This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Melanoma	E2F1; tumor protein p73 (TP73; p73)	Cell culture and mouse studies suggest combining methotrexate with an antifolate prodrug could help treat melanoma. In a panel of human melanoma cell lines with different oncogenic mutations, including lines with acquired resistance to BRAF and MEK inhibitors, methotrexate plus the antifolate prodrug 3-O-(3,4,5-trimethoxybenzoyl)-(-)-epicatechin (TMECG) upregulated E2F1 and p73 and decreased growth compared with either compound alone. In a mouse xenograft model for melanoma, the combination decreased tumor growth compared with either treatment alone. Next steps include conducting pharmacokinetic and toxicology studies of TMECG.	Patent application filed; available for licensing	Saéz-Ayala, M. <i>et al. Cancer Cell</i> ; published online June 20, 2013; doi:10.1016/j.ccr.2013.05.009 Contact: José Neptuno Rodríguez-López, University of Murcia, Murcia, Spain e-mail: neptuno@um.es Contact: Colin R. Goding, University of Oxford, Oxford, U.K. e-mail: colin.goding@ludwig.ox.ac.uk
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