

May 2016

[Gradalis, Inc. Announces Initiation of a Phase 2 Study using Gradalis' Vigil® Immunotherapy in Combination with Anti-PD-1 Technology to Treat Patients with Advanced Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer](#)

“Gradalis Inc., a clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company, today announced the initiation of a Phase 2 study for the treatment of patients with advanced non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) using its proprietary, personalized cancer vaccine, Vigil® in combination with Bristol-Myers Squibb’s Opdivo® (nivolumab), a monoclonal antibody against programmed death-1 receptor (PD-1).”

[Philips' low-dose CT suite cleared by FDA for lung cancer screening](#)

“Philips announced today that its suite of CT solutions has received 501(k) clearance from the FDA for low-dose lung cancer screening.”

[Zinc And Iron May Lower The Risk Of Lung Cancer](#)

“A new study suggests that high amounts of zinc might lower the risk of lung cancer by 42%, and iron from specific sources might also lower the risk.”

[Biocept Collaborates with MedStar Georgetown University Hospital for Liquid Biopsy Study](#)

“Biocept, Inc. (NASDAQ: [BIOC](#)), a leading molecular diagnostics company with a commercial liquid biopsy technology focused on cancer treatment and monitoring, announces the initiation of a collaborative study with MedStar Georgetown University Hospital to evaluate resistance biomarkers in patients diagnosed with non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) who are currently being treated with EGFR inhibitors or chemotherapy. Tumors from patients with advanced NSCLC are routinely screened for the presence of EGFR mutations, with these mutations occurring in approximately 10 to 20 percent of NSCLC patients.”

[Florida Biotech Company Licenses Cancer-Fighting Therapy From Mayo](#)

“This year is likely to be an important one for the Mayo Clinic’s efforts to develop vaccines countering breast and ovarian cancers: A biotech company that has licensed two promising immunotherapies from the clinic says it’s gearing up for crucial 2016 phase II clinical studies for each of them.”

[LUNGeivity Launches #ThisIsHope Campaign for Lung Cancer Hope Month](#)

“Four years ago, LUNGeivity Foundation, the leading lung cancer nonprofit, designated May as Lung Cancer Hope Month, a time to celebrate the progress that is being made in the fight against lung cancer and join together with hope for a better future. Recent unprecedented advances in lung cancer research make the month-long observance more meaningful than ever before. This year, LUNGeivity created a variety of opportunities for people to share hope and get involved, including the #ThisIsHope

social media campaign, advocacy opportunities, event participation, and one-on-one mentoring.”

### [Seize the Cancer Drug Pricing Debate To Transform How We Value New Medicines.](#)

“America is winning the war on cancer. We’re making real progress in hard-to-treat cancers like metastatic melanoma, some types of lung cancer, and drug resistant leukemias and lymphomas. Even more impressive medicines (like genetically modified, tumor-killing T-cells) and diagnostics (like blood tests for tracking cancer) are expected to come online in the next several years.”

### [AbbVie to Buy Cancer Treatment Start-Up](#)

“In Silicon Valley, being a unicorn is no guarantee of financial success. But an eight-year-old drug maker focused on novel cancer treatments has landed itself and its investors a windfall by selling itself to a bigger competitor.”

### [Signs and Symptoms of Asbestos Lung Cancer](#)

“The first relationship between asbestos exposure and lung cancer was discovered by researchers in 1935. A few years later it was confirmed that asbestos is indeed a cause of lung cancer.”

### [Veterans Affairs funds massive lung cancer treatment study at McGuire VA Medical Center](#)

“A new study may make the invasive surgeries required to treat lung cancer a thing of the past.”

### [Radiotherapy for lung cancer ups non-cancer death risk](#)

“A type of radiotherapy called stereotactic body radiation therapy (SBRT) can put patients with early stage non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) at an increased risk of death from causes other than cancer, according to a new study.”

### [FDA approves new indication for Gilotrif](#)

“FDA recently approved a new indication for afatinib (Gilotrif, [Boehringer Ingelheim](#)) for patients with squamous cell carcinoma of the lung. The once-daily tablets are now indicated for the treatment of patients with the lung cancer, whose disease has progressed after treatment with platinum-based chemotherapy.”

