

Predictive, Preventive and personalized Medicine & Molecular Diagnostics

October 05-06, 2017 Chicago, USA

Multi-faceted approaches to cancer biomarker identification and testing in the precision medicine era

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Recent advances in cancer treatment have centered on the development of targeted therapies that disrupt discrete intracellular cancer mechanisms and are essential in driving the underlying tumorigenic process. More recently, targeted cancer drugs have been developed against newly-discovered immune escape mechanisms in order to promote immune cell killing of tumor cells. While many of these therapies have significantly improved patient outcomes, rapid expansion of these therapies and the diversity of cancer targets pose many challenges for clinical evaluation and implementation. Of importance, it is the ability to identify new biomarkers that can accurately stratify patients to the most appropriate therapeutic drug and inform the development of effective combination therapy approaches. This is dependent on the ability to adopt new technologies, integrate various testing platforms, and utilize clinically-relevant patient sample cohorts in translational studies. This talk discusses the challenges and the approaches for diverse biomarker discovery as well as its clinical implementation in order to keep pace with rapidly evolving approaches to cancer treatment.

Biography

Darrell R Borger obtained his PhD from the University of South Carolina, School of Medicine and completed his Post-doctoral studies at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute where he also studied basic underlying cancer pathways. He currently serves as Director of the Biomarker Laboratory and Co-Director of the Immuno-Profiling Laboratory at the Massachusetts General Hospital where he serves a translational role through the pursuit of cancer biomarker discovery and clinical testing implementation.

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