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ISSN 1868-5021 · e-ISSN 1868-503X · CODEN BCI0B8

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TYPESETTING Compuscript Ltd., Shannon, Ireland

PRINTING Franz X. Stücker Druck und Verlag e.K., Ettenheim
Printed in Germany

COVER ILLUSTRATION

On the cover the cadherin-catenin complex, which forms the core of the adherens junction, is schematically shown. The adherens junction is essential to maintain epithelial integrity. It is the 'glue' that holds cells together within an epithelial sheet; it provides a landmark for the organisation of apicobasal polarity and serves a hub for several protein-protein interactions. The vast majority of cancers are epithelial in origin. Apicobasal polarity and the adherens junction are intimately linked and a disruption of either leads to a loss of polarity, a loss of adhesion and a loss of normal cell shape - characteristics which are commonly observed in invasive tumours. The review article by Lo et al. on pp. 505–521 in this issue examines the growing evidence linking loss of apicobasal polarity with tumour progression.

Drawing courtesy of Hannah Hawrot and Marios Georgiou, School of Biomedical Sciences, University of Nottingham, UK.



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2012 · VOLUME 3 · NUMBER 6

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