MOLECULAR CANCER RESEARCH

TABLE OF CONTENTS

HIGHLIGHTS

1611  Selected Articles from This Issue

CANCER GENES AND NETWORKS

1613  Identification of Autophagy-Related Genes as Targets for Senescence Induction Using a Customizable CRISPR-Based Suicide Switch Screen
    Arnout Schepers, Fleur Jochems, Cor Lief tin k, Li qin Wang, Ziva Pogacar, Rodrigo Leite de Oliveira, Giulia De Conti, Roderick L. Beijersbergen, and Rene Bernards

1622  Membrane-Associated RING-CH 8 Functions as a Novel PD-L1 E3 Ligase to Mediate PD-L1 Degradation Induced by EGFR Inhibitors
    Guoqing Qian, Jianping Guo, Karin A. Vallega, Chiangiang Hu, Zhen Chen, Yunfu Deng, Qiming Wang, Songqiong Fan, Suresh S. Ramalingam, Taofeek K. Owonikoko, Wenyi Wei, and Shi-Yong Sun

    Dishari Ghatak, Arindam Datta, Tanaya Roychowdhury, Samit Chattopadhyay, and Susanta Roychoudhury

1651  Nestin Is Required for Spindle Assembly and Cell-Cycle Progression in Glioblastoma Cells
    Qinglin Wang, Hao Wu, Jian Hu, Haijuan Fu, Yanghui Qu, Yijun Yang, Cathy Q. Cai, Andrey Efimov, Minghua Wu, Tim Yen, Yuan Wang, and Zeng-Jie Yang

1666  REX-1 Represses RASSFla and Activates the MEK/ERK Pathway to Promote Tumorigenesis in Prostate Cancer
    Wei jing Liu, An Xie, Chunhua Tu, and Weipeng Liu

CANCER “-OMICS”

1676  Establishment of a Plasticity-Associated Risk Model Based on a SOX2- and SOX9-Related Gene Set in Head and Neck Squamous Cell Carcinoma
    Karam Khorani, Julia Schwä r zler, Sebastian Burkart, Ina Kurth, Dana Holzinger, Christa Flechtenmacher, Peter K. Plinkert, Karim Zaoui, and Jochen Hess

1688  PARP-1 Regulates Estrogen-Dependent Gene Expression In Estrogen Receptor α–Positive Breast Cancer Cells
    Shrikanth S. Gadad, Cristel V. Camacho, Venkat Malladi, Charles R. Hutti, Anusha Nagari, and W. Lee Kraus

CELL FATE DECISIONS

1699  HER2 Isoforms Uniquely Program Intratumor Heterogeneity and Predetermine Breast Cancer Trajectories During the Occult Tumorigenic Phase

1712  IQGAP3, a YAP Target, Is Required for Proper Cell-Cycle Progression and Genome Stability
    Marina Leone, Salvador Cazorla-Vázquez, Fulvia Ferrazzi, Janica L. Wiederstein, Marco Gründl, Grit Weinstock, Silvia Vergara-Iaguereu, Markus Ecke stein, Marcus Krüger, Stefan Gaubatz, and Felix B. Engel

METABOLISM

1727  In Situ Analysis of N-Linked Glycans as Potential Biomarkers of Clinical Course in Human Prostate Cancer
    Lindsey R. Conroy, Alexandra E. Stanback, Lyndsay E.A. Young, Harrison A. Clarke, Grant L. Austin, Jinze Liu, Derek B. Allison, and Ramon C. Sun

NEW HORIZONS IN CANCER BIOLOGY

1739  Radium-223-Induced Bystander Effects Cause DNA Damage and Apoptosis in Disseminated Tumor Cells in Bone Marrow
    Brian S. Canter, Calvin N. Leung, J. Christopher Fritton, Tom Bäck, Didier Rajon, Edouard I. Azzam, and Roger W. Howell
TABLE OF CONTENTS

RNA BIOLOGY

1751 Mice Deficient in the RNA-Binding Protein Zfp871 Are Prone to Early Death and Steatohepatitis in Part through the p53-Mdm2 Axis
Shakur Mohibi, Jin Zhang, Mingyi Chen, and Xinbin Chen

TUMOR MICROENVIRONMENT AND IMMUNOBIOLOGY

1763 Stromal-Derived Extracellular Vesicles Suppress Proliferation of Bone Metastatic Cancer Cells Mediated by ERK2
Alison B. Shupp, Manish Neupane, Lebaron C. Agostini, Gang Ning, Jonathan R. Brody, and Karen M. Bussard

The Prognostic Potential of Human Prostate Cancer-Associated Macrophage Subtypes as Revealed by Single-Cell Transcriptomics

ABOUT THE COVER

Amplification of HER2 and/or expression of pathogenic HER2 isoforms is a recognized oncogenic event in the natural history of certain breast cancers. While HER2-amplified breast cancers are treated uniformly, the specific roles of each HER2 alteration in a heterogeneous tumor have not been well defined. In their study on page 1699, and as depicted on the cover, Ginzel and colleagues employ a “cancer rainbow” mouse model in which multiple HER2 isoforms were barcoded with distinct fluorescent labels to trace tumor subpopulations expressing different HER2 isoforms (cyan, wild type; yellow, exon 16 splice isoform; magenta, NH2-terminally truncated isoform). The data demonstrate that the various HER2 alterations are associated with differential effects on epithelial specification, rate of tumor growth, and invasiveness. The authors conclude that programs underlying intratumor heterogeneity are established early in the tumorigenic process and can have major implications for disease trajectory.

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