Highlights from Recent Cancer Literature

Regulation of the Na⁺/H⁺ Exchanger (NHE1) in Breast Cancer Metastasis
Schammim R. Amith and Larry Fliegel

Oncolytic Vaccinia Virus Disrupts Tumor-Associated Vasculature in Humans
Caroline J. Breitbach, Rozanne Arulanandam, Naomi De Silva, Steve H. Thorne, Richard Patt, Manijeh Daneshmand, Anne Moon, Carolina Ilkow, James Burke, Tae-Ho Hwang, Jeong Heo, Mong Cho, Hannah Chen, Fernando A. Angarita, Christina Addison, J. Andrea McCart, John C. Bell, and David H. Kirn

STC1 Expression By Cancer-Associated Fibroblasts Drives Metastasis of Colorectal Cancer
Cristina Peña, María Virtudes Céspedes, Maja Bradic Lindh, Sara Kiflemariam, Artur Mezheyeuski, Per-Henrik Edqvist, Christina Haggjöf, Helgi Birgisson, Linda Bojmar, Karin Jirström, Per Sandström, Eleanor Olsson, Srinivas Veerla, Alberto Gallardo, Tobias Sjöblom, Andy C.-M. Chang, Roger R. Reddel, Ramón Mangués, Martin Augsten, and Arne Ostman

Nitroreductase, a Near-Infrared Reporter Platform for In Vivo Time-Domain Optical Imaging of Metastatic Cancer
Emmet McCormack, Elisabeth Silden, Richard M. West, Tina Pavlin, David R. Micklem, James B. Lorens, Bengt Erik Haug, Michael E. Cooper, and Bjorn Tore Gjertsen

Amplification of FRS2 and Activation of FGFR/FRS2 Signaling Pathway in High-Grade Liposarcoma
Keqiang Zhang, Kevin Chu, Xiwei Wu, Hanlin Gao, Jinhui Wang, Yate-Ching Yuan, Sofia Loera, Kimberley Ho, Yafan Wang, Warren Chow, Frank Un, Peiguo Chu, and Yun Yen

BRMS1 Suppresses Lung Cancer Metastases through an E3 Ligase Function on Histone Acetyltransferase p300
Yuan Liu, Marty W. Mayo, Alykhan S. Nagji, Emily H. Hall, Lisa S. Shock, Aizhen Xiao, Edward B. Stelow, and David R. Jones

Midkine Promotes Neuroblastoma through Notch2 Signaling
Satoshi Kishida, Ping Mu, Shin Miyakawa, Masatoshi Fujiiwara, Tomoyuki Abe, Kazuma Sakamoto, Akira Onishi, Yoshikazu Nakamura, and Kenji Kadomatsu

Précis: While effective clinical applications of many oncolytic viruses have been frustrated, the use of oncolytic vaccinia to destroy established tumor vasculatures may offer a powerful outlet for this technology.

Précis: Improvements to noninvasive imaging methods are important to assist the preclinical development of drugs that are active in clinically relevant orthotopic models of advanced metastatic cancer, where the core challenge for treatment remains.

Précis: Findings offer a mechanistic explanation for how the metastasis suppressor gene BRMS1 acts to suppress metastases in a lung cancer model.

Inhibition of Cholinergic Signaling Causes Apoptosis in Human Bronchioalveolar Carcinoma
Jamie K. Lau, Kathleen C. Brown, Brent A. Thornhill, Clayton M. Crabtree, Aaron M. Dom, Theodore R. Witte, W. Elaine Hardman, Christopher A. McNees, Cody A. Stover, A. Betts Carpenter, Haitao Luo, Yi C. Chen, Brandon S. Shiflett, and Piyali Dasgupta

Precis: Findings prompt immediate clinical testing of approved drugs that may improve the efficacy of treatments for a certain subtype of lung cancer.

THERAPEUTICS, TARGETS, AND CHEMICAL BIOLOGY

Dual Inhibition of Bel-2 and Bel-xL Strikingly Enhances P38K Inhibition-Induced Apoptosis in Human Myeloid Leukemia Cells through a GSK3- and Bim-Dependent Mechanism
Mohamed Rahmani, Mandy Mayo Aust, Elisa Attikkson, David C. Williams Jr, Andrea Ferreira-Gonzalez, and Steven Grant

Precis: This study defines a combinatorial strategy to block key nodes in cell survival signaling to greatly enhance the killing of acute myeloid leukemia cells exhibiting Akt activation.

