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ABOUT THE COVER

Prostate cancer is among the most frequent malignancies in industrialized nations, and continuous research efforts are undertaken in order to prevent its development and progression to aggressive stage. However, the earliest molecular events leading to the development of the disease remain elusive, and detecting early forms of prostate cancer is therefore difficult. Exploring interactions between cancerous epithelial cells and surrounding stroma, as well as identifying modulator of these interactions, is a promising field to unravel new targets for the prevention or treatment of prostate cancer. The screening of normal and cancerous prostate tissues led to the characterization of a new stromal marker of prostate cancer, TRPA1 (Transient Receptor Potential Ankyrin 1). TRPA1 is a cation channel that mediates calcium influx into stromal cells, ultimately promoting the secretion of VEGF and tumor growth. Interestingly, an environmental factor, Triclosan, induced the activation of the channel and growth factor secretion. The cover image shows the distinct stromal expression of TRPA1 (green signal) in prostate cancer tissue (nuclei are stained in red with propidium iodide). See article by Derouiche et al. (beginning on page 177) for more information about an environmental factor Triclosan, which is able to activate stromal TRPA1 and modulate the prostate tumor's microenvironmental interactions.