

July 2016

[Radio/Immunotherapy Combination May Be Effective on Specific Tumor Types](#)

“A combination of radiotherapy with local and systemic immunotherapy may be clinically beneficial for treating some types of tumors.”

[Statin Use May Improve Survival of Patients With Stage IV NSCLC](#)

“A study published in the journal *Lung Cancer* has shown that statin use is associated with improved survival among patients with stage IV non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC).”

[UCLA Researchers Discover an Immunotherapy Combination That Effectively Treats Advanced Brain Cancer in Pre-Clinical Models](#)

“UCLA researchers have developed a new breakthrough combination treatment that utilizes a vaccine to activate an immune response against advanced brain tumors. The therapy harnesses an antibody blockade to prevent the brain cancer from shielding itself from the patient’s own immune cells so they can recognize the brain tumor and attack it.”

[Grant to Develop Diagnostic Tool for Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer Awarded to BioMarker Strategies](#)

“BioMarker Strategies was awarded a Phase 1/2 Fast Track Small Business Innovative Research grant from the National Cancer Institute (NCI) to develop a new biomarker test called PathMAP NSCLC. The diagnostic test will guide individualized therapy for patients with non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC).”

[Dr. Keith Kerr on Selecting Patients for Immunotherapy in Lung Cancer](#)

“Keith Kerr, BSc, MB, ChB, FRCPath, FRCPE, of the University of Aberdeen, Aberdeen, Scotland, discusses patient selection for immunotherapy in lung cancer. Patient selection for immunotherapy is a controversial topic, says Kerr. The community is concerned that PD-L1 is not the ideal biomarker and many oncologists would prefer not to have to select patients at all and just give PD-1 inhibitors to everyone, says Kerr.”

[CT follow-up sufficient for some lung nodules](#)

“Annual low-dose computed-tomography (CT) screening can eliminate the need for biopsy or surgery in nonsolid lung nodules, according to a new study published online in the journal *Radiology*.”

[Immunotherapy May Soon Be First-line Tx for Advanced NSCLC](#)

“CheckMate 012, a phase I, multicohort study, has reported encouraging activity and acceptable tolerability for the programmed death 1 (PD-1) immune checkpoint inhibitor antibody nivolumab (Opdivo) -- as first-line therapy alone or in combination with standard first-line agents for advanced non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC), according to two phase I studies in the *Journal of Clinical Oncology*.”

[Locally advanced NSCLC associated with increased risk for VTE](#)

“Patients with locally advanced non–small cell lung cancer are at a high risk for venous thromboembolism, particularly within the first year after treatment initiation, according to a retrospective risk analysis.”

[FDA Approves First Liquid Biopsy Test for EGFR Mutations in Non-small Cell Lung Cancer \(NSCLC\)](#)

“The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved the first blood-based genetic test, known as a “liquid biopsy,” that can detect *EGFR* gene mutations in non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) in plasma. Designed to be used as a companion diagnostic for erlotinib, the cobas *EGFR* Mutation Test v2 detects specific NSCLC mutations, such as the exon 19 deletion or exon 21 (L858R) substitutions.”

[Study Recommends Genomic Profiling to Diagnose Nonsmall Cell Lung Cancer Subtypes](#)

“A major breakthrough of the last decade is identification of drugs targeting patient-specific mutations that cause cancer. These discoveries are beginning to allow oncologists to prescribe treatments based on a tumor's unique genetic signature and form the very basis of personalized medicine.”

[International lung cancer experts seek public comments on revised molecular testing guideline](#)

“The College of American Pathologists (CAP), the International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer (IASLC), and the Association for Molecular Pathology (AMP) announced today the open comment period for the revised evidence-based guideline, “Molecular Testing Guideline for Selection of Lung Cancer Patients for *EGFR* and *ALK* Tyrosine Kinase Inhibitors.”

[Merck Receives CHMP Positive Opinion for KEYTRUDA® \(pembrolizumab\) for the Treatment of Advanced Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer \(NSCLC\)](#)

“Merck known as MSD outside the United States and Canada, announced today that the Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use (CHMP) of the European Medicines Agency (EMA) has adopted a positive opinion recommending approval of KEYTRUDA®(pembrolizumab)”

[LabCorp Announces Launch of New Companion Diagnostic for Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer](#)

“Laboratory Corporation of America® Holdings (LabCorp®) announced today the availability of a new application for the companion diagnostic associated with the use of Tarceva® for the treatment of certain patients with non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC).”

