Microenvironment and Immunology

Metastatic Cells Can Escape the Proapoptotic Effects of TNF-α through Increased Autocrine IL-6/STAT3 Signaling
Shun Li, Ni Wang, and Pnina Brodt

Précis: This study defines an IGF-I-driven mechanism of cancer cell survival that is critical for metastatic colonization of the liver, suggesting that IGF-I receptor antagonists currently in clinical trials may have particular utility in treating colon cancers and other cancers that metastasize frequently to liver.

Monocytic CCR2⁺ Myeloid-Derived Suppressor Cells Promote Immune Escape by Limiting Activated CD8 T-cell Infiltration into the Tumor Microenvironment
Alexander M. Lesokhin, Tobias M. Hohl, Shigehisa Kitano, Cristina Cortez, Daniel Hirschhorn-Cymerman, Francesca Avogadri, Gabriele A. Rizzuto, John J. Lazarus, Eric G. Pamer, Alan N. Houghton, Taha Merghoub, and Jedd D. Wolchok

Précis: The cytokine GM-CSF, which is used to enhance white cell counts in many cancer patients, also expands a population of immune-suppressive monocytic cells that can block the entry of activated antitumor T cells into the tumor microenvironment, perhaps unwittingly contributing to immune escape.

CD8⁺ T Cells Specific for Tumor Antigens Can Be Rendered Dysfunctional by the Tumor Microenvironment through Upregulation of the Inhibitory Receptors BTLA and PD-1
Julien Fourcade, Zhaojun Sun, Ornella Pagliano, Philippe Guillaume, Immanuel F. Luescher, Cindy Sander, John M. Kirkwood, Daniel Olive, Vijay Kuchroo, and Hassane M. Zarour

Précis: This study extends knowledge concerning how an important inhibitory class of co-receptor molecules on T cells acts to block their specific cytotoxic activity against tumor cells, thereby deepening insights into how to reverse this key mechanism of immune escape in tumors for therapeutic benefit.

Hedgehog Signaling Inhibition Blocks Growth of Resistant Tumors through Effects on Tumor Microenvironment

Clinical Studies

N-Myc Regulates Expression of the Detoxifying Enzyme Glutathione Transferase GSTP1, a Marker of Poor Outcome in Neuroblastoma
Jamie I. Fletcher, Samuele Gherardi, Jayne Murray, Catherine A. Burkhart, David Livingston, and Enrico Milich

Précis: Expression of the glutathione detoxification system may be particularly important in mediating chemoresistance of tumors that harbor Myc family gene amplifications, as suggested here in studies of neuroblastoma, a common pediatric tumor.

Integrated Systems and Technologies

Hyperpolarized ¹³C Spectroscopy Detects Early Changes in Tumor Vasculature and Metabolism after VEGF Neutralization
Sarah E. Bohndiek, Mikko I. Kettunen, De-en Hu, and Kevin M. Brindle

Précis: This study describes an MRI imaging method that can be used to noninvasively monitor vascular disruption and normalization following VEGF blockade, addressing a clinical need to rapidly evaluate the likely impact of antiangiogenic therapy in patients.
Précis: Findings demonstrate a novel role for hedgehog signaling in osteoclast function and demonstrate that hedgehog inhibitors reduce tumor burden through direct effects on tumor cells, osteoclasts, and stromal cells within the tumor microenvironment.

miR-20a Encoded by the miR-17–92 Cluster Increases the Metastatic Potential of Osteosarcoma Cells by Regulating Fas Expression
Gangzong Huang, Kazumasa Nishimoto, Zhichao Zhou, Dennis Hughes, and Eugenie S. Kleinerman

Précis: Findings provide insights into the means by which bone cancers gain access to the lung, by modulating expression of a microRNA program that permits cancer cell survival in the lung microenvironment.

Immune Inhibitory Molecules LAG-3 and PD-1 Synergistically Regulate T-cell Function to Promote Tumoral Immune Escape

Précis: Analogous to combination strategies for targeted drugs, this study shows how combination strategies for immunotherapeutic antibodies that target important negative regulatory immune receptors can produce powerful antitumor effects, in essence, by correcting immune escape.

Antigen-Specific CD4^+ T Cells Regulate Function of Myeloid-Derived Suppressor Cells in Cancer via Retrograde MHC Class II Signaling
Srinivas Nagaraj, Allison Nelson, Je-in Youn, Pingyan Cheng, David Quiceno, and Dmitry I. Gabrilovich

Précis: This report addresses a controversy regarding how myeloid-derived suppressor cells suppress the activity of CD4^+ T cells in cancer, revealing a forward feedback loop in which activated, tumor antigen–specific forms of these T cells may augment the immunosuppressive effects of myeloid-derived suppressor cells.

Précis: This study identifies the lactate transporter MCT1 as a critical mediator of p53-driven metabolic controls on glycolysis and respiration, and thus also potentially critical for supporting malignant progression of p53-deficient cancers.

Myc Posttranscriptionally Induces HIF1 Protein and Target Gene Expression in Normal and Cancer Cells
Megan R. Doe, Janice M. Ascano, Mandeep Kaur, and Michael D. Cole

Précis: Myc overexpression is linked to induction of a core regulator of tumor hypoxia, highlighting a previously unrecognized effector pathway for oncogenic transformation by Myc.

