

### This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
<b>Cancer</b>				
Cancer	Killin	<p>An <i>in vitro</i> study suggests that targeting Killin could be part of a strategy to treat some forms of cancer. High throughput differential display identified <i>killin</i> as a p53 target gene that encodes a 20-kDa nuclear protein. Killin bound DNA with high affinity and inhibited DNA synthesis in cell culture, suggesting it might play a role in p53-mediated apoptosis of some cancer cells. Next steps include determining whether Killin activity is higher in cancer cells than in normal cells and exploring whether known tumorigenic mutations have a detectable effect on Killin function.</p> <p>Cleveland BioLabs Inc., Eleos Inc. and Introgen Therapeutics Inc. have compounds targeting p53 in clinical development to treat cancer.</p>	Patent application filed; available for licensing in the U.S.	<p>Cho, Y. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online March 24, 2008; doi:10.1073/pnas.0705410105 <b>Contact:</b> Peng Liang, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, Tenn. e-mail: <a href="mailto:peng.liang@vanderbilt.edu">peng.liang@vanderbilt.edu</a></p>