[Family Physicians Aren't Ordering LDCT Lung Cancer Screening](#)

“Although the majority of family physicians discuss the use of low-dose CT (LDCT) lung cancer screening with high-risk patients, referrals for screening remain low, according to a study published in *Cancer*.”

[Lung Cancer Signature Detected Via Breath Test Improves Early Diagnosis](#)

“A single breath may be all it takes to identify the return of lung cancer after surgery, according to study results published in *The Annals of Thoracic Surgery*.”

[Merrimack Pharma's \(MACK\) Seribantumab Granted FDA Fast Track Designation for NSCLC](#)

“Merrimack Pharmaceuticals, Inc. announced that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has granted seribantumab, also known as MM-121, Fast Track designation for development in patients with heregulin-positive, locally advanced or metastatic non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) whose disease has progressed following immunotherapy.”

[AstraZeneca's lung cancer drug meets main goal in late-stage trial](#)

“AstraZeneca Plc said its experimental lung cancer drug Tagrisso met its main goal in a late-stage study.”

[A Loving and Compassionate Oncology Nurse](#)

“I have had the privilege and honor to have Cindy Kuechle as my oncology nurse for the past three years. Previously, she had been a pediatric nurse for several years. Cindy goes well above and beyond the duties of a nurse in her daily commitment to being an oncology clinic nurse.”

[Investigator-Sponsored Plinabulin Combination Study for Metastatic Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer Granted FDA Clearance to Enroll Patients](#)

“BeyondSpring Pharmaceuticals, a clinical stage biopharmaceutical company focused on the development of innovative cancer therapies, including a Phase III immunology compound, Plinabulin, and strong pipeline in collaboration with the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, announced today that on June 20, 2016, the U.S. FDA notified Dr. Lyudmila Bazhenova at the UC San Diego Moores Cancer Center that the Phase I/II study of Nivolumab in combination with Plinabulin for patients with metastatic non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) may proceed with enrolling patients. This follows Dr. Bazhenova's submission of an investigator-sponsored Investigational New Drug Application (IND) on May 23, 2016. “

[Center Enrolls First Lung Cancer Patient in Advanced](#)

“For 40 years, Virginia Cancer Specialists (VCS) has contributed to the campaign against cancer and diseases of the blood by offering advanced technology, treatment and early detection. For residents of Northern Virginia this means the chances of beating cancer are better than ever.”

[Anticancer drug discovery: Structures of KDM5 histone demethylase inhibitors](#)

“When doctors hurl toxic death at cancer cells, often a few will survive and come back. A family of enzymes called KDM5 histone demethylases is emerging as important for this resilience, and drugs that inhibit KDM5 enzymes could be active in treating several types of cancer.”

[Adjuvant TKIs May Improve Disease-free Survival of Patients With NSCLC Post-resection](#)

“Adjuvant treatment with epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR) tyrosine kinase inhibitors (TKI) may improve disease-free survival and decrease the likelihood of distant metastasis for patients with EGFR-mutant non-small cell lung cancer(NSCLC) undergoing complete tumor resection, according to a study published in the journal *Chest*.”

[Hybrid immune cells in early-stage lung cancer spur anti-tumor T cells to action](#)

“The microenvironment of tumors is a mix of cell types, mostly comprised of inflammatory cells. White blood cells, recruited from the blood and bone marrow, represent a significant portion of these inflammatory cells and influence nearly all steps of tumor progression. One type, called tumor associated neutrophils (TANs), predominates; however, the role of TANs in tumor development remains largely unexplored in humans.”

[Nivolumab cost-effectiveness improves by selecting non-squamous NSCLC PD-L1+ patients](#)

“Nivolumab (NIV), a checkpoint inhibitor approved for all squamous and non-squamous non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) patients in 2015, is not cost-effective when compared to treatment with docetaxel (DOC), chemotherapy medication. However, a Swiss analysis showed the cost-effectiveness of NIV is improved when patients are treated with NIV based on PD-L1 positivity (PD-L1+), or if there is a reduction in dose or drug price.”

[Upfront Immunotherapy for Lung Cancer? Not Yet](#)

“Immune checkpoint inhibitors have dramatically changed the treatment landscape of advanced non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC), says Justin F. Gainor, MD, from Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Center in Boston, in an editorial published online July 5 in the *Journal of Clinical Oncology*.”

[Liquid Biopsy' May Show Whether Cancer Drugs Are Working](#)

“Researchers have developed a blood test that might allow doctors to know quickly whether a cancer drug is working.”

