Highlights from Recent Cancer Literature

Emerging Potential of Therapeutic Targeting of Ubiquitin-Specific Proteases in the Treatment of Cancer
Anupama Pal, Matthew A. Young, and Nicholas J. Donato

Sonic Hedgehog Signaling in Basal Cell Nevus Syndrome
Mohammad Athar, Changzhao Li, Arianna L. Kim, Vladimir S. Spiegelman, and David R. Bickers

Obesity, Cholesterol Metabolism, and Breast Cancer Pathogenesis

High-Throughput Time-Resolved FRET Reveals Akt/PKB Activation as a Poor Prognostic Marker in Breast Cancer
Selvaraju Veeriah, Pierre Leboucher, Julien de Naurois, Nirmal Jethwa, Emma Nye, Tamara Bunting, Richard Stone, Gordon Stamp, Véronique Calleja, Stefanie S. Jeffrey, Peter J. Parker, and Banafield Larijani

Using a novel quantitative imaging platform to determine the status of an activated biomarker in cancer patients may better identify high-risk patients who could benefit from a suitable targeted drug therapy.

Optimal Effector Functions in Human Natural Killer Cells Rely upon Autocrine Bone Morphogenetic Protein Signaling
Neil C. Robson, Laura Hidalgo, Tristan McAlpine, Heng Wei, Víctor G. Martínez, Ana Entrena, Gustavo J. Melen, Andrew S. MacDonald, Alexander Thythian-Adams, Rosa Sacedón, Eugene Maraskovsky, Jonathan Cebon, Manuel Ramirez, Angeles Vicente, and Alberto Varas

The TGFβ superfamily members BMP-2 and BMP-6 are produced by and are required to support the optimal functions of natural killer immune cells, suggesting new ways to enhance the powerful capability of these cells to eradicate tumors.

These findings provide new insights into how high mammographic density arises in the breast and why this condition is associated with breast cancer risk, with implications for the definition of novel invention targets to prevent breast cancer.

This study of spontaneous mammary cancers that arise in dogs offers a novel perspective on critical questions in breast cancer research.

Neutralizing Murine TGFβR2 Promotes a Differentiated Tumor Cell Phenotype and Inhibits Pancreatic Cancer Metastasis
Katherine T. Oostapoff, Bercin Kutluç Cenik, Miao Wang, Risheng Ye, Xiaohong Xu, Desiree Nugent, Moriah M. Hagopian, Mary Topalovski, Lee B. Rivera, Kyla D. Carroll, and Rolf A. Brekken

This study demonstrates that TGFβ signaling in stromal cells directly affects tumor cell plasticity and the metastatic capacity of pancreatic tumors.

Molecular Homology and Difference between Spontaneous Canine Mammary Cancer and Human Breast Cancer
Deli Liu, Huan Xiong, Angela E. Ellis, Nicole C. Northrup, Carlos O. Rodriguez Jr, Ruth M. O’Regan, Stephen Dalton, and Shaying Zhao

