The impact of PI3K inhibitors on breast cancer cell and its tumor microenvironment

Hanjiao Qin¹, Linlin Liu¹, Shu Sun², Dan Zhang³, Jiyao Sheng³, Bingjin Li⁴ and Wei Yang⁴

¹ Department of Radiotherapy, The Second Hospital of Jilin University, Changchun, Jilin, China
² Affiliated Hospital of Changchun University Of Traditional Chinese Medicine, Changchun, Jilin, China
³ Department of Hepatobiliary and Pancreatic Surgery, The Second Hospital of Jilin University, Changchun, Jilin, China
⁴ Jilin Provincial Key Laboratory on Molecular and Chemical Genetic, The Second Hospital of Jilin University, Changchun, Jilin, China

ABSTRACT
The phosphoinositide 3-kinase (PI3K) pathway shows frequent aberrant alterations and pathological activation in breast cancer cells. While PI3K inhibitors have not achieved expectant therapeutic efficacy in clinical trials, and several studies provide promising combination strategies to substantially maximize therapeutic outcomes. Besides its direct impact on regulating cancer cells survival, PI3K inhibitors are also demonstrated to have an immunomodulatory impact based on the tumor microenvironment. Inhibition of the leukocyte-enriched PI3K isoforms may break immune tolerance and restore cytotoxic T cell activity by reprogramming the tumor microenvironment. In addition, PI3K inhibitors have pleiotropic effects on tumor angiogenesis and even induce tumor vascular normalization. In this review, we discuss the mechanism of PI3K inhibitor suppression of breast cancer cells and modulation of the tumor microenvironment in order to provide further thoughts for breast cancer treatment.

INTRODUCTION
Breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer and the leading cause of cancer-related death among women worldwide (Polyak & Metzger Filho, 2012). Despite advances in prevention and in therapeutic measures over the last decades, more than 250,000 new cases of invasive breast cancer and 40,610 breast cancer deaths were estimated in the United States in 2017 (DeSantis et al., 2017). The pathogenesis of breast cancer is associated with pathologic activation of several key signaling pathways, especially the phosphoinositide 3-kinase (PI3K) pathway (Mayer & Arteaga, 2016; Paplomata & O'Regan, 2014; Yang, Polley & Lipkowitz, 2016).

Phosphoinositide 3-kinases are a family of lipid kinases that respond to nutrition, hormones and other environmental cues, and integrate extracellular stimuli into...
intracellular signals that regulate many biological functions, including cell proliferation, survival, differentiation, metabolism and migration (Thorpe, Yuzugullu & Zhao, 2015). PI3Ks are divided into three classes based on structural and enzyme-kinetic differences: class I, class II and class III. The class I PI3Ks, which comprise PI3Kα, PI3Kβ, PI3Kγ and PI3Kδ, are abnormally activated in breast cancer (Papamata & O’Regan, 2014; Yang, Polley & Lipkowitz, 2016). Studies have revealed frequent somatic mutations in genes in this pathway, including PIK3CA, PIK3R1, phosphatase and tensin homolog (PTEN) and AKT1, which result in increased PI3K activity or loss of the PTEN functionality (Mayer & Arteaga, 2016; Thorpe, Yuzugullu & Zhao, 2015). Increased activity of the PI3K pathway has been linked with breast cancer tumorigenesis, drug resistance and clinical outcome. Pharmacological efforts have been to target the PI3K pathway in breast cancer, and related experience has been gained from clinical trials.

Recent studies have also revealed the important roles of PI3K inhibition in the tumor microenvironment. The tumor microenvironment enables and supports neoplastic cells to acquire adaptive benefits from the surrounding environment, including the infiltrating tumor-associated immune cells, vasculature and fibroblasts (De Palma, Biziato & Petrova, 2017; Maley et al., 2017). Inhibition of PI3Kδ has not only shown significant therapeutic efficacy in leukemias, but also selectively blocks regulatory T cell-mediated immune tolerance to improve tumor immunotherapy in solid cancer (Ahmad et al., 2017; Ali et al., 2014). Furthermore, several reports showed that PI3Kγ in myeloid cells can reshape the tumor microenvironment between immune suppression and immune stimulation, and even overcome resistance to checkpoint blockade therapy in orthotopic breast cancer mouse models (De Henau et al., 2016; Kaneda et al., 2016b). Other studies have revealed an important role for PI3Kα in regulating tumor angiogenesis in the tumor microenvironment and emerging research has identified a relationship between the PI3K pathway and stromal fibroblasts (Kim et al., 2017; Soler et al., 2013; Trimboli et al., 2009).

Here, we first summarize the PI3K pathway alterations associated with the pathogenesis of breast cancer and the lessons about PI3K pathway inhibitors learned from clinical trials, with rational combination strategies in breast cancer treatment. We next discuss the indirect role of PI3K inhibition on modulating immune cells, angiogenesis and stromal fibroblasts in the tumor microenvironment to influence cancer progression and metastasis.

SURVEY METHODOLOGY
PubMed was mainly used to search for related articles published using the keyword “breast cancer” “PI3K” “pathway inhibitors” “tumor microenvironment” and “combination therapy”. Then, screened articles were used as references for this review. Additional keywords, such as “cancer,” and “immunotherapy” were also used.

PI3K PATHWAY SIGNALING AND GENETIC ALTERATIONS IN BREAST CANCER
In mammals, class I PI3Ks are divided into IA and IB based on different regulation modes. Class IA PI3Ks are activated by receptor tyrosine kinases (RTKs), while class IB are activated by G-protein coupled receptors. PI3Ks function as heterodimeric lipid kinases.
that consist of a regulatory subunit and a catalytic subunit. In class IA PI3Ks, the p110α, p110β and p110δ catalytic subunits are encoded by PIK3CA, PIK3CB and PIK3CD, respectively, and the p85α, p85β and p55γ regulatory subunits are encoded by PIK3R1, PIK3R2 and PIK3R3 (Thorpe, Yuzugullu & Zhao, 2015). Class IB PI3Ks are heterodimers of a p110γ catalytic subunit, encoded by PIK3CG, together with one of two related regulatory subunits: p101 encoded by PIK3CR5 or p87 encoded by PIK3R6. The p110α and p110β catalytic subunits are ubiquitously expressed in all cell types, whereas p110δ and p110γ expressions are restricted to leukocytes (Vanhaesebroeck et al., 2010).

Upon the presence of activating signals, class I PI3Ks are recruited to the cell membrane, and the catalytic subunit is liberated by the regulatory subunit to phosphorylate phosphatidylinositol 4,5-bisphosphate (PIP2), generating phosphatidylinositol 3,4,5-trisphosphate (PIP3) (Vanhaesebroeck et al., 2010) (Fig. 1). PIP3 acts as an important second messenger that coordinates AKT localization to the plasma membrane through specific lipid-binding domains; at the plasma membrane, AKT is then phosphorylated by phosphoinositide dependent kinase-1 (PDK1) (Zoncu, Efeyan & Sabatini, 2011). AKT functions as the central mediator in the PI3K pathway and activates the downstream signaling pathways, which have a critical influence on the cell cycle and protein synthesis (Yang, Polley & Lipkowitz, 2016). Mammalian target of rapamycin (mTOR) is a serine/threonine protein kinase that comprises structurally related, but functionally distinct multi-component kinase complexes, mTOR complex 1 (mTORC1) and mTOR complex 2 (mTORC2) (Zoncu, Efeyan & Sabatini, 2011). mTORC2 regulates AKT phosphorylation at serine 473 to fully activate AKT (Zoncu, Efeyan & Sabatini, 2011). Activated AKT phosphorylates and inhibits tuberous sclerosis complex 1 and 2 (TSC1/2), which ultimately accumulate and activate mTORC1. mTORC1 is a target of...
rapamycin and rapamycin analogs and affects cell growth and metabolism by activating 40S ribosomal protein S6 kinase (S6K) and eukaryotic initiation factor 4E binding protein (4EBP1) (Holz, 2012). PTEN negatively regulates the PI3K pathway by dephosphorylating PIP3 into PIP2 (Song, Salmena & Pandolfi, 2012). Inositol polyphosphate 4-phosphatase type II (INPP4B) also functions as a negative regulator by removing phosphatase from PIP3, which is increasingly identified in recent research (Woolley, Dzneladze & Salmena, 2015).

The PI3K pathway is the most frequently mutated in breast cancer through different mechanisms, including (i) increasing PI3K activity by mutation and/or amplification of PIK3CA, PIK3CB, or PIK3R1, (ii) overexpression of activating signals, such as human epidermal growth factor receptor 2 (HER2), epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR) or insulin-like growth factor 1 receptor signaling, (iii) overexpression of downstream effectors AKT1, AKT2, or PDK1, or (iv) loss of negative regulators such as PTEN and INPP4B (Miller et al., 2011). Constitutive activation of the PI3K pathway induces cellular transformation, and even tumor formation and progression. Among the various mutations of the PI3K pathway, mutation of PIK3CA and loss of the PTEN negative regulator are the most frequently occurring inactivating mechanisms of this pathway in breast cancer. PIK3CA, which encodes the p110α catalytic subunit, is the most common genetic alteration of the AKT pathway in breast cancer, and was first demonstrated as a highly oncogenic gene in 2004 (Liu et al., 2011; Samuels et al., 2004). PIK3CA mutations mostly occur at two hotspot clusters within the helical domain in exon 9 and the kinase domain in exon 20 (Samuels et al., 2004). The H1047R activating mutation in the kinase domain increases the retention of PI3K at the cell membrane, while E542K and E545K mutations in the helical domain enhance catalytic activity and facilitate interactions with substrates (Mayer & Arteaga, 2016). The PTEN tumor suppressor is significantly reduced in about 25% of breast cancer (She et al., 2016). Triple-negative breast cancer, characterized by lack of HER2 and hormone receptor expression, has a particularly poor prognosis, and this subtype is associated with a 30% rate of PTEN alteration (She et al., 2016). Growing evidence demonstrates a central role for PTEN in cancer stem cell homeostasis. Deletion of PTEN leads to expansion of leukemia-initiating cells and contributes to leukemia (Zhang et al., 2006). In addition, PTEN also has an important impact on the tumor microenvironment and regulates metabolic requirements (Song, Salmena & Pandolfi, 2012).

**INHIBITORS OF THE PI3K PATHWAY AND COMBINATION THERAPEUTIC STRATEGIES IN BREAST CANCER**

With the central role of the PI3K pathway in breast cancer, inhibiting excessive activation of this pathway is a promising anti-cancer treatment strategy. The selective mTORC1 inhibitor everolimus, the rapamycin analogues, is already United States FDA-approved for the treatment of hormone receptor-positive, HER2-negative breast cancer (Bauer, Patel & Infante, 2015). Enormous efforts have focused on the development of drugs targeting other molecules in the PI3K pathway, such as pan-PI3K inhibitors, isoform-specific PI3K inhibitors, AKT inhibitors, and dual PI3K/mTOR inhibitors, and several are already undergoing clinical trials (Fig. 1). Despite the established connection between the PI3K
pathway and the progression of breast cancer, PI3K inhibitors have not achieved expectant therapeutic efficacy in clinical trials (Rodon et al., 2013). Compared with drugs targeting other oncogenic kinases, PI3K inhibitors have shown only modest effectiveness on patients to date (Okkenhaug, Graupera & Vanhaesebroeck, 2016). Furthermore, breast cancer cells easily acquire resistance to these PI3K pathway inhibitors (Toska & Baselga, 2016). These observations may be because cancer cells escape from single-target agents by increasing the transcription of upstream RTKs (Chandrалapaty et al., 2011). Several clinical trials have found that treatment of breast cancer with PI3K inhibitors results in upregulated activity of the estrogen pathway (Miller, Balko & Arteaga, 2011). Other studies indicated that PI3K inhibition increased DNA damage and induced drug resistance in a genetically engineered mouse model of breast cancer (Juvekar et al., 2012). These data suggest that rational combination of PI3K inhibitors with other therapeutics may overcome resistance to maximize therapeutic outcomes (Table 1).