### [Black patients from segregated neighborhoods less likely to receive lung cancer surgery](#)

“Black residents of highly segregated neighborhoods were less likely to receive surgery for early-stage non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) than their peers in less-segregated neighborhoods, according to a study published in *Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers & Prevention*, a journal of the American Association for Cancer Research.”

### [Discovery of lung cancer mutations responsive to targeted therapies and to immunotherapies](#)

**“Researchers from several major US universities and ITMO University in Russia have identified a number of new driver mutations in lung cancer cells that may be responsive to genomically targeted therapies and to immunotherapy.”**

#### **[A new drug, afatinib, buys more time for lung cancer patients](#)**

**“When you are dying, every moment matters.”**

#### **[Human-Derived Antibody Can Kill Cancer Cells Without Harming Healthy Cells](#)**

**“Preserving healthy cells while human-derived antibodies fight cancer cells is now possible, a new research has revealed.”**

#### **[Preliminary results comparing PD-L1 IHC diagnostic assays in lung cancer released](#)**

**“A pre-competitive consortia of pharmaceutical companies, diagnostic companies, and academic associations, including the International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer (IASLC), announced phase I results of the "BLUEPRINT PD-L1 IHC ASSAY COMPARISON PROJECT" at the Annual Meeting of the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) on April 19. The study compared four PD-L1 IHC diagnostic assays developed in conjunction with four PD-1/PD-L1 immune checkpoint inhibitors, which are used in non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) clinical trials.”**

#### **[Morehouse School of Medicine and Emory University Cancer Researchers Successfully Diagnose 90.2% of Peripheral Lung Nodules Utilizing Veran Medical's Navigation System](#)**

**“Utilizing next generation surgical navigation technology from Veran Medical, researchers from Morehouse School of Medicine and Emory University, working in the Grady Hospital Cancer Center of Excellence, have published clinical trial results demonstrating a 90.2% yield in diagnosing patients with small, suspicious peripheral nodules in their lungs. Procedures were performed on their initial 44 consecutive patients. There were no reported pneumothorax (collapsed lung) or other complications.”**

#### **[Older adults experience greater survival rates after lung cancer surgery](#)**

**“Patients aged 65 years and older are living longer after lung cancer surgery, and with older people representing a rapidly growing proportion of patients diagnosed with lung cancer, this improved survival is especially significant, according to an article posted online today by *The Annals of Thoracic Surgery*.”**

#### **[Necitumumab With Chemotherapy Beneficial for Patients With EGFR-expressing NSCLC](#)**

**“The most benefit from adding necitumumab to chemotherapy with gemcitabine and cisplatin occurred for patients whose advanced squamous non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) expressed epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR), according to findings from a subgroup analysis of the randomized phase 3 SQUIRE trial presented at the European Lung Cancer Conference (ELCC) 2016.”**

### [NSCLC MAGE-A3 immunotherapy development halted](#)

“Disease-free survival (DFS) is not prolonged with adjuvant MAGE-A3 immunotherapy in patients with surgically resected non-small-cell lung cancer (NSCLC), according to a placebo-controlled trial.”

### [Data from Multiple Studies Evaluating Veracyte's Genomic Classifiers for Lung Cancer and Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis to Be Presented at ATS 2016](#)

“[Veracyte, Inc.](#) today announced that data from multiple studies supporting the company's genomic tests to resolve ambiguity in pulmonary disease diagnosis will be presented at the American Thoracic Society (ATS) 2016 International Conference taking place May 13-18 in San Francisco . Eight studies will be showcased at the event, including two as podium presentations.”

### [Blood Plasma Genotyping Predictive of Treatment Benefit in NSCLC](#)

“Treatment benefit can be predicted through genotyping from blood plasma, according to several studies presented at the European Lung Cancer Conference (ELCC) 2016; however, plasma tests are unlikely to fully replace tissue biopsies.”

### [How racial segregation affects lung cancer surgery](#)

“A new study released Tuesday found that blacks in Georgia who lived in the most racially segregated neighborhoods were much less likely to undergo potentially life-saving lung cancer surgery than people who lived in areas that were the least segregated by race.”

