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(Epi)genetic characterization of chemotherapy response in ovarian cancer

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PROPOSITIONS

Belonging to the PhD thesis

(Epi)genetic characterization of chemotherapy response in ovarian cancer:

Finding better markers, models and targets for therapy

1. Frizzled receptor-10 (FZD10) is a novel epigenetic chemoresponse marker in ovarian cancer. (This thesis)
2. Chk2 depletion in ovarian cancer causes resistance towards platinum therapy, emphasizing that the efficacy of cell cycle checkpoint targeting is cancer type dependent and does not universally lead towards more platinum sensitivity. (This thesis, Manic et al. Mol. Cell. Onco., 2015)
3. C-terminal Src kinase (CSK) is a potential epigenetically-regulated target with significant prognostic value in ovarian cancer patients. (This thesis)
4. Ovarian cancer patient-derived xenograft (PDX) models not only preserve the histological and genomic features of the original patient tumors, but also maintain the epigenetic features and hence are suitable tools for cancer epigenomics. (This thesis)
5. In the future, joint functional imaging and genomic stratification could lead to better understanding of treatment responses in PDX models and consequently facilitate patient-tailored treatment approaches. (This thesis and Apericio et al. Nat. Rev. Cancer, 2015)
6. Low dose, multiple cycles and adequate time for response are major requisites for the successful treatment of solid tumors with epigenetic drugs, thus in epigenetic therapy, 'less is more' (This thesis, Azad et al. Nat. Rev. Clin. Oncol., 2013; Ahuza et al. J. Clin. Invest., 2014)
7. Epigenetic therapy can boost the immunogenic properties of epithelial cancers, therefore combining epigenetic therapy and immunotherapy holds great promise for the future. (Li et al. Oncotarget, 2014; Chiappinelli et al. Cancer Res., 2016)
8. If you're not often wrong, you're not at the frontier. If you're not willing to go out on a limb and throw out ideas, then you're not pushing the envelope. (Lewis C Cantley)
9. Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving. (Albert Einstein)
10. If you want to shine like a sun, first burn like a sun. (APJ Abdul Kalam)

Tushar Tomar

(10th October, 2016, Groningen)