[Sometimes Miracles Do Happen On The Oncology Ward](#)

“I could fill a large room with patients that I thought had less than six months to live and yet had incredible responses to chemotherapy that normally would have limited upside potential and they lived many years, sometimes without relapse.”

[PET/CT beats PET/MR for detecting and characterizing lung cancer: study](#)

“PET/MR is gaining popularity now that it’s commercially available, but it’s not clear what clinical indications it should be used for. Detecting and characterizing pulmonary lesions is not one of those indications, according to a study from the University Duisburg-Essen.”

[A new way to diagnose and treat lung cancer](#)

“A team of researchers from Singapore has discovered a class of small RNA molecules, known as oncomiRs, which are responsible for fuelling lung cancer. Published in *Nature Communications*, the findings provide fresh insight into understanding therapy resistance in lung cancer and unveil new avenues to monitor and treat the disease more effectively.”

[Small Cell Lung Cancer \(SCLC\) Market Epicast Report to Improve Product Design, Pricing, and Launch Plans to 2024](#)

“Small Cell Lung Cancer (SCLC) or small cell carcinoma is a distinct form of lung cancer that typically initially presents in the central airways before spreading to the submucosa, which leads to the narrowing of airways.”

[Radiologists Take On Bigger Role in Diagnosing](#)

“One of the top radiology departments in the country is trying a simple but unusual arrangement: Radiologists play an active role in helping to make medical decisions for patients.”

[Expert Enthusiastic About Immunotherapy in SCLC](#)

“Immunotherapy has the potential to change the natural history of small cell lung cancer (SCLC), according to Raffaele Califano, MD, a consultant in Medical Oncology at the Christie NHS Foundation Trust and University Hospital of South Manchester.”

[New York researchers testing lung cancer vaccine](#)

“The U.S. is on the verge of testing a promising lung cancer vaccine from Cuba, one that also has the potential to fight a wide range of other cancers. CimaVax has been available in Cuba for years. The normalizing of U.S.- Cuba relations has paved the way for this historic collaboration.”

[AstraZeneca’s Tagrisso meets primary endpoint in phase III 2nd-line lung cancer trial](#)

“A Phase III trial evaluating AstraZeneca's Tagrisso lung cancer drug has met its primary endpoint in showing superior progression-free survival compared to standard chemotherapy.”

[Aggressive Local Therapies Improve Survival for Limited-metastatic NSCLC](#)

“About 1 in 5 patients with stage IV non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) have genetic mutations that qualify them for 1 of a handful of emerging targeted therapies.”

[Lung Cancer Experts Seek Guidance From Public for Precision Medicine Therapies](#)

“A group of international lung cancer experts is seeking comments for the evidence-based guidelines of “Molecular Testing Guideline for Selection of Lung Cancer Patients for EGFR and ALK Tyrosine Kinase Inhibitors”

[Researchers Discover New RNA Molecules Involved in Lung Cancer Development](#)

“A research team led by specialists at A*STAR’s Genome Institute of Singapore (GIS) is attempting to learn more about lung cancer, approaches to counteract and treat it, and how to give the best care to those diagnosed with the condition.”

[Vaccines, Immunotherapy May Enhance Survival of Patients With NSCLC](#)

“Tumor vaccines and cellular immunotherapies may improve overall and progression-free survival of patients with non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC), according to a study published in the *Journal of Clinical Oncology*.”

[Dr. Wakelee on Immunotherapy Versus Targeted Agents in NSCLC](#)

“Heather A. Wakelee, MD, associate professor of Medicine (Oncology), Stanford University Medical Center, discusses how immunotherapy agents compare with targeted therapies in patients with non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) who harbor a targetable mutation.”

[Pennell Provides Perspective on EGFR-Targeted Agents in NSCLC](#)

“As more patients with non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) are being tested for EGFR mutations and more therapies are being approved by the FDA, a new challenge is rising in the field, explains Nathan Pennell, MD, PhD.”

[New therapeutic targets for small cell lung cancer identified](#)

“The new findings identify ASCL1 as an important therapeutic target for small cell lung cancer, for which there have been few changes in treatment for the past 30 years.”

[China's about to rewrite human DNA using a revolutionary tool for the first time](#)

“Next month, Chinese researchers will edit adult human DNA using the revolutionary CRISPR/Cas-9 tool, commonly known as CRISPR, for the first time anywhere in the world.”