Application of a Proapoptotic Peptide to Intratumorally Spreading Cancer Therapy
Renwei Chen, Gary B. Braun, Xinquan Luo, Kazuki N. Sugahara, Tambet Teesalu, and Erkki Ruoslahti

Precis: Results offer preclinical proof of concept for an injectable peptide modality that may be useful to treat tumors that are either surgically inoperable or otherwise difficult to treat systemically.

Targeted Cancer Therapy with a 2-Deoxyglucose–Based Adriamycin Complex
Jie Cao, Sisi Cui, Siwen Li, Changli Du, Junmei Tian, Shunan Wan, Zhiyu Qian, Yueqing Gu, Wei R. Chen, and Guangji Wang

Precis: A simple conjugate of adriamycin that improves cancer cell targeting limits the cardiotoxic liabilities of this drug, offering broad applications in cancer treatment.

Hyperactivated JNK Is a Therapeutic Target in pVHL-Deficient Renal Cell Carcinoma
Jiabin An, Huiyen Liu, Clara E. Magyar, Yanchuan Guo, Mysore S. Veena, Eri S. Srivatsan, Jiabin Huang, and Matthew B. Rettig

Precis: This study provides insight into HIFα-independent mechanisms that drive renal cancer and offers new opportunities for therapeutics targeting of this disease.

FGF-2 Disrupts Mitotic Stability in Prostate Cancer through the Intracellular Trafficking Protein CEP57
Rolando Cuevas, Nina Korzeniewski, Yanis Tolstov, Markus Hohenfellner, and Stefan Duensing

Precis: This provocative study reveals an unexpected link between the tumor microenvironment and chromosomal instability.

Autocrine Motility Factor Promotes HER2 Cleavage and Signaling in Breast Cancer Cells
Dhong Hyo Kho, Pratima Nangia-Makker, Vitaly Balan, Victor Hogan, Larry Tait, Yi Wang, and Avraham Raz

Precis: Insights into how resistance arises to HER2 targeting therapies in breast cancer could improve paradigms for its management.

Contrasting Hypoxic Effects on Breast Cancer Stem Cell Hierarchy Is Dependent on ER-α Status
Hannah Harrison, Lynsey Rogerson, Hannah J. Gregson, Keith R. Brennan, Robert B. Clarke, and Göran Landberg

Precis: This study describes the response of a breast cancer subtype to hypoxia, with implications for more effective anti-hypoxic and antiangiogenic therapies.

miR-7 Suppresses Brain Metastasis of Breast Cancer Stem-Like Cells By Modulating KLF4

Precis: This important study identifies a functional biomarker or therapeutic target for brain metastasis in breast cancer, which remains a mainly untreatable and deadly aspect of progression in this disease.

TUMOR AND STEM CELL BIOLOGY

Tasquinimod Is an Allosteric Modulator of HDAC4 Survival Signaling within the Compromised Cancer Microenvironment

Precis: Findings define the mechanism of action of an antiangiogenic drug currently in phase III trials and suggest how to leverage its efficacy in combination with other drugs that target the tumor microenvironment.
LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Oxidation-Mediated DNA Crosslinking Contributes to Toxicity of 6-Thioguanine in Human Cells — Letter
Nanne K.H. de Boer, Dirk P. van Asseldonk, Margien L. Seinen, and Adriaan A. van Bodegraven

CORRECTION

Correction: Chloroquine in Cancer Therapy: A Double-Edged Sword of Autophagy

ABOUT THE COVER

The microRNA network is considered to play critical roles in tumor progression; however, little information is available for microRNA in cancer stem-like cells (CSC). The results of microRNA profile analysis revealed that miR-7 is significantly downregulated in CSCs that are highly metastatic to the brain, and the expression of this microRNA significantly suppressed the ability of CSCs to metastasize to the brain in vivo. miR-7 was also found to be capable of modulating KLF4. Consistently, the expression of miR-7 and KLF4 in brain-metastatic lesions of breast cancer patients was found to be significantly downregulated and upregulated, respectively. High expression of KLF4 was also inversely correlated to brain-metastasis free survival of breast cancer patients. For details, see the article by Okuda and colleagues on page 1434.