**CELL-ebrity gossip: How the communication between cell types drives pancreatic cancer**

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**What do we know?**

- **Traditionally scientists have studied cancer cells on their own.**
  
  *Why is this important?*
  
  Can we find more relevant therapies by studying the effect of surrounding cells in cancer?

- **Surgery**
  
  *Why do we need to understand this communication better?*
  
  Treatment options for pancreatic cancer patients are limited.

- **Radiotherapy**

- **Chemotherapy**

  *What do we need to understand this communication better?*

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**What have we found?**

- **Pancreatic cells grown alone**
  
  - iCAFs and myCAFs alter the switches turned on by cancer cells
  
  - Genes that promote immune responses and resistance to treatment
  
  - IFN-α and IFN-γ pathways

- **Pancreatic cells grown with iCAFs**

- **Pancreatic cells grown with myCAFs**

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**Key conclusion:**

Both iCAFs and myCAFs make pancreatic cancer cells more aggressive, but they use different molecular mechanisms to do so.

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**What is our strategy?**

1. We grow pancreatic cancer cells alone or in the presence of iCAFs or myCAFs

2. We separate the cancer cells from the CAFs and analyse DNA

Using next-generation sequencing (ATAC-seq, RNA-seq, ChIP-seq), we can “read” the genes of the cancer cells.

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**What is the impact of these findings?**

Understanding the molecular mechanisms of cellular communication opens new therapeutic windows for much needed pancreatic cancer treatments.