### [Current cancer drug discovery method flawed: Study](#)

“The primary method used to test compounds for anti-cancer activity in cells is flawed, Vanderbilt University researchers report May 2 in *Nature Methods*. The findings cast doubt on methods used by the entire scientific enterprise and pharmaceutical industry to discover new cancer drugs.”

### [Lung Cancer Subtypes Have Different Recurrent Mutations, Study Finds](#)

“Exome sequences for tumors from more than 1,000 individuals with lung adenocarcinoma or squamous cell carcinoma suggest the two common lung cancer subtypes contain somatic mutations and antigenic properties that may be vulnerable to targeted treatments or immunotherapy.”

### [Immune Design \(IMDZ\), Gritstone Oncology Announce Collaboration for Neoantigen Cancer Immunotherapy](#)

“Immune Design, a clinical-stage immunotherapy company focused on oncology, and Gritstone Oncology, a private cancer immunotherapy company developing next-generation, personalized cancer therapeutics, today announced a clinical collaboration for development of novel, personalized immunotherapies combining both companies' leading technologies.”

### [Discovery of lung cancer mutations responsive to targeted therapies, immunotherapies](#)

“Researchers from several major US universities and ITMO University in Russia have identified a number of new driver mutations in lung cancer cells that may be responsive to genomically targeted therapies and to immunotherapy.”

### [Genentech to Present New Data on Personalized Immunotherapies at ASCO Meeting](#)

“Genentech announced it will present new results from 19 of the company’s cancer therapies at the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) Annual Meeting, to be held in Chicago on June 3–7.”

### [Discovery of lung cancer mutations responsive to targeted therapies and to immunotherapies](#)

“Researchers from several major U.S. universities and ITMO University in Russia have identified a number of new driver mutations in lung cancer cells that may be responsive to genomically targeted therapies and to immunotherapy.”

### [Patti LaBelle Encourages People to 'Share Their Voice ' in the Fight Against Lung Cancer](#)

“LaBelle, who has previously opened up to PEOPLE about her personal connection to lung cancer, says that there is a lot of information that people aren't aware of.”

### [5 Alarming Statistics that Prove We Need Greater Awareness Around Lung Cancer](#)

“In 1987, lung cancer surpassed breast cancer as the leading cancer killer among American women.”

### [Expert Examines Immunotherapy Potential in Small Cell Lung Cancer](#)

“Several ongoing clinical trials are examining the efficacy and safety of immunotherapy agents in patients with small cell lung cancer (SCLC), explains David P. Carbone, MD, PhD. “

### [Examining the Prevalence of Lung Cancer Among Female Never-Smokers](#)

“Lung cancer among women who never smoked is twice as common than in men who never smoked – a statistic that alarms Andrea Wolf and her colleagues at Mount Sinai Hospital. “

### [Further Steps Needed to Unleash Full Potential of Immunotherapy in Lung Cancer](#)

“Immunotherapy is more than just hype, says John Haanen, MD, PhD, head of the Division of Medical Oncology, The Netherlands Cancer Institute, Antoni van Leeuwenhoek Hospital. However, for oncologists to apply it to its full potential in lung cancer, a deeper understanding of how and for whom it works is needed.”

### [The new war on cancer](#)

“The Obama administration has launched a "moonshot" to cure cancer. What are the chances of success? Here's everything you need to know”

### [A group of Harvard and MIT students have created a lung cancer breathalyzer system](#)

“Today’s connotation of a breathalyzer test isn’t exactly the most positive: Did you blow beneath a 0.08? Great. But all that could soon change thanks to a team of entrepreneurs from Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Taking the concept of the dreaded test to anticipate rather than test for dangerous situations, a group of students have developed a breathalyzer capable of detecting early stages of lung cancer. Earlier this week at MIT’s 27th annual Entrepreneurship Competition, Astraeus Technologies won a \$100,000 grand prize for its L CARD (Chemically Actuated Resonate Device), a postage stamp-sized device capable of detecting certain gases that could indicate the presence lung cancer.”

