Highlights from Recent Cancer Literature

Genetic Susceptibility to Triple-Negative Breast Cancer
Kristen N. Stevens, Celine M. Vachon, and Fergus J. Couch

The Multifaceted Role of the Microenvironment in Liver Metastasis: Biology and Clinical Implications

CUL3 and NRF2 Mutations Confer an NRF2 Activation Phenotype in a Sporadic Form of Papillary Renal Cell Carcinoma
Aikseng Ooi, Karl Dykema, Asif Ansari, David Petillo, John Snider, Richard Kahnoski, John Anema, David Craig, John Carpten, Bin-Tean Teh, and Kyle A. Furge

Plastin3 Is a Novel Marker for Circulating Tumor Cells Undergoing the Epithelial–Mesenchymal Transition and Is Associated with Colorectal Cancer Prognosis

Précis: This study establishes a superior blood-based prognostic marker to gauge the risk of relapse in metastatic colorectal cancer, surpassing existing clinicopathologic factors.

Targeting uPAR with Antagonistic Recombinant Human Antibodies in Aggressive Breast Cancer
Aaron M. LeBeau, Sai Duriseti, Stephanie T. Murphy, Francois Pepin, Byron Hann, Joe W. Gray, Henry F. VanBrocklin, and Charles S. Craik

Précis: Findings provide preclinical proof-of-concept that antagonistic human uPAR antibodies can provide useful diagnostic and therapeutic properties to improve treatment of aggressive triple-negative breast cancers.

Enhanced Sonographic Imaging to Diagnose Lymph Node Metastasis: Importance of Blood Vessel Volume and Density
Li Li, Shiro Mori, Mizuo Kodama, Maya Sakamoto, Shoki Takahashi, and Tetsuya Kodama

Précis: Ultrasonography methods to detect early changes in blood vessel volume and density in lymph nodes containing metastatic cells may offer earlier and more accurate criteria for diagnosis of lymph node metastasis, a critical staging and prognostic marker in many cancers.
MICROENVIRONMENT AND IMMUNOLOGY

2093  A Multifunctional Chimeric Chaperone Serves as a Novel Immune Modulator Inducing Therapeutic Antitumor Immunity
Xiaofei Yu, Chunqing Guo, Huanfa Yi, Jie Qian, Paul B. Fisher, John R. Subjeck, and Xiang-Yang Wang

Précis: A novel strategy targets the immunosuppressive tumor environment using a chimeric immune chaperone, leading to systemic T cell–mediated tumor inhibition.

2104  Aire Deficiency Promotes TRP-1–Specific Immune Rejection of Melanoma
Meng-Lei Zhu, Anil Nagavalli, and Maureen A. Su

Précis: Findings define a pathway of autoimmune control in thymic epithelial cells that can modulate immune responses against melanoma in otherwise healthy individuals, with implications for enhancing immune responses to this deadly skin cancer.

2117  Autoimmune Gastritis Mediated by CD4+ T Cells Promotes the Development of Gastric Cancer

Précis: Findings provide the first direct evidence that autoimmune gastritis supports the development of stomach cancer and also offer a useful new model to deepen knowledge of how inflammation drives malignancy in this setting.

2127  Anti-CD20 Antibody Promotes Cancer Escape via Enrichment of Tumor-Evoked Regulatory B Cells Expressing Low Levels of CD20 and CD137L
Monika Ehnman, Edoardo Missiaglia, Erika Folestad, Joanna Selle, Carina Strell, Khin Thway, Bertha Brodin, Kristian Pietras, Janet Shipley, Arne Ostman, and Ulf Eriksson

Précis: Distinct patterns of ligand-dependent activity for the two major forms of PDGF signaling were found in either the stromal or tumor cell compartments of aggressive muscle cell tumors, both of clinical relevance.

MOLECULAR AND CELLULAR PATHOBIOLOGY

2139  Distinct Effects of Ligand-Induced PDGFRα and PDGFRβ Signaling in the Human Rhabdomyosarcoma Tumor Cell and Stroma Cell Compartments
Monika Ehman, Edorado Missiaglia, Erika Folestad, Joanna Selle, Carina Strell, Khin Thway, Bertha Brodin, Kristian Pietras, Janet Shipley, Arne Ostman, and Ulf Eriksson

Précis: Distinct patterns of ligand-dependent activity for the two major forms of PDGF signaling were found in either the stromal or tumor cell compartments of aggressive muscle cell tumors, both of clinical relevance.

2150  Cooperative Activation of Tissue-Specific Genes by pRB and E2F1
Stephen Flowers, Fuhua Xu, and Elizabeth Moran

Précis: This study offers novel mechanistic insights into why Rb deficiency is so closely associated with the development of osteosarcoma.

