

September 2016

### [A Thaw in the US–Cuba Relation Could Yield a Lung Cancer Vaccine](#)

“A vaccine, under development in Cuba for more than 2 decades, has shown potential to improve survival in patients with advanced non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) by preventing the interaction between epidermal growth factor (EGF) and the epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR)”

### [Rescuing the Rescuers: The Effort to Cover and Monitor 9/11 Responders for Lung Disease and Cancer](#)

“When terrorists attacked the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001, killing nearly 3,000 people and injuring almost 9,000 more, it wasn’t the end of the tragedy. In the days and weeks to come, thousands of emergency workers – firefighters, police officers, construction workers and private citizens – descended on Lower Manhattan to aid in rescue and recovery efforts. Some are still paying a heavy price for their service.”

### [FDA Submission Completed for Brigatinib in ALK-Positive NSCLC](#)

“A new drug application (NDA) has been submitted for brigatinib (AP26113) as a potential treatment for patients with advanced ALK-positive non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) following resistance or intolerance to crizotinib (Xalkori), according the developer of the ALK inhibitor, Ariad Pharmaceuticals.”

### [Targeting Cancer Cell Fuel Supply May Stop Growth](#)

“In a new study published in *Genes & Development*, researchers identified a new approach to cancer therapy that involves cutting off a cancer cell’s fuel supply by targeting autophagy.”

### [Study finds potential new biomarker for cancer patient prognosis](#)

“To treat or not to treat? That is the question researchers at the Department of Energy’s Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (Berkeley Lab) hope to answer with a new advance that could help doctors and their cancer patients decide if a particular therapy would be worth pursuing.”

### [Air Pollution May Affect Survival of Lung Cancer](#)

“A population-based study published in *Thorax* suggests that air pollution may worsen survival outcomes for patients with lung cancer.”

### [Dr. Leora Horn on Toxicities With Immunotherapy in Lung Cancer](#)

“Leora Horn, MD, associate professor of medicine (hematology and oncology), assistant director, educator development program, clinical director, Thoracic Oncology Program, medical oncologist, Vanderbilt-Ingram Center Center, discusses adverse event considerations for immunotherapy in lung cancer.”

### [Ceritinib May Bring Another Treatment Option to Lung Cancer and Mesothelioma Patients](#)

“In May, MesotheliomaHelp reported that crizotinib is better than chemotherapy in fighting brain metastasis in lung cancer patients. Now, researchers report that another drug, ceritinib, continued to improve response in patients even after they were treated with crizotinib.”

### [Optimized Treatment Schedule May Help Prevent Lung Cancer Drug Resistance](#)

“An optimized treatment schedule may help prevent drug resistance in non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC), a study published in PLOS Computational Biology found.”

### [Vandetanib Fails to Benefit Patients With Small Cell Lung Cancer](#)

“Vandetanib failed to reduce time to progression (TTP) among patients with small cell lung cancer (SCLC), according to an article published in *Cancer*.”

### [Whole Brain Radiotherapy Offers Little Benefit to Patients With Brain-metastatic Lung Cancer](#)

“According to results of a phase 3 clinical trial published in the *Lancet*, whole brain radiotherapy (WBRT) does not improve quality of life of (QOL), or survival benefit for, patients with non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) that has spread to the brain.”

### [Keytruda receives FDA breakthrough therapy designation, priority review for first-line NSCLC](#)

“The FDA today granted breakthrough therapy designation and priority review to pembrolizumab for the first-line treatment of patients with advanced non-small cell lung cancer whose tumors express PD-L1, according to the drug’s manufacturer.”

### [Cancer Moonshot Recommendations Highlight Precision Medicine, Data Sharing, Genetic Screening](#)

“A National Cancer Institute advisory board today discussed a number of recommendations for speeding the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of cancer within a large-scale White House project.”

### [Experimental drug fights cancer by 'waking up' the immune system](#)

“Scientists are hailing the discovery of a new type of drug shown to be effective against one of the deadliest forms of cancer - metastatic pancreatic cancer - and with no obvious side-effects.”

### [Factors that Influence Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer Prognosis](#)

“The lymph node staging in non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) patients with stage IV M1a disease may carry a clinical significance that impacts prognosis, according to an analysis published in the *Journal of Thoracic Oncology*.”