### [Transgenomic \(TBIO\) Announces Positive New ICP Enrichment Data vs. Standard PCR Results](#)

“Transgenomic, Inc. announced new concordance study data confirming the superior performance of its ICE COLD-PCR™ (ICP) enrichment technology over standard biopsied tissue PCR results for detection of tumor mutations in cancer patients.”

### [Driving Awareness for Lung Cancer](#)

“[Lung cancer kills more people each year than breast, colon, pancreatic and prostate cancer combined.](#) Driving awareness of these startling statistics is essential to helping people realize just how prevalent lung cancer is and that it can affect anyone – in fact, about two thirds of lung cancer patients are former smokers or have never smoked.”

### [This Tiny Breathalyzer Can Detect Early Signs of Lung Cancer](#)

“A new breathalyzer the size of a postage stamp could one day save your lungs and your life.”

### [Stage IIIA non-small cell lung cancer survival rates improved when care includes four specific quality measures](#)

“Only 13% of eligible patients studied benefited from all four quality measures and there is a wide disparity of implementation across the patients analyzed, according to a presentation at the 96th AATS Annual Meeting”

### [Health Buzz: Exercise Cuts Cancer Risk, Huge Study Finds](#)

“Exercise for cancer prevention just got a big boost from international research involving 1.4 million people, published online Monday in JAMA Internal Medicine. A connection emerged between comparatively higher levels of physical activity and lower risk of developing 13 cancers types of cancer.”

### [Opdivo snags two new cancer approvals](#)

“Nivolumab (Opdivo, Bristol-Myers Squibb) received two new approvals from FDA to treat two different cancers.”

### [\*\*“Exciting” Results in Study of EGFR-Targeting Drug Brings Anticipation to Lung Cancer and Mesothelioma Community\*\*](#)

**“In November, MesotheliomaHelp reported the U.S. Food and Drug Administration granted accelerated approval for the anti-cancer drug Tagrisso (osimertinib) for lung cancer.”**

### [\*\*A Blood Test to Diagnose Lung Cancer? We’ve Taken a Big Step Towards It...\*\*](#)

**“Lung cancer is a stealthy, efficient killer. Its garden-variety symptoms — a nagging cough, bronchitis, maybe some chest pain or shortness of breath — raise no alarms for most people, and by the time they appear, the cancer is already in its advanced stages.”**

### [\*\*Risk-Based CT Lung Cancer Screening Could Avoid More Deaths\*\*](#)

**“Using a risk-based model for computed tomography (CT) lung cancer screening could prevent more deaths and lower the number needed to screen (NNS) in order to prevent one death compared with the US Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) screening recommendations, according to results of a new study.”**

### [\*\*BMS' Opdivo Trials: What They Teach Us About Successful Studies\*\*](#)

**“Lately, it’s hard to ignore the news around immunotherapies to treat cancer. Opdivo (nivolumab) is a Bristol-Myers Squibb (BMS) medicine that has been approved by the FDA for patients with previously treated advanced non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC), metastatic melanoma, and renal cell carcinoma.”**

### [\*\*PAF’s is Extending its Metastatic Melanoma and Metastatic Lung Cancer Transportation Program\*\*](#)

**“After being diagnosed with metastatic lung cancer, J. Robinson’s doctor expressed the need for frequent trips back and forth to the hospital for chemotherapy treatment. After she vocalized the recurring trips would cause her hardship, her physician immediately referred her to Patient Advocate Foundation and its Financial Aid Fund division. She applied for the Metastatic Melanoma and Metastatic Lung Cancer Transportation Financial Aid Fund program and was approved for assistance.”**

### [\*\*Study: Half of Cancer Deaths Preventable With Healthier Lifestyle\*\*](#)

**“Half of all cancer deaths and 20% to 40% of cancer cases in the United States could potentially be prevented if individuals adopted healthier lifestyles, according to a study published in JAMA Oncology.”**

### [\*\*People With HIV Are Less Likely To Get Needed Cancer Treatment\*\*](#)

**“We've made great progress treating people who are infected with HIV, but if they get cancer they're less likely to get the care they need, a recent study found.”**

### [\*\*3 Stories To Watch At The Year’s Biggest Cancer Conference\*\*](#)

**“Bristol-Myers Squibb vs. Merck, Pfizer vs. Lilly and a unique treatment from AbbVie (ABBV) will take the spotlight next week at the biggest drug conference focused on treatments for one of the biggest diseases: cancer.”**

### [Promising new treatments available for lung cancer](#)

**KITCHENER** – “New lung cancer treatments offer hope to Canadians with the common and deadly disease. Targeted medications that combat a certain genetic mutation, which makes up 20 per cent of lung cancer cases, are slowing the disease's progression and extending people's lives.”

