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Cellular Plasticity and the Untapped Therapeutic Potential in Cancer

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Deadline for manuscript submissions:
closed (1 April 2021)

Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

The administration of targeted therapies in cancer patients with well-defined tumour-driving mutations has markedly improved overall survival. Response rates to these therapies, however, remain disappointing, with quantifiable tumour regression limited by the development of acquired resistance. More recent evidence has indicated that targeted therapy can also rapidly induce diverse, genetically-independent, transcriptional programmes resulting in a “drug-tolerant” or “drug persister” cell population. Consequently, during this nongenetic evolutionary phase, cells are able to undergo an adaptive phenotype switch. This cellular or phenotype plasticity exhibited by a subpopulation by tumour cells has been demonstrated to release cells from their dependence on the tumour-driving alteration, resulting in a population of dedifferentiated, slow-cycling cells, capable of surviving continuous drug treatment.

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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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Journal Rank: JCR - Q1 (Oncology) / CiteScore - Q1 (Oncology)

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