This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Colorectal cancer	UDP <i>glucuronosyltransferase</i> 1 (<i>UGT1</i>); <i>UGT1</i> <i>polypeptide A1</i> (<i>UGT1A1</i>); <i>UGT1A7</i> ; <i>UGT1A9</i>	<p>Studies in patients suggest that <i>UGT1</i> genotyping could predict responses to FOLFIRI chemotherapy for colorectal cancer. Genotyping of 250 metastatic colorectal cancer patients revealed alleles of two <i>UGT1</i> variants, <i>UGT1A7</i> and <i>UGT1A9</i>, that were markers for severe hematological toxicity in response to FOLFIRI. A haplotype defined by normal <i>UGT1A9</i> and four variant alleles of <i>UGT1A1</i> and <i>UGT1A7</i> was a predictor of increased response to FOLFIRI therapy compared with what was seen using other haplotypes. Next steps include an ongoing Phase III study of <i>UGT1</i> haplotype-based FOLFIRI dosing in metastatic colorectal cancer and identifying other genotypes that are predictive of therapeutic response to FOLFIRI in colorectal cancer.</p> <p>FOLFIRI, a combination of 5-fluorouracil (5-FU), leucovorin and Pfizer Inc's Camptosar irinotecan, is the standard of care to treat colorectal cancer.</p> <p>SciBX 2(16); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.653 Published online April 23, 2009</p>	Unpatented; unlicensed	<p>Cecchin, E. <i>et al. J. Clin. Oncol.</i>; published online April 13, 2009; doi:10.1200/JCO.2008.19.0314</p> <p>Contact: Giuseppe Toffoli, National Cancer Institute, Aviano, Italy e-mail: gtoffoli@cro.it</p>