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Refining EGFR-monoclonal antibody treatment in colorectal cancer

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Propositions belonging to this thesis

1. The *FCGR3A* polymorphism F158V (rs396991) is not associated with progression free survival in cetuximab treated colorectal carcinoma patients. (this thesis)
2. Most drugs that enter the market are only studied in patient populations with normal renal function, and no dose recommendations are made for patients with impaired organ function. (this thesis)
3. An individual patient data meta-analysis, although usually more demanding, results in a more efficient estimate of the treatment effect. (this thesis)
4. KRAS modulation with simvastatin is not applicable in the clinic and other strategies are needed for colorectal cancer patients with tumors harbouring a KRAS mutation who failed standard therapy. (this thesis)
5. To fully elucidate genetic underpinnings of cancer, a systems biology approach is necessary to characterize variants, mRNA, copy number, proteins, and metabolites, as well as their cellular interactions. (Harris M. et al. Pharmacogenet Genomics. 2014 Feb;24(2):81-93)
6. The appropriate statistical method for assessing heterogeneity of treatment effects among levels of a baseline variable begins with a statistical test for interaction. (Wang R et al., Engl J Med 2007; 357:2189-2194)
7. Wide recognition of the limitations in preclinical cancer studies means that business as usual is no longer an option. (Begley C. et al. Nature 2012; 483:531–533)
8. Ongoing studies in metastatic colorectal cancer should evaluate not only statins but also combination therapies with prenyltransferase inhibitors. (Yeganeh B. et al. Pharmacol Ther. 2014 Jul;143(1):87-110)
9. Correlation doesn't imply causation, but it does waggle its eyebrows suggestively and gesture furtively while mouthing 'look over there'. (Randall Munroe, XKCD.com/552, 2009)
10. Travel, in the younger sort, is a part of education; in the elder, a part of experience. (Francis Bacon. Of Travel Essays, 1625)



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