PLATINUM RESISTANCE NEEDS THE MYTHBUSTERS

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Dear Editor,

We write regarding a recent publication in Toxicology Letters:- Regulation of gamma-H2AX and securin contribute to apoptosis by oxaliplatin via a p38 mitogen-activated protein kinase-dependent pathway in human colorectal cancer cells. Toxicology Letters 179 (2008) 63–70, by authors Chiu,S.J., Chao,J.I., Lee,Y.J. and Hsu,T.S.

The authors cited a recent publication of ours in Cancer Treatment Reviews (33(4)347-357), and have significantly misrepresented our findings. Our study is titled Oxaliplatin for the treatment of cisplatin-resistant cancer: A systematic review. The objective of our publication was to systematically review, platinum resistant cell lines and clinical trials using oxaliplatin to see if there is any evidence to support the commonly held belief that oxaliplatin is active in cisplatin-resistant cancer. The systematic review found that there is little evidence to support the use of oxaliplatin in cisplatin-resistant cancer and we conclude that the two drugs are actually cross-resistant at clinically relevant levels of resistance. The purpose of this publication was to hopefully stamp out the often unreferenced statement of oxaliplatin has activity in cisplatin resistant cancer that appears in almost all papers about oxaliplatin.

Chiu et al have used stated “Oxaliplatin has been widely accepted as potentially useful for the treatment of cisplatin-resistant cancer” and then referenced our paper, which concludes the exact opposite is true. If the authors wish to use this statement in the first paragraph of the paper, that is their right, but they should not use our paper as the reference. We are referenced again on page 5 of the article as support for the statement “Oxaliplatin has been reported to be useful for the treatment of cisplatin-resistant cancer” – again the opposite of what our paper concludes. It appears as though the authors did not read past the first line of the abstract; they clearly did not even read the conclusion.

It is this kind of misrepresentation that keeps myths about oxaliplatin’s activity in cisplatin resistance alive in the literature.

References

Chiu,S.J., Chao,J.I., Lee,Y.J. and Hsu,T.S. (2008). Regulation of gamma-H2AX and securin contribute to apoptosis by oxaliplatin via a p38 mitogen-activated protein kinase-dependent pathway in human colorectal cancer cells. Toxicology Letters. 179:63–70.

Stordal, B., Pavlakis, N. and Davey, R. (2007). Oxaliplatin for the treatment of cisplatin-resistant cancer: A systematic review. Cancer Treatment Reviews. 33(4)347-357.