**PI3K and RTK Inhibitors**

Several studies have shown that inhibition of the PI3K pathway induces the expression and phosphorylation of multiple RTKs, such as HER2, via the forkhead box O-regulated transcriptional process in breast cancer cells (Chandrالapaty et al., 2011; Garrett et al., 2011; O’Reilly et al., 2006; Tao et al., 2014). Especially in HER2-positive breast cancer, the upregulation of HER3 was detected in response to PI3K inhibition (Chakrabarty et al., 2012; Chandralapaty et al., 2011; Garrett et al., 2011, 2013; Tao et al., 2014). HER3 is a kinase-defective member of the HER kinase family, and overexpressed HER2 can dimerize with HER3 to form HER2-HER3 heterodimers, which bind to and activate PI3K (Chandrelapaty et al., 2011). With sustained inhibition of mTOR, breast cancer cells can take advantage of upstream RTK feedback signaling to acquire resistance to drugs. Preclinical studies have shown that a combination of HER3-neutralizing antibody and a p110α-selective inhibitor markedly reduced the growth of breast cancer xenografts (Garrett et al., 2013). Another study showed the effectiveness of a combination of PI3K inhibitor and a dual EGFR and HER3 inhibitor to bypass this resistance mechanism (Tao et al., 2014). In addition, more evidence has indicated PIK3CA mutations mediating resistance to HER2 targeted agent in patients with HER2-positive solid cancer (Berns et al., 2007; Black et al., 2015; Rimawi et al., 2018). The wild-type breast cancer cell lines transfected with constitutively oncogenic PIK3CA mutations showed almost insensitive toward trastuzumab, suggesting the major role of PIK3CA in the development of resistance to trastuzumab (Berns et al., 2007). Importantly, it is demonstrated that PIK3CA mutations are associated with lower pathological complete response (pCR) rates to HER2 targeted therapy in primary HER2-positive breast cancer (Loibl et al., 2014, 2016; Majewski et al., 2015; Rimawi et al., 2018). In a pooled analysis of five prospective clinical trials evaluating lapatinib and trastuzumab, the pCR rate for PIK3CA mutation versus wild-type was 16.7% versus 39.1% (P < 0.001) (Loibl et al., 2016). Taken together, these studies suggest that simultaneous inhibition of PI3K and RTK is an effective therapeutic strategy to enhance drug efficacy.
# Table 1 Schematic representation of rational combination PI3K inhibitors with other therapeutics in breast cancer.

| Combination therapeutic strategies | Applied drugs | Type of study | Type of breast cancer | Reference |
|------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------------|-----------|
| **PI3K and RTK inhibitors**        | p110-selective inhibitor (BYL719) & HER3-neutralizing antibody (LJM716) | in vitro and in vivo | HER2-positive breast cancer | Garrett et al. (2013) |
|                                    | PI3K inhibitor (GDC-0941) & dual EGFR and HER3 inhibitor (MEHD7945A) | in vitro and in vivo | Triple-negative breast cancer | Tao et al. (2014) |
|                                    | AKT inhibitor (MK-2206) & HER2 inhibitor (trastuzumab) | Phase I trial | HER2-positive breast cancer | Hudis et al. (2013) |
|                                    | PI3K inhibitor (BKM120/buparlisib) & HER2 inhibitor (trastuzumab) | Phase IB trial | HER2-positive advanced or metastatic breast cancer | Saura et al. (2014) |
|                                    | PI3K inhibitor (buparlisib) & HER2 inhibitor (lapatinib) | Phase IB trial | HER2-positive advanced breast cancer | Guerin et al. (2017) |
|                                    | PI3K inhibitor (BKM120/buparlisib) & HER2 inhibitor (trastuzumab) | Phase II trial | HER2-positive locally advanced or metastatic breast cancer | Pistilli et al. (2018) |
| **PI3K inhibitors and endocrine therapy** | PI3K inhibitor (pictilisib) & ER antagonist (fulvestrant) | Randomized double-blind phase II trial | ER-positive, HER2-negative metastatic breast cancer | Krop et al. (2016) |
|                                    | PI3K inhibitor (pictilisib) & aromatase inhibitor (anastrozole) | Phase II randomized preoperative window-of-opportunity study | ER-positive breast cancer | Schmid et al. (2016) |
|                                    | PI3K inhibitor (buparlisib) & ER antagonist (fulvestrant) | Randomized double-blind placebo-controlled phase III trial | ER-positive HER2-negative advanced breast cancer | Baselga et al. (2017) |
|                                    | PI3K inhibitor (buparlisib) & ER antagonist (fulvestrant) | Randomized double-blind placebo-controlled phase III trial | ER-positive HER2-negative advanced breast cancer progressing on or after mTOR inhibition | Di Leo et al. (2018) |
|                                    | p110-selective inhibitor & ER antagonist (fulvestrant) | Phase III trial | HR-positive or OR-positive HER2-negative advanced breast cancer progressing on or after mTOR aromatase inhibitor | ongoing trial |
| **PI3K and PARR inhibitors**       | PI3K inhibitor (NVP-BKM120) & PARP inhibitor (Olaparib) | in vivo | BRCA1-related breast cancer | Juevera et al. (2012) |
|                                    | PI3K inhibitor (BKM120) & PARP inhibitor (Olaparib) | in vitro and in vivo | BRCA-proficient triple-negative breast cancer | Ibrahim et al. (2012) |
|                                    | Dual PI3K and mTOR inhibitor (GDC-0980) & PARP inhibitor (ABT888) | in vitro and in vivo | Tripe negative breast cancer | De et al. (2014) |
|                                    | PI3K inhibitor (BKM120) & PARP inhibitor (Olaparib) | Phase I trial | High-grade breast cancer | Matulonis et al. (2017) |
| **PI3K inhibitors and immune checkpoint targeting agents** | PI3K-inhibiting supramolecule & anti-PD-1 antibody | in vivo | 4T1 breast cancer | Kalkarni et al. (2016) |
|                                    | PI3K inhibitor (TG100-115) & anti-PD-1 antibody (clone RPM1-14) / anti-CTLA4 antibody (clone 9H10) | in vivo | 4T1 breast cancer | De Henau et al. (2016) |
|                                    | PI3K inhibitor (BKM120) & anti-PD-1 antibody | in vivo | 4T1/PyMT breast cancer patient-derived triple negative breast cancer | Sai et al. (2017) |

**Notes:**
PI3K, phosphatidylinositol 3-kinase; RTK, receptor tyrosine kinase; HER3, epidermal growth factor receptor 3; EGFR, epidermal growth factor receptor; ER, estrogen receptor; PARP, poly-ADP-ribosylation; mTOR, Mammalian target of rapamycin; HER2, epidermal growth factor receptor 2.
A phase I trial was conducted to evaluate the safety of combination AKT inhibitor MK-2206 with trastuzumab, results indicating its safety and clinical activity (Hudis et al., 2013). The other two phase IB studies aimed to determine tolerability and maximum tolerated dose for buparlisib in combination with HER2 targeted drugs in HER2-positive, trastuzumab-resistant, advanced breast cancer (Guerin et al., 2017; Saura et al., 2014). In this patient population, the combination was well tolerated and preliminary evidence of antitumor activity were observed. Based on the recommended phase II dose of buparlisib as 100 mg/day in combination with 2 mg/kg weekly trastuzumab from phase IB, 50 patients with HER2+ locally advanced breast cancer resistant to trastuzumab-based treatment were treated with this therapeutic regimen (Pistilli et al., 2018). The overall response rate was only 10% and the primary endpoint was not met, demonstrating limited efficacy in this phase II study. Therefore, more evidence needs to be gained from ongoing clinical trials.

PI3K inhibitors and endocrine therapy

The crosstalk between PI3K activity and estrogen receptor (ER) signaling has been identified, as the PI3K pathway regulates the ER pathway both directly and indirectly (Miller, Balko & Arteaga, 2011). AKT phosphorylates ER at Ser167 to increase estrogen-induced ER transcriptional activity, and PI3K indirectly activates ER transcription by means of c-Jun complexes interacting with c-Foc to form AP-1 complexes (Bosch et al., 2015; Petz et al., 2002). In addition, emerging evidence has shown that estrogen signaling also has an impact on the PI3K pathway, as estrogen stimulation activates intracellular kinase pathways, including PI3K, IGF-1R, and EGFR (Miller et al., 2009; Song et al., 2006). Preclinical research indicated that suppression of PI3K signaling in an ER/PIK3CAmut model induced activation of ER-dependent transcription, including the ER promoter and genes with ER-binding sites in the coding sequence (Bosch et al., 2015). Interestingly, another study showed that reduced PTEN levels led to endocrine resistance in ER-positive breast cancer, which can be overcome by combination endocrine therapy with a PI3K inhibitor (Fu et al., 2014). Therefore, combined inhibition of PI3K and ER may be an effective strategy for breast cancer, and several clinical trials are undergoing.

A randomized double-blind phase II trial in ER-positive, HER2-negative metastatic breast cancer that had been resistant to treatment with aromatase inhibitor indicated that therapy efficiency did not benefit from the addition of the pan-class I PI3K inhibitor pictilisib (Genentech; GDC-0941) to fulvestrant (an ER antagonist) (Krop et al., 2016). The reason underlying the lack of significantly improved progression-free survival was because of toxicity limitations with pictilisib. Another phase II randomized preoperative window-of-opportunity study in postmenopausal women with newly diagnosed, operable ER-positive breast cancer showed that adding pictilisib to anastrozole (an aromatase inhibitor) significantly enhanced suppression of breast cancer cell proliferation compared with anastrozole alone (Ki 67 staining; 83.8% vs. 66.0%) (Schmid et al., 2016). Further, the sensitivity to pictilisib was independent of PIK3CA mutations and the combination treatment showed a remarkable anti-proliferation effect in luminal B primary breast cancer (Ki 67 staining; 37%). In addition, a randomized double-blind placebo-controlled
phase III trial in postmenopausal, HR-positive, HER2-negative, advanced breast cancer was performed to assess buparlisib plus fulvestrant (Baselga et al., 2017). The results of this BELLE-2 trial indicated that pan-PI3K inhibitor with endocrine therapy was clinically meaningful benefit in the total patient population (median progression-free survival: 6.9 months vs. 5.0 months), while serious adverse were reported as high as 23% in the buparlisib group compared with 16% in the placebo group. In consideration of PI3K inhibitor down-regulating the phosphorylation of AKT following mTOR inhibition, the phase III, randomized, placebo-controlled BELLE-3 trial was designed to test buparlisib combination with fulvestrant in patients who relapsed on or after endocrine therapy and mTOR inhibitors (Di Leo et al., 2018). However, the safety profile of the therapeutic regimen was not recommended to further development. Interestingly, preclinical studies have suggested that oncogenic PIK3CA driven the development of breast cancer (Liu et al., 2011; Utermark et al., 2012), and the PI3Kα-selective inhibitors shown more effective and more tolerable toxicity profile in clinical trials (Juric et al., 2018; Mayer et al., 2017). Phase III trials investigating α-selective PI3K inhibitors combined with ER antagonist in the endocrine resistant setting are currently ongoing, including SOLAR-1 and SANDPIPER.

**PI3K and poly-ADP-ribose polymerase inhibitors**

Two studies provided the first evidence that a PI3K inhibitor induces impairment of DNA homologous recombination in BRCA-proficient triple-negative breast cancer, with an increase in poly-ADP-ribosylation and downregulation of BRCA1/2 (Condorelli & Andre, 2017; Ibrahim et al., 2012; Juvekar et al., 2012; Rehman, Lord & Ashworth, 2012). The authors also showed that adding the poly-ADP-ribose polymerase (PARP) inhibitor olaparib to PI3K inhibitors markedly attenuated tumor activity in triple negative breast cancer with wild-type BRCA1. Pradip et al., conducted a study using BRCA-competent breast cancer-bearing mouse models and showed that GDC-0980 (a dual PI3K-mTOR inhibitor) enhanced the antitumor effects of the PARP inhibitor ABT888 plus carboplatin by inhibition of tumor cell proliferation and tumor-induced angiogenesis; however, combination with GDC-0941, a pan-PI3K inhibitor, failed to suppress tumor growth in MDA-MB231 breast cancer cells (De et al., 2014). These results indicate that co-administration of PI3K inhibitor and PARP inhibitor may a rational therapeutic strategy.

