

Table of Contents

Acknowledgement	i
Contributions	v
Abbreviations	vi
Figures	xi
Objectives	xiv

PART I

Chapter 1: Introduction to Precision Medicine in Epithelial Ovarian Cancer

1.1 Precision Medicine.....	2
1.2 Precision Oncology	5
1.3 Biomarkers in Precision Oncology	7

Chapter 2: Study Structure

2.1 Overview of the Work	11
2.1.1 Outline I	12
2.1.2 Outline II	14

Chapter 3: Contributory Publications

3.1 <i>TP53</i> hotspot mutations in ovarian cancer: selective resistance to microtubule stabilizers in vitro and differential survival outcomes from The Cancer Genome Atlas	15
3.1.1 Abstract	15
3.1.2 Introduction	16
3.1.3 Materials & Methods	17
3.1.3.1 Evaluation of R273, R248 and R175 HSMs from TCGA HGS EOC patients	17
3.1.3.2 Materials and cells	18
3.1.3.3 Preparation of cell lysates and immunoblot analysis	18
3.1.3.4 Cytotoxicity assays	18
3.1.3.5 Quantitative real-time PCR (RT-PCR)	19
3.1.4 Results.....	19
3.1.4.1 <i>TP53</i> HSMs were associated with significant differences in overall survival.....	19
3.1.4.2 EpoB induced p53 accumulation, phosphorylation and acetylation in A2780 cells	21
3.1.4.3 Mutant OCCs express high levels of p53 HSM proteins and have different chemosensitivities	22
3.1.4.4 p53-m248 was not activated when exposed to epoB, and activated p53-m273 did not induce p21	22
3.1.4.5 m248 cells had decreased epoB-induced apoptosis	23

3.1.4.6 EpoB-induced expression of p53 target genes P21, GADD45 and PAI-1 was reduced in HSM OCCs	23
3.1.5 Discussion	23
3.1.6 Acknowledgments.....	28
3.1.7 References.....	29
3.2 Survival of patients with structurally-grouped <i>TP53</i> mutations in ovarian and breast cancers	34
3.2.1 Abstract	34
3.2.2 Introduction.....	34
3.2.3 Results.....	36
3.2.3.1 Ovarian cancer patients with structurally grouped <i>TP53</i> mutations have different survival outcomes	36
3.2.4 Discussion	46
3.2.5 Materials & Methods	51
3.2.5.1 Data collection from The Cancer Genome Atlas	51
3.2.5.2 Creation of patient groups by structurally related <i>TP53</i> mutations.....	51
3.2.6 Acknowledgments.....	55
3.2.7 Funding.....	55
3.2.8 References.....	53
3.3 Discovery of candidate tumor biomarkers for treatment with intraperitoneal chemotherapy for ovarian cancer	58
3.3.1 Abstract	58
3.3.2 Introduction.....	58
3.3.3 Methods.....	60
3.3.3.1 Case selection and data collection.....	60
3.3.3.2 Survival analysis by chemotherapy exposure	61
3.3.3.3 Discovery and validation of differentially expressed genes	62
3.3.3.4 Survival differences between IP versus IV chemotherapy groups subdivided by gene expression	64
3.3.4 Results	66
3.3.4.1 Patient and chemotherapy information	66
3.3.4.2 Survival outcomes by chemotherapy route.....	66
3.3.4.3 Gene expression analysis by PFS stratification	67
3.3.4.4 Associations of gene expression with route-specific chemoresistance	68
3.3.4.5 Candidate biomarker discovery for patient selection for IP chemotherapy	69
3.3.5 Discussion	71
3.3.6 References.....	74
3.3.7 Acknowledgements.....	78
3.3.8 Author Contributions & Additional Information.....	78
3.4 Upregulated Wnt signaling is associated with increased survival of patients with high-grade serous ovarian cancer	79
3.4.1 Abstract	79
3.4.2 Introduction.....	80

3.4.3 Materials & Methods	81
3.4.4 Results.....	83
3.4.5 Discussion	84
3.4.6 Acknowledgement & References	85

Chapter 4: Discussion and Conclusion

4.1 Genomic Heterogeneity	87
4.2 Clinical Validation	89
4.3 Vetting Associations by Survival-determining Clinical Confounders	90
4.4 Conclusion	90
4.5 Perspective	97

PART II-ANNEX

Chapter 5: Overview of Epithelial Ovarian Cancer

5.1 Epidemiology	101
5.2 Histopathology & Biology.....	103
5.3 Carcinogenesis	111
5.4 Overview of Anatomy & Dissemination	113
5.4.1 Anatomy	113
5.4.2 Dissemination	115
5.5 Hereditary of Ovarian Cancer	120
5.5.1 BRCA-Associated Ovarian Cancer	124
5.6 Staging	128
5.7 Selected Mechanisms of Drug Resistance in Epithelial Ovarian Cancer	131

Chapter 6: Clinical Management of Epithelial Ovarian Cancer

6.1 Clinical Presentation of Advanced Epithelial Ovarian Cancer	134
6.2 Clinical Biomarkers in Epithelial Ovarian Cancer	134
6.3 Surgical Debulking	135
6.4 Introduction to chemotherapy EOC	143
6.5 Chemotherapy in High-grade Serous Ovarian Cancer	146
6.6 Standard versus Doses-dense Schedule	148
6.7 Neoadjuvant Chemotherapy.....	148
6.8 Intraperitoneal verses Intravenous Chemotherapy	156
6.9 HIPEC-Hyperthermic Intraperitoneal Chemotherapy	158
6.10 Timing of Initiation of Chemotherapy in Chemonaïve Ovarian Cancer Patients	159
6.11 FDA Approved Targeted Chemotherapy for Ovarian Cancer	160
6.11.1 Bevacizumab	160
6.11.2 PARP Inhibitors	162
6.12 Management of Relapse & Refractory Patients with Epithelial Ovarian Cancer	167

6.13 Immunotherapy in Epithelial Ovarian Cancer	170
6.14 Future Targets for Epithelial Ovarian Cancer Therapy	177
6.14.1 Therapeutic Targeting of p53 in EOC	180
6.15 Microtubule Stabilizing Agents Used in our Research.....	189
6.15.1 Tubulin Superfamily in EOC	190
6.15.2 Microtubule Stabilizing Agents Used in our Research	191
6.15.3 Paclitaxel	192
6.15.4 Docetaxel	193
6.15.5 Epothilones	194
6.15.6 Ixabepilone	195

Chapter 7: Bioinformatics & Biostatistics Methods

7.1 Overview of Methodology	195
7.2 Cancer Genome & Sequencing	197
7.2.1 The Human Genome Project (HGP)	197
7.2.2 The Cancer Genome Atlas (TCGA)	198
7.2.3 The Genomic Data Commons (GDC)	201
7.3 Bioinformatic Mutations in Cancer	202
7.4 Bioinformatic Tools for Gene Expression	203
7.5 Bioinformatics Analysis of Protein Expression	204
7.6 Bioinformatics Structural Analysis	204
7.7 Bioinformatics Databases and Interrelated Sources	205
7.8 Open Source Bioinformatics Software	208
7.9 Web Services in Bioinformatics	207
7.10 Bioinformatic Tools for Statistical Analysis & Statistical Approaches	208
7.10.1 Kaplan-Meier Time-to-Event Analysis (Survival Analysis)	210
7.10.2 Cox Proportional Hazards Ratio	210
Bibliography	212