This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Brain cancer	CCAAT enhancer binding protein- β (CEBPB; CRP2); signal transducer and activator of transcription 3 (STAT3)	A study in human samples and in mice suggests that inhibiting both CEBPB and STAT3 signaling could help treat gliomas. Patients with tumors expressing both CEBPB and STAT3 had significantly lower survival rates than patients bearing tumors that expressed one or neither of the proteins ($p < 2 \times 10^{-4}$). In mice with human glioma cells that had small hairpin RNA-mediated knockdown of CEBPB and STAT3, survival was significantly greater than that for control animals with tumors expressing both proteins ($p \leq 0.01$). Next steps include identifying and evaluating compounds that inhibit CEBPB and STAT3 activity in glioma models. Reata Pharmaceuticals Inc.'s CDDO-Me, a synthetic triterpenoid that inhibits the transcriptional activity of NF- κ B and STAT3, is in Phase II testing to treat cancer.	Patent application filed covering use in diagnosis and treatment of brain tumor patients; available for licensing from Columbia Technology Ventures Contact: Peter Golikov, Columbia Technology Ventures, New York, N.Y. e-mail: pvg2105@columbia.edu	Carro, M.S. <i>et al. Nature</i> ; published online Dec. 24, 2009; doi:10.1038/nature08712 Contact: Antonio Iavarone, Columbia University, New York, N.Y. e-mail: ai2102@columbia.edu
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