This study of spontaneous mammary cancers that arise in dogs offers a novel perspective on critical questions in breast cancer research.
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<td>5057</td>
<td>CSF1/CSF1R Blockade Reprograms Tumor-Infiltrating Macrophages and Improves Response to T-cell Checkpoint</td>
<td><strong>Précis:</strong> These preclinical findings offer a rationale to empower therapeutic effects of T-cell checkpoint-based immunotherapeutics that block PD-1 and CTLA-4 by reprogramming of immunosuppressive myeloid cells that are abundant in the tumor microenvironment.</td>
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<td>5070</td>
<td>Macrophage Inflammatory Protein Derivative ECI301 Enhances the Alarmin-Associated Abscopal Benefits of Tumor Radiotherapy</td>
<td><strong>Précis:</strong> This study suggests mechanistic insights into a long recognized but little understood phenomenon in radiotherapy, the abscopal effect, which refers to antitumor benefits outside the irradiated field.</td>
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<td>5079</td>
<td>Natural Killer Cells Eradicate Galectin-1–Deficient Glioma in the Absence of Adaptive Immunity</td>
<td><strong>Précis:</strong> Blocking an important mechanism of immune escape in glioma mediated by galectin-1 overexpression may be sufficient to restore the ability of natural killer cells to eradicate this type of brain cancer, without the need of adaptive immune functions.</td>
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<td>5091</td>
<td>BMP4 Inhibits Breast Cancer Metastasis by Blocking Myeloid-Derived Suppressor Cell Activity</td>
<td><strong>Précis:</strong> This study demonstrates that BMP4 can inhibit metastasis by reducing NF-κB activity in tumor cells, leading to a suppression of G-CSF secretion and a consequential reduction in the number of metastases promoting myeloid-derived suppressor cells.</td>
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<td>5103</td>
<td>A Novel Wnt Regulatory Axis in Endometrioid Endometrial Cancer</td>
<td><strong>Précis:</strong> These findings establish a novel Wnt/β-catenin regulatory axis that involves a tumor suppressive member of the cadherin family, protocadherin-10, and a noncoding RNA, MALAT1, that supports the development of a subtype of endometrial cancer.</td>
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<td>5118</td>
<td>Natural Allelic Variations in Glutathione Peroxidase-1 Affect Its Subcellular Localization and Function</td>
<td><strong>Précis:</strong> Genetic variations in glutathione peroxidase-1 that affect the risk of several types of cancer are shown here to affect the function of this enzyme, with implications for understanding its fundamental roles in cancer pathophysiology.</td>
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<td>5127</td>
<td>TIGAR Has a Dual Role in Cancer Cell Survival through Regulating Apoptosis and Autophagy</td>
<td><strong>Précis:</strong> These results illuminate a new mechanism by which a key inhibitor of cell death helps regulate the response of cancer cells to chemotherapeutic drugs, with possible implications as a drug response biomarker.</td>
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<td>5139</td>
<td>Validation and Structural Characterization of the LEDGF/p75–MLL Interface as a New Target for the Treatment of MLL-Dependent Leukemia</td>
<td><strong>Précis:</strong> This study identifies a potential molecular foothold in epigenetic therapy aimed at altering transcriptional programs in cancer cells to selectively trigger their demise.</td>
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Armed Oncolytic Virus Enhances Immune Functions of Chimeric Antigen Receptor–Modified T Cells in Solid Tumors

Nobuhiro Nishio, Iulia Diaconu, Hao Liu, Vincenzo Cerullo, Ignazio Caruana, Barbara Savoldo, and Gianpietro Dotti

Preciso: The cytokine/chemokine–armed virus described in this report may improve the effectiveness of CAR T-cell therapy in solid tumors, where this therapy has not been nearly as effective as in liquid tumors.

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TUMOR AND STEM CELL BIOLOGY

5152 AXL Mediates Resistance to Cetuximab Therapy
Toni M. Brand, Mari Iida, Andrew P. Stein, Kelsey L. Corrigan, Cara M. Braverman, Neha Luthar, Mahmoud Toulany, Parkash S. Gill, Ravi Salgia, Randall J. Kimple, and Deric L. Wheeler

Preciso: This preclinical study provides a rationale to target the oncogenic receptor kinase AXL in cancers that exhibit intrinsic or acquired resistance to the anti-EGFR drug cetuximab, with immediate implications for the clinical evaluation of AXL inhibitors in cetuximab-resistant cancers.

5165 RPA Inhibition Increases Replication Stress and Suppresses Tumor Growth
Jason G. Glanzer, Shengqin Liu, Ling Wang, Adam Mosel, Aimin Peng, and Greg C. Oakley

Preciso: By targeting a lynchpin of DNA replication, a compound that heightens DNA replication stress in cancer cells may offer a broadly useful new strategy for treatment.

5173 HSV-sr39TK Positron Emission Tomography and Suicide Gene Elimination of Human Hematopoietic Stem Cells and Their Progeny in Humanized Mice
Eric H. Gschwend, Melissa N. McCracken, Michael L. Kaufman, Michelle Ho, Roger P. Hollis, Xiaooyan Wang, Navdeep Saini, Richard C. Koya, Thinline Chodon, Antoni Ribas, Owen N. Witte, and Donald B. Kohn

Preciso: These results support the clinical development of a dual use imaging-suicide gene in immunotherapy and provide insights into the reversible engrafment of human hematopoietic stem cells.

5184 Quantitative Optical Imaging of Primary Tumor Organoid Metabolism Predicts Drug Response in Breast Cancer
Alex J. Walsh, Rebecca S. Cook, Melinda E. Sanders, Luigi Aurisicchio, Gennaro Ciliberto, Carlos L. Arteaga, and Melissa C. Skala

Preciso: This study demonstrates that cellular-level optical imaging of metabolic coenzymes resolves early, heterogeneous drug responses within primary tumor organoid cultures that are consistent with long-term in vivo tumor response.

