yang, Jianren Gu, Chuan-yuan Li, and Zongbai Li

Precise: These findings reveal a novel mechanism through which dysregulated EGFR signaling drives cancer cell invasion and poor prognosis, in glioma and other cancers, with implications for new prognosis and treatment paradigms involving this core pathway in cancer.

Silencing of the miR-17~92 Cluster Family Inhibits Medulloblastoma Progression
Brian L. Murphy, Susanna Obad, Laure Bihannic, Olivier Ayrault, Frederique Zindy, Sakari Kauppinen, and Martine F. Roussel

Precise: This study highlights the therapeutic utility achieved by systemic delivery of a drug-like antisense molecule directed against microRNAs, termed tiny LNAs, to suppress tumor progression.

Glioblastoma Stem Cells Are Regulated by Interleukin-8 Signaling in a Tumoral Perivascular Niche
David W. Infanger, Youjin Cho, Brina S. Lopez, Sunish Mohanan, S. Chris Liu, Demirkan Gursel, John A. Boodvkar, and Claudia Fischbach

Precise: This study demonstrates the impact that a 3D tumor environment exerts on chemokine-mediated signals needed to maintain cancer stem-like cells, with broader implications for illustrating the important role of 3D culture models in gaining a better understanding of cancer pathogenesis.

Generation of Prostate Tumor-Initiating Cells Is Associated with Elevation of Reactive Oxygen Species and IL-6/STAT3 Signaling
Yi Qu, Anne Margrete Oyan, Runhui Liu, Yaping Hua, Jiqiang Zhang, Randi Hovland, Mihaela Popa, Xiaojun Liu, Karl A. Brokstad, Ronald Simon, Anders Molven, Biao Yang Lin, Wei-dong Zhang, Emmet McCormack, Karl-Henning Kalland, and Xi-Song Ke

Precise: A novel stepwise-generated model of human prostate carcinogenesis reveals an intrinsic association of ROS and IL-6/STAT3 signaling, illuminating this relationship and defining therapeutic targets in this setting.
In Vivo MAPK Reporting Reveals the Heterogeneity in Tumoral Selection of Resistance to RAF Inhibitors
Kevin J. Basile, Ethan V. Abel, Neda Dadpey, Edward J. Hartsough, Paolo Fortina, and Andrew E. Aplin

Précis: This article describes a novel in vivo system for noninvasive evaluation of a kinase-mediated mechanism of acquired resistance to BRAF-targeting drugs, an area of present clinical challenge for treating metastatic melanoma.

Neuropilin-2 Is Upregulated in Lung Cancer Cells during TGF-β1–Induced Epithelial–Mesenchymal Transition
Patrick Nasarre, Robert M. Gemmill, Vincent A. Potiron, Joëlle Roche, Xian Lu, Anna E. Barón, Christopher Korch, Elizabeth Garrett-Mayer, Alessandro Lagana, Philip H. Howe, and Harry A. Drabkin

Précis: These findings provide insights into how TGF-β1 mediates invasion and tumorigenesis and identify a novel therapeutic target that may prevent or reverse EMT associated with metastatic progression.

BCCIP Suppresses Tumor Initiation but Is Required for Tumor Progression
Yi-Yuan Huang, Li Dai, Dakim Gaines, Roberto Droz-Rosario, Huimei Lu, Jingmei Liu, and Zhiyuan Shen

Précis: This study describes a paradoxical tumor suppressor that can also promote cancer progression, serving as a prototype for a class of suppressors that does not need to be permanently inactivated to trigger tumorigenesis.

Molecular Profiling of Tumor Cells in Cerebrospinal Fluid and Matched Primary Tumors from Metastatic Breast Cancer Patients with Leptomeningeal Carcinomatosis
Mark Jesus M. Magbanua, Michelle Melisko, Ritu Roy, Eduardo V. Sosa, Louai Hauranieh, Andrea Kablanian, Lauren E. Eisenbud, Artem Byazantsev, Alfred Au, Janet H. Scott, and John W. Park

Précis: This study describes a method for molecular analysis of tumor cells isolated from cerebrospinal fluid, shedding light on their molecular characteristics and suggesting candidate biomarkers and therapeutic targets relevant to metastatic spread in the central nervous system.

Benefits of Vascular Normalization Are Dose and Time Dependent—Letter
Yuhui Huang, Triantafyllos Stylianopoulos, Dan G. Duda, Dai Fukumura, and Rakesh K. Jain

Bevacizumab-Induced Vessel Normalization Hampers Tumor Uptake of Antibodies—Response
Marlous Arjaans, Sjoukje F. Oosting, Carolina P. Schröder, and Elisabeth G.E. de Vries

ABOUT THE COVER
Carbon monoxide (CO) at therapeutic concentrations induces growth arrest of lung and prostate cancer cell lines and tumors. CO is generated endogenously as a bioactive signaling molecule by the cytoprotective gene heme oxygenase-1 (HO-1). In cancer cells, HO-1 activity, and thus endogenous CO levels, is decreased and can be rescued by delivery of exogenous CO. Astonishingly, CO sensitizes cancer cells to chemotherapeutic agents while simultaneously protecting normal cells from genotoxin-induced cell death. The mechanism of CO involves its propensity to bind to heme-containing oxidases in mitochondria. Shown here are prostate cancer cells (PC3) exposed to CO in the presence of the genotoxin doxorubicin, which resulted in a dramatic shift in mitochondrial membrane potential and metabolic collapse driven by an anti-Warburg effect. Using MitoTracker Red CMXRos staining (red), which fluoresces when a cell is actively respiring, Wegiel and colleagues observed that CO decreased respiration and mitochondrial membrane potential, indicative of mitochondrial failure. Nuclei were stained with Hoechst (blue). For details, see article by Wegiel and colleagues on page 7009.

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