This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	β -1,3- <i>N</i> -acetylglucosaminyltransferase 1 (B3GNT1; β 3GNT1); dystroglycan 1 (DAG1)	Studies in mice and cell culture suggest that activating the β 3GNT1 and DAG1 signaling pathways could help prevent tumor growth and metastasis. In a mouse model of human prostate cancer, inoculation with cells expressing minimal levels of DAG1 laminin-binding glycans resulted in larger tumors and more liver metastases than inoculation with cells expressing higher levels of the glycans. Transfection with β 3GNT1 restored laminin-binding glycan expression and reduced invasiveness compared with mock-transfected controls. Next steps include screening for small molecule β 3GNT1 activators.	Cloning of β 3GNT1 is patented; available for licensing	Bao, X. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> ; published online June 29, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0904515106 Contact: Minoru Fukuda, Burnham Institute for Medical Research, La Jolla, Calif. e-mail: minoru@burnham.org
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