

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Solid tumors	RNA polymerase III (pol III); Brf1, a subunit of pol III transcription initiation factor IIIB	A study in cell culture and mice suggests that preventing activation of pol III could help treat cancer. In cultured mouse embryonic fibroblasts (MEFs) and Chinese hamster ovary cells, overexpression of human pol III activator Brf1 increased cell proliferation compared with that seen when GFP control protein was overexpressed. In mice, injection of MEFs expressing Brf1 caused tumor growth within three months, whereas mice injected with MEFs expressing empty vector formed no tumors. Also, mice injected with MEFs expressing tRNA _i ^{Met} , which mimics Brf1's effects, formed tumors, whereas mice injected with MEFs expressing empty vector did not. Next steps include creating additional mouse models to investigate the effects of changing tRNA expression under more physiological conditions.	Not patented; available for licensing	Marshall, L. <i>et al. Cell</i> ; published online April 17, 2008; doi:10.1016/j.cell.2008.02.035 Contact: Robert White, Beatson Institute for Cancer Research, Glasgow, U.K. e-mail: r.white@beatson.gla.ac.uk