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Highlighted research articles

NEWS IN BRIEF

Important news stories affecting the community

NEWS IN DEPTH

Q&A: Robert Comis and Mitchell Schnall on Trials

RESEARCH WATCH

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

ONLINE

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

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Paracrine Signaling between Carcinoma Cells and Mesenchymal Stem Cells Generates Cancer Stem Cell Niche via Epithelial–Mesenchymal Transition

K. Räsänen and M. Herlyn

Commentary on Li et al., p. 840

INVESTIGATING METFORMIN FOR CANCER PREVENTION AND TREATMENT: THE END OF THE BEGINNING

M.N. Pollak

BRAF L597 Mutations in Melanoma Are Associated with Sensitivity to MEK Inhibitors


Précis: Non-V600E BRAF mutations that are sensitive to MEK inhibition occur in 8% of “BRAF–wild-type” melanomas.

PROTEOMIC PROFILING IDENTIFIES DYSREGULATED PATHWAYS IN SMALL CELL LUNG CANCER AND NOVEL THERAPEUTIC TARGETS INCLUDING PARP1


Précis: Small cell lung cancer cells express significantly higher levels of PARP1 than non–small cell lung cancer cells and are highly sensitive to PARP inhibition.
DDX5 Regulates DNA Replication and Is Required for Cell Proliferation in a Subset of Breast Cancer Cells .......... 812
A. Mazurek, W. Luo, A. Krasnitz, J. Hicks, R.S. Powers, and B. Stillman
Précis: DDX5 amplification frequently occurs in breast cancer and promotes cell proliferation by controlling transcription of DNA replication genes.

CD36 Repression Activates a Multicellular Stromal Program Shared by High Mammographic Density and Tumor Tissues .......... 826
Précis: Decreased CD36 expression in mammary stromal cells promotes a pro-oncogenic microenvironment and enhances breast cancer risk.

Cancer-Stimulated Mesenchymal Stem Cells Create a Carcinoma Stem Cell Niche via Prostaglandin E₂ Signaling .................. 840
H-J. Li, F. Reinhardt, H.R. Herschman, and R.A. Weinberg
Précis: Bidirectional signaling between tumor cells and associated mesenchymal stem cells promotes EMT and enhances cancer stem cell formation.

Correction
Correction: Gene Signatures Associated with Mouse Postnatal Hindbrain Neural Stem Cells and Medulloblastoma Cancer Stem Cells Identify Novel Molecular Mediators and Predict Human Medulloblastoma Molecular Classification .................. 856

For more News and Research Watch, visit Cancer Discovery online at http://CDnews.aacrjournals.org. Online-only News stories include the following:

- TCGA Findings Spotlight Drivers for Colorectal Cancer
- Kyprolis Gains Accelerated Approval for Multiple Myeloma
- Novel Biostatistics May Speed Access to Pediatric Drugs
- Method Yields Single-Cell Transcriptomes
- A Better Way to Grow Tumor-Initiating Cells?
- Ultrasound System Finds Tumor Blood Vessels

ON THE COVER

Dahlman and colleagues identified a \( \text{BRAF}^{L597R} \) mutation in an aggressive \( \text{BRAF}^{V600E} \)-negative melanoma, and found that as many as 8% of melanomas classified clinically as "\( \text{BRAF} \) wild type" may actually harbor other less common \( \text{BRAF} \) exon 15 mutations. Importantly, these mutants led to increased MEK/ERK signaling that was readily suppressed by MEK inhibitors, suggesting that patients with these less common \( \text{BRAF} \) mutations may also benefit from MEK inhibitor therapy. Indeed, one such patient with metastatic melanoma enrolled in a phase I trial of an allosteric MEK inhibitor experienced a sustained partial response, indicating that expanded \( \text{BRAF} \) mutational testing may benefit additional patients. For details, please see the article by Dahlman and colleagues on page 791.