### [Lung cancer clinical trial to offer patients new option](#)

**RICHMOND, Va. (WRIC)** – “Surgery is the standard treatment for patients with Stage I Lung Cancer, but now Hunter Holmes McGuire Veterans Administration Medical Center is set to begin a new clinical trial to test out another option.”

### [Consensus Statement Guides Optimal Management of EGFR-Mutation-Positive NSCLC](#)

“The 2016 consensus statement from the International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer (IASLC) describes how to best manage epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR)-mutation-positive (M+) non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC). The statement discusses pathologic, diagnostic, and therapeutic considerations and provides recommendations for clinical guidance and research priorities.<sup>1</sup>”

### [Priority Areas Set During Inaugural Gulf Lung Cancer Summit in Dubai](#)

“Three key focus areas identified at the region's first Lung Cancer Summit, which was held on 27th & 28th May, 2016 The Conrad Hotel, Dubai, led by regional and international lung cancer experts.”

### [A Word from Dr. Pfenninger: Reducing cancer rates with exercise](#)

“It has been drummed into us again and again that exercise is important for our health. The fact that it reduces stroke and heart attacks dramatically has been proven by numerous research studies and we all accept it.”

### [Plinabulin/ Docetaxel Combo Mitigates Safety Concerns of Docetaxel in Lung Cancer Patients](#)

“Docetaxel is approved for use in patients with non-small-cell lung cancer (NSCLC) after the failure of first-line chemotherapy. The treatment, however, has an unfavorable toxicity profile that limits its use. An investigational therapy, plinabulin (BeyondSpring Pharmaceuticals), is being developed in combination with docetaxel to provide a regimen with an improved safety profile. Plinabulin is a first-in-class small-molecule vascular-disruptive agent with immuno-oncology effects.”

### [Palliative, hospice care lacking among dying cancer patients](#)

“All patients with advanced cancer should receive both palliative and hospice care before death, yet a study shows only half of veterans receive palliative care, and the use of hospice depends on the care environment.”

### [NICE turns down Lilly's lung cancer drug Portrazza](#)



**“It is looking unlikely that lung cancer patients in England and Wales will get access to Eli Lilly's new treatment Portrazza on the National Health Service, after the drug received an initial rejection from cost regulators.”**

#### **Resolution Bioscience begins lung cancer rapid assay trial**

**“Resolution Bioscience announced on Wednesday that it will begin an ongoing human trial with lung cancer patients to determine the success of a new rapid assay to replace existing tissue-based biopsy methodology.”**

#### **CPRIT Funds Two Lung Cancer Studies at MD Anderson with \$10.6M**

***Grants were designed to support research in Texas-based institutions***

**“The Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) will fund two collaborative studies with \$6 million and \$4.6 million grants, for research targeting critical issues in lung cancer (LC) to be conducted at the University of Texas.”**

#### **Basing Lung Cancer Screening Guidelines on Individual Risk Could Be Effective**

**“An individualized, risk-based approach to screening current and former smokers for the early detection of lung cancer would dramatically expand the population that could benefit from the preventive strategy, while saving more lives than the current US Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) guidelines for lung cancer screening, according to a new study.<sup>1</sup>”**

#### **In Extensive Stage SCLC, Sonidegib With Etoposide, Cisplatin May Be Effective**

**“The Hedgehog pathway inhibitor sonidegib in combination with etoposide and cisplatin may be safe and effective in patients with newly diagnosed extensive stage small cell lung cancer, a study published in Lung Cancer has shown.<sup>1</sup>”**