RESEARCH BRIEFS

Genomic Heterogeneity as a Barrier to Precision Medicine in Gastroesophageal Adenocarcinoma .......... 37

Précis: Heterogeneity of actionable genomic alterations among primary and metastatic lesions suggests that biomarker profiling of a single primary tumor site may limit the success of targeted therapy in gastroesophageal adenocarcinoma.

See commentary, p. 14
See article, p. 49

Genetic Predictors of Response to Systemic Therapy in Esophagogastric Cancer .......... 49

Précis: Prospective genomic profiling of patients with esophagogastric cancer identifies predictive biomarkers of sensitivity and resistance to trastuzumab and immune checkpoint inhibitors.

See commentary, p. 14
See article, p. 49

IN THIS ISSUE
Highlighted research articles ......... 1

NEWS IN BRIEF
Important news stories affecting the community .......... 4

RESEARCH WATCH
Selected highlights of recent articles of exceptional significance from the cancer literature ................. 9

ONLINE
For more News and Research Watch, visit Cancer Discovery online at http://cancerdiscovery.aacrjournals.org/content/early/by/section.

VIEWS
In The Spotlight

Genomic Analyses and Precision Oncology in Gastroesophageal Cancer: Forwards or Backwards? .......... 14
R. Sundar and P. Tan
See article, p. 37
See article, p. 49

Collapsing the Tumor Ecosystem: Preventing Adaptive Response to Treatment by Inhibiting Transcription .......... 17
A. Carugo and G.F. Draetta
See article, p. 59

Keeping Tumors Out of the MAPK Fitness Zone .......... 20
D.F. Stern
See article, p. 74

REVIEW
BET Proteins as Targets for Anticancer Treatment .......... 24
A. Stathis and F. Bertoni
Suppression of Adaptive Responses to Targeted Cancer Therapy by Transcriptional Repression


Précis: Blocking RNA polymerase II–mediated transcription with a CDK7/CDK12 inhibitor broadly enhances the efficacy of targeted therapies by suppressing transcriptional responses associated with establishment of a drug-tolerant state.

See commentary, p. 17

Exploiting Drug Addiction Mechanisms to Select against MAPKi-Resistant Melanoma

A. Hong, G. Moriceau, L. Sun, S. Lomeli, M. Piva, R. Damoiseaux, S.L. Holmen, N.E. Sharpless, W. Hugo, and R.S. Lo

Précis: Treatment discontinuation sensitizes MAPK inhibitor–resistant melanoma to PARP inhibition and augments a cell death–predominant drug-addiction phenotype.

See commentary, p. 20

Conversion of PRPS Hexamer to Monomer by AMPK-Mediated Phosphorylation Inhibits Nucleotide Synthesis in Response to Energy Stress


Précis: Inhibition of phosphoribosyl pyrophosphate synthetase (PRPS) by AMPK under glucose-deprived or hypoxic conditions maintains homeostasis and promotes tumor cell survival.

Somatic Superenhancer Duplications and Hotspot Mutations Lead to Oncogenic Activation of the KLF5 Transcription Factor


Précis: Varied noncoding and coding alterations observed across multiple cancer types converge to increase KLF5 activity and create a potential therapeutic vulnerability.

To determine how melanomas that have adapted and become addicted to MAPK inhibitors (MAPKi) respond to MAPKi withdrawal, Hong, Moriceau, and colleagues characterized the phenotypes of MAPKi-resistant melanoma cell lines after drug withdrawal. MAPKi-resistant cell lines exhibited either a cell death–predominant drug addiction phenotype characterized by ERK hyperactivation and DNA damage, or a slow cycling–predominant drug addiction phenotype. DNA damage–induced PARP1-dependent cell death was essential for the cell death–predominant phenotype, and DNA damage repair inhibitors such as PARPi induced apoptosis in cell death–predominant melanoma cell lines and caused slow cycling–predominant melanoma cell lines to switch to a cell death–predominant phenotype. Combined PARPi and vemurafenib treatment induced MAPKi-addicted tumor regression after MAPKi withdrawal. These findings identify a therapeutically exploitable mechanism driving MAPKi addiction in melanoma. For details, please see the article by Hong, Moriceau, and colleagues on page 74.