

### This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
<b>Cancer</b>				
Basal cell carcinoma (BCC); squamous cell carcinoma (SCC)	Activating transcription factor 2 (ATF2)	Studies in mice suggest that ATF2 functions as a tumor suppressor in some skin cancers and that mutant versions of the protein found in keratinocytes could be a disease target. Mice that selectively expressed mutant ATF2 in the basal layer of the epidermis showed increased frequency and prevalence of papillomas compared with mice expressing wild-type ATF2. Keratinocytes in mutant mice also showed greater anchorage-independent growth than wild-type controls. In addition, malignant tissues from SCC and BCC patients showed reduced nuclear ATF2 expression but similar cytoplasmic ATF2 expression compared with normal skin. In contrast, previous studies have suggested a tumor-promoting role for ATF2 in melanoma, which develops from melanocytes. Ongoing studies are identifying compounds that affect ATF2 nuclear or cytoplasmic localization.	Patent application filed in the U.S. for ATF2 as a tumor suppressor in skin cancer; available for worldwide licensing	Bhoushik, A. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> ; published online Jan. 28, 2008; doi:10.1073/pnas.0706057105 <b>Contact:</b> Zeev Ronai, Burnham Institute for Medical Research, La Jolla, Calif. e-mail: <a href="mailto:ronai@burnham.org">ronai@burnham.org</a>