A Positive Feedback Signaling Loop between ATM and the Vitamin D Receptor Is Critical for Cancer Chemoprevention by Vitamin D
Huei-Ju Ting, Sayeda Yasmin-Karim, Shian-Jang Yan, Jong-Wei Hsu, Tzu-Hua Lin, Wei Si Zeng, James Messing, Tzong-Jeng Sheu, Bo-Ying Bao, Willis X. Li, Edward Messing, and Yi-Fen Lee

Précis: Findings suggest that vitamin D prevents cancer by stimulating a positive feedback signaling loop from the vitamin D receptor to the DNA repair machinery, increasing its efficiency.

Resistance to Selective BRAF Inhibition Can Be Mediated by Modest Upstream Pathway Activation
Fei Su, William D. Bradley, Qiongqing Wang, Hong Yang, Lizhong Xu, Brian Higgins, Kenneth Kolinsky, Kathryn Packman, Min Jung Kim, Kerstin Trunzer, Richard J. Lee, Kathleen Schostack, Jade Carter, Thomas Albert, Soren Germer, Jim Rosinski, Mitchell Martin, Mary Ellen Simcox, Brian Lestini, David Heimbrook, and Gideon Bollag

Précis: Findings address the present clinical challenge to prevent or reverse acquired resistance to mutant BRAF inhibition, which can produce powerful but only transient therapeutic responses in melanoma.

Potentiation of the Novel Topoisomerase I Inhibitor Indenoisoquinoline LMP-400 by the Cell Checkpoint and Chk1-Chk2 Inhibitor AZD7762
Sheena M. Aris and Yves Pommier

Précis: This study provides a proof-of-concept that a combination therapy composed of non-canptothecin topoisomerase I inhibitors plus checkpoint kinase inhibitors can trigger synergistic cancer cell deaths.
Histone Deacetylase Inhibition Increases Levels of Choline Kinase α and Phosphocholine Facilitating Noninvasive Imaging in Human Cancers
Mounia Beloueche-Babari, Vaitha Arunan, Helen Troy, Robert H. te Poele, Anne-Christine Wong Te Fong, L. Elizabeth Jackson, Geoffrey S. Payne, John R. Griffiths, Ian R. Judson, Paul Workman, Martin O. Leach, and Yuen-Li Chung

Precis: Noninvasive biomarkers offer critical tools for clinical trials of targeted drugs, as illustrated in this study providing mechanistic support for the use of phosphocholine as a candidate noninvasive biomarker for imaging the pharmacodynamic response to HDAC inhibitors.

TUMOR AND STEM CELL BIOLOGY

Dysregulation of Ezrin Phosphorylation Prevents Metastasis and Alters Cellular Metabolism in Osteosarcoma
Ling Ren, Sung-Hyeok Hong, Qing-Rong Chen, Joseph Briggs, Jessica Cassavaugh, Satish Srinivasan, Michael M. Lizardo, Arnulfo Mendoza, Ashley Y. Xia, Narayan Avadhani, Javed Khan, and Chand Khanna

Precis: This study offers mechanistic insights into the role of a pivotal regulator of metastasis that links the plasma cell membrane to the actin cytoskeleton, and that may act in part by linking metabolic and respiratory capacity to metastatic capability.

Hedgehog and Notch Signaling Regulate Self-Renewal of Undifferentiated Pleomorphic Sarcomas
Chang Ye Yale Wang, Qingxia Wei, Ilkyu Han, Shingo Sato, Ronak Ghanbari-Azarnier, Heather Whetstone, Raymond Poon, Jiayi Hu, Feifei Zheng, Phil Zhang, Wei Shi Wang, Jay S. Wunder, and Benjamin A. Alman

Precis: Findings suggest not only novel treatment strategies for a soft tumor subtype seen almost exclusively in the elderly, but also possible insights into its enigmatic origins of development, which have been historically controversial.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Impact of Epithelial Organization on Myc Expression and Activity—Letter
Johanna I. Partanen and Juha Klefstrom

Impact of Epithelial Organization on Myc Expression and Activity—Response
David Simpson Senthil Muthuswamy, and William P. Tansey

CORRECTIONS

Correction: Endoglin Regulates Cancer–Stromal Cell Interactions in Prostate Tumors

Correction: Sirtuin 1 Is Upregulated in a Subset of Hepatocellular Carcinomas where It Is Essential for Telomere Maintenance and Tumor Cell Growth

Correction: Long Noncoding RNA HOTAIR Regulates Polycomb-Dependent Chromatin Modification and Is Associated with Poor Prognosis in Colorectal Cancers

ABOUT THE COVER
Vemurafenib recently achieved FDA approval for treating patients with metastatic melanoma harboring the BRAF V600E mutation. The BRAF<sup>V600E</sup>-driven uncontrolled proliferation is effectively blocked by vemurafenib, reflected in the remarkable regressions observed in the clinic. However, most patients eventually relapse, and in many instances, progression is associated with reactivation of ERK signaling, as observed by high levels of ERK phosphorylation in tumor biopsies taken at progression. The cover shows an example of a tumor biopsy taken at progression. Su and colleagues identify a novel KRAS mutation that mediates the acquired resistance of melanoma cells to vemurafenib. Both MAPK and PI3K pathways are active despite the presence of drug. Combinations of vemurafenib with either MEK or AKT inhibitors are able to overcome this resistance, providing hope that these combinations could mitigate disease relapse in patients. For details, see the article by Su and colleagues on page 969 of this issue.
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