

August 2016

### [World Lung Cancer Day 2016](#)

**“On World Lung Cancer Day on August 1, 2016, the American College of Chest Physicians (CHEST), alongside members of the Forum of International Respiratory Societies (FIRS) commemorates, celebrates and supports those impacted by lung cancer.”**

### [Existing Treatment Could Halt Lung Cancer Progression](#)

**“Cancer researchers at Hudson Institute of Medical Research have discovered a potential new way to halt the progress of lung cancer and emphysema, offering new hope to the 15,000 Australians who die from the diseases each year.”**

### [Researchers Look to Refine Use of Radiation in Oligometastatic Lung Cancer](#)

**“There are several questions surrounding how radiation therapy—especially combined with other agents—fits into the treatment paradigm of patients with oligometastatic lung cancer, according to Kevin Stephans, MD.”**

### [Therapeutic Targets for Small Cell Lung Cancer Identified by UT Southwestern Medical Center Researchers](#)

**“A team of researchers at UT Southwestern Medical Center identified the protein ASCL1 as critical for the development of small cell lung cancer (SCLC); the team also found that the absence of ASCL1 in the lungs of mice inhibits cancer formation.”**

### [PD-1 and Checkpoint Inhibitors May Benefit Some Patients With SCLC](#)

**“Antibodies such as nivolumab and pembrolizumab that target the programmed cell death protein-1 (PD-1), as well as ipilimumab, which targets cytotoxic T-lymphocyte antigen-4 (CTLA-4), may be promising for patients with small cell lung cancer (SCLC), according to a study published in *The Oncologist*.”**

### [Janssen Announces Clinical Collaboration with Bristol-Myers Squibb to Evaluate Immuno-oncology Combination in Lung Cancer](#)

**“Janssen Biotech, Inc. announced today it has entered into a clinical study collaboration agreement with Bristol-Myers Squibb Company to evaluate the combination of two immuno-oncology compounds in patients with non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC).”**

### [Lymph Nodes in Lung Cancer](#)

**“Evaluation of the hilar and mediastinal lymph nodes is part of the surgical treatment of non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC).”**

### [Epidemiology of Lung Cancer](#)

**“Lung cancer has become an epidemic since the 1930s.”**

### [Chinese Scientists Look to Cure Lung Cancer With Genetic Engineering](#)

“There is a new tool in the biotechnology tool belt that may revolutionize the way medicine treats a host of diseases. It is called CRISPR-Cas9. CRISPR uses a bacterial enzyme to precisely edit DNA, and scientists all over the world are using it to transform cells in hopes that one day these genetically-altered cells may cure disease.”

### [Lung Cancer or Mesothelioma? BAP1 May be Key](#)

“A team of top mesothelioma researchers say there may be a better way to distinguish malignant mesothelioma from lung cancer (carcinoma).”

### [Scientists Discover New Way to Stop Growth of Lung Cancer](#)

“Medical researchers have discovered a new way in which the growth of lung cancer can be suppressed. In a groundbreaking study, the researchers found that inhibiting a protein called BMI1 could hinder growth of tumour in lung cancer, one of the deadliest cancers in the world.”

### [Lung Cancer Screenings Not Seen to Cause Undue Stress or Anxiety](#)

“Lung cancer screening does not cause undue stress, according to a clinical trial conducted by researchers in the United Kingdom.”

### [Bristol Myers: Opdivo Failed to Meet Endpoint in Key Lung-Cancer Study](#)

“A cancer drug’s surprise failure in a clinical trial wiped \$20 billion off Bristol-Myers Squibb Co.’s market value Friday, and raised questions about one of the industry’s hottest research areas: drugs that harness the body’s immune system to fight cancer.”

### [Here's why lung-cancer patients should move to areas with better air quality](#)

“Scientists have long known that people living with air pollution have a greater chance of developing lung cancer. But what does dirty air do to those already diagnosed with the disease?”

### [Ethicon provides advanced research on minimally invasive treatment options for lung cancer](#)

“Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death in the United States – claiming almost as many lives each year as prostate, breast and colon cancer combined.”

### [Biomarker-integrated Approach Used to Evaluate NSCLC Therapies](#)

“Using a biomarker-integrated approach to evaluate various therapies in previously treated patients with advanced non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC), researchers found that MK-2206 plus AZD6244 (selumetinib) improves progression-free survival of patients with a *KRAS* mutation.”

### [Researchers inhibit tumor growth in new subtype of lung cancer](#)

“Lung cancer is the most common cause of cancer deaths, accounting for about a third of all tumor-related deaths. Adenocarcinomas, a non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC),

account for about 40 percent of cancer diagnoses, but few treatments are available for the disease.”

