CANCER DISCOVERY

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A Large-Scale Analysis of Genetic Variants within Putative miRNA Binding Sites in Prostate Cancer ..................... 368

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A Genetic Platform to Model Sarcomagenesis from Primary Adult Mesenchymal Stem Cells .......................... 396

Précis: Hypoxic culture of Trp53-null bone marrow mesenchymal stem cells provides a platform to identify genetic drivers of undifferentiated sarcoma and reveals a critical role for the LRF–DLK1–SOX9 pathway in sarcomagenesis.

Atg7 Overcomes Senescence and Promotes Growth of Braf*V600E-Driven Melanoma ............................... 410
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Précis: Deletion of the essential autophagy gene Atg7 in Braf*V600E, Pten-null melanoma increases oxidative stress and senescence and suppresses tumor growth, establishing that autophagy supports the growth of these tumors.

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Précis: Long-term imatinib treatment leads to downregulation of Sprouty proteins and FGFR-driven reactivation of the MAPK–ERK pathway in KIT-mutant GIST cells, which can be repressed by FGFR inhibition.

Deregulated control of alternative splicing has been implicated in many cancers. To map the genetic regulation of splicing in neuroblastoma, Chen and colleagues integrated genome and transcriptome data from a mouse model of neuroblastoma. Characterization of splicing quantitative trait loci (sQTL) highlighted genes that regulate alternative splicing and strain-specific splicing of genes that correlated with patient survival. In addition, the authors identified unique intronic splicing motifs in genes that were recurrently mutated in human neuroblastoma and glioblastoma. Mutation of these motifs resulted in functional changes in alternative splicing, and altered expression of the corresponding genes correlated with patient outcome in neuroblastoma. These results identify splicing factors and intronic splicing motifs that modulate alternative splicing across cancers and highlight candidate genes potentially involved in neuroblastoma. For details, please see the article by Chen and colleagues on page 380.