Induction of Clusterin by AKT – Role in Cytoprotection Against Docetaxel in Prostate Tumor Cells:  
Sabakian E*, Sallman DA, Djeu JY  
The chemoresistance to docetaxel is mediated by clusterin, and it can be induced by AKT-mediated activation of Stat1. These results identify a previously unrecognized pathway linking AKT to cytoprotection by clusterin in tumor cells.

Src Family Kinases Regulate Nicotine Induced ID-1 Expression in Pancreatic Adenocarcinoma Cells:  
Trevino J*, Pillai S, Chellappan S  
This study demonstrates a correlation of Src family kinases and ID-1 that allows for a better understanding of signaling pathways involved in pancreatic tumor progression and may lead to the development of therapeutic targets.

Preoperative Ultrasound Is Not Useful for Identifying Nodal Metastasis in Melanoma Patients Undergoing Sentinel Lymph Node Biopsy:  
Chai C, Zager S, Marzban S, Rossi R, Szabunio M, Sondak V  
In this study, ultrasound (US) sensitivity and specificity improved with increasing Breslow depth but were still unacceptably low in patients with thick primary tumors. US may continue to play a useful role in patients who choose not to have sentinel lymph node biopsy (SLNB) or are medically high-risk due to comorbid conditions, but clinically directed preoperative use of US as a substitute for SLNB is not recommended due to low sensitivity and inaccuracy of clinical identification of draining nodal basins. Targeted preoperative US after lymphoscintigraphy localization may improve sensitivity and specificity, but the cost-effectiveness needs to be addressed.

Phase II Study of Lenalidomide in Combination With Rituximab for Patients With CD5+/CD20+ Hematologic Malignancies Who Relapse or Progress After Rituximab. Interim Analysis:  
The combination of lenalidomide with rituximab is a promising combination regimen in chronic lymphocytic leukemia patients with very poor prognosis who have undergone multiple lines of therapy. This treatment combination appears tolerable with observed events consistent with the use of these two agents in other studies. Further investigation is warranted, possibly in the frontline setting and in combination with other agents.

Type-Specific Incidence and Persistence of Anal Human Papillomavirus in Men After Six Months of Follow-Up: The HIM Study:  
Nyitray AG, Lin H-Y, Smith D, Abrahamsen M, Papenfuss M, Giuliano AR  
While anal HPV infection is commonly acquired by both men having sex with women (MSW) and men having sex with men (MSM), the six-month cumulative incidence is several-fold higher in MSM. Also, persistence of any HPV genotype was common in MSM and rare in MSW. We observed no HPV16 infections in MSW that were persistent for six months.

Chk1 Regulates Tumor Sensitivity to HDAC Inhibitors:  
Kreabling JM, Brazelle WD, Gemmer J, Reed D, Haura E, Aaltok S  
This study provides evidence that checkpoint kinase 1 (Chk1) plays a key role in histone deacetylase inhibitor (HDACi) -mediated cell death. The data showed that HDAC and Chk1 inhibitors interact synergistically to induce cell death in non–small cell lung cancer and sarcoma cell lines. These results provide the foundation for future clinical translation with HDAC and Chk1 inhibitors that are currently in clinical studies for anticancer therapy. Validation of Chk1 and its downstream effectors involved in G2/M checkpoint control as pharmacodynamic markers of HDACi efficacy could provide tools applicable to the enrichment of clinical trials and, hopefully, individualized tailoring of therapy.

*Top oral presentation winner.