

This issue's topics



Drosophila is an important tool

Tumour suppressors in *Drosophila*

In an elegant review in this issue entitled “Tumour suppressors— a fly’s perspective”, Sutcliffe and colleagues compare and contrast tumour suppressor pathways in humans and flies. They discuss the advantages of the fly system, such as its simplicity and reduced redundancy, that helps aid both genetic and biochemical studies. The authors also point to some intriguing differences to emerge from research in the two systems. For example, dmp53, the *Drosophila* homologue of human p53, lacks the cell cycle arresting function of its human counterpart. Furthermore, important p53 regulators such as MDM2 and ARF are absent in the fly system. The authors conclude that research into fly tumour suppressors has raised “more questions than answers”, but that “*Drosophila* is an important tool” to aid in our understanding of these regulators in humans.

Mismatch repair deficiency is rare in SCLC

The role of mismatch repair (MMR) in small-cell lung cancer cells (SCLC) is currently unclear. In this issue, Hansen and colleagues examined the MMR pathway in 21 SCLC cell lines. They found that protein and RNA expression was heterogeneous among the cell lines. However, the protein and RNA levels of several MMR components were correlated. Only one of the cell lines tested, 86MI, was MMR-deficient and resistant to an alkylating agent, MNNG, despite showing average levels of protein and RNA expression. Surprisingly, 86MI cells did not exhibit microsatellite instability (MSI). The authors speculate on the reasons for this deficiency in the absence of detectable MSI and conclude that MMR deficiency is rare in the pathogenesis of SCLC.

Endothelin expression in oesophageal SCC

Ishibashi and colleagues report in this issue that endothelin expression might help to predict the prognosis of patients with oesophageal squamous cell carcinoma (SCC). Using immunohistochemistry, they examined the expression of this vasoactive peptide in 101 patients in their cancerous lesions, adjacent dysplastic tissue and normal mucosa. They found that high expression levels were observed in normal mucosa when the patients had lymph vessel invasion, regional lymph node metastasis and distant metastasis. There was also a reduced relapsed-free survival in these patients. They concluded that the expression of endothelin could be a useful prognostic indicator in oesophageal SCC patients.

Forthcoming papers

Editorial Comments

Geographical differences in cancer incidence

L. Jarup, N. Best

Chemotherapy in developing countries: is less better?

I. Magrath

Current Perspective

Molecular prognostication in bladder cancer

ML. Quek, DI. Quinn, S. Daneshmand, JP. Stein

Reviews

Chemotherapy in alveolar soft part sarcoma: what do we know?

P. Reichardt

New non-angiogenesis dependent pathways for tumour growth

D. Ribatti, A. Vacca, F. Dammacco

Psychological impact of cancer on patients' partners and other key relatives: a review

C. Pitceathly, P. Maguire

Original Papers

Clinical

Prognostic factors and prognostic index score for metastatic nasopharyngeal carcinoma

YK. Ong, DM. Heng, B. Chung, *et al.*

Personality and quality of life in HNSCC patients following treatment

HJ. Aarstad, AKH. Aarstad, EJ. Birkhaug, *et al.*

Influence of cisplatin hydration schedule on topotecan pharmacokinetics

H. Gelderblom, WJ. Loos, A. Sparreboom, *et al.*

Gemcitabine increases systemic 5-fluorouracil exposure in advanced cancer patients

P. Correale, D. Cerretaini, S. Marsili, *et al.*

EBAG9/RCAS1 expression in hepatocellular carcinoma: correlation with tumour dedifferentiation and proliferation

T. Aoki, S. Inoue, H. Imamura, *et al.*

Cancer, fatigue and return to work, a prospective study

ER. Spelten, JHAM. Verbeek, ALJ. Uitterhoeve, *et al.*

Paediatric

Geographical and ecological analyses of childhood Wilms' tumour and soft-tissue sarcoma in North West England

RJQ. McNally, RD. Alston, DP. Cairns, *et al.*

A novel local treatment strategy for advanced stage head and neck rhabdomyosarcoma in children: results of the AMORE protocol

J. Buwalda, PF. Schouwenburg, LECM. Blank, *et al.*

Epidemiology and Cancer Prevention

Geographical differences in cancer incidence in the Belgian province of Limburg

F. Buntinx, H. Geys, D. Lousbergh, *et al.*

Comparison of stomach cancer incidence and survival in four continents

A. Verdecchia, A. Mariotto, G. Gatta, *et al.*

Site- and sex-specific time trend analyses of the skin melanoma incidence in the former German Democratic Republic including 19 351 cases

A. Stang, R. Stabenow, B. Eisinger, K-H. Jockel

Is there a link between environmental factors and genetic disposition to cancer? A lesson from a familial cluster of gastric cancer

A. Rocco, S. Staibano, L. Ottini, *et al.*

Experimental

BCA-1, a B-cell chemoattractant signal, is constantly expressed in cutaneous lymphoproliferative B-cell disorders

M. Mori, C. Manuelli, N. Pimpinelli, *et al.*

Anti-metastatic and anti-angiogenic activities of a new matrix metalloproteinase inhibitor TN-6b

Lee Soo Jin, H. Sakurai, K. Oshima, *et al.*