Highlights from Recent Cancer Literature

The Stress Kinase p38 as a Target for Cancer Therapy
Ana Igea and Angel R. Nebreda

Cell-of-Origin of Cancer versus Cancer Stem Cells: Assays and Interpretations
Kiera Rycaj and Dean G. Tang

The MYC-WDR5 Nexus and Cancer
Lance R. Thomas, Audra M. Foshage, April M. Weissmiller, and William P. Tansey

Recommendations for Benchmarking Preclinical Studies of Nanomedicines
Charlene M. Dawidczyk, Luisa M. Russell, and Peter C. Searson

Inferring the Origin of Metastases from Cancer Phylogenies
Woo Suk Hong, Max Shpak, and Jeffrey P. Townsend

Transcriptome Sequencing Reveals PCAT5 as a Novel ERG-Regulated Long Noncoding RNA in Prostate Cancer
Antti Ylipää, Kati Kivinummi, Anuika Kohvakka, Matti Annala, Leena Laitonen, Mauro Scaravilli, Kimmo Kartasalo, Simo-Pekka Leppänen, Serdar Karakurt, Janne Seppälä, Olli Yli-Harja, Teuvo L.J. Tammela, Wei Zhang, Tapio Visakorpi, and Matti Nykter

High-Resolution Rapid Diagnostic Imaging of Whole Prostate Biopsies Using Video-Rate Fluorescence Structured Illumination Microscopy
Mei Wang, Hillary Z. Kimbrell, Andrew B. Sholl, David B. Tulman, Katherine N. Eller, Tyler C. Schlichenmeyer, Benjamin R. Lee, Michelle Lacey, and J. Quincy Brown

This study describes the utility of a novel microscopic method for high-throughput, nondestructive pathologic imaging and diagnosis of malignant biopsy tissue, with the potential to replace current techniques and assess tissue quality and diagnosis at the point of acquisition.

A Modeling Approach to Explain Mutually Exclusive and Co-Occurring Genetic Alterations in Bladder Tumorigenesis
Elisabeth Borry, Sandra Rebouissou, Claudine Chaouiti, Andrei Zinovyev, François Radvanyi, and Laurence Calzone

This multidisciplinary study explains the basis for mutual exclusivity and co-occurring genetic alterations in bladder cancer through the use of a mathematical model that provides context and temporal orders for these alteration patterns.

Variations in BCR-ABL transcripts during imatinib therapy may represent a signature of the patient’s individual autologous immune response, as modeled by a mathematical algorithm in this study that may help design patient-specific schedules for TKI combination therapy.
MICROENVIRONMENT AND IMMUNOLOGY

4063 Metastasis Suppressors Regulate the Tumor Microenvironment by Blocking Recruitment of Prometastatic Tumor-Associated Macrophages
Casey Frankenberger, Daniel Rabe, Russell Bainer, Devipriya Sankarasharma, Kiran Chada, Thomas Krause, Yoav Gilad, Lev Becker, and Marsha Rich Rosner

Précis: These findings suggest that ‘triple-negative’ breast cancer patients may benefit greatly from therapeutics that target tumor-associated macrophages, addressing a clinical need for effective targeted therapies in this setting.

4074 CD38-Expressing Myeloid-Derived Suppressor Cells Promote Tumor Growth in a Murine Model of Esophageal Cancer
Tatiana A. Karakasheva, Todd J. Waldron, Evgeniy Eruslanov, Sang-Bae Kim, Ju-Seog Lee, Shaun O’Brien, Philip D. Hicks, Devraj Basu, Sunil Singhal, Fabio Malavasi, and Anil K. Rustgi

Précis: This report highlights CD38 as a new marker of highly immunosuppressive MDSC as well as a candidate therapeutic target, addressing a long-standing need to more fully define functional biomarkers in this key myeloid cell population mediating immune escape.

4086 Dll4 Blockade in Stromal Cells Mediates Antitumor Effects in Preclinical Models of Ovarian Cancer
Frank Kuhnert, Guoying Chen, Sandra Coetzee, Nithya Thambi, Carlos Hickey, Jing Shan, Sunil Singhal, Fabio Malavasi, and Anil K. Rustgi

Précis: These findings establish a therapeutic rationale for antibody-based targeting of a Notch ligand in ovarian cancer, as an antiangiogenic strategy that is particularly potent in combination with VEGF blockade.

4097 Anti-CD20 Therapy Acts via FcγRIIIA to Diminish Responsiveness of Human Natural Killer Cells
Cristina Capuano, Maddalena Romanelli, Chiara Pighi, Giuseppe Cimino, Angela Rago, Rosa Molfetta, Rossella Paolini, Angela Santoni, and Ricciarda Galandrini

Précis: These findings define a novel mechanism of immune exhaustion caused by rituximab or related CD20 mAb in human natural killer cells, with potentially negative implications for patients treated with these therapies.