5195 Armed Oncolytic Virus Enhances Immune Functions of Chimeric Antigen Receptor–Modified T Cells in Solid Tumors

Nobuhiro Nishio, Jula Diaconu, Hao Liu, Vincenzo Cerullo, Ignazio Caruana, Valentina Hoyos, Lisa Bouchier-Hayes, Barbara Savoldo, and Gianpietro Dotti

Preciso: The cytokine/chemokine–armed virus described in this report may improve the effectiveness of CAR T-cell therapy in solid tumors, where this therapy has not been nearly as effective as in liquid tumors.

5206 FLT3 Kinase Inhibitor TTT-3002 Overcomes Both Activating and Drug Resistance Mutations in FLT3 in Acute Myeloid Leukemia
Hayley S. Ma, Bao Nguyen, Amy S. Duffield, Li Li, Allison Galanis, Allen B. Williams, Patrick A. Brown, Mark J. Levis, Daniel J. Leahy, and Donald Small

Preciso: A new small molecule inhibitor of FLT3, which can overcome all mutations documented to date, in this driver of acute myeloid leukemia, also exhibits superior pharmacologic properties that lend appeal for this agent as an effective next-generation therapeutic in this setting.

5218 TLR9 Is Critical for Glioma Stem Cell Maintenance and Targeting
Andreas Herrmann, Gregory Cherryholmes, Anne Schroeder, Jillian Phallen, Darya Alizadeh, Hong Xin, Tianyi Wang, Heehyoung Lee, Christoph Lahtz, Piotr Swiderski, Brian Armstrong, Claudia Kowolik, Gary L. Gallia, Michael Lim, Christine Brown, Behnam Badie, Stephen Forman, Marcin Kortylewski, Richard Jove, and Hua Yu

Preciso: The discovery that the toll-like receptor TLR9 is expressed in stem-like cells in an aggressive brain cancer may offer a useful tool for treatment strategies in this setting.

5229 ADAM9 Promotes Lung Cancer Metastases to Brain by a Plasminogen Activator-Based Pathway
Chen-Yuan Lin, Hung-Jen Chen, Cheng-Chung Huang, Liang-Chuan Lai, Tzu-Pin Lu, Guan-Chin Tseng, Ting-Ting Kuo, Qian-Yu Kuok, Jennifer L. Hsu, Shian-Ying Sung, Mien-Chie Hung, and Yuh-Pyng Sher

Preciso: These findings highlight the integrated view for ADAM9 in lung cancer brain metastases and indicate that targeting of ADAM9-regulated pathways may be a rational approach to inhibit cancer metastases.

5244 5-Lipoxygenase Is a Candidate Target for Therapeutic Management of Stem Cell–like Cells in Acute Myeloid Leukemia
Jessica Roos, Claudia Oancea, Maria Heinssmann, Dilawar Khan, Hannelore Held, Astrid S. Kahnt, Christoph Lahtz, Piotr Swiderski, Brian Armstrong, Claudia Kowolik, Gary L. Gallia, Michael Lim, Christine Brown, Behnam Badie, Stephen Forman, Marcin Kortylewski, Richard Jove, and Hua Yu

Preciso: These findings suggest that targeting the 5-lipooxygenases may help eradicate cancer stem cell–like cells in acute myeloid leukemias, with immediate implications for clinical evaluation in patients.

