This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Sarcoma	Ewing's sarcoma breakpoint region 1 (EWSR1; EWS-Fli1); DEAH (Asp- Glu-Ala-His) box polypeptide 9 (DHX9; RHA)	<i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies identified small molecule inhibitors of interactions between EWS-FLI1 and RHA that could help treat Ewing's sarcoma. Ewing's sarcoma tumors express the oncogenic fusion protein EWS-Fli1, which binds to RHA. An <i>in vitro</i> screen identified compounds that inhibited interactions between the two proteins and induced apoptosis in Ewing's sarcoma cells. One of the compounds also reduced tumor growth in Ewing sarcoma xenograft mice compared with no treatment. Next steps include further optimization of the inhibitors to increase potency.	Patent applications pending for compounds in the U.S., Europe and Australia; patents to be filed in Canada and Japan; available for licensing	Erkizan, H. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i> ; published online July 5, 2009; doi:10.1038/nm.1983 Contact: Jeffrey A. Toretsky, Georgetown University, Washington, D.C. e-mail: jat42@georgetown.edu
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