OBITUARY

Peter Greenwald, Gary Stoner, Nancy Colburn, and Scott M. Lippman

PERSPECTIVE

375  Predicted for Greatness: 1994 Molecule of the Year—The DNA Repair Enzyme
Marianne Berwick
See article, p. 398

REVIEWS

378  Adherence to Endocrine Therapy in Breast Cancer Adjuvant and Prevention Settings
Rowan T. Chlebowski, Jisang Kim, and Reina Haque

388  Repurposing of Metformin and Aspirin by Targeting AMPK-mTOR and Inflammation for Pancreatic Cancer Prevention and Treatment
Wen Yue, Chung S. Yang, Robert S. DiPaola, and Xiang-Lin Tan

RESEARCH ARTICLES

398  Low Integrated DNA Repair Score and Lung Cancer Risk
Ziv Sevilya, Yael Leitner-Dagan, Mila Pinchev, Ran Kremer, Dalia Elinger, Hedy S. Rennert, Edna Schechtman, Laurence S. Freedman, Gad Rennert, Tamar Paz-Elizur, and Zvi Livneh
See commentary, p. 375

407  PI3K-AKT Signaling Is a Downstream Effector of Retinoid Prevention of Murine Basal Cell Carcinogenesis

418  Benign Breast and Gynecologic Conditions, Reproductive and Hormonal Factors, and Risk of Thyroid Cancer
Melissa Z. Braganza, Amy Berrington de González, Sara J. Schonfeld, Nicolas Wentzensen, Alina V. Brenner, and Cari M. Kitahara

426  Associations between Vitamin D–Binding Protein Isotypes, Circulating 25(OH)D Levels, and Vitamin D Metabolite Uptake in Colon Cancer Cells
Elizabeth A. Hibler, Elizabeth T. Jacobs, Angelika Dampf Stone, Christine L. Sardo, Michael A. Galligan, and Peter W. Jurutka

435  Safety and Chemopreventive Effect of Polyphenon E in Preventing Early and Metastatic Progression of Prostate Cancer in TRAMP Mice
Seung Joon Kim, Ernest Amankwah, Shahnjayla Connors, Hyun Y. Park, Maria Rincon, Heather Cornnell, Ganna Chornokur, Arig Ibrahim Hashim, Junsung Choi, Ya-Yu Tsai, Robert W. Engelman, Nagi Kumar, and Jong Y. Park

445  Pubertal Bisphenol A Exposure Alters Murine Mammary Stem Cell Function Leading to Early Neoplasia in Regenerated Glands
Danhan Wang, Hui Gao, Abhik Bandyopadhyay, Anqi Wu, I-Tien Yeh, Yidong Chen, Yi Zou, Changjiang Huang, Christi A. Walter, Qiaoxiang Dong, and Lu-Zhe Sun

456  Curcumin Implants, Not Curcumin Diet, Inhibit Estrogen-Induced Mammary Carcinogenesis in ACI Rats
Shyam S. Bansal, Hina Kausar, Manicka V. Vadhanam, Srivani Ravoori, Jianmin Pan, Shesh N. Rai, and Ramesh C. Gupta

466  Curcumin Suppresses Proliferation of Colon Cancer Cells by Targeting CDK2
Tae-Gyu Lim, Sung-Young Lee, Zunnan Huang, Do Young Lim, Hanyong Sung, Sung Keun Jung, Ann M. Bode, Ki Won Lee, and Ziqiang Dong

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

475  Cost-Effectiveness of a Genetic Test for Breast Cancer Risk—Letter
David G. Cox, Stéphane Ragusa, Lionel Pourtau, Lionel Perrier, and Suzette Delaloge

476  Cost-Effectiveness of a Genetic Test for Breast Cancer Risk—Response
Henry Folse, Richard Allman, and Tuan A. Dinh

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ABOUT THE COVER

Perinatal exposure to bisphenol A (BPA) has been shown to cause aberrant mammary gland morphogenesis and mammary neoplastic transformation, though the underlying mechanism is poorly understood. Mammary glands of 21-day-old Balb/c mice were exposed to BPA by gavage (25 µg/kg/day) during puberty for 3 weeks to determine whether mammary stem cell (MaSC) function was altered leading to increased susceptibility to tumorigenesis through a stem cell-mediated mechanism. The cover art is a stylistic representation of the quantification of immunohistochemical staining patterns of FosB and c-Fos expression of regenerated ductal outgrowths in control or BPA-treated MaSCs. Pubertal exposure to the low-dose BPA increased lateral branches and hyperplasia in adult mammary glands and altered the function of MaSC from different age groups, causing early neoplastic lesions in their regenerated glands, suggesting that MaSCs are susceptible to BPA-induced transformation. The present study is the first to show that pubertal BPA exposure altered murine MaSC gene expression and function such that they induced early neoplastic transformation. See the article by Wang and colleagues (beginning on page 445) for more information.