2375 Highlights from Recent Cancer Literature

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**MOLECULAR AND CELLULAR PATHOBIOLOGY**

2412 Combined Anti-CD40 and Anti–IL-23 Monoclonal Antibody Therapy Effectively Suppresses Tumor Growth and Metastases


**Précis:** Therapies that tip the IL-12/23 balance in established tumors can effectively suppress their growth and metastases.

2422 Tumor Supressor VHL Functions in the Control of Mitotic Fidelity

Michael P. Hell, Maria Duda, Thomas C. Weber, Holger Moch, and Wilhelm Krek

**Précis:** This study reveals a function for the von Hippel-Lindau protein in spatially oriented cell division and faithful mitotic checkpoint function in renal epithelium, where this tumor suppressor has a pivotal role in blocking tumorigenesis.

2432 miR-28-5p Promotes Chromosomal Instability in VHL-Associated Cancers by Inhibiting Mad2 Translation

Michael P. Hell, Claudio R. Thoma, Niklaus Fankhauser, Yann Christinat, Thomas C. Weber, and Wilhelm Krek

**Précis:** By identifying a potential mediator of chromosomal instability in VHL-associated cancers, this study suggests a novel microRNA-based therapeutic strategy to target aneuploid cells in VHL-associated cancers.

2444 JNK Signaling Mediates EphA2-Dependent Tumor Cell Proliferation, Motility, and Cancer Stem Cell–like Properties in Non–Small Cell Lung Cancer

Wenqiang Song, Yufang Ma, Jialiang Wang, Dana Brantley-Sieders, and Jin Chen

**Précis:** This study identifies a cell adhesion receptor-based signaling pathway that controls the function of cancer stem-like cells in lung adenocarcinoma.

2455 Hypoxia-Inducible Factor-1 Promotes Pancreatic Ductal Adenocarcinoma Invasion and Metastasis by Activating Transcription of the Actin-Bundling Protein Fascin

Xiao Zhao, Song Gao, He Ren, Wei Sun, Huan Zhang, Jianwei Sun, Shengyu Yang, and Jihui Hao

**Précis:** This study highlights a mechanism by which the hypoxic microenvironment may promote invasion and metastasis, with implications for defining a new candidate target to block the early progression in this disease.
SWI/SNF Factors Required for Cellular Resistance to DNA Damage Include ARID1A and ARID1B and Show Interdependent Protein Stability
Reiko Watanabe, Ayako Ui, Shin-ichiro Kanno, Hideaki Ogisawa, Takahiro Nagase, Takashi Kohno, and Akira Yasui

Precis: Cancer cells lacking in the expression of SWI/SNF transcription factors are deficient in DNA repair and potentially vulnerable to DNA damage, with implications for predicting cytotoxic drug responses and addressing resistance.

Telomere Length in Peripheral Blood Leukocytes and Lung Cancer Risk: A Large Case–Control Study in Caucasians
Beatriz Sanchez-Espiridion, Meng Chen, Joe Y. Chang, Charles Lu, David W. Chang, Jack A. Roth, Xi Feng Wu, and Jian Gu

Precis: This large epidemiologic study addresses a controversy concerning an association between telomere length in peripheral blood leukocytes and lung cancer susceptibility, revealing that risk is associated differentially with different histologic subtypes.

Curcumin Promotes Autophagic Survival of a Subset of Colon Cancer Stem Cells, Which Are Ablated by DCLK1-siRNA
Carla Kantara, Malaney O’Connell, Shubhashish Sarkar, Stephanie Moya, Robert Ulrich, and Pomila Singh

Precis: These interesting findings suggest a use for the spice curcumin, which has chemopreventive properties for colon cancer, by combining it with therapies that target colon cancer stem-like cells to promote more durable remissions in this setting.

Activation of the Glutamate Receptor GRM1 Enhances Angiogenic Signaling to Drive Melanoma Progression
Yu Wen, Jiadong Li, Jasmine Koo, Seung-Shick Shin, Yong Lin, Byeong-Seon Jeong, Janice M. Mehnert, Suzie Chen, Karine A. Cohen-Sola, and James S. Goydos

Precis: These findings offer a mechanistic rationale for combinatorial therapy of melanoma with GRM1 inhibitors, with immediate implications on trial designs for the clinical development of this class of antimitabolic agents.

Auranofin Induces Lethal Oxidative and Endoplasmic Reticulum Stress and Exerts Potent Preclinical Activity against Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia
Warren Fiskus, Nakhle Saba, Min Shen, Mondana Ghias, Jinyun Liu, Soumyasri Das Gupta, Lata Chauhan, Rekha Rao, Sumedha Cunewardena, Kevin Schorno, Christopher P. Austin, Kami Maddocks, John Byrd, Ari Melnick, Peng Huang, Adrian Wiestner, and Kapil N. Bhalla

Precis: This study provides a rationale to immediately reposition the approved drug Auranofin for clinical evaluation in the therapy of relapsed forms of chronic lymphocytic leukemia.

Global Gene Repression by the Steroid Receptor Coactivator SRC-1 Promotes Oncogenesis
Claire A. Walsh, Jarlath C. Bolger, Christopher Byrne, Sinead Cocchiglia, Yuan Hao, Ailis Fagan, Li Qin, Aoihe Cahalin, Damian McCartan, Marie McIlroy, Peadar O’Gaora, Jianming Xu, Arnold D. Hill, and Leonie S. Young

Precis: These findings deepen understanding of a key partner of the estrogen regulator, with implications for how gene expression is controlled in breast cancer cells through a novel role in gene repression.

