Contents

DECEMBER 2013 • VOLUME 3 • NUMBER 12

IN THIS ISSUE
Highlighted research articles ........................................... 1317

NEWS IN BRIEF
Important news stories affecting the community .................. 1320

NEWS IN DEPTH
Q&A: Elizabeth Blackburn on Telomerase and Tumors .... 1323
A Role for Aspirin in Cancer Prevention? ......................... 1324

RESEARCH WATCH
Selected highlights of recent articles of exceptional significance from the cancer literature .................. 1325

ONLINE
For more News and Research Watch, visit Cancer Discovery online at http://CDnews.aacrjournals.org.

VIEWS
In The Spotlight
Dynamic Interplay of Oncogenes and T Cells Induces PD-L1 in the Tumor Microenvironment .............. 1330
A.J. Rech and R.H. Vonderheide
See article, p. 1355

Teaching an Old Dog New Tricks: Drug Repositioning in Small Cell Lung Cancer .......................... 1333
J. Wang and L.A. Byers
See article, p. 1364

Personalized Therapy for Acute Myeloid Leukemia ............ 1336
C.S. Hourigan and J.E. Karp
See article, p. 1416

RESEARCH ARTICLES
A Drug Repositioning Approach Identifies Tricyclic Antidepressants as Inhibitors of Small Cell Lung Cancer and Other Neuroendocrine Tumors .... 1364
See article, p. 1364

Hypoxia Induces Phenotypic Plasticity and Therapy Resistance in Melanoma via the Tyrosine Kinase Receptors ROR1 and ROR2 .......... 1378
See article, p. 1330

MINI REVIEW
What a Tangled Web We Weave: Emerging Resistance Mechanisms to Inhibition of the Phosphoinositide 3-Kinase Pathway ............ 1345
S.J. Klempner, A.P. Myers, and L.C. Cantley

RESEARCH BRIEF
Activation of the PD-1 Pathway Contributes to Immune Escape in EGFR-Driven Lung Tumors ........... 1355
Précis: EGFR pathway activation promotes tumor immune evasion in NSCLC via induction of PD-1, PD-L1, and immunosuppressive, tumor-promoting cytokines.
See commentary, p. 1330

RESEARCH BRIEF
Hypoxia Induces Phenotypic Plasticity and Therapy Resistance in Melanoma via the Tyrosine Kinase Receptors ROR1 and ROR2 .......... 1378
Précis: WNT5A signaling promotes a phenotype switch to more invasive, BRAF inhibitor-resistant melanomas in response to hypoxia via reciprocal regulation of ROR1 and ROR2.

Q&A: Elizabeth Blackburn on Telomerase and Tumors .... 1323
A Role for Aspirin in Cancer Prevention? ......................... 1324

Selected highlights of recent articles of exceptional significance from the cancer literature .................. 1325

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Akbay and colleagues found that EGFR activation in non–small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) resulted in an immunosuppressive microenvironment characterized by upregulation of programmed cell death 1 (PD-1) and its ligand PD-L1, reduction of CD8+ cytotoxic T cells, and induction of tumor-promoting cytokines. PD-1 blockade suppressed EGFR-driven NSCLC growth via increased T-cell infiltration and improved cytotoxic T-cell function, as well as reduced expression of immunosuppressive cytokines. PD-L1 induction in human NSCLC cells was dependent on EGFR activation, as treatment with EGFR kinase inhibitors decreased PD-L1 levels. These results define a non–cell-autonomous role of oncogenic EGFR in promoting immune evasion in lung cancer and suggest that dual inhibition of EGFR and PD-1 may be effective in EGFR-mutant NSCLC. For details, please see the article by Akbay and colleagues on page 1355.