This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Pancreatic cancer	Zinc and ring finger 3 (ZNRF3); ring finger protein 43 (RNF43)	An <i>in vitro</i> study identified two new components of the wingless-type MMTV integration site (WNT) signaling pathway that could be targeted to treat pancreatic cancer or trigger tissue regeneration. Analysis of tissue microarray data identified ZNRF3 and RNF43, two highly related E3 ubiquitin ligases, as negative regulators of WNT signaling. In human cells, antagonistic antibodies against the extracellular domain of ZNRF3 increased WNT receptor levels and WNT signaling compared with antibody controls. Next steps include exploring the therapeutic potential of anti-ZNRF3 antibodies in undisclosed regenerative medicine indications and testing inhibitors of WNT signaling in RNF43-mutated pancreatic tumors.	Patent status undisclosed; unavailable for licensing	Hao, H.-X. <i>et al. Nature</i> ; published online April 29, 2012; doi:10.1038/nature11019 Contact: Feng Cong, Novartis Institutes for BioMedical Research, Cambridge, Mass. e-mail: feng.cong@novartis.com
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