This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Polymerase (DNA directed)- γ (POLG); POLB	<i>In vitro</i> studies suggest that inhibiting DNA polymerases POLG and POLB could help treat cancers deficient in either of two tumor suppressors—DNA mismatch repair protein (MLH1) or mutS homolog 2, colon cancer, nonpolyposis type 1 (MSH2). In an MLH1-deficient endothelial cell line, small interfering RNA knockdown of POLG led to lethal DNA breaks that were not seen when using control siRNA. In an MSH2-deficient colon cancer cell line, siRNA knockdown of POLB led to greater cancer cell death compared with control siRNA treatment. Next steps include identifying an industry partner to develop inhibitors of POLG and POLB.	Patent application filed; licensing status undisclosed	Martin, S. <i>et al. Cancer Cell</i> ; published online March 15, 2010; doi:10.1016/j.ccr.2009.12.046 Contact: Alan Ashworth, The Institute of Cancer Research, Cancer Research UK Gene Function and Regulation Group, London, U.K. e-mail: alan.ashworth@icr.ac.uk Contact: Christopher J. Lord, same affiliation as above e-mail: chris.lord@icr.ac.uk
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