This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Brain cancer	BMI1 polycomb ring finger oncogene (BMI1; PCGF4); enhancer of zeste homolog 2 (EZH2)	Studies in cell culture and in mice suggest that inhibiting BMI1 or EZH2 could help treat glioblastoma multiforme (GBM). BMI1 and EZH2 were expressed in GBM tumors. In three GBM cell lines, small hairpin RNA knockdown of BMI1 or EZH2 reduced proliferation and colony formation compared with scramble shRNA treatment. In xenograft mice, injecting human GBM cells with shRNA knockdown of BMI1 led to better survival than injecting cancer cells containing empty vector or scramble shRNA. Next steps include developing a small molecule antagonist of BMI1 and testing it in additional GBM models.	Work unpatented; available for licensing Contact: Gilbert Bernier, Maisonneuve-Rosemont Hospital, Montreal, Quebec, Canada e-mail: gbernier.hmr@ssss.gouv.qc.ca	Abdough, M. <i>et al. J. Neurosci.</i> ; published online July 15, 2009; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.0968-09.2009 Contact: Gilbert Bernier, Maisonneuve-Rosemont Hospital, Montreal, Quebec, Canada e-mail: gbernier.hmr@ssss.gouv.qc.ca
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