2159  Loss of TGF-β Adaptor β2SP Activates Notch Signaling and SOX9 Expression in Esophageal Adenocarcinoma
Shumai Song, Dipen M. Maru, Jaifer A. Ajani, Chia-Hsin Chan, Soichiro Honjo, Hui-Kuan Lin, Arlene Correa, Wayne L. Hofstetter, Marta Davila, John Stroehlein, and Lopa Mishra

Précis: Intriguing findings suggest one mechanism through which TGF-β signaling switches from tumor suppressing to tumor promoting during malignant progression.

2167  FOXP3 Regulates Sensitivity of Cancer Cells to Irradiation by Transcriptional Repression of BRCA1
Weiquan Li, Hiroto Katoh, Lixinong Kong, Xiaochun Yu, Zhanwen Du, Xiaoli Yan, Pan Zheng, and Yang Liu

Précis: A transcription factor implicated in immune tolerance and mutated in prostate and breast cancer cells is reported here to regulate DNA repair through the BRCA1 pathway, possibly directly linking DNA repair processes to immune escape in cancer.

2181  Sunshine UV-Induced Skin Cancer Relies upon Activation of the p38a Signaling Pathway
Kangdong Liu, Donghoon Yu, Yong-Yeon Cho, Ann M. Bode, Weiya Ma, Ke Yao, Shengqiang Li, Jixia Li, G. Tim Bowden, Ziming Dong, and Zigang Dong

Précis: Solar UV, which includes UVA and UVB wavelengths contributing to skin cancers, must activate a MAPK-related stress pathway, with implications for prevention and treatment of these common malignancies.
### THERAPEUTICS, TARGETS, AND CHEMICAL BIOLOGY

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<td>2235</td>
<td>mTOR Inhibitors Block Kaposi Sarcoma Growth by Inhibiting Essential Autocrine Growth Factors and Tumor Angiogenesis</td>
<td>Debasmita Roy, Sang-Hoon Sin, Amy Lucas, Raman Venkataramanan, Ling Wang, Anthony Eason, Veenadhari Chavakula, Isaac B. Hilton, Kristen M. Tambrurro Blossom Damania, and Dirk P. Dittmer</td>
<td>Précis: Findings offer a new disease model and preclinical proof-of-concept for the use of mTOR inhibitors to treat a major HIV-associated cancer as well as related tumors that are also derived from endothelial cells.</td>
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### PREVENTION AND EPIDEMIOLOGY

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<td>2247</td>
<td>Targeting the Deregulated Spliceosome Core Machinery in Cancer Cells Triggers mTOR Blockade and Autophagy</td>
<td>Virginie Quidiville, Samir Alsaifadi, Aicha Goubar, Frédéric Commo, Véronique Scott, Catherine Pioche-Durieu, Isabelle Girault, Sonia Bacconnais, Eric Le Cam, Vladimir Lazar, Suzette Delaloge, Mahasti Saghatchian, Patricia Pautier, Philippe Morice, Philippe Dessen, Stéphane Vagner, and Fabrice André</td>
<td>Précis: Certain Sm components of snRNPs involved in RNA splicing may constitute appealing therapeutic targets for a generalized strategy to treat cancer.</td>
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<td>2259</td>
<td>HDAC6 Inhibition Restores Ciliary Expression and Decreases Tumor Growth</td>
<td>Sergio A. Gradilone, Brynn N. Radtke, Pamela S. Bogert, Bing Q. Huang, Gabriella B. Gajdos, and Nicholas F. LaRusso</td>
<td>Précis: HDAC6 is essential in epithelial cells for formation of the primary cilia, organelles that are essential and sufficient to organize normal cell structure, growth, and function but that are disrupted during neoplastic transformation.</td>
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*Note: The table is a representation of the abstracts and titles from the journal, which are copyrighted by the American Association for Cancer Research.*
Cisplatin Resistance Associated with PARP Hyperactivation

Precis: Results affect the use of PARP inhibitors in lung adenocarcinoma patients who relapse after cisplatin-based chemotherapy by suggesting a mechanism-based biomarker that can predict responses to PARP inhibitor monotherapy.

The Insulin Receptor Negatively Regulates the Action of Pseudomonas Toxin-Based Immunotoxins and Native Pseudomonas Toxin
Xiu Fen Liu, David J. FitzGerald, and Ira Pastan

Precis: Attenuating the expression of the insulin receptor can specifically enhance the cytotoxic action of certain immunotoxins and has potential utility for immunoconjugates used in cancer treatment.