Based on these preclinical studies in animal models, a phase I clinical trial was performed on the combination of the PI3K inhibitor BKM120 and the PARP inhibitor olaparib to test side effects and the maximum tolerated dose (Matulonis et al., 2017). Clinical benefit of the combination treatment was observed in patients with germline BRCA mutation or germline wild-type BRCA, but the dose of BKM120 is limited by the co-administered drugs because of its toxicity. With further clinical study of PI3K inhibitors, other PI3K inhibitors might be more suitable for combination therapy. Randomized phase II studies will be conducted to further confirm the efficacy of the PI3K/PARP inhibitor combination.

**Combination therapy in breast cancer: further evidence to explore**

Preclinical and clinical studies have provided several potential combination PI3K inhibitors and other therapeutics, but more evidence is needed to clarify additional
questions. Whether targeted kinase inhibitors are dependent on the PI3K molecular alteration should be examined. Interestingly, several studies revealed a key effect of oncogenic PIK3CA on mammary cell fate, which activates a multipotent genetic program at the early stage of tumor initiation and controls tumor heterogeneity (Koren et al., 2015; Van Keymeulen et al., 2015). Whether inhibition of PI3K has an impact on blocking PIK3CA-induced initiation of malignancy still needs to be verified by more research. Additional studies should also focus on identifying the patients who benefit from the combination treatment.

**INDIRECT ROLE OF PI3K PATHWAY INHIBITION IN BREAST CANCER BASED ON THE TUMOR MICROENVIRONMENT**

The driving force of tumor initiation is the induction of mutations in cancer cells by genome instability (Hanahan & Coussens, 2012). Yet these neoplastic cells cannot complete the transforming process alone (Hanahan & Coussens, 2012), so they recruit bone marrow-derived stromal stem cells and progenitor cells to form the tumor-associated stroma in solid cancers, which is increasingly known as the tumor microenvironment (Hanahan & Weinberg, 2011). The recruited immune cells that have been remodeled by cancer cells progressively create a succession of changes to support multistep transformation into malignancy (McAllister & Weinberg, 2014). With the accepted importance of tumor microenvironment, it is considered to represent a promising therapeutic direction (Ivey et al., 2016). There are several potential therapeutic targets in the tumor microenvironment, such as tumor-promoting inflammatory cells, cancer-associated fibroblasts, and vascular endothelial cells (Hanahan & Coussens, 2012; Ivey et al., 2016). While the direct effects of PI3K inhibition on breast cancer cells are significant, overwhelming research suggests that PI3K inhibition indirectly affects breast cancer cell by targeting the tumor microenvironment (Ali et al., 2014; Peng et al., 2016a; Sai et al., 2017). The expressions of PI3Kδ and PI3Kγ are restricted to leukocytes (Vanhaesebroeck et al., 2010), and recent animal experiments indicated that pharmacological inhibition or genetic ablation of PI3Kδ and PI3Kγ may modulate the immune response to enhance antitumor efficacy in breast cancer (Ali et al., 2014; De Henau et al., 2016). Further, PI3K inhibition directly interferes with tumor-associated angiogenesis by endothelial cells or by indirect inhibition of angiogenesis-promoting myeloid cells (Rivera et al., 2015; Soler et al., 2016). We next focus on how PI3K inhibitors impact the tumor microenvironment in breast cancer (Table 2).

**Impact of PI3K inhibitors on stromal fibroblasts**

The interactions of stromal cells and epithelial cells play a pivotal role in normal mammary development, including in regulating epithelial cell polarity and determining mammary duct formation, and the dysfunction of this interaction results in mammary epithelial cell proliferation and even malignant transformation (Mao et al., 2013; Place, Jin Huh & Polyak, 2011). Fibroblasts, the abundant and critical cell type in the normal mammary stroma, serve as the basic cellular component of connective tissue and maintain the extracellular environment by secreting and remodeling the extracellular matrix (ECM)
Cancer-associated fibroblasts, with higher proliferative and other cellular activities, produce increasing levels of various growth factors, cytokines, and ECM-degrading proteases, and substantial data support a role for these cancer-associated fibroblasts in breast cancer progression (Aboussekhra, 2011; Orimo et al., 2005; Tyan et al., 2011). Orimo and colleagues showed that cancer-associated fibroblasts extracted from human breast cancer significantly promote the growth of breast cancer cells and increase angiogenesis by recruiting endothelial progenitor cells (Orimo et al., 2005).

Table 2  Schematic representation of PI3K isoform-specific roles in breast cancer based on the tumor microenvironment.

| TME                              | PI3K isoform-specific inhibitor or PI3K negative regulator | Modulate TME component | Effects on breast cancer                                                                                     | Reference                |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Stromal fibroblasts              | PTEN                                                   | Fibroblasts            | Suppress mammary epithelial tumors; remodel the extracellular matrix, the innate immune cell infiltration and angiogenesis. | Trimboli et al. (2009)  |
|                                  | PTEN                                                   | Fibroblasts            | Suppress mammary epithelial tumors; control the interactions between tumor and stromal.                    | Wallace et al. (2011)    |
|                                  | PTEN                                                   | Fibroblasts            | Inhibit expansion of mammary epithelial stem cells; regulate mammary ductal elongation and alveolar side-branching. | Sizemore et al. (2017)   |
| Tumor angiogenesis               | PI3Κγ inhibitor                                        | MDSCs, TAMs            | Suppress tumor angiogenesis by alter the inflammatory environment.                                        | Schmid et al. (2011)     |
|                                  | PI3Κ inhibitor                                         | MDSCs                  | Generate an enduring angiostatic and Immune-stimulatory environment in which anti-angiogenic therapy remained efficient. | Rivera et al. (2015)     |
| Tumor-infiltrating immune cells  | PI3Κδ inhibitor                                        | Tregs, MDSCs           | Reduce primary tumor mass and metastasis, with longer survival time; break tumor-induced immune tolerance. | Ali et al. (2014)        |
|                                  | PI3Κγ inhibitor                                        | MDSCs, TAMs            | Strongly inhibit spontaneous breast carcinoma; strongly reduce myeloid cell and macrophage recruitment. | Schmid et al. (2011)     |
|                                  | PI3Κγ inhibitor                                        | TAMs                   | Promote breast cancer regression and extend survival promoting and immunostimulatory transcriptional program. | Kaneda et al. (2016b)    |
|                                  | PI3Κγ inhibitor                                        | MDSCs                  | Overcome resistance to immune checkpoint blockade therapy in breast cancer.                               | De Henau et al. (2016)   |
|                                  | PI3Κγ inhibitor                                        | Immune cells           | Reduce primary tumor growth, enhance anti-tumor immunity, and heighten susceptibility to immune checkpoint inhibitors. | Sai et al. (2017)        |

Notes: TME, tumor microenvironment; PI3K, phosphatidylinositol 3-kinase; PTEN, phosphatase and tensin homolog; TAM, tumor-associated macrophage; MDSC, myeloid-derived suppressor cell; Treg, regulatory T lymphocyte.

(Mao et al., 2013; Soysal, Tzankov & Muenst, 2015). Cancer-associated fibroblasts, with higher proliferative and other cellular activities, produce increasing levels of various growth factors, cytokines, and ECM-degrading proteases, and substantial data support a role for these cancer-associated fibroblasts in breast cancer progression (Aboussekhra, 2011; Orimo et al., 2005; Tyan et al., 2011). Orimo and colleagues showed that cancer-associated fibroblasts extracted from human breast cancer significantly promote the growth of breast cancer cells and increase angiogenesis by recruiting endothelial progenitor cells (Orimo et al., 2005).

Phosphatase and tensin homolog, as a negative regulator of PI3K, has been extensively demonstrated to function in the stromal fibroblasts to suppress mammary epithelial tumors (Trimboli et al., 2009; Wallace et al., 2011). Genetic ablation of PTEN in stromal fibroblasts of mouse mammary glands have been shown to remodel the ECM by increasing the level of the transcription factor Ets2, which directly targets the promoters of MMP9 and CCL3 (Trimboli et al., 2009). As a result, the PTEN stromal-deleted breast cancers exhibit high levels of innate immune cell infiltration and tumor vascular structures (Trimboli et al., 2009). Another recent study further indicated that fibroblast-specific PTEN inactivation results in failure of elongation of mammary ducts and promotes abnormal alveolar side-branching (Sizemore et al., 2017). Importantly, the
PTEN-null mice showed an expansion of the mammary epithelial stem cell-enriched basal/myoepithelial population and well-defined activity of the stem cells tested in vitro (Sizemore et al., 2017). In a pancreatic cancer mouse model, the inhibition of PI3Kγ was demonstrated to reduce cancer-associated fibroblast-induced collagen production by regulation of tumor associated macrophages (Kaneda et al., 2016a).

**Pleiotropic impact of PI3K inhibitors on tumor angiogenesis**

Tumor vessel formation is critical for persistently supplying nutrients and oxygen for high proliferating cancer cells, and indeed, aberrant tumor vessel structure and function are hallmarks of cancer (Hanahan & Weinberg, 2011). Microvascular density is an independent prognostic indicator in invasive breast cancer (Arora et al., 2002; Nieto et al., 2007; Tsutsui, Kume & Era, 2003), and high microvascular density in breast cancer is associated with tumor invasiveness and metastasis (Ribatti et al., 2016). A variety of tumor microenvironment cells are involved in the formation of tumor-associated neovasculature. Endothelial cells respond to tumor overexpressed angiogenic signals and are activated to form the inner surface of tubular vessel (Potente, Gerhardt & Carmeliet, 2011), and the infiltrating immune cells are recruited to promote tumor angiogenesis by releasing angiogenic factors (Hanahan & Coussens, 2012). Remarkably, PI3K isoforms each function in these cell types, such as PI3Kα in endothelial cells (Soler et al., 2013), PI3Kγ/PI3Kδ in immune cells and PI3Kβ in platelets (Martin et al., 2010; Rivera et al., 2015). It is therefore likely that PI3K inhibition has pleiotropic effects on angiogenesis by different mechanisms.

**PI3Kα in endothelial cells: the direct vascular impact**

A majority of preclinical studies indicate that PI3Kα activity in endothelial cells is essential for vascular development, and the inactivation of the endothelial cell-specific p110α contributes to embryonic lethality due to severe vascular defects (Graupera et al., 2008; Gupta et al., 2007; Lelievre et al., 2005; Soler, Angulo-Urarte & Graupera, 2015). In mice models and human diseases, PIK3CA mutation causes malformations and dysfunction of lymphatic vessels (Boscolo et al., 2015; Gupta et al., 2007; Stanczuk et al., 2015) and venous vessels (Castel et al., 2016; Castillo et al., 2016; Limaye et al., 2015). PI3Kα-selective inhibitors in stromal cells lead to increased vessel density, reduced vascular volume, and altered pericyte coverage, which is summarized as the nonfunctional angiogenesis causing suppression of cancer growth (Soler et al., 2013). In addition, tumor-bearing murine models have shown that inhibition of p110α results in stunted tumor angiogenesis, which may be explained by the interaction between Ras and PI3Kα regulating vascular endothelial growth family signaling as well as the growth-permissive tumor microenvironment (Murillo et al., 2014; Soler et al., 2016).

**Vascular effect of non-PI3Kα isoforms on cancer**

PI3Kγ was demonstrated to play an important role in endothelial progenitor cell functions and neovascularization as early as 2008 (Madeddu et al., 2008). Another study showed that myeloid cell-specific PI3Kγ is required for tumor angiogenesis as well as metastasis by altering the inflammatory environment, with a significant change of VEGFA expression in
orthotropic breast cancer mice models (Schmid et al., 2011). Further studies in a mouse model genetically deleted for p110γ or with selective pharmacological inhibition of macrophage-dominant p110γ showed reduced levels of HIF protein and its associated transcriptional target VEGF (Joshi et al., 2014). PI3K isoforms in myeloid cells, both p110γ and p110δ, promote immune suppression and tumor neovascularization during antiangiogenic therapy, and inhibiting PI3K in these cells may improve the effectiveness of antiangiogenic therapy in PyMT mammary cancer models (Rivera et al., 2015). Furthermore, numerous studies have shown that the p110β isoform of PI3K in platelets controls platelet recruitment and activation (Consonni et al., 2012; Martin et al., 2010). In addition to participating in angiogenesis, platelets have a regulatory effect on the vascular remodeling of tortuous vasculature during tumor growth and metastasis (Andrade et al., 2017; Gay & Felding-Habermann, 2011; Yan et al., 2014). A recent study also showed that PI3Kβ-silenced breast cancer cells have reduced lung metastasis by regulating extravasation, which may be associated with disrupting macrophage-induced tumor cell invasion (Khalil et al., 2016).