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<td><strong>miR149 Functions as a Tumor Suppressor by Controlling Breast Epithelial Cell Migration and Invasion</strong></td>
<td>Annabell Bischoff, Bettina Huck, Bettina Keller, Michaela Strotbek, Simone Schmid, Hauke Busch, Dafne Müller, and Monilola A. Olayioye</td>
<td>These findings define the molecular function of miR-149, which is downregulated in aggressive and often untreatable basal-like breast cancers, with potential implications for the design of future miRNA-based therapeutics in this disease setting.</td>
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<td><strong>RB Family Tumor Suppressor Activity May Not Relate to Active Silencing of E2F Target Genes</strong></td>
<td>Tinke L. Vormer, Kamila Wojciechowicz, Marleen Dekker, Sandra de Vries, Anja van der Wal, Elly Delzenne-Goette, Sjalin H. Naik, Ji-Ying Song, Jan-Hermen Dannenberg, Jacob B. Hansen, and Hein te Riele</td>
<td>These provocative findings suggest that RB tumor suppressor activity does not require interaction with LxCxE-containing proteins, implying it may not involve silencing of E2F target genes as previously thought.</td>
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<td><strong>Runx2 Is a Novel Regulator of Mammary Epithelial Cell Fate in Development and Breast Cancer</strong></td>
<td>Thomas W. Owens, Renee L. Rogers, Sarah A. Best, Anita Ledger, Anne-Marie Mooney, Alison Ferguson, Paul Shore, Alexander Swarbrick, Christopher J. Ormandy, Peter T. Simpson, Jason S. Carroll, Jane E. Visvader, and Matthew J. Naylor</td>
<td>These results establish a novel function for Runx2 of mammary cell fate and breast cancer that may offer a novel generalized route for therapeutic interventions in this malignancy.</td>
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<td><strong>Ubiquitin-like Protein FAT10 Promotes the Invasion and Metastasis of Hepatocellular Carcinoma by Modifying β-Catenin Degradation</strong></td>
<td>Rongfa Yuan, Kai Wang, Junwen Hu, Chen Yan, Ming Li, Xin Yu, Xiaxia Liu, Jun Lei, Wuhua Guo, Linquan Wu, Kui Hong, and Jianghua Shao</td>
<td>These findings link two drivers of invasion and metastasis in liver cancer and identify a novel pathway for β-catenin control that may have relevance in other cancers.</td>
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<td><strong>Cell Surface Lactate Receptor GPR81 Is Crucial for Cancer Cell Survival</strong></td>
<td>Christina L. Roland, Thiruvengadam Arumugam, Defeng Deng, Shi He Liu, Bincy Philip, Sobeyda Gomez, William R. Burns, Vijaya Ramachandran, Huamin Wang, Zobeida Cruz-Monserrate, and Craig D. Logsdon</td>
<td>Lactate metabolic changes alter cancer cell survival, and this study suggests a highly targetable G-protein coupled receptor on the cancer cell surface as a novel generalized antimetabolic therapy cancer treatment.</td>
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<td><strong>TALEN-Mediated Somatic Mutagenesis in Murine Models of Cancer</strong></td>
<td>Shuyuan Zhang, Lin Li, Sara L. Kendrick, Robert D. Gerard, and Hao Zhu</td>
<td>These results document new methods of interrogating cancer genes, advancing genome editing to study somatic mutations in vivo.</td>
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<td><strong>Intestinal Epithelial HuR Modulates Distinct Pathways of Proliferation and Apoptosis and Attenuates Small Intestinal and Colonic Tumor Development</strong></td>
<td>Antonina Giammanco, Valerie Blanc, Grace Montenegro, Coen Klos, Yan Xie, Susan Kennedy, Jianyang Luo, Sung-Hee Chang, Timothy Ha, ILKe Nalbantoglu, Sekhar Dharmarajan, and Nicholas O. Davidson</td>
<td>These results provide novel insight into the role of the ubiquitous RNA binding protein HuR as an oncogenic modifier of colon tumor susceptibility.</td>
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<td><strong>Genetic Ablation of Metadherin Inhibits Autochthonous Prostate Cancer Progression and Metastasis</strong></td>
<td>Liling Wan, Guohong Hu, Yong Wei, Min Yuan, Roderick T. Bronson, Qifeng Yang, Javed Siddiqui, Kenneth J. Pienta, and Yibin Kang</td>
<td>A poorly understood gene that is overexpressed widely in human cancer is shown to support malignant progression, providing a foundation to justify studies that could elucidate its molecular function and potential as a therapeutic target.</td>
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**CORRECTION**

5348 **Correction: Enhancing Reproducibility in Cancer Drug Screening: How Do We Move Forward?**
ABOUT THE COVER

Non-invasive *in vivo* imaging of gene-modified human hematopoietic stem cells and their progeny can be achieved using positron image tomography (PET), shown here as coronal and sagittal plane overlays on X-ray computed tomography scans. Imaging after systemically administered \[^{18}F\]-FHBG reveals accumulation of probe localized to areas of hematopoietic engraftment such as the humerus, tibia, femur, vertebrae, sternum, and thymus. Background probe uptakes in the gastrointestinal tract and gall bladder, present in non-humanized NSG and mock-transduced humanized mice have been artificially masked for clarity. For details, see article by Gschweng on page 5173.

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