International Workshop on CLL
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## Role of the B cell receptor in B cell oncogenesis



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No conflicts to disclose

Progression through $B$ cell development is strictly dependent on continuous expression of a functional B cell antigen receptor (BCR)


## Mature B cell neoplasms conserve BCR expression

Pro-B Pre-B Immature Mature
germinal
center


FL
DLBCL
BL MCL

Hodgkin

BCR importance for mature B cell neoplasms: hints from genetics


Klein et al. Immunol. Rev. 1998


International Workshop on CLL


Burkitt lymphoma


Follicular lymphoma

$40 \%$
$\geq 98 \%$

High
Autoantigens, high poly-reactivity

Dismal

CLL patient frequency
Homology with germline IGHV

BCR responsiveness

## Antigenic

 determinantsClinical outcome


60\%
<98\%

Low, anergic BCRs
Microbial/Autoantigens
higher BCR specificity higher BCR specificity

Indolent

Ten Hacken et al., Leukemia 2019

- Stereotypic BCRs


## BCR activation in malignant B cells



## Inhibiting BCR signaling effectors is effective against several forms of mature B cell neoplasms



Davis, Staudt et al., Nature, 2010
Schmitz, Staudt et al., Nature, 2012
Hvranek et al., Blood 2017


Jerkeman, Staudt et al, J Intern Med. , 2017

How do malignant $B$ cells react to $B C R$ inactivation?

## BCR extinction does not prevent MYC lymphoma growth in vivo




Varano et al, Nature 2017

## BCR enhances MYC lymphoma cell competitive fitness



Davis, Staudt et al., Nature, 2010
Schmitz, Staudt et al., Nature, 2012
Cheong, Chiarle et al., Nature Commun., 2016
Havranek et al. Blood 2017
Phelan et al. Nature 2018

## BCR-less lymphoma subclones restore optimal fitness



The BCR signalosome controlling Myc-driven lymphoma fitness


Casola et al, Immunol. Rev. 2019
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## Lymphoma respond to BCR loss rewiring exogenous glucose and glutamine catabolism




Lower glutaminolysis Compensatory carbon re-routing via PC

Human mature B cell neoplasms can spontaneously evolve into BCR-less variants


Varano et al, Nature 2017


Diffuse Large B cell Lymphoma lymphoma


Possible B cell tumor evolution trajectories under anti-BCR therapies


Casola et al, Immunol. Rev. 2019

## Open questions

1. How Ig-less lymphomas overcome BCR requirement for survival, and how do they evolve compared to their $\mathrm{BCR}^{+}$counterparts?
2. Are distinct $B$ cell malignancies selecting similar mechanism(s) to bypass BCR inactivation?
3. Can such knowledge help design new treatments to eradicate tumor $B$ cells resisting BCR extinction/inhibition?

## Role of the CD19/PI3K $\delta$ axis in the survival of Ig-less MYC lymphomas



## MYC lymphomas overcome combined BCR/CD19 loss



## BCR/CD19 mutant lymphomas gain resistance to PI3K inhibition






## How can lymphomas bypass the BCR/CD19/PI3K signaling axis?



Genetic mutations

## Tracking lymphoma evolution in response to BCR extinction

Single cell RNA-seq



## Trajectory inference of MYC Iymphoma evolution following BCR inactivation




BCR regulates the epigenetic landscape of lymphoma B cells

H3K27Ac (gene promoters)


B cell enhancers (source: Phantom 5)



## BCR loss reduces protein synthesis rate in lymphoma cells



BCR-defective MYC lymphomas depend more on MTORC1 signaling


## BCR-less lymphomas with chronic RAS/MAPK activation suffer from pharmacological MEK inhibition




## BCR inactivation enhances radiosensitivity of Myc lymphomas



Possible influence of the BCR on MYC lymphoma immunogenicity



## Fighting/preventing B cell tumor resistance to BCR inhibition: the next goals



## Acknowledgments


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Single cell transcriptional signatures discriminating specific transitions of Myc lymphoma evolution following BCR Ioss