### [Are Liquid Biopsies Ready for Prime Time in Advanced Lung Cancer?](#)

“As we consider data from the American Society of Clinical Oncology 2016 annual meeting that may be practice-changing, one of the most immediately clinically relevant results may have been work that highlighted the potential utility of "liquid biopsy" techniques in the setting of acquired resistance for patients with an activating mutation in the epidermal growth factor receptor (*EGFR*) gene.”

### [How to Improve Lung Cancer Screening for High-Risk People](#)

“Screening high-risk current and former smokers every year with low-dose CT (LDCT) has been shown to reduce lung cancer mortality by up to 20 percent. But such screening also raises concerns about inadvertent consequences such as false positives and downstream medical procedures and costs, according to invited speakers at a workshop sponsored by the National Cancer Policy Forum (NCPF) in Washington, D.C.”

### [What it's like to survive cancer, by those who have done it](#)

“The chances of surviving cancer are much greater than ever before. In a study published by the charity Macmillan Cancer Support it was found that people are now twice as likely to live at least 10 years after being diagnosed than they were 35 years ago.”

### [Lung imaging method helps lower radiotherapy toxicity, study finds](#)

“Radiotherapy, a process designed to cure cancer by destroying cancerous tumors, can be harmful to patients if it targets the wrong areas. It is also can be difficult to manage. But new research found a method to perform selective radiotherapy, which can reduce toxicity in the body.”

### [T cell revival through PD-1: Clues for cancer immunotherapy](#)

“Cancer immunotherapy drugs that block the inhibitory PD-1 pathway have shown success in clinical trials and are now FDA-approved for melanoma, lung cancer and bladder cancer. Yet many patients' tumors do not respond to these drugs.”

### [How night shifts can increase cancer risk](#)

“Scientists from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) reveal that disruption to the circadian rhythm also leads to the impairment of two tumor suppressor genes, which can spur tumor growth.”

### [The do-nothing dilemma—surveillance vs. surgery for cancer](#)

“Imagine for a moment that you have a tiny but worrisome lung nodule or, say, a growing bulge in a crucial blood vessel. You have no choice but to continue with normal life: going to work, running errands, paying taxes, negotiating with your kids

over screen time. But you're always living, at least to some degree, under the looming shadow of a medical question mark.”

### [New Treatments, Greater Grasp of Biology Advance ALK+ NSCLC Care](#)

“The development of treatments for patients with ALK-positive non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) continues to advance, especially in the frontline setting, according to Vamsidhar Velcheti, MD. Moreover, researchers are also investigating how to best sequence available agents in a patient population that varies greatly from those with EGFR mutations.”

### [Non-smokers at greater risk of lung cancer](#)

“As a non-smoker you might assume that you are living a clean and healthy life, sadly this is far from the truth especially if you keep company with smokers.”

### [Lung Cancer Screening Not Distressing to High-Risk Patients](#)

“Low-dose CT screening appears to have no long-term, clinically significant psychosocial effect on high-risk patients, according to investigators at Cardiff University.”

### [Lymph Node Counts Influence Survival in Surgically Resected NSCLC](#)

“For non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC), the number of lymph nodes sampled (NLNS) influenced both overall survival (OS) and cancer-specific survival (CSS), but the influence is dependent on stage, according to a retrospective, cross-sectional study by investigators at the University of California, Davis.”

### [Looking for New Targets in Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer](#)

“Though not commonly tested for during mutation testing, ROS1 and TRK are two targets with significant therapeutic potential for patients with non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC), according to Jonathan Riess who spoke at the 2016 International Lung Cancer Congress.”

### [Lung Cancer Survivors May Feel Blame](#)

“Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death and the second most common non-skin cancer among both men and women in the United States. A big challenge for many lung cancer survivors is feeling that other people blame them for getting the disease. Some people assume that lung cancer is always caused by smoking, even though lung cancer has other possible causes.”

### [Protein Presents Key Therapeutic Target in Lung Cancer](#)

“The protein ASCL1 was found to be critical in the development of small cell lung cancer, and may be an important therapeutic target.”

### [The Anger of Cancer](#)

“While dealing with lung cancer, my friend Nancy K. Miller seethed in her blog at pharmaceutical advertisements and hospital commercials that bombard us daily with

pictures of joyous cancer patients supported by doting intimates. These jubilant characters have nothing to do with the frustrated people we know who periodically erupt in righteous indignation.”

