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ALK: A Tyrosine Kinase Target for Cancer Therapy

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Message from the Guest Editors

The anaplastic lymphoma kinase (ALK) gene located on chromosome 2 encodes for a protein that is crucial for neuronal development.

Despite tremendous progress in the clinical development of tyrosine kinase inhibitors that target oncogenic ALK, the responses are temporary, with the development of resistance within 1–2 years. There is much work to be done to understand the early events that underpin the transformation of ALK-rearranged or -mutated cancers, the clonal evolution of these cancers, and the development of resistance, as well as identifying newer therapies including those that target the removal of proteins (e.g., proteolysis targeting chimera, PROTAC) rather than targeting the receptor itself.

In this Special Issue, we explore the current understanding of the pathobiology of these unique cancers, therapy options, and blood-based modalities for diagnosis and monitoring, as well as how they complement initial tumor biopsies and offer potential solutions to unanswered questions in the field. We hope to generate enthusiasm within the cancer community to hasten progress in the approach to these rare but aggressive cancers.

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Cancers is an international online journal addressing both clinical and basic science issues related to cancer research. The journal is publishing in Open Access format, which will certainly evolve to ensure that the journal takes full advantage of the rapidly changing world of information and knowledge dissemination. It publishes high-quality clinical, translational, and basic science research on cancer prevention, initiation, progression, and treatment, as well as other related topics, particularly to capture the most seminal studies in the rapidly growing area of immunology, immunotherapy, and tumor microenvironment.

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