### DNA DAMAGE AND REPAIR

**1128 Base Excision Repair Defects Invoke Hypersensitivity to PARP Inhibition**

### GENOMICS

**1140 Convergent and Divergent Cellular Responses by ErbB4 Isoforms in Mammary Epithelial Cells**
- Vikram B. Wali, Jonathan W. Haskins, Maureen Gilmore-Hebert, James T. Platt, Zongzhi Liu, and David F. Stern

### ONCOGENES AND TUMOR SUPPRESSORS

**1156 Conserved Oncogenic Behavior of the FAM83 Family Regulates MAPK Signaling in Human Cancer**
- Rocky Cipriano, Kristy L.S. Miskimen, Benjamin L. Bryson, Chase R. Foy, Courtney A. Bartel, and Mark W. Jackson

### SIGNAL TRANSDUCTION

**1166 VDR Activity Is Differentially Affected by Hic-5 in Prostate Cancer and Stromal Cells**
- Joshua D. Solomon, Marjet D. Heitzer, Teresa T. Liu, Jan H. Beumer, Robert A. Parise, Daniel P. Normolle, Damien A. Leach, Grant Buchanan, and Donald B. DeFranco

**1181 VDR Status Arbitrates the Prometastatic Effects of Tumor-Associated Macrophages**
- Yan Zhang, Quanjun Guo, Zhujuan Zhang, Nan Bai, Ze Liu, Min Xiong, Yuquan Wei, Rong Xiang, and Xiaoyue Tan

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ABOUT THE COVER

Osteosarcoma is the most common primary bone malignancy in children and young adults and accounts for over 50% of primary skeletal malignancies. Previous reports have demonstrated that expression of VEGF/VEGF-R1 in human osteosarcoma is associated with an aggressive clinical course. Angiographies of K7M3 osteosarcoma-injected murine tibias immunoselected for either VEGF-R1-low expression (Low) or VEGF-R1-high expression (High) compared to contralateral limb (Control) demonstrate that high levels of VEGF-R1 are associated with increased tumor growth and tumor angiogenesis. These results strongly suggest that autocrine VEGF-R1 signaling in a relatively small subpopulation of tumor plays a pivotal role in osteosarcoma progression. These findings may lead to improved stratification of high-risk osteosarcoma and novel strategies for anti-neoplastic therapy based on the inhibition of angiogenesis in this specific tumor type. For more information, see the article by Ohba and colleagues, beginning on page 1100 in this issue.