### [Checkpoint Inhibitors and Combination Therapy: the Future of Treatment for Non-small Cell Lung Cancer?](#)

**“Immune checkpoint inhibitors offer new avenues of treatment for non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC), a disease once believed to have poor immunogenic potential.”**

### **[Lung Cancer Drug Extends Overall Survival in Phase 3 Trial](#)**

**“A phase 3 study of atezolizumab (Tecentriq) met its co-primary endpoints, showing significant improvement in overall survival for patients with locally advanced or metastatic non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC)”**

### **[Case for liquid biopsies builds in advanced lung cancer](#)**

**“For patients with advanced lung cancer, a non-invasive liquid biopsy may be a more effective and suitable alternative to the gold standard tissue biopsy to detect clinically relevant mutations and help guide their course of treatment, suggests a new study published this week in the journal *Clinical Cancer Research* from researchers at the Abramson Cancer Center at the University of Pennsylvania (ACC).”**

### **[Afatinib Dose Adjustment Improves Tolerability Without Affecting Efficacy in NSCLC](#)**

**“Dose adjustments of afatinib among patients with advanced non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) appear to reduce the incidence and severity of treatment-related adverse events without negatively affecting efficacy, according to a post-hoc analysis of the LUX-Lung 3 and LUX-Lung 6 trials.”**

### **[FDA Grants Priority Review to Pembrolizumab for Frontline Treatment of NSCLC](#)**

**“The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has assigned Priority Review to the supplemental Biologics License Application (sBLA) for pembrolizumab (Keytruda) for the first-line treatment of patients with advanced non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC), whose tumors express PD-L1.”**

### **[new grants fund research linking cessation with lung cancer screening](#)**

**“Two new grants from the National Cancer Institute (NCI) are supporting research into smoking cessation interventions for high-risk smokers undergoing lung cancer screening.”**

### **[Vice President Joe Biden, Bradley Cooper, Katie Couric Attend Star-Studded 'Stand Up to Cancer' Telethon](#)**

**“Vice President Joe Biden, Tom Hanks, Emma Stone and a slew of celebrities came out to a live telecast Friday night at the Walt Disney Concert Hall in downtown Los Angeles to raise money for cancer research.”**

### **[Caring Ambassadors Program Upcoming Fundraiser! Tunes & Tastes of Oregon. This coming Sunday!](#)**

**Join us for a beautiful afternoon of live music from King Louie & LaRhonda Steele featuring Renato Caranto! The event will feature food and beverages that offer you a spectacular taste of Oregon. The event will be held in a lovely indoor space.**

### **[FDA Modifies Nivolumab Dosage Regimens for RCC, NSCLC, Melanoma](#)**

**“The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has modified the dosage regimen for nivolumab for the approved indications for unresectable or metastatic melanoma, metastatic non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC), and advanced renal cell carcinoma (RCC).”**

#### **[Liquid Biopsies May Beat Tissue Biopsies for Treating Advanced Lung Cancer](#)**

**“A non-invasive liquid biopsy may be more effective than a standard tissue biopsy to give doctors the direction they need to determine treatment, says a study published in the journal Clinical Cancer Research.”**

#### **[Dr. Kim on Combination Therapies in Lung Cancer](#)**

**“Edward S. Kim, MD, chair, Solid Tumor Oncology and Investigational Therapeutics, Donald S. Kim Distinguished Chair for Cancer Research, Levine Cancer Institute, Carolinas HealthCare System, discusses combination therapies in the treatment of patients with lung cancer.”**

#### **[FDA to Evaluate Keytruda as First Line Lung Cancer Treatment](#)**

**“The FDA recently accepted Merck’s Supplemental Biologics License Application for pembrolizumab (Keytruda) for the first-line treatment of advanced non-small cell lung cancer, assigning the drug Priority Review status.”**

#### **[Liquid Biopsy – “Powerful Tool” In Precision Lung Cancer Therapy, Study Shows](#)**

**“A new study suggests that liquid biopsies may yield more actionable data than results from genetic sequencing tests of tissue biopsies in patients with non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC), especially as the disease progresses. Researchers from the University of Pennsylvania (Penn) also argue that serial testing with Guardant Health’s liquid biopsy allows clinicians to monitor cancer progression less-invasively and adjust therapies in real-time for more precise treatments.”**

#### **[Study compares survival outcomes of two recommended lung cancer staging strategies](#)**

**“In a study appearing in the September 13 issue of JAMA, Jouke T. Annema, M.D., Ph.D., of the Academic Medical Center, Amsterdam, and colleagues examined five-year survival after endosonography vs mediastinoscopy for mediastinal nodal staging of lung cancer.”**

#### **[American Lung Association’s LUNG FORCE expo aims to improve quality of life for patients with lung cancer and lung disease Nov. 1](#)**

**“The LUNG FORCE Expo, organized by the American Lung Association, is an opportunity for patients, caregivers and healthcare professionals to learn more about the latest treatments, resources and research to help improve the quality of life for those with lung cancer and other lung diseases.”**

### [Personal Genome Diagnostics Reports Positive Data On Utility Of Liquid Biopsy Testing In Small Cell Lung Cancer Patients](#)

“Personal Genome Diagnostics Inc. (PGDx), a leading provider of advanced cancer genome testing products and services, today announced that data from a collaborative effort with Takeda Pharmaceuticals to assess the feasibility of liquid biopsy genomic testing for cancer drug development will be presented today at the 2016 Precision: Lung Cancer World R&D Summit in Boston, Massachusetts.”

### [Lung Cancer: Ultrasound Staging Accurate](#)

“Endosonographic staging was more accurate than surgical staging alone for mediastinal nodal non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) in a large trial comparing the two strategies, but no survival advantage was seen in patients receiving the minimally invasive staging strategy over 5 years of follow-up.”