### [Cutting off fuel to cancer cells may be potential therapeutic strategy for Kras-driven lung cancers](#)

“Research from investigators at Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey and Princeton University has identified a new approach to cancer therapy in cutting off a cancer cell's 'fuel supply' by targeting a cellular survival mechanism known as autophagy.”

### [New Study Examines Effect of Air Pollution on Those With Early Stage Lung Cancer](#)

“It comes as no surprise that breathing in clean air is better for a person than taking in polluted air, but new research proves it has a great impact on patients who have been diagnosed with lung cancer.”

### [Selumetinib Fails to Improve PFS in Phase III Lung Cancer Study](#)

“The combination of selumetinib and docetaxel failed to improve survival compared with docetaxel alone as a second-line treatment for patients with KRAS-mutant locally advanced or metastatic non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC), according to top-line findings from the phase III SELECT-1 trial released by AstraZeneca.”

### [Combination of Immunotherapy and Lung Cancer Therapies Potential Game-Changer, But Needs Further Research](#)

“Combining immunotherapy with chemotherapy, molecular therapy, or anti-angiogenic therapy has shown promising results in recent randomized trials of patients with lung cancer, although none of the combinations have yet to demonstrate clear superiority, according to Paul A. Bunn Jr, MD, Distinguished Professor and chair of Lung Cancer Research at University of Colorado Cancer Center.”

### [Cancer-Drug Ads vs. Cancer-Drug Reality](#)

“Two days into a long-dreamed-of family vacation to Italy in August 2013, my wife, Ronna, became nauseated, unusually tired and short of breath.”

### [AstraZeneca drug selumetinib fails in lung cancer study](#)

“AstraZeneca's cancer drug pipeline suffered a setback on Tuesday when the experimental drug selumetinib failed to meet its goal in a late-stage trial for lung cancer.”

### [BMS rocked by Opdivo failure in lung cancer](#)

“A phase III trial of the immuno-oncology drug revealed it was unable to improve progression-free survival (PFS) when used as a first-line treatment for patients with advanced non-small cell lung cancer.”

### [Adding Pemetrexed to Gefitinib Improves PFS in EGFR-Mutated NSCLC](#)

**“The combination of pemetrexed and gefitinib offered improved progression-free survival (PFS) over gefitinib alone in East Asian patients with advanced nonsquamous non-small-cell lung cancer (NSCLC) and activating EGFR mutations, according to a new randomized, open-label study.”**

### **[Going Beyond PD-L1 for Predictive Biomarkers in Lung Cancer](#)**

**“Tumor expression of PD-L1 has been the conventional biomarker to predict response to immune checkpoint blockade. However, additional biomarkers, such as immune cell PD-L1 expression, mutational burden, and immune system activation should be investigated further to clarify the mechanisms behind response and nonresponse to immunotherapy in patients with lung cancer, according to Roy Herbst, MD, PhD.”**

### **[In NSCLC, Erlotinib Appears Effective at Doses Lower Than MTD](#)**

**“In patients with metastatic non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC), the administration of erlotinib at doses below the maximum tolerated dose (MTD) resulted in a high response rate and a prolonged median progression-free survival, according to a study published in *Cancer*.”**

### **[Leptomeningeal metastases are more common in NSCLC patients with EGFR mutations](#)**

**“Leptomeningeal metastases (LM), a devastating complication and predictor of poor survival in lung cancer patients, was found to be more prevalent in non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) patients with epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR) mutations. Patients receiving tyrosine kinase inhibitors (TKIs) targeting EGFR mutations had a longer overall survival (OS) than those who did not receive TKIs, demonstrating the effectiveness of TKIs for LM therapy.”**

### **[Using Immune Checkpoint Inhibitors in Lung Cancer](#)**

**“Immune checkpoint inhibition is changing the treatment paradigm for many cancer types by unleashing patients’ own immune systems against their tumors. Immune checkpoint inhibitors have been found to statistically improve the survival of patients with previously treated advanced or metastatic non-small-cell lung cancer.”**

### **[Computers trounce pathologists in predicting lung cancer type, severity, researchers find](#)**

**“Computers can be trained to be more accurate than pathologists in assessing slides of lung cancer tissues, according to a new study by researchers at the Stanford University School of Medicine.”**

### **[Santiago Lange beats cancer -- then wins Olympic sailing gold](#)**

**“At 54, he has overcome cancer and the loss of half a lung -- now Santiago Lange is proving once again that nothing can stop him after winning Olympic gold at Rio 2016.”**

### **[Aggressive lung cancer's aggressiveness may be its Achilles' heel](#)**

**“Researchers at the University of Virginia School of Medicine have discovered a flaw in the armor of the most aggressive form of lung cancer, a weakness that doctors may be able to exploit to slow or even stop the disease.”**

