This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Acute promyelocytic leukemia (APL)	PHD finger protein 8 (PHF8)	<i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest activating PHF8 could help restore sensitivity of APL to retinoic acid therapy. In retinoic acid-resistant human APL cells, forced expression of the histone demethylase PHF8 restored sensitivity to all- <i>trans</i> retinoic acid (ATRA), whereas expression of a catalytically inactive mutant PHF8 did not. In mice transplanted with retinoid acid-resistant APL cells that expressed wild-type PHF8, compared with mice given resistant APL cells that expressed catalytically inactive PHF8, ATRA decreased leukemia burden. Next steps include identifying compounds that can increase PHF8 activity or reduce the activity of the counteracting histone methyltransferase.	Unpatented; unavailable for licensing	Arteaga, M.F. <i>et al. Cell</i> ; published online March 18, 2013; doi:10.1016/j.ccr.2013.02.014 Contact: Chi Wai Eric So, King's College London, London, U.K. e-mail: eric.so@kcl.ac.uk
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