**PI3K inhibitors induce tumor vascular normalization**

In addition to examining different PI3K isoforms associated with tumor angiogenesis, other research has also focused on the role of PI3K inhibition in altering vascular function (Okkenhaug, Graupera & Vanhaesebroeck, 2016; Soler, Angulo-Urarte & Graupera, 2015). Remarkably, using low doses of PI3K inhibitors may regulate tortuous and immature tumor vessels into the regularity of endothelial cell structure, pericyte coverage and tight junctions, and the persistent modulation of vasculature improves tumor hypoxia and vascular perfusion, with reduced metastatic nodules in distant organs (Fokas et al., 2012; Kim et al., 2017; Qayum et al., 2012; Qayum et al., 2009). Surprisingly, the so-called vascular normalization also enhances delivery of chemotherapy and responsiveness to radiotherapy, suggesting PI3K inhibitors as enhancers in cancer treatment (Fokas et al., 2012; Kim et al., 2017; Qayum et al., 2012). Taken together, these results highlight the importance of PI3K inhibitor-induced tumor vascular alterations and the need to validate practical benefits in clinical trials.

**Impact of PI3K inhibitors on tumor-infiltrating immune cells**

Tumor-infiltrating immune cells constitute a major cell population of the breast cancer microenvironment and are reprogrammed by breast cancer cells to support tumor onset and progression by suppressing the antitumor immune response (Jezierska-Drutel, Rosenzweig & Neumann, 2013; Place, Jin Huh & Polyak, 2013; Soysal, Tzankov & Muenst, 2015). Immunosuppression regulatory T cells (Tregs) are involved in immune tolerance to turn into more aggressive and higher grade breast cancer (Bohling & Allison, 2008; Ohara et al., 2009; Plitas et al., 2016), while CD8+ T lymphocytes infiltrating in invasive breast cancer have been considered as a good predictive and prognostic marker (Al-Saleh et al., 2017; Mahmoud et al., 2012). Myeloid-derived suppressor cells play a crucial role in breast cancer malignant individualities and are recruited by tumor cells to produce and secrete pro-tumor cytokines (Chen, Zhang & Massague, 2013; Peng et al., 2016b; Shou et al., 2016).
Further, the immunosuppressive effect of these cells is associated with weakening effectiveness of immunotherapy and even resistance to checkpoint blockade therapy in breast cancer (De Henau et al., 2016; Shou et al., 2016). Surprisingly, more and more evidence has suggested that PI3K isoforms in leukocytes have an effect on innate and adaptive immune responses, such as PI3Kδ in regulatory T cells and PI3Kγ in myeloid cells (Ahmad et al., 2017; Ali et al., 2014; De Henau et al., 2016). Given the significance of the immune reaction in breast cancer, we focus on the the immunomodulatory impact of PI3K inhibition on tumor regression and the promising benefit to enhance immunotherapy.

**PI3Kδ inhibition in regulatory T cells: unleash the anti-tumor immune response**

Regulatory T cells as immunosuppressive cells play a role in pro-tumor reactivity in breast cancer (Bailur et al., 2015; Li et al., 2017). The ability of PI3Kδ inhibitors to interfere with Tregs in hematological malignancies is well established, and a preclinical study indicated that genetic deletion or selective pharmacological inactivation of p110δ has a significant effect in solid cancers by dampening the function of Tregs (Ali et al., 2014). Compared with wild-type mice, PI3Kδ kinase-inhibition mice are more resistant to B16 melanoma, with a significantly decreased tumor incidence and almost absent for lymph node metastasis; similar observations were seen in these mice with 4T1 breast cancer, which showed an even longer survival time (Ali et al., 2014). P110δ inhibition in Tregs has been responsible for the immunomodulatory mechanism by unleashing CD8+ cytotoxic T cells to induce tumor regression (Ali et al., 2014; Patton et al., 2006). PI3Kδ-deletion Tregs also have reduced levels of CD38 expression, which fails to upregulate suppression activity-related surface protein (Patton et al., 2011). In addition, recent research indicated that PI3Kδ inhibition may delay CD8+ T cell terminal differentiation but maintain the memory phenotype to improve proliferation ability and cytokine production; this was confirmed in B16 melanoma mouse xenograft models showing PI3Kδ inhibition improved anti-tumor therapeutic efficiency and prolonged survival (Abu Eid et al., 2017).

The exact impact of PI3Kδ in CD8+ T cells is not clear. Some studies indicate that PI3Kδ controls the magnitude of the effector T cell response during infections (Gracias et al., 2016; Jarmin et al., 2008; Pearce et al., 2015; Putz et al., 2012; Soond et al., 2010). The intact formation of long-term memory T cell activity is preserved independently of p110δ (Pearce et al., 2015), which may be a plausible reason why PI3Kδ kinase-ablation suppressed tumor progression by CD8+ cytotoxic T cells (Abu Eid et al., 2017; Ali et al., 2014). An effective immune response requires the recruitment of T lymphocytes from the bloodstream to the targeted location, and one study showed that PI3Kδ activity in T lymphocytes is necessary for efficient T cell receptor-induced migration and localization (Jarmin et al., 2008). However, the authors also showed that p110δ is not required for antigen-independent T cell transendothelial migration and chemotaxis, with constitutive T cell trafficking not affected by p110δ activity (Jarmin et al., 2008).

**PI3Kγ inhibition in myeloid cells: switch to immune stimulation**

Many studies have demonstrated the relationship between inflammation and cancer (Hanna et al., 2017; Tobias et al., 2017), and PI3Kγ is highly expressed in immune cells of
myeloid origin. PI3Kγ-deficient mice treated with dextran sulfate sodium are resistant to colitis-associated cancer with defective activation and infiltration of macrophages and neutrophils, suggesting the significant role of PI3Kγ in regulating the innate immune response (Gonzalez-Garcia et al., 2010). Genetic or pharmacological blockade of p110γ in mice implanted with tumor cells have substantially suppressed tumor inflammation by decreasing myeloid cell invasion into tumors, which significantly prevents tumor growth, angiogenesis and metastasis (Foubert, Kaneda & Varner, 2017; Sai et al., 2017; Schmid et al., 2011; Schmid et al., 2013). Further, the inhibition of PI3K p110γ blocks spontaneous breast cancer progression by reducing myeloid cell trafficking without directly altering tumor cells (Schmid et al., 2011). The mechanism of PI3Kγ controlling myeloid cell recruitment to tumors is dependent on Rap1 α-mediated activating the single integrin α4β1 (Foubert, Kaneda & Varner, 2017; Schmid et al., 2011, 2013). Plastic macrophages in neoplasm are reshaped by the tumor microenvironment to display the immunosuppressive phenotype, which produces anti-inflammatory cytokines to inhibit cytotoxic T cells (Lewis, Harney & Pollard, 2016; Qian & Pollard, 2010). Unexpectedly, macrophage PI3Kγ controls a critical switch between immune suppression and stimulation during inflammation and cancer, which induces a transcriptional program by inhibiting NFκB activation but stimulating C/EBPβ activation (Kaneda et al., 2016b). In contrast, selective blockade of PI3Kγ polarizes tumor-associated macrophages to restore CD8+ T cell-mediated cytotoxic activity, thus promoting tumor regression and extending survival time in various mouse cancer models (De Henau et al., 2016; Foubert, Kaneda & Varner, 2017; Kaneda et al., 2016a, 2016b). In addition to the role of PI3Kγ in regulating myeloid cells, the p110δ isoform also has an impact on myeloid-derived suppressor cells and is associated with cancer progression and antitumor effects in 4T1 breast tumor-bearing mouse models (Ali et al., 2014).

**PI3K inhibition in immune cells: enhance cancer immunotherapy**

Tumor-induced immune suppression poses an obstacle to efficacious anti-tumor immunotherapy, especially immune checkpoint blockade therapy. As previous research has shown, the immunomodulatory impact of PI3K inhibition on immune cells of the tumor microenvironment has the potential to enhance immunotherapy. PI3Kγ inhibition in myeloid cells facilitated susceptibility to anti-PD1 responses in triple negative breast cancer animal models (Sai et al., 2017), and even overcame resistance to immune checkpoint inhibitors (De Henau et al., 2016; Kaneda et al., 2016b). Similarly, a PI3Kδ-specific inhibitor increased numbers of tumor vaccine-induced CD8+ T cells and promoted antitumor efficiency by reducing Treg function (Ahmad et al., 2017). The likely mechanism involves PI3K inhibition targeting immune suppressor cells to reeducate the tumor immune microenvironment and restore cytotoxic T cell activity (Ahmad et al., 2017; De Henau et al., 2016; Kaneda et al., 2016b; Sai et al., 2017). In addition, preclinical and clinical studies show that loss of PTEN resulted in inhibition of T-cell infiltration into tumors and T cell-induced tumor killing, eventually promoting resistance to T cell-mediated immunotherapy in melanoma (Peng et al., 2016a). This suggests that treatment with a selective PI3K inhibitor is a strategy to increase efficacy of immunotherapy.
CONCLUSIONS

In this review, we focused on the impact of the PI3K family on breast cancer initiation and progression, including direct and indirect effects on cancer cells based on the tumor microenvironment. PI3K inhibition in breast cancer cells, as a therapeutic target, has shown relatively moderate effectiveness as a monotherapy in clinical trials. Several combinations of PI3K inhibitors with other targeted drugs significantly maximized therapeutic outcomes, and several clinical trials are undergoing to confirm these strategies. With the established importance of the tumor microenvironment in solid cancer, emerging evidence highlights the potential of PI3K isoforms in regulating constituents of the tumor microenvironment, such as tumor-promoting immune cells, cancer-associated fibroblasts, and vascular endothelial cells. In addition to the direct impact of PI3K inhibition on breast cancer cell, inhibition of PI3K isoforms may restore the anti-tumor immune response and improve responsiveness to checkpoint blockade treatment, which may be a promising immunotherapy target for breast cancers. These therapeutic concepts should be pursued with clinical studies to confirm these findings.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND DECLARATIONS

Funding
This work was supported by grants from Jilin Science and Technology Agency funding (20180414050GH). The funders had no role in study design, data collection and analysis, decision to publish, or preparation of the manuscript.

Grant Disclosures
The following grant information was disclosed by the authors:
Jilin Science and Technology Agency: 20180414050GH.

Competing Interests
Bingjin Li is an Academic Editor for PeerJ.

Author Contributions
- Hanjiao Qin conceived and designed the experiments, performed the experiments, approved the final draft.
- Linlin Liu authored or reviewed drafts of the paper, approved the final draft.
- Shu Sun prepared figures and/or tables.
- Dan Zhang analyzed the data, contributed reagents/materi...al tools, prepared figures and/or tables.
- Jiyao Sheng performed the experiments, prepared figures and/or tables.
- Bingjin Li authored or reviewed drafts of the paper, approved the final draft.
- Wei Yang prepared figures and/or tables, authored or reviewed drafts of the paper, approved the final draft.
Data Availability
The following information was supplied regarding data availability:

This is a literature review, and the research in this article did not generate any data or code.

REFERENCES
Aboussekhra A. 2011. Role of cancer-associated fibroblasts in breast cancer development and prognosis. International Journal of Developmental Biology 55(7-8-9):841–849
DOI 10.1387/ijdb.113362aa.

Abu Eid R, Ahmad S, Lin Y, Webb M, Berrong Z, Shrimali R, Kumai T, Ananth S, Rodriguez PC, Celis E, Janik J, Mkrtichyan M, Khleif SN. 2017. Enhanced therapeutic efficacy and memory of tumor-specific CD8 T Cells by ex vivo PI3K-δ inhibition. Cancer Research 77:4135–4145
DOI 10.1158/0008-5472.CAN-16-1925.

Ahmad S, Abu-Eid R, Shrimali R, Webb M, Verma V, Dorooodchi A, Berrong Z, Samara R, Rodriguez PC, Mkrtichyan M, Khleif SN. 2017. Differential PI3Kδ signaling in CD4+ T-cell subsets enables selective targeting of T regulatory cells to enhance cancer immunotherapy. Cancer Research 77(8):1892–1904
DOI 10.1158/0008-5472.CAN-16-1839.

