This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Retinoid X receptor- α (RXR α ; RXR α)	<i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies identified derivatives of the generic NSAID sulindac that specifically inhibit RXR α and could help treat cancer. Sulindac derivatives were designed to block the binding between N-terminal-truncated RXR α and phosphoinositide 3-kinase regulatory subunit 1 α (PIK3R1; p85 α) to inhibit downstream protein kinase B (PKB; PKBA; AKT; AKT1) signaling. In human lung, breast and prostate cancer cell lines, the two lead sulindac derivatives caused greater apoptosis than sulindac. In a mouse xenograft model of hepatocellular carcinoma, the derivatives each decreased tumor growth compared with vehicle. Next steps include safety and toxicity studies of the derivatives.	Patent application filed; available for licensing	Chen, L. <i>et al. Chem. Biol.</i> ; published online April 2, 2014; doi:10.1016/j.chembiol.2014.02.017 Contact: Ying Su, Sanford-Burnham Medical Research Institute, La Jolla, Calif. e-mail: ysu@sanfordburnham.org Contact: Xiao-kun Zhang, same affiliation as above e-mail: xzhang@sanfordburnham.org
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