#### **Researchers are studying a revolutionary lung cancer vaccine**

**“Lung cancer is the number one killer in the US. Until now, treatment options have been limited.”**

#### **Fear of CT Screenings Increase Lung Cancer Mortality**

**“A clinical trial found that introducing a CT screening for lung cancer in the UK could significantly reduce mortality in high risk groups, without causing individuals any unnecessary stress or anxiety.”**

#### **Nivolumab in advanced lung cancer: Indication of major added benefit**

**“Nivolumab has been approved since April 2016 as a checkpoint inhibitor for the treatment of adults with locally advanced or metastatic nonsquamous non-small-cell lung cancer (NSCLC) who have already undergone chemotherapy.”**

#### **Taxane + Anti-VEGF Effective for Nonsquamous NSCLC**

**“When combined as second- or third-line therapy for nonsquamous non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC), paclitaxel and bevacizumab extend progression-free survival (PFS) relative to docetaxel alone, according to a Phase III multicenter trial.”**

#### **Scan-associated Distress May Be Persistent for Patients With NSCLC**

**“Scan-associated distress, which is commonly experienced by patients with non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC), may impair quality of life, according to a study published in the journal *Lung Cancer*.<sup>1</sup>”**

#### **First Biomarker-Directed Therapy in SCLC Is Impressive**

**“Unprecedented response rates were achieved with a novel antibody drug conjugate for relapsed or refractory small cell lung cancer (SCLC), according to a Phase I dose-ranging study presented at the 2016 annual meeting of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO).”**

#### **New Method Slows Lung Cancer Tumor Growth**

**“By inhibiting a specific protein, researchers discovered a new way to impair tumor growth in lung cancer during a recent study.”**

#### **Plasma analysis shows promise for NSCLCT790M genotyping**

**“Patients with *T790M*-positive advanced non-small cell lung cancer demonstrated similar outcomes with osimertinib whether the *T790M* mutation was detected using plasma analysis or a tissue-based assay, according to a retrospective analysis of the AURA trial.”**

#### **Risk Factors of Depression Among Patients With Lung Cancer Identified**

**“Risk factors for depression symptoms signify the need for enhanced surveillance among some subgroups of patients with lung cancer, according to a study published in *Lung Cancer*.<sup>1</sup>”**

### **[Lymph node stage may have clinical significance among NSCLC patients with stage IV M1a](#)**

**“Analysis of a large non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) patient cohort with stage IV M1a disease identified lymph node staging as having clinical significance and an impact on prognosis.”**

### **[TKIs Improve Overall Survival in NSCLC Patients With Leptomeningeal Metastases](#)**

**“Longer overall survival (OS) was achieved with tyrosine kinase inhibitors (TKIs) targeting epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR) mutations in non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) patients with EGFR mutations who had leptomeningeal metastases (LM), a study published the *Journal of Thoracic Oncology* has shown.<sup>1</sup>”**

### **[Immunotherapy, Vaccines Offer Promise in Glioblastoma, But Data is Still Preliminary](#)**

**“A therapy that provides an impressive and durable benefit has been mostly out of reach in the primary brain cancer space, particularly for glioblastoma (GBM), said David Reardon, MD. Immunotherapy may offer an answer.”**

### **[Smokers with newly discovered genetic markers have higher lung cancer risk](#)**

**“University of Hawai'i Cancer Center researchers discovered new genetic markers associated with a fast rate of nicotine metabolism, which potentially leads smokers to smoke more, thereby, increasing their risk for lung cancer.”**

### **[Dr. Kelly on Immunotherapy Combinations for Patients With NSCLC](#)**

**“Karen Kelly, MD, associate director for Clinical Research, Jennifer Rene Harmon Tegley and Elizabeth Erica Harmon Endowed Chair in Cancer Clinical Research, professor of Medicine, UC Davis Comprehensive Cancer Center, UC Davis Health System, discusses the potential of immunotherapy combinations as treatment for patients with non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC).”**

### **[LYMPH NODE STAGE MAY HAVE CLINICAL SIGNIFICANCE AMONG NSCLC PATIENTS WITH STAGE IV M1A DISEASE](#)**

**“Analysis of a large non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) patient cohort with stage IV M1a disease identified lymph node staging as having clinical significance and an impact on prognosis.”**

### **[Similar Immunotherapy Trials, Different Results: Early Signals From PD-1 Checkpoint Inhibitors in First-Line NSCLC](#)**

**“The evolution of the role of immunotherapy for patients with non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC), as well as many other cancers, has been rapid and dramatic.”**