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2009 : June 2009 - Emerging Research Fronts : Dario C. Altieri

EMERGING RESEARCH FRONTS - 2009

June 2009



Dario C. Altieri talks with *ScienceWatch.com* and answers a few questions about this month's Emerging Research Front Paper in the field of Clinical Medicine.



Article: Survivin, versatile modulation of cell division and apoptosis in cancer

Authors: Altieri, DC

Journal: ONCOGENE, 22 (53): 8581-8589, NOV 24 2003

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SW: Why do you think your paper is highly cited?

The article covers various aspects of the biology of survivin, a gene that has attracted considerable interest for its ability to regulate multiple critical signaling pathways in cancer.

SW: Does it describe a new discovery, methodology, or synthesis of knowledge?

The review describes our current knowledge of survivin and its functions, and how it can be exploited for novel molecular cancer therapeutics.

SW: Would you summarize the significance of your paper in layman's terms?

The article provides a broad and in-depth analysis of a pivotal regulator of disease progression and response to therapy in virtually every human tumor.

SW: How did you become involved in this research and were any particular problems encountered along the way?

Our laboratory had originally cloned the survivin gene and has continued to work on the cellular and molecular implications of the biology of survivin in normal tissues and cancer.

SW: Where do you see your research leading in the future?

We remain interested in discovering signaling pathways important for tumor growth, and their potential suitability for novel drug discovery opportunities in oncology.

SW: Do you foresee any social or political implications for your research?

The characterization of novel antagonists of cancer pathways may have profound social implications for the development of molecularly based, "personalized" cancer medicine.

Dario C. Altieri, M.D.

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KEYWORDS: MESSENGER-RNA EXPRESSION; SOFT-TISSUE SARCOMA; NORMAL CORD BLOOD; WILD-TYPE P53; PROTEIN SURVIVIN; ENDOTHELIAL-CELLS; GENE-EXPRESSION; COLORECTAL-CANCER; PROGNOSTIC-SIGNIFICANCE; REGULATED EXPRESSION.

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