Al-Saleh K, Abd El-Aziz N, Ali A, Abozeed W, Abd El-Warith A, Ibraheem A, Ansari J, Al-Rikabi A, Husain S, Nah boltz JM. 2017. Predictive and prognostic significance of CD8+ tumor-infiltrating lymphocytes in patients with luminal B/HER 2 negative breast cancer treated with neoadjuvant chemotherapy. Oncology Letters 14(1):337–344
DOI 10.3892/ol.2017.6144.

Ali K, Soond DR, Pineiro R, Hagemann T, Pearce W, Lim EL, Bouabe H, Scudamore CL, Hancox T, M aecker H, Friedman L, Turner M, Okkenhaug K, Vanhaesebroeck B. 2014. Inactivation of PI(3)K p110δ breaks regulatory T-cell-mediated immune tolerance to cancer. Nature 510(7505):407–411
DOI 10.1038/nature13444.

Andrade SS, Sumikawa JT, Castro ED, Batista FP, Paredes-Gamero E, Oliveira LC, Guerra IM, Peres GB, Cavalheiro RP, Juliano L, Nazario AP, Facina G, Tsai SM, Oliva ML, Girao MJ. 2017. Interface between breast cancer cells and the tumor microenvironment using platelet-rich plasma to promote tumor angiogenesis-influence of platelets and fibrin bundles on the behavior of breast tumor cells. Oncotarget 8(10):16851–16874
DOI 10.18632/oncotarget.15170.

Arora R, Joshi K, Nijhawan R, Radotra BD, Sharma SC. 2002. Angiogenesis as an independent prognostic indicator in node-negative breast cancer. Analytical and Quantitative Cytology and Histology/the International Academy of Cytology [And] American Society of Cytology 24:228–233.

Badve S, Nakshatri H. 2013. Role of AKT isotypes in breast cancer. Journal of Pathology 229(3):e1
DOI 10.1002/path.4137.

Bailur JK, Gueckel B, Derhovanessian E, Pawelec G. 2015. Presence of circulating Her2-reactive CD8 + T-cells is associated with lower frequencies of myeloid-derived suppressor cells and regulatory T cells, and better survival in older breast cancer patients. Breast Cancer Research 17(1):34
DOI 10.1186/s13058-015-0541-z.

Baselga J, Im SA, Iwata H, Cortes J, De Laurentiis M, Jiang Z, Arteaga CL, Jonat W, Clemons M, Ito Y, Awada A, Chia S, Jagiello-Gruszfeld A, Pistilli B, Tseng LM, Hurvitz S, Masuda N, Takahashi M, Vuylsteke P, Hachemi S, Dharan B, Di Tomaso E, Urban P, Massacesi C, Campone M. 2017. Buparlisib plus fulvestrant versus placebo plus fulvestrant in postmenopausal, hormone receptor-positive, HER2-negative, advanced breast cancer (BELLE-2): a randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled, phase 3 trial. Lancet Oncology 18(7):904–916
DOI 10.1016/S1470-2045(17)30376-5.
Bauer TM, Patel MR, Infante JR. 2015. Targeting PI3 kinase in cancer. Pharmacology & Therapeutics 146:53–60 DOI 10.1016/j.pharmthera.2014.09.006.

Berns K, Horlings HM, Hennessy BT, Madiredjo M, Hijnmans EM, Beelen K, Linn SC, Gonzalez-Angulo AM, Stemke-Hale K, Hauptmann M, Beijersbergen RL, Mills GB, van de Vijver MJ, Bernards R. 2007. A functional genetic approach identifies the PI3K pathway as a major determinant of trastuzumab resistance in breast cancer. Cancer Cell 12(4):395–402 DOI 10.1016/j.ccr.2007.08.030.

Black JD, Lopez S, Cocca E, Bellone S, Alterweig R, Schwab CL, English DP, Bonazzoli E, Predolin T, Ferrari F, Ratner E, Silasi DA, Azodi M, Schwartz PE, Santin AD. 2015. PIK3CA oncogenic mutations represent a major mechanism of resistance to trastuzumab in HER2/neu overexpressing uterine serous carcinomas. British Journal of Cancer 113(7):1020–1026 DOI 10.1038/bjc.2015.306.

Bohling SD, Allison KH. 2008. Immunosuppressive regulatory T cells are associated with aggressive breast cancer phenotypes: a potential therapeutic target. Modern Pathology 21(12):1527–1532 DOI 10.1038/modpathol.2008.160.

Bosch A, Li Z, Bergamaschi A, Ellis H, Toska E, Prat A, Tao JJ, Spratt DE, Viola-Villegas NT, Castel P, Minuesa G, Morse N, Rodon J, Ibrahim Y, Cortes J, Perez-Garcia J, Galvan P, Grueso J, Guzman M, Katzenellenbogen JA, Kharas M, Lewis JS, Dickler M, Serra V, Rosen N, Changdarlapaty S, Scultriti M, Baselga J. 2015. PI3K inhibition results in enhanced estrogen receptor function and dependence in hormone receptor-positive breast cancer. Science Translational Medicine 7(283):283ra251 DOI 10.1126/scitranslmed.aaa4442.

Boscolo E, Coma S, Luks VL, Greene AK, Klagsbrun M, Warman ML, Bischoff J, 2015. AKT hyper-phosphorylation associated with PI3K mutations in lymphatic endothelial cells from a patient with lymphatic malformation. Angiogenesis 18(2):151–162 DOI 10.1007/s10456-014-9453-2.

Castel P, Carmona FJ, Grego-Bessa J, Berger MF, Viale A, Anderson KV, Bague S, Scultriti M, Antonescu CR, Baselga E, Baselga J. 2016. Somatic PIK3CA mutations as a driver of sporadic venous malformations. Science Translational Medicine 8:332ra342 DOI 10.1126/scitranslmed.aaf1164.

Castillo SD, Tzouanacou E, Zaw-Thin M, Berenjeno IM, Parker VE, Chivite I, Mila-Guasch M, Pearce W, Solomon I, Angulo-Urarte A, Figueiredo AM, Dewhurst RE, Knox RG, Clark GR, Scudamore CL, Badar A, Kalber TL, Foster J, Stuckey DJ, David AL, Phillips WA, Lythgoe MF, Wilson V, Semple RK, Sebire NJ, Kinsler VA, Grauera M, Vanhaesebroeck B. 2016. Somatic activating mutations in Pik3ca cause sporadic venous malformations in mice and humans. Science Translational Medicine 8:332ra343 DOI 10.1126/scitranslmed.aad9982.

Chakrabarty A, Sanchez V, Kuba MG, Rinehart C, Arteaga CL. 2012. Feedback upregulation of HER3 (ErbB3) expression and activity attenuates antitumor effect of PI3K inhibitors. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America 109(8):2718–2723 DOI 10.1073/pnas.1018001108.

Chandarlapaty S, Sawai A, Scultriti M, Rodrik-Outmezguine V, Grbovic-Huezo O, Serra V, Majumder PK, Baselga J, Rosen N. 2011. AKT inhibition relieves feedback suppression of receptor tyrosine kinase expression and activity. Cancer Cell 19(1):58–71 DOI 10.1016/j.ccr.2010.10.031.

Chen Q, Zhang XH, Massague J. 2011. Macrophage binding to receptor VCAM-1 transmits survival signals in breast cancer cells that invade the lungs. Cancer Cell 20(4):538–549 DOI 10.1016/j.ccr.2011.08.025.
Condorelli R, Andre F. 2017. Combining PI3K and PARP inhibitors for breast and ovarian cancer treatment. *Annals of Oncology* 28(6):1167–1168 DOI 10.1093/annonc/mdx218.

Consonni A, Cipolla L, Guidetti G, Canobbio I, Ciraolo E, Hirsch E, Falasca M, Okigaki M, Balduini C, Torti M. 2012. Role and regulation of phosphatidylinositol 3-kinase β in platelet integrin αβ1 signaling. *Blood* 119:847–856 DOI 10.1182/blood-2011-07-364992.

De Henau O, Rausch M, Winkler D, Campesato LF, Liu C, Cymerman DH, Budhu S, Ghosh A, Pink M, Tchaicha J, Doubitts M, Sharma S, Proctor J, Kosmider N, White K, Stern H, Soglia J, Adams J, Palombella VJ, McGovern K, Kutok JL, Wolchok JD, Merghoub T. 2016. Overcoming resistance to checkpoint blockade therapy by targeting PI3Kγ in myeloid cells. *Nature* 539(7629):443–447 DOI 10.1038/nature20554.

De Palma M, Biziato D, Petrova TV. 2017. Microenvironmental regulation of tumour angiogenesis. *Nature Reviews Cancer* 17(8):457–474 DOI 10.1038/nrc.2017.51.

De P, Sun Y, Carlson JH, Friedman LS, Leyland-Jones BR, Dey N. 2014. Doubling down on the PI3K-AKT-mTOR pathway enhances the antitumor efficacy of PARP inhibitor in triple negative breast cancer model beyond BRCA-ness. *Neoplasia* 16(1):43–72 DOI 10.1593/neo.131694.

DeSantis CE, Ma J, Goding Sauer A, Newman LA, Jemal A. 2017. Breast cancer statistics, 2017, racial disparity in mortality by state. *CA A Cancer Journal for Clinicians* 67(6):439–448 DOI 10.3322/caac.21412.

Di Leo A, Johnston S, Lee KS, Ciruelos E, Lonning PE, Janni W, O’Regan R, Mouret-Reynier MA, Kalev D, Egle D, Csozti T, Bordonaro R, Decker T, Tjan-Heijnen VCG, Blau S, Schirone A, Weber D, El-Hashimy M, Dharan B, Sellami D, Bachelot T. 2018. Buparlisib plus fulvestrant in postmenopausal women with hormone-receptor-positive, HER2-negative, advanced breast cancer progressing on or after mTOR inhibition (BELLE-3): a randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled, phase 3 trial. *Lancet Oncology* 19(1):87–100 DOI 10.1016/S1470-2045(17)30688-5.

Fokas E, Im JH, Hill S, Yameen S, Stratford M, Beech J, Hackl W, Maira SM, Bernhard EJ, McKenna WG, Muschel RJ. 2012. Dual inhibition of the PI3K/mTOR pathway increases tumor radiosensitivity by normalizing tumor vasculature. *Cancer Research* 72(1):239–248 DOI 10.1158/0008-5472.CAN-11-2263.

Foubert P, Kaneda MM, Varner JA. 2017. PI3Kγ activates integrin α4 and promotes immune suppressive myeloid cell polarization during tumor progression. *Cancer Immunology Research* 5:957–968 DOI 10.1158/2326-6066.CIR-17-0143.

Fu X, Creighton CJ, Biswal NC, Kumar V, Shea M, Herrera S, Contreras A, Gutierrez C, Wang T, Nanda S, Giuliano M, Morrison G, Nardone A, Karlin KL, Westbrook TF, Heiser LM, Anur P, Spellman P, Guichard SM, Smith PD, Davies BR, Klinowska T, Lee AV, Mills GB, Rimawi MF, Hilsenbeck SG, Gray JW, Joshi A, Osborne CK, Schiff R. 2014. Overcoming endocrine resistance due to reduced PTEN levels in estrogen receptor-positive breast cancer by co-targeting mammalian target of rapamycin, protein kinase B, or mitogen-activated protein kinase kinase. *Breast Cancer Research* 16(5):430 DOI 10.1186/s13058-014-0430-x.

Garrett JT, Olivares MG, Rinehart C, Granja-Ingram ND, Sanchez V, Chakrabarty A, Dave B, Cook RS, Pao W, McKinley E, Manning HC, Chang J, Arteaga CL. 2011. Transcriptional and posttranslational up-regulation of HER3 (ErbB3) compensates for inhibition of the HER2 tyrosine kinase. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America* 108(12):5021–5026 DOI 10.1073/pnas.1016140108.

Garrett JT, Sutton CR, Kurupi R, Bialucha CU, Ettenberg SA, Collins SD, Sheng Q, Wallweber J, Defazio-Eli L, Arteaga CL. 2013. Combination of antibody that inhibits ligand-independent HER3 dimerization and a p110α inhibitor potently blocks PI3K signaling...
and growth of HER2+ breast cancers. *Cancer Research* **73**(19):6013–6023 DOI 10.1158/0008-5472.CAN-13-1191.