Comparative Functional Analysis of DPYD Variants of Potential Clinical Relevance to Dihydropyrimidine Dehydrogenase Activity
Steven M. Offer, Croix C. Fossum, Natalie J. Wegner, Alexander J. Stuflesser, Gabriel L. Butterfield, and Robert B. Diasio

Precis: Clinical testing for deficient DPYD variations might dramatically improve current predictive tests for 5-FU sensitivity, especially in individuals of non-European descent.

Maintaining Glycogen Synthase Kinase-3 Activity Is Critical for mTOR Kinase Inhibitors to Inhibit Cancer Cell Growth
Jungui Koo, Ping Yue, Anthony A. Gal, Fadlo R. Khuri, and Shi-Yong Sun

Precis: These findings reveal a critical factor in determining the therapeutic effect of mTOR kinase inhibitors, with potential implications for a biomarker of clinical response.
Curative Properties of Noninternalizing Antibody–Drug Conjugates Based on Maytansinoids
Elena Perrino, Martina Steiner, Nikolaus Krall, Gonçalo J.L. Bernardes, Francesca Pretto, Giulio Casi, and Dario Neri

Précis: This study offers the first preclinical demonstration that antibody-drug conjugates targeting the microenvironment can be fully curative and that cancer cell internalization is not necessary for the efficacy of this emerging class of cancer therapeutics.

STAT3-Mediated Autophagy Dependence Identifies Subtypes of Breast Cancer Where Autophagy Inhibition Can Be Efficacious
Paola Maycotte, Christy M. Gearheart, Rebecca Barnard, Suraj Aryal, Jean M. Mulcahy Levy, Susan P. Fosmire, Ryan J. Hansen, Michael J. Morgan, Christopher C. Porter, Daniel L. Gustafson, and Andrew Thorburn

Précis: This study shows how STAT3 makes triple-negative breast cancer cells dependent on autophagy for survival, even in nutrient-rich conditions, implicating this factor as a marker for autophagy addiction and efficacious responses to autophagy inhibitors.

Survival in Patients with High-Risk Prostate Cancer Is Predicted by miR-221, Which Regulates Proliferation, Apoptosis, and Invasion of Prostate Cancer Cells by Inhibiting IRF2 and SOCS3
Burkhard Kneitz, Markus Krebs, Charis Kalogirou, Maria Schubert, Steven Joniau, Hein van Poppel, Evelyne Lerut, Susanne Kneitz, Claus Jürgen Scholz, Philipp Strobel, Manfred Gessler, Hubertus Riedmiller, and Martin Spahn

Précis: These results identify a microRNA with significant potential as a prognostic biomarker and therapeutic target for improving clinical management of patients with aggressive prostate cancer.

GRHL1 Acts as Tumor Suppressor in Neuroblastoma and Is Negatively Regulated by MYCN and HDAC3
Johannes Fabian, Marco Lodrini, Ina Oehme, Marie C. Schier, Theresa M. Thole, Thomas Hiebelscher, Annette Kopp-Schneider, Lennart Opitz, David Capper, Andreas von Deimling, Inga Wießand, Till Milde, Ulrich Mahlknecht, Frank Westermann, Odilia Popanda, Frederik Roels, Barbara Hero, Frank Berthold, Matthias Fischer, Andreas E. Kulozik, Olaf Witt, and Hedwig E. Deubzer

Mechanistic Elucidation of the Antitumor Properties of Withaferin A in Breast Cancer
Arumugam Nagalingam, Panjamurthy Kuppasamy, Shivendra V. Singh, Dipali Sharma, and Neeraj K. Saxena

Précis: These findings reveal the key nodes of Withaferin A action in breast cancer to establish surrogate biomarkers for its efficacy and help in clinical development of this bioactive molecule.

CD44v8-10 Is a Cancer-Specific Marker for Gastric Cancer Stem Cells
Wen Min Lau, Eileen Teng, Hui Shan Chong, Kirsten Anne Pagaduan Lopez, Amy Yuh Ling Tay, Manuel Salto-Tellez, Asim Shabbir, Jimmy Bok Yan So, and Shing Leng Chan

Précis: This study defines a variant form of the common stem cell marker CD44 with properties that may make it superior for practical clinical use in targeting cancer stem-like cells, with important therapeutic implications.

Genetic Suppression of Inflammation Blocks the Tumor-Promoting Effects of TGF-β in Gastric Tissue
Mitsuhiko Ota, Masahito Horiguchi, Victoria Fang, Kotaro Shibahara, Kyuichi Kadota, Cynthia Loomis, Michael Cammer, and Daniel B. Rifkin

Précis: Genetic ablation of adaptive immunity eliminates the development of tumors in a mouse model of gastric cancer driven by TGF-β hypomorphism, highlighting the critical contribution of inflammation to TGF-β-mediated tumorigenesis.
Aberrant expression of the T-box transcription factor brachyury in human carcinomas drives the phenomenon of epithelial-mesenchymal transition (EMT), a phenotypic modulation that facilitates tumor dissemination and resistance to conventional anti-neoplastic therapies. Hamilton and colleagues show that acquisition of a mesenchymal-like phenotype could also significantly reduce the susceptibility of cancer cells to lysis by both antigen-specific T cells and natural killer cells. This defect was observed even in the presence of a stable engagement between the immune effector cells and the tumor cells, as demonstrated by the effective polar actin polymerization observed at the interacting surface area. The phenomenon of immune resistance of mesenchymal-like cells was correlated to their decreased levels of cell cycle kinase CDK1, a defect that could be countered by treatment with a specific inhibitor of WEE1. For details, see article by Hamilton and colleagues on page 2510.