

Highlights of This Issue 125
REVIEW

- 127** Control of Proliferation and Cancer Growth by the Hippo Signaling Pathway
Ursula Ehmer and Julien Sage

CELL CYCLE AND SENESCENCE

- 141** Active FOXO1 Is a Key Determinant of Isoform-Specific Progesterone Receptor Transactivation and Senescence Programming
Caroline H. Diep, Todd P. Knutson, and Carol A. Lange


CHROMATIN, EPIGENETICS, AND RNA REGULATION

- 163** Integrative Analysis Reveals the Transcriptional Collaboration between EZH2 and E2F1 in the Regulation of Cancer-Related Gene Expression
 Han Xu, Kexin Xu, Housheng H. He, Chongzhi Zang, Chen-Hao Chen, Yiwen Chen, Qian Qin, Su Wang, Chenfei Wang, Shengen Hu, Fugen Li, Henry Long, Myles Brown, and X. Shirley Liu

DNA DAMAGE AND REPAIR

- 173** Linking Cancer Metabolism to DNA Repair and Accelerated Senescence
Elena V. Efimova, Satoe Takahashi, Noumaan A. Shamsi, Ding Wu, Edwardine Labay, Olesya A. Ulanovskaya, Ralph R. Weichselbaum, Sergey A. Kozmin, and Stephen J. Kron
- 185** Defining ATM-Independent Functions of the Mre11 Complex with a Novel Mouse Model
 Alessia Balestrini, Laura Nicolas, Katherine Yang-lott, Olga A. Guryanova, Ross L. Levine, Craig H. Bassing, Jayanta Chaudhuri, and John H.J. Petrini

GENOMICS

- 196** Hypermethylation of *DPYD* Dereglates Pyrimidine Metabolism and Promotes Malignant Progression
 Lauren Edwards, Rohit Gupta, and Fabian Volker Filipp

ONCOGENES AND TUMOR SUPPRESSORS

- 207** Identification of an "Exceptional Responder" Cell Line to MEK1 Inhibition: Clinical Implications for MEK-Targeted Therapy
Hugh S. Gannon, Nathan Kaplan, Aviad Tsherniak, Francisca Vazquez, Barbara A. Weir, William C. Hahn, and Matthew Meyerson
- 216** Differential Regulation of ZEB1 and EMT by MAPK-Interacting Protein Kinases (MNK) and eIF4E in Pancreatic Cancer
Krishan Kumar, Christina R. Chow, Kazumi Ebine, Ahmet D. Arslan, Benjamin Kwok, David J. Bentrem, Frank D. Eckerdt, Leonidas C. Plataniias, and Hidayatullah G. Munshi

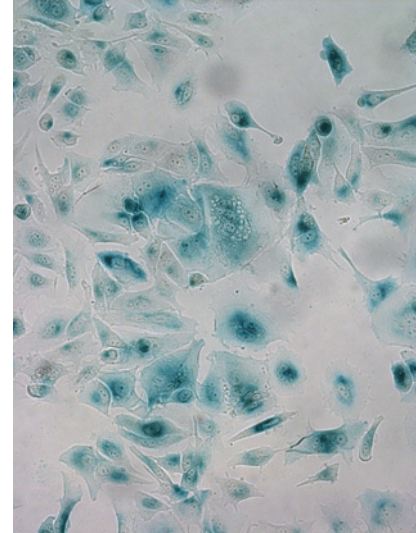
SIGNAL TRANSDUCTION

- 228** miR-138-Mediated Regulation of KINDLIN-2 Expression Modulates Sensitivity to Chemotherapeutics
Khalid Sossey-Alaoui and Edward F. Plow

Table of Contents

ABOUT THE COVER

In this issue, a study by Efimova and colleagues (see page 173) re-examines two nearly universal properties of cancer cells, metabolic reprogramming and cellular immortality, and describes how cancer cells may alter their metabolism to resist senescence. While the Warburg effect may provide cancer cells with biosynthetic intermediates to support rapid growth, the recent discovery of oncometabolites and their epigenetic effects suggests a more direct role in carcinogenesis. Efimova and colleagues extend the paradigm by showing that targeting metabolism overcomes the resistance of cancer cells to DNA damage, resulting in terminal senescent arrest. The cover image shows MCF-7 cells treated with the glucose uptake inhibitor 2-deoxyglucose prior to an otherwise tolerated dose of radiation, but which here induces senescence, as shown by the large, flat cells stained blue with X-Gal for senescence-associated beta-galactosidase. Treating cells with oncometabolites promotes DNA damage repair. Their work implicates metabolic reprogramming in maintaining immortality and provides a rationale for combining metabolic targeting with genotoxic therapy.



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