Gay LJ, Felding-Habermann B. 2011. Contribution of platelets to tumour metastasis. *Nature Reviews Cancer* **11**(2):123–134 DOI 10.1038/nrc3004.

Gonzalez-Garcia A, Sanchez-Ruiz J, Flores JM, Carrera AC. 2010. Phosphatidylinositol 3-kinase γ inhibition ameliorates inflammation and tumor growth in a model of colitis-associated cancer. *Gastroenterology* **138**(4):1374–1383 DOI 10.1053/j.gastro.2009.12.001.

Gracias DT, Boesteau AC, Fraietta JA, Hope JL, Carey AJ, Mueller YM, Kawalekar OU, Fike AJ, June CH, Katsikis PD. 2016. Phosphatidylinositol 3-kinase p110δ isoform regulates CD8+ T cell responses during acute viral and intracellular bacterial infections. *Journal of Immunology* **196**(3):1186–1198 DOI 10.4049/jimmunol.1501890.

Graupera M, Guillermet-Guibert J, Foukas LC, Phng LK, Cain RJ, Salpekar A, Pearce W, Meek S, Millan J, Cutillas PB, Smith AJ, Ridley AJ, Ruhrberg C, Gerhardt H, Vanhaesebroeck B. 2008. Angiogenesis selectively requires the p110α isoform of PI3K to control endothelial cell migration. *Nature* **453**(7195):662–666 DOI 10.1038/nature06892.

Guerin M, Rezai K, Isambert N, Campone M, Autret A, Pakradouni J, Provansal M, Camerlo J, Sabatier R, Bertucci F, Charafe-Jauffret E, Hervieu A, Extra JM, Viens P, Lokiec F, Boher JM, Goncalves A. 2017. PIKHER2: A phase IB study evaluating buparlisib in combination with lapatinib in trastuzumab-resistant HER2-positive advanced breast cancer. *European Journal of Cancer* **86**:28–36 DOI 10.1016/j.ejca.2017.08.025.

Gupta S, Ramjaun AR, Haiko P, Wang Y, Warne PH, Nicke B, Nye E, Stamp G, Alitalo K, Downard J. 2007. Binding of ras to phosphoinositide 3-kinase p110α is required for ras-driven tumorigenesis in mice. *Cell* **129**(5):957–968 DOI 10.1016/j.cell.2007.03.051.

Hanahan D, Coussens LM. 2012. Accessories to the crime: functions of cells recruited to the tumor microenvironment. *Cancer Cell* **21**(3):309–322 DOI 10.1016/j.ccr.2012.02.022.

Hanahan D, Weinberg RA. 2011. Hallmarks of cancer: the next generation. *Cell* **144**(5):646–674 DOI 10.1016/j.cell.2011.02.013.

Hanna M, Dumas I, Orain M, Jacob S, Tetu B, Sanschagrin F, Bureau A, Poirier B, Diorio C. 2017. Association between local inflammation and breast tissue age-related lobular involution among premenopausal and postmenopausal breast cancer patients. *PLOS ONE* **12**(8):e0183579 DOI 10.1371/journal.pone.0183579.

Holz MK. 2012. The role of S6K1 in ER-positive breast cancer. *Cell Cycle* **11**(17):3159–3165 DOI 10.4161/cc.21194.

Hudis C, Swanton C, Janjigian YY, Lee R, Sutherland S, Lehman R, Chandarlapaty S, Hamilton N, Gajria D, Knowles J, Shah J, Shannon K, Tetteh E, Sullivan DM, Moreno C, Yan L, Han HS. 2013. A phase 1 study evaluating the combination of an allosteric AKT inhibitor (MK-2206) and trastuzumab in patients with HER2-positive solid tumors. *Breast Cancer Research* **15**(6):R110 DOI 10.1186/bcr3577.

Ibrahim YH, Garcia-Garcia C, Serra V, He L, Torres-Lockhart K, Prat A, Anton P, Cozar P, Guzman M, Grueso J, Rodriguez O, Calvo MT, Aura C, Diez O, Rubio IT, Perez J, Rodon J, Cortes J, Ellisen LW, Scaltriti M, Baselga J. 2012. PI3K inhibition impairs BRCA1/2 expression and sensitizes BRCA-proficient triple-negative breast cancer to PARP inhibition. *Cancer Discovery* **2**(11):1036–1047 DOI 10.1158/2159-8290.CD-11-0348.

Ivey JW, Bonakdar M, Kanitkar A, Davalos RV, Verbridge SS. 2016. Improving cancer therapies by targeting the physical and chemical hallmarks of the tumor microenvironment. *Cancer Letters* **380**(1):330–339 DOI 10.1016/j.canlet.2015.12.019.
Jarmin SJ, David R, Ma L, Chai JG, Dewchand H, Takesono A, Ridley AJ, Okkenhaug K, Marelli-Berg FM. 2008. T cell receptor-induced phosphoinositide-3-kinase p110δ activity is required for T cell localization to antigenic tissue in mice. *Journal of Clinical Investigation* 118:1154–1164 DOI 10.1172/JCI33267.

Jezierska-Drutel A, Rosenzweig SA, Neumann CA. 2013. Role of oxidative stress and the microenvironment in breast cancer development and progression. *Advances in Cancer Research* 119:107–125 DOI 10.1016/B978-0-12-407190-2.0003-4.

Joshi S, Singh AR, Zulcic M, Durden DL. 2014. A macrophage-dominant PI3K isoform controls hypoxia-induced HIF1α and HIF2α stability and tumor growth, angiogenesis, and metastasis. *Molecular Cancer Research* 12(10):1520–1531 DOI 10.1158/1541-7786.MCR-13-0682.

Juric D, Rodon J, Tabernero J, Janku F, Burris HA, Schellens JHM, Middleton MR, Berlin J, Schuler M, Gil-Martin M, Rugo HS, Sengewiss-Bernhardt R, Huang A, Bootle D, Demanse D, Blumenstein L, Coughlin C, Quadt C, Baselga J. 2018. Phosphatidylinositol 3-kinase α-selective inhibition with alpelisib (BYL719) in PIK3CA-altered solid tumors: results from the first-in-human study. *Journal of Clinical Oncology* 36(13):1291–1299 DOI 10.1200/JCO.2017.72.7107.

Juvekar A, Burga LN, Hu H, Lunsford EP, Ibrahim YH, Balmana J, Rajendran A, Papa A, Spencer K, Lyssiotis CA, Nardella C, Pandolfi PP, Baselga J, Scully R, Asara JM, Cantley LC, Wulf GM. 2012. Combining a PI3K inhibitor with a PARP inhibitor provides an effective therapy for BRCA1-related breast cancer. *Cancer Discovery* 2(11):1048–1063 DOI 10.1158/2159-8290.CD-11-0336.

Kaneda MM, Cappello P, Nguyen AV, Ralainirina N, Hardamon CR, Foubert P, Schmid MC, Sun P, Mose E, Bouvet M, Lowy AM, Valasek MA, Sasik R, Novelli F, Hirsch E, Varner JA. 2016a. Macrophage PI3Kγ drives pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma progression. *Cancer Discovery* 6(8):870–885 DOI 10.1158/2159-8290.CD-15-1346.

Kaneda MM, Messer KS, Ralainirina N, Li H, Leem CJ, Gorjestani S, Woo G, Nguyen AV, Figueiredo CC, Foubert P, Schmid MC, Pink M, Winkler DG, Rausch M, Palombella VJ, Kukok J, McGovern K, Frazer KA, Wu X, Karin M, Sasik R, Cohen EE, Varner JA. 2016b. PI3Kγ is a molecular switch that controls immune suppression. *Nature* 539(7629):437–442 DOI 10.1038/nature19834.

Khalil BD, Hsueh C, Cao Y, Abi Saab WF, Wang Y, Condeelis JS, Bresnick AR, Backer JM. 2016. GPCR signaling mediates tumor metastasis via PI3Kβ. *Cancer Research* 76(10):2944–2953 DOI 10.1158/0008-5472.CAN-15-1675.

Kim SJ, Jung KH, Son MK, Park JH, Yan HH, Fang Z, Kang YW, Han B, Lim JH, Hong SS. 2017. Tumor vessel normalization by the PI3K inhibitor HS-173 enhances drug delivery. *Cancer Letters* 403:339–353 DOI 10.1016/j.canlet.2017.06.035.

Koren S, Reavie L, Couto JP, De Silva D, Stadler MB, Roloff T, Britschgi A, Eichlisberger T, Kohler H, Aina O, Cardiff RD, Bentires-Alj M. 2015. PIK3CA(H1047R) induces multipotency and multi-lineage mammary tumours. *Nature* 525(7567):114–118 DOI 10.1038/nature14669.

Krop IE, Mayer IA, Ganju V, Dickler M, Johnston S, Morales S, Yardley DA, Melichar B, Forero-Torres A, Lee SC, de Boer R, Petrakova K, Vallentin S, Perez EA, Piccart M, Ellis M, Winer E, Gendreau S, Derynck M, Lackner M, Levy G, Qiu J, He J, Schmid P. 2016. Pictilisib for oestrogen receptor-positive, aromatase inhibitor-resistant, advanced or metastatic breast cancer (FERGI): a randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled, phase 2 trial. *Lancet Oncology* 17(6):811–821 DOI 10.1016/S1470-2045(16)00106-6.
Kulkarni A, Natarajan SK, Chandrasekar V, Pandey PR, Sengupta S. 2016. Combining immune checkpoint inhibitors and kinase-inhibiting supramolecular therapeutics for enhanced anticancer efficacy. *ACS Nano* **10**(10):9227–9242 DOI 10.1021/acsnano.6b01600.

Lelievre E, Bourbon PM, Duan LJ, Nussbaum RL, Fong GH. 2005. Deficiency in the p110α subunit of PI3K results in diminished Tie2 expression and Tie2(-/-)-like vascular defects in mice. *Blood* **105**(10):3935–3938 DOI 10.1182/blood-2004-10-3955.

Lewis CE, Harney AS, Pollard JW. 2016. The multifaceted role of perivascular macrophages in tumors. *Cancer Cell* **30**(2):365 DOI 10.1016/j.ccell.2016.07.009.

Li X, Lu P, Li B, Zhang W, Yang B, Chu Y, Luo K. 2017. Interleukin 2 and interleukin 10 function synergistically to promote CD8+ T cell cytotoxicity, which is suppressed by regulatory T cells in breast cancer. *International Journal of Biochemistry & Cell Biology* **87**:1–7 DOI 10.1016/j.biocel.2017.03.003.

Limaye N, Kangas J, Mendola A, Godfraind C, Schloegl MJ, Helaers R, Eklund L, Boon LM, Vikkula M. 2015. Somatic activating PIK3CA mutations cause venous malformation. *American Journal of Human Genetics* **97**(6):914–921 DOI 10.1016/j.ajhg.2015.11.011.

Liu P, Cheng H, Santiago S, Raeder M, Zhang F, Isabella A, Yang J, Semaan DJ, Chen C, Fox EA, Gray NS, Monahan J, Schlegel R, Beroukhim R, Mills GB, Zhao JJ. 2011. Oncogenic PIK3CA-driven mammary tumors frequently recur via PI3K pathway-dependent and PI3K pathway-independent mechanisms. *Natural Medicines* **17**(9):1116–1120 DOI 10.1038/nm.2402.

Loibl S, Majewski I, Guarneri V, Nekljudova V, Holmes E, Bria E, Denkert C, Schem C, Sotiriou C, Loi S, Untch M, Conte P, Bernards R, Piccart M, von Minckwitz G, Baselga J. 2016. PIK3CA mutations are associated with reduced pathological complete response rates in primary HER2-positive breast cancer: pooled analysis of 967 patients from five prospective trials investigating lapatinib and trastuzumab. *Annals of Oncology* **27**(8):1519–1525 DOI 10.1093/annonc/mdw197.