4109 Carbonic Anhydrase Activity Monitored In Vivo by Hyperpolarized 13C-Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy Demonstrates Its Importance for pH Regulation in Tumors

Précis: An enzyme that is highly elevated in hypoxic conditions and that engenders metastatic progression is found to have a critical role for lowering extracellular pH, with potential implications as a therapeutic target in hypoxic conditions when tumors are typically resistant to therapy.

MOLECULAR AND CELLULAR PATHOBIOLOGY

4119 The miR-146b-3p/PAX8/NIS Regulatory Circuit Modulates the Differentiation Phenotype and Function of Thyroid Cells during Carcinogenesis
Garcilaso Riesco-Eizaguirre, León Wert-Lamas, Javier Perales-Patón, Ana Sastre-Persona, Lara P. Fernández, and Pilar Santisteban

Précis: These findings reveal that a microRNA network underlies thyroid cell differentiation and function, with important implications for overcoming treatment-refractory metastatic thyroid cancer.

4131 Hepatocyte Growth Factor/cMET Pathway Activation Enhances Cancer Hallmarks in Adrenocortical Carcinoma

Précis: These findings show that HGF/MET signaling enhances cancer hallmarks in adrenocortical carcinoma, where it may also contribute to drug resistance, with implications for the use of MET inhibitors as a clinical treatment strategy in this disease.

4143 HTLV-1 bZIP Factor RNA and Protein Impart Distinct Functions on T-cell Proliferation and Survival
Yuichi Mitobe, Jun-Ichiroh Yasunaga, Rie Funuta, and Masao Matsuoka

Précis: This study elucidates a central function in the human cancer virus HTLV-1 that enables it to efficiently promote leukemogenesis.
Akt Kinase-Interacting Protein 1 Signals \( \text{Akt1}/\text{CREB} \) axis in the pathogenesis of diffuse malignant mesothelioma, a deadly lung cancer, and also offer a preclinical rationale to target Akt1 in this disease setting.

Feed-Forward Reciprocal Activation of PAFR and STAT3 Regulates Epithelial–Mesenchymal Transition in Non–Small Cell Lung Cancer Jie Chen, Tian Lan, Weimin Zhang, Liija Dong, Nan Kang, Shumin Zhang, Ming Fu, Bing Liu, Kangtai Liu, and Qimin Zhan

Précis: These results elucidate a powerful mechanism of self-reinforcing malignant character in lung adenocarcinoma, driven by a tripartite G protein-coupled receptor that may offer an appealing therapeutic target.

Identification of P450 Oxidoreductase as a Major Determinant of Sensitivity to Hypoxia-Activated Prodrugs Francis W. Hunter, Richard J. Young, Zvi Shalev, Raviv N. Vellanki, Jingli Wang, Yongchuan Gu, Naveen Joshi, Sreevalsan Sreebhavan, Ilan Weinreb, David P. Goldstein, Jason Moffat, Troy Ketela, Kevin R. Brown, Marianne Koritzinsky, Benjamin Solomon, Danny Rischin, William R. Wilson, and Bradly G. Wouters

Précis: This study identifies a factor that appears to be critical for the response to a class of hypoxia-targeting drugs, with implications for improving the treatment of hypoxic solid tumors.

Ceacam1L Modulates STAT3 Signaling to Drive Diffuse Malignant Mesothelioma

Tadaaki Yamada, Joseph M. Amann, Koji Fukuda, Shinji Takeuchi, Naoya Fujita, Hisanori Uehara, Shotaro Iwakiri, Kazumi Itoi, Konstantin Shilo, Seiji Yano, and David P. Carbone

Précis: These findings suggest an important role for the Akt1/CREB axis in the pathogenesis of diffuse malignant mesothelioma, a deadly lung cancer, and also offer a preclinical rationale to target Akt1 in this disease setting.
ABOUT THE COVER

Dll4-expressing endothelial cells activate Notch1 on adjacent ovarian tumor cells. Immunohistochemical staining for active Notch1 (nuclear Notch1 intracellular domain) and the tumor cell marker vimentin demonstrates Notch1 signaling activity in the tumor vasculature (elongated nuclei) and in vimentin-positive, tumor vessel-associated parenchymal cells. This pattern illustrates the important concept of juxtacrine signaling interactions between Dll4 expressed by endothelial cells and adjacent, Notch1-positive ovarian tumor cells. For details, see article by Kuhnert and colleagues on page 4086.