### [Mechanism of Lung Cancer Metastasis Identified](#)

“Oxygen-sensing proteins within T cells promote tumor growth in the lungs of mice, a recent study published in Cell found.”

### [Blood-Based Test May Offer Alternative to Biopsy in Treating Advanced Lung Cancers](#)

“Patients with advanced non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) may be more effectively and safely tested for clinically relevant mutations – used to help guide treatment course – with a blood-based test rather than a tissue biopsy, the current standard for detecting such mutations, a study published in the journal of Clinical Cancer Research suggests.”

### [Targeting fat to treat cancer](#)

“Fat isn’t just something we eat: it may also lie at the heart of a new approach to treating cancer.”

### [Rizvi Recounts Recent Immunotherapy Advances in Lung Cancer](#)

“With frontline pembrolizumab (Keytruda) recently receiving a priority review, immune checkpoint therapy has moved 1 step closer to regulatory approval as a first-line treatment for non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC)”

### [The Next Frontier for Cancer Immunotherapy Trials](#)

“With its measurable impact on patient survival, there’s no denying that immunotherapy is already causing momentum in ways that cancer is treated.”

### [Dr. Kelly on the Toxicity Profile in CheckMate-227 in 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 toxicity profile of the therapies used in the CheckMate-227 trial.”

### [Momentum Research Award to Overcome Lung Cancer Treatment Resistance in Women Presented to Dr. David Brian Shackelford](#)

“The American Lung Association and the Bonnie J. Addario Lung Cancer Foundation (ALCF) announced today that Dr. David Brian Shackelford, Assistant Professor of Medicine at the David Geffen School of Medicine at the University of California, Los Angeles, has been awarded the first joint Momentum Research Award for his research “Targeting cancer metabolism in therapy-resistant EGFR-mutant lung cancer.”

### [Lung Cancer Imaging Combo May Identify ALK Fusions Responsive to Xalkori](#)

“Combining two biochemical techniques may help identify patients with non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) with rare or novel anaplastic lymphoma kinase (ALK) gene rearrangements that respond to treatment with Xalkori (crizotinib).”

### [Dr. Jett on Debates on Molecular Testing for Lung Cancer](#)

“James R. Jett, MD, professor of Medicine Emeritus, National Jewish Health, discusses the most frequent debates surrounding molecular testing for patients with lung cancer.”

### [Immune Checkpoint Inhibitors Continue to Transform Management of Advanced NSCLC](#)

“Lung cancer was considered a poorly immunogenic malignancy; recent strategies targeting checkpoints of the immune system, however, show significant anti-tumor activity in previously treated advanced non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC).”

### [U of M researchers identify an unexpected cause of mutation in cancer](#)

“Researchers looking for a missing cause of a common type of mutation in breast cancer cells have uncovered the biochemical culprit and found that it may also be a general source of mutation in other cancer types.”

### [Dr. David L. Rimm on Alternatives to PD-L1 to Predict Immunotherapy Response in Lung Cancer](#)

“David L. Rimm, MD, PhD, professor of pathology and of medicine, director of pathology tissue services, director of translational pathology, Yale Cancer Center, discusses alternatives to PD-L1 testing to predict response with checkpoint inhibitors in lung cancer.”

### [Mutation Testing for Advanced Lung Cancer](#)

“Jared Weiss, MD: To reach standard of care, every stage IV non-squamous patient needs to be tested for molecular characterization. At the minimum, starting with the minimum standard, that needs to include EGFR, ALK, and ROS1.”

### [Ceritinib improves PFS in patients with ALK-positive NSCLC](#)

“The ASCEND-4 trial – designed to evaluate ceritinib in patients with advanced anaplastic lymphoma kinase-positive non-small cell lung cancer – met its primary endpoint, according to the drug’s manufacturer.”

### **Dr. Harvey I. Pass on Personalized Surgical Approaches in Lung Cancer**

**“Harvey I. Pass, MD, director, thoracic surgery, thoracic oncology, NYU Langone Medical Center, discusses what it means to take a personalized approach to surgery in lung cancer.”**

### **Dr. Hirsch on Value of PD-L1 Testing in Patients With Lung Cancer**

**“Fred R. Hirsch, MD, PhD, professor of Medicine, University of Colorado Denver, CEO, the International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer (IASLC), discusses the value of PD-L1 assays for patients with non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC)”**

### **Frontline Ceritinib Delays Progression in ALK+ NSCLC**

**“Ceritinib (Zykadia) improved progression-free survival (PFS) compared with standard chemotherapy as a first-line treatment for patients with ALK-positive non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC), according to results from the phase III ASCEND-4 trial.”**

### **Two NSCLC trials fail to meet primary endpoints**

**“Two randomized phase 3 trials designed to evaluate treatments for patients with non-small cell lung cancer failed to meet their primary endpoints of PFS.”**