Loibl S, von Minckwitz G, Schneeweiss A, Paepeke S, Lehmann A, Rezai M, Zahm DM, Sinn P, Khandan F, Eidtmann H, Heinrichs C, Huober J, Pfizter B, Fasching PA, Andre F, Lindner JL, Sotiriou C, Dykgers A, Guo S, Gade S, Nekljudova V, Loi S, Untch M, Denkert C. 2014. PIK3CA mutations are associated with lower rates of pathologic complete response to anti-human epidermal growth factor receptor 2 (her2) therapy in primary HER2-overexpressing breast cancer. *Journal of Clinical Oncology* **32**(29):3212–3220 DOI 10.1200/JCO.2014.55.7876.

Madeddu P, Kraenkel N, Barcelos LS, Siragusa M, Campagnolo P, Oikawa A, Caporali A, Herman A, Azzolino O, Barberis L, Perino A, Damilano F, Emanuelli C, Hirsch E. 2008. Phosphoinositide 3-kinase γ gene knockout impairs postischemic neovascularization and endothelial progenitor cell functions. *Arteriosclerosis, Thrombosis, and Vascular Biology* **28**(1):68–76 DOI 10.1161/ATVBAHA.107.145573.

Mahmoud S, Lee A, Ellis I, Green A. 2012. CD8+ T lymphocytes infiltrating breast cancer: a promising new prognostic marker? *OncolImmunology* **1**:364–365 DOI 10.4161/oni.18614.

Majewski IJ, Nuciforo P, Mittempergher L, Bosma AJ, Eidtmann H, Holmes E, Sotiriou C, Fumagalli D, Jimenez J, Aura C, Prudkin L, Diaz-Delgado MC, de la Pena L, Loi S, Ellis C, Schultz N, de Azambuja E, Harbeck N, Piccart-Gebhart M, Bernards R, Baselga J. 2015. PIK3CA mutations are associated with decreased benefit to neoadjuvant human epidermal growth factor receptor 2-targeted therapies in breast cancer. *Journal of Clinical Oncology* **33**(12):1334–1339 DOI 10.1200/JCO.2014.55.2158.

Maley CC, Aktipis A, Graham TA, Sottoriva A, Boddy AM, Janiszewska M, Silva AS, Gerlinger M, Yuan Y, Pienta KJ, Anderson KS, Gatenby R, Swanton C, Posada D, Wu CI,
Schiffman JD, Hwang ES, Polyak K, Anderson ARA, Brown JS, Greaves M, Shibata D. 2017. Classifying the evolutionary and ecological features of neoplasms. *Nature Reviews Cancer* 17(10):605–619 DOI 10.1038/nrc.2017.69.

Mao Y, Keller ET, Garfield DH, Shen K, Wang J. 2013. Stromal cells in tumor microenvironment and breast cancer. *Cancer and Metastasis Reviews* 32(1–2):303–315 DOI 10.1007/s10555-012-9415-3.

Martin V, Guillermet-Guibert J, Chicanne G, Cabou C, Jandrot-Perrus M, Plantavid M, Vanhaesebroeck B, Payrastre B, Gratacap MP. 2010. Deletion of the p110β isoform in platelets reveals its central role in Akt activation and thrombus formation in vitro and in vivo. *Blood* 115(10):2008–2013 DOI 10.1182/blood-2009-04-217224.

Matulonis UA, Wulf GM, Barry WT, Birrer M, Westin SN, Farooq S, Bell-Mcguinn KM, Obermayer E, Whalen C, Spagnoletti T, Luo W, Liu H, Hok RC, Aghajanian C, Solit DB, Mills GB, Taylor BS, Won H, Berger MF, Palakurthi S, Liu J, Cantley LC, Winer E. 2017. Phase I dose escalation study of the PI3kinase pathway inhibitor BKM120 and the oral poly(ADP ribose) polymerase (PARP) inhibitor olaparib for the treatment of high-grade serous ovarian and breast cancer. *Annals of Oncology* 28:512–518 DOI 10.1093/annonc/mdw672.

Mayer IA, Abramson VG, Formisano L, Balko JM, Estrada MV, Sanders ME, Juric D, Solit D, Berger MF, Won HH, Li Y, Cantley LC, Winer E, Arteaga CL. 2017. A phase Ib study of alpelisib (BYL719), a PI3Kα-specific inhibitor, with letrozole in ER+/HER2− metastatic breast cancer. *Clinical Cancer Research* 23:26–34 DOI 10.1158/1078-0432.CCR-16-0134.

Mayer IA, Arteaga CL. 2016. The PI3K/AKT pathway as a target for cancer treatment. *Annual Review of Medicine* 67(1):11–28 DOI 10.1146/annurev-med-062913-051343.

McAllister SS, Weinberg RA. 2014. The tumour-induced systemic environment as a critical regulator of cancer progression and metastasis. *Nature Cell Biology* 16(8):717–727 DOI 10.1038/ncb3015.

Miller TW, Balko JM, Arteaga CL. 2011. Phosphatidylinositol 3-kinase 3-kinase and antiestrogen resistance in breast cancer. *Journal of Clinical Oncology* 29(33):4452–4461 DOI 10.1200/JCO.2010.34.4879.

Miller TW, Perez-Torres M, Narasanna A, Guix M, Stal O, Perez-Tenorio G, Gonzalez-Angulo AM, Hennessy BT, Mills GB, Kennedy JP, Lindsley CW, Arteaga CL. 2009. Loss of phosphatase and tensin homologue deleted on chromosome 10 engages ErbB3 and insulin-like growth factor-I receptor signaling to promote antiestrogen resistance in breast cancer. *Cancer Research* 69(10):4192–4201 DOI 10.1158/0008-5472.CAN-09-0042.

Miller TW, Rexer BN, Garrett JT, Arteaga CL. 2011. Mutations in the phosphatidylinositol 3-kinase pathway: role in tumor progression and therapeutic implications in breast cancer. *Breast Cancer Research* 13(6):224 DOI 10.1186/bcr3039.

Murillo MM, Zelenay S, Nye E, Castellano E, Lassailly F, Stamp G, Downward J. 2014. RAS interaction with PI3K p110α is required for tumor-induced angiogenesis. *Journal of Clinical Investigation* 124(8):3601–3611 DOI 10.1172/JCI74134.

Nieto Y, Woods J, Nawaz F, Baron A, Jones RB, Shpall EJ, Nawaz S. 2007. Prognostic analysis of tumour angiogenesis, determined by microvessel density and expression of vascular endothelial growth factor in high-risk primary breast cancer patients treated with high-dose chemotherapy. *British Journal of Cancer* 97(3):391–397 DOI 10.1038/sj.bjc.6603875.

O’Reilly KE, Rojo F, She QB, Solit D, Mills GB, Smith D, Lane H, Hofmann F, Hicklin DJ, Ludwig DL, Baselga J, Rosen N. 2006. mTOR inhibition induces upstream receptor tyrosine kinase signaling and activates Akt. *Cancer Research* 66(3):1500–1508 DOI 10.1158/0008-5472.CAN-05-2925.
Ohara M, Yamaguchi Y, Matsuura K, Murakami S, Arihiro K, Okada M. 2009. Possible involvement of regulatory T cells in tumor onset and progression in primary breast cancer. *Cancer Immunology Immunotherapy* 58(3):441–447 DOI 10.1007/s00262-008-0570-x.

Okkenhaug K, Graupera M, Vanhaesebroeck B. 2016. Targeting PI3K in cancer: impact on tumor cells, their protective stroma, angiogenesis, and immunotherapy. *Cancer Discovery* 6(10):1090–1105 DOI 10.1158/2159-8290.CD-16-0716.

Orimo A, Gupta PB, Sgroi DC, Arenzana-Seisdedos F, Delaunay T, Naem R, Carey VJ, Richardson AL, Weinberg RA. 2005. Stromal fibroblasts present in invasive human breast carcinomas promote tumor growth and angiogenesis through elevated SDF-1/CXCL12 secretion. *Cell* 121(3):335–348 DOI 10.1016/j.cell.2005.02.034.

Paplomata E, O'Regan R. 2014. The PI3K/AKT/mTOR pathway in breast cancer: targets, trials and biomarkers. *Therapeutic Advances in Medical Oncology* 6(4):154–166 DOI 10.1177/1758834014530023.

Patton DT, Garden OA, Pearce WP, Clough LE, Monk CR, Leung E, Rowan WC, Sancho S, Walker LS, Vanhaesebroeck B, Okkenhaug K. 2006. Cutting edge: the phosphoinositide 3-kinase p110δ is critical for the function of CD4+CD25+Foxp3+ regulatory T cells. *Journal of Immunology* 177(10):6598–6602 DOI 10.4049/jimmunol.177.10.6598.

Patton DT, Wilson MD, Rowan WC, Soond DR, Okkenhaug K. 2011. The PI3K p110δ regulates expression of CD38 on regulatory T cells. *PLOS ONE* 6(3):e17359 DOI 10.1371/journal.pone.0017359.

Pearce VQ, Bouabe H, MacQueen AR, Carbonaro V, Okkenhaug K. 2015. PI3Kδ Regulates the Magnitude of CD8+ T Cell Responses after Challenge with Listeria monocytogenes. *Journal of Immunology* 195(7):3206–3217 DOI 10.4049/jimmunol.1501227.

Peng W, Chen JQ, Liu C, Malu S, Creasy C, Tetzlaff MT, Xu C, McKenzie JA, Zhang C, Liang X, Williams LJ, Deng W, Chen G, Mbofung R, Lazar AJ, Torres-Cabala CA, Cooper ZA, Chen PL, Tieu TN, Spranger S, Yu X, Bernatchez C, Forget MA, Haymaker C, Amaria R, McQuade JL, Glitzia IC, Cascone T, Li HS, Kwong LN, Heffernan TP, Hu J, Bassett RL Jr, Bosenberg MW, Woodman SE, Overwijk WW, Lizee G, Roszik J, Gajewski TF, Wargo JA, Gershenson JD, Radvanyi L, Davies MA, Hwu P. 2016a. Loss of PTEN promotes resistance to T cell-mediated immunotherapy. *Cancer Discovery* 6(2):202–216 DOI 10.1158/2159-8290.CD-15-0283.

Peng D, Tanikawa T, Li W, Zhao L, Vatan L, Vatan L, Saroslawska E, Szubstarski F, Rolinski J, Grywalska E, Stanislawek A, Polkowski W, Kurylcio A, Kleer C, Chang AE, Wicha M, Sabel M, Zou W, Kryczek I. 2016b. Myeloid-derived suppressor cells endow stem-like qualities to breast cancer cells through IL6/STAT3 and NO/NOTCH cross-talk signaling. *Cancer Research* 76(11):3156–3165 DOI 10.1158/0008-5472.CAN-15-2528.

Petz LN, Ziegler YS, Loven MA, Nardulli AM. 2002. Estrogen receptor α and activating protein-1 mediate estrogen responsiveness of the progesterone receptor gene in MCF-7 breast cancer cells. *Endocrinology* 143(12):4583–4591 DOI 10.1210/en.2002-220369.

Pistilli B, Pluard T, Urruticoechea A, Faraci D, Kong A, Bachelot T, Chan S, Han HS, Jerusalem G, Urban P, Robinson D, Mouhaer SL, Tomaso ED, Massacesi C, Saura C. 2018. Phase II study of buparlisib (BKM120) and trastuzumab in patients with HER2 + locally advanced or metastatic breast cancer resistant to trastuzumab-based therapy. *Breast Cancer Research and Treatment* 168(2):357–364 DOI 10.1007/s10549-017-4596-7.

Place AE, Jin Huh S, Polyak K. 2011. The microenvironment in breast cancer progression: biology and implications for treatment. *Breast Cancer Research* 13(6):227 DOI 10.1186/bcr2912.
Plitas G, Konopacki C, Wu K, Bos PD, Morrow M, Putintseva EV, Chudakov DM, Rudensky AY. 2016. Regulatory T cells exhibit distinct features in human breast cancer. *Immunity* 45(5):1122–1134 DOI 10.1016/j.immuni.2016.10.032.

Polyak K, Metzger Filho O. 2012. SnapShot: breast cancer. *Cancer Cell* 22(4):e561 DOI 10.1016/j.ccr.2012.06.021.

Potente M, Gerhardt H, Carmeliet P. 2011. Basic and therapeutic aspects of angiogenesis. *Cell* 146(6):873–887 DOI 10.1016/j.cell.2011.08.039.

