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## IN BRIEF

### GENETICS

#### **TERT mutation in urogenital cancers**

Following on from the observation that ~70% of bladder tumours harbour somatic mutations in the *TERT* gene promoter, researchers have expanded this analysis to include other urogenital cancers. Data confirmed the high rate of mutations in urothelial carcinoma and revealed low rates in kidney tumours; no mutations were detected in prostate or testicular cancers. In addition, *TERT* mutation was associated with increased invasiveness in bladder cancer cell culture and invasive disease in patients.

**Original article** Wu, S. *et al.* Telomerase reverse transcriptase gene promoter mutations help discern the origin of urogenital tumors: a genomic and molecular study. *Eur. Urol.* doi:10.1016/j.eururo.2013.10.038

### PROSTATE CANCER

#### **Targeting survivin in CRPC does not improve survival**

Overexpression of survivin has been implicated in the development of castration-resistant prostate cancer (CRPC), leading investigators to evaluate the efficacy of survivin inhibitor LY2181308 sodium. This antisense oligonucleotide was given to patients with metastatic CRPC in combination with docetaxel plus prednisone in a phase II study. No differences in progression-free survival, overall survival or PSA response were found between men who received LY2181308 sodium and those who received docetaxel plus prednisone alone.

**Original article** Wiechno, P. *et al.* A randomised phase 2 study combining LY2181308 sodium (survivin antisense oligonucleotide) with first-line docetaxel/prednisone in patients with castration-resistant prostate cancer. *Eur. Urol.* doi:10.1016/j.eururo.2013.10.039

### BASIC RESEARCH

#### **Neuroprosthesis for neurogenic bladder**

Neurogenic bladder owing to spinal cord injury is associated with loss of bladder control. Innovative researchers have developed a neuroprosthesis that measures sensory information in the bladder to detect bladder fullness, which triggers a depolarizing blocking signal to ventral roots that prevents spontaneous voiding. The device also includes a ventral root stimulator that enables urination on demand. The investigators have performed initial experiments in rats and hope to translate the technology to humans in the future.

**Original article** Chew, D. J. *et al.* A microchannel neuroprosthesis for bladder control after spinal cord injury in rat. *Sci. Transl. Med.* doi:10.1126/scitranslmed.3007186

### KIDNEY CANCER

#### **Surgeon assessment of volume preservation is best?**

Three methods exist for the prediction of parenchyma preservation after partial nephrectomy: 3D volume preservation (3DVP), percent functional volume preservation (PFVP) and surgeon assessment of volume preservation (SAVP). Despite being introduced to improve prediction, 3DVP and PFVP did not perform better than SAVP in a comparison study of 41 patients. Validation of SAVP in a further 75 patients supports its use.

**Original article** Tobert, C. M. *et al.* Surgeon assessment of renal preservation with partial nephrectomy provides comparable information to measurement of volume preservation with 3D image analysis. *J. Urol.* doi:10.1016/j.juro.2013.11.003