Inhibition of Protein Kinase CK2 Reduces Cyp24a1 Expression and Enhances 1,25-Dihydroxyvitamin D3 Antitumor Activity in Human Prostate Cancer Cells
Wei Luo, Wei-Dong Yu, Yingyu Ma, Mikhail Chernov, Donald L. Trump, and Candace S. Johnson

Precis: Results suggest an approach to enhance the potency of the anticancer effects of vitamin D3 used to treat certain cancers by retarding the core mechanism in its degradation and clearance.

Downregulation of the Novel Tumor Suppressor DHRAS1 Predicts Poor Prognosis in Esophageal Squamous Cell Carcinoma
Ying-Hui Zhu, Li Fu, Lelei Chen, Yan-Ru Qin, Haibo Liu, Fajun Xie, Tingting Zeng, Sui-Sui Dong, Jiangchao Li, Yan Li, Yongdong Dai, Dan Xie, and Xin-Yuan Guan

Precis: A novel Ras-like protein is discovered to be pivotal to the pathogenesis of esophageal cancers that tend to be aggressive and rising in incidence in developed countries.

Cholesterol Loading and Ultrastable Protein Interactions Determine the Level of Tumor Marker Required for Optimal Isolation of Cancer Cells
Jayati Jain, Gianluca Veggiati, and Mark Howarth

Precis: This important study systematically determined the factors affecting the isolation of cancer cells, with the potential to generally improve cancer diagnosis, prognosis, and therapeutic monitoring in patients.

A CD90+ Tumor-Initiating Cell Population with an Aggressive Signature and Metastatic Capacity in Esophageal Cancer
Kwan Ho Tang, Yong dong Dai, Man Tong, Yuen Piu Chan, Pak Shing Kwan, Li Fu, Yan Ru Qin, Sai Wah Tsao, Hong Lok Lung, Maria L. Lung, Daniel K. Tong, Simon Law, Kwok Wah Chan, Stephanie Ma, and Xin Yuan Guan

Precis: This is the first study to reliably identify a cancer stem cell population in esophageal cancer, an often aggressive disease with a rising incidence in developed countries that has no effective treatment.

TGF-β Mediates Homing of Bone Marrow–Derived Human Mesenchymal Stem Cells to Glioma Stem Cells
Naoki Shinojima, Anwar Hossain, Tatsuya Takezaki, Juan Fueyo, Joy Gumin, Feng Gao, Felix Nwajei, Frank C. Marini, Michael Andreeff, Jun-Ichi Kuratsu, and Frederick F. Lang

Precis: Findings affect the possible use of bone marrow–derived mesenchymal stem cells as delivery vehicles to treat deadly brain cancers by targeting the cancer stem-like cells that sustain these cancers.

Pirfenidone Inhibits Pancreatic Cancer Desmoplasia by Regulating Stellate Cells
Shingo Kozono, Kenoki Ohuchida, Daiki Eguchi, Naoki Ikenna, Kenji Fujiwara, Lin Cui, Kazuhiro Mizumoto, and Masao Tanaka

Precis: A promising antitumor agent may act by targeting the desmoplastic reaction in cancer, which generates a supportive fibroblast microenvironment particularly prevalent in pancreatic cancer.
Sirtuin-1 Regulates Acinar-to-Ductal Metaplasia and Supports Cancer Cell Viability in Pancreatic Cancer


Précis: This study addresses a key factor in the disruption of acinar cell differentiation in the pancreas, a situation that predisposes to the development of pancreatic cancer.

ST6Gal-I Protein Expression Is Upregulated in Human Epithelial Tumors and Correlates with Stem Cell Markers in Normal Tissues and Colon Cancer Cell Lines

Amanda F. Swindall, Angelina I. Londoño-Joshi, Matthew J. Schultz, Naomi Fineberg, Donald J. Buchsbaum, and Susan L. Bellis

Précis: Results identify a sialyltransferase that may serve as a regulator of the stem-like phenotype in both normal and cancer cell populations.

ABOUT THE COVER

Antibodies against epithelial cell adhesion molecule (EpCAM) and cytokeratins are commonly used to capture and detect circulating tumor cells (CTC). However, these approaches are potentially hampered by the fact that migratory cancer cells may undergo a process called the epithelial-mesenchymal transition that is characterized by downregulation of epithelial markers, including cytokeratins and EpCAM. Images are of EpCAM(−)/CD45(−) circulating tumor cells immunostained with antibodies against cytokeratin (red, top), PLS3 (green, middle), and vimentin (orange, bottom). All sections were counterstained with DAPI (blue). PLS3 was expressed on EpCAM(−) CTCs that displayed reduced cytokeratin staining, accompanied by strong staining for vimentin. For details, see article by Yokobori and colleagues on page 2059.
# Cancer Research

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*Cancer Res 2013;73:2023-2378.*

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