Putz EM, Prchal-Murphy M, Simma OA, Forster F, Koenig X, Stockinger H, Piekorz RP, Freissmuth M, Muller M, Sexl V, Zebedin-Brandl E. 2012. PI3Kδ is essential for tumor clearance mediated by cytotoxic T lymphocytes. *PLOS ONE* 7(7):e40852 DOI 10.1371/journal.pone.0040852.

Qayum N, Im J, Stratford MR, Bernhard EJ, McKenna WG, Muschel RJ. 2012. Modulation of the tumor microvasculature by phosphoinositide-3 kinase inhibition increases doxorubicin delivery in vivo. *Clinical Cancer Research* 18(1):161–169 DOI 10.1158/1078-0432.CCR-11-1413.

Qayum N, Muschel RJ, Im JH, Balathasan L, Koch CJ, Patel S, McKenna WG, Bernhard EJ. 2009. Tumor vascular changes mediated by inhibition of oncogenic signaling. *Cancer Research* 69(15):6347–6354 DOI 10.1158/0008-5472.CAN-09-0657.

Qian BZ, Pollard JW. 2010. Macrophage diversity enhances tumor progression and metastasis. *Cell* 141(1):39–51 DOI 10.1016/j.cell.2010.03.014.

Rehman FL, Lord CJ, Ashworth A. 2012. The promise of combining inhibition of PI3K and PARP as cancer therapy. *Cancer Discovery* 2(11):982–984 DOI 10.1158/2159-8290.CD-12-0433.

Ribatti D, Nico B, Ruggieri S, Tamma R, Simone G, Mangia A. 2016. Angiogenesis and antiangiogenesis in triple-negative breast cancer. *Translational Oncology* 9(5):453–457 DOI 10.1016/j.tranon.2016.07.002.

Rimawi MF, De Angelis C, Contreras A, Pareja F, Geyer FC, Burke KA, Herrera S, Wang T, Mayer IA, Forero A, Nanda R, Goetz MP, Chang JC, Krop IE, Wolff AC, Pavlick AC, Fuqua SAWE, Gutierrez C, Hilsenbeck SG, Li MM, Weigelt B, Reis-Filho JS, Kent Osborne C, Schiff R. 2018. Low PTEN levels and PIK3CA mutations predict resistance to neoadjuvant lapatinib and trastuzumab without chemotherapy in patients with HER2 over-expressing breast cancer. *Breast Cancer Research and Treatment* 167(3):731–740 DOI 10.1007/s10549-017-4533-9.

Rivera LB, Meyronet D, Hervieu V, Frederick MJ, Bergsland E, Bergers G. 2015. Intratumoral myeloid cells regulate responsiveness and resistance to antiangiogenic therapy. *Cell Reports* 11(4):577–591 DOI 10.1016/j.celrep.2015.03.055.

Rodon J, Dienstmann R, Serra V, Taberner J. 2013. Development of PI3K inhibitors: lessons learned from early clinical trials. *Nature Reviews Clinical Oncology* 10(3):143–153 DOI 10.1038/nrclinonc.2013.10.

Sai J, Owens P, Novitskii SV, Hawkins OE, Vilgelm AE, Yang J, Sobolik T, Lavender N, Johnson AC, McClain C, Ayers GD, Kelley MC, Sanders M, Mayer IA, Moses HL, Boothby M, Richmond A. 2017. PI3K inhibition reduces mammary tumor growth and facilitates antitumor immunity and anti-PD1 responses. *Clinical Cancer Research* 23(13):3371–3384 DOI 10.1158/1078-0432.CCR-16-2142.

Samuels Y, Wang Z, Bardelli A, Silliman N, Ptak J, Szabo S, Yan H, Gazdar A, Powell SM, Riggins GJ, Willson JK, Markowitz S, Kinzler KW, Vogelstein B, Velculescu VE. 2004. High frequency of mutations of the PIK3CA gene in human cancers. *Science* 304(5670):554 DOI 10.1126/science.1096502.
Saura C, Bendell J, Jerusalem G, Su S, Ru Q, De Buck S, Mills D, Ruquet S, Bosch A, Urruticoechea A, Beck JT, Di Tomaso E, Sternberg DW, Massacesi C, Hirawat S, Dirix L, Baselga J. 2014. Phase Ib study of buparlisib plus Trastuzumab in patients with HER2-positive advanced or metastatic breast cancer that has progressed on Trastuzumab-based therapy. *Clinical Cancer Research* 20(7):1935–1945 DOI 10.1158/1078-0432.CCR-13-1070.

Schmid MC, Avraamides CJ, Dippold HC, Franco I, Foubert P, Ellis LG, Acevedo LM, Manglicmot JR, Song X, Wrasidlo W, Blair SL, Ginsberg MH, Cheresh DA, Hirsch E, Field SJ, Varner JA. 2011. Receptor tyrosine kinases and TLR/IL1Rs unexpectedly activate myeloid cell PI3Kγ, a single convergent point promoting tumor inflammation and progression. *Cancer Cell* 19(6):715–727 DOI 10.1016/j.ccr.2011.04.016.

Schmid MC, Franco I, Kang SW, Hirsch E, Quilliam LA, Varner JA. 2013. PI3-kinase γ promotes Rap1a-mediated activation of myeloid cell integrin α4β1, leading to tumor inflammation and growth. *PLOS ONE* 8:e60226 DOI 10.1371/journal.pone.0060226.

Schmid P, Pinder SE, Wheatley D, Macaskill J, Zammit C, Hu J, Price R, Bundred N, Hadad S, Shia A, Sarker SJ, Lim I, Gazinska P, Woodman N, Korbie D, Trau M, Mainwaring P, Gendreau S, Lackner MR, Derynck M, Wilson TR, Butler H, Earl G, Parker P, Purushotham A, Thompson A. 2016. Phase II randomized preoperative window-of-opportunity study of the PI3K inhibitor pictilisib plus anastrozole compared with anastrozole alone in patients with estrogen receptor-positive breast cancer. *Journal of Clinical Oncology* 34(17):1987–1994 DOI 10.1200/JCO.2015.63.9179.

She QB, Gruvberger-Saal SK, Maurer M, Chen Y, Jumppanen M, Su T, Dendy M, Lau YK, Memeo L, Hilshoosh H, Rosen N, Parsons R, Saal LH. 2016. Integrated molecular pathway analysis informs a synergistic combination therapy targeting PTEN/PI3K and EGFR pathways for basal-like breast cancer. *BMC Cancer* 16(1):587 DOI 10.1186/s12885-016-2609-2.

Shou D, Wen L, Song Z, Yin J, Sun Q, Gong W. 2016. Suppressive role of myeloid-derived suppressor cells (MDSCs) in the microenvironment of breast cancer and targeted immunotherapies. *Oncotarget* 7(39):64505–64511 DOI 10.18632/oncotarget.11352.

Sizemore GM, Balakrishnan S, Hammer AM, Thies KA, Trimboli AJ, Wallace JA, Sizemore ST, Kladney RD, Woelke SA, Yu L, Fernandez SA, Chakravarti A, Leone G, Ostrowski MC. 2017. Stromal PTEN inhibits the expansion of mammary epithelial stem cells through Jagged-1. *Oncogene* 36(10):1937–1945 DOI 10.1038/onc.2012.1571.

Soler A, Figueiredo AM, Castel P, Martin L, Monelli E, Angulo-Urarte A, Mila-Guasch M, Vinals F, Belingheret-Guibert J, Friedman LS, Vinals F, Gerhardt H, Casanovas O, Graupera M. 2013. Inhibition of the p110α isoform of PI 3-kinase stimulates nonfunctional tumor angiogenesis. *Journal of Experimental Medicine* 210(10):1937–1945 DOI 10.1084/jem.20121371.

Song RX, Fan P, Yue W, Chen Y, Santen RJ. 2006. Role of receptor complexes in the extranuclear actions of estrogen receptor α in breast cancer. *Endocrine Related Cancer* 13(Suppl 1):S3–S13 DOI 10.1677/erc.1.01322.
Song MS, Salmena L, Pandolfi PP. 2012. The functions and regulation of the PTEN tumour suppressor. *Nature Reviews Molecular Cell Biology* **13**(5):283–296 DOI 10.1038/nrm3330.

Soond DR, Bjorgo E, Moltu K, Dale VQ, Patton DT, Torgersen KM, Galleway F, Twomey B, Clark J, Gaston JS, Tasken K, Bunyard P, Okkenhaug K. 2010. PI3K p110δ regulates T-cell cytokine production during primary and secondary immune responses in mice and humans. *Blood* **115**(11):2203–2213 DOI 10.1182/blood-2009-07-232330.

Soysal SD, Tzankov A, Muenst SE. 2015. Role of the tumor microenvironment in breast cancer. *Carcinogenesis* **36**(3–4):142–152 DOI 10.1159/000430499.

Stanczuk I, Martinez-Corral I, Ulvmar MH, Zhang Y, Lavina B, Fruttiger M, Adams RH, Saur D, Betsholtz C, Ortega S, Alitalo K, Graupera M, Makinen T. 2015. cKit lineage hemogenic endothelium-derived cells contribute to mesenteric lymphatic vessels. *Cell Reports* **10**(10):1708–1721 DOI 10.1016/j.celrep.2015.02.026.

Tao JJ, Castel P, Radosevic-Robin N, Elkabets M, Aceto N, Weitsman G, Barber P, Vojnovic B, Ellis H, Morse J, Hazra S, Singh S, Kim P, Bergamaschi A, Maheswaran S, Ng T, Perou CM, Basega J, Scaltriti M. 2014. Antagonism of EGFR and HER3 enhances the response to inhibitors of the PI3K-Akt pathway in triple-negative breast cancer. *Science Signaling* **7**(318):ra29 DOI 10.1126/scisignal.2005125.

Thorpe LM, Yuzugullu H, Zhao JJ. 2015. PI3K in cancer: divergent roles of isoforms, modes of activation and therapeutic targeting. *Nature Reviews Cancer* **15**(1):7–24 DOI 10.1038/nrc3860.

Toska E, Baselga J. 2016. Pharmacology in the era of targeted therapies: the case of PI3K inhibitors. *Clinical Cancer Research* **22**(9):2099–2101 DOI 10.1158/1078-0432.CCR-16-0038.

Van Keymeulen A, Lee MY, Ousset M, Brohee S, Giraddi RR, Dubois C, Salmon I, Sotiropoulos N, Phillips WA, Blanpain C. 2015. Reactivation of multipotency by oncogenic PIK3CA induces breast tumour heterogeneity. *Nature* **525**(7567):119–123 DOI 10.1038/nature14665.

Vanhaesebroeck B, Guillermont-Guibert J, Graupera M, Bilanges B. 2010. The emerging mechanisms of isoform-specific PI3K signalling. *Nature Reviews Molecular Cell Biology* **11**(5):329–341 DOI 10.1038/nrm2882.
Wallace JA, Li F, Leone G, Ostrowski MC. 2011. Pten in the breast tumor microenvironment: modeling tumor-stroma coevolution. *Cancer Research* 71:1203–1207 DOI 10.1158/0008-5472.CAN-10-3263.

Woolley JF, Dzneladze I, Salmena L. 2015. Phosphoinositide signaling in cancer: INPP4B Akt(s) out. *Trends in Molecular Medicine* 21(9):530–532 DOI 10.1016/j.molmed.2015.06.006.

Yan M, Lesyk G, Radziwon-Balicka A, Jurasz P. 2014. Pharmacological regulation of platelet factors that influence tumor angiogenesis. *Seminars in Oncology* 41(3):370–377 DOI 10.1053/j.seminoncol.2014.04.007.

Yang SX, Polley E, Lipkowitz S. 2016. New insights on PI3K/AKT pathway alterations and clinical outcomes in breast cancer. *Cancer Treatment Reviews* 45:87–96 DOI 10.1016/j.ctrv.2016.03.004.

Zhang J, Grindley JC, Yin T, Jayasinghe S, He XC, Ross JT, Haug JS, Rupp D, Porter-Westpfahl KS, Wiedemann LM, Wu H, Li L. 2006. PTEN maintains haematopoietic stem cells and acts in lineage choice and leukaemia prevention. *Nature* 441(7092):518–522 DOI 10.1038/nature04747.

Zoncu R, Efeyan A, Sabatini DM. 2011. mTOR: from growth signal integration to cancer, diabetes and ageing. *Nature Reviews Molecular Cell Biology* 12:21–35 DOI 10.1038/nrm3025.