This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	S-phase kinase-associated protein 2 (SKP2)	<i>In vitro</i> , cell culture and mouse studies identified SKP2 inhibitors that could be useful for treating cancer. An <i>in silico</i> screen and <i>in vitro</i> assays identified a small molecule, 3-(1,3-benzothiazol-2-yl)-6-ethyl-7-hydroxy-8-(1-piperidinylmethyl)-4 <i>H</i> -chromen-4-one, that blocked the interaction between SKP1 and SKP2 at low micromolar concentrations and specifically inhibited the ubiquitination of SKP2 substrates. In cancer cell lines, the compound decreased growth and the expression of cancer stem cell surface markers compared with vehicle. In mouse xenograft models of lung or prostate cancer, the compound also decreased tumor growth. Next steps include lead optimization.	Patent application filed; available for licensing	Chan, C.-H. <i>et al. Cell</i> ; published online Aug. 1, 2013; doi:10.1016/j.cell.2013.06.048 Contact: Hui-Kuan Lin, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, Texas e-mail: hklin@mdanderson.org Contact: Shuxing Zhang, same affiliation as above e-